SEC, Big Ten lead college football preseason ranking

Michigan and Washington among the surprises in US LBM Coaches Poll. **In Sports**

Column: How to talk to your kids about elections

Having open and honest conversations can help children become engaged citizens. **In Opinion**

MATT SMITH PROVIDED BY OLLIE UPTON/HBO

The burning question for 'House of the Dragon'

Did the Season 2 finale stoke the fires under Daemon Targaryen and the cauldron of rivals for the coveted Iron Throne of Westeros? **In Life**

E2

USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | $3 | TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024

THE ECONOMY

Stocks' global plunge staggers investors

Advisers sound familiar refrain: Don't panic

Daniel de Visé
USA TODAY

If you are one of those amateur investors who checks your 401(k) balance at every meal, Monday was a good day to fast.

Stocks had bad days Thursday and Friday, and Monday looked to be worse. Global markets plunged overnight, with Japan's Nikkei 225 index posting the worst one-day return in its history. The losses spread from Asia to Europe, then to the United States, where the S&P 500 and Nasdaq opened sharply lower.

Market reporters trotted out such terms as "rout," "correction" and even "panic," descriptors that invoke memories of the market's darkest days, such as the brief COVID-19 crash of 2020 and the deeper, longer dive of the Great Recession of 2008.

Though it's hard to stay calm as the stock market reels, amateur investors should at least try.

"My best advice is, don't panic. Really, because you can't," said Catherine Valega, a certified financial planner in Boston.

If anything, financial advisers say, this summer stock swoon would be a great time to buy.

"Stocks are on sale today, right?" Valega said. "If you have some cash, let's go put some money in the market."

But that can seem counterintuitive.

To an armchair investor, the dilemma is familiar and frustrating: We are told to buy low and sell high. When the stock market tumbles, your first impulse is to sell. But then you are selling low.

The stock market "correction," in dispassionate Wall Street parlance, unfolded swiftly and with seemingly little warning.
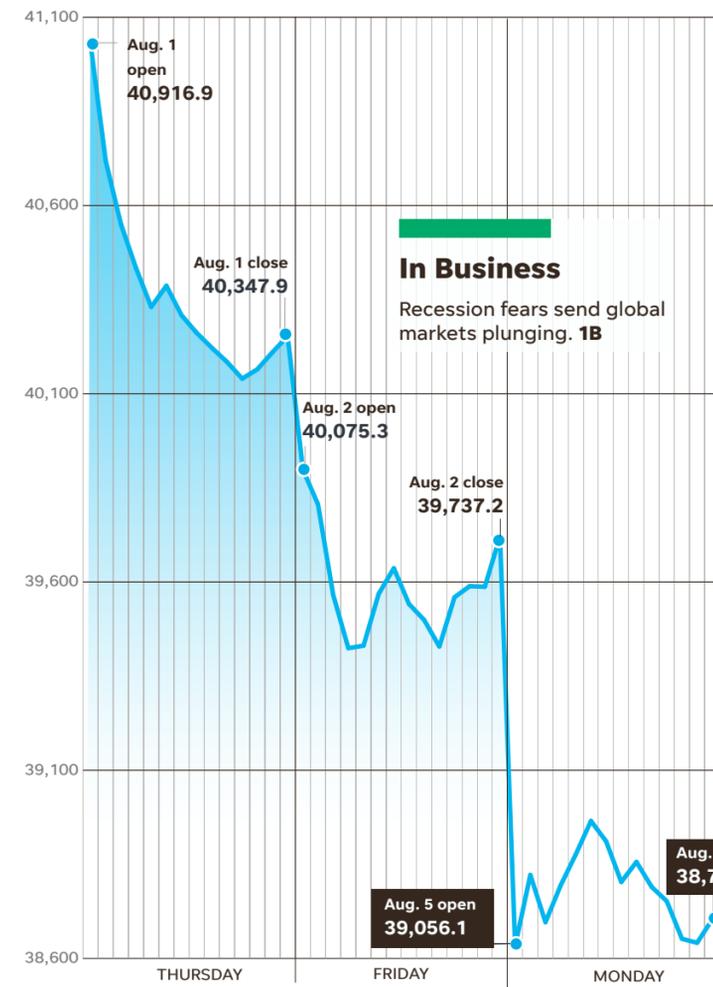
Just last Wednesday, Federal Reserve chief Jerome Powell waved off an interest rate cut and assured the nation that the economy was doing pretty well.

"It's just a question of seeing more good data," he said.

The rest of the week yielded mostly bad data.

See **STOCKS**, Page 4A

Dow Jones Industrial Average

Aug. 1 open
40,916.9

Aug. 1 close
40,347.9

In Business
Recession fears send global markets plunging. **1B**

Aug. 2 open
40,075.3

Aug. 2 close
39,737.2

Aug. 5 open
39,056.1

Aug. 5 close
38,703.2

41,100
40,600
40,100
39,600
39,100
38,600

THURSDAY FRIDAY MONDAY

SOURCE Yahoo Finance
JAVIER ZARRACINA/USA TODAY

Traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange watch the numbers Monday on a third straight day of steep losses after a weak jobs report last week and a tech downturn set off alarms for a recession. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Aaron Howe picks up a U.S. flag he found floating near the Ocala Drive-In in Ocala, Fla., on Monday as Hurricane Debby made landfall. Minor damage was reported in the area.
DOUG ENGLE/USA TODAY NETWORK

As Debby degrades, dangers still lurk

Heavy rain continues as storm moves inland

Susan Miller, John Bacon, Dinah Voyles Pulver, William L. Hatfield, Christopher Cann, Jorge L. Ortiz and Doyle Rice
USA TODAY

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Hurricane Debby, now a tropical storm, roared ashore Monday along the Big Bend coast of Florida, killing at least four people, flooding streets and causing widespread power outages as the storm continued toward Georgia and South Carolina, where it's expected to bring catastrophic flooding this week.

"Tornadoes, catastrophic flash and urban flooding, coastal flooding, rip currents, strong gusty winds are all expected," in parts of the Southeast over the next several days, the National Weather Service said.

Debby, the fourth named storm of what is predicted to be a historic hurricane season, made landfall Monday at

See **DEBBY**, Page 2A

OLYMPICS 2024

Lyles world's fastest, by a hair

American sprinter Noah Lyles wins the 100 meters final at the Paris Olympics, crossing the finish line Sunday with a gold-medal-winning time of 9.79 (.784). It took a photo view to reveal Lyles had beaten Jamaica's Kishane Thompson by 5/1,000ths of a second. American Fred Kerley posted a time of 9.81 to take bronze. Lyles is the first American sprinter to win an Olympic gold medal in the men's 100 since Justin Gatlin won gold at the 2004 Athens Games.

On Monday, U.S. gymnast Simone Biles fell off balance beam, breaking her streak of medaling on every all-around, vault, balance beam and floor exercise final she's competed in at the world championships or Olympics. Then, on floor, an event she'd never lost at a world championships or Olympics, she finished second to Brazil's Rebeca Andrade.

More Games coverage in Sports

Noah Lyles celebrates after winning the men's 100-meter dash at the Paris 2024 Olympic Summer Games.
JAMES LANG/USA TODAY SPORTS

USA TODAY INTERVIEW

As former House speaker, Nancy Pelosi knows power

That couldn't protect her husband from attacker

Susan Page
Washington Bureau Chief
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Nancy Pelosi was awakened by the banging on her door.

"I was sure they had the wrong apartment," she told USA TODAY. But when she heard the voices of her Capitol Police security detail in the hallway outside her Washington condo, she opened the door. Her husband had been attacked by an intruder in their San Francisco home, they told her. They didn't know if he had survived.

Nancy Patricia D'Alesandro Pelosi has built a lifetime in politics being in command, in control. As speaker of the House, she was the most powerful woman in the history of the United States. Her new book, being published Tuesday by Simon & Schuster, is titled "The Art of Power."

But she was powerless to protect her husband from an assailant who in the middle of the night smashed glass panes in their back door to break in, looking for her, carrying zip ties and a hammer.

"It happened echoing Jan. 6," the day of the assault on the Capitol in 2021, she said. "'Where's Nancy? Where's Nancy?' That's what they were saying in the halls of Congress ... (and) going into our bedroom in San Francisco, that's what he was saying."

Pelosi

Paul Pelosi, then 82 and her husband of six decades, was grievously wounded. His skull was fractured by three blows of the hammer. His left hand was so damaged that plastic surgeons would have to perform multiple surgeries to reconstruct it in hopes he could use it again. He would suffer dizzy spells and have to avoid bright light and noise.

But he survived.

"I'm hoping that by two years it'll be,

See **PAGE**, Page 3A

Debby

7 a.m. near the coastal town of Steinhatchee as a Category 1 storm with maximum sustained winds of 80 mph, according to the National Hurricane Center. Steinhatchee, about 70 miles west of Gainesville and home to some 500 people, is just 10 miles from where Hurricane Idalia came ashore last year.

After more than three hours moving across northern Florida, Debby was downgraded to a tropical storm with sustained winds of 70 mph, the hurricane center said.

State officials reported widespread flooding and inundating storm surge as Debby moved inland. The storm's winds uprooted trees and toppled utility poles, knocking out power to more than 290,000 homes and businesses throughout northern Florida. Meanwhile, forecasters said Debby's powerful winds could spawn tornadoes while storm surge could reach 10 feet in some areas.

"This is a life-threatening situation," the hurricane center warned.

Widespread rainfall totals of 10-20 inches are expected from northern Florida to southeastern North Carolina, while parts of northern Georgia and South Carolina, including Charleston, could experience upward of 30 inches of rain through this weekend, Michael Brennan, the director of the hurricane center, said in a YouTube livesteam.

Debby is expected to head into the Atlantic Ocean by Tuesday night, then regain strength before soaking the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina, whose governors have already declared states of emergency as they urge residents to prepare.

Flooding could last 5-10 days

President Joe Biden on Sunday declared an emergency across Florida, authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster relief efforts.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis also said that the Florida National Guard and Florida State Guard were activated to help with water rescues, power restoration and aid distribution. He cautioned people not to drive through flooded streets and warned that the deluge could continue for several days.

"We've got a lot of work ahead of us," DeSantis said at a news conference Monday. "There's going to be a lot of water that's going to be dumped throughout the state and we're going to see the effects of that not just today but in the ensuing days."

Kevin Guthrie, the executive director for the Florida Division of Emergency Management, said some parts of southwest Florida received up to a foot of rain as Debby approached the Big Bend region. He cautioned people to stay indoors as flash floods break out inland and storm surge continues to inundate coastal communities.

The flood threat, Guthrie said, "is probably going to be here for the next five to seven days, maybe as long as 10 days depending on how much rainfall we get."

More than 250,000 without power

More than 250,000 homes and businesses in Florida, the majority of them in the north, were without power by 3 p.m. EDT Monday as Debby continued

Ethan Widner, left, and Nick Davis watch traffic drive through floodwaters near the bridge over Phillippi Creek in Sarasota, Fla., on Monday after Tropical Storm Debby passed offshore Sunday. The threat of flooding is expected to last for days in Florida. MIKE LANG/USA TODAY NETWORK

Allen Barto, left, and Kevin Steiner, both with Elipsis Engineering & Consulting, help clean up a fallen tree in Ocala, Fla., on Monday as Hurricane Debby made landfall near Steinhatchee. DOUG ENGLE/USA TODAY NETWORK

Steve Morrill takes Cooper for his morning walk in the San Marco neighborhood of Jacksonville, Fla., undaunted by the bands of wind and rain from Hurricane Debby on Monday. BOB SELF/USA TODAY NETWORK

its path across the state.

The outages were most abundant from Wakulla to Levy County, according to Poweroutage.us.

In Taylor County, where Debby made landfall, more than 97% of utility customers lost power at one point. In several surrounding counties, that figure was well over 80%.

DeSantis said there were 17,000 linemen across the state poised to begin restoring power once the storm passes.

Meanwhile, nearly 1,200 flights had been canceled and close to 850 were delayed on Monday, according to flight tracking site FlightAware. All flights at Orlando International Airport were grounded early Monday while airports in Tallahassee and Gainesville were closed, the Federal Aviation Administration said.

At least 4 killed, including 2 teens

At least four storm-related deaths

> "There's going to be a lot of water that's going to be dumped throughout the state and we're going to see the effects of that not just today but in the ensuing days."
>
> **Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis**

have been reported in Florida.

A 64-year-old man from New Albany, Mississippi was killed overnight after losing control of his semi-truck on a wet Interstate 75 northeast of Tampa, the National Weather Service reported.

The truck collided with a concrete barrier and went over the wall, coming to rest hanging over a bridge, according to Sgt. Steve Gaskins, a public affairs officer with the Florida Highway Patrol, in a news release.

Gaskins said the cab came loose from the trailer and fell into a deep canal below.

Divers from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office responded shortly afterward and found the deceased driver still inside the cab underwater in the canal, according to an X post by the Sheriff's office.

The three previously reported deaths linked to the storm included a woman and a 12-year-old boy killed in a car crash and a 13-year-old boy killed when a tree fell on a mobile home.

Forecasters eye new threat

Forecasters are also keeping an eye on another developing tropical system approaching the Caribbean Sea.

Although chances for development were low as of Monday, the National Hurricane Center said "environmental conditions are expected to become more conducive for development later this week as the system moves across the western Caribbean Sea or the southern Gulf of Mexico."

If its winds eventually reach 39 mph, it would become a named tropical storm. It would be called Ernesto.

Contributing: Jonathan Limehouse

Army offers reward for news about missing woman

Natalie Neysa Alund
USA TODAY

The military is offering a $10,000 reward for information in connection to the disappearance of a 19-year-old pregnant woman from Hawaii.

Mischa Mabeline Kaalohilani Johnson is 6 months pregnant and was last seen inside her Schofield Barracks home on Wednesday, according to information from The Honolulu Police Department and The Army Criminal Investigation Division.

The Army is seeking "credible information leading to the recovery" of the

Mischa Johnson is pregnant. PROVIDED BY THE ARMY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

missing woman, per a flyer obtained by USA TODAY.

Johnson's home is in Honolulu on the island of Oahu.

Officials said Johnson was reported missing Thursday.

"She's a member of the military family so we want to make sure that she's OK," Army Criminal Investigation Division Special Agent in Charge Ruben Santiago told KHON-TV in Hawaii. "Right now, we just have a concerned family, a concerned husband, a concerned community that is wondering where Mischa Johnson is."

What does Johnson look like?

Officials described Johnson as a Filipino woman who is 5 feet 2 inches tall and weighs 170 pounds.

She also has a large dragon tattoo on her back.

Police said Johnson was last seen at her home and is known to frequent the Ewa Villages and Waikiki areas, and "may be emotionally distraught."

Anyone with information about Johnson's location or disappearance is asked to contact the Army at 808-208-0059. Tips can also be submitted online anonymously on the agency's website.

CORRECTION

A story Friday on Page 3A about wildfires in Colorado incorrectly stated Mark Techmeyer's title and employer. He is a spokesperson for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

Page

we'll cross a threshold," Nancy Pelosi said. That marker arrives on Oct. 28. "He's still on the mend. He's good – maybe 80%. But getting hit on the head is an ongoing affliction, and I'm hoping that with the progress that he's making that pretty soon he'll be where he was before."

The two of them have never talked about what happened that night.

"I have never had the conversation with my husband," she said. "He has not had it with us, with our family, with me." It is still too painful for him to revisit, although he did testify in court. His assailant, a right-wing conspiracy theorist, was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison.

"If and when he's ready, he will," she said.

Persuading presidents, whether they like it or not

Pelosi's 337-page book details a quartet of major legislative battles, "four things that I was in the room where it happened," she said, a play on a line from the musical "Hamilton." She played critical roles in the passage of the financial bailout in 2008 and the Affordable Care Act in 2010, and she was a leader in opposing the Iraq War and shaping U.S. policy toward China.

The chapters relate the meticulous detail and exhausting persistence involved in getting big things done in Washington, and she includes the occasional nugget for legislative aficionados.

Here's one: Republican efforts to repeal the landmark Affordable Care Act were vanquished in 2017 when GOP Sen. John McCain of Arizona, at a suspenseful final moment, gave a thumbs-down vote against his party. Pelosi reveals that he had told her beforehand what he would do, a heads-up he hadn't given President Donald Trump or Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell or, perhaps, anyone else.

In a thread that runs through all the battles, Pelosi was willing to confront presidents and deliver tough messages to them, to Democrats Bill Clinton and Barack Obama as well as Republicans George W. Bush and Trump.

In recent weeks, to President Joe Biden as well.

According to others who were involved, Pelosi was a crucial voice behind the scenes in the Democrats' fraught debate last month over whether Biden, 81, should step back from his reelection bid

PROVIDED BY SIMON & SCHUSTER

after his disastrous televised debate with Trump. That included a pivotal phone call when she told Biden that polls showed he would not only lose to Trump and but also risk bringing down the party's congressional prospects with him.

She was, essentially, in the room when that happened, too, but it's not one of the cases she's willing to discuss.

"The decision that he made was the right decision for him," she said. "It was his decision, so it has to be the right decision. I mean, it's his decision."

Asked about her role in Biden's decision, she replied, "I probably won't be talking about that" in the don't-try-again warning tone familiar to countless members of Congress and others during her years in politics.

Has the episode affected her relationship with Biden?

"You'd have to ask him," she said. Then she added that she loved and respected her colleague of nearly 40 years, and thought he belonged on Mount Rushmore "for the size of the contribution he made to our country."

Will she ever feel safe again?

Pelosi is running in 2024 for her 20th term representing a San Francisco district that she almost certainly can hold as

long as she chooses. She arrived a bit late for the interview because of the crush of congressional interns seeking selfies after she had addressed a bipartisan group of 400 of them.

She was crisp and confident, as always. But she was also willing to address a moment of vulnerability, the attack on her husband – one that was meant for her – and its repercussions.

"He paid the price that night when the man was after me, and I ... carry a lot of guilt about that," she said. "I feel guilty that he would be going for me and taking violent action against my husband, a centimeter away from death."

For a long time Paul Pelosi couldn't bring himself to go back to the garden room, which had been his favorite spot to watch sports on TV and smoke an occasional cigar, because that was where the intruder had broken in. He would no longer go near the elevator where he had tried to escape his attacker. He wouldn't sleep in their bedroom unless she was there, too.

"The scars from that night will never truly heal," Nancy Pelosi wrote in her book. And this: "This assault has truly had a devastating effect on three generations of our family." And this: "I do not know that we will ever feel safe."

Does she feel safe yet?

"I don't know that I ever have, even before that, because of the kind of violence and comments that were made" against her for years as a frequent target of partisan attack. "Painting me as a demon, cloven feet, hood, horns in my

head, blazing devil, all of that," she said. People would threaten "that 'We're going to burn your house down, 'We know where your grandchildren are.'"

Asked what could make American politics less toxic, less angry, she cited the defeat of Trump in November. She expressed optimism that presidential nominee Kamala Harris, a fellow San Francisco Democrat, would succeed in doing that even after former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton failed in the 2016 presidential election.

"I respect (Clinton) so enormously, but I think this is a better shot for us now," Pelosi said. Democrats need to "own the ground game" to turn out their vote and "have a message that is bold and progressive, but not menacing so that you can have a comfort level for people to come over."

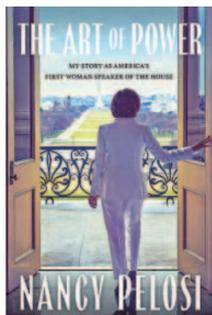"And you have to have the money to get it done," she added.

At age 84, after the major legislative battles she details, what remains for her to do in office?

"The defeat of Donald Trump," she said. "Save our country from that assault on our democracy. That's it."

OK, then: If Trump is defeated, will retirement beckon?

"I'm never one to make myself a lame duck," she replied. "But I'm here to make him a lame duck, or some kind of a duck."

Susan Page, Washington bureau chief for USA TODAY, is the author of "Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Lessons of Power," published by Twelve in 2021.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., former speaker of the House, speaks with USA TODAY Washington Bureau Chief Susan Page last week about her new book, "The Art of Power," being published Tuesday by Simon & Schuster. JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY

Mass shooting victims promised migration help that never came

Lauren Villagran
USA TODAY

EL PASO, Texas – Anxiety, fear, anguish, depression, insomnia, stress, panic attacks.

In a lined notebook, Josefina Mireles itemized in blue pen the list of symptoms she still wrestles with five years after surviving the Aug. 3, 2019, mass shooting at a Walmart here. It was the deadliest attack on Hispanics in modern U.S. history. Carrying a semiautomatic rifle, the shooter drove 700 miles from a Dallas suburb to kill "Mexicans."

Twenty-three people died, and dozens were injured.

Mireles was among the tourists from Mexico shopping that Saturday morning at a store so close to the U.S.-Mexico border that Ciudad Juárez is visible from the parking lot.

Like many of the Mexican nationals at the store that day, she agreed to cooperate with U.S. law enforcement and sought a special visa to help her do just that.

She and 49 other Mexican survivors of the shooting are still waiting for an answer.

In letters collected by their immigration attorneys and shared with USA TODAY, four survivors described the traumas they still face and plea with the U.S. government to review their petitions – which are stuck in a backlog of more than 344,000 applications nationwide.

"It's frustrating to not be able to breathe when you have an anxiety attack," Mireles wrote, recalling the horror she witnessed, in a letter provided to El Paso's Las Americas Immigrant Advo-

cacy Center. "The memory of trying to get safe as I fled, hearing the shots and the screams and the people running for a way out, the wounded, some of them already dead, terror took over me and I lost awareness as I fled."

A visa designed to make communities safer

Congress created the U visa two decades ago. It's meant to provide stability for immigrant victims of crime who have suffered mental or physical abuse and who agree to help law enforcement investigate and prosecute crimes.

The U visa doesn't allow a path to citizenship, but it does allow victims to live and work lawfully in the U.S.

"Congress created the U visa certification process to encourage immigrant victims of crimes to come forward and cooperate with law enforcement, recognizing that all cooperation makes communities safer for everyone within our borders," said Elora Mukherjee, a law professor at Columbia University.

But Congress capped the number of U visas issued annually at 10,000. A U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services spokesman said the agency has met the cap each of the past 15 years.

"It's an overprescribed program and the backlog keeps getting longer and longer," said Allegra Love, supervising attorney for community programs at Las Americas. "The trade-off isn't happening. They are participating in prosecuting crimes and our government isn't providing them with any tangible (immigration) benefit."

In 2021, the Biden administration

created a process by which U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services agents can review U visa applications, determine whether an applicant qualifies for relief and issue a temporary work authorization while the applicant waits. The process, called a bona fide determination, can also protect the applicant from deportation.

The circumstances of the El Paso shooting victims vary.

Some are traumatized or physically injured and need access to the mental health and physical therapy services they can only get in the United States, said Love. Others just want the opportunity to live or work in the U.S. that the U visa affords, given that they cooperated with law enforcement. In some cases, the cooperation is ongoing.

"I think they suffered," Love said. "They did their end of the bargain in terms of supporting law enforcement in this huge tragedy."

Remembering a deadly day

The letters share a common thread: memories of trauma experienced in Texas, and a desire to return with the right to live, work or study. All but one of the families who have applied for the U visa after the shooting live in Mexico.

Jazmin Ávila Rodriguez said her family of five witnessed the Walmart shooting. Five years on, they are still triggered by the memories of that day.

"Being there, having all my family members witness the act, hasn't been an easy process," she wrote in a narrow notebook using polite, formal Spanish. "Any instance or image makes us remember the moment given that it was traumatic to watch it happen, to see so many victims, people hurt or killed."

She brings her kids to therapy, she wrote. The family talks about what they went through, to deal with the trauma together.

Volunteers with Border Network for Human Rights carry crosses with the names of the 23 victims of the Aug. 3, 2019, Walmart shooting in El Paso, Texas, during a procession from Ponder Park to Walmart during a remembrance on the fourth anniversary of the mass shooting. OMAR ORNELAS/USA TODAY NETWORK

Bible in schools push may gain support

New GOP wave could find agreement at top court

Kayla Jimenez and Murray Evans
USA TODAY NETWORK

Oklahoma's top education official ordered public schools to teach the Bible and wants state funding for a controversial religious charter school. Louisiana leaders directed schools to display the Ten Commandments. Texas leaders proposed a curriculum that incorporates biblical lessons.

Authorities in these Republican-led states are confidently taking on constitutional protections that bar religious instruction from public education. School administrators and civil rights advocates are pushing back, saying these mandates violate students' rights.

In states where evangelical Christians make up a sizable portion of constituents, incorporating Bible teachings into the curriculum has gained traction, said Ira C. Lupu, a professor at George Washington University School of Law who has written on religion in the First Amendment.

During this moment in American history, a legal challenge to one of these measures in the U.S. Supreme Court could land differently than in other eras, Lupu said. The new policies, he said, have a better shot at prevailing before the court's conservative majority.

None of these mandates have advanced to that stage yet. Parents in Louisiana sued in June, challenging the policy requiring schools to display the Ten Commandments. But the case remains at the trial court level.

Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry and Ryan Walters, the superintendent of education in Oklahoma, say they are prepared to take on legal challenges from people who disagree with them. Walters told USA TODAY he believes the Supreme Court will uphold the mandate requiring religious education if someone sues and a case makes it there. He credits former President Donald Trump with being outspoken and building support for the movement during his 2024 presidential campaign.

"The support from Trump has given us this opportunity," Walters said in an interview with USA TODAY.

Leaders in other Republican-run states have contacted Walters about Oklahoma's plan, he said, which he considers a modern-day "blueprint" for codifying the teaching of the Bible in public schools.

What began campaign to bring religion into schools?

The Supreme Court ruled in two separate cases in the 1960s that school-sponsored prayer and religious teaching in school violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, which says the federal government cannot make laws governing the "establishment of religion" or prohibiting "the free exercise thereof."

The U.S. Department of Education has interpreted that to mean that public schools "may not provide religious instruction" in a devotional manner or "prescribe prayers to be recited by students or by school authorities."

If educators teach about religion as an academic subject, they must promote religious liberty and respect all religious views, including the views of those who don't believe, the federal agency says.

Court cases challenging the use of the Bible, Ten Commandments and religious materials in classrooms have continued to crop up in the years since.

One of the most influential rulings came in 1971 when the Supreme Court ruled in Lemon v. Kurtzman that constitutional protections requiring the separation of church and state apply to public schools.

In his majority opinion, Chief Justice Warren Burger said laws about bringing religion into schools needed to pass a three-part test:

● They must "have a secular legislative purpose."

● Their "principal or primary effect must be one that neither promotes nor inhibits religion."

● They must not foster "excessive government entanglement with religion."

"Schools have repeatedly violated these criteria, resulting in a steady stream of litigation," wrote Jill Heinrich, a professor of education at Cornell College, in an article for the school.

Over the past several decades, more than a dozen states tried to implement laws requiring the Ten Commandments in schools.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1980 in Stone v. Graham that a Kentucky law requiring schools to display the Ten Commandments was unconstitutional because it violated the Lemon v. Kurtzman test.

Since then, Arizona, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Utah have proposed measures requiring the Ten Commandments to be displayed in classrooms at schools.

Gov. Katie Hobbs vetoed the Arizona bill mandating displays of the Ten Commandments. Utah made it optional for schools to post them. A proposal in Oklahoma to make the displays optional died earlier this year when it wasn't heard by a state House subcommittee.

The groundswell to make the Bible and the Ten Commandments a mainstay at public schools represents a shift, said Lupu, the George Washington University constitutional scholar. He views it as evangelical Christians taking advantage of an opening before a conservative majority on the high court.

What's happening in Oklahoma schools?

At a state board of education meeting on June 27, Walters gave a directive to school leaders in Oklahoma: "Every teacher and every classroom in the state will have a Bible in the classroom and will be teaching from the Bible in the classroom."

At least 14 Oklahoma districts and the state teachers union rebuked Walters' directive to incorporate the Bible and the Ten Commandments into classes. They sent letters to parents saying they didn't plan to change the curriculum or teach the Bible despite the new requirements.

The Oklahoma Attorney General's Office said state law already allows the Bible to be taught in classrooms, and districts have the right to choose whether they'll teach it this fall.

The Center for Education Law issued a memorandum to Oklahoma school districts calling Walters' mandate invalid under state law, citing it as a local control issue.

But Walters says opting out is not an option.

"They will teach it because they don't get to choose what they teach," he told USA TODAY. Walters said at a recent school board meeting he would hold accountable any districts that refused to comply.

People suing the state over Walters' directive could hit roadblocks because the mandate's instructions on how the Bible should be taught are not uniform, Lupu said. This means educators have lots of latitude to interpret what it means to "teach about the Bible."

The American Civil Liberties Union contends the government shouldn't be investing in Bibles. The organization said it was joining other civil rights groups in calling for Oklahoma officials to hand over records related to the mandate, including documentation showing how the state plans to pay for copies of the Bible.

"Courts have repeatedly ruled that it is unconstitutional for public schools to coerce anyone to support or participate in religion or its exercise,'" Megan Lambert, ACLU of Oklahoma legal director, said in the news release. "Oklahoma children have the right to attend public school and to access the full range of school services without having government-sponsored religion imposed on them."

The Freedom From Religion Foundation, among the groups requesting the records, has been working to keep public institutions, including schools, secular for decades.

Patrick Elliott, the nonprofit's legal director, believes a "significant effort to push religion on other people's children in schools" stems from a wave of "Christian nationalism."

"All students are welcome at schools and when there are state efforts to really get them to believe in a certain brand of Christianity, that coerces students into religious practices and inhibits their religious liberties," he said.

Ten Commandments in Louisiana schools

The dispute is different in Louisiana because the order issued to schools was specific and uniform: Every classroom must display the Ten Commandments.

When Landry, the governor, signed the Louisiana bill in June he quipped that he was prepared to respond if anyone had any concerns.

"I'm going home to sign a bill that places the Ten Commandments in public classrooms," Landry said in June. "And I can't wait to be sued."

Louisiana parents and civil liberties groups went on to sue the state, saying that requiring the Ten Commandments violates the First Amendment.

In response, Louisiana has agreed to delay posting the Ten Commandments in public schools until at least November. The litigation is ongoing.

Kayla Jimenez reports for USA TODAY and Murray Evans reports for The Oklahoman. Contributing: Minnah Arshad, Greg Hilburn, Vivian Jones, George Petras; The USA TODAY Network.

In states where evangelical Christians make up a sizable portion of constituents, incorporating Bible teachings into the curriculum has gained traction, said Ira C. Lupu, a professor at George Washington University. DEB CRAM/USA TODAY NETWORK

Stocks

A surprisingly weak jobs report stoked fresh recession fears from forecasters. Toss in gloomy earnings reports from Amazon and Intel, and together, those tidings pushed stocks sharply lower on Friday.

That news ricocheted around the globe, seeding Monday's losses in Asia and Europe. Those losses, in turn, triggered more losses in the U.S.

Market watchers urged consumers to keep a sense of perspective. As of late Monday morning, the S&P 500 was higher than it was at moments in April and May, although that could quickly change.

"Short-term market movement can be unpredictable, but over the long term, the trend is up," said Erika Safran, a certified financial planner in New York. "The irony is that we rush to buy items on sale, but when it comes to investing, when prices drop, the instinct is to sell."

And we're still talking about one bad jobs report. Right?

A 'recipe for sudden volatility'

Well, maybe not. The job market was weakening before Friday's alarming report. Powell cited cooling job data in his news conference Wednesday, listing it as one rationale for the Fed to begin cutting interest rates soon, perhaps in September.

"While Friday's employment report was disappointing, it wasn't the only worrisome economic indicator, only the latest," said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst at Bankrate, the personal finance site.

Add in "the cacophony of earnings disappointments and weak corporate outlooks, global unrest and currency gyrations, and you have the recipe for sudden volatility," he said.

How quickly forecasts can change

Just a week or two ago, most forecasters seemed to think the U.S. stood little risk of recession, a scenario that has hovered over the economy since inflation spiked to a 40-year high in mid-2022.

But you probably will be hearing a lot more of the R-word in the days to come as the stock market rout prompts new wave of recession forecasts.

Not all the news is gloomy. In one update, released Monday by Wells Fargo Economics, chief economist Jay Bryson waxed upbeat, signaling that he expects economic growth to continue.

"Although the risk of recession has risen," he wrote, "it still does not exceed 50%, in our view."

Ironically, these uncertain times create financial opportunities for anyone with the time, interest and fortitude to seize them. Here are a few.

Certificates of deposit

Competitive interest rates are heating up the market for certificates of deposit. Some credit unions are offering to match or beat whatever rate you're getting at your current financial institution.

Now is an ideal time to grab a 5% or 6% interest rate on a CD, experts say:

Once the Fed begins cutting the benchmark rate, CD rates are likely to fall.

Bonds

Bonds tend to provide a nice financial cushion when stocks sink, although the calamitous market events of 2022 prove that the rule doesn't always hold.

Investment advisers say 2024 is a good time to invest in bonds, given the climate of high interest rates and easing inflation. As a rule of thumb, experts encourage amateur investors to buy stocks and bonds at a roughly 60-40 ratio to maintain a balanced portfolio. "Bonds are more attractive now than they have

been in more than a decade," Theodore Haley, a certified financial planner in Beaverton, Oregon, said in July.

Real estate

Mortgage rates sank to their lowest level in more than a year after the jobs report. As of Monday, the average rate for a 30-year fixed mortgage was 6.95%.

For anyone waiting on the sidelines to buy a house, now might be a good time to enter the market.

"Mortgage rates will drop again today. Homebuyers should start their horses," Daryl Fairweather, chief economist at Redfin, posted Monday on X.

Prices on the New York Stock Exchange went into free fall early Monday after global markets from Asia to Europe sold off overnight. In Japan, the Nikkei 225 index posted the worst one-day return in its history. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

New battlegrounds for election deniers

Secretary of state races have gained importance in Trump's shadow

Sudiksha Kochi
USA TODAY

Kari Estes made a 25-minute journey from her home in Festus, Missouri, to the suburbs of St. Louis County on a hot summer evening to mingle with Democratic Secretary of State candidate Barbara Phifer.

Estes was among a few dozen voters who gathered for an ice cream social to hear Phifer less than a week from the state's primary election on Aug. 6. It was her first time seeing Phifer in person – and she said she felt an air of "hopefulness" in the room that day.

"What she said when she addressed all of us is that the secretary of state position should be boring ... (and) nonpartisan," she said. "Since the 'big lie' and steal the election and all of that, people now are more aware of the importance of the secretary of state to be nonpartisan and neutral on the subject of certifying elections."

For Estes and many voters paying close attention to secretary of state races around the country, the stakes couldn't be higher.

Secretary of state races have become more competitive this year as former President Donald Trump runs at the top of the Republican ticket in the presidential race. He was indicted twice over his alleged efforts to overturn the 2020 election and has repeatedly made false claims that the 2020 election was stolen.

And most of the seven states where elections are held this year – Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia – feature prominent Trump supporters questioning the validity of the 2020 election and vowing to reform the elections process in a way that some experts say could keep voters from the polls.

Anita Manion, an assistant professor in political science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, said that in 2020, secretaries of state stood by the results of their elections "in the face of great pressure."

"If those officials are replaced with election deniers, the administration and certification of elections could be negatively impacted," she said. "While it is unlikely that the secretary of state acting alone could overturn the results of their state's election, they can influence the processes of election administration and help to combat or amplify false narratives about elections."

Secretary of state role under increased scrutiny in recent years

Though the secretary of state role varies in each state, most officials typically oversee the administration of elections, including setting up guidelines and rules for local officials to follow in running elections, said Peverill Squire, a professor in the department of political science at the University of Missouri. They also often have a role in how ballot initiatives, referendums and recall elections are administered.

But "as questions have been raised about voter registration, election mechanics, and ballot measures, greater public attention is now given to the office's agenda," he said.

These questions stem from false allegations of rigged elections, widespread voter fraud and manipulated voting machines that have been espoused by political leaders on the right and others in recent years, Manion said.

She pointed to the infamous phone call between Trump and Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger on Jan. 2, 2021, days before the Jan. 6 Capitol attack, in which the former president allegedly pressured Raffensperger to find "11,780 votes" and alter the election's outcome in the Peach State.

Raffensperger pushed back on Trump's claims and testified before the

Rep. Barbara Phifer at Democrat Days Banquet in Springfield, Mo.. "People now are more aware of the importance of the secretary of state to be nonpartisan and neutral," said Kari Estes. BRUCE E. STIDHAM/SPECIAL TO USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. House in 2022 when Trump was under investigation for the Capitol attack. This year, he's taken efforts he says will bolster election security, such as allowing voters to cancel their voter registration online through a web portal.

"This is an example of the important role that secretaries of state can play in these times of heightened scrutiny on election administration," Manion said.

Election deniers aim for victories

In the 2022 midterm elections, Trump endorsed four candidates in crucial battleground states running for secretary of state: Jim Marchant in Nevada, Kristina Karamo in Michigan, Mark Finchem in Arizona, and Kim Crockett in Minnesota. All four of them lost the election to Democratic incumbents Jocelyn Benson in Michigan, Steve Simon in Minnesota, Cisco Aguilar in Nevada and Adrian Fontes in Arizona.

This year, Trump supporters are hoping to reverse that loss, with some boosted by the former president running on a national ticket. In deep-red Missouri, Republican candidates already have a long list of initiatives they will pursue if elected to the position.

Denny Hoskins, for one, said he believes "the most secure elections are in person on Election Day with a voter ID and a paper ballot."

As Missouri state senator, he supported a bill signed by Gov. Mike Parson in 2022 that banned ballot drop boxes and certain electronic voting machines, required every resident to have photo ID and banned what Republicans call "Zuckerbucks," private grants given to understaffed and underfunded election offices. Hoskins was endorsed by Mike Lindell, the founder and CEO of My Pillow and prominent election denier.

Republican candidate Valentina Gomez said that she's made the secretary of state race the most "coveted one" after Trump's 2024 presidential campaign.

"I look forward to accepting President Trump's endorsement so that nobody can ever cheat again, because Joe Biden definitely did not get 81 million votes," she claimed in an emailed statement to USA TODAY.

She said if she's elected, she would get rid of mail in ballots, implement same day voting, hand count paper ballots and deploy the National Guard to "secure the chain of custody."

Experts have told USA TODAY that mail-in-voting and drop boxes are safe, and Manion said there's evidence both can increase voter turnout. She also pointed to research that's shown ballots counted by hand are less accurate than those conducted by machine.

Hoskins and Gomez are running against six other Republican candidates: Mike Carter, Mary Elizabeth Coleman, Jamie Corley, Shane Schoeller, Adam Schwadron and Dean Plocher.

Other Republican secretary of state candidates have also cast doubt on the 2020 election results in interviews with

Valentina Gomez, Republican candidate for Missouri secretary of state, campaigns in February at the Springfield-Greene County Library.
NATHAN PAPES/USA TODAY NETWORK

"While it is unlikely that the secretary of state acting alone could overturn the results of their state's election, they can influence the processes of election administration and help to combat or amplify false narratives about elections."

Anita Manion
Assistant professor in political science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis

USA TODAY, including West Virginian Kris Warner and Vermont's H. Brooke Paige – both of whom are lone GOP candidates in their state's race. Paige is facing off against Democrat incumbent Sarah Copeland Hanzas while Warner is going head to head with Democrat Thornton Cooper.

Democrats say 'democracy' is on the ballot

Democratic candidates, on the other hand, have provided counter-messaging on the campaign trail.

Phifer argued that her Republican opponents are "creating chaos that is a fundamental risk to democracy." Besides the election integrity issue, she's also campaigning for abortion and against banning books. She is running against two lesser known candidates, Monique Williams and Haley Jacobsen, in the Aug. 6 primary.

In Oregon, Democratic candidate Tobias Read said he wants to make sure people have "little to no barrier" to voting. He pointed to how his opponent, Republican Dennis Linthicum, filed a lawsuit in 2022 along with other plaintiffs that sought to end Oregon's vote-by-mail system. It was dismissed.

"We want to make sure that people ... have the confidence that the results will stand up to scrutiny," he said. "We want someone to say, 'I didn't like that outcome. But I have confidence that that's an accurate count.'"

The current Democratic secretary of state in Oregon, LaVonne Griffin-Valade,

is not running for reelection.

Jesse James Mullen, a former journalist and Democratic candidate in Montana, knocked Republican incumbent Christi Jacobson for sending voter pamphlets that contained inaccurate information during the 2022 midterms.

"You don't have to send out blatantly false information," he said. "But they wanted to dissuade people on the reservations from voting. They wanted to dissuade people in university towns from voting because they knew that it would not work in their best interest. Misinformation when it comes to our elections isn't something that you can fix overnight."

USA TODAY reached out to Jacobsen's office for comment.

Will voters reject election deniers in 2024?

Numerous polls indicate that voters will likely be casting their ballots along party lines.

An exclusive USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll from January found that 62% of those supporting Trump said they didn't believe Biden had been legitimately elected in 2020. Fifty-two percent of Trump supporters said they had no confidence that the results of the 2024 election would be accurately counted and reported.

A Pew Research Center survey also found that only 6% of voters crossed party lines in the 2022 midterm elections.

Nevertheless, organizing efforts on the ground are underway to boost voter turnout, especially in Missouri which has the most crowded primary this year on both sides.

Susan Marner Sides, a retired United Methodist Church pastor in Bernie, Missouri, hosted a meet-and-greet for Phifer in June, inviting mostly local residents.

"I've known her for many, many years, about as long as I've been in ministry – nearly 40 years, I think. And so I know her character, and I know her well. I also know that she stands for free and open elections," Sides, 68, said.

Travis Brimm, the executive director for the Democratic Association of Secretaries of State, said in an interview that the Missouri race is different this year because there is an open seat.

"That doesn't even take into account how great our candidate is, Barbara Phifer. I mean, she is Missouri in a nutshell. Her family's been there since the 1820s. ... It's just a really, really great opportunity for us," he said.

Republicans, on the other hand, have been holding competing events. Karson Weymuth, 20, and a volunteer on Hoskins' campaign, said he's spoken on the candidate's behalf at least 15 or 20 times at this point. "We've seen record high turnouts at these events," he said.

Edward Ray Hylton, 63 and a retiree, said he'll be voting for Hoskins because "he is for election integrity and making sure that the votes count."

"It's more just a visceral feel," he said. "I've never missed voting in any election I was eligible to vote in. And sometimes you just get a feel for a candidate."

In other states, candidates from both parties have also taken grand efforts to reach out to voters, such as Washington Republican candidate Dale Whitaker who has appeared on podcasts and spoken at meet and greets.

"There's no evidence for wide scale fraud in Washington state in 2020. The issue isn't an issue of evidentiary findings. It's that the electorate have a distrust towards the process, and when you have a secretary of state who is not being transparent with the electorate, isn't conducting town halls, isn't speaking to people. ... These things continue to build distrust in the electoral process," Whitaker said.

Mullen said he has campaigned almost "exclusively" in rural communities. "They (voters) understand that when somebody truly cares about their community and is willing to sit and listen and engage with them, they will vote across party lines," he said.

RFK Jr. says he dumped dead bear in NYC's Central Park

Emily DeLetter
USA TODAY

A decade-old mystery surrounding the identity of the person who placed a dead bear cub in New York City's Central Park has been solved, thanks to an admission from Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Kennedy, a third-party candidate for president, posted a video on social media Sunday of him talking with actress Roseanne Barr in which he says he placed the dead cub in Central Park and staged it to look as if a bicyclist had run over the animal.

In the video, Kennedy said he was on

his way to go falconing in the Hudson Valley in New York in 2014 when a van in front of him hit and killed the bear. Kennedy said he picked up the bear and put it in his car with the intention of putting its meat in his refrigerator, but he had a dinner in New York City that ran late and had to travel to the airport.

Kennedy told Barr he and a group of people at dinner with hatched an idea to put the bear in Central Park and have it look as it had been struck by a bike.

"This was the little bit of redneck in me," Kennedy said in the video.

"We thought it would be amusing for whoever found it or something," Kenne-

Kennedy

dy said. "The next day, it was on every television station, it was the front page of every paper."

"Luckily, the story died down after a while and it stayed dead for a decade," Kennedy said.

The video was apparently released to get ahead of a "bad story" by the New Yorker, Kennedy said, adding the outlet had found out about the incident.

Kennedy captioned the video on X "Looking forward to seeing how you spin this one," and tagging the media organization.

In a strange twist, a reporter who first covered the story for the New York Times when the bear was found in 2014 was Tatiana Schlossberg, Kennedy's second cousin and the daughter of Caroline Kennedy, the outlet reported.

New York's Department of Environmental Conservation said the bear's cause of death was "blunt force injuries consistent with a motor vehicle collision," Schlossberg had reported.

After the news broke Sunday, Schlossberg told The New York Times that, "Like law enforcement, I had no idea who was responsible for this when I wrote the story."

Feared Iranian attack on Israel stokes tension

Tom Vanden Brook
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Tensions remained high between Israel and Iran Monday as the Pentagon rushed submarines, planes, warships and a top military officer to the region to head off a major conflict, according to U.S. officials.

The Middle East has been on edge since the recent assassinations of senior, Iranian-backed militant leaders in Beirut and Tehran.

Iran's top leaders have vowed to avenge the killings. Israel has not taken responsibility for the killing of a Hamas leader in Iran but acknowledges it killed the Hezbollah militant in Lebanon in an airstrike.

Gen. Erik Kurilla, who commands all U.S. forces in the Middle East, traveled to the region to shore up support among allies, according to a U.S. government official who was not authorized to speak publicly. In April, a U.S.-led coalition helped Israel thwart an attack by Iran with 300 missiles and drones.

It's unclear how many Middle East-

ern countries will be willing to help this time, the official said. Some don't want to be seen as aiding Israel because of the war in Gaza, launched after the Hamas attack Oct. 7 attack that killed about 1,200 Israelis. Some countries have pointed to the protection of their own airspace as cover for allowing U.S. and allied forces to intercept missiles over their territory.

Late Friday, the Pentagon announced that it was dispatching more warships, submarines and fighter aircraft to the Middle East to support Israel and help protect the tens of thousands of U.S. troops stationed there. F-22s, the most sophisticated warplane in the Air Force arsenal, have been sent to the region.

U.S. officials had worried Friday that an attack by Iran was imminent, but that fear had subsided a bit over the weekend.

On Monday, there was no change to the threat level, according to two U.S. officials who were not authorized to speak publicly.

A wild card, however, is Iran's proxy groups in the Middle East, said U.S. Rep.

Rockets from southern Lebanon are intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome over northern Israel, on Sunday amid clashes between Israeli troops and Lebanon's Hezbollah fighters. Tensions soared Saturday as Iran readied a response to the assassination of Hamas' political leader. JALAA MAREY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Adam Smith, D-Wash., and the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee. They could launch attacks on Israel without warning.

Smith told CNN Monday that Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and

Houthi militants in Yemen have been "turned loose" by Iran. Smith termed that "extraordinarily risky" given their fanaticism.

"It is a very nervous situation, and I think it's a huge problem," Smith said.

NASA astronauts await return on Starliner

Eric Lagatta
USA TODAY

Just as a slew of obstacles and mishaps delayed the launch of the Boeing Starliner time after time, so too has the return of the spacecraft's astronaut crew been postponed again and again.

It took a team of engineers about a month just to get Boeing's CST-100 Starliner prepared for its trip to the International Space Station after its initial launch date on May 6 was scrubbed at the last minute.

When the capsule finally reached orbit June 5 while perched atop an Atlas V rocket built by United Launch Alliance, things were finally looking up for Boeing – in both a literal and figurative sense.

The company had for years sought to prove that its Starliner could compete with the likes of Elon Musk's SpaceX as one of two companies making routine trips to orbit on NASA's behalf.

After its first uncrewed test flight in 2019, June's launch marked a critical milestone as Starliner first flight with astronauts aboard.

NASA astronauts Barry "Butch" Wilmore and Sunita "Suni" Williams were tentatively scheduled to spend little more than a week aboard the space station once their capsule docked on June 6, a day after launching from the Kennedy Space Station in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

But two months after Starliner launched, the pair remain in orbit at the space station with no return date set.

Here's a look at the major moments of the Boeing Starliner's inaugural crewed mission, including scrubs, launch and return delays.

May 6: Starliner launch called off hours of liftoff

Years in the making, the third and final orbital flight test for Starliner was scheduled for launch until it was called off within hours of liftoff when engineers detected an anomaly on the pressure regulation valve in the liquid oxygen tank of the rocket's upper stage, according to NASA.

The United Launch Alliance later said in a statement that the cancellation was "out of an abundance of caution for the safety of the flight and pad crew."

Days later, Wilmore and Williams return to Houston to spend extra time with their families as mission engineers work to fix the issues ailing Starliner.

NASA eyes May 17 as a potential mission launch after the United Launch Alliance initially said that the launch would not be able to take place any earlier than May 10.

Mission engineers requested the extended delay to have time to replace the faulty value, NASA said.

On May 21, the team was able to replace the valve and repressurize the system, but then engineers encountered another obstacle: a small helium leak in Starliner's service module. The issue required the launch date to be pushed back once again, this time indefinitely.

June 1: Starliner prepares to launch again, scrubbed again

On June 1, The Starliner appears poised to finally take off. NASA decided to continue with the launch without repairing the helium leak, as the chemical used in spacecraft thruster systems is not combustible or toxic. However, the

NASA astronauts Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore say goodbye to friends and family as they leave astronaut crew quarters on their way to the launch pad May 6. The two are scheduled to ride to the International Space Station aboard Boeing's Starliner capsule. CRAIG BAILEY/USA TODAY NETWORK

launch is once again scrubbed, this time minutes before liftoff due to a computer issue, NASA said on X, formerly Twitter.

The crew passes on a possible launch the next day and NASA instead eyes a launch window beginning June 5.

June 5: Starliner finally launches

On June 5, the Starliner, at long last, launches. Boeing Space shared a post on X at 11:44 a.m. confirming Starliner had reached a stable orbit and had broken away from the Atlas V rocket. From there, the craft began firing its own engines as it powered onward to the space station, NASA said.

The following day, the Starliner docks at 1:34 p.m. EDT on the forward-facing port of the space station's Harmony module. However, the night before, NASA shared an update unveiling that two more helium leaks had been discovered on the spacecraft occurring after Starliner arrived in orbit.

June 9: NASA announces astronauts will not return on date originally planned

Though Wilmore and Williams were only slated to spend a week on the space station, NASA announced on X that the Starliner and its two astronauts would likely land in the New Mexico desert no earlier than June 18.

The space agency said the additional time at the space station was for the astronauts to assist with a spacewalk and to allow engineers more time to complete system checkouts of Starliner.

June 14: Astronauts return delayed again

The return is delayed a second time, with the astronauts now slated to undock from the space station no earlier than June 25, landing June 26 at the White Sands Space Harbor in New Mexico, Boeing said in an update. While the spacecraft is cleared for crew emergency return scenarios, Boeing said the extra time allows the team to finalize departure planning and operations.

June 21: And again

Boeing and NASA once again delayed the return of Williams and Wilmore until July at the earliest.

This time the agencies cite "a series of planned International Space Station spacewalks while allowing mission teams time to review propulsion system data."

However, the agencies explain that the astronauts are by no means stranded in space, as supplies on the space station are plentiful and the pair can assist in station operations.

July 10: Astronauts aren't 'complaining' about being in space

Wilmore and Williams appear in a NASA telecast from the space station. During separate news conferences, Williams says, "I'm not complaining, Butch isn't complaining that we're here for a couple extra weeks."

Meanwhile, scientists and engineers work through testing to better understand and resolve problems that occurred during Starliner's launch and flight, including some misfiring thrusters and helium leaks.

July 25: NASA, Boeing say there is still no return date

NASA and Boeing said in a press conference that the Starliner still does not yet have an official return date.

However, NASA Commercial Crew Program Manager Steve Stich says, "We're making great progress."

Stich also shares that NASA has contingency options for returning Butch and Sunni to Earth, but right now the focus is on finishing up the tasks necessary to do so on Starliner.

August: Astronauts work at station, plan return home

Wilmore and Williams, both Navy test pilots before they joined NASA, were to spend their limited time at the space station testing the Starliner spacecraft and its subsystems.

With their stay indefinitely extended, the astronauts, both of whom had ventured to space twice before, have helped the space station crew with other operations while helping plan a return date when they can, NASA and Boeing have said.

Most recently, NASA and Boeing said engineers completed a hot fire test of the Starliner spacecraft's reaction control system jets July 27 to evaluate the spacecraft's propulsion system.

Wilmore and Williams were both seated inside the docked spacecraft during the test.

The astronauts then spent Tuesday practicing for undocking during a simulation, Boeing said in a Wednesday update.

Their return to Earth is expected to take place in August ahead of a station crew turnover.

Meanwhile, while planning for that return continues into this week, NASA has indicated intentions to host a media briefing to share information about the agency's "return readiness review preparations."

Once Williams and Wilmore are set to return to Earth, the astronauts will board the capsule, which will land in the American Southwest using parachutes that will slow it down to 4 mph before inflating large air bags.

Starliner mission is crucial for Boeing

A successful mission would provide NASA with a second operational spacecraft to carry astronauts to the space station as the U.S. space agency pivots to more partnerships with private industry.

As part of NASA's commercial crew program, Boeing was awarded $4.8 billion, while its competitor, SpaceX, was awarded $3.1 billion in 2014 to develop their respective spacecraft, Florida Today reported.

But while Boeing's project has lagged behind schedule for years, racking up $1.5 billion in unplanned development costs along the way – as reported by Reuters – SpaceX already has begun reliably transporting astronauts and supplies to the space station.

Boeing's Starliner had conducted two uncrewed missions before Williams and Wilmore went into orbit aboard the Starliner – each plagued by woes and technical issues.

Dozens of software and engineering issues resulted in the failure of the first attempt in 2019 to send an uncrewed Starliner to the space station for a week.

While it reached orbit, the capsule failed to reach the space station and instead returned to Earth, according to Florida Today, part of the USA TODAY Network.

The follow-up flight test in 2022 met standards of docking to the space station and successfully landed, but not without the discovery of multiple concerns as Boeing crews inspected the spacecraft later, Florida Today reported.

Needless to say, Boeing's ability to join SpaceX and earn certification from NASA for crewed rotation missions to the space station hinges on what comes next with its Starliner.

Contributing: Mary Walrath-Holdridge, Gabe Hauari, Emily DeLetter, James Powel, Mike Snider, Natalie Neysa Alund and Jonathan Limehouse, USA TODAY

OPINION

How do I talk to my kids about Harris, Trump?

Be honest and direct and tailor a chat to their age

Marla Bautista
USA TODAY

With election season comes a surge of often heated political discourse on social media, delicate and tense conversations in real life and attack ads on TV and radio. Politics will permeate everyday life for most of us between now and Election Day.

For me, it also came with a surprising interest in politics from my children.

As I stood in front of the stove making dinner, my 9-year-old sat in the kitchen watching a YouTube show. He asked, "Mom, how can someone steal an election?"

I didn't turn around to answer right away, because I wasn't sure if I should answer, or if I did, what I would say. "There are lots of different election crimes that can lead to the stealing of an election," I said. "There's disenfranchisement, polling place abuse, misuse of campaign funds ..."

Before I said another word, he said sheesh, put his headphones back on and the conversation was over.

Don't overwhelm kids with political terms

As I returned to cooking, I recognized that moment was an invaluable opportunity to engage my child in a conversation about politics and to help him to understand the world around him.

But I'm not sure if he comprehended what I said, and he might have lost interest because I used terms he had never heard before.

As I spiraled down a rabbit hole of thinking about elections, parenting and education, I realized that navigating

Former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris now face off for the presidential election in November. Be truthful with your children in discussing politics. BRIAN SNYDER/REUTERS; RYAN GARZA/USA TODAY NETWORK

these discussions with my children will be challenging. What do I say to them about Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris? Or Republican nominee Donald Trump?

Through conversations with my children and research, I learned that it's not just me. A lot of parents struggle to talk to their children about politics. I decided to share a few ways you can talk to your children about politics in a thoughtful and age-appropriate manner.

It's always good to start with the basics. You should explain what elections are, why they are important and how they work.

For my 9-year-old, I used comparisons like voting on a family movie night or a fast-food location. I wanted to make sure he understood the idea that elections are a way for people to make

choices about who will represent them and make decisions that affect everyone's lives.

Children are naturally curious, and that's a great thing. Their questions about voting and elections are a great way to educate them about civil rights.

Encourage them to ask questions about what they've heard online or from friends. If you don't know the answer, it's OK to admit it and then take the opportunity to learn together.

One of the biggest challenges I had in having conversations with my children about politics was being age appropriate. I found myself using jargon and words they didn't understand, which left them confused or uninterested.

As parents, we should tailor political discussions to our child's age and maturity level. For younger children, focus on

basic concepts like fairness, kindness and the role of government in keeping people safe and healthy. Older children can handle more detailed discussions about political parties and the impact of policies on people and communities.

I want to encourage my children to think critically about what they see and hear. I do that by discussing the importance of considering different perspectives and the difference between facts and opinions.

This can be a good time to introduce the concept of media literacy, helping them to understand that not everything they see online or on TV is true.

Be transparent with kids about your political opinions

I am teaching my children about the values and beliefs that are important to my family and how they relate to politics. I am explaining to them that different families may have different values, and that's why there are different political parties and candidates to vote for.

The most valuable lesson is to teach them to respect diverse opinions.

You can involve your children in the voting process by showing them your absentee ballot or taking them with you when you vote. Explain to them why you are voting. This can drive home the importance of civic engagement.

Above all, be honest about your own political views and why you hold them. That can help your children understand that politics is complex, and that people can have good reasons for supporting different candidates or policies.

Politics can be divisive; our children will hear strong opinions or even insults about certain candidates or groups. Let's use these moments to teach empathy and respect.

By encouraging open, honest and respectful discussions, we can help our children become informed, empathetic and engaged citizens.

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

Middle-class students like me feel pinch of college education costs

Christine Schueckler
USA TODAY

Back-to-school season is upon us. Millions of American students are preparing to attend universities this month, many of them fresh out of high school. They buy their textbooks, get ready to furnish their dorm rooms and, most dauntingly, embark on a mission to figure out how they can possibly afford a college education.

As the cost of college attendance continues to spike, having risen 12% per year from 2010 to 2022, the bulk of financial assistance is provided to students from low-income families.

Such efforts are laudable and, it seems, effective: Thanks to improved and expanded financial aid programs, the number of undergraduate college students from low-income families has steadily risen over 20 years, according to a study by the Pew Research Center.

However, these efforts have forgotten the middle class, who constitute half of the U.S. population. For them, college enrollment has steadily declined. The percentage of lower middle- and middle-class students at American colleges fell from 63% in 1996 to 52% 2016, likely due to financial constraints.

How 'middle-class squeeze' hurts college students

Highly ranked colleges in particular enroll low-income and high-income students at far higher rates than middle-class students, leading to an entire demographic who is almost missing from Ivy League schools.

It's a trend fueled by the "middle-

class squeeze": The majority of middle-class families make too much money to qualify for significant financial aid or grants, but don't make enough to pay the high out-of-pocket costs of college.

Low-income students can qualify for Pell Grants or apply to need-based scholarships; wealthy students don't need financial assistance.

As a result, middle-income students disproportionately take out loans to pay for higher education.

In fact, students whose families make $80,000 to $89,000 a year wind up with the most student loan debt in proportion to their family income, and twice as much – 51.4% of the family income – as students in the lowest income bracket, with an annual family income of less than $20,000.

The weight of this debt could be contributing to the shrinking of the middle class and increasing poverty rates.

I'm from a large family; FAFSA doesn't take that into account

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is open to all students, promising aid to any who need it, but a government form can never adequately reflect a family's financial situation.

When you factor in cost of living, medical expenses and family obligations, the dollar amount of a family's income only means so much.

An annual salary of $150,000 does not always translate to wealth or heaps of disposable income, especially for larger families.

As of this year, the sibling discount, which took into account the number of children a family would send to college, has been removed from FAFSA. Instead of dividing the Expected Family Contribution evenly among children, the change sets the Student Aid Index

The percentage of lower middle- and middle-class students at American colleges fell from 63% in 1996 to 52% in 2016, according to the Pew Research Center.
FILE ILLUSTRATION BY RICK NEASE/USA TODAY NETWORK

amount as the expected payment for each child attending college.

Even upper middle-class families can't afford this change.

As a college student, this change is especially concerning to me. I am one of seven children. If I were an only child, my parents would be able to pay for my education. But I have siblings who hope to attend college, so my family's college fund has to be split seven ways.

My parents have been as generous as they can, but I am responsible for funding the majority of my college career. FAFSA doesn't consider this.

Tuition assistance programs ought to acknowledge that the skyrocketing

price of college doesn't affect only those living in poverty.

It also renders higher education inaccessible to a vast percentage of our country and drives the largest social class the furthest into debt.

It's time for the government to walk alongside middle-class families as well.

Everyone deserves an education.

Christine Schueckler is a USA TODAY Opinion intern and a rising third-year student at the University of Virginia, where she studies English and French. At UVA, she writes for The Jefferson Independent and performs with the UVA University Singers.

MONEY

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Amazon shoppers are looking for deals, distracted by news
The company's chief financial officer says consumers are remaining cautious. **Page 2B**

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We survey and compile the top news stories from all 50 states plus Washington, D.C. **Page 4B**

E2

Markets plunge on recession fears

Tech stocks' dive leads pullback as investors worry economy slowing

Medora Lee, Bailey Schulz and Dan Morrison
USA TODAY

Wall Street was hammered Monday after global markets washed out over worries about a possible recession in the world's biggest economy.

The S&P 500 Index closed 106 points, or 3%, lower after a hair-raising morn-ing drop, while the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite fell 3.43% and the Dow Jones plummeted more than 1,000 points, losing 2.6%. They were the big-gest drops in the Dow and Nasdaq since September 2022.

Driving the rout: Sharp declines in high-flying tech stocks including Nvi-dia, Apple, Amazon and Google.

Over the weekend, billionaire invest-ment guru Warren Buffett ignited spec-ulation he's soured on stocks as his company Berkshire Hathaway reported a $276.9 billion cash stake as of June 30, up from $189 billion, after selling anoth-er large portion of its stake in Apple.

That reinforced investors' fears on that the U.S. economy may be slowing. The Labor Department reported Friday that the U.S. economy added only 114,000 jobs in July and the unemploy-ment rate had jumped to 4.3%, the high-est since October 2021. Both were worse than economists' forecasts. And em-ployment gains for May and June were revised down by a total of 29,000 jobs.

Most worrying was the sharp rise in the jobless rate triggering what economists call the Sahm rule. It says that if unemployment, based on a

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Wall Street's most-watched gauge of investor anxiety logged its largest intraday jump on Monday.
MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO/GETTY IMAGES

MONEYLINE

DANIEL SLIM/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

KOREAN AIR TO STOP SERVING INSTANT RAMEN

Korean Air announced it would stop serving instant ramen in economy class, saying worsening turbulence has made cups of noodles a danger to passengers. "This decision is part of proactive safety measures in response to increased turbulence, aimed at preventing burn accidents," the airline said. The danger of turbulence during food service was highlighted by a lawsuit against JetBlue, in which a passenger claims she was burned by hot water from the beverage cart after her plane hit turbulence.

CARNIVAL CRUISE LINE UNVEILS PRIVATE CLUB

Carnival Cruise Line's new private Bahamas destination was planned with guests of all ages in mind. The cruise line revealed details about Pearl Cove Beach Club on Thursday, an adults-only area at Celebration Key, which is slated to open in July 2025. The destination will be on the island of Grand Bahama. The club will feature an 11,000-square-foot infinity pool with a swim-up bar and water loung-ers. Guests can kick back in sun loung-ers and daybeds, while a DJ plays "tropical lounge music," the line said. Pearl Cove visitors can choose from: Club access with a welcome drink for $99.99 per person; club access with an open bar up to 10 drinks for $139.99 per person; all-inclusive club access with an open bar up to 10 drinks and food from the restaurant for $179.99 per person.

'SAHM RULE' HISTORICALLY HAS PREDICTED RECESSION

The number of jobs added last month fell short of expectations and un-employment was on the rise, trigger-ing a measure that typically has meant the U.S. is in a recession. The economy has been unusually defiant, with the nation's gross domestic product con-tinuing to grow, and employment trends reflecting the unusual forces that came into play during the pan-demic. That combination has led most economists to determine that the "Sahm rule" probably doesn't apply right now. But for roughly five dec-ades it has predicted every downturn. The Sahm rule is named for economist Claudia Sahm, who has accurately forecast every U.S. recession since the 1970s. The rule says that if the jobless rate, based on a three-month average, is a half percentage point above its lowest point over the previous 12 months, the economy is in a recession. Friday's jobs report technically meets the Sahm rule's criteria. The jobless rate in July rose from 4.1% to 4.3%, ticking the three-month average more than a half point above the 3.6% aver-age one year ago.

West Maui's famous Kaanapali Beach seems bustling with tourists once again, but many businesses say it's not the same.
PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN WONG/USA TODAY

'Bring your aloha'

Travelers can support Maui as island struggles to recuperate from wildfires

Kathleen Wong USA TODAY

MAUI, Hawaii – One of the first things patrons see when they enter Mala Tavern is a sign telling peo-ple to avoid bringing up last year's wildfires to the staff. ● The oceanfront restaurant, at the end of La-haina's famous Front Street, was one of just a few buildings to have survived the deadliest wildfire in the country in more than a century.

"It's been really heavy, and it continues to be for people," said Ashley Davis, co-owner of Mala Tavern.

With looming operation costs and some employees wanting to return to work, the restaurant reopened as soon as it got the green light from Maui County officials – in Feb-ruary, it was the first on Front Street to do so.

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I volunteered at Hua Momona Farms in Kapalua, which grows produce for local restaurants and served meals to wildfire victims.

School closings stoke education fears

Medora Lee
USA TODAY

As if finding a suitable, affordable college isn't hard enough, students must also find one that isn't likely to close on them, experts say.

Every week, on average, a college or university closes, according to an analysis by the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association. That's up from about two a month last year and could worsen this fall as college enrollment dwindles further, experts said.

When schools close, fewer than half of the students transfer to another school, the executive officers associa-tion said. Of those who do, less than half graduate, it said. The others who

> **"If enrollment's consistently declining, the school could be struggling. It can be a strategy to cut back enrollment to keep afloat, but you need to consider if it's a bad sign."**
> **Shannon Vasconcelos**
> financial aid consultant at Bright Horizons College Coach

reenrolled and didn't finish just added to their student debt and "added to the population of students who have some

college but no credential," the associa-tion said.

That means choosing a school that's the right fit for you and affordable isn't enough. You also need to research the school's financials to ensure its solven-cy, said Jack Wallace, director of gov-ernmental and lender relations at Yrefy, a private student-loan company.

"You've got to look at the school's fi-nancials, liquidity and endowments," he said, noting the work is like researching a company to decide whether to buy its stock.

Why are so many schools closing?

Many small private schools, both

See COLLEGES, Page 2B

Distracted Amazon shoppers eye deals

CFO says consumers are remaining 'cautious'

Betty Lin-Fisher
USA TODAY

Big news events like assassination attempts, the election and the Olympics are distracting already cautious Amazon consumers looking for cheaper purchasing options, executives for the retail giant said on Thursday.

Amazon's Chief Financial Officer Brian Olsavsky told reporters on a call after the company reported second-quarter earnings that consumers "are continuing to be cautious with their spending trading down."

He added, "They are looking for deals," and noted that lower-priced products were selling briskly.

Amazon's online retail business has faced heightened competition from budget retailers like Temu and Shein, which sell a wide variety of goods, direct from China, at bargain-basement prices.

Olsavsky also told reporters it was difficult to make predictions for the third quarter because events like the presidential election and the Olympics in Paris were distracting consumers.

"Customers only have so much attention," Olsavsky said, according to CNBC.

Here are some other consumer updates from Amazon's call:

● **Faster deliveries:** Amazon delivery for Prime customers has been "faster than ever before, with more than 5 billion units arriving the same day or next day," said Amazon CEO Andy Jassy. Fast delivery will continue to improve as Amazon stocks more inventory regionally and at fulfillment centers "closer to where our customers are."

Consumers are buying more everyday essentials, including nonperishable foods as well as health and personal care items, Olsavsky said. "Prime members continue to increase their shopping frequency while growing their spend on Amazon."

● **Expanded benefits:** Amazon said it added more value to its Prime membership, recently introducing free restaurant delivery in many areas and expanding Amazon's Pharmacy RXPass to Medicare members, which "gives subscribers all-you-can-consume access to the most common generic medications for just $5 a month," Jassy said. He also said there is a grocery subscription to help save on grocery purchases at its U.S. and United Kingdom Fresh stores.

Amazon's Pharmacy business continues to launch same-day delivery of medications to cities, Jassy said. It is in eight cities, including Los Angeles and New York "with plans to expand to more than a dozen cities by the end of the year," he said.

● **More use of artificial intelligence:** Jassy said the company is "very bullish on the medium-to-long-term impact of AI in every business we know and can imagine." Companies have to "build muscle" around the best way to solve customer problems, he said, "but we see so much potential to change customer experiences."

Examples he used include AI features that allow customers to simulate trying on apparel items or using AI in fulfillment centers across North America to combine generative AI and computer vision "to uncover defects before products reach customers."

Amazon.com reported slowing online sales growth in the second quarter, sending shares down nearly 8% in an after-hours stock drop, Reuters reported.

The drop came despite a second-quarter profit and cloud computing sales that beat analyst estimates. Amazon shares had gained over 20% this year through the session close on Thursday, but investors were disappointed that the company forecast current-quarter sales below Wall Street estimates.

Amazon's online store sales rose 5% in the second quarter to $55.4 billion, compared with growth of 7% in the first quarter.

The company expects revenue of $154.0 billion to $158.5 billion for the third quarter, compared with analysts' average estimate of $158.24 billion, according to LSEG data.

Greg Bensinger and Deborah Mary Sophia of Reuters contributed to this report.

Colleges

for-profit and nonprofit, depend on tuition to operate. With enrollments trending lower for more than a decade, smaller schools with little to no endowments are having trouble staying afloat, experts said.

Undergraduate enrollment in 2023 was 15% below peak levels from fall 2010, "with no meaningful growth expectation on the horizon," Fitch Ratings said. "Eroding consumer sentiment on the affordability of a higher education degree and unfavorable longer-term demographic trends for high school graduate totals together could translate into demand pressure well into the next decade for the sector."

New federal rules are also squeezing budgets, Fitch said. Overtime pay is required for salaried employees earning less than about $55,000 a year, up from the $35,568 threshold. "For colleges already managing extremely tight or deficit operations, any additional mandated costs will compound budgetary stress," Fitch said.

And "what may be a final nail in the coffin is the FAFSA debacle," said Shannon Vasconcelos, financial aid consultant at Bright Horizons College Coach. "There's a decrease in the number (of FAFSAs) submitted, and that leads to enrollment decreases."

The number of high school seniors who submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid through June had dropped 11.6% from a year ago, according to National College Attainment Network.

What red flags should students look for in a school?

It's not a perfect science, Vasconcelos said, but some steps students and families can follow to get a sense of how well capitalized a school is include:

● **ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer** allows you to search the financials of any nonprofit organization, including schools. "Look at the net income over several years and see if it consistently has huge profits each year, whether it's positive net income or negative, or in a downward trend," Vasconcelos said. "If it's losing money or if net income's trending down, that can be a real red flag the finances are not working well at this college, and you might want to give it a little extra thought about enrolling."

● **Search the school on the internet** "and throw in words like 'finances' and 'layoffs' to see if there's any news about the school's financial issues," she said. "A closure usually doesn't happen totally out of the blue. Usually, you'll see some news about layoffs and budget cuts for a number of years before closure happens."

● **Take a tour** and ask yourself, "How are the physical state of buildings?" she said. "Are there improvements or decrepit buildings? Are there signs of innovations or status quo? Are they adding new programs or not? These can give you an idea of whether they have money to invest in new things."

● **Common Data Set** is standardized data every school collects and publishes. "It will be on the school's website, but sometimes it's buried," Vasconcelos said. "So, you may want to Google the college's name and 'common data sets' to find it. It will have numerous years of data, and it's in a consistent format from school to school so it's easy to compare."

Within the data set, she said, the two biggest things to examine are:

Enrollment data in Section B. "If enrollment's consistently declining, the school could be struggling," she said. "It can be a strategy to cut back enrollment to keep afloat, but you need to consider if it's a bad sign."

Amount of institution non-need-based scholarships and grants in Section H2A, line O. "This sounds counterintuitive, but these are recruitment scholarships. If these are increasing, it could be seen as a measure of desperation," Vasconcelos said. "They could be trying to draw in more students that pay tuition."

Taking these steps doesn't guarantee your school won't close, but they can minimize your risk of it happening and your dropping out as a result.

"In the best situations, colleges that close have prepared and worked out mergers with other colleges or transfer agreements with other colleges they've partnered with so students can get automatic admission as a transfer student," Vasconcelos said. " ... It can be major disruption, and the school may not be a right fit anymore."

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Monday. The Dow fell over 1,000 points in morning trading as global stocks plunged following fears of a recession in the U.S. and Japanese economies. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Markets

three-month average, rises by at least a half percentage point over the past 12 months, the nation is probably in a recession. The rule has correctly predicted all U.S. recessions since the 1970s.

Wall Street's most-watched gauge of investor anxiety – the CBOE Volatility Index, the "fear gauge" – logged its largest-ever intraday jump. As of late Monday morning, the VIX was up 34 points at 57.15, its highest since March 2020.

However, while some economists said market conditions raise the risk of a recession within the next 12 months, others downplayed concerns.

"The recession fears are overblown," said Scott Wren, senior global market strategist at Wells Fargo. "It's not time to panic."

Et tu, Fed?

Some investors and economists called for emergency action by the Federal Reserve to ward off recession. Fed officials declined to cut interest rates last week – leaving them at a 23-year high of 5.25-5.5% – but signaled they might cut at their next meeting in September.

There are concerns the Fed waited too long to cut rates and will need to play catch-up to cushion the economy. In June, U.S. central bankers anticipated only one cut this year, and saw the unemployment rate ending the year at 4%.

With the jobless rate now well above that, "the soft landing in the U.S. labor market is in danger," wrote Nick Bunker, director of North American economic research at Indeed Hiring Lab, referring to a scenario where inflation is tamed without a painful recession or sharp rise in unemployment.

After Friday's weak jobs report, many economists revised their rate cut forecasts for September. Instead of a quarter percentage point cut, they are now expecting a more aggressive half-point reduction. Goldman Sachs sees a steady every-meeting series of rate cuts and Citi called for half-percentage-point cuts in both September and December. JP Morgan said there was a strong case for a cut even before the Fed's next meeting.

"I think this will encourage the Fed to take action, which is really what the market is looking for," said Harvey Schwartz, CEO of private equity firm Carlyle.

Chicago Federal Reserve President Austan Goolsbee hinted in a Monday interview the Fed isn't likely to take emergency action, though he suggested it might be worth considering lowering the fed funds rate.

"The conditions were very different a year ago," he said. "If you're going to be as restrictive as we are for too long, then you are going to have to think about the employment side of the mandate, and you only want to be that restrictive if you're afraid of overheating. And my thing is, this is not really what overheating looks like."

He said the disappointing jobs report did not necessarily signal a recession and that the Federal Reserve's focus to determine interest rate policy remained on inflation and employment.

Though market volatility can be jarring, "the law gives the Fed two jobs: stabilize prices, maximize employment," he said. "There's nothing in the Fed's mandate that says stop market declines."

He admitted the jobs report was "negative" but said "we should not overreact to one month's data," especially because the 114,000 figure was within the margin of error against forecasts.

Other impacts

U.S.-listed shares of crypto-linked companies slumped as Bitcoin fell more than 15% amid a frenzied selling of risky assets. The plunge marked a stunning reversal for the sector that until recently was riding a wave of optimism sparked by the approval of exchange-traded funds tied to the spot prices of Bitcoin and Ether, the two biggest cryptocurrencies. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's pro-crypto speech at a bitcoin conference last month also bolstered confidence.

Oil prices dropped to a six-month low as investors worried about recession and war in the Middle East. A recession would lessen demand for goods and services and therefore, oil for manufacturing and transporting.

Treasurys benefited as safe-haven purchases, forcing yields to drop significantly. Yields and bond prices move in opposite directions, and yields on 10-year Treasurys fell to the lowest in more than a year.

As investors ran to buy U.S. Treasurys, mortgage rates declined, opening the door for some borrowers to refinance, experts said.

"After months of dawdling at or above the 7% mark, mortgage rates are reversing sharply," said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst at comparison site Bankrate. "If you took a mortgage at a rate above 7%, the refinancing door has swung open."

Politicians reacted Monday morning as the indices fell. Trump blamed not overheated tech stocks but his opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris, posting "KAMALA CRASH!" on Truth Social. His running mate JD Vance used the stock market panic to assail Harris' leadership. The Democratic Party fired back with a post noting job losses during Trump's term.

Contributing: Reuters

Heroes, villains inspire Disney ship

Vessel will begin sailing in late 2025 and feature some 'iconic' characters

Nathan Diller
USA TODAY

Even heroes need a vacation, and Disney Cruise Line is dedicating an entire ship to them – and their evil counterparts.

The cruise line revealed new details about its Disney Destiny ship, which will begin sailing in late 2025, this week.

"For the Disney Destiny, we will introduce brand-new cruise experiences inspired by the legends and legacies of some of Disney's most iconic heroes and villains," Sharon Siskie, Disney Cruise Line's senior vice president and general manager, said in a news release.

"From the dining rooms to the staterooms and everywhere in between, guests aboard our new ship will be surrounded by extraordinary storytelling paired with the signature service and family-fun adventures that are hallmarks of a Disney Cruise vacation."

The ship will be a sister vessel to the upcoming Disney Treasure, launching in December, and the Disney Wish.

Where will Disney Destiny sail?

The ship will operate four-and-five-night Bahamas and Western Caribbean cruises from Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, beginning in November 2025.

What's new on Disney Destiny?

The ship's design will be inspired by Disney, Pixar and Marvel characters, from the accommodations to the restaurants.

Every cabin will have custom artwork depicting "the epic journeys of famous Disney legends," according to the release. Concierge staterooms and suites will feature watercolor-style art evoking "Fantasia," while iconography from "The Incredibles" will adorn seven distinct oceanview cabins. Superfans can book the IncrediSuites, decorated in a midcentury modern scheme, while Hero Suites will draw on "Hercules," with an aesthetic inspired by Greco-Roman architecture.

Passengers can also vacation like Tony Stark in the luxurious Destiny Tower Suite, modeled on Iron Man's "sleek, industrial designs." The space will sleep up to eight people and have a private ensuite elevator.

Two walk-up cafes serving coffee, tea, snacks and more will pull from the films "Hercules" and "Brave," respectively. Café Megara will be decked out with Mount Olympus clouds, lightning bolts, Muse-covered vases, and other nods to the movie, while Café Merida will feature a Celtic look inspired by the character of the same name.

"Special touches include a tapestry hung from a mounted bow while glowing lights above the bar will pay tribute to the will-o'-the-wisps, ethereal blue flames that lead travelers to their destiny," the cruise line said.

The "Pride Lands: Feast of the Lion King" dining experience will feature live music and storytelling in a venue inspired by the savanna. A wall lined with windows will show sunrises that set while guests are eating, and performers will play songs like "Circle of Life" and "Hakuna Matata" from a stage with tiered risers that call to mind African drums.

If passengers need a sugar fix, Edna Á La Mode Sweets is just the spot. The "Incredibles" fashion designer's lab will be turned into a confectionery offering cookies, gelato, ice cream and more. The space, which draws on the 2018 "Auntie Edna" short film, will see her sewing machinery used to make sweets.

The ship will include new nightlife options, as well. De Vil's piano lounge, named for the glamorous, fur-clad antagonist from "One Hundred and One Dalmatians," will feature a spotted piano (though no puppies were harmed) and a menu of martinis, wines and other drinks. At Cask and Cannon, "Pirates of the Caribbean" fans can enjoy a range of rums – including specialty and vintage options – and brews served from the barrel. The pub will be furnished with "pillaged and pilfered" treasures from the pirates' travels, and show live sporting events on TV.

At The Sanctum lounge, guests will step into the world of "Doctor Strange," where they'll find surprises from the sorcerer's New York Sanctum, along with cocktails, coffee, entertainment and more. Destiny will also debut with the Haunted Mansion Parlor cocktail bar, which will first launch on Treasure.

AquaMouse is back, too, with a twist. The 760-foot-long water ride, a signature attraction for the brand, will feature a new storyline that sees Mickey and Minnie Mouse venture to the top of Villain Mountain, disarming foes like the Queen of Hearts from "Alice in Wonderland" and Scar of "The Lion King" with a silly song and "a bit of pixie dust," according to the cruise line. The ride will feature three other shows as well.

The central Grand Hall will pay homage to "Black Panther" with a statue of T'Challa, a Vibranium-inspired light fixture and metalwork that evokes Wakanda jewelry and armor, along with a stage and 360-degree lighting. The space will be complimented by the two-story Saga venue, which will host family activities during the day and adults-only entertainment at night.

The ship will have other Marvel touches, too. Spider-Man will serve as the ship's stern character, the first time a Marvel Super Hero has done so in the line's history. "The larger-than-life sculpture will showcase Spider-Man and his Spider-Bots, who are making a well-meant, if a bit haphazard, attempt at decorating the filigree on the back of the ship," the cruise line said.

Destiny will also offer the Worlds of Marvel dining experience and the Marvel Super Hero Academy at its Oceaneer Club for young kids, both of which can be found on Wish (and on Treasure when it launches).

Other characters guests will encounter on board in meet-and-greets, shows and other appearances include Maleficent, Hades and Captain Hook.

How much does Disney Destiny cost?

Pricing is not yet available, but bookings will open to the public Sept. 12. The company will also add another vessel, the Disney Adventure, next year. The ship will homeport in Singapore and mark its first to sail in Southeast Asia.

Maui

However, with the loss of Lahaina, Mala Tavern's foot traffic is virtually gone, and business has yet to recover. In the past six years, the restaurant has already had to close several times, including due to the pandemic.

"We want to survive," Davis said.

Mala Tavern's experience mirrors that of many other Maui businesses as the island continues to grapple with the ongoing uncertainty of recovery from the devastating Aug. 8 fires, which ravaged historic Lahaina town in just hours, resulting in over 100 deaths and destroying homes, businesses and cultural sites.

Over the past year, the Maui community has tried to balance the economic need for tourism with the emotional healing of what was lost. The island, especially Lahaina, is a tight-knit community, and many returning to work were directly affected by the fires or knew someone who was. The healing process has been far from easy.

The upcoming anniversary of the fires serves as a poignant reminder that responsible travelers who are sensitive to the tragedy and want to support the Maui community directly are the ones who are welcome.

"(The anniversary) is going to be emotional," Davis said. "Support Maui in moving forward, be aware of what's going on there, and try to help rather than hinder."

'A delicate balance'

In the aftermath of the fires, potential travelers questioned if visiting would do more harm than good. Some residents advised staying away as they coped with the tragedy, while others who rely on tourism for their livelihoods pleaded for support. Maui's economy highly depends on tourism, with about 70% of every dollar generated on the island involving it. In the past year, the island has seen fewer travelers – and those financial losses have reverberated throughout the island.

In the first four months of 2024, Maui received 24% fewer visitors than the same time last year, causing a 22.5% decrease in visitor spending. Before the pandemic, Maui was the second-most visited island out of the four main Hawaiian islands for both first-time and repeat visitors, following Oahu.

"It's a delicate balance," said Davis. "I know people are worried about coming, but there are places that are open and need the support because that's our economy, whether we like it or not."

Businesses that were still recovering from the pandemic now face additional challenges in the aftermath of the fires, such as understaffing as many workers relocated to the other side of the island or left Maui entirely, according to Paula Hegele, president of MauiWine, Maui's only winery located in Kula. Others chose not to return to work in the wake of their losses.

According to the payroll job count from June 2024, Maui County is still 6,300 jobs short from July 2023, with the hospitality sector accounting for over half of those job losses. Insurance claims from commercial properties claimed $1.2 billion in damages, with 316 businesses making claims, according to the State of Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

State projects to assist in Maui's recovery include a Maui Business Bridge Grant to provide financial support, and as of July 31, more than $10 million has been awarded. Another key project includes a Lahaina marketplace, "a space to host a variety of different businesses and offer a place for community to come together in support of each other," said Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism Director James Kunane Tokioka. "Through efforts like this, the state and county of Maui continue to support Maui businesses and Maui-made products."

Hegele said MauiWine is busy on some days and sends employees home early on others due to the few visitors.

Although the future remains unclear, one thing is certain: The small businesses that have reopened fight forward to survive.

Nearly all of Maui has been open

Nearly all of Maui is open to visitors, with West Maui having welcomed travelers back on Oct. 8. The only off-limits area is the historic Lahaina town, which is still being cleared of debris, some of which is considered hazardous.

Only Lahaina residents are allowed entry, and they must show proof of residency to the guards.

As of July, USA TODAY was able to visit the Aston Kaanapali Shores and Aston at The Whaler on Kaanapali Beach in West Maui, and the area was bustling with tourists. Businesses in Upcountry, like Alii Lavender Farm and MauiWine, also welcomed the reporter on this story. Even a snorkeling trip to Molokini Crater with Trilogy Excursions was possible. Despite recent fires near its entrance, Haleakala is open to visitors as well.

Vivien Van Leeuwen and her family visited Maui from Salt Lake City in late July, staying in Kaanapali and doing activities such as the Road to Hana and surfing lessons. Maui had been on the family's bucket list, and they wanted to visit before the older son graduated high school. Still, Van Leeuwen knew she wanted to tread lightly in light of the fires and the family tipped generously everywhere they went.

"Knowing the history (of the fires), we were really respectful of the space and we tried not to take pictures of the areas and don't gawk at it because it's so insensitive and inappropriate," Van Leeuwen told USA TODAY. Before the trip, she and her husband "prepared our kids" by teaching them not to mention the fires when meeting locals.

The trip ended up being one of the family's favorites. "They were so hospitable everywhere we went," she said.

Although it may seem like business as usual for most tourists, many Maui residents are still grieving, especially as the anniversary nears.

"Some of the challenges is finding that balance with tourism, you know, supporting the local economy, and welcoming that back while still holding space for our residents (during) the rebuilding and restoring of our community," said Anna Enomoto, a Native Hawaiian born and raised on Maui and reservations manager at the Aston Kaanapali Shores in west Maui.

Driving through West Maui, signs of the August tragedy remain.

Honoapiilani Highway, heading toward Lahaina, is lined with photos of those who lost their lives in the fire. The charred remains of homes and trees are still visible, serving as somber reminders.

Greeting patrons at the Lahaina restaurant Mala Tavern is a sign that asks them to refrain from mentioning the wildfires to staff. PROVIDED BY MALA TAVERN

'A direct impact is the biggest change you can make'

Potential travelers often call Enomoto to ask if coming to Maui is OK and what's open.

"The fact that you're asking that question says so much to me, and also the reason why I want you to come," Enomoto said. "You're the type of visitor who's very mindful. You're sensitive to what happened."

Enomoto encourages visitors to volunteer as a meaningful way to help Maui heal. The island offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, including farming, house-building, reforestation, translation, meal-prepping and beach clean-ups.

By spending quality time with the community and helping to "revitalize" the island, travelers will gain a deeper understanding of Maui's history. "I think it will give visitors the chance to connect," she said.

Most importantly, people should ensure their money goes directly into community members' pockets, not just to the hotels. Supporting local businesses and tipping well are the first steps.

"People think them coming here is like they're feeding us, that savior mentality, you need us to come here, without us you don't thrive, but for us, that's not the case," Shannon Ii, a Native Hawaiian whose family lived in Lahaina for generations and lost their homes in the fire. "When you come to travel, are you impacting the community? Are you making it better or worse?"

Ii wants travelers to go one step further: help the locals you meet.

"Buy a gift card, and when you're at a restaurant, give it to a server," Ii said. "I bet you that server lost their home. A direct impact is the biggest change you can make."

"That's the biggest thing: bring your aloha with you, bring your open hearts because they will see it," Enomoto said. "The local people will see if you're genuinely caring about them."

50★States

ALABAMA Montgomery: A Montgomery woman has pleaded guilty to federal fraud charges after receiving almost $2 million in COVID-19 relief funds.

ALASKA Anchorage: Alaska Distance Classic race organizers said more than 700 people participated in the 5K and 10K race this year, making it the largest turnout the Special Olympics fundraising event has ever seen, KTUU reported.

ARKANSAS Little Rock: Authorities said an investigation is underway after a partially buried body was discovered in a wooded area Friday night, KATV reported.

CALIFORNIA Ventura: Dozens of sick and dying sea lions started showing up along the Ventura and Santa Barbara coast recently.

COLORADO Fort Collins: Platte River Power Authority's board of directors recently unanimously approved a long-range plan to provide electricity using a lot more renewable energy sources as it ditches coal, but it's also going to require $250 million in natural gas infrastructure.

CONNECTICUT Bristol: The Boulder Dash roller coaster at Lake Compounce was ranked No. 2 in the U.S. for wooden coasters by the National Amusement Park Historical Association, which does an annual survey. The coaster opened in 2000.

DELAWARE Dover: The First State is among the country's most dangerous for swimming, according to a study by the Florida personal injury lawyers at Anidjar & Levine, which used data from the United States Lifesaving Association.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington: Mike Donilon, a longtime adviser to President Joe Biden, will return to the White House for the final six months of Biden's presidency, a White House official said.

FLORIDA Collier County: A proposed wilderness designation for the Big Cypress National Preserve has been nixed after several environmental groups and politicians fought the label for the massive swath of land, which sits mostly in rural eastern Collier County. Wilderness designations, critics have said, are for truly wild areas that aren't influenced by the actions of humans.

GEORGIA Atlanta: Georgia Department of Education published its Milestones scores for the 2023-2024 school year. According to a news release from GDOE, overall scores increased or held steady on 10 of 13 assessments in English-language arts, science, and social studies.

HAWAII Honolulu: Hawaii's largest utility said it had agreed to pay roughly half of a more than $4 billion legal settlement that will compensate victims of last year's deadly Maui wildfires.

IDAHO Nampa: The Nampa School District is rolling out new transportation changes less than two weeks before the school year starts, KTVB7 reported.

ILLINOIS Springfield: Ahead the start of a new school year, state lawmakers are pushing legislation they say will make college more accessible for Illinoisans. Flanked by fellow Democratic lawmakers, Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford, D-Maywood, and Rep. Carol Ammons, D-Urbana, unveiled Senate Bill 3965 – creating a new funding formula for public universities in Illinois – during a news conference last week.

INDIANA Indianapolis: People who are most vulnerable to a drug overdose will now have medication that saves lives delivered to their hands. Indianapolis EMS medics responding to an overdose will offer kits to patients, their families, friends or bystanders. The kits include two doses of intranasal naloxone, a resource card with a QR code to the program's webpage, how to sign up for text alerts about an overdose surge in Marion County and educational materials on recognizing an overdose and administering naloxone.

IOWA Boone County: Space at the Boone County Landfill is becoming an issue, Boone County Landfill Administrator John Roosa said. Slowing down the tons of solid waste taken in is the first step to slowing that process down. With just over 1 million tons of available space, the landfill would reach capacity in 13 years. But recent diversion plans have officials hopeful they can extend the facility's life an additional 30 years.

HIGHLIGHT: ARIZONA

About 100 people march in Cameron on Friday against uranium transportation through the Navajo Nation. TRILCE ESTRADA OLVERA/USA TODAY NETWORK

Cameron: The operator of a uranium mine south of the Grand Canyon said it would pause shipments of ore across the Navajo Nation after tribal leaders deployed police to stop the trucks. Energy Fuels Inc. said it would try to address concerns raised by Navajo President Buu Nygren and Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs. She announced the pause in shipments in a statement on Friday. The news came as about 100 people gathered to protest the shipments, which began Tuesday when trucks carrying ore from the mine crossed the Navajo Nation on two U.S. highways to a mill near Blanding, Utah.

KANSAS Topeka: Government employees at the state's child welfare agency are not destroying documents due to a directive from Attorney General Kris Kobach's office.

KENTUCKY Louisville: Concerned residents are pushing back on plans to demolish two buildings in the Nulu area as part of a planned expansion of Rabbit Hole Distillery. A newly filed petition with more than 300 signatures seeks to have the buildings designated as local landmarks, which would make it more difficult to level the structures.

LOUISIANA Shreveport: Leaders in Shreveport and Bossier City announced they are joining in one of the largest cleanup and beautification projects in U.S. history, and residents are invited to participate. Shreveport Mayor Tom Arceneaux and Bossier City Mayor Tommy Chandler announced the cities will join the Greatest American Cleanup – a nationwide effort to beautify America by its 250th birthday.

MAINE Poland: Police are investigating after a man was killed in a shooting Friday, WMTW reported.

MARYLAND Waldorf: One child is dead and another is injured after a bounce house was flung into the air by a gust of wind at a baseball game in Maryland.

MASSACHUSETTS Boston: The National Rifle Association is suing the state of Massachusetts over the new gun bill Gov. Maura Healey signed into law. The NRA said that this bill is one of the most radical pieces of gun control legislation in the United States.

MICHIGAN Lansing: The state's latest budget directs $250,000 to the State Police unit charged with solving cold cases in nine counties in and around Lansing, part of an effort to reduce a growing number of unsolved homicides.

MINNESOTA Voyageurs National Park: The Voyageurs Wolf Project has shared rare footage of a lynx pausing directly in front of a remote trail camera in northern Minnesota. The Voyageurs Wolf Project uses a network of motion-sensor cameras to study wolves in and around Voyageurs National Park. But, naturally, other critters also utilize trails frequented by wolves. But the Canada lynx, which hunts primarily at twilight or during the night when snowshoe hares are most active, is considered by the state to be a "rare wildcat."

MISSISSIPPI Madison: Several local officials, students, teachers and community members gathered under a large tent in blistering heat at Germantown High School last week to witness a ribbon cutting for 24 new classrooms.

MISSOURI Arnold: A Missouri police dog died from heat exhaustion after the air-conditioning failed in a patrol vehicle, officials said.

MONTANA Helena: Officials confirmed a harmful algal bloom has been detected on Lake Helena, KPAX reported.

NEBRASKA Omaha: An investigation is underway after police said two men were stabbed and taken to the hospital, WOWT reported.

NEVADA Reno: An analysis of U.S. Census data found that small businesses in the greater Reno-Sparks metro area are among the top in the country when it comes to paying employees a higher wage. The Reno metro area's average wage of $54,230 was sixth-highest in the nation for medium-size cities, according to the analysis by online small business lender OnDeck.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Hampton: Hampton Beach lifeguards clinched first place at the annual New England Lifesaving Competition, showcasing their fitness and skill. This marks the sixth consecutive New England Lifesaving Competition trophy for Hampton Beach's lifeguard crew, which is part of New Hampshire State Parks.

NEW JERSEY Trenton: Nationally, the average wait time in an emergency room is 2 hours and 40 minutes, according to federal data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. New Jersey had the seventh-longest wait time out of all 50 states and the District of Columbia, with an average wait time of 3 hours and 14 minutes.

NEW MEXICO Las Cruces: Two Organ Mountain High School boys were arrested for possession of firearms.

NEW YORK Albany: New York may order high schools to let boys play girls-only sports and compete against girls for spots on those teams under a proposed policy change that has alarmed school administrators. The proposal by the state Education Department would break down gender distinctions for any sports that don't offer separate teams for both boys and girls.

NORTH CAROLINA Raleigh: More than 1,100 absentee ballots for the state's March 5 primary were discarded statewide for arriving after a new deadline of 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, according to a review of election records by the advocacy group Common Cause. The previous deadline required a postmark by Election Day and arriving within three days after the election.

NORTH DAKOTA Bismarck: Officials said a 12-year-old boy and his grandfather died while kayaking in southeastern North Dakota, Bismarck Tribune reported.

OHIO Columbus: Ohio State University is expected to welcome what could be its largest freshman class in university history to campus later this month. That's leaving some incoming students and their parents nervous about sanitary living conditions in their residence halls. More than 80,000 people applied to Ohio State this year, a record number of applicants, said university spokesperson Chris Booker.

OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City: Oklahomans are saying "bye bye birdie" as the state rolls out a new red license plate design featuring iconic landmarks, state history and colors of the original state flag. The blue and white scissortail flycatcher plate is replaced by a red background, white lettering and a blue and white star with "46" in the middle. A row of nine icons pays homage to state animals and parts of history.

OREGON Salem: The price to camp and explore Oregon's state parks could go up, sometimes in significant ways and particularly for out-of-state visitors, across the next handful of years. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is proposing sweeping fee increases that include new parking fees, increased campsite cost and charging upward of $129 for a deluxe yurt. Anyone from out of state would see an extra 25% increase to stay overnight at a state park.

PENNSYLVANIA Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court ruled that completed absentee and mail-in ballots are public records subject to the state's Right-to-Know Law.

RHODE ISLAND Jamestown: A dead seal found Thursday snarled in balloons at Beavertail State Park became entangled after it died, according to Mystic Aquarium.

SOUTH CAROLINA Columbia: League of Women Voters of South Carolina and the state's chapter of the ACLU filed a lawsuit alleging South Carolina lawmakers of re-drawing the state's congressional districts to give the Republican party an advantage.

SOUTH DAKOTA Sioux Falls: Gov. Kristi Noem was a surprise guest speaker at South Dakota's 2024 Suicide Prevention Conference in Sioux Falls, where she promised attendees she'd do anything she could to further help them accomplish their goal of ending suicide in the state. Speaking prior to the conference's keynote address, Noem praised the effectiveness of things like the state's crisis care centers, or the 988 Helpline.

TENNESSEE Nashville: Tourism to the state of Tennessee continues to reach unprecedented levels, from Graceland to Dollywood and Music City in between. In 2023, direct visitor spending totaled a record-breaking $30.6 billion, according to data from the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. Last year's spending was up 6.2% from the year prior. An estimated 144 million people visited the state in 2023.

TEXAS Austin: The Justice Department concluded after a lengthy investigation that five Texas juvenile detention centers violated children's constitutional and civil rights, part of a nationwide pattern of abuse and violations that dates back decades. The detention centers subjected children as young as 10 to physical and sexual abuse, deprivation of basic needs, and disability-based discrimination, the Justice Department said after an investigation spanning nearly three years.

UTAH Emery County: They say a dog is a man's (or woman's) best friend and a 5-year-old chocolate Labrador proves it, staying by his owner's side for three days and two nights as crews searched for the missing woman. An 80-year-old woman from Colorado who has dementia was visiting her family's summer home in a remote area of central Utah when she wandered out of their cabin last month. Elsie, a 5-year-old chocolate Labrador, was by her side.

VERMONT Montpelier: The Vermont Attorney General's office is calling for the dismissal of a lawsuit against Gov. Phil Scott over his appointment of interim Secretary of Education Zoie Saunders.

VIRGINIA Prince George: A former county school administrator is due back in court later this month in connection to charges that he sexually molested a teenage boy in his custody almost 40 years ago.

WASHINGTON Olympia: A pair of new reports outline financial consequences if voters approve ballot measures this fall repealing Washington's capital gains tax and scrapping its cap-and-trade program, Washington State Standard reported.

WEST VIRGINIA Charleston: The state will receive a $1.97 million federal fund to clean up orphaned oil and gas wells, WV News reported.

WISCONSIN Milwaukee: Milwaukee Airbnb hosts and other short-term rental operators could see more regulations, including requiring them to live at those properties. That's according to members of the Common Council – which might consider such rules this fall.

WYOMING Cheyenne: City officials said the 70-year-old Johnson Pool will be receiving a facelift, Wyoming News Now reported.

From USA TODAY Network and wire reports

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MLB power rankings: ChiSox on pace for historic lows, 6C

US LBM Coaches Poll: Outlooks for every Top 25 team, **7C**; who was snubbed, overrated, **8C**

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E2

COLLEGE FOOTBALL   PRESEASON POLL WINNERS AND LOSERS

SEC, Big Ten conferences lead the way

Paul Myerberg
USA TODAY

The preseason US LBM Coaches Poll is owned by the SEC and Big Ten. Big surprise, I know.

Those two powerhouse conferences compose over half of the preseason Top 25, including each of the top six spots and eight of the top 10. At a time when predicting how a year will unfold has become more difficult than ever – you can mostly thank widespread player movement through the transfer portal for that – Coaches Poll voters are making the safe bet that SEC and Big Ten teams will dominate the regular season.

But while the preseason poll is a handy road map for what's ahead, it's rare to see the Top 25 in August match or come close to the final Top 25 in January. Last year, for example, nine teams ranked in the preseason finished the season unranked.

Winners
SEC

The league has a record nine teams in the poll, all in the top 20. There's No. 1 Georgia, the favorite to get back to the top of the FBS. New member Texas lands at No. 4, followed by No. 5 Alabama and No. 6 Ole Miss. Then you'll find No. 11 Missouri, No. 12 LSU, No. 15 Tennessee, another newcomer in Oklahoma at No. 16 and Texas A&M at No. 20. While it's hard to imagine how nine SEC teams end up with the records needed to be in the final Top 25, that so many are in the preseason poll speaks to the reputation as the nation's best.

Big Ten

But the Big Ten isn't too far behind the SEC, illustrating just how firmly these two leagues are in control of the Bowl Subdivision. The conference may only have six teams in the Top 25, but four are in the preseason top 10: No. 2 Ohio State, No. 3 Oregon, No. 8 Michigan and No. 9 Penn State. Joining that group are No. 23 Southern Cal and No. 25 Iowa. USC should be strong offensively behind quarterback Miller Moss but is desperate for improvement on the defensive side under new coordinator D'Anton Lynn. On the other hand, the Hawkeyes will have another strong defense while hoping for a

See PRESEASON, Page 4C

U.S. COACHES POLL

Preseason Top 10

Rank, team (1sts)	Points
1 Georgia (46)	1364
2 Ohio State (7)	1302
3 Oregon	1228
4 Texas (1)	1223
5 Alabama	1077
6 Ole Miss	1019
7 Notre Dame	969
8 Michigan (1)	944
9 Penn State	889
10 Florida State	867

● **Complete preseason poll, 4C**

Simone Biles, left, and Jordan Chiles bow to gold medalist Rebeca Andrade of Brazil after the floor exercise on Monday.
JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY SPORTS

Biles shows greatness in finishing second

Nancy Armour
Columnist
USA TODAY

PARIS – The greatness of Simone Biles can be summed up in one photo.

It's not of her with her many, many medals.

Or of a score that reflects another dominant performance.

It doesn't show her soaring high above the vault.

It's of Biles and Jordan Chiles, bowing down to new Olympic floor champion Rebeca Andrade as the Brazilian steps onto the medals podium at the 2024 Paris Games.

"I love Rebeca. She's absolutely amazing," Biles said Monday afternoon. "Jordan was like, 'Should we bow to her?' And I was like, 'Absolutely.' It was just the right thing to do."

Yes, but not many athletes – not many people – would be big enough to celebrate someone else's success in the wake of their own disappointment. Or mature enough to do it so genuinely. Not many would be generous enough to show the grace that so often isn't extended to her.

Biles is the greatest gymnast of all time, and the surprising results Monday do nothing to change that. But she's an equally good human, continuing to dole out lessons on how to do life.

Be kind. Celebrate success, both yours and that of others. Take as much care of your mental health as you do your physical health. Never allow others to write your own story.

"I accomplished way more than my wildest dreams, not just at this Olympics, but in the sport. So I can't be mad at my performances," said Biles, who leaves the Paris Olympics with four medals, three of them gold.

"A couple of years ago, I didn't think I'd be back here at an Olympic Games. Competing and walking away with four medals, I'm not mad about it," Biles continued. "I'm pretty proud of myself."

Of course Biles was disappointed with the outcome Monday. She is, after all, fiercely competitive, and her performances in the balance beam and floor exercise finals weren't what she imagined for herself. Or what anybody imagined for her.

The last day of event finals was supposed to be a coronation, an exclamation to what, for the first 10 days of the Olympics, were "The Simone Games." At least one other gold medal from the balance beam or floor exercise finals, maybe even a historic ninth one that would tie her for most by a female Olympian. Two medals for sure, moving her past Allyson Felix for most overall by an American woman who is not a swimmer.

As Biles learned all too well three years ago in Tokyo, however, life isn't neat and tidy. Things don't always go how you want, or expect. Sometimes you win all the things, sometimes you don't.

On Monday, she didn't.

She fell off balance beam, breaking her streak of winning a medal on every all-around, vault, balance beam and floor exercise final she's competed in at the world championships or Olympics.

Then, on floor, an event she'd never lost at a world championships and Olympics, she finished second to Andrade after going out of bounds one too many times.

"She's a little tired, emotionally and physically," said Cecile Landi, who is Biles' co-coach with husband Laurent. "You know, she made mistakes on floor. But you make mistakes and (are) still a silver medalist, it's pretty cool."

But as Biles showed in Tokyo, it's easy to have character when things are going well. The truer measurer is how you respond when they're not.

When it was announced in the post-meet news conference that the 1-2 finish on balance beam by Italy's Alice D'Amato and Manila Esposito gave the country its first medals for the event, Biles enthusiastically applauded and smiled. Not only was she happy for D'Amato and Esposito, but she also recognizes the impact it will have in their country.

"They're building the bricks for the younger Italians," Biles said. "Really proud of them. They did their job."

When Chiles' score was changed, giving her the bronze medal, Biles looked happier for her teammate than she did herself. As Chiles ran along the sidelines, sobbing, Biles gave chase, wrapping her in a bearhug when she finally caught up to Chiles.

As for celebrating Andrade, that was easy. Andrade's floor gold is the culmination of the years the Brazilian has pushed Biles and motivated her to get better. Also a rightful recognition for how she's elevated Brazil, which won its first Olympic team medal in Paris, one year after winning its first team medal at the world championships.

"She's queen," Biles said, simply.

Biles is, too often, held to an impossible standard. She's expected to be both perfect and infallible. Superhuman. We've become so accustomed to her greatness that we take it for granted, assuming she will deliver on command. And more often than not, she does, as she did in the team and all-around finals.

"It's amazing to recover (from Tokyo) the way she did," Laurent Landi said. "To do the work, the personal work, to be here and to perform – it's amazing. It just shows how tough the mind is and if you heal it properly, you can be very, very successful."

But sometimes, Biles is at her best when she's not doing "Simone things." When she's just being Simone. It's the grace and generosity she shows in those moments that reflect a true champion.

Tyler Dragon
USA TODAY

Noah Lyles was ready for moment

SAINT-DENIS, France – Eight of the fastest men in the world got ready to line up. The time between athlete introductions and when the gun sounded felt equivalent to the length of a Super Bowl halftime show. The pressure of the moment intensified throughout the Stade de France. When the gun went off, Noah Lyles illustrated in 9.79 (.784) seconds that he's the fastest man in the world – and the most equipped to handle the moment.

"Everybody on the field came out knowing they could win this race. That's the mindset we have to have," Lyles said Sunday after winning the Olympic 100 final. "Iron sharpens iron. I saw my name and was like, 'I didn't do this against a slow crowd, I did this against the best of the best, on the biggest stage, with the biggest pressure.'

"I wasn't even in the 100 in 2021. First Olympics in the 100. Having the title, not just at world champs but at the Olympics, of world's fastest man."

Lyles is not only fast, he's psychologically strong and confident.

The painted nails, the pearls around his neck or braided into his hair, the demonstrative introductions and "fastest man in the world" declarations – Lyles is unapologetically himself. He's the ultimate showman. The best showman in track and field since Usain Bolt.

He talks the talk and walks the walk.

"It feels good to back it up. I've done a lot of work throughout the last three years since 2021, and even in 2021. I took on a lot of sponsors to get my name out there. I've seen tons of scenarios where athletes come in as a favorite and it doesn't work out for them," Lyles said. "Knowing it can happen continues to fuel me. Constantly going that extra step, knowing that any time, somebody could pop up. People were saying it's going to be a slow year in the 100. It wasn't no slow year in the 100."

Lyles told USA TODAY Sports that the disappointment of only earning a bronze medal in the 200 at the Tokyo Olympics "ignited a fire" within him.

See DRAGON, Page 4C

Noah Lyles celebrates after winning the men's 100-meter dash Sunday.
ANDREW NELLES/USA TODAY SPORTS

Women save the week for US in the pool

Christine Brennan
Columnist
USA TODAY

NANTERRE, France – The U.S. men were down to their last chance, their final race, to avoid the ignominy of doing something in swimming that hadn't been done in 124 years: going oh-for-the-Olympics in individual gold medals.

Then Bobby Finke saved the day. When the reigning Olympic gold medalist in the men's 1,500 freestyle won it again in a world-record time Sunday evening on the final day of the Olympic swimming competition, the U.S. men saved face – a little.

Instead of zero individual golds, they finished with one. So, instead of having to go back to 1900, we only have to go back 68 years to find this kind of underwhelming individual performance by American male swimmers striving for the top of the medal podium.

The last time the American men won only one individual gold medal at an Olympics was 1956 in Melbourne, Australia, when there were only six men's events in all. The time before that? The 1932 Los Angeles Olympics, when there were only five. Here at the 2024 Paris Olympics, there were 14 individual men's races.

After the dominance of Michael Phelps from 2004-2016, and Caeleb Dressel in 2021, this was a shock to the system. No star stepped up. They tried, of course, but it just didn't happen. Silver replaced gold; bronze replaced sil-

ver. Fast times at the U.S. Olympic trials in June could not be matched. Not winning races became the norm.

"We want our athletes to win gold medals but the other teams have great athletes as well," U.S. men's coach Anthony Nesty said after the final race Sunday. "Hopefully we go back and all the coaches of the U.S. get back on it in August and hopefully four years from now we have a better result in LA (at the 2028 Olympics)."

But there's a plot twist in this less-than-inspiring story: The United States actually won the swimming gold medal count at these Olympics, by a sliver over Australia, 8-7.

Who gets the credit for that? The U.S.

Regan Smith, Lilly King, Gretchen Walsh and Torri Huske won the 4x100 medley relay that gave the USA eight swim gold medals. ROB SCHUMACHER/USA TODAY SPORTS

women's swimmers, who admirably won four individual gold medals and one relay gold. The U.S. men did win one relay gold, and that eighth gold came in Saturday night's mixed medley relay.

While the men had Finke, the women had Katie Ledecky, who swam into the history books with two more gold medals in her specialties, the 800 and 1,500 freestyle, to go with a relay silver and a bronze in the 400 free. And they had Torri Huske, the American breakout star of the meet, who won the 100 butterfly and anchored two gold medal-winning, world-record-setting relay teams. She also won a silver in the 100 freestyle and a silver in another relay.

And they had Kate Douglass, who

won the 200 breaststroke as well as gold in one relay and silver in the 200 individual medley and another relay.

There was a depth among the U.S. women that didn't exist with the men. The United States ran away with the overall swimming medal count, 28 total medals to 18 for Australia, but 18 of those U.S. medals belonged to the women, while only nine were won by the men, with the other coming in the mixed medley relay comprised of two men and two women.

"Every time we step on deck, I still feel like we have the target on our back that we're the team to beat and that probably won't change, ever," said Dressel, who didn't win an individual medal here after winning three individual golds in Tokyo three years ago. (He did win two golds and a silver in the relays.)

"The goal when we come to the Olympics and the world championships is to win gold medals. There are other countries that are getting very dominant. ... The wealth has just been spread around. I don't think we're getting any worse, per se. It's good for the sport to have the whole world involved in it."

But there was an unsettled feeling surrounding this U.S. men's team.

"Our goal is always to match our times or be better," Nesty said. "But obviously they could have been better. You have to go back and look at your preparation coming into the meet and be better."

All was not lost for Nesty. In addition to being the head coach of the U.S. men's team at these Games, he also coaches someone else who swam here this past week: Katie Ledecky.

Kristen Faulkner's risky golden adventure

Dave Birkett
Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

PARIS – When Chloe Dygert crossed the finish line in the women's road race, she saw her teammate Kristen Faulkner's name atop the leaderboard and Faulkner standing in the Trocadéro holding a U.S. flag loosely by her waist.

"She doesn't know how to hold the flag, so she's going to have to get used to that," Dygert said. "She's probably going to be holding it a lot in the near future."

Faulkner's naivete is understandable. On Sunday, she competed in her first Olympics, in a sport she began doing competitively only seven years ago, and she carved her name into American cycling history by winning a gold medal in breakaway fashion.

Faulkner pulled away from a pack of three other racers with about 3 kilometers to go and beat the Netherlands' Marianne Vos and Belgium's Lotte Kopecky by 59 seconds. Vos took silver and Kopecky bronze in a photo finish.

Faulkner is the first U.S. woman to medal in the road race since 1984, when Connie Carpenter and Rebecca Twigg finished 1-2 at the LA Olympics.

"I think even though I came here with the confidence that I could earn a medal, when I crossed the line, yeah, I knew it had happened but I didn't fully take it in and so it was just pretty overwhelming for me," Faulkner said. "I think I had a lot of emotions around – I came in here with a lot of confidence today that I could do well but not everyone had con-

fidence in me and so I think when I crossed the line it was like, 'Wow, I made it happen even when a lot of people didn't believe I could.'"

Faulkner, 31, is a relative newbie to cycling, but no stranger to competitive athletics. She grew up in a fishing village in Homer, Alaska, rowed at Harvard and entered the business world in finance and venture capital before she quit to pursue cycling in 2020.

Faulkner said the discipline she learned as a rower and athletic engine she built in college have served her well as a cyclist, and she said she developed an appetite for risk – and the ability to calculate which risks are worth taking – that were on display in the narrow Paris streets Sunday.

"I was a venture capitalist. I was working in finance, we were investing in early-stage technology companies and they were quite high risk," Faulkner said. "And so a lot of what I learned how to do is how to take calculated risks and how to assess risk. And if there's a high risk but the reward is high, then it might be worth it. And I think in a race, I take that mindset with me throughout the race. It's like, 'Well, there's a break up the road, there's a risk, and why not catch it?' What is the risk-reward ratio of being patient versus being aggressive? So that's something I definitely take with me."

Faulkner was a late add to the women's road race after failing to qualify for one of the U.S.'s two spots at the Olympic trials. Taylor Knibb, who won a spot

Kristen Faulker celebrates the first U.S. win or medal of any color in an Olympic women's cycling road race since 1984. ANDREW P. SCOTT/USA TODAY SPORTS

at trials – the top two finishers received spots in the road race – gave that up to focus on other events at the Olympics.

Faulkner said she considered not racing Sunday to focus on team pursuit, an event the Americans are favored to win a medal in that begins Tuesday.

"I made an agreement with my track coaches that I would only do the road race if I felt that I was medal capable, and if any point if I got dropped from the front group and I was no longer in contention for a medal I would just pull out of the race and recover for team pursuit," Faulkner said.

By the midpoint of Sunday's race, it was clear Faulkner would be in medal contention.

She spent most of the afternoon in a 12-racer pack ahead of the peloton and

pulled into a two-racer chase group with Kopecky in pursuit of co-leaders Vos and Bianka Vas with about 9 kilometers to go.

Faulkner and Kopecky pulled even with Vos and Vas with just over 3 kilometers left, and Faulkner hit the gas and gunned it for the finish line as Kopecky, Vos and Vas stayed back in a group together.

"I felt quite confident that as soon as we caught them, if I could get a small gap, it would probably be unlikely that they would cooperate and work together until the line to catch me," Faulkner said. "And I also knew that my time-trialing capabilities are quite strong and that I could be strong when I was (going) solo. So yes, when I was chasing with Kopecky, the first thing on my mind was as soon as we catch them, I have to go and head down until the finish."

Dygert, who finished 15th – 3 minutes and 40 seconds off the lead – said seeing Faulkner's name across the leaderboard when she crossed the line made the crash she endured Sunday well worth it.

"Faulkner had an amazing ride," Dygert said. "She's been having a great year this year. Super impressive. She's just shown over and over again that she has that power for those finals, so really impressive and she's put a lot of work in and she's doing a lot of track and I think that is really helped her and yeah, I'm super happy for her. This is huge. And her first Olympics, what a way to leave it with a gold medal."

Jordan Chiles floored by bronze win

Tom Schad
USA TODAY

PARIS – When the last score was announced in the women's floor exercise final Monday, Ana Barbosu of Romania leaped onto the floor with her country's flag and started jumping in celebration. And Jordan Chiles was deflated, thinking she had missed out on the podium.

Then, in seconds, their moods flipped – and a distraught Barbosu dropped her Romanian flag on the ground.

Chiles leapfrogged Barbosu to win a stunning bronze medal on floor at the 2024 Paris Olympics after her coaches successfully challenged a minor scoring decision made by the judges, boosting her to third place from fifth. It gave the 23-year-old the first individual Olympic medal of her career, in incredibly dramatic fashion.

"I was so tired, I didn't even realize my coaches put an inquiry in," Chiles said. "And I was like, 'OK yeah, let's see.' It can vary. So when it came through, I was very proud of myself."

Chiles' original score on floor exercise was 13.666, which left her just shy of Barbosu's 13.700.

But after her coaches, Cecile and Laurent Landi, submitted what is known as an inquiry about her score, it went up to 13.766.

Cecile Landi said the inquiry revolved around what is called a tour jeté full – essentially a split leap.

"Today (she was) a little sloppy on the landing. But at this point, we had nothing to lose so I was like 'we're just going to try,' " Cecile explained.

"I honestly didn't think it was going to happen, but when I heard her scream, I turned around and was like, 'What?' "

Rebeca Andrade of Brazil took a surprising gold medal in the event, while Simone Biles settled for silver.

How gymnastics scores work

The scores in gymnastics comprise two separate pieces: a difficulty score and an execution score.

The execution score, or E score, it out of a maximum of 10 points, with judges taking deductions for each misplaced hand or slight wobble on a landing. The difficulty score, or D score, is completely reliant upon the difficulty of the skills that each gymnast does throughout the routine.

This means that some athletes, like Biles, often walk into competitions with a built-in cushion because they are doing more difficult skills.

And it puts more pressure on gymnasts with lower D scores to absolutely nail their planned elements.

Why score changed on floor

During a routine, like Chiles' on floor exercise, judges are keeping track of each skill or element that the gymnast completes. Each one is worth a certain point value, adding to the D score.

After the score is announced, a gymnast's coach – who obviously knows all of the planned elements in the routine, and what that D score should be – can then choose to challenge the D score by submitting what is officially called an "inquiry." The coach basically asks why a specific skill was not credited, and sometimes that can lead to an improved score after the initial one is announced.

Chiles' initial D score on floor exercise Monday was 5.8, which left her just fractionally behind Barbosu. But after

the routine, the Landis submitted an inquiry with the judging panel about that one leaping element. And it worked.

"I was not confident, but what do you have to lose?" Laurent Landi said. "She was out of the podium already, so even if they dropped the score, it couldn't have been worse, you know? We tried. I was at the same angle as the judge and I felt (her tour jeté full) was way better than all the other meets than she's done, so what the heck? We may as well try."

Chiles' execution score was not changed as a result of the inquiry, but the D score went up by one tenth of a point, to 5.9. And that was enough to give her a bronze.

Jordan Chiles' reaction

The inquiry made a small difference in Chiles' score but ultimately helped her achieve her goal of winning an individual medal.

Although she won team silver and gold at the past two Games, Chiles had not qualified for an individual final before this one. Though no fault of her own, mind you.

Chiles was unlucky not to be included in both the all-around and vault finals after an extremely strong performance in qualifying.

Chiles placed fourth in both the all-around and vault in qualifying.

But because Biles and Suni Lee both finished ahead of her in the all-around, and Biles and Jade Carey were ahead of her on vault, Chiles was excluded by a rule that limits the field to just two gymnasts per country.

Chiles has said she is not a fan of that rule, but at least she had a chance at her own medal Monday.

"I'm on cloud nine," she told reporters. "This is my first-ever (Olympic) individual event (apparatus) final, at my second Olympics. I have no words."

Jordan Chiles, left, and Simone Biles of the United States celebrate after winning silver and bronze, respectively, in floor exercise at the Paris Olympics on Monday. JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY SPORTS

MONDAY ROUNDUP

France, Spain in soccer final

Host nation France and Spain will meet in the men's soccer final at the Paris Olympics.

France's Jean-Philippe Mateta scored two goals, including one in extra time, while Michael Olise added another extra-time goal in the 108th minute to beat Egypt 3-1 on Monday night.

Spain advanced after Fermín López (66th minute) and Juanlu Sanchez (85) started a second-half comeback in a 2-1 win against Morocco.

France and Spain will play Friday in an all-Euro final, with each seeking their second Olympic gold medal.

Morocco and Egypt will meet Thursday for the bronze medal.

– Safid Deen

US women win 3x3 bronze

PARIS – The second 3x3 basketball tournament at the Olympics was a disappointment for the Americans, but they salvaged something when the women's team beat Canada for the bronze medal on Monday.

The U.S. managed to hold Canada without a basket for the final 86 seconds of the game, pulling away behind Dearica Hamby's six rebounds and Hailey Van Lith's six points.

The Americans were 11 for 17 on one-point shots.

– Dan Wolken

Netherlands wins men's 3x3 basketball gold

Worthy de Jong called game.

The men's 3x3 basketball gold medal match between the Netherlands and France went to overtime, meaning the first to score two points wins. Even playing in front of a hostile French crowd, de Long was not fazed.

France's Timothe Vergiat tightly guarded de Long, but the Dutch basketball player took a step back two-point shot with a hand in his face that was nothing but net to secure the gold medal for his country.

– Jordan Mendoza

Trio of Americans qualify for women's 200-meter final

SAINT-DENIS, France – Americans Gabby Thomas, McKenzie Long and Brittany Brown advanced to the women's 200-meter final.

Thomas, the defending bronze medalist and favorite to win gold this time, blazed through her semifinal heat to win in 21.86. She has the fastest 200 time in the world, 21.78, which she ran June 28 at the U.S. track and field trials

Juliette Whittaker (USA) finished seventh in the women's 800 meters. KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

in Eugene, Oregon.

Thomas was behind at the curve but easily overtook Dina Asher-Smith of Great Britain on the straightaway. Asher-Smith, who finished in 22.31, also advanced to the finals.

– Lindsay Schnell

Noah Lyles, Kenny Bednarek qualify for men's 200 final

SAINT-DENIS, France – The 100 champion is off and running in the 200.

Noah Lyles coasted to an easy win in the men's 200 on Monday. Lyles took the lead around the turn, led comfortably down the homestretch and crossed the finish line in 20.19 seconds to win the sixth and final heat of the 200.

Lyles is trying to become the first American sprinter to win Olympic gold medals in both the 100 and 200 since Carl Lewis did it at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

All three American men advanced to the semifinals with Kenny Bednarek (19.97) fourth in his heat and Erriyon Knighton fifth in his heat (19.99).

– Lindsay Schnell

USA men's water polo advances

The Team USA men's water polo squad is moving on to the quarterfinal after holding off Croatia on Monday.

In a hard-fought battle, Team USA secured the 14-11 win on the strength of goals from Ryder Dodd and Alex Bowen, who had two goals apiece. They finish tied in third place in their group and wait for the end of group play to determine who they will face in the quarterfinals, beginning Wednesday.

Kenyan steeplechase runner allowed to race in final

A shove almost cost Amos Serem a shot at steeplechase glory.

Making his way over a hurdle, Serem was pushed aside and missed the water jump. He would double back and nearly secure his spot in the final lap but would finish sixth in the heat, just out of qualifying range – the top five runners in the heats qualify for the final.

After appealing, the 21-year-old will be allowed to race in the 3,000-meter steeplechase final, making for 16 runners in the field come Wednesday.

American Kenneth Rooks advances to steeplechase final

SAINT-DENIS, France – Kenneth Rooks was the lone American to qualify for the men's 3,000 steeplechase final, finishing second in the third and final heat of the event and clocking a time of 8:24.95. He was less than a second behind the winner of that heat, Lamecha Girma of Ethiopia, who ran 8:23.89.

The top five finishers in each of the steeplechase's three heats advanced to Tuesday's final.

Team USA's other competitors, Matthew Wilkerson (8:16.82) and James Corrigan (8:36.67), finished sixth and 10th, in their respective heats and will not advance.

– Lindsay Schnell

Team USA women's beach volleyball squad eliminated

PARIS – Being perfect in pool play only took Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss, one of the USA's two women's beach volleyball teams with legitimate medal aspirations, so far.

Nuss and Kloth fell to Canada's Brandie Wilkerson and Melissa Humana-Paredes in two hard-fought sets 19-21 and 18-21 in the round of 16, ending their Olympic dreams.

The tandem won all three of its pool play matches but that didn't matter once the knockout round began.

– Chris Bumbaca

Vincent Hancock adds another medal days after making history

Vincent Hancock has another medal to add to his collection.

Hancock and Austen Jewell Smith teamed up to earn a silver medal in team skeet shooting Monday at the Chateauroux Shooting Centre.

This is the first year team skeet shooting has been contested at the Olympics.

Hancock is a four-time Olympic gold medalist having won men's skeet in 2008, 2012, 2021 and this year.

Smith, in her second Olympics, won

bronze in women's skeet Sunday.

Hancock and Smith lost in the finals of Monday's team event to the Italian team of Diana Bocosi and Gabriele Rossetti 45-44.

China took bronze.

Italy tied the qualification world record with a score 149 in qualifications.

The U.S. swept skeet shooting gold in Tokyo in 2021, with Hancock winning the men's competition and Amber English winning the women's.

Team skeet marked the final shooting event at this year's Olympics.

– Dave Birkett

MEDALS STANDINGS

Nation	G	S	B	Total
United States	19	29	27	75
Ppls Rep. of China	21	17	14	52
France	12	15	18	45
Great Britain	10	13	17	40
Australia	13	11	8	32
Republic of Korea	11	8	7	26
Japan	10	5	11	26
Italy	9	10	6	25
Canada	5	4	8	17
Netherlands	6	5	4	15
Germany	6	5	3	14
Brazil	2	4	5	11
New Zealand	3	4	1	8
Hungary	3	3	2	8
Spain	1	2	5	8
Romania	3	3	1	7
Sweden	2	3	2	7
Ukraine	2	2	3	7
Ireland	3	0	3	6
Israel	1	4	1	6
Switzerland	1	1	4	6
Belgium	2	0	3	5
Greece	0	1	4	5
Croatia	2	1	1	4
Hong Kong, China	2	0	2	4
Georgia	1	2	1	4
Kazakhstan	1	1	2	4
South Africa	1	1	2	4
Chinese Taipei	1	0	3	4
Poland	0	1	3	4
Indvdl Ntrl Athletes	1	2	0	3
Uzbekistan	1	0	2	3
Dem. Rep. of Korea	0	2	1	3
Jamaica	0	2	1	3
Mexico	0	2	1	3
India	0	0	3	3
Tajikistan	0	0	3	3
Azerbaijan	2	0	0	2
Philippines	2	0	0	2
Serbia	2	0	0	2
Denmark	1	1	0	2
Czechia	1	0	1	2
Guatemala	1	0	1	2
Kosovo	0	1	1	2
Turkiye	0	1	1	2
Dominican Republic	0	0	2	2
Malaysia	0	0	2	2
Republic of Moldova	0	0	2	2
Algeria	1	0	0	1
Argentina	1	0	0	1
Chile	1	0	0	1
Dominica	1	0	0	1
Ecuador	1	0	0	1
Norway	1	0	0	1
Saint Lucia	1	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	1
Uganda	1	0	0	1
Armenia	0	1	0	1
Colombia	0	1	0	1
Ethiopia	0	1	0	1
Fiji	0	1	0	1
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
Thailand	0	1	0	1
Tunisia	0	1	0	1
Austria	0	0	1	1
Cabo Verde	0	0	1	1
Cuba	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Grenada	0	0	1	1
Indonesia	0	0	1	1
Lithuania	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Slovakia	0	0	1	1

US conquers Siene, 2nd in mixed triathlon relay

Dave Birkett
USA TODAY

PARIS – Seth Rider came to the Paris Olympics to get a medal, and if that means he leaves with a raging case of diarrhea, that's fine by him.

Rider, Taylor Spivey, Morgan Pearson and Taylor Knibb won a silver medal in the mixed triathlon relay Monday, finishing in a time of 1:25.40, 1/100th of a second behind gold-winning Germany.

Team USA and bronze medal-winning Great Britain had a photo finish for second place.

Both the race scoreboard and Eurosport TV broadcast initially announced Great Britain as the silver medal winner after the photo finish, and when the teams lined up for the medal presentation the American flag was flown behind the third-place podium.

"(I found out about the change) when we were lining up," Knibb said. "We were on (the bronze medal) side and they're like, 'You're on the wrong side.'

"(My teammates) were all confident that (we took silver). They're like, 'We saw the photo, it looks like it.' I don't know. I was in it, I wasn't really focused on where (Great Britain athlete) Beth (Potter) was (at the finish line)."

Great Britain, which won gold in the event's debut at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, led most of the race but Knibb closed the gap for the U.S. with a strong anchor leg before Germany's Laura Lindemann pulled ahead in the final moments of the run for the win.

In Monday's relay, each competitor swam one lap of 300 meters in the Seine River, biked 7 kilometers around the Paris city streets, then ran two laps of 900 kilometers.

The race came five days after the men's and women's individual triathlons and amid lingering concerns about the safety of the heavy-polluted Seine.

The river has been closed for public swimming for more than 100 years, but the city of Paris invested a reported $1.5 billion in its cleanup in the years leading up to the Games.

Despite that investment, the men's triathlon was postponed last week because of water quality concerns – both that event and the women's triathlon were run July 31 – and competitors were restricted to swimming in pools to practice for the event.

The Belgian team withdrew from the relay Sunday after one of its athletes, Claire Michel, got sick from swimming in the Seine, according to the country's national Olympic committee.

"We'll see," Rider said after swimming in the murky brown water Monday. "You never really know. You just have to trust that World Triathlon wouldn't put us in something that's horrible to swim in. And I mean the current

Silver medalists Seth Rider, Taylor Spivey, Morgan Pearson and Taylor Knibb of the United States celebrate at the medal ceremony for the triathlon mixed relay during the Paris Olympics. ALBERT GEA/REUTERS VIA USA TODAY SPORTS

was insane. That was super hard physically. And then with the water quality, we just have to wait and see, but to be honest, I don't really care now if I get sick. This is my main goal. So like, one night in the bathroom for an Olympic silver medal, I'll take it."

Rider said athletes were given water quality reports on the river before the event.

"It felt a little bit grosser than the individual, to be honest," Netherlands triathlete Richard Murray said. "It was a bit browner the water than the individual, I think as well."

The Netherlands finished in 10th place, far out of medal contention Monday, but Murray said the chance to win a medal trumped any concerns he had about the water's safety.

"I think if you've got diarrhea for a week it's not the end of the world, but you don't want it to hang on for the rest of your life, I guess," he said. "I think on the individual it was OK. Very few people mentioned getting ill. I think those numbers generally is a good way to look at it."

Other athletes shared a similar sentiment, though Pearson said he would have liked to see Olympic organizers do more to ensure athlete health.

He said the swimming portion of the triathlon and Monday's relay could have taken place in an enclosed pool of water

within the Seine outfitted with a water filtration device.

"They should have made like a big net in the shape of a canoe and had us swim in there," Pearson said.

"Basically what I'm trying to say is I think they could have invested more into having clean water. It seems like they kind of were just hoping for the best and know that athletes are going to do it because it's the Olympics. So I think they could have invested more. Maybe differently.

"It sounds like they invested a lot of money, but maybe they had the wrong ideas. They need more idea people."

Great Britain's Georgia Taylor-Brown said she and her teammates took pre-race precautions like using Pepto Bismol and mouthwash to try and prevent getting sick, and Pearson said he was surprised Monday's race went off as scheduled because of recent rain showers.

"It just seemed like a bit of a crapshoot if we'd race or not," Pearson said. "It'd rain one day, the water quality would get bad and then it would slowly go down. So it's like, I think from a lot of perspective is just like we're just kind of hoping for the best and they've been talking about this for a couple years now and we're the week of the Olympics and they're just hoping for the best.

"I'll be surprised if a lot – it'll be interesting what the next couple days hold because I was actually surprised that we had the race today 'cause it seemed like every time it rained the water quality would get worse and it rained two nights ago and the night before and it rained a lot.

"I actually went to bed expecting ... the race wouldn't happen. So I think it'll be interesting to see how many athletes get sick in the next couple days."

None of the U.S. athletes said they suffered any ill effects from the triathlon, and after Sunday's race they celebrated their medal haul, which matched the silver medal the U.S. won in the event in Tokyo.

Knibb, who finished 19th in the women's triathlon and raced in a cycling time trial last week, said she was disappointed she wasn't going home with more medals but called Sunday's silver "a silver lining" to her time in Paris.

"I've never been in a sprint finish before, so I'm like coming around maybe with 400 meters to go, I'm like, 'How do I do this?' " Knibb said.

"But then when Beth was coming, I could see her in my peripheral vision and it's just like I needed to find another gear and keep going.

"But hats off to both Germany and Great Britain for putting on really good performances all around."

Dragon

He was experiencing depression in the lead-up to the Tokyo Games. He has

since kept multiple therapists and is very forthright about how therapy continues to aid him. He spoke to one of his therapists before the 100.

"My therapist said, 'You need to let go, be yourself.' It was the energy that I'm looking for," Lyles said.

Lyles understood the direction and went out and executed. He's done so since being awarded a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics, with four world championship golds since. Now he's an Olympic gold medalist for the first time. The fastest man in the world.

"I Told You America I Got This," Lyles posted on social media after winning Olympic gold.

Yes, Noah, you told us. And you backed it up. We should all expect the same outcome when you line up for the 200 in Paris, too.

Preseason

spark from new offensive coordinator Tim Lester. The Buckeyes' seven first-place votes are second to Georgia's 46, while Michigan is one of four teams, along with Texas, to earn at least one first-place vote. Other Big Ten teams received Top 25 votes, including Washington, Wisconsin and Nebraska.

Texas

Voters are back to buying in on the defending Big 12 champs and new member of the SEC. The No. 4 ranking is the program's highest in the preseason since 2010, when the Longhorns were fresh off a loss to Alabama in the national title game. That 2010 squad, which went a shocking 5-7, marked the beginning of a long and often torturous stretch of middling results that finally broke a year ago. It's amazing to think of the chatter around Texas when the university announced its decision to join the SEC three years ago – basically, that the Longhorns would get chewed up and spit out by the conference – and where they stand heading into its league debut.

Losers
Group of Five

There are zero teams from the Group of Five conferences in the Top 25 and only one team, Memphis, among the top

Alabama quarterback Jalen Milroe (4) gets around Mississippi cornerback Deantre Prince (7) as he carries the ball. BUTCH DILL/USA TODAY SPORTS

30 vote-getters. To have a small number isn't that strange: No. 23 Tulane was the only Group of Five team in last year's preseason poll and there were three in the 2022 and 2021 polls. But this marks the first preseason Coaches Poll without a team from a non-major conference since 2014. Voters didn't have a Group of Five team in the final ranking of last season, perhaps indicating a trend among coaches on the panel to lean completely

toward the new Power Four.

Michigan and Washington

The Wolverines' ranking is historic for a defending national champion. So is defending runner-up Washington's status outside the Top 25. Michigan is the lowest-ranked defending champ in the Coaches Poll since Auburn was No. 19 heading into the 2011 season; the

US LBM coaches poll preseason Top 25

Rank, school (1sts)	Points
1 Georgia (46)	1364
2 Ohio State (7)	1302
3 Oregon	1228
4 Texas (1)	1223
5 Alabama	1077
6 Ole Miss	1019
7 Notre Dame	969
8 Michigan (1)	944
9 Penn State	889
10 Florida State	867
11 Missouri	808
12 LSU	742
13 Utah	665
14 Clemson	657
15 Tennessee	621
16 Oklahoma	609
17 Kansas State	416
18 Oklahoma State	359
19 Miami (Fla.)	292
20 Texas A&M	273
21 Arizona	230
22 North Carolina State	216
23 Southern Cal	199
24 Kansas	186
25 Iowa	148

Others receiving votes: Washington 123; Louisville 95; Virginia Tech 64; SMU 47; Memphis 44; Boise State 30; Auburn 25; West Virginia 22; Wisconsin 17; Iowa State 15; Liberty 15; Kentucky 12; Florida 11; South Carolina 10; North Carolina 6; Maryland 5; UNLV 5; UCF 4; Texas Tech 4; UTSA 3; Nebraska 2; Appalachian State 2; Tulane 2; Colorado 2; Texas State 2; James Madison 1; Miami(OH) 1; Air Force 1; Troy 1; Syracuse 1.

only other team to be ranked outside the top seven in the preseason poll after winning it all was '82 Clemson, which also came in at No. 8. Meanwhile, the Huskies are the first team since the start of the Bowl Championship Series era in 1998 to lose a title game to be unranked heading into the following year. Washington is undergoing a pretty extensive rebuild while joining the Big Ten, so that might make sense, but it is still a surprising development.

Alabama

Here's another way (among many) to place the Nick Saban era into perspective: Alabama's No. 5 ranking is the program's lowest in the preseason since 2009. Hey, the Crimson Tide did lose the greatest coach in college football history to retirement. But it's not like the cupboard is anywhere close to bare. The Tide bring back multiple top-level contributors, namely a Heisman favorite in quarterback Jalen Milroe, and should land an offensive spark from coach Kalen DeBoer and his never-fail scheme.

USA's Lyles no longer about gimmicks

Dan Wolken
Columnist
USA TODAY

SAINT-DENIS, France – Every gimmick, every cry for attention, every time he set himself up to be a meme and ridiculed, it made you wonder if Noah Lyles knew what he was getting himself into, what laid in wait on the other side of another stink bomb in Paris. It wouldn't have been the end of the world. Life would have gone on. He would have continued to get sponsors, be famous, sprint around the world and live the life he wants.

But it would have felt so transparently like an act – and one that few would have had an appetite to see continue another four years.

Americans have been intrigued by Lyles, they've been entertained by Lyles, they've been bombarded with Lyles in every way, shape and form leading up to these Olympics.

But until Sunday here at Stade de France they've had little reason at the Olympics to do anything but roll their eyes at Lyles.

That all changed with a well-timed dip. With a fortunate lean. With a few thousands of a second.

One of the biggest trash-talkers in American sports is now one of its biggest heroes. He ended a 20-year drought in the 100 meters. He officially buried his Tokyo flop. He won the gold.

Redemption, anyone?

"Oh, I knew once the year started, that this was not 2021," Lyles said. "I knew every step of the way it was not 2021. I'm still constantly moving forward, moving forward, moving forward. And I knew that when the time came for me to be able to say, 'This is the final, this is where I need to put together,' I was going to do it."

But he had to actually do it. And until literally the final stride, that seemed like it might not be possible.

Lyles didn't win his preliminary heats. He looked like he might be off his game here in Paris. Others were in better form, and maybe, just maybe, all the pressure he heaped on himself trying to be Noah Lyles the transcendent superstar, rather

than Noah Lyles the world's best sprinter, might be getting to him on the stage you only get once every four years.

Here's what I thought during introductions for the 100 when Lyles came hopping out of the tunnel and running almost at a full sprint for 20 yards or so: He's trying too hard. Lyles always tries too hard.

A lot of people who don't really know much about track would have only

known the following things about Lyles. He talked about winning three gold medals in Tokyo, but only came away with one bronze.

His focus shift to the 100 and the "world's fastest man" moniker felt even more audacious.

And, in a major pop culture faux pas, he went after NBA players for calling themselves "world champions" after winning the title because the NBA is a

league and the world is the world.

Again, trying too hard. Making himself the country's most annoying literalist. But also making himself famous.

Where one side of that coin begins and the other ends in this social media era, who can say? If Muhammad Ali had Twitter and YouTube instead of Howard Cosell, it might have gotten a little old too.

But if you can back it up on the track? That's the jackpot of American zeitgeist.

Lyles knew it. He believed it. Then he did it. And even after all that talk, it stunned him a little bit he when it actually happened and his name flashed first.

"I'm gonna be honest, I wasn't ready to see it," he said. "And that's the first time I've ever, like, said that in my head, like, I wasn't ready to see it."

People like Lyles usually see themselves dominating. Putting on a show because it's all a show.

And it was indeed that, just a different kind than what anyone could have predicted.

He got out of the blocks slow.

"I've done worse," he said.

Halfway through he looked dead in the water. Then the gap closed.

"When I saw where he was at 60, I was like 'OK, we're in the mix,' " his coach Lance Brauman said. "But I thought at 80, I was like, 'Holy cow, he's right there.' "

The finish was a blur. It seemed like nearly the entire field hit the line together.

"Probably one of the best races I've been in in a long time," Fred Kerley said. "It came down to whoever can dip the best at the last 2 meters."

For several seconds, there was a hush. No names were coming up on the scoreboard. The result of the biggest race of Lyles' life was in suspended animation. He figured Jamaica's Kishane Thompson probably had it.

"I went up to him after where we were waiting," Lyles said. "I even said, 'Bro, I think you got that one, big dog.' "

The stakes here were higher than a gold medal. He doesn't want to just be a sprinter, he wants to be a star. Those two things could only coexist if he hit the line first. After three years of talk, this was about reputation and redemption. "And then my name popped up," he said. "And I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, I'm amazing.' "

Noah Lyles celebrates Sunday after winning the gold medal in the men's 100.
SARAH MEYSSONNIER/REUTERS

Gold sprint was so close, clavicle won it

Lorenzo Reyes
USA TODAY

Five one thousandths of a second, or – if measuring by body parts – a clavicle: that was the margin of victory for American sprinter Noah Lyles in the men's 100-meter photo finish sprint Sunday.

Officially, both Lyles and Jamaican sprinter Kishane Thompson finished with the time of 9.79 seconds, though the tight margin prompted the results to be confirmed by photo finish, with Lyles (9.784) just slightly edging out Thompson (9.789) for the gold medal and the title of the fastest man in the world.

Lyles' victory ended a 20-year drought for the U.S. atop the podium in an Olympic men's 100-meter dash, as he became the first American to win gold in the event since Justin Gatlin did so at the 2004 Athens Games.

Here's everything to know about the rules governing track and field finishes at the Paris Olympics:

What is the official rule for track and field finishes at the Olympics?

Just after the men's 100-meter race concluded, NBC's Mike Tirico gave a brief explanation of how track and field race winners are determined.

In his explanation, Tirico said that Olympic races determine a victor when any part of the leading runner's torso crosses the vertical plane of the finish line.

USA Track & Field, the governing body that oversees Team USA's international track and field competitions, has similar language published in its 2024 USATF Competition Rules.

On page 67 of the document, under Rule 163 (which concerns running competitions), the first point states: "Competitors shall be placed at the finish line in the order in which any part of their bodies (i.e., the 'torso,' as distinguished from the head, neck, arms, hands, legs, or feet) reaches the finish line."

The sports governing body World Athletics also has similar language in its technical rulebook for track and field competitions.

What did the Noah Lyles 100-meter photo finish look like?

Omega, the official provider of photo finish images at the 2024 Paris Olympics, shared the image of Lyles' victory at the men's 100-meter sprint.

The image clearly shows Lyles extending his body forward, with his torso – namely, his shoulder and clavicle – crossing the finish line before anyone else's.

How did Noah Lyles win gold in the 100-meter sprint?

Lyles, known for being a strong finisher in his races, had to rely on just that, lunging forward to just beat out Kishane Thompson.

Men's 100-meter final results

First-, second- and third-place finishes win the gold, silver and bronze, respectively.

1 Noah Lyles (USA): 9.79 (.784)

2 Kishane Thompson (Jamaica): 9.79 (.789)

3 Fred Kerley (USA): 9.81

4 Akani Simbine (South Africa): 9.82

5 Lamont Marcell Jacobs (Italy): 9.85

6 Letsile Tebogo (Botswana): 9.86

7 Kenneth Bednarek (USA): 9.88

8 Oblique Seville (Jamaica): 9.91

Lyles had to make up ground in the second half of the race after Thompson and other sprinters raced out from the blocks to take early leads.

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100 finish, not time, all that mattered to coach

Tom Schad
USA TODAY

SAINT-DENIS, France – Before Noah Lyles walked onto the track in the men's 100-meter final Sunday night, his coach Lance Brauman told him that the next time they saw one another, Lyles would be an Olympic champion.

"I said 'Hey, a showman shows up when the show's on,' " Brauman recalled. "And that's what he did."

Lyles surged to a thrilling and momentous Olympic gold medal Sunday, cementing his place as the fastest man in the world by beating Kishane Thompson of Jamaica in a photo finish that might go down as the closest final in Olympic history. The jumbotron at Stade de France showed both men with a time of 9.79 seconds, while the actual margin between them was almost impossibly slim: five-thousandths of a second.

Brauman, who has coached Lyles for years, watched it all unfold from a spot

on the back stretch near the finish line, grappling with the kind of nerves and excitement that only the Olympic final can provide.

At around the 60-meter mark, he said he felt really good about Lyles' positioning. At 80 meters, he thought "holy cow, he's right there." At 90, he started to worry. It was a much closer race than he thought.

"I thought he was going to run a (personal best). I have for the past three weeks," Brauman said. "It was just a matter of, was he going to run a big enough PB to win the race? And he did."

Brauman said he had to move from his seat to get a better view of the jumbotron. When asked about the time, 9.79, he noted that it was the fastest time to win an Olympic 100-meter final by someone not named Usain Bolt. But he also added that "I didn't give a (expletive) what the time was, to be totally honest with you." Brauman just cared that Lyles crossed the line first.

Ditto for the 27-year-old's form at the

Noah Lyles walks with his coach Lance Brauman during a training session on March 6. JASPER COLT/USA TODAY NETWORK

end, where he might have had a slight lean. (Contrary to preconceived notions, sprinting coaches teach their pupils to run up straight and power

through the line, as leaning can cause deceleration.)

"I haven't seen it on film," Brauman said when asked if Lyles broke his form at the finish line. "If I go back and look at it? Maybe. But I don't really give a (expletive) right this second."

Brauman cracked a smile. He is usually pretty reserved but said he went bonkers when he saw that Lyles had become an Olympic champion – a title that eluded him at the Tokyo Games in 2021 and has, in part, motivated him in the three years since.

Brauman said this race, like all of Lyles' wins in recent years, isn't about his coaching or the message he offered before the race. But it is special to him. And, at least for now, the meticulous, affable coach with a Southern drawl said the usual analysis of Lyles' technique and form could wait.

"In races like that, you just got to do what you have to do to get to the line first," Brauman said. "He has a knack for it. And he did a hell of a job today."

MLB POWER RANKINGS

White Sox may be worse than thought

Gabe Lacques USA TODAY

Forget the 1962 Mets and last year's Athletics and the 2003 Tigers and any number of potential WOATs (Worst Of All Time) that MLB has produced in the past half-century. These Chicago White Sox are a threat to the game's ancient history.

The White Sox ran their losing streak to 20 games with three more losses against Minnesota and going into Monday were one shy of the American League record, set by the 1988 Baltimore Orioles. Three more losses, and they'll tie the 1961 Phillies with a 23-game losing streak, longest in major league history.

Needless to say, the 27-87 White Sox have a permanent lease on No. 30 in USA TODAY Sports' MLB power rankings, what with No. 29, the 41-71 Colorado Rockies, holding a mere 17 ½ game lead on them.

But Chicago's futility is almost immeasurable. The White Sox's losing percentage has dwindled to .237, worse than the .262 mark the expansion 1962 Mets compiled when they set a record with 120 losses. As such, the White Sox are now on pace for 123 losses, which would shatter the Mets' mark.

That would leave just one low point in sight: The 1916 Philadelphia A's, who lost 117 games but mercifully competed in an era when they played just 154 a year. Their .235 winning percentage (or .765 losing percentage) remains the worst in the modern era.

Who says there's nothing to play for this summer on the South Side?

A look at our updated rankings:

1. Cleveland Guardians (+1): Alex Cobb not far away from helping the rotation.

2. Baltimore Orioles (+1): Jackson Holliday looks like a different dude on his second big league tour.

3. Philadelphia Phillies (-2): Just a dog days lull, right? Right??

4. New York Yankees (+1): Reliever Mark Leiter Jr. looking like a fabulous deadline pickup.

5. Milwaukee Brewers (-): Have already used 36 pitchers, and 17 starters.

6. Los Angeles Dodgers (-2): Relievers posting a 4.96 ERA since break after a 3.42 mark in first half.

7. Minnesota Twins (+1): Royce Lewis has amassed 1.5 WAR in just 33 games.

8. Atlanta Braves (-1): Jorge Soler gives them a leadoff option and more power – but also two DHs.

9. Kansas City Royals (+1): Only Aaron Judge keeping Bobby Witt Jr. from MVP front-runner status.

10. Boston Red Sox (-1): Tanner Houck has a 6.88 ERA in three starts since All-Star Game.

11. San Diego Padres (+1): They gotta make the play-offs, if only to see that Tanner Scott-helmed bullpen cook in October.

12. Arizona Diamondbacks (+1): Paul Sewald out as closer; Ryan Thompson, Kevin Ginkel, A.J. Puk should all get opportunities.

13. Houston Astros (-2): As Kyle Tucker shifts to

Andrew Vaughn and the White Sox are on pace for the most losses in baseball history.
DAVID BANKS/USA TODAY SPORTS

60-day IL, still no timeline for return from shin injury.

14. Seattle Mariners (+1): Randy Arozarena nine for his first 27 in Seattle – not a moment too soon for punchless club.

15. New York Mets (-): Top pitching prospect Brandon Sproat now just a call away at Class AAA.

16. St. Louis Cardinals (-): Dose of Tommy Pham might be just what the deadline doctor ordered.

17. Tampa Bay Rays (-): Have won five of seven since getting branded "sellers." Or maybe they simply know what they're doing.

18. Pittsburgh Pirates (+1): Bryan Reynolds has hit 11 home runs the past two months, eight of them tiebreaking or erasing a deficit.

19. San Francisco Giants (+1): Matt Chapman's 17 home runs in 110 games equals the amount he hit in 140 games last year.

20. Texas Rangers (-2): Pitching implodes in 2-7 stretch.

21. Cincinnati Reds (+1): Hunter Greene extends scoreless streak to 21 innings.

22. Detroit Tigers (-1): Jim Leyland gets deserved day in the sun at Comerica Park.

23. Chicago Cubs (-): Park factors will matter, but it won't be a great look if Isaac Paredes recedes at Wrigley and Christopher Morel shines with Tampa Bay.

24. Washington Nationals (+1): They opt to keep Kyle Finnegan, and he rewards them with a 30-save season.

25. Toronto Blue Jays (-1): File this away for 2025: Since June 25, George Springer's batting .311 with eight homers, .384 OBP, .972 OPS.

26. Los Angeles Angels (-): The retiring Kevin Pillar looks like he should play five more years.

27. Oakland Athletics (-): With 28 homers, 81 RBIs, Brent Rooker on 40-homer, 116-RBIs pace.

28. Miami Marlins (-): Actually a couple of games over .500 since the All-Star break.

29. Colorado Rockies (-): Just crossed the 1,100-strikeout mark (for hitters). That's the most in NL.

30. Chicago White Sox (-): They could lose 50 in a row and Pedro Grifol will still get paid $1 million next year.

FOR THE RECORD

All times ET

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	67	46	.593	–
N.Y. Yankees	67	46	.593	–
Boston	59	51	.536	6½
Tampa Bay	57	54	.514	9
Toronto	51	61	.455	15½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	67	44	.604	–
Minnesota	62	48	.564	4½
Kansas City	63	50	.558	5
Detroit	53	60	.469	15
Chicago	27	87	.237	41½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	59	54	.522	–
Houston	57	54	.514	1
Texas	53	59	.473	5½
L.A. Angels	49	63	.438	9½
Oakland	46	67	.407	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	66	45	.595	–
Atlanta	60	51	.541	6
N.Y. Mets	58	53	.523	8
Washington	51	61	.455	15½
Miami	42	70	.375	24½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	62	49	.559	–
St. Louis	57	55	.509	5½
Pittsburgh	55	56	.495	7
Chicago	55	59	.482	8½
Cincinnati	53	58	.477	9

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	65	47	.580	–
San Diego	61	52	.540	4½
Arizona	60	52	.536	5
San Francisco	56	57	.496	9½
Colorado	41	72	.363	24½

Sunday's Games
San Francisco 8, Cleveland 2
Miami 7, Atlanta 3
Washington 4, Milwaukee 3
N.Y. Yankees 4, Toronto 3
Arizona 6, Pittsburgh 5
Baltimore 9, Cleveland 5
Kansas City 3, Detroit 2
Tampa Bay 1, Houston 0
Minnesota 13, Chicago White Sox 7
Boston 7, Texas 2
L.A. Angels 3, N.Y. Mets 2
L.A. Dodgers 3, Oakland 2
Philadelphia 6, Seattle 0
San Diego 10, Colorado 2
Chicago Cubs 6, St. Louis 2

Monday's Games
N.Y. Mets at St. Louis
Arizona at Cleveland
Cincinnati at Miami
San Francisco at Washington
Minnesota at Chicago Cubs
Houston at Texas
Boston at Kansas City
Chicago White Sox at Oakland
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers

Tuesday's Games
Arizona at Cleveland, 6:40 p.m.
Cincinnati at Miami, 6:40 p.m.
San Diego at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.
San Francisco at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
L.A. Angels at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
Milwaukee at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
Boston at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.
Detroit at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Arizona at Cleveland, 1:10 p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.
Houston at Texas, 2:35 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Oakland, 3:37 p.m.
Cincinnati at Miami, 6:40 p.m.
San Diego at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.
San Francisco at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
L.A. Angels at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
Milwaukee at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
Tampa Bay at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m.
Boston at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.
Detroit at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

DEALS

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CAROLINA PANTHERS – QB Jake Luton signed. WR Tayvion Robinson cut. TE Jesper Horsted signed. LB Kemoko Turay Placed on IR undisclosed.
DENVER BRONCOS – S Caden Sterns cut. DT Eyioma Uwazurike suspension lifted.
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS – LB Blake Lynch signed/unrestricted free agent to Seattle Seahawks.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES – G Jason Poe cut. LB Shaquille Quarterman signed/unrestricted free agent.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS – S Quandre Diggs signed to Tennessee Titans One-year contract (through 2024). C Mike Novitsky cut. LB Blake Lynch signed/unrestricted free agent.

OLYMPICS

Final swimming medal count

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
United States	8	13	7	28
Australia	7	8	3	18
China	2	3	7	12
Canada	2	3	2	7
France	4	1	1	6
Great Britain	1	4	0	5
Italy	2	1	2	5
Hungary	2	1	1	3
Ireland	1	0	2	3
Sweden	2	0	0	2
Germany	1	0	1	2
South Africa	1	0	1	2
Romania	1	0	1	2
Hong Kong	0	0	2	2
Netherlands	0	0	2	2
Greece	0	1	0	1
Japan	0	1	0	1
South Korea	0	1	0	1
Switzerland	0	0	1	1

WEATHER

TODAY'S FORECAST

Another day of intense rainfall and strong wind gusts in association with Debby is in store for parts of the **Southeast** today, mainly from northeastern **Florida** to the coastal and central portions of **Georgia** and the **Carolinas**. Widespread wind gusts of 40-60 mph are expected, with storm surge of 6-10 feet in spots.

Well to the north of Debby, a cold front dropping southward into warm and moist air is expected to lead to some severe thunderstorms to develop during the afternoon and evening hours from north-central **Ohio** and central **Pennsylvania** to northern **Virginia** and **West Virginia**.

The **West Coast** and much of the **Plains** should be dry, with some widely separated thunderstorms likely from **New Mexico** and **Arizona** northward into **Montana**.

TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather Inc. ©2024

| Below 10 | 10s | 20s | 30s | 40s | 50s | 60s | 70s | 80s | 90s | 100s | 110+ |
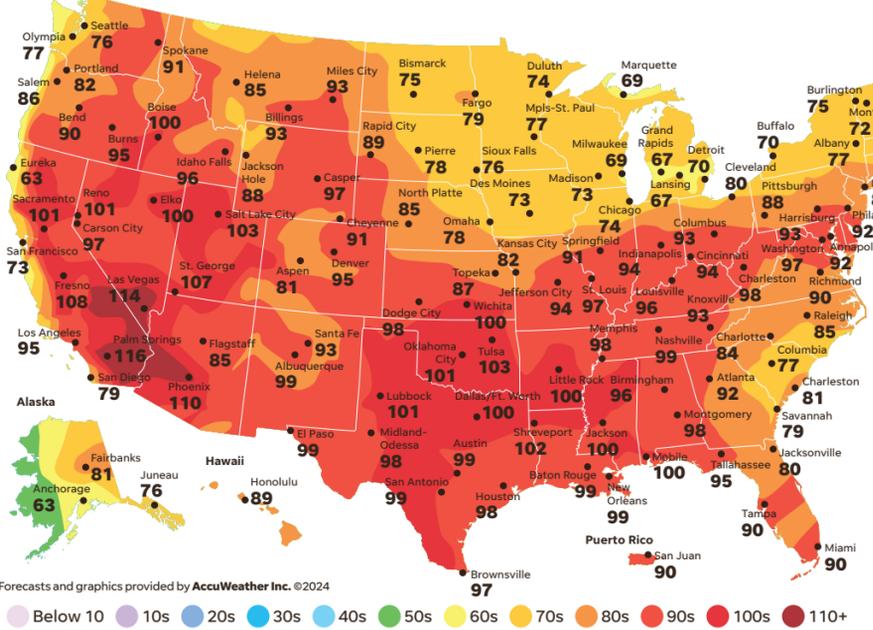
AccuWeather
Get notifications of nearby lightning!
Get the AccuWeather App

PRECIPITATION FORECAST
T-storms · Rain · Snow · Ice/mix

TODAY

WEDNESDAY

EXTREMES
Note: For contiguous 48 states through 3 p.m. ET yesterday
HOTTEST: 105° Needles, Calif.
COLDEST: 42° Stanley, Idaho

TOP TRAVEL CITIES
Air quality index **(AQI)**

ATLANTA		BALTIMORE		BOSTON		CHARLOTTE		CHICAGO		DALLAS/FT. WORTH		DENVER		DETROIT		HONOLULU		HOUSTON		LAS VEGAS		LOS ANGELES	
TUE	Breezy 92/74	TUE	Heavy t-storm 96/75	TUE	Cooler 72/62	TUE	Humid 84/73	TUE	Stray t-storm 74/64	TUE	Very warm 100/79	TUE	Stray t-storm 95/68	TUE	Rain 70/58	TUE	Mostly sunny 89/75	TUE	Very hot 98/77	TUE	Very hot 114/87	TUE	Hot 95/68
WED	Mostly sunny 96/76	WED	T-storms 81/71	WED	Partly sunny 68/62	WED	Shower 84/75	WED	Mostly sunny 77/64	WED	Hot 104/81	WED	Stray t-storm 99/61	WED	Warmer 78/60	WED	Breezy 90/75	WED	Sunny, hot 100/77	WED	Hot 109/87	WED	Mostly sunny 88/66
THU	Humid 92/74	THU	T-storm 77/71	THU	Turning cloudy 72/62	THU	Rain, wind 81/74	THU	Partly sunny 79/64	THU	Hot 106/83	THU	Stray t-storm 76/60	THU	Partly sunny 80/64	THU	Some sun, nice 89/75	THU	Partly sunny 100/78	THU	Partly sunny 105/84	THU	Partly sunny 86/67
AQI Good		AQI Good		AQI Good		AQI Good		AQI Moderate		AQI Good		AQI Moderate		AQI Good		AQI Good		AQI Moderate		AQI Good		AQI Good	

MIAMI		MPLS.-ST. PAUL		NEW ORLEANS		NEW YORK		ORLANDO		PHILADELPHIA		PHOENIX		SALT LAKE CITY		SAN DIEGO		SAN FRANCISCO		SEATTLE		WASHINGTON	
TUE	Stray t-storm 90/80	TUE	Warmer 77/59	TUE	Hot 99/81	TUE	T-storms 84/66	TUE	Stray t-storm 90/79	TUE	T-storms 92/71	TUE	Stray t-storm 110/87	TUE	Very warm 103/75	TUE	Humid 79/68	TUE	Breezy 73/56	TUE	Partly sunny 76/57	TUE	Stray t-storm 97/75
WED	Stray t-storm 94/78	WED	Clouding up 75/62	WED	Mostly sunny 101/80	WED	Showers 72/65	WED	Breezy 93/78	WED	Stray t-storm 77/67	WED	Very warm 106/89	WED	Very warm 101/74	WED	Mostly cloudy 77/66	WED	Breezy 72/56	WED	Mostly sunny 82/59	WED	T-storms 84/70
THU	Stray t-storm 92/80	THU	A quick shower 76/59	THU	Mostly sunny 101/81	THU	Mostly cloudy 78/67	THU	Mainly cloudy 77/70	THU	Very warm 109/90	THU	Partly sunny 97/76	THU	Mostly cloudy 76/67	THU	Partly sunny 71/57	THU	Mostly sunny 88/62	THU	Stray t-storm 77/70
AQI Good		AQI Good		AQI Moderate		AQI Moderate		AQI Good		AQI Moderate		AQI Moderate		AQI Moderate		AQI Good		AQI Good		AQI Good		AQI Good	

c Cloudy f Fog i Ice r Rain sf Snowflurries sn Snow w Windy dr Drizzle h Haze pc Partly cloudy s Sunny sh Showers t Thunderstorms

U.S. CITIES

	TODAY	WED
Akron, Ohio	82/60t	75/60c
Albany, N.Y.	77/59c	80/57c
Albuquerque	99/70pc	96/70c
Allentown, Pa.	88/66t	71/64sh
Amarillo, Texas	103/69s	102/71s
Anaheim, Calif.	90/67s	86/66s
Anchorage, Alaska	63/57sh	65/56r
Aspen, Colo.	81/53t	82/53t
Atlantic City, N.J.	84/71t	76/69t
Augusta, Ga.	77/73r	85/73r
Austin, Texas	99/74s	101/73s
Bakersfield, Calif.	107/80s	109/77s
Baton Rouge, La.	99/78s	101/79s
Billings, Mont.	93/62t	73/56pc
Birmingham, Ala.	96/73h	98/73t
Bismarck, N.D.	75/61pc	76/56pc
Boise, Idaho	100/65s	94/68s
Buffalo, N.Y.	70/57t	77/60pc
Burlington, Vt.	75/57c	78/55s
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	72/55w	79/60pc
Charleston, S.C.	81/76r	81/77r
Charleston, W.Va.	98/70s	88/69pc
Cheyenne, Wyo.	91/64c	92/56pc

	TODAY	WED
Cincinnati	94/71s	83/65pc
Cleveland	80/63t	76/61pc
Colorado Springs	86/64t	94/61t
Columbia, S.C.	77/74r	86/76r
Columbus, Ohio	93/67t	80/66pc
Corpus Christi, Texas	97/77s	100/77s
Dayton, Ohio	94/66t	81/61pc
Daytona Beach, Fla.	88/78t	90/77c
Des Moines, Iowa	73/59pc	78/63pc
Detroit	74/52s	75/57t
Durham, N.C.	84/73sh	81/72sh
El Paso, Texas	99/78s	103/78s
Fairbanks, Alaska	81/59pc	78/58r
Flagstaff, Ariz.	85/56t	79/55t
Fargo, N.D.	79/61s	73/56c
Fort Myers, Fla.	89/82t	93/81t
Fort Smith, Ark.	103/75s	101/75s
Fort Wayne, Ind.	88/61t	76/59s
Fresno, Calif.	108/77s	108/74s
Grand Rapids, Mich.	67/55t	79/55s
Green Bay, Wis.	75/53pc	76/58pc
Greensboro, N.C.	84/71sh	82/70sh
Greenville, S.C.	84/72s	89/73pc
Harrisburg, Pa.	93/70t	76/65sh

	TODAY	WED
Hartford, Conn.	81/75r	72/60r
Indianapolis	94/66s	80/62pc
Islip, N.Y.	84/71t	71/63c
Jackson, Miss.	100/71s	101/75s
Jacksonville, Fla.	80/75r	87/74c
Jefferson City, Mo.	94/67s	83/66pc
Kansas City	82/63s	83/66s
Key West, Fla.	92/84t	93/84t
Knoxville, Tenn.	93/71s	93/72s
Laredo, Texas	105/80s	106/81s
Lexington, Ky.	96/72s	88/68pc
Lincoln, Neb.	80/62s	85/66pc
Little Rock, Ark.	100/76s	96/73s
Long Beach, Calif.	85/68s	83/67pc
Louisville, Ky.	96/74s	87/68pc
Lubbock, Texas	101/70s	104/73s
Madison, Wis.	73/54pc	77/57s
Manchester, N.H.	76/51t	74/52s
Memphis, Tenn.	98/76h	92/72s
Milwaukee	69/56t	76/55pc
Mobile, Ala.	100/75s	101/77s
Modesto, Calif.	103/70s	102/68s
Montgomery, Ala.	98/73s	100/73s
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	80/75r	81/74r

	TODAY	WED
Nags Head, N.C.	81/75r	79/75r
Nashville, Tenn.	99/74s	92/73s
Newark, N.J.	87/70t	75/66sh
New Haven, Conn.	82/66sh	74/63sh
Norfolk, Va.	87/75sh	81/75sh
Oakland, Calif.	76/55pc	72/54pc
Oklahoma City	101/72s	100/73s
Omaha, Neb.	78/60s	82/66c
Palm Springs, Calif.	116/87s	111/85pc
Pensacola, Fla.	100/79s	102/79s
Pierre, S.D.	78/62pc	84/58t
Pittsburgh	88/65t	77/65t
Portland, Maine	73/60c	74/57pc
Portland, Ore.	82/58s	91/64s
Providence, R.I.	76/61c	69/59r
Raleigh, N.C.	85/73sh	82/73sh
Rapid City, S.D.	89/62t	83/56w
Reno, Nev.	101/66s	99/65s
Richmond, Va.	90/74pc	83/73sh
Rochester, N.Y.	72/59sh	77/58pc
Sacramento, Calif.	101/63s	99/59s
San Antonio	99/78s	101/80s
San Jose, Calif.	90/60pc	87/60pc
Santa Fe, N.M.	93/62c	90/64c

	TODAY	WED
Sarasota, Fla.	90/82t	91/82c
Savannah, Ga.	79/74r	82/75r
Scottsdale, Ariz.	107/83t	103/86s
Shreveport, La.	102/73s	104/76s
Sioux Falls, S.D.	76/58c	78/65t
South Bend, Ind.	81/59pc	79/58pc
Spokane, Wash.	91/65s	88/64s
Springfield, Mo.	98/67s	86/68s
Springfield, Ill.	91/64s	79/60s
St. Louis	97/67s	82/68pc
St. Petersburg, Fla.	92/81t	95/80pc
Syracuse, N.Y.	76/58sh	79/58pc
Tallahassee, Fla.	95/74t	97/73s
Tampa, Fla.	90/81t	93/81s
Toledo, Ohio	79/62t	79/60pc
Topeka, Kan.	87/65s	89/69s
Tucson, Ariz.	100/79t	97/79c
Tupelo, Miss.	100/73s	99/73s
Tulsa, Okla.	103/71s	96/72s
Virginia Beach, Va.	85/76sh	81/76sh
Wichita, Kan.	100/69pc	97/71s
Wilmington, Del.	92/71t	79/66t
Winston-Salem, N.C.	86/72pc	84/72sh
Worcester, Mass.	71/58c	68/59r

WORLD CITIES

	TODAY	WED
Beijing	93/76t	93/76t
Buenos Aires	64/48c	59/44s
Cancun, Mexico	93/76c	92/73t
Dubai, UAE	106/92h	106/92h
Frankfurt	84/62c	84/59t
Hong Kong	94/84t	93/84t
Istanbul	88/72s	87/71s
Jerusalem	89/67s	90/69s
Johannesburg	67/47s	69/51s
London	76/56sh	72/56pc
Mexico City	74/58sh	73/56sh
Montreal	74/58h	76/57pc
Moscow	73/58t	73/59r
Mumbai, India	88/81sc	88/81sh
Paris	86/63s	79/59pc
Rio de Janeiro	82/71s	84/72s
Rome	90/71s	91/72s
Seoul	89/76t	96/76t
Singapore	90/80sh	88/80sh
Sydney	64/45pc	66/44s
Toronto	69/58c	76/62s
Tokyo	91/80pc	90/78r

OUTLOOKS FOR US LBM COLLEGE FOOTBALL PRESEASON COACHES POLL TOP 25

Season outlooks for all the teams that begin the 2024 campaign in the US LBM College Football Preseason Coaches Poll. The school outlook capsules were written by Erick Smith, Paul Myerberg, Eddie Timanus and Jordan Mendoza.

1. Georgia (13-1)

Points: 1,364 (46 first-place votes). **Previous ranking:** 3. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Clemson (Atlanta)

A run for a historic three-peat ended in the SEC championship game last season. Now the Bulldogs will try to get back to the top of the mountain with one of the nation's top rosters. QB Carson Beck should be a Heisman contender and will have the advantage of a receiving group that includes Dominic Lovett and Miami (Fla.) transfer Colbie Young. Great defense is a constant for Kirby Smart's team, and this year will be no exception with DL Mykel Williams, LB Smael Mondon and DB Malaki Starks, all future NFL draft picks.

2. Ohio State (11-2)

Points: 1,302 (seven first-place votes). **Previous ranking:** 10. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Akron

The pressure is on Ryan Day to beat Michigan after three consecutive losses. This could be the best defense in the country, and easily Day's best group since the 2019 unit that led the Bowl Subdivision in several major categories. While headlined by All-American picks, led by JT Tuimoloau, what separates the Buckeyes is potentially unmatched depth across the board, with five-star talent sitting behind established starters at every level and itching to get a shot in the lineup. What might ultimately determine the team's success is how Day sorts out the quarterback competition, with Kansas State transfer Will Howard the presumed favorite.

3. Oregon (12-2)

Points: 1,228. **Previous ranking:** 7. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Idaho

Among the four teams joining the Big Ten from the Pac-12, the Ducks look to be the most prepared for life in the conference. The offense should continue to put up eye-opening numbers behind new QB Dillon Gabriel, who tossed 30 scores for Oklahoma last season and will be at or near the top of every preseason Heisman Trophy watch list. What makes Oregon capable of winning its conference debut is the strength on both lines of scrimmage.

4. Texas (12-2)

Points: 1,223 (one first-place vote). **Previous ranking:** 4. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Colorado State

The Longhorns are really back. The question is whether they can stay there after making their first College Football Playoff. QB Quinn Ewers and OL Kelvin Banks are two of the SEC's best at their positions. CJ Baxter should slot in at running back, while significant wide receiver losses were addressed with transfers Isaiah Bond (Alabama), Silas Bolden (Oregon State) and Matthew Golden (Houston). The defense also got into the portal, notably to address defensive line departures after having one of the top rush defenses in the country.

5. Alabama (12-2)

Points: 1,077. **Previous ranking:** 5. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Western Kentucky

Transitions don't get any bigger than the Crimson Tide dealing with the loss of this generation's greatest college football coach. But thinking there will be a huge drop from Nick Saban to Kalen DeBoer would be unwise. DeBoer took Washington to the national title game and has veteran QB Jalen Milroe and enough offensive talent to be among the top groups in the country. The defense again looks stout with LB Deontae Lawson and DB Malachi Moore leading the way.

6. Ole Miss (11-2)

Points: 1,019. **Previous ranking:** 9. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Murray State

Expectations are at a five-decade high for the Rebels, who are one of the top contenders for the SEC title. The offense is expected to be prolific. QB Jaxson Dart returns for his third year as a starter with a veteran offensive line. Tre Harris and South Carolina transfer Juice Wells give Ole Miss the best receiver combination in the conference. Walter Nolen arrives from Texas A&M, along with Princely Umanmielen from Florida to bolster the defensive line. The back half of the defense is where the Rebels need improvement.

7. Notre Dame (10-3)

Points: 969. **Previous ranking:** 14.

Opens: Aug. 31 at Texas A&M

Another year, another transfer quarterback to lead the offense at Notre Dame. Riley Leonard was a breakthrough player with Duke in 2022 and was having a solid 2023 before leg and foot injuries derailed it. Leonard should get plenty of help from a defense that boasts one of the best secondaries in the country with Benjamin Morrison and Xavier Watts as the ringleaders. The season-opening game against Texas A&M could prove whether the Fighting Irish are a legitimate College Football Playoff contender.

8. Michigan (15-0)

Points: 944 (one first-place vote). **Previous ranking:** 1. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Fresno State

Losing coach Jim Harbaugh is painful. So is losing an ocean of contributors from last year's national champions to the NFL draft, including quarterback J.J. McCarthy. Can the Wolverines repeat? The odds are against it, though the continuity provided by the transition from Harbaugh to former offensive coordinator Sherrone Moore should help keep things rolling at a high clip. They'll run the ball effectively, but concerns about the passing game and whether the defense can stay elite remain.

9. Penn State (10-3)

Points: 889. **Previous ranking:** 13. **Opens:** Aug. 31 at West Virginia

Whether new offensive and defensive coordinators can provide a spark will determine whether Penn State competes for a Big Ten crown and books a playoff berth. On defense, former Indiana coach Tom Allen takes over a group that ranked second nationally in yards per play in 2023. Offensively, James Franklin has turned things over to Andy Kotelnicki, who worked some miracles in the same role at Kansas. QB Drew Allar is in his second season as starter and needs to be a catalyst for more explosive plays.

10. Florida State (13-1)

Points: 867. **Previous ranking:** 6. **Opens:** Sept. 2 vs. Boston College

They're still a wee bit salty in Tallahassee about how last season ended, and the school has made no secret of its wish to find an exit strategy from the Atlantic Coast Conference. But for now it's football as usual, and the Seminoles should again be among the favorites in the expanded conference despite a lot of key personnel losses. Well-traveled QB DJ Uiagalelei arrives from Oregon State with hopes of keeping the offense humming, though nearly every other starter at the ball-handling positions will also be new. The defense has holes to fill that led to several portal acquisitions.

11. Missouri (11-2)

Points: 808. **Previous ranking:** 8. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Furman

The picture is certainly different for the Tigers coming off an 11-win season and second consecutive offseason with several portal acquisitions. Can they parlay that into a playoff run? QB Brady Cook and WR Luther Burden III might be the best passing combination in the Southeastern Conference. There is a hole at running back that a pair of newcomers will try to fill. The larger concerns, however, are on defense. Four of the top five tacklers from last year's group depart. A comfortable early schedule gives the unit time to jell.

12. LSU (10-3)

Points: 742. **Previous ranking:** 12. **Opens:** Sept 1 vs. Southern Cal (Las Vegas)

Losing Heisman Trophy winner Jayden Daniels might set back some offense, but the Tigers are well-positioned to transition to QB Garrett Nussmeier, a pure passer who threw for 395 yards in the team's bowl win. The offense faces questions at running back and receiver, but Will Campbell and Emery Jones give them two standouts on the offensive line. The first step in upgrading the defense was hiring coordinator Blake Baker from Missouri. His biggest task will be unlocking LB Harold Perkins, who slumped as a sophomore.

13. Utah (8-5)

Points: 665. **Previous ranking:** Not ranked. **Opens:** Aug. 29 vs. Southern Utah

Cam Rising is finally back for his swan song in Salt Lake City. The quarterback led his squad to back-to-back Pac-12 titles before an injury in the Rose Bowl at the end of the 2022 season caused him to miss all of last year's campaign. The Utes start life in the Big 12 as one of the top contenders. Their

QB Conner Weigman is back this season for Texas A&M.

MARIA LYSAKER/ USA TODAY SPORTS

defense remains powerful, and most of their tough games will be played at intimidating Rice-Eccles Stadium, making Utah a strong candidate to win the conference.

14. Clemson (9-4)

Points: 657. **Previous ranking:** 20. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Georgia (Atlanta)

It's not like the Clemson program has fallen off a cliff, but the last couple of seasons have not lived up to high standards set during the time when the Tigers were College Football Playoff regulars. The defensive side of the ball hasn't been the issue, though some next-level talent on the front line will have to be replaced this year. The biggest question once again is whether QB Cade Klubnik can take the next step and start making the kinds of plays championship offenses must have in the modern game, and whether the wide receiver group can finally break out.

15. Tennessee (9-4)

Points: 621. **Previous ranking:** 17. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. East Tennessee State

The long wait for Volunteers fans is over. The Nico Iamaleava era is finally here. There will be growing pains for the sophomore quarterback, but his consistency throwing the ball should make the offense more functional than last season. Squirrel White is among the receivers who should be productive targets, and Cooper Mays is part of a veteran offensive line that can be counted on. Ultimately, getting into the College Football Playoff picture will come down to the defense. DL James Pearce will look to repeat his double-digit sacks. The secondary is the rebuilt and unknown quantity.

16. Oklahoma (10-3)

Points: 609. **Previous ranking:** 15. **Opens:** Aug. 30 vs. Temple

In an unanticipated twist, there are more questions about the Sooners on offense as they transition to the Southeastern Conference. QB Jackson Arnold brings tremendous potential after serving as Dillon Gabriel's understudy. Arnold will be working behind an offensive line with uncertainty. On the plus side, Oklahoma has a deep receiving group with Nic Anderson, Jalil Farooq and Purdue transfer Deion Burks among the standouts. Head coach Brent Venables has rebuilt the Oklahoma defense ahead of his third year and is blessed with the return of LB Danny Stutsman and DB Billy Bowman after both considered the NFL draft. It's a deep and aggressive group at all three levels that forces turnovers.

17. Kansas State (9-4)

Points: 416. **Previous ranking:** 19. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Tennessee-Martin

Chris Klieman has made the Wildcats a constant contender in his tenure, and this could be among his best teams. QB Avery Johnson showed enough promise in limited action to justify high expectations and send last year's starter, Will Howard, to the portal. The addition of RB Dylan Edwards in the backfield to complement DJ Giddens is a big plus for the top-scoring team returning to the conference. The linebacker duo of Austin Moore and Desmond Purnell should be the foundation of a strong defense.

18. Oklahoma State (10-4)

Points: 359. **Previous ranking:** 16. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. South Dakota State

With Heisman Trophy contender RB Ollie Gordon leading a team that has most of its starters back, Oklahoma State should be in the mix to push the best teams in the Big 12 Conference. Entering his seventh season, Alan Bowman is a seasoned quarterback now. He just needs to avoid injury. The defense is full of returning talent. LB Nick Martin and DBs Kendal Daniels and Trey Rucker all totaled at least 100 tackles last year.

19. Miami (Fla.) (7-6)

Points: 292. **Previous ranking:** Not ranked. **Opens:** Aug. 31 at Florida

So what do we make of the Hurricanes, the team with perennially outsized expectations seeking to recapture the glory days? Mario Cristobal's squad

has talent, assembling an accomplished backfield from the remnants of the Pac-12 with QB Cam Ward coming in from Washington State and RB Jacob Martinez from Oregon State to work behind what could be the league's best offensive line. If the defense that seemingly broke down at the most inopportune moments can be more consistent, Miami should see its win total increase with a manageable slate.

20. Texas A&M (7-6)

Points: 273. **Previous ranking:** Not ranked. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Notre Dame

The biggest factor for the Aggies and new coach Mike Elko this season could be the health of QB Connor Weigman, who missed all but four games in 2023 but showed signs of being the signal-caller the team has been lacking. The offensive line will be anchored by Trey Zuhn and should be improved. Defense is Elko's specialty, and there's enough talent on that side of the ball to be a strength after years of recruiting success. DL Nic Scourton is expected to be a big part of the pass rush after leading the Big Ten with 10 sacks at Purdue last season.

21. Arizona (10-3)

Points: 230. **Previous ranking:** 11. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. New Mexico

After its best finish in the coaches poll since 1998, it looked like Arizona would be back to square one when coach Jedd Fisch bolted for Washington. But new coach Brent Brennan arrived from San Jose State and got off to a solid start by making sure the standouts – QB Noah Fifita, WR Tetairoa McMillan and DB Tacario Davis – all stayed in Tucson, giving Wildcats fans hope that last season's success wasn't a one-year wonder The defense is solid, but the question will be if Brennan can build on the success and win the Big 12.

22. North Carolina State (9-4)

Points: 216. **Previous ranking:** 21. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Western Carolina

For whatever reason, the Wolfpack always seem to be the team on the edge of breaking through and reaching the top of the ACC. They just can't put it all together for a championship. Last season, it was the early loss to Louisville that wound up keeping them from a shot at the ACC crown. The arrival of QB Grayson McCall following a stellar career at Coastal Carolina and the return of WR Kevin Concepcion could give the offense that extra gear as long as the defense continues to hold up its end.

23. Southern Cal (8-5)

Points: 199. **Previous ranking:** Not ranked. **Opens:** Sept. 1 vs. LSU (Las Vegas)

The Trojans defense will again be one of the most heavily scrutinized groups in college football. Under new coordinator D'Anton Lynn, formerly of UCLA, the unit could take a noticeable step forward after finishing last year ranked 121st nationally in scoring. Two transfers in the secondary, Akili Arnold from Oregon State and Kamari Ramsey from UCLA, will help immediately. QB Miller Moss has the unenviable task of following Caleb Williams. He played well in USC's bowl game. But doing so in Lincoln Riley's offense in the regular season will be a different challenge.

24. Kansas (9-4)

Points: 186. **Previous ranking:** 23. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. South Dakota State

The hype for Kansas hasn't been this high since its last appearance in the preseason poll in 2009. The offense should be one of the best in the Big 12 with QB Jalon Daniels returning from injury alongside RB Devin Neal, who rushed for almost 1,300 yards. Making sure Daniels stays healthy after appearing in just three games last season is critical and likely will determine how far Kansas can go. The defense needs to plug some holes up front, but the secondary should be solid.

25. Iowa (10-4)

Points: 148. **Previous ranking:** 21. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Illinois State

Behold, a new offensive coordinator: Tim Lester, formerly the head coach at Western Michigan, replaces the much-maligned Brian Ferentz. After finishing near the bottom in most categories, Lester likely can't do any worse than his predecessor simply because of the projected return of former Michigan quarterback Cade McNamara, who was injured last October and missed the rest of the season. As usual, the Hawkeyes will be stout on defense and special teams. Being great in those areas has been the formula to win games and it won't change this year.

Georgia will open season as No. 1

Eddie Timanus
USA TODAY

Amid major conference realignment, a bigger playoff field and a whole lot of movement on the coaching carousel, the 2024 football season is going to reflect a lot of change.

One thing, however, will be the same as last season: Georgia will enter the campaign with the No. 1 ranking in the preseason US LBM Coaches Poll.

The Bulldogs, though not defending a national championship this time, were voted first by 46 of the 55 coaches on this season's panel. They finished third in the final rankings last season after coming up short in the SEC championship game and missing the four-team College Football Playoff field.

Ohio State will open at No. 2. The Buckeyes, favored to return to the top of the expanded Big Ten, picked up seven of the remaining nine first-place nods to land a spot ahead of new fellow confer-

Georgia receiver Dominic Lovett runs after a catch against Missouri during their 2023 game. Georgia was 13-1 in 2023. DALE ZANINE/USA TODAY SPORTS

ence member Oregon.

Texas, a semifinalist last year now representing the SEC, will open at No. 4,

picking up a No. 1 vote. It's the highest starting spot for the Longhorns since 2010.

Alabama rounds out the top five, still a lofty position but still the lowest position in the preseason poll for the Crimson Tide since 2009.

Mississippi earns the No. 6 ranking, its highest preseason start since USA TODAY began administering the coaches poll in 1991. Their previous high was in 1970. Notre Dame, the lone independent in the Top 25, begins at No. 7. Defending national champion Michigan received the last No. 1 vote but lands at No. 8 overall, the lowest preseason ranking for the previous year's champ since 2011 when Auburn opened at No. 19. Penn State and Florida State round out the top 10.

With the exception of the aforementioned Fighting Irish, the four so-called power conferences comprise the entire top 25. The SEC has the most with nine, all in the top 20. That record-tying haul, a first for any conference in the presea-

son poll, is in part a function of league expansion as the list includes the No. 4 Longhorns and fellow newcomer Oklahoma at No. 16. The poll of Sept. 8, 2015, also had nine SEC teams ranked.

The similarly enlarged Big Ten has six ranked squads, with the four in the top 10 joined by No. 23 Southern Cal and No. 25 Iowa. The Big 12 is next with five teams, but newcomer Utah is the highest of the group at No. 13. The ACC holds down the other four slots in the Top 25.

Washington, the national runner-up from a season ago, is first among other schools receiving votes but becomes the first team since the beginning of the Bowl Championship Series in 1998 to start the season unranked after appearing in the national championship game.

Also of note, no member of a Group of Five league cracked the Top 25 for the first time since 2014. Memphis, a projected favorite in the American Athletic Conference, came the closest with 44 poll points.

SNUBBED TEAMS

Washington linebacker Carson Bruener (42) reacts after a play against Utah during their 2023 game at Husky Stadium. STEVEN BISIG/USA TODAY SPORTS

Washington on the outside in preseason

Eddie Timanus
USA TODAY

There is no more fundamental truth in sports that where you finish is more important than where you start.

Beginning the college football season outside the US LBM preseason college football Top 25 in no way shape or form indicates a team is doomed to failure for the upcoming campaign. Indeed, it can often serve as a rallying cry.

Preseason polls, as we point out every year at this time, are by their very nature speculative ventures. Even so, there are a few curious omissions from the rankings that should have been recognized by voters.

Here are five teams with the best chance to overcome being snubbed.

Washington

We get it. Everything is different in Seattle. The coach is gone, most of the key contributors are in NFL training camps, and the Huskies are in a new conference with a lot of depth and a lot of travel requirements. We should further clarify that the Huskies weren't "snubbed" per se by the voters. Washington did appear on most ballots, picked as high as No. 5 in some cases. But they're also the first team to play in a national title game and also being unranked in the following preseason. An omission that should give them some motivation in the Big Ten.

Even so, starting unranked for the second-place finisher in the just completed season is unprecedented. Washington will probably have a number in front of its name at some point this season. Jedd Fisch, the new man in charge at U-Dub after bringing Arizona back to respectability, has a bit more infrastructure in place at this job. Last year's offense will be impossible to match, but the arrival of veteran QB Will Rogers from Mississippi State will help.

Virginia Tech

The Hokies have a good chance to emerge from what looks to be a crowded middle of the pack in the expanded ACC. The defense should again be among the best in the conference, and just a few more points and fewer mistakes from the offense should translate into more victories. The optimism entering Brent Pry's third season starts with QB Kyron Drones, who emerged in the second half

of last season in leading Tech to five wins in its last seven games. But he's one of almost an entire starting lineup that returns and will be boosted by some key transfers.

West Virginia

Neal Brown's chair was mighty warm at this time a year ago. Now on the heels of a 9-4 campaign that finished on a three-game winning streak including a bowl victory, the Mountaineers enter 2024 as a possible dark-horse contender in the expanded Big 12. There's depth and experience on both sides of the ball, and veteran QB Garrett Greene is a good leader on and off the field. The running game boast two options in Jahiem White and CJ Donaldson to test teams. The defense addressed concerns in the secondary and looks to be capable of slowing down offenses.

Memphis

There were no Group of Five teams ranked in the initial poll. That will almost certainly change as the season unfolds, with one non-power conference champ guaranteed a seat at the 12-team playoff table. The winner of the American Athletic Conference, despite defections over the last couple of years, at least figures to have its eventual winner in that discussion, and the Tigers seem to be in the best position to be that team. Seth Henigan is back to quarterback what should again be a high-octane attack, and the defense got a talent infusion with LB Elijah Herring of Tennessee among the key additions.

Boise State

The Broncos could also be in the best-of-the-rest mix by season's end. The defending Mountain West champs closed strong in 2023 and have a legit superstar in camp in the person of RB Ashton Jeanty, who rushed for 1,347 yards and added 569 receiving yards last year and has most of his offensive line returning. The offense got further boosted with the addition of QB Malachi Nelson from Southern Cal, a rare elite recruit to play on the team's distinguished blue turf. The defense boasts standout DL Ahmed Hassanein and LB Andrew Simpson and should again be stingy.

OVERRATED TEAMS

Michigan running back Donovan Edwards (7) accounted for 497 yards and five TDs rushing last season. MATTHEW O'HAREN/USA TODAY SPORTS

Michigan lost lots of talent since title win

Erick Smith
USA TODAY

There are 25 teams that start the season in the preseason US LBM Coaches Poll. However, history has shown that several will not be in the final rankings released after the national championship game.

Recently, it's just slightly better than a 50-50 proposition that teams remain. Last season there were nine teams that didn't finish in the Top 25. There were 14 that didn't make it in 2022. And 12 dropped off in 2021. In the three seasons before then, the average was double-digits. Such is the difficulty of predicting how things will play out in the era of the transfer portal and conference realignment.

So with that in mind, who are the overrated college football teams before this season starts? Here are the five most likely to fall back from where they started. They might have good seasons, but the expectations in August are way too high.

Michigan

The Wolverines are the lowest-ranked defending champion since Auburn in 2012. They still appear too high at No. 8 given the departure of Jim Harbaugh, the loss of key personnel to the NFL and increased competition in this year's Big Ten. Oh, and there's also a difficult nonconference game against Texas. The quarterback situation was unsettled after spring, meaning the already limited passing game will have challenges. New receivers and offensive linemen must step up. Expect coach Sherron Moore to stick with a ground-and-pound attack to shorten games. The defense can help keep games close against top competition. The offense doesn't look to be good enough to win them.

Florida State

The sting of missing out on the College Football Playoff surely will be motivation for the No. 10 Seminoles. It's also worth remembering many of the key players on that team are no longer in Tallahassee. The notable departure is QB Jordan Travis. Florida State has turned to DJ Uiagalelei to fill the void. He has ACC experience from his time at Clemson, but he's still an inconsistent passer with a rebuilt receiving group. On the plus side, the offense has

significant experience returning. The defense brings in several players from the portal, but getting this group to jell quickly could be a challenge. This won't be an unbeaten regular season and probably multiple losses will keep this group from winning the ACC again.

Missouri

Most of the key offensive players returning from an 11-2 team should predict another strong season for the 11th-ranked Tigers, who added several transfers at key areas. Further examination of last year, though, illuminates that there weren't a lot of high-end wins to shout about – beating a depleted Ohio State in the Cotton Bowl doesn't count. Expecting this to be a playoff team, however, seems optimistic given there are holes on defense and uncertainty at running back. The one thing working in Missouri's favor is the easiest schedule in the SEC. Still, there should be an unexpected slip or two that keeps them out of the expanded 12-team field.

Miami (Fla.)

Another ACC team from the Sunshine State checks in. Coach Mario Cristobal embarked on another roster makeover after the Hurricanes finished 7-6 last season, bringing in QB Cam Ward and RB Damien Martinez. There are additions on defense, too, as the Hurricanes finally hope to become relevant in the ACC. But we've been here before, waiting for a breakthrough. Miami starts at No. 19 and has been roughly in this spot the past two preseasons before finishing out of the poll. So what makes this year any different? Fool me once, shame on me. Fool me twice, you get no benefit of the doubt. We'll see if it all comes together. But it's probably best to take a wait-and-see approach.

Kansas

There's a lot of hype coming out of Lawrence given the Jayhawks are ranked in the preseason poll for the first time since 2009 and QB Jalon Daniels is expected to be healthy after two injury-marred seasons. They also have most of their skill players returning. That's the good. Now the bad. The offense saw coordinator Andy Kotelnicki depart, and there's no veteran backup behind Daniels. The defense lost several key players up front, so expect a lot of close shootouts in the expanded Big 12.

LIFELINE

PROVIDED BY RYAN BAKERINK/FILMMAGIC

THEY SAID WHAT?
THE STARS' BEST QUOTES

❝ "Apparently the prop knife went missing and they replaced it with a real butcher knife stolen from the kitchen." – Kesha, who claimed on X that she unknowingly performed with a real knife at Chicago's Lollapalooza music festival Thursday. The singer, who waved the knife around and made stabbing motions, said she was unaware until after her set, "so watch that again," she urged fans.

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY

Leslie Odom Jr. is 43. **Vera Farmiga** is 51. **Michelle Yeoh** is 62.

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Aries (March 21-April 19). Examine your impulse to call someone out. What are you trying to prove?

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Distracting vices? You seek to forget your troubles, by any means necessary.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Forcing your will? There's a fine line between being assertive and being aggressive.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Zero patience? Everyone is talking at you. You couldn't care less about their drama!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Are you steering the ship, or attempting a mutiny? Your leadership skills are tested.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Venting your frustrations? Be aware of the optics. People are paying attention.

Libra (Sept.23-Oct. 23). To get involved, or take some distance? Passion inspires bold, but potentially inappropriate action.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Either friends get too close for comfort, or you're the one seeking denied intimacy.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Checking out the competition? Your cover is blown. Avoid going into attack mode.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Mind elsewhere? You're preoccupied with exciting new opportunities. Work can suffer because of distraction.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This gamble could end in grief. Why chance it today, when the stakes are high?

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Short temper? The moon's clash with Mars stirs up conflict with loved ones. Remember that you're on the same team!

STREAMING NEWS & VIEWS

Clinton Liberty is Addam of Hull, Harry Collett is Jace, Emma D'Arcy is Rhaenyra, Bethany Antonia is Baela, Kieran Bew is Hugh and Tom Bennett is Ulf in "House of the Dragon." PHOTOS PROVIDED BY HBO

'House of the Dragon' finale had such potential

Kelly Lawler
Columnist
USA TODAY

Spoiler alert! The following contains details from the Season 2 finale of "House of the Dragon."

That was it?

No battles. No deaths. Just a whole lot of talking, hedging, visions, meaningful glances and (of all things) mud wrestling.

That's what fans have to contend with in the finale of HBO's "House of the Dragon," (now streaming on Max), which wrapped up an uneven but often rousing second season of the "Game of Thrones" prequel series.

This year, the characters fighting for the Iron Throne of Westeros spent a lot of time puttering around, but also delivered a really good dragon fight and even a surprising death.

But if fans expected the current war to reach a crescendo in the eighth and final episode, they would have been

Daemon (Matt Smith) finally comes back to Rhaenyra in "House of the Dragon."

The episode seemed more like a penultimate installment than a big finale, ending on a "to be continued" note.

BOOK REVIEW

Take a tasty vacation with 'The Pairing'

Clare Mulroy
USA TODAY

Is it possible to taste a book?

That's what I asked myself repeatedly while drooling over the vivid food and wine imagery in "The Pairing," the latest romance from "Red, White & Royal Blue" author Casey McQuiston out today. (St. Martin's Griffin, 407 pp., ★★★★).

"The Pairing" opens with a run-in of two exes at the first stop of a European tasting tour. Theo and Kit have gone from childhood best friends to crushes to lovers to strangers. When they were together, they saved up for the special trip. But after a relationship-ending fight on the plane, the pair are left with broken hearts, blocked numbers and a voucher expiring in 48 months. Now, four years later, they've fortuitously decided to cash in their trips at the exact same time.

They could ignore each other – enjoy the trip blissfully and unbothered. Or they could use this as an excuse to see who wins the breakup once and for all. And that's exactly what the ever-competitive Theo does after learning of Kit's new reputation as "sex god" of his pastry school. The challenge? This
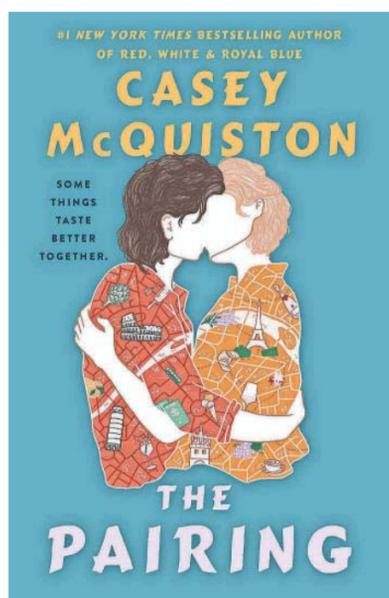
pair of exes will compete to see who can sleep with the most people on the three-week trip.

"A little sex wager between friends" – what could go wrong?

"The Pairing" is a rich, lush and in-

dulgent bisexual love story. This enemies-to-lovers tale is "Call Me By Your Name" meets "No Strings Attached" in a queer, European free-for-all. Reading it is like going on vacation yourself – McQuiston invites you to sit back and bathe in it, to lap up all the art and culture and food alongside the characters.

There are a fair amount of well-loved rom-com tropes that risk overuse (Swimming? Too bad we both forgot our bathing suits!) but in this forced proximity novel, they feel more natural than tired.

McQuiston's use of dual perspective is perhaps the book's greatest strength – just when you think you *really* know a character, you get to see them through new, distinct eyes. In the first half, we hear from Theo, a tough sommelier who is chronically hard on themself. The tone is youthful without being too contemporary (save the term "nepo baby," which is used several times). In the second half, the narration flips to Kit, a Rilke-reading French American pastry chef whom McQuiston describes as a "fairy prince."

McQuiston's novels have never shied from on-page sex, but "The Pairing"

MUSIC

Flavor Flav is resurrecting the hype man

Naledi Ushe
USA TODAY

What do Team USA and rappers have in common? They need a hype man, a person who champions the main talent through their vibrancy.

Flavor Flav, hype man extraordinaire, is doing what he does best at the 2024 Summer Olympics – bringing the utmost energy (and funding) to Team USA's women's water polo team to help them secure their fourth gold medal.

As Flav, who got his start as a founding member and hype man of Public Enemy, reminds us just how much a catalyst the support role can be to success, he's also a reminder there are fewer and fewer of his kind in hip-hop.

"This is definitely becoming a dying art," says rapper Blxst, who released "I'll Always Come Find You" on July 19.

On his latest project, he channeled his "childhood and all the things that made me fall in love with music in the first place." That included employing Grammy-winning hype man Fatman Scoop for "Too Many Friday Nights."

"I just needed a nostalgic moment," he says of getting the legendary entertainer on his project.

What is a hype man?

Millennial, Gen Z and Gen Alpha artists have had a sharp decline in using one of hip-hop's biggest gems during live performances – an art Flavor Flav perfected under Chuck D.

"Flavor Flav basically defined what a hype man is in Public Enemy's first album 'Yo! Bum Rush The Show.' You had this guy who was basically doing all of these wild, crazy antics, but it would balance out the radical message coming from Chuck D," hip-hop historian and "Microphone Check" documentarian Tariq Nasheed says.

As a hype man, the job is simple: Use your talents to generate buzz from the crowd and direct their attention to the star. Over the years, it has taken shape in different ways, from being the person to emphasize lines to dancing alongside the main act.

"Mainly you want your hype man to have some microphones skills, which means they probably know how to rap too, but they just decided to take that role on of being the extra energy for the crowd," says Too $hort.

Why has the hype man all but disappeared from hip-hop?

Chuck D. had Flavor Flav. MC Hammer had 2 Bigg MC. Busta Rhymes has Spliff Star. Jaz-O and Big Daddy Q had Jay-Z. 50 Cent has Tony Yayo. Nicki Minaj had her ex-boyfriend Safaree. Tech N9ne had Kendrick Lamar. Lamar had ScHoolboy Q.

The once-lauded position has dwindled largely because of performances becoming more reliant on DJ tracks than live vocals and the music industry only investing to make the "star" artist, experts say.

"If your guy is the hype man then obviously you're Batman, he's Robin. In today's hip-hop culture, nobody wants to be the entourage. Everybody wants to be the main guy," Too $hort, who once utilized dancing hype man Too Clean, says.

The "Blow the Whistle" rapper, 58, adds, "(With) social media, everything's instant gratification. Some people don't even wanna put in the work. ... I think being the sidekick in 2024 is not too honorable, but some people know how to play that part. It's a good job."

How important are hype men?

The changing landscape of live performances and social media stardom has fed into the culture of a one-man band, but rap's devoted fans long for the hype man.

"Hip-hop has changed so much in 50 years. The advent of social media and also the influx of people trying to make hip-hop and rap stars. ... People might not view the hype man as the star or the person that is important," says Nadirah Simmons, author and founder of The Gumbo, a platform for Black women who love hip-hop.

Simmons, 29, recalls seeing Busta and Spliff in Brooklyn last year, calling it "the best experience ever" because of the "clarity" and "tone" both the artists had. "Oftentimes when we talk about our rappers from the '90s ... we don't need any backing vocals."

The author says having a hype man onstage helps makes ticketholders feel like participants in the show. "The art of performing is something that has been lost and that's why we love seeing our legacy rappers," she says.

"The hype man was really created for the live show," Nasheed, 50, adds. "It's important to have that energy on stage, because sometimes a rapper, when you're performing, especially you're doing an hour show, your voice is going to go out. Sometimes your energy runs out and you need somebody there pumping you up and pumping the audience up."

Are hype men a thing of the past?

There are several theories as to why the hype man has left the group chat. The biggest being that "clarity and music is is not really a thing, especially in hip-hop with the young generation," says Blxst, 31.

"I don't even think the the art of using your live vocals is as popular as it used to be," he adds. "I use a background singer more so in a hype man perspective. Her vocals are level with mine to where she catches some of my ad-libs."

Compounding onto the fact that live vocals are less popular among young rappers, Simmons says it's an industry-wide issue that stems from a lack of investment in artist development and supporting acts.

"When I wrote my book ('First Things First: Hip-Hop Ladies Who Changed the Game'), there is a chapter about MC Lyte (where) she talked about kind of the training that she got when it came to her voice and making sure she had the right tone and she had the right clarity and she was paced the right way," Simmons notes.

A hype man isn't necessary for every artist, but when the key star isn't carrying the whole performance there needs to be support. Vocal training is just as imperative for rap as it is for singers, Simmons and Too $hort argue.

The Oakland performer once rapped, "I must have super powers / Rap 225,000" in "Blow the Whistle."

"That 225,000 hours was like 20 years ago – it's about a half-million hours (now)," he says, adding that he's been able to continue being on stage in his twilight years because "longevity is literally working more than everybody else (and) working harder than everybody else."

Will there be a resurgence?

We may never have another hype man in the same way Flavor Flav, Fatman Scoop, Jay-Z and more interpreted the role, but rap fans doubt they'll be extinct in the next 50 years of hip-hop. If anything, they've evolved into new roles.

"The DJ is now the new hype man," Blxst says. "They run a track and they catch the energy for the crowd."

Others counter that the hype man has morphed into the hype crew.

"A lot of younger rappers, they have a whole stage full of hype men. ... They have whole crews now," says Nasheed. "Sometimes you go to a Coachella concert or rap concert and it's 10 guys in the back of the rapper and all of the guys have a mic and they're ad-libbing. ... Hip-hop is a very transformative culture and it adapts to certain environments and contemporary times."

Too $hort adds, "Young artists bring half the neighborhood with them. ... There's like 15 guys on stage and out of those 15 guys, five of them have microphones. The gang in that sense is the hype men."

The influx of nostalgia may be the thing that brings the traditional hype man back to the stage. Flava Flav's presence in Paris has shown that the role can be both supporting act and star.

"Everything is so cyclical. We see a lot of stuff returning and coming back," says Simmons. "I don't know if the hype man is going to go completely extinct."

Flavor Flav cheers during the women's preliminary round Group B match between Italy and the U.S. at the Paris Olympic Games. CLIVE ROSE/GETTY IMAGES

Dragon

sorely disappointed with what transpired – or rather, with what didn't.

The episode seemed more like a penultimate installment than a big finale, ending on a "to be continued" note on a par with some other disappointing finales this year, including FX's "The Bear" Season 3 and Netflix's "3 Body Problem." All the pieces are in place on the board, but no one wants to play yet.

The finale featured incremental developments in various plot threads and character arcs. Tyland Lannister (Jefferson Hall) gets the Free Cities on Aemond's (Ewan Mitchell) side to break Corlys' (Steve Toussaint) blockade of King's Landing. Daemon (Matt Smith) has a magic vision and finally comes back to Rhaenyra (Emma D'Arcy), with his army of river men.

Rhaenyra gets the bastard dragon riders ready for battle. Larys (Matthew Needham) convinces the injured Aegon (Tom Glynn-Carney) to flee Westeros and the wrath of the ambitious and unhinged Aemond. Otto Hightower (Rhys Ifans) is stuck in somebody's prison. Rhaena (Phoebe Campbell) finds the wild dragon. Alicent (Olivia Cooke) gives up on her sons and offers Rhaenyra the throne.

Ser Criston (Fabien Frankel) appears to throw in the towel, too.

Perhaps the biggest development is that Daemon abandons the idea of making a play for the Iron Throne himself, a reversal of where the story seemed to be heading this season for the bratty man-child. It would have been preferable for Daemon to achieve this massive development in more earned ways besides some *deus ex machina* visions about the white walkers. But at least he's back in Rhaenyra's fold, and now she has seven dragons, one land army, one navy and potentially an eighth wild dragon out in the Vale. She seems unstoppable, no? Yet there would be little point to continuing the show if she could win the

Ewan Mitchell is Aemond and Phia Saban is Helaena in "House of the Dragon." PROVIDED BY HBO

war in one fell swoop. Something has to give in Season 3.

Maybe that something is Helaena (Phia Saban), who has been predicting the future all season. She shows up in Daemon's Harrenhal visions and is called upon by her brother Aemond to ride her dragon into battle for Team Green. But she's a gentle soul who is adamantly against it.

We don't know which of the armies, dragons and navies will prove the strongest, as the episode ends with a montage of its main characters merely on the precipice of battle. It's certainly a stirring scene – did anyone else catch "The Rains of Castamere" playing as the Lannister force marched into battle? – but it leaves us wanting. There was so much potential this year! The midseason Rook's Rest scuffle was such a good battle scene. Would it have been so hard to give us just a bit more?

TV shows certainly can end seasons with cliffhangers in masterful ways; "Thrones" did it many times during its eight-year run.

But while the "Dragon" finale had worthy moments, its ending was frustrating, not tantalizing. It doesn't leave you wanting more; you're annoyed that you put in eight hours watching only to be delivered an anticlimax.

We'll have to wait quite a long time to find out if Season 3 delivers enough to make it all worthwhile.

Casey McQuiston's fourth romance novel, "The Pairing," is out today. PROVIDED BY SYLVIE ROSOKOFF

The Pairing

delights in it. This novel isn't afraid to ask for – and take – what it wants. Food and sex are where McQuiston spends their most lavish words, intertwining them through the novel, sometimes literally (cue the "Call Me By Your Name" peach scene).

But even the sex is about so much more than sex: "Sex is better when the person you're with really understands you, and understands how to look at you," Theo says during a poignant second-act scene.

The hypersexual bi character is a prominent, and harmful, trope in modern media. Many bi characters exist only to threaten the protagonist's jour-

ney or add an element of sexual deviance. But "The Pairing" lets bisexuals be promiscuous – in fact, it lets them be anything they want to be – without being reduced to a stereotype. Theo and Kit are complex and their fluidity informs their views on life, love, gender and sex.

You won't find a traditional coming-out story or a token queer character here. The sexual fluidity in "The Pairing" is unapologetic. It's joyful. What a delight it is to indulge in a gleefully easy, flirty summer fantasy where everyone is hot and queer and down for casual sex – an arena straight romances have gotten to play in for decades.

Just beware – "The Pairing" may have you looking up the cost of European food and wine tours. If we see a sudden spike in bookings for next summer, we'll know whom to thank.

USA TODAY CROSSWORD

EDITED Amanda Rafkin
BY Darby Ratliff

LEMON DROP

ACROSS
1 Honda Civic, for one
4 Fashion initials
7 Spot on a shirt, perhaps
12 A, in French
13 Sleeveless top
14 TYPE OF LIGHT 25-ACROSS
15 Cup's edge
16 Pirate's bounty
17 Awakens
18 Clown Face or Face With Tears of Joy, e.g.
20 Palindromic name
22 Past tense of "'tis"
23 Benedict Cumberbatch's character in "Good Omens"
24 The Guardians, on an MLB broadcast
25 The "A" of IPA
26 Extend, in a way
28 Wonka candy with a dweeby name
31 You might have a keen one for detail
32 Primary list of computer options
34 Word after "exit" or "straw"
37 Bits of matter
39 Ends' counterparts
40 Scheme that a villain might reveal
42 Cozy lodging
44 It wins against rock
45 Newspaper that published a crossword titled "Lemon Drop" on 8/6/24
49 Gets on top of
51 "The ___ Chinese Kitchen" (Plant-based cookbook)
53 Currency in Italy
56 Grassland
58 "Te ___" ("I love you")
59 Sound of biting into a hard-shell taco

61 Film spool
62 "That's a lot of details!"
63 Like some '90s audiobooks
64 Sing like Ella Fitzgerald
65 That woman
66 Trim, like a sheep
67 Attempt
68 "Scooby-Doo, Where ___ You!" (TV series)

DOWN
1 Heals
2 Bear, for one
3 TV controller
4 Basketball player Ming
5 Kiss
6 Lady Gaga's fans
7 ___-mo
8 Everyone, in French
9 Replied
10 "That's a great ___!"
11 Loch ___ monster
13 Like a cat that follows you from room to room
14 Dude
19 "Dirty Computer" artist
21 Midmorning time
25 "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" author Brashares
27 Blue-green shade
29 Fantasy RPG
30 Untrustworthy, for short
33 "I . . . don't believe you?"
34 Word before "rally" or "band"
35 Some sex cells
36 Place for ChapStick
38 Tease
41 Not con
43 Originality
46 Feature
47 Miss Marple creator Christie
48 Go on and on
50 Theater employee with a flashlight
52 French for "black"
54 Environmental prefix
55 Coffee containers
57 "The Midnight Club" actor Codd
60 Fruit that's part of the rose family
60 Tax expert (Abbr.)

© Andrews McMeel 8/6

Monday's Answer

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

8/5

Answers: Call 1-900-988-8300, 99 cents a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-320-4280.

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TXTPERT
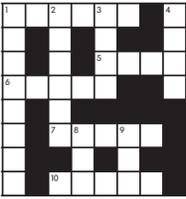
Across
1. 472669
5. 6262
6. 64323
7. 23678
10. 23858

Down
1. 47263766
2. 228352
3. 6263
4. 3327
8. 323
9. 725

Today's theme
Friends and family

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues. For example: 2 could be A, B or C ... and 5678 could be LOST

Yesterday's solution

S T U F F I N G
A | T | U
N | P O T A T O
D | A | P
W | S O U P | I
I | L | L
C R A C K E R S
H | H

8/5
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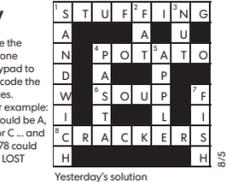
Numbers

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Feedback: feedback@usatoday.com

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).
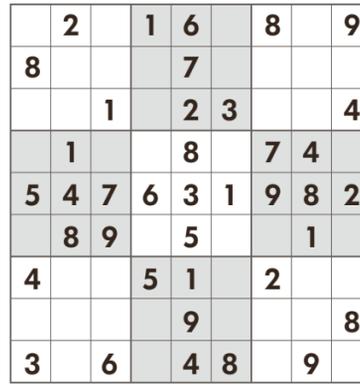
DIFFICULTY RATING ★★☆☆☆

8/6
SUDOKU FUSION ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com
© Andrews McMeel

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).
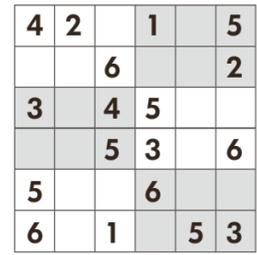
DIFFICULTY RATING ★★☆☆☆

Monday's Answers

8/5

KENKEN

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

2÷ 3— 18×
1 4 3 2
2 1 4 3
1— 5+ 3—
3 2 1 4
4 3 2 1
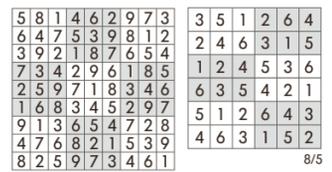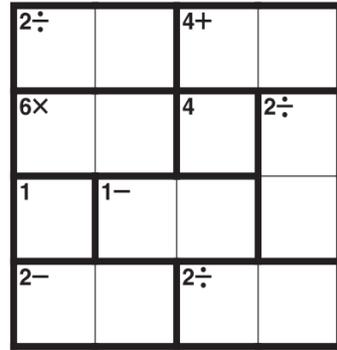
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1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 though 6 (challenging) without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

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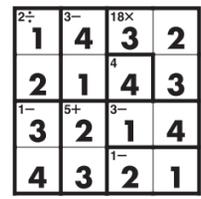
KUBOK 16

By Davide Coppo
Difficulty: EXPERT
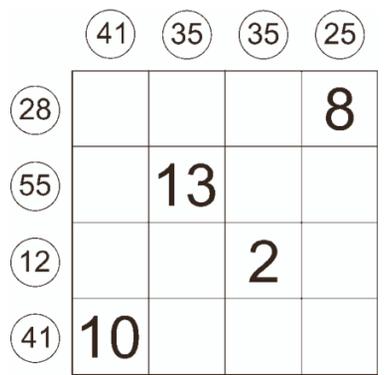
Solution to Monday's puzzle

3	2	13	8
16	6	10	9
14	11	12	7
4	5	15	1

Enter the missing numbers from 1 to 16 without repetitions so that the sum of the four numbers in each row and column is the same as the corresponding circled number.

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8/6/24

Words

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek
8/6

Find and Circle:
Four dairy products
Four five-letter boats
Four four-letter musical instruments
Three grains
Three five-letter countries

Monday's answer: TRIANGLE OCTAGON HEXAGON SQUARE OVAL / AFRICA EUROPE ASIA / HADDOCK HALIBUT HERRING / VENUS EARTH / JOHN DENVER

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

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QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes
8/6

Jane Austen book
Air-conditioner verb
Furnace verb
2022 film, "A Man Called ____"
Bounce back
Champagne brand
Castle's protective trench
Singing voice

Monday's Answer

H U L U
A C E R
S L A G
P A N E

8/5

QUICKCROSS ON YOUR PHONE
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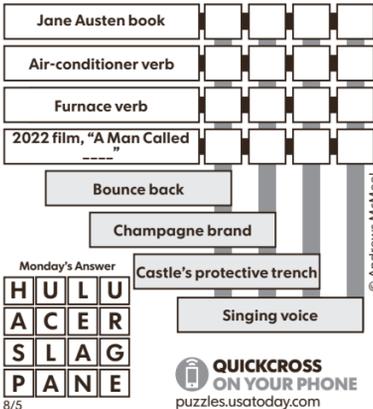
UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt
8/6

1. LUCILLE
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7. ELEVATOR
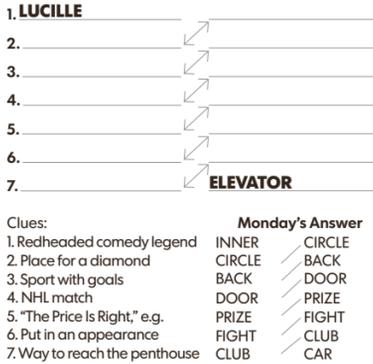
Clues:
1. Redheaded comedy legend
2. Place for a diamond
3. Sport with goals
4. NHL match
5. "The Price Is Right," e.g.
6. Put in an appearance
7. Way to reach the penthouse

Monday's Answer
INNER | CIRCLE
CIRCLE | BACK
BACK | DOOR
DOOR | PRIZE
PRIZE | FIGHT
FIGHT | CLUB
CLUB | CAR

PLAY ONLINE
PUZZLES.USATODAY.COM
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DON'T QUOTE ME®

Author James Baldwin talks about the role of the artist.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.

ARTIST ASK BUT NOT QUESTIONS TO YOU

" AN ___ IS ___ HERE ___ GIVE ___ ANSWERS ___ TO ___ YOU ___ "

8/6

Monday's Answer: "Retirement is wonderful. It's doing nothing without worrying about getting caught at it." - Gene Perret

© WIGGLES 3D GAMES

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES
1 "out of joint" (10)
2 awkward (6)
3 athletic attire (10)
4 annoyed (6)
5 emeralds and rubies (6)
6 a bit salty (8)
7 clueless (7)

SOLUTIONS

CK	CLU	DIS	RTS	AT
ED	ELS	MSY	AR	JEW
SPO	ISH	MIF	LOC	AW
UN	ARE	BRA	FED	WE

Monday's Answers: 1. RIGIDITY 2. ELUSIVELY 3. MOVING 4. CHALLENGES 5. PRACTICES 6. SKIPPER 7. BLUEY

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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PPEYP
AFDRU
TBTNUO
ZOCIRE

THE CAT THEY ADOPTED HAD TURNED INTO THE ---
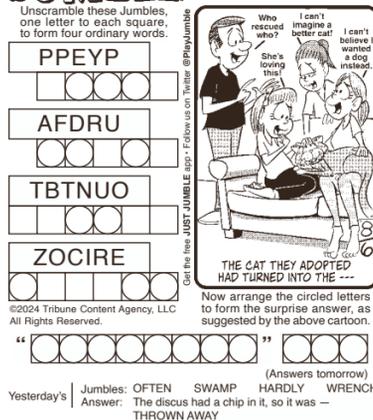
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OFTEN SWAMP HARDLY WRENCH
Answer: The discus had a chip in it, so it was — THROWN AWAY

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BONUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 "— Make a Deal"
5 Shot in billiards
10 Motorcycle
14 Tennis great Arthur —
15 Where gladiators fought
16 Wicked
17 Domestic help
18 Board's beveled edge
19 Prince in "Frozen"
20 Commerce
22 "— Is the New Black"
24 Bog
25 Lake
26 Sunflower State capital
29 Genuine (2 wds.)
33 Pure air
34 Symbol
35 Youngster
36 Where to shop
37 Unmovable
38 Offstage area
39 Work unit
40 Make a bet
41 "Will & —"
42 Parachutist
44 Got ready to fire
45 Reputation
46 Anon
47 Stimulating drink
50 Jellyfish tentacles
54 — and file
55 Dummy
56 Beach feast
58 — -de-camp
59 — Haute
60 Ohio's Great Lake
61 Willing
62 Arab VIP (var.)
63 "— I know it!"

DOWN
1 Gentle one
2 Son of Isaac and Rebekah
3 "— is the life!"
4 Silt
5 CCTV component
6 Develop
7 Soaks flax
8 "— if by land..."
9 Abandoned
10 Benefit
11 — the Terrible
12 Chess piece
13 If not
21 Sneaker brand
23 Horse of a certain color
25 Firestick
26 Big books
27 Arkansas range
28 "— and Bess"
29 Pugilist
30 Epic by Homer
31 Cotillion
32 Inched
34 Fierce feline
37 Pet
38 Argued
40 "Eyes — Shut"
41 Henchman
43 Withheld wages
44 Hang about
46 Cache
47 Vaunt
48 Means of travel
49 "A day late — — dollar short"
50 Your majesty
51 Money in Madrid
52 Precipitation
53 Fat
56 Certain party mem.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

R O L L | P E R | D O F F
A G I O | N A I V E | E M I R
N E O N | A L L E N | G I V E
G E N D A R M E | D A R T E D
O R C A | H E R E
B R A N T | G A R M E N T S
R A V E S | P U R E | A R E
O M A R | C R E E D | S C A N
O B I | L O S S | A C R I D
D O L E S O U T | F R E T S
F E U D | F R A U
B U F F E D | D O O R P O S T
O L E O | I N E P T | L A T E
O N E R | E R A S E | E T O N
M A L T | R A N | S H A D

8-6-24 © 2024 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel for UFS

Ballerina Farm, 'trad wives' restart the epidural debate

Alyssa Goldberg
USA TODAY

The internet has decided that Hannah Neeleman, better known as Ballerina Farm, is a trad wife through-and-through (even if she doesn't necessarily agree with the label herself).

She dropped out of Julliard to get married and live on a 328-acre farm with her husband and their eight children. She's a beauty queen, ballerina, mother and loving wife, and just went viral for a controversial profile of her family's lifestyle in The Times of London.

And while Neeleman has since spoken out against the highly criticized article, there was one detail that went overlooked.

Inside the descriptions of their daily lives together was a short paragraph on the home births of six of their eight children. Neeleman had seven unmedicated births – and one with an epidural.

"I was two weeks overdue ... and (husband) Daniel wasn't with me ... so I got an epidural. And it was an amazing experience," she told the interviewer. The piece noted her husband was out of the room when she divulged this detail and she shared it in a lowered voice.

Amid a global increase in birth-related fear and anxiety, health providers have seen a shift in the societal pressure to abstain from medicated births.

And while communities advocating for unmedicated births may believe they're empowering women, Dr. Noa Sterling, an OBGYN in San Diego, says they're "only empowering you if you fit their beliefs and have that type of birth." Experts say it all comes down to misinformation and outdated, toxic beliefs on womanhood and childbirth.

Who is 'Ballerina Farm' and what are 'trad wives'?

"Trad wives" are homemakers – women who live "traditional" lifestyles – but have more recently become equated with influencers and an idyllic, Instagram-worthy life. While some look at this aesthetic as idealizing a time where women had fewer rights and independence, many trad wives do not think their roles are degrading; for Neeleman, it's her choice.

Neeleman was under the spotlight this year for competing in the Mrs. World pageant two weeks after giving birth to her eighth child, and her latest profile in The Times has reignited the "trad wife" vs. modern feminism debate. And, it has brought up a much needed conversation on the pressures and stigma associated with medicated births.

What is an epidural?

An epidural is a small catheter that injects a pain-relieving medication – either an anesthetic or steroid – into the space around your spinal nerves, known as the epidural space. It usually is placed by a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) or an anesthesiologist, and decreases pain sensations from the belly button down to the toes.

"A good epidural gets rid of the majority of the pain, but you still feel something. Many people are still able to use a squat bar, move within the bed, and even change positions," says Heather Helton, a certified nurse midwife and health educator. A "bad" or dense epidural can leave patients unable to move, which can be challenging during labor.

But Helton emphasizes that in her 21 years of practice, none of her patients have experienced long-term health impacts from an epidural. It's a widely used pain management method in the U.S., with more than 70% of birthing individuals opting for it. Contrary to some beliefs, epidurals do not increase the risk of C-sections but can temporarily decrease maternal blood pressure and, in rare cases (approximately 1%), cause spinal headaches, according to Helton.

Unmedicated births often are put on a pedestal

There's a growing number of people who "place unmedicated, low or no intervention birth on the pedestal" and consider medication "a disruption of a natural process," according to Sterling.

Sterling says statements like "your body was built to do this" not only put down women who voluntarily opt for pain medication, but infer that if a person ends up *needing* a medical intervention, there is something fundamentally wrong with their body.

However, epidurals can play a crucial role in facilitating labor, particularly for individuals who experience pain that leads to tension and inhibits cervical dilation. "I've seen people avoid a C-section by getting an epidural," Helton says. When someone is tense from pain, their body can fight the contractions, preventing the cervix from dilating.

"If I see someone visually in pain, tensing up and fighting the contractions, we'll talk about different types of pain management, including an epidural," she adds.

"People have this idea that having an unmedicated birth is better and makes them more powerful and more motherly," Dr. La Toya Luces-Sampson, an OB-GYN and postpartum coach in California, says. "I've actually had a patient tell me, 'Oh my God, now I'm a woman,' when she had a vaginal birth after her C-section. It broke my heart. Like, you're always a woman. This does not define you."

These exclusionary beliefs ostracize women who cannot or choose not to experience childbirth, whether that be because of infertility, gender identity, sexual orientation or personal preferences.

'Any birth is natural'

Luces-Sampson challenges the terminology around childbirth, calling the term "natural birth" problematic. "That is where the problem starts, right when you start labeling things as natural versus unnatural," she says.

She also points out that unmedicated births do not offer significant health benefits beyond avoiding the risks associated with epidurals.

Families, partners and social media have an impact

Sterling, Helton and Luces-Sampson all have witnessed their patients be pressured by their partners or relatives out of using an epidural.

With differing opinions on how birth is supposed to go, Luces-Sampson says it is important to be careful about whom you let into your birthing space.

Sterling had one patient whose husband was against an epidural, and "kept chiming in," arguing that the "baby wouldn't come out right" if his partner got one. So, she had to spend time "educating him" during his partner's labor.

"When you're in labor and you're trying to listen to your health care providers and somebody else is in your ear telling you the opposite, that just puts someone in such a difficult position," she says.

Helton has seen partners or doulas talk the patient out of epidurals or try to decide on their behalf, and stresses the importance of informed decision-making and autonomy. "This is your birth," she says. "It's not my birth, your partner's birth, or your nurse's birth."

Studies analyzing the Instagram accounts of midwives found that their posts depicted a greater proportion of vaginal births, water births and home births than known national birth statistics, and therefore are not an accurate representation of the current state of midwifery care and labor. This is particularly influential as 89% of pregnant women turn to social media for advice during pregnancy, and consider their online communities to be part of their "social support network."

Education and autonomy is important

Educating patients about their options is crucial. Sterling emphasizes the need to respect and address the "very valid distrust" of health care providers held by some marginalized communities.

"We must meet our patients where they are, rather than expecting them to come to us," she explains.

Helton, Luces-Sampson, and Sterling all believe that epidurals, like any medical tool, should be considered as an option in the context of individual needs, desires and circumstances.

"It's not like traditionally women chose not to (have an epidural), it just wasn't an option," Sterling says. "An epidural is just a tool. And the 'natural' thing for human beings to do is to use tools."

The killer 'Trap' ending sets a trap for a potential sequel

Brian Truitt
USA TODAY

Spoiler alert! We're discussing important plot points and the ending of "Trap" (in theaters now), so beware if you haven't seen it yet.

Father of the year? Hardly. Josh Hartnett's serial killer in "Trap" might be a loving dad, but whether you're a family member or a pop star, he'll complicate your life.

In director M. Night Shyamalan's new Hitchcockian thriller, mild-mannered Cooper (Hartnett) takes teen daughter Riley (Ariel Donoghue) to see her favorite pop singer, Lady Raven (Shyamalan's daughter Saleka), because she got good grades. Unbeknownst to his kid, Cooper is a serial killer known as "The Butcher," who keeps tabs on his latest chained-up victim via phone app. He figures out that the concert is itself a trap set to catch him, so he spends the whole show checking on his daughter while avoiding the authorities.

Ultimately, they get backstage and Cooper uses Lady Raven as their getaway out of the venue and back to his home, though the singer fights back in her own way against the killer.

Let's dig into the ending of "Trap," a rare Shyamalan post-credits scene and the director's thoughts on a sequel:

What happens in the ending of M. Night Shyamalan's 'Trap'?

When she winds up in The Butcher's home, Lady Raven comes in, makes nice by meeting his wife Rachel (Alison Pill) and volunteers to play a song on their piano, delighting Riley. But really it's a ploy for the singer to steal Cooper's phone. She locks herself in the bathroom, calls the cops and uses her massive social-media presence to crowdsource saving The Butcher's victim.

Enraged, Cooper takes Lady Raven hostage, which leaves his wife and child reeling as the police arrive, but his plan is foiled and she escapes. He tries to go back home, where he's poisoned by his wife (who has figured out her spouse is a not-nice guy) and is put through the psychological ringer by an FBI profiler (Hayley Mills) who has been pursuing him.

Cooper says goodbye to his daughter before he's placed in a police transport, but when the cops aren't looking, he slyly takes a metal spoke off the girl's bicycle in the front yard. And in the vehicle, the killer uses it to free himself from his handcuffs, giving the camera an unsettling grin as the movie ends.

Does 'Trap' have a post-credits scene?

Shyamalan doesn't often use mid-credits scenes but he does here for a comedic touch. Early in the film, Cooper makes friends with a merch vendor named Jamie (Jonathan Langdon) to get the scoop on why there's an FBI and police presence at the arena, and Jamie's the one who tells him that they're there to catch The Butcher.

The extra scene catches up with Jamie at home, watching the news about Cooper's capture and seeing a familiar face on screen. "That's Cooper! I helped him!" a worried Jamie says. "I ain't talking to nobody at work no more."

Is there going to be a 'Trap' sequel?

The "Trap" director has very rarely done follow-ups to his movies: The lone exception has been "Glass," a sequel to both "Unbreakable" and "Split." Yet multiple characters would make sense for a sequel. The film teases that Cooper is on the loose again, Lady Raven could return in some other tale, and most Shyamalan fans would totally watch an FBI profiler show starring Mills.

He doesn't shoot down the idea of a next chapter, especially for his "Trap" antagonist. "I had such joy making this movie," the filmmaker says. "I haven't really felt this (before): When I finished this movie, I missed all of these characters so much. It was so sad that I wasn't going to see these colors again. I don't know if Cooper is like my Tom Ripley," referring to crime novelist's Patricia Highsmith's literary killer, "(but) his world view, I find kind of titillating and delicious."

NATION&WORLD EXTRA

DEBBY CHURNS TOWARD GA.

At least 6 dead as storm slams Florida's Gulf Coast

Maria Alejandra Cardona REUTERS

STEINHATCHEE, Fla. – Tropical Storm Debby drenched northern Florida on Monday and killed at least six people as the downgraded hurricane churned toward Georgia and the Carolinas, threatening a week of torrential downpours and flooding across the region.

The slow-moving storm plowed into Florida's Gulf Coast around 7 a.m. on Monday morning as a Category 1 hurricane, making landfall near Steinhatchee about 70 miles southeast of Tallahassee, the National Hurricane Center said.

The storm carried hurricane-force winds of up to 80 mph when it struck in the Big Bend region – where the state's Panhandle meets its main north-south Peninsula – but speeds ebbed as Debby pushed over land.

Trees felled in the storm killed a 12-year-old girl and a 13-year-old boy in Levy County, officials and law enforcement said.

Others killed in the storm included a truck driver who lost control of an 18-wheeler on Interstate 75 and went into the Tampa Bypass Canal, and a 38-year-old woman and her 12-year-old son whose SUV crashed in Dixie County north of Tampa in stormy weather, according to law enforcement.

Roughly 240,000 customers were without power

A Florida National Guard vehicle drives through a street that was flooded by the rain and storm surge from Hurricane Debby on Monday in Cedar Key, Fla. The storm brought torrential rainfall and high winds along Florida's Big Bend area. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

AT TOP: The pier in Tybee Island, Ga., is seen Monday as Debby moves toward Georgia. Officials in Georgia and South Carolina were bracing for flooding from the storm. MARCO BELLO/REUTERS

Selloff has some parallels in history

Analysts observe echoes of past market crises

Amanda Cooper
REUTERS

LONDON – Global markets have kicked off the week in full selloff mode, with measures of volatility shooting up by the most on record in a single day, while equity futures and cryptocurrencies plummet, reviving memories of past crises.

There is no lone trigger for these moves, but data on Friday that showed the U.S. economy did not generate as many jobs as expected in July has been a major catalyst.

A rise in Japanese interest rates on July 31 has made bets on a cheap yen – many of which funded purchases of assets with better returns - less profitable. The unwinding of these trades has accelerated the decline across global stocks.

Tokyo's Nikkei index finished Monday with a 12% loss, the largest one-day drop since the aftermath of "Black Monday" in October 1987, when a stock market crash stripped nearly 15% off this index and 20% off the S&P 500.

The excess volatility and the brutal nature of the selloff have prompted a number of comparisons with past market storms, including the 1987 Black Monday stock market crash, the global financial crisis of 2008, and the panic that the onset of COVID-19 lockdowns unleashed in 2020.

A volatile situation

The VIX index, which reflects changes in implied volatility on options on the S&P, is starting to signal distress. The index has shot up by 170% since Friday, set for its biggest one-day rise on record, after February 2018's 115% gain on the back of spiking bond rates and the threat of a surge in inflation.

The measure, often referred to as

People walk by the New York Stock Exchange on Monday. Wall Street stocks deepened their losses Monday as panic spread across trading floors over fears of recession in the U.S. CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Walz, Shapiro said to be finalists for Harris VP spot

Rally with running mate to kick off 6-city swing

Nandita Bose and Andrea Shalal
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris has narrowed her search for a vice presidential running mate to two finalists, Govs. Tim Walz of Minnesota and Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania, three sources with knowledge of the matter said.

Harris, the U.S. vice president, is expected to announce her selection by Tuesday, ahead of her first scheduled public appearance with her running mate that evening at Temple University in Philadelphia.

In a message to supporters late on Monday, Harris said she had yet to make her decision.

"I know many of you are eager to find out who I will be selecting to join me on the campaign trail, and hopefully in the White House, as my Vice President," she wrote.

"Though I have not made my decision yet, it is important to me that grassroots supporters – like you – have direct updates about the state of the race," she said, offering voters a chance to sign up on a link to get news of the announcement first.

The choice of a running mate is one of the most consequential decisions of Harris' political career, as she hastily pulls together a campaign to challenge Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and U.S. Sen. JD Vance, his vice presidential pick, in the Nov. 5 election. Vance will also make a campaign stop in South Philadelphia on Tuesday.

Shapiro, 51, is a rising star of the party with strong approval ratings in Pennsylvania, whose 19 electoral votes makes it a must-win state for both Harris and Trump.

A former state attorney general, Shapiro would add to the ticket's historical significance; he would be the country's first Jewish vice president, while Harris is seeking to become the first Black and South Asian American woman elected U.S. president.

Shapiro's strong support for Israel could alienate some progressive voters, though it could also appeal to moderate voters and defang Republican efforts to turn the Israel-Gaza war into a wedge issue for Democrats.

Walz, 60, is a former U.S. Army National Guard member and a former
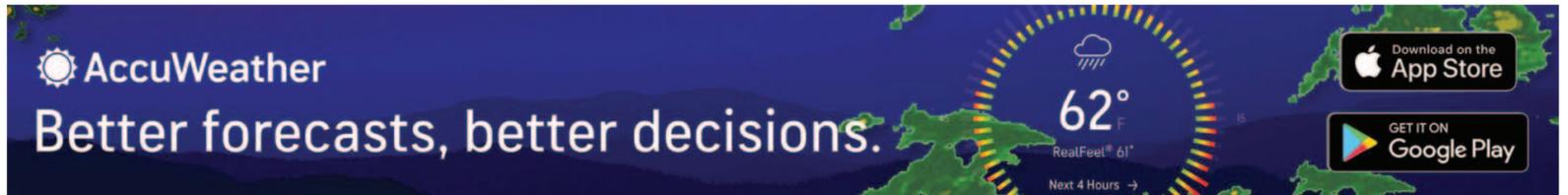
NATIONAL SUMMARY

As Debby continues to spin over the Southeast today, flooding rain, storm surge and strong winds will affect locations from northern Florida into the Carolinas. Elsewhere, thunderstorms can become severe from Ohio to the mid-Atlantic coast, with broad coverage of spotty thunderstorms expected from Montana to Arizona.

In the digital e-edition, you can click anywhere on the US map to get up-to-date forecasts, radar, MinuteCast® and more.

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation for Tuesday. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

Seattle 76/58
Winnipeg 78/61
Montreal 74/58
Billings 94/61
Toronto 69/58
Detroit 71/59
New York 84/67
Minneapolis 76/60
San Francisco 72/54
Chicago 74/64
Washington 96/76
Denver 94/68
Kansas City 82/63
Los Angeles 95/67
Atlanta 91/74
Fairbanks 82/58
El Paso 99/78
DEBBY
Anchorage 64/58
Houston 98/77
Juneau 77/54
Chihuahua 93/72
Honolulu 89/74
Monterrey 96/71
Miami 90/79
Hilo 86/70

Temperature scale: -10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110s
Showers T-storms Rain Flurries Snow Ice Cold front Warm front Stationary front

MONDAY EXTREMES

NATIONAL (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 113 at Needles, CA
Low: 40 at Sandpoint, ID
Precip: 7.47" at Lake City, FL

INTERNATIONAL (excludes Antarctica)
High: 120 at Adrar, Algeria
Low: 20 at Thredbo, Australia
Precip: 7.47" at Lake City, USA

TODAY IN HISTORY

A barrage of hail on Aug. 6, 1979, shelled the Crane Ammunition Depot, 20 miles southwest of Bloomington, Ind. The hailstones were 2 inches in diameter.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: What is the Saffir-Simpson scale?

A: A scale from 1 to 5 that rates the damage potential of a hurricane

NATIONAL CITIES TUESDAY

● Denotes possible travel delays

City	High/low/W	Air Quality
Aberdeen, SD	77/61/pc	34
Abilene, TX	104/77/s	79
Accomac, VA	85/71/pc	49
Adrian, MI	74/58/t	33
Akron, OH	82/62/t	50
Alamogordo, NM	99/70/s	58
● Alexandria, VA	96/75/t	70
Alliance, OH	84/61/t	49
Amarillo, TX	102/70/s	71
Ames, IA	73/56/c	52
Anderson, SC	87/74/pc	31
Appleton, WI	73/55/c	31
Asheville, NC	84/68/s	36
Ashland, OH	84/61/t	45
Athens, GA	86/71/pc	30
● Augusta, GA	78/73/r	20
Austin, TX	100/75/s	69
Bartlesville, OK	102/66/s	77
Battle Creek, MI	71/59/r	30
Bedford, IN	93/68/s	70
● Binghamton, NY	71/57/t	34
● Bluffton, SC	80/74/r	21
Bremerton, WA	78/55/pc	33
● Brockton, MA	76/62/c	51
Brownwood, TX	102/72/s	77
Burlington, IA	78/60/pc	52
Burlington, NC	84/73/sh	28
Burlington, VT	74/57/c	34
● Cambridge, OH	91/67/t	60
Camdenton, MO	92/63/s	68
● Canandaigua, NY	71/58/r	49
Canton, OH	85/62/t	49
Carlsbad, NM	98/72/s	71
Chambersburg, PA	94/68/t	68
● Cherry Hill, NJ	94/72/t	73
Cincinnati, OH	94/69/s	79
Clarksville, TN	95/74/s	67
Coldwater, MI	74/58/t	38
● Columbus, OH	92/68/t	56
● Corning, NY	76/59/t	48
Corpus Christi, TX	97/77/s	70
Daytona Beach, FL	87/78/t	25
Deming, NM	97/71/s	68
DeRidder, LA	99/75/s	66
Des Moines, IA	73/60/pc	60
Detroit, MI	71/59/r	30
● Devils Lake, ND	74/60/s	27
Dover, NH	73/60/c	43
El Paso, TX	99/78/s	78
● Elmira, NY	77/60/t	41
Erie, PA	76/62/t	42
Eugene, OR	87/52/s	28
Evansville, IN	94/71/s	70
● Fall River, MA	78/63/c	50
● Farmington, NM	96/65/t	71
● Fayetteville, NC	80/74/r	30
Fond du Lac, WI	72/56/c	25
Fort Myers, FL	90/81/t	28
Fort Smith, AR	102/75/s	68
● Framingham, MA	75/61/c	46
Freeport, IL	70/55/t	39
Fremont, OH	80/67/t	39
Fort Collins, CO	94/64/t	91
Gadsden, AL	93/69/s	39
Gainesville, FL	85/76/r	31
Galesburg, IL	81/59/c	49
Gastonia, NC	82/73/c	32
Glen Rose, TX	101/73/s	80
Gonzales, LA	99/78/s	42
Great Falls, MT	79/55/t	36
Green Bay, WI	74/55/pc	29
Greenville, SC	84/72/pc	31
● Hackensack, NJ	87/67/t	77
● Hagerstown, MD	95/69/t	65
Hattiesburg, MS	100/74/s	45
Henderson, KY	95/71/s	67
Hendersonville, NC	82/67/pc	33
Herkimer, NY	75/57/c	31
Hillsdale, MI	72/57/t	37
Holland, MI	71/57/c	30
Hornell, NY	73/56/t	43
Houma, LA	97/77/s	52
Howell, MI	68/56/r	28
Hutchinson, KS	95/66/s	69
● Hyannis, MA	77/64/sh	50
Indianapolis, IN	93/66/s	62
Iowa City, IA	73/58/pc	47
Ithaca, NY	73/57/t	37
Jackson, MS	99/72/s	49
Jackson, TN	96/74/s	68
● Jacksonville, FL	80/76/r	22
● Jacksonville, NC	81/75/r	45
Kent, OH	82/59/t	47
Kewanee, IL	79/60/c	48
● Keyser, WV	97/69/t	68
● Kinston, NC	82/75/r	39
Knoxville, TN	92/71/s	50
Lafayette, IN	90/62/pc	57
Lafayette, LA	99/79/s	57
Lakeland, FL	91/79/t	24
Lansing, MI	67/56/t	29
Las Cruces, NM	97/71/s	73
● Lebanon, PA	92/68/t	63
Leesburg, FL	87/79/t	30
● Levittown, PA	89/71/t	76
Lincoln, IL	88/65/s	50
Louisville, KY	96/75/s	91
Lubbock, TX	101/70/s	68
Manitowoc, WI	71/59/c	25
● Mansfield, OH	84/64/t	47
Marshall, NC	86/64/s	45
Marshfield, WI	75/51/s	32
● Massillon, OH	86/62/t	47
McLean, VA	96/74/t	66
Melbourne, FL	91/79/t	27
Memphis, TN	97/75/pc	71
● Middletown, NY	80/62/t	52
Milford, MA	74/61/c	44
● Milwaukee, WI	69/64/c	25
Monroe, MI	74/60/t	31
Monroe, LA	101/73/s	58
Montgomery, AL	97/72/s	38
Muncie, IN	91/63/t	62
Murfreesboro, TN	95/69/s	59
Naples, FL	88/82/t	26
Nashville, TN	98/74/s	63
● Neptune, NJ	86/71/t	74
New Bedford, MA	79/63/sh	48
● New Bern, NC	81/75/t	44
New Philadelphia, OH	87/62/t	51
● Newark, OH	90/65/t	57
● Newton, NJ	85/65/t	60
New York, NY	84/67/t	76
Norwich, CT	78/63/r	54
Ocala, FL	87/78/t	32
Oklahoma City, OK	101/71/s	76
Opelousas, LA	97/76/s	56
Oshkosh, WI	73/58/c	31
● Palm Beach, FL	91/80/t	30
Palm Springs, CA	116/87/s	78
Panama City, FL	98/79/t	43
Pekin, IL	87/65/c	47
Pensacola, FL	100/78/s	39
Peoria, IL	86/65/c	48
Petersburg, VA	88/73/pc	33
● Phoenix, AZ	110/87/t	88
Port Huron, MI	67/57/r	25
Portsmouth, NH	71/62/c	39
● Poughkeepsie, NY	80/63/t	59
Providence, RI	76/61/c	52
Pueblo, CO	94/66/t	69
Quincy, MA	73/63/c	46
Redding, CA	105/73/s	54
Reno, NV	100/67/s	65
Ravenna, OH	82/59/t	47
Richmond, IN	93/65/t	67
Rochester, NY	71/58/sh	39
Rockford, IL	71/58/t	42
Ruidoso, NM	86/58/s	61
Salem, OR	86/56/s	36
Salina, KS	92/65/s	65
Salinas, CA	77/55/pc	63
● Salisbury, MD	89/73/pc	63
San Angelo, TX	102/73/s	68
● Sarasota, FL	90/82/t	28
Savannah, GA	80/74/r	22
Sheboygan, WI	73/63/pc	23
Shelby, NC	83/70/pc	28
Sherman, TX	102/75/s	74
Shreveport, LA	101/74/s	63
Silver City, NM	93/67/s	67
Sioux Falls, SD	75/59/c	39
● Somerset, PA	89/65/t	64
● Somerville, NJ	88/69/t	74
South Bend, IN	82/59/pc	49
Spartanburg, SC	82/72/s	28
Springfield, IL	90/64/s	45
Springfield, MO	97/64/s	78
● St. Augustine, FL	83/76/r	19
St. Cloud, MN	76/54/s	21
St. George, UT	107/79/pc	60
Staunton, VA	93/68/s	66
Stevens Point, WI	75/50/s	31
Stockton, CA	104/66/s	83
● Stroudsburg, PA	87/64/t	65
Stuart, FL	90/78/t	33
Sturgis, MI	75/58/t	44
Tallahassee, FL	94/75/t	37
Thibodaux, LA	98/77/s	44
Topeka, KS	86/63/s	74
Tuscaloosa, AL	97/72/s	46
Utica, NY	73/56/c	30
Ventura, CA	73/60/pc	61
Victorville, CA	106/72/s	89
● Vineland, NJ	93/71/t	71
Visalia, CA	106/69/s	83
● Washington, DC	96/76/t	75
Watertown, SD	73/58/pc	34
Wausau, WI	75/50/pc	29
Waynesboro, PA	95/69/t	69
● White Plains, NY	81/66/t	72
Wichita Falls, TX	105/75/s	80
● Wilmington, DE	92/72/t	70
● Wilmington, NC	80/74/r	49
Wisconsin Rapids, WI	76/50/pc	32
● Wooster, OH	83/62/t	48
● Worcester, MA	71/59/c	49
● York, PA	94/70/t	71

Air Quality Index: 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-150, Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200, Unhealthy; 201-300, Very unhealthy; 301-500, Hazardous

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Tuesday High/low/W	Wednesday High/low/W
Acapulco	91/77/pc	91/77/pc
● Addis Ababa	66/56/r	70/56/r
Algiers	97/71/s	99/73/s
Amman	92/71/s	93/72/s
Amsterdam	81/64/c	72/62/s
Ankara	90/60/s	90/63/s
Asuncion	90/70/pc	74/56/t
Athens	91/76/s	92/77/s
Auckland	59/41/s	58/47/pc
Baghdad	113/86/pc	113/90/s
Bangkok	92/80/t	92/80/r
Beijing	92/75/t	87/72/t
Beirut	89/78/s	89/79/s
Belgrade	84/61/s	88/65/s
Berlin	79/59/pc	86/65/pc
Bogota	67/49/sh	67/46/sh
Brussels	83/62/pc	75/59/pc
Bucharest	79/59/t	87/63/s
Budapest	82/58/s	87/60/s
Buenos Aires	63/48/c	59/43/s
● Cairo	97/79/s	98/79/s
Cape Town	65/47/pc	64/51/pc
Caracas	90/76/t	92/76/t
Casablanca	88/66/s	88/68/s
● Colombo	88/82/t	88/82/t
Copenhagen	74/62/s	76/62/pc
Damascus	101/67/s	103/69/s
Dublin	66/54/pc	66/54/pc
Geneva	89/63/s	86/63/t
Guatemala City	81/63/t	80/62/pc
Hanoi	94/80/t	96/81/t
Harare	83/50/s	80/50/s
Havana	91/74/c	90/73/sh
Helsinki	72/62/pc	71/63/pc
Hong Kong	93/85/t	92/84/t
Jakarta	92/75/s	92/75/pc
Jerusalem	88/66/s	89/68/s
Johannesburg	67/47/s	69/51/s
Kabul	94/61/s	93/64/s
Khartoum	89/74/t	89/76/t
Kyiv	79/62/t	78/62/pc
Kingston	94/81/pc	93/81/t
La Paz	56/30/s	56/26/s
Lagos	84/75/r	85/76/sh
● Lima	66/59/pc	64/58/pc
● Lisbon	84/65/s	83/63/s
London	74/56/sh	71/56/pc
Madrid	103/69/s	103/70/s
Manila	88/79/t	90/79/t
Mexico City	75/58/sh	74/55/sh
● Milan	93/72/pc	87/70/t
Mombasa	86/73/s	81/72/r
● Montevideo	65/51/t	58/43/c
Montreal	74/58/pc	76/57/pc
Moscow	73/60/t	74/58/t
Nairobi	80/55/s	78/58/pc
● New Delhi	93/81/t	87/80/t
Panama City	85/76/t	84/77/t
Paris	85/63/s	79/58/pc
Port-au-Prince	98/74/t	96/76/t
Rio de Janeiro	82/70/s	84/72/s
Riyadh	109/86/pc	110/86/pc
Rome	90/72/s	91/72/s
San Jose	83/67/r	77/67/t
● San Salvador	91/70/t	88/70/t
Santiago	52/35/pc	53/30/pc
Sao Paulo	85/64/s	85/65/s
Sarajevo	84/56/pc	92/60/s
Shanghai	102/84/pc	102/84/t
Singapore	90/79/sh	89/81/sh
Stockholm	75/56/pc	73/58/c
Sydney	64/45/pc	65/44/s
Taipei	96/79/t	94/80/t
● Tegucigalpa	86/70/t	86/65/t
Tehran	106/89/s	108/90/s
● Tokyo	92/79/pc	89/78/t
Toronto	69/58/c	78/62/s
Tunis	93/73/s	94/74/s
Vancouver	72/59/s	77/61/s
Vienna	80/57/s	87/68/s
Warsaw	75/59/sh	80/59/pc
● Yerevan	92/70/s	93/67/s
Zagreb	81/61/s	88/66/pc
Zurich	85/61/s	80/60/t

● Denotes possible travel delays Tuesday

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

GLOBAL POST
NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

GREECE

Bucking a trend

Greece recently adopted a six-day workweek to maintain its workforce as its population ages, but also to clamp down on tax evasion stemming from undeclared work.

Under the new law – which only applies to industries that operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the BBC explained – workers can't work more than eight hours on their sixth day and should receive 40 percent overtime. Employers can also offer employees six-day workweeks when they are on the clock for only 6.5 hours per day, or 40 hours per week.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, a pro-business conservative, said the new policy was "deeply growth-orientated," noted CNBC.

Someone earning $100 a day, or $500 a week, would therefore earn $640 under the law, added Al Jazeera. The news service also noted that the extra hours would make up for the more than 500,000 Greeks who have left the country since 2010 in search of better economic opportunities in the wake of the financial crisis that started in 2008.

Meanwhile, labor unions are complaining. Living costs in Greece are increasing while Greek workers have become more productive in recent years after struggling to reattain the productivity levels that were high until the 2008 financial crisis, reported National Public Radio. Now Mitsotakis wants workers to toil longer while many other developed countries have been experimenting with shorter workweeks. In other words, Greece is bucking a trend to push through policies that are more family-friendly, promote a work-life balance as well as increase productivity.

"It makes no sense whatsoever," civil servant union boss Akis Sotiropoulos told the Guardian. "When almost every other civilized country is enacting a four-day week, Greece decides to go the other way."

UNITED KINGDOM

Fanning the flames

British police arrested at least 240 people across the United Kingdom over the weekend as violent far-right-led demonstrations erupted in various cities, unrest fueled by misinformation about a deadly attack in the country's northwest in which three children were killed, the Washington Post reported.

Protests and counterprotests took place in towns and cities, including Liverpool, Sunderland and Belfast, which escalated into violence. Some demonstrators threw stones at police outside a mosque in Sunderland, while in Liverpool a community center for low-income individuals was set on fire.

The demonstrations began last week after three children were stabbed to death and several others injured when their dance class in the northwestern town of Southport was attacked, with a 17-year-old since arrested for the spree. Shortly after the attack, online misinformation claimed the alleged perpetrator was an illegal immigrant and a Muslim, prompting anti-immigration protests and violence across the country,

Shortly after the attack, online misinformation claimed that the alleged perpetrator was an illegal immigrant and a Muslim.

including outside the prime minister's office in London, according to Bloomberg.

Authorities later released the suspect's name as Axel Rudakubana, a UK-born citizen of Rwandan heritage. He has been charged with murder and attempted murder.

Even so, far-right and anti-immigrant groups have continued their protests, with some defenders of immigration saying the demonstrations underscore a broader hostility toward multiculturalism and anti-migrant sentiment.

Newly elected Labour Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has condemned the unrest, with Policing and Crime Minister Diana Johnson describing it as "criminal disorder."

Politicians also blamed social media platforms, such as X, for facilitating the spread of misinformation and relaxed content restrictions. Starmer warned social media firms they must enforce laws against incitement of violence, which in the UK apply to online content hosted by platforms.

DISCOVERIES

The lonely cycad tree

Plants, too, experience unrequited love.

A tree in South Africa, the Wood's cycad, has only had male specimens for at least 130 years. So far, the species has been preserved thanks to cloning.

Now, a group of scientists has embarked on a search for a female specimen to allow Wood's cycads to reproduce naturally. And because the job comes down to finding a needle in a haystack, they have turned to artificial intelligence.

Cycads are sometimes dubbed "living fossils," because they emerged 300 million years ago, therefore predating *and* outliving dinosaurs, wrote project leader and biologist Laura Cinti in the Conversation. But more famously, they're called "the most solitary organism in the world" by paleontologist Richard Fortney.

"I was very inspired by the story of the (Wood's cycad), it mirrors a classic tale of unrequited love," said Cinti.

Though they look like palm trees, cycads are not related to that species. This makes finding specimens in the wild a very arduous task – the only known wild cycad was found in 1895 in South Africa's Ngoye Forest before it was uprooted and propagated in the early 20th century.

That initiative ensured the survival of the species – it was among the most endangered on Earth. Nonetheless, "they remain in this permanent vegetative state. A male without a female, this is a potent story," Cinti told the London Times.

To find a female, Cinti and her team used thousands of aerial photographs of the Ngoye Forest taken in 2022 and 2024 and trained AI to tell apart cycads and palm trees.

Having only covered a meager percentage of the 10,000-acre forest, Cinti's team has not yet found a perfect candidate. But hope remains.

Weight-loss drugs face off at pharmacies

Availability may be the determining factor

Maggie Fick and Patrick Wingrove
REUTERS

NEW YORK – As Eli Lilly's weight-loss drug Zepbound gains ground in the U.S. against Novo Nordisk's Wegovy, some doctors say their guiding principle for writing prescriptions is simple: Which drug can my patients actually get at the pharmacy?

Lilly has quickly built a roughly 40% market share in the U.S. since it launched Zepbound in December, hitting 130,000 prescriptions for the week ending July 19, compared to 200,000 for Wegovy, according to IQVIA data published in analyst notes.

Data from separate clinical trials showed Zepbound leads to slightly higher weight loss on average than Wegovy, prompting some patients to seek the Lilly treatment. But both companies have been unable to produce enough of the medicines, taken weekly by injection, to meet unprecedented demand.

"The reality we live in right now is that we are beholden to these supply issues," said Dr. Eduardo Grunvald, an obesity medicine physician at University of California, San Diego.

Five U.S. doctors specializing in obesity told Reuters they prescribe whichever of the two drugs is more likely to be available at the time, even if that means a patient has to switch between them, to ensure continued treatment.

Investors will be focused on supply updates from Novo and Lilly when the two companies report quarterly results this week.

"While we will do our best to support those who want to start taking Wegovy, it is important to recognize that overall demand will continue to exceed supply and some patients may still have difficulty filling Wegovy prescriptions," Novo said in an update on its website.

Lilly's CEO last week said the shortage of its weight-loss drug would end "very soon." On Friday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration updated its website to say Zepbound was available but the agency did not remove the drug

A combination image shows an injection pen of Zepbound, Eli Lilly's weight loss drug, and boxes of Wegovy, made by Novo Nordisk. HOLLIE ADAMS/BRENDAN MCDERMID/REUTERS, FILE

from its shortage list. It said in a statement it was working with the company to confirm that supplies were stable.

Some analysts have forecast the market for new weight-loss drugs could reach $150 billion annually by the early 2030s.

Both companies have announced plans to spend billions of dollars to boost manufacturing by expanding factories, building or buying new ones and seeking more deals with contract drug manufacturers.

They are also launching the treatments in new countries, including Britain, Germany, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for Lilly, and Australia, Canada and Spain for Novo. But the U.S. market, where more than 70% of adults are obese or overweight, is the most lucrative by far.

50-50 split

"For both companies the real driver of results right now is a supply question rather than a demand one," said Nicholas Anderson, Managing Director at Thornburg Investment Management, a Novo Nordisk shareholder.

The lowest three out of five dose strengths of Wegovy are still in shortage, according to the FDA website.

Since the beginning of this year's second quarter, the Danish drugmaker has filled an average of nearly 170,000 U.S. Wegovy prescriptions per week. Indianapolis-based Lilly has filled an average of just under 100,000, according to weeks of IQVIA data reported by analysts.

Five analysts told Reuters the companies will likely split the U.S. market roughly 50-50 by the end of 2024, as Lilly increases its manufacturing capacity and continues to close the gap with Novo.

These analysts said the even split would continue until supply stopped being an issue, at which point greater demand for Zepbound could give Eli Lilly an edge.

The market landscape also would change if companies can introduce more effective or convenient versions of the drugs, such as a pill that works as well as injections, they said.

In the meantime, some patients have expressed a preference for Zepbound, having read online that it can be more effective, said Dr. Robert Kushner of Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago who received $35,300 in fees from Novo Nordisk and $2,500 from Eli Lilly in 2023, according to the Open Payments database on industry payments to doctors.

"That info is starting to get out," he said of potentially greater weight loss with Zepbound. "But when I talk to them and explain the supply constraints for both medicines, they quickly realize it depends on what they can get their hands on and that it won't be possible to shop around."

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Stocks skid on downturn worries

Apple falls as Berkshire cuts its stake by half

Caroline Valetkevitch
REUTERS

NEW YORK – U.S. stocks ended with steep losses on Monday, leaving the Nasdaq and S&P 500 down at least 3% each as the market extended last week's sell-off amid U.S. recession worries and as Apple shares fell sharply on news that a big investor had cut its stake.

All three major indexes registered their biggest three-day percentage declines since June 2022, and the Nasdaq and S&P 500 closed at their lowest levels since early May.

The recession fears shook global markets and drove investors out of risky assets following weak economic data last week, including Friday's soft U.S. payrolls report.

Investors worry that the economy is losing steam more rapidly than anticipated and that the Federal Reserve erred by keeping interest rates steady at its last policy meeting.

Shares of Apple fell 4.8% after Berkshire Hathaway halved its stake in the iPhone maker. Billionaire investor Warren Buffett also let cash at Berkshire soar to $277 billion.

Nvidia, Microsoft and Alphabet also slid, while the Cboe Volatility index, Wall Street's "fear gauge," had its highest close since Oct. 28, 2020. All 11 of the S&P 500 sectors fell, led by declines in technology .

Chicago Fed President Austan Goolsbee downplayed recession fears, but said Fed officials need to be cognizant of changes in the environment to avoid being too restrictive with interest rates.

"Today we're seeing a sell-off as an extension of that anxiety that was felt last week," said Neville Javeri, portfolio manager and head of the Empiric LT Equity team at Allspring in Washington.

It "started off with the jobs data last week, and it clearly led to the belief that the Fed needs to start being more proactive around where those unemployment numbers are going," he said.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 1,033.99 points, or 2.6%, to 38,703.27, the S&P 500 lost 160.23 points, or 3.00%, to 5,186.33 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 576.08 points, or 3.43%, to 16,200.08.

The S&P 500 was down more than 4% at its lowest level of the session, 5,119.26.

Indexes trimmed losses in late morning after data showed U.S. services sector activity in July rebounded from a four-year low amid a rise in orders and employment.

The weak jobs report and shrinking manufacturing activity in the world's largest economy added to worries after recent disappointing forecasts from the big U.S. technology companies. The Nasdaq Composite on Friday confirmed it was in correction territory.

Traders are now pricing in an 86% chance the Fed will cut rates by 50 basis points at its next scheduled policy meeting in September, and a 14% chance of a 25 basis-point reduction, according to the CME Group's FedWatch Tool.

The focus of the sell-off has been the so-called Magnificent Seven group of stocks, which previously had propelled the indexes to record highs this year.

Traders also attributed some weakness in stocks to unwinding of sharp positions in carry trades, where investors borrow money from economies with low interest rates such as Japan or Switzerland to fund their bets in high-yielding assets elsewhere.

Pringles maker Kellanova soared 16.2% after a Reuters report said candy giant Mars was exploring a potential buyout of the company.

Volume on U.S. exchanges was 16.50 billion shares, compared with the 12.29 billion average for the full session over the last 20 trading days.

Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones on the NYSE by a 9.04-to-1 ratio; on Nasdaq, a 6.44-to-1 ratio favored decliners.

The S&P 500 posted 16 new 52-week highs and 26 new lows; the Nasdaq Composite recorded 14 new highs and 508 new lows.

Goolsbee downplays recession fears

Fed official sees risk of waiting too long to cut rates

Lindsay Dunsmuir
REUTERS

U.S. central bank policymakers need to carefully monitor changes in the economy to avoid being too restrictive with interest rates, but there are no signs of a recession despite weaker-than-expected jobs data, Chicago Federal Reserve President Austan Goolsbee said on Monday.

"You only want to be that restrictive if you think there's fear of overheating," Goolsbee said in an interview with CNBC. "These data, to me, do not look like overheating ... as you see jobs numbers come in weaker than expected but not looking yet like recession, I do think you want to be forward-looking at where the economy is headed for (in) making the decisions."

Goolsbee also cautioned against taking too much of a signal from a global stock market sell-off that accelerated on Monday, amid fears the U.S. central bank has waited too long to begin cutting interest rates. The aftermath of the Bank of Japan's decision last week to raise rates, as well as increasing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, also contributed to the rout.

"The law doesn't say anything about the stock market; it's about the employment and it's about price stability," Goolsbee said, citing the Fed's dual goals set by Congress, as he noted how prone financial markets are to volatility.

Nonetheless, officials need to be aware of the possibility that markets are signaling a change in the economy's direction, he said.

"If the market moves give us an indication over a long arc that we're looking at a deceleration of growth, then we should react to that," Goolsbee said.

After he spoke, data showed activity in the vast U.S. services sector rebounded from a four-year low last month, with a measure of services employment rising for the first time since January, although the positive news barely dampened market turmoil.

U.S. stocks remained sharply lower, with their recent slide accelerating after Japan's benchmark Nikkei index suffered its biggest drop since 1987. U.S. indexes, though, were off their lows on Monday after the services sector data.

U.S. Treasury yields, meanwhile, plunged as bond prices shot higher in a safe-haven bid. Earlier in the session, the yield on two-year notes had briefly fallen below those for 10-year notes, although that relationship has since returned to the "inverted" state that has prevailed for more than two years.

The dollar weakened to near its lowest levels of the year against a basket of major trading partner currencies.

The U.S. services data "aligns with our view of an economy in transition rather than one on the brink of collapse," said Matthew Martin, a U.S. economist at Oxford Economics. "Expectations for aggressive rate cuts in September are overdone."

Inter-meeting cut

The Fed kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged in the current 5.25%-5.50% range last week and signaled it was on course to begin cutting rates in September, but that decision was followed by worrying signs the labor market might already have turned.

The number of Americans filing new applications for unemployment bene-

Chicago Federal Reserve Bank President Austan Goolsbee cautions against taking too much of a signal from a global stock market sell-off that accelerated on Monday amid fears the U.S. central bank has waited too long to begin cutting interest rates. LANANH NGUYEN/REUTERS FILE

fits increased to an 11-month high while job gains markedly slowed in July and the unemployment rate rose to 4.3%.

The data cast doubts on Fed Chair Jerome Powell's assertion directly after the latest policy meeting that the labor market appeared to be normalizing gradually, which would allow the central bank to take a bit more time before cutting rates to ensure inflation was fully quelled.

Instead, economists and traders honed in on Powell's other comments that the Fed would respond if there was an unexpected deterioration in the labor market, a sentiment echoed repeatedly by Goolsbee on Monday.

Judge: Google search monopoly illegal

Ruling gives green light to antitrust prosecutions

David Shepardson and Mike Scarcella
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Alphabet's Google broke the law with an illegal monopoly on online search, a federal judge ruled on Monday, the first big win for U.S. antitrust authorities who have filed several lawsuits challenging Big Tech's market dominance.

The ruling paves the way for a second trial to determine potential fixes, possibly including a breakup of Alphabet, that would change the landscape of the online advertising world that Google has dominated for years.

It is also a green light to aggressive U.S. antitrust enforcers prosecuting Big Tech, which faces criticism from across the political spectrum.

"The court reaches the following conclusion: Google is a monopolist, and it has acted as one to maintain its monopoly," District Judge Amit Mehta wrote. The search engine giant controls about 90% of the online search market, and 95% on smartphones.

The "remedy" phase could be lengthy, followed by potential appeals to the D.C. Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court. The legal wrangling could play out into next year, or even 2026.

Shares of Google parent Alphabet fell 4.3% on Monday as part of a broad tech share decline. Google advertising was 77% of Alphabet's total sales in 2023.

Alphabet said it plans to appeal Judge Mehta's ruling. "This decision recognizes that Google offers the best search engine, but concludes that we shouldn't be allowed to make it easily available," Google said in a statement.

Attorney General Merrick Garland called the ruling "a historic win for the American people," adding that "no company – no matter how large or influential – is above the law."

Billions paid

Mehta noted that Google had paid $26.3 billion in 2021 alone to ensure that its search engine is the default on smartphones and browsers, and to keep its dominant market share.

"The default is extremely valuable real estate... Even if a new entrant were positioned from a quality standpoint to bid for the default when an agreement expires, such a firm could compete only if it were prepared to pay partners upwards of billions of dollars in revenue share and make them whole for any revenue shortfalls resulting from the change," Mehta wrote.

He noted "Google, of course, recognizes that losing defaults would dra-

matically impact its bottom line. For instance, Google has projected that losing the Safari default would result in a significant drop in queries and billions of dollars in lost revenues."

The ruling is the first major decision in a series of cases taking on alleged monopolies in Big Tech. This case, filed by the Trump administration, went before a judge from September to November.

"A forced divestiture of the search business would sever Alphabet from its largest source of revenue. But even losing its capacity to strike exclusive default agreements could be detrimental for Google," said Emarketer senior analyst Evelyn Mitchell-Wolf, who noted a drawn out legal process will delay any immediate effects for consumers.

In the past four years, federal antitrust regulators have also sued Meta Platforms, Amazon, and Apple Inc, claiming the companies have illegally maintained monopolies. Another case against Google over its advertising technology is scheduled to go to trial in September.

Speaking before the ruling, William Kovacic, a professor at George Washington University Law School, said a DOJ victory is likely to boost the morale of antitrust enforcers in other cases.

"It's very good for their larger campaign to apply the law effectively in this sector," he said.

Kellanova shares pop on Mars buyout report

Savyata Mishra
REUTERS

Shares of Pringles maker Kellanova surged 18% in early trading on Monday, after a Reuters report said candy giant Mars was exploring a potential buyout of the company.

A deal between family-owned Mars and Kellanova, known for snacks brands such as Rice Krispies Treats and Pop-Tarts, would be one of the biggest ever in the packaged food sector.

"We believe that K's portfolio of popular snack brands will fit well with Mars' and help them expand scale in international markets," TD Cowen analyst Robert Moskow said.

Dealmaking in the packaged food space has picked up since last year, including Campbell Soup's $2.33 billion buyout of Rao's pasta sauce owner Sovos Brands and J.M. Smucker's acquisition of Twinkies maker Hostess Brands for $5.6 billion.

Analysts have said Kellanova's deal with Mars could usher in more consolidation in the sector.

Kellanova shares rose to $74.33 on

Monday even as broader U.S. stocks fell on fears of the country tipping into recession.

Chicago-based Kellanova had a market value of about $27 billion, including debt, as of the stock's Friday close.

In its second-quarter results, the company raised its annual organic sales and profit forecasts, owing to steady demand for its largest brand Pringles and effective promotions.

D.A. Davidson analyst Brian Holland expects Kellanova to fetch upwards of $87 per share in a takeout, based on 15 times its projected earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization over the next 12 months.

"Mondelez could be seen as another potential acquirer, though we view the implied leverage as a limiting factor," Holland said.

Kellanova made up the global snacking business of Kellogg, before the packaged food giant spun off its slow-growing North America cereal unit WK Kellogg last October.

Sales growth at U.S. packaged food companies such as Kraft Heinz, Mondelez and Hershey have taken a hit as

Shares of Pringles maker Kellanova surged 18% in early trading on Monday, after a report said candy giant Mars was exploring a potential buyout of the company. KENT J. EDWARDS/REUTERS

budget-strapped customers save their dollars for essential purchases and hunt for cheaper, private-label alternatives to pricier branded items.

"At times like this when growth slows, balance sheets are relatively clean, and valuations dip, the market leaders in food tend to look more closely at big combinations to drive cost synergies," TD Cowen's Moskow said.

Bangladesh's prime minister flees

Army chief says interim government to be formed

Ruma Paul and Sudipto Ganguly
REUTERS

DHAKA, Bangladesh – Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country on Monday after hundreds of people were killed in a crackdown on demonstrations that began as protests against job quotas and swelled into a movement demanding her ouster.

Jubilant crowds stormed unopposed into the opulent grounds of the presidential residence, carrying out looted furniture and TVs. One man balanced a red velvet, gilt-edged chair on his head. Another held an armful of vases.

Elsewhere in Dhaka, protesters climbed atop a statue of Hasina's father, state founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and began chiseling away at the head with an ax.

The flight into exile ended a 15-year second stint in power for Hasina, who has ruled for 20 of the last 30 years as leader of the political movement inherited from her father, assassinated with most of his family in a 1975 coup.

Hasina had left the country for her own safety at the insistence of her family, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy told the BBC World Service.

Hasina was "so disappointed that after all her hard work, for a minority to rise up against her," Joy said. She would not attempt to mount a political comeback, he said.

Earlier, army chief Gen. Waker-Uz-Zaman announced Hasina's resignation in a televised address to the nation and said an interim government would be formed.

He said he had held talks with leaders of major political parties – excluding Hasina's long-ruling Awami League – and would soon meet President Mohammed Shahabuddin to discuss the way ahead.

"The country is going through a revolutionary period," said Zaman, 58, who had taken over as army chief only on June 23.

"I promise you all, we will bring justice to all the murders and injustice. We request you to have faith in the army of the country," he said. "Please don't go back to the path of violence and please return to nonviolent and peaceful ways."

The military spokesperson's office said that a curfew would be in force from midnight on Monday until 6 a.m. on Tuesday, after which all schools, factories, colleges and universities would be open.

Hasina's government had imposed an indefinite curfew from Sunday evening and a three-day general holiday

Anti-government protesters display Bangladesh's national flag as they storm Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's palace in Dhaka on Monday. Bangladeshi army chief Waker-Uz-Zaman said he was "taking full responsibility" after Hasina was ousted and fled the country. K M ASAD/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

People climb the statue of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Monday as they celebrate the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
MOHAMMAD PONIR HOSSAIN/REUTERS

from Monday.

Arrives in India

Hasina, 76, landed at a military airfield Hindon near Delhi, two Indian government officials told Reuters, adding that India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval met her there. They did not elaborate on her stay or plans.

There was also no official comment from India, which has strong cultural and trade links with Bangladesh, on the events in Dhaka.

Hasina would leave Hindon for London at 1930 GMT, Indian broadcaster Times Now reported citing sources. Reuters could not immediately verify the information.

Bangladesh has been engulfed by violence since student protests last

month against the quotas, which reserve some government jobs for families of veterans of the country's 1971 war of independence from Pakistan, seen as favoring allies of Hasina's party.

The protests escalated into a campaign demanding the overthrow of Hasina, and were met by a violent crackdown in which about 250 people have been killed and thousands injured.

The country, once one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, has been plagued lately by slow economic growth, inflation and unemployment.

Hasina's son Joy defended her record: "She has turned Bangladesh around. When she took over power it was considered a failing state. It was a poor country. Until today it was considered one of the rising tigers of Asia."

She had won a fourth straight term only in January this year in an election boycotted by the main opposition party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of her nemesis Begum Khaleda Zia.

Zia, 78, who has twice been prime minister, has been in jail since she was convicted in a graft case in February 2018. Her health has been deteriorating and she was moved to a hospital in 2019.

President Shahabuddin had ordered the release of Zia, French news agency AFP reported. But a BNP spokesman told Reuters she was in hospital for treatment and "will clear all charges legally and come out soon."

U.S. stresses inclusion

Hasina had ruled since winning a decades-long power struggle with Zia in 2009. The two women each inherited political movements from slain rulers – in Hasina's case, from her father Mujib;

in Zia's case, from her husband Ziaur Rahman, who took power after Mujib's death and was himself assassinated in 1981.

"Hasina's resignation proves the power of the people," said Tarique Rahman, the exiled eldest son of the two Zias who now serves as acting chairman of the opposition party.

"Together, let's rebuild Bangladesh into a democratic and developed nation, where the rights and freedoms of all people are protected," he posted on X.

The United States urged the interim government formation process to be democratic and inclusive and encouraged all parties to refrain from further violence and restore peace as quickly as possible.

Sabrina Karim, associate professor of government at Cornell University who specializes in the study of political violence, said the interim government should ensure there is rule of law during the democratic transition, no revenge killing and destruction.

"There is perhaps some optimism for a democratic transition even if the military is involved in the process," Karim said, adding that Dhaka was one of the top troop contributors to UN peacekeeping operations and could not risk its reputation.

Student activists had called for a march to the capital Dhaka on Monday in defiance of a nationwide curfew to press Hasina to resign after clashes across the country on Sunday killed nearly 100 people.

On Monday, at least 56 people were killed in violence across the country, AFP reported. Reuters could not immediately verify the report.

Sunday's death toll, which included at least 13 policemen, was the highest for a single day from any protests in Bangladesh's recent history, surpassing the 67 deaths reported on July 19 when students took to the streets against the quotas.

Last month, at least 150 people were killed and thousands injured in violence touched off by student groups protesting against the job quotas.

Over the weekend, there were attacks, vandalism and arson targeting government buildings, offices of Hasina's Awami League party, police stations and houses of public representatives.

Garment factories in the country, which supply apparel to some of world's top brands, were closed indefinitely.

Critics of Hasina, along with human rights groups, have accused her government of using excessive force against protesters, a charge she and her ministers deny.

Hasina had said that "those who are carrying out violence are not students but terrorists who are out to destabilize the nation."

Venezuelan opposition leaders to be investigated

Advocates warn of 'escalating repression'

Vivian Sequera and Mircely Guanipa
REUTERS

CARACAS, Venezuela – Venezuela is launching a criminal probe against the opposition leaders contesting last month's election for inciting police and military officials to break the law, the country's top prosecutor said, as security forces targeted people they say committed violent crimes during recent election protests.

The announcement by attorney general Tarek Saab followed a letter posted on social network X by opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez and leader Maria Corina Machado calling for security forces to "stand by the people" and respect the results of the election they say they won.

President Nicolas Maduro's assertion that he won a third term in the July 28 vote has triggered angry protests from Venezuelans across the country over the last week, demanding that Maduro step down and a Gonzalez win be honored.

Venezuelan security forces have begun targeting alleged perpetrators of violent crimes during the protests, in an operation informally called "knock-knock" that advocacy groups say has left protesters fearful.

Three advocacy groups told Reuters security forces are working intensely to capture protesters, including minors, who they said are not being provided with lawyers and who have in some cases been charged with terrorism.

Maduro and other officials have touted "knock-knock" as a means of target-

Motorized policemen are parked in front of a bus terminal Monday in the populous Petare neighborhood of Caracas, Venezuela. The European Union added to the international pressure on Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, joining Washington and Latin American nations in refusing to recognize the win he has claimed in the recent election. YURI CORTEZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

ing those behind violence at the protests, who they have described as "fascist criminals."

"Operation knock-knock is the name given by certain government spokespeople, informally, to the escalating repression," said Gonzalo Himiob, vice president of legal advocacy group Foro Penal.

"It's called knock-knock because that's the bang on the door you get in the early hours of the morning," he said.

Protest arrests

Venezuela's electoral authority, who the opposition says favors the ruling socialists, has said Maduro was reelected with around 51% of the vote, beating

Gonzalez.

The opposition says its own detailed tally shows Gonzalez likely received 67% of the vote, winning by a margin of nearly 4 million votes, and earning more than double Maduro's support, a result in line with independent exit polls.

Russia and China – among others – have congratulated Maduro as the election winner, but most Western countries have demurred, calling for the full release of voting results.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said last week there was "overwhelming evidence" of the victory of Gonzalez and that Washington recognized him as the winner of Sunday's election.

In answer to a question on Monday

as to whether the U.S. was ready to recognize an interim president the way it did in 2019 with Juan Guaido, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said: "That's not a step that we are taking today."

Venezuela's next presidential term is due to start in January 2025.

Maduro told supporters on Saturday that some 2,000 people had been arrested during the protests.

Foro Penal said on Monday that it has confirmed 1,010 arrests and U.S.-based Human Rights Watch has reported at least 20 people have been killed.

In the joint letter signed on Monday, Gonzalez and Machado, a popular opposition leader, wrote: "We are appealing to the conscience of the military and the police and asking them to stand at the side of the people and of their own families."

But the military has long been loyal to Maduro.

"I'm willing to do anything and I am counting on you to ensure order prevails," Maduro told them in a broadcast on state television on Sunday.

Venezuela's government is taking a hard-line approach, moving quickly, to make sure it holds on to power, advocacy groups said.

"Staying in power means neutralizing and crushing social discontent," said Oscar Murillo, coordinator for local rights group Provea.

The attorney general's office has denied those arrested were protesters, instead labeling them as violent criminals behind acts of vandalism, including tearing down statues of late president Hugo Chavez, Maduro's mentor.

Two members of the military have been killed, according to Venezuelan authorities.

2 key states seen as at risk for chaos after the election

Pa., Wis. made no electoral reforms

David Morgan and Nathan Layne
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, two states seen as must-wins in the Nov. 5 presidential election, have failed to adopt electoral reforms intended to avoid a repeat of the chaos that followed Republican Donald Trump's attempts to overturn his 2020 defeat.

Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Trump are locked in a tight contest in those two states, public opinion polls show. They are the heart of the "blue wall" states of America's former industrial heartland that are likely to play a critical role in either candidate's path to victory.

Their failure to embrace a 2022 federal law could attract the post-election attention of Trump and his Republican allies, who falsely claim that his loss to Democratic President Joe Biden was the result of widespread fraud and claim without evidence that Democrats are encouraging people living in the United States to vote illegally.

That rhetoric has stirred worries among democracy advocates, lawmakers and legal experts who say the Republican presidential candidate and his supporters could try again to overturn an election loss, this time with a more coherent effort and a strategy aimed at just one or two states.

"Anybody, not just Democrats, but anybody, should be worried that this is going to happen again with even more chaos and violence than happened in 2020 and 2021," Democratic former House Majority Leader Dick Gephardt told Reuters.

After Trump's efforts to overturn his 2020 loss, which included more than 60 lawsuits and culminated in his supporters' Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, Congress sought to stave off any recurrence by passing the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act.

The reforms set a new mandatory

Clerks Marlo Miller and Rose English prepare a polling place in Pittsburgh on Nov. 8, 2022.
REBECCA DROKE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Dec. 11 deadline for states to submit certified slates of presidential electors to the Archivist of the United States, provided expedited court access to resolve challenges and raised the threshold for objecting to election results in Congress.

The Trump campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

Other states expected to play a deciding role in the election have passed legislation to ensure that canvasses, recounts, audits and legal challenges are completed before the new deadline. Arizona, Michigan, Nevada and North Carolina acted after Congress, while Georgia acted before.

Deadline risks

Advocates fear a missed certification deadline could present a hurdle for presidential electors to cast their votes by the Dec. 17 federal deadline, add grist to political claims of a faulty election system and raise the possibility of a state's election results getting rejected by Congress.

"It is a problem," said Rex VanMiddlesworth, an attorney focused on threats to American democracy. "States can mess this up so badly that their votes aren't counted, or states could deliberately want to screw it up so badly that their votes aren't counted."

Other democracy advocates see a limited danger, given that the Democratic governors of Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are unlikely to hold up certi-

fication and that reforms provide expedited court access if the deadline is missed.

"That should be a pretty good assurance that the process has been completed fairly and accurately," said Adav Noti, executive director of the Washington-based Campaign Legal Center.

Legal experts say the greatest danger would be a contested election that hangs on the outcome of a single state, especially with a narrow margin of victory.

"The closer it is, you know, the more pressure is going to come to bear," said Derek Muller, a Notre Dame University law professor who advised the Senate on drafting the 2022 legislation.

Democracy advocates warn that a contested election could lead to protests, or even violence similar to the Capitol assault, especially ahead of state electors' Dec. 17 deadline.

'Litigation on everything'

Earlier this year in Wisconsin, legislation that would have aligned the state's electoral system with federal reforms easily passed the Republican-controlled state Senate. But it failed to reach the floor of the Assembly, also Republican controlled, before lawmakers adjourned for the year in February.

Wisconsin technically missed a certification deadline in 2020 due to Trump's efforts to invalidate its election results. Democratic Gov. Tony Evers filed an initial certificate identifying the state's electors and followed up with a second, final certificate three weeks later, after the state Supreme Court ruled against Trump.

In Pennsylvania, a bipartisan electoral reform bill passed the Democratic-controlled House on July 10. But there is no sign that the Republican-led state Senate will take up the measure when lawmakers reconvene in September.

Michael McDonald, policy director at the Pennsylvania Department of State, said court rulings following a flurry of recount petitions during the 2022 election made it clear that county officials do not have the discretion to delay certification.

Supreme Court declines to halt Trump's criminal sentencing

John Kruzel
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday rejected a bid by the state of Missouri to halt Donald Trump's upcoming sentencing for his conviction in New York on felony charges involving hush money paid to an adult film star and left a related gag order until after the Nov. 5 presidential election.

The decision by the justices came in response to Missouri's lawsuit claiming that the case against Trump infringed on the right of voters under the U.S. Constitution to hear from the Republican presidential nominee as he seeks to regain the White House.

The Supreme Court's order was unsigned. Conservative Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito indicated they would have taken up Missouri's case but added that they "would not grant other relief."

Trump was found guilty in May of falsifying business records to cover up a $130,000 payment to adult film star Stormy Daniels in exchange for her si-

lence before the 2016 U.S. election about a sexual encounter she has said she had with Trump years earlier. Prosecutors have said the payment was designed help Trump's chances in the 2016 election, when he defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Trump, the Republican candidate in this year's election, denies having had sex with Daniels and has vowed to appeal his conviction after his sentencing, scheduled for September.

Missouri's Republican Attorney General Andrew Bailey filed a July 3 lawsuit against New York state asking the Supreme Court to pause Trump's impending sentencing and the gag order placed on him by New York state Judge Juan Merchan.

Legal disputes between states are filed directly to the Supreme Court.

Bailey argued that the criminal case against Trump violated the right of Missouri residents under the Constitution's First Amendment to "hear from and vote for their preferred presidential candidate."

"Instead of letting presidential can-

didates campaign on their own merits, radical progressives in New York are trying to rig the 2024 election by waging a direct attack on our democratic process," Bailey said in bringing the case.

Republican attorneys general from Florida, Iowa, Montana and Alaska filed a Supreme Court brief in support of Missouri's lawsuit.

Trump also faces federal and state criminal charges involving his efforts to undo his 2020 election loss to Joe Biden.

The Supreme Court in a July 1 ruling powered by its 6-3 conservative majority granted Trump substantial criminal immunity for actions taken in office. It all but ensured Trump would not face trial in the federal election subversion case before the election.

Trump's lawyers promptly invoked the immunity ruling in a bid to toss the hush money verdict. They said prosecutors improperly relied on social media posts made in 2018 by Trump when he was serving as president that qualified as official communications.

Senator: More trips by Thomas undisclosed

Wyden says travel was paid for by GOP donor

John Kruzel
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas took additional undisclosed travel paid for by billionaire benefactor Harlan Crow that the conservative justice failed to disclose, the Democratic chair of the Senate Finance Committee said on Monday.

Thomas and his wife took round-trip air travel between Hawaii and New Zealand in November 2010 aboard Crow's private jet, according to Sen. Ron Wyden, citing international flight records obtained by his committee.

Thomas has come under criticism since last year from congressional Democrats and others for failing to disclose gifts from Crow, a Texas businessman and

Thomas

Republican donor, including trips on a yacht.

A Supreme Court spokesperson and an attorney for Thomas did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Monday.

The justice previously defended his omission of Crow-funded luxury trips from his disclosure forms by saying he believed they were "personal hospitality" and thus exempt from disclosure requirements, and called his nondisclosure of a real estate transaction involving Crow inadvertent.

Wyden cited the international flight records, maintained by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency, in an eight-page letter to Crow's attorney seeking details on the businessman's relationship with Thomas. It is part of what Wyden called his committee's investigation "into the tax treatment of the use of Mr. Crow's superyacht and private aircraft."

Wyden first requested such information last year after the news outlet ProPublica reported on the justice's failure to disclose luxury trips and real estate transactions involving Crow.

"Neither Mr. Crow nor Justice Thomas have disclosed the full scale of the Thomas's use of (Crow's yacht) Michaela Rose and private jets courtesy of Mr. Crow, even as the Congress continues to uncover additional international private jet travel with Mr. Crow that Justice Thomas failed to disclose on his ethics filings," Wyden said.

Crow spokesperson Michael Zona said that Crow's attorneys had previously addressed Wyden's inquiries, which Zona called baseless and said were "only intended to harass a private citizen."

"Mr. Crow and his businesses are in good standing with the IRS. He has always followed applicable tax law as advised by national accounting firms who serve as his tax advisors," Zona said.

"It's concerning that Senator Wyden is abusing his committee's powers as part of a politically motivated campaign against the Supreme Court," Zona added.

Democrat Dick Durbin, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, in June said Thomas took at least three other trips funded by Crow that the justice also failed to disclose.

Facing criticism after revelations involving Thomas and other justices, the Supreme Court last November adopted its first code of conduct.

Harris

teacher who has raised his profile in recent weeks as an effective advocate for Harris. He has attacked Trump and Vance as "weird," a viral insult the Harris campaign has embraced.

A former member of Congress from a Republican-leaning district, Walz has proven appeal to rural, white voters, though he has also championed progressive policies as governor, such as free school meals and expanded paid worker leave. While Minnesota is a solidly Democratic state, it is close to Wisconsin and Michigan, two crucial battlegrounds.

Speculation had focused on six final-

ists – four governors, a senator and a Cabinet secretary in the Biden administration, all white men with a record of winning over rural, white or independent voters.

In addition to Shapiro and Walz, contenders included U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear and Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker.

The candidates will be informed on Monday night or Tuesday morning whether they were picked, sources told Reuters. The Harris campaign plans a social media announcement featuring the duo, campaign officials familiar with the arrangements said.

Harris' search for a running mate began in earnest two weeks ago, shortly after President Joe Biden withdrew from the race and endorsed her to re-

place him.

There was no immediate indication that Monday's market selloff would have an impact on Harris' announcement timing. Trump, seeking to capitalize on the downturn, referred to the "Kamala crash" in a post on his social media site, Truth Social.

Over the weekend, Harris met with her vetting team, including former attorney general Eric Holder, whose law firm Covington & Burling LLP scrutinized the finances and background of potential running mates. Holder and his office made in-depth presentations on each of the finalists, according to multiple sources familiar with the process.

Harris is weighing the decision with her husband, Doug Emhoff, brother-in-law Tony West and a small circle of aides and advisers, the sources said.

Tuesday afternoon's rally will kick off a five-day, multiple-city tour of battleground states likely to decide the election.

Harris and her running mate will hit six cities: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Eau Claire, Wisconsin; Detroit, Michigan; Durham, North Carolina; Phoenix, Arizona; and Las Vegas, Nevada.

They will hold rallies in each location along the tour, which will include college campuses, historically Black universities, union halls and restaurants, a campaign official said.

Over the weekend, the Harris campaign launched a program to persuade Republican voters to support the Democrat and showcased endorsements from Republicans including former Trump White House officials Stephanie Grisham and Olivia Troye.

EXPLAINER

Hurricanes becoming more intense

Scientists say climate change is fueling strength

Gloria Dickie
REUTERS

Storm Debby made landfall in Florida's Big Bend region on Monday as a Category 1 hurricane, part of what U.S. government forecasters have predicted could be an extraordinarily busy 2024 Atlantic hurricane season.

Debby, the fourth named storm of the season, was expected to bring days of torrential rain and catastrophic flooding across the U.S. Southeast. Last year, Hurricane Idalia, which briefly gained Category 4 strength, also struck the Big Bend region, causing billions of dollars in damage.

Scientists say climate change is helping to fuel stronger, more destructive hurricanes. Here is how:

Is climate change affecting hurricanes?

Yes, climate change is making hurricanes wetter, windier and altogether more intense. There is also evidence that it is causing storms to travel more slowly, meaning they can dump more water in one place.

If it were not for oceans, the planet would be much hotter due to climate change. But in the last 40 years, the ocean has absorbed about 90% of the warming caused by heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions. Much of this ocean heat is contained near the water's surface. This additional heat can fuel a storm's intensity and power stronger winds.

Climate change can also boost the amount of rainfall delivered by a storm. Because a warmer atmosphere can also hold more moisture, water vapor builds up until clouds break, sending down heavy rain.

During the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season – one of the most active on record – climate change boosted hourly rainfall rates in hurricane-force storms by 8%-11%, according to an April 2022 study in the journal Nature Communications.

The world has already warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius above the preindustrial average. Scientists at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration expect that, at 2 degrees Celsius of warming, hurricane wind speeds could increase by up to 10%.

NOAA also projects the proportion of hurricanes that reach the most intense levels – Category 4 or 5 – could rise by about 10% this century. To date, less than a fifth of storms have reached this intensity since 1851.

How else is climate change affecting storms?

The typical "season" for hurricanes is shifting, as climate warming creates conditions conducive to storms in more months of the year. And hurricanes are making landfall in regions far outside the historic norm.

In the U.S., Florida sees the most hurricanes make landfall, with more than 120 direct hits since 1851, according to NOAA. In recent years, however, some storms are reaching peak intensity and making landfall farther north than in the past.

This trend is worrying for mid-latitude cities such as New York, Boston, Beijing, and Tokyo, where "infrastructure is not prepared" for such storms, said atmospheric scientist Allison Wing at Florida State University.

Hurricane Sandy, though only a Category 1 storm, was the fourth costliest U.S. hurricane on record, causing $81 billion in losses when it hit the Northeastern Seaboard in 2012.

As for timing, hurricane activity is common for North America from June through November, peaking in September – after a summertime buildup of warm water conditions.

However, the first named storms to make U.S. landfall now do so more than three weeks earlier than they did in 1900, nudging the start of the season into May, according to a study published in August in Nature Communications.

Hurricane Beryl, which formed in the Atlantic in June, was the earliest Category 5 storm on record.

The same trend appears to be playing out in Asia's Bay of Bengal where, since 2013, cyclones have been forming earlier than usual – in April and May – ahead of the summer monsoon, according to a November 2021 study in Scientific Reports.

How do hurricanes form?

Hurricanes need two main ingredients _ warm ocean water and moist, humid air. When warm seawater evaporates, its heat energy is transferred to the atmosphere. This fuels the storm's winds to strengthen. Without it, hurricanes cannot intensify and will fizzle out.

Cyclone, typhoon, hurricane – what's the difference?

While technically the same phenomenon, these big storms get different names depending on where and how they were formed.

Storms that form over the Atlantic Ocean or central and eastern North Pacific are called "hurricanes" when their wind speeds reach at least 74 mph. Up to that point, they are known as "tropical storms."

In East Asia, violent, swirling storms that form over the Northwest Pacific are called "typhoons," while "cyclones" emerge over the Indian Ocean and South Pacific.

Tow trucks lift a truck that overturned Monday in Tampa, Fla., as Hurricane Debby moved across northern Florida. NOAA projects the proportion of hurricanes that reach the most intense levels – Category 4 or 5 – could rise by about 10% this century. OCTAVIO JONES/REUTERS

Debby

in Florida, according to Poweroutage.us, and flight trackers showed hundreds of flights originating from and heading to Florida airports were canceled on Monday.

The hurricane center said Debby would cross Georgia and move offshore into the Atlantic Ocean by Tuesday night, then re-strengthen and make a second landfall, probably in South Carolina near Charleston.

The storm was near the Florida-Georgia border by early evening on Monday, about 30 miles southeast of Valdosta, Georgia, and crawling at 6 mph northeast with sustained winds of 50 mph, the hurricane center said.

The center forecast "catastrophic flooding," with some areas along the Atlantic coast receiving 20 to 30 inches of rain by Friday morning. The governors of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina declared states of emergency in anticipation of Debby's damage.

"This is going to be an event that is going to be probably here for the next five to seven days, maybe as long as 10 days, depending on how much rainfall we get," said Kevin Guthrie, executive director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Officials in Georgia and South Carolina braced for flooding.

"It may be the most water we've seen in a long while," South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster said at a briefing. "There may be flooding in areas that never flooded in the past."

Savannah Mayor Van Johnson said the city could expect a "once in a thousand year" rain event.

"This will literally create islands in the city," Johnson said.

Slow drenching

A slow-moving tropical storm as it passed over Cuba, Debby gained strength from exceptionally warm Gulf waters as it paralleled Florida's Gulf Coast on Sunday.

Debby bears some of the hallmarks of Hurricane Harvey, which hit Corpus Christi, Texas, in August 2017. Downgraded to a tropical storm as it moved inland, Harvey lingered over Texas, dumping about 50 inches of rain on Houston and causing $125 billion in damage.

Climate scientists believe human-caused global warming from burning fossil fuels has raised the temperature of the oceans, making storms bigger and more devastating.

The last hurricane to make a direct hit on Florida's Big Bend region was Hurricane Idalia, which briefly gained Category 4 strength before making landfall as a Category 3 in August 2023, with winds of more than 125 mph. The National Centers for Environmental Information estimated $3.5 billion in damage.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis described the initial effects of Debby as "modest" compared with Idalia.

Forecasters expect numerous Atlantic hurricanes in the 2024 season, which began on June 1, including four to seven major ones. That would exceed the record-breaking 2005 season that spawned the devastating Katrina and Rita hurricanes.

Only one other hurricane, Beryl, has formed in the Atlantic this year. The earliest Category 5 storm on record, it struck the Caribbean and Mexico's Yucatan peninsula before rolling up the Gulf Coast of Texas as a Category 1 storm, with sustained winds up to 95 mph.

People look at the large sinkhole that opened up Monday in Wimauma, Fla., as a result of rainfall from Hurricane Debby. OCTAVIO JONES/REUTERS

Frustration with Netanyahu mounts as Gaza talks falter

Israeli PM says hostage release is his top priority

Maayan Lubell
REUTERS

JERUSALEM – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is facing anger in Israel and abroad over his handling of talks on a Gaza cease-fire that have faltered, just as fears have grown that the crisis could spiral into war with Iran, three Israeli officials said.

Divisions between Netanyahu and the defense establishment over a deal, which could help defuse the escalating crisis that risks engulfing the Middle East, have also surfaced in public remarks and behind closed doors, in angry exchanges leaked on Saturday to the Israeli press.

Over the past four weeks three Israeli officials, one on the negotiating team and two with close knowledge of the talks, have voiced concern that politics was undermining the chances of a deal.

"The feeling is that the prime minister is avoiding making a decision about the deal and is not pushing for it full force," one of the officials told Reuters on Sunday.

Some of Netanyahu's far-right coalition partners have threatened government stability should the war end before Hamas is defeated.

Netanyahu has repeatedly said the release of the remaining 115 hostages held in Gaza since the Hamas-led Oct. 7 assault on Israel that triggered the war was a top priority.

But the issue has become more urgent as the war in Gaza threatens to spill out into a wider regional conflict following a dramatic ratcheting up of tensions between Israel and Iran over the past week.

The Oct. 7 attackers killed 1,200 people and took more than 250 captive, according to Israeli tallies. Gaza's Hamas-run health authorities say more than 39,000 Palestinians have since been killed in fighting in the densely populated coastal enclave.

Tensions laid bare

Tensions between Netanyahu – who insists he is safeguarding Israel's security – and some in his negotiating team were laid bare in his public remarks on Sunday.

"I am prepared to go very far to release all of our hostages, while maintaining the security of Israel," Netanyahu said in televised remarks at his Cabinet meeting.

"Our commitment stands in complete contrast to the leaks and mendacious briefings on the issue of our hostages."

Efforts by the United States, Egypt and Qatar to secure a deal between Israel and Hamas had gained momentum over July but have since ground to a near halt after new terms were introduced to an agreed framework presented by Washington in May.

The framework involves three phases, with the first seeing a six-week cease-fire and the release of women, elderly and wounded hostages in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

But sources have told Reuters a new Israeli condition that displaced Palestinians should be screened as they return to the enclave's north when the cease-fire begins was among the sticking points.

The killing on Wednesday of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran has further complicated matters, though the militant group has not shut the door entirely on negotiators.

"We will continue to apply military pressure on Hamas and its senior figures, until the return of all of our hostages and achieving all of the war goals," Netanyahu said.

"Anyone who wants the release of our hostages must pressure Hamas, not the government of Israel."

Netanyahu's remarks came in response to a flurry of reports over the weekend. One, by N12 News, quoted President Joe Biden telling Netanyahu in their Thursday phone call to "stop (expletive) me" about advancing the talks.

Netanyahu's office said he does not comment on his conversations with the U.S. president. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the remarks, which were also reported by Haaretz newspaper, citing a senior Biden administration official.

"The people who are leaking these things out of meetings want to pressure the prime minister to make a bad deal. But what these leaks are doing is encouraging Hamas to add more and more demands," a fourth Israeli official told Reuters on Monday.

Red lines

A second N12 report cited Israeli security chiefs, including Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and the head of the Shin Bet domestic security service Ronen Bar, casting doubt during a Wednesday meeting on Netanyahu's commitment to a hostage deal.

Gallant, according to the report, told Netanyahu that the new terms he introduced have made a deal impossible. The Shin Bet declined to comment on closed-door discussions. Gallant's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

But in public remarks, Gallant and Israel's military chief Herzi Halevi have made a point of noting that after months of battering Hamas in Gaza forces can handle any challenges posed by a cease-fire, at the same time stressing the importance of sealing a deal that would see hostages freed.

Their messaging over the past few weeks has been in stark contrast to Netanyahu frequently citing his "red lines" on Israel's security in any deal.

Tensions between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu – who insists he is safeguarding Israel's security – and some in his negotiating team were laid bare in his public remarks on Sunday. NAAMA GRYNBAUM/POOL VIA REUTERS, FILE

Wall Street 'fear gauge' posts record increase

Investors are betting on more market turbulence

Saqib Iqbal Ahmed
REUTERS

NEW YORK – Wall Street's most-watched gauge of investor anxiety logged its largest ever intraday jump on Monday and closed at its highest since October 2020, as traders scrambled to hedge against market volatility during a global selloff fueled by U.S. recession fears.

The Cboe Volatility Index jumped to a high of 65.73 before the market open, up about 42 points from its close on Friday. The index pared gains and closed at 38.57, its highest close in nearly four years.

The S&P 500 was down as much as 4.3% on Monday and closed down 2.98%. The benchmark index has lost more than 8% from a record high reached last month.

The surge in the VIX, which measures investor demand for protection against stock swings, dwarfed moves in the volatility index that took place during past bouts of intense selling – including the COVID-related selloff in March 2020, when the S&P 500 sank more than 10% in a single day.

Joe Tigay, portfolio manager for Rational Equity Armor Fund said the VIX's move, which comes on the heels of a three-day selloff that began Thursday, was "very, very unusual."

"There's no question that last week something was broken (in markets) and it's going to take some time to fix this damage," he said

Shattered calm

Investors believe there are several factors driving the sharp rise in the volatility gauge, including a rapid unwinding of strategies that bet on continued low market gyrations, underhedged traders rushing to protect their downside and poor trading liquidity around the open of U.S. trading.

The return of volatility to markets follows an unusually long period of market calm, where the S&P 500 went 356 sessions without a 2% or larger move lower, the longest such streak since 2007.

That period of placid trading, along with big gains in stocks earlier this year, produced an environment ideal for "short-volatility" strategies, which thrive when market gyrations are muted. The strategies come in various flavors, including exchange-traded funds that profit from calm markets and options selling strategies that generate income when gyrations are low.

The rush to exit these positions all at once can boost market volatility beyond what a regular drop in the market would, strategists said.

"(There is an) unwind of short volatility trades that were prevalent into July – and this unwind is likely exacerbating VIX levels," Brent Kochuba, founder of financial insights company, SpotGamma, said.

Blame 0DTE?

Growth in popularity of short-dated options, known as 0DTE options, may have contributed to Monday's VIX surge, said Jim Carroll, portfolio manager at Ballast Rock Private Wealth.

These options, which expire at the end of the trading day, are favored by investors seeking to protect against short-term market fluctuations.

But as volatility surged in recent days, investors have urgently reached out for longer-term hedges, Caroll said.

Because 0DTE options do not figure in VIX calculations but longer-term ones do, the shift may have caused the volatility index to spike, Carroll said.

Low liquidity

The high VIX reading, calculated using real-time quotes for certain S&P 500 Index options, may have also been affected by a lack of liquidity outside of regular trading hours, Chris Murphy, co-head of derivatives strategy at Susquehanna International Group, said.

The VIX hit 65.73 at 8:37 a.m., before the start of regular trading, when trading conditions might not be as liquid as during regular hours.

Buy signal?

While there is no telling how long market volatility will last, some investors see a jump in the VIX as an opportunity to buy stocks on the cheap.

"It's tough to say where it will peak at, but our back-testing suggests that the S&P 500 is a buy on a 12-month forward basis when the VIX is above 35," Lori Calvasina, head of global equity strategy research at RBC Capital Markets, said in a note.

When the VIX closes above 35, the S&P has on average gone on to rise 6.5% and 14.5%, over the next three and six months, respectively, an RBC analysis showed.

"A 40 VIX implies 2.5% daily moves in the S&P 500, so levels above there are difficult to sustain outside of a major crisis," Little Harbor Advisors said.
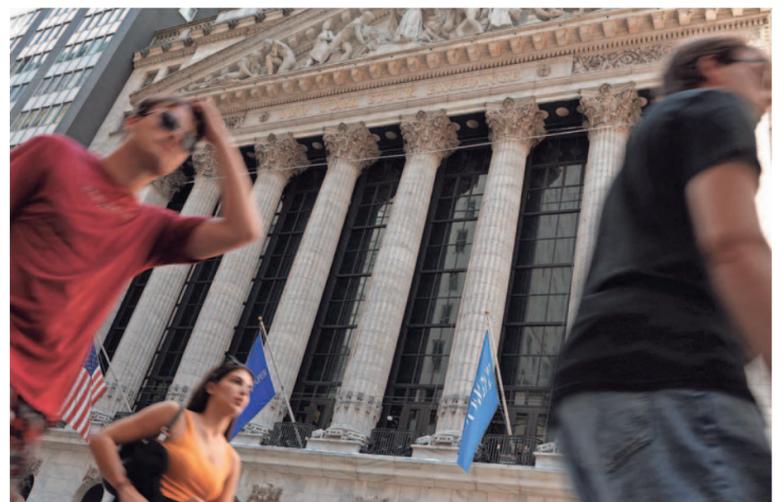
People walk past the New York Stock Exchange on Monday in New York. Stocks deepened their losses Monday and Tokyo had its worst day in 13 years as panic spread across trading floors over fears of recession in the U.S.
CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Markets

"Wall Street's fear index," did not rise that much in a day during the March 2020 COVID crisis – when it posted several 40%-plus daily jumps - or even during the depths of the global financial crisis, when it rose 35% a few days after the U.S. government stepped in to bail out Wall Street.

Taking stock

The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq Composite are down around 3% and 3.7% in early trading, respectively. Futures on the two indices fell between 4% and 5% before the market open. Monday's drop marks a fairly hefty daily decline for the two indexes. The S&P has already lost 9% since hitting a record high on July 16, while the Nasdaq has shed 14% since its record high on July 11.

On Oct. 19, 1987 – the Black Monday - the S&P lost 20% in a day, while the Nasdaq shed 11.5%. During the COVID crisis, the S&P lost 12% at one point, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq fell 12%.

So the market is a long way from repeating what it has done during past bouts of turmoil.

The heart of the matter

The Japanese yen is the star of the currency markets right now. Years of rock-bottom interest rates in Japan encouraged investors to borrow in it in order to fund other positions in a multi-trillion dollar bet known as "carry trades." Now that Japanese rates are rising, many of those positions are getting closed, meaning that the cash the carry trades generated to buy other assets is now exiting those markets – the technology sector is one of the standout casualties, along with cryptocurrencies.

The yen has its own thing going on, thanks in part to authorities in Tokyo stepping in to prop it up when it hit its weakest in 38 years in late July, at 161 to the dollar. It now trades around 142, having strengthened by over 7% in a week.

It has also been a traditional safe-haven asset and strengthened around 7% on a weekly basis in both 2008 and in 1998, at the height of the Asian financial crisis. But the current move is likely more linked to an interest-rate play than down to risk appetite.

The Swiss franc, a carry-trade funding currency and also a safe haven, has strengthened 4.2% since last Monday. But this kind of move is not uncommon in the currency.

Gold, or silver, lining?

Gold has come under pressure, even if it is perceived to be a safe haven. The price has risen by 16.5% so far this year and hit successive record highs. Typically, a lower U.S. rate environment favors gold, but intense volatility means it can get swept lower along with everything else.

Back in 2020, gold had been down by 3% on multiple days, while during the financial crisis, it fell by more than 7% in October 2008, as failed bank Lehman Brothers finally imploded.

Silver often moves in sync with gold, but lacks the same safe-haven appeal. It is down 5% on Monday, but, much like stocks and gold, this is a relatively modest decline compared with numerous double-digit down-days in 2020 and a near 16% fall in a single day in October 2008.

SPORTS EXTRA

Nancy Armour
Columnist
USA TODAY

Biles shows greatness in finishing second

PARIS – The greatness of Simone Biles can be summed up in one photo.

It's not of her with her many, many medals.

Or of a score that reflects another dominant performance.

It doesn't show her soaring high above the vault.

It's of Biles and Jordan Chiles, bowing down to new Olympic floor champion Rebeca Andrade as the Brazilian steps onto the medals podium at the 2024 Paris Games.

"I love Rebeca. She's absolutely amazing," Biles said Monday afternoon. "Jordan was like, 'Should we bow to her?' And I was like, 'Absolutely.' It was just the right thing to do."

Yes, but not many athletes – not many people – would be big enough to celebrate someone else's success in the wake of their own disappointment. Or mature enough to do it so genuinely. Not many would be generous enough to show the grace that so often isn't extended to her.

Biles is the greatest gymnast of all time, and the surprising results Monday do nothing to change that. But she's an equally good human, continuing to dole out lessons on how to do life.

Be kind. Celebrate success, both yours and that of others. Take as much care of your mental health as you do your physical health. Never allow others to write your own story.

"I accomplished way more than my wildest dreams, not just at this Olympics, but in the sport. So I can't be mad at my performances," said Biles, who leaves the Paris Olympics with four medals, three of them gold.

"A couple of years ago, I didn't think

See ARMOUR, Page 8NS

Jordan Chiles, left, and Simone Biles of the United States celebrate after winning silver and bronze, respectively, in floor exercise at the Olympics. JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY SPORTS

Gold medalist Mondo Duplantis of Sweden vaults to a world record of 6.25 meters. LISA LEUTNER/REUTERS

BAR RAISED

Duplantis caps golden night with world record in pole vault

Mitch Phillips REUTERS

PARIS – Sweden's Mondo Duplantis retained his Olympic pole vault title with ludicrous ease on Monday, needing only four successful attempts to take gold at 6.00 meters, then capped a memorable night by beating his own world record with a clearance of 6.25.

Duplantis, one of the hottest

See RECORD, Page 7NS

SEC, Big Ten dominate preseason rankings

Erick Smith, Paul Myerberg, Eddie Timanus and Jordan Mendoza
USA TODAY

Amid major conference realignment, a bigger playoff field and a whole lot of movement on the coaching carousel, the 2024 football season is going to reflect a lot of change. One thing, however, will be the same as last season: Georgia will enter the campaign with the No. 1 ranking in the preseason US LBM Coaches Poll.

The Bulldogs, though not defending a national championship this time, were voted first by 46 of the 55 coaches on this season's panel. They finished third in the final rankings last season after coming up short in the SEC championship game and missing the four-team College Football Playoff field.

Ohio State will open at No. 2. The

Buckeyes, favored to return to the top of the expanded Big Ten, picked up seven of the remaining nine first-place nods to land a spot ahead of new fellow conference member Oregon. Texas, a semifinalist last year now representing the SEC, will open at No. 4, picking up a No. 1 vote. It's the highest starting spot for the Longhorns since 2010. Alabama rounds out the top five, still a lofty position but still the lowest position in the preseason poll for the Crimson Tide since 2009.

Here are the season outlooks for the top 25.

1. Georgia (13-1)

Points: 1,364 (46 first-place votes). **Previous ranking:** 3. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Clemson (Atlanta)

See POLL, Page 2NS

Ohio State running back TreVeyon Henderson (32) scores a touchdown in the second half against Michigan during their 2023 game at Michigan Stadium. RICK OSENTOSKI/USA TODAY SPORTS

Poll

A run for a historic three-peat ended in the SEC championship game last season. Now the Bulldogs will try to get back to the top of the mountain with one of the nation's top rosters. QB Carson Beck should be a Heisman contender and will have the advantage of a receiving group that includes Dominic Lovett and Miami (Fla.) transfer Colbie Young. Great defense is a constant for Kirby Smart's team, and this year will be no exception with DL Mykel Williams, LB Smael Mondon and DB Malaki Starks, all future NFL draft picks.

2. Ohio State (11-2)

Points: 1,302 (seven first-place votes). **Previous ranking:** 10. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Akron

The pressure is on Ryan Day to beat Michigan after three consecutive losses. This could be the best defense in the country, and easily Day's best group since the 2019 unit that led the Bowl Subdivision in several major categories. While headlined by All-American picks, led by JT Tuimoloau, what separates the Buckeyes is potentially unmatched depth across the board, with five-star talent sitting behind established starters at every level and itching to get a shot in the lineup. What might ultimately determine the team's success is how Day sorts out the quarterback competition, with Kansas State transfer Will Howard the presumed favorite.

3. Oregon (12-2)

Points: 1,228. **Previous ranking:** 7. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Idaho

Among the four teams joining the Big Ten from the Pac-12, the Ducks look to be the most prepared for life in the conference. The offense should continue to put up eye-opening numbers behind new QB Dillon Gabriel, who tossed 30 scores for Oklahoma last season and will be at or near the top of every preseason Heisman Trophy watch list. What makes Oregon capable of winning its conference debut is the strength on both lines of scrimmage.

4. Texas (12-2)

Points: 1,223 (one first-place vote). **Previous ranking:** 4. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Colorado State

The Longhorns are really back. The question is whether they can stay there after making their first College Football Playoff. QB Quinn Ewers and OL Kelvin Banks are two of the SEC's best at their positions. CJ Baxter should slot in at running back, while significant wide receiver losses were addressed with transfers Isaiah Bond (Alabama), Silas Bolden (Oregon State) and Matthew Golden (Houston). The defense also got into the portal, notably to address defensive line departures after having one of the top rush defenses in the country.

5. Alabama (12-2)

Points: 1,077. **Previous ranking:** 5. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Western Kentucky

Transitions don't get any bigger than the Crimson Tide dealing with the loss of this generation's greatest college football coach. But thinking there will be a huge drop from Nick Saban to Kalen DeBoer would be unwise. DeBoer took Washington to the national title game and has veteran QB Jalen Milroe and enough offensive talent to be among the top groups in the country. The defense again looks stout with LB Deontae Lawson and DB Malachi Moore leading the way.

6. Ole Miss (11-2)

Points: 1,019. **Previous ranking:** 9. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Murray State

Expectations are at a five-decade high for the Rebels, who are one of the top contenders for the SEC title. The offense is expected to be prolific. QB Jaxson Dart returns for his third year as a starter with a veteran offensive line. Tre Harris and South Carolina transfer Juice Wells give Ole Miss the best receiver combination in the conference. Walter Nolen arrives from Texas A&M, along with Princely Umanmielen from Florida to bolster the defensive line. The back half of the defense is where the Rebels need improvement.

7. Notre Dame (10-3)

Points: 969. **Previous ranking:** 14. **Opens:** Aug. 31 at Texas A&M

Another year, another transfer quarterback to lead the offense at Notre Dame. Riley Leonard was a breakthrough player with Duke in 2022 and was having a solid 2023 before leg and foot injuries derailed it. Leonard should get plenty of help from a defense that boasts one of the best secondaries in the country with Benjamin Morrison and

Quarterback Conner Weigman is back this season for Texas A&M.
MARIA LYSAKER/USA TODAY SPORTS

Xavier Watts as the ringleaders. The season-opening game against Texas A&M could prove whether the Fighting Irish are a legitimate College Football Playoff contender.

8. Michigan (15-0)

Points: 944 (one first-place vote). **Previous ranking:** 1. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Fresno State

Losing coach Jim Harbaugh is painful. So is losing an ocean of contributors from last year's national champions to the NFL draft, including quarterback J.J. McCarthy. Can the Wolverines repeat? The odds are against it, though the continuity provided by the transition from Harbaugh to former offensive coordinator Sherrone Moore should help keep things rolling at a high clip. They'll run the ball effectively, but concerns about the passing game and whether the defense can stay elite remain.

9. Penn State (10-3)

Points: 889. **Previous ranking:** 13. **Opens:** Aug. 31 at West Virginia

Whether new offensive and defensive coordinators can provide a spark will determine whether Penn State competes for a Big Ten crown and books a playoff berth. On defense, former Indiana coach Tom Allen takes over a group that ranked second nationally in yards per play in 2023. Offensively, James Franklin has turned things over to Andy Kotelnicki, who worked some miracles in the same role at Kansas. QB Drew Allar is in his second season as starter and needs to be a catalyst for more explosive plays.

10. Florida State (13-1)

Points: 867. **Previous ranking:** 6. **Opens:** Sept. 2 vs. Boston College

They're still a wee bit salty in Tallahassee about how last season ended, and the school has made no secret of its wish to find an exit strategy from the Atlantic Coast Conference. But for now it's football as usual, and the Seminoles should again be among the favorites in the expanded conference despite a lot of key personnel losses. Well-traveled QB DJ Uiagalelei arrives from Oregon State with hopes of keeping the offense humming, though nearly every other starter at the ball-handling positions will also be new. The defense has holes to fill that led to several portal acquisitions.

11. Missouri (11-2)

Points: 808. **Previous ranking:** 8. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Furman

The picture is certainly different for the Tigers coming off an 11-win season and second consecutive offseason with several portal acquisitions. Can they parlay that into a playoff run? QB Brady Cook and WR Luther Burden III might be the best passing combination in the Southeastern Conference. There is a hole at running back that a pair of newcomers will try to fill. The larger concerns, however, are on defense. Four of the top five tacklers from last year's group depart. A comfortable early schedule gives the unit time to jell.

12. LSU (10-3)

Points: 742. **Previous ranking:** 12. **Opens:** Sept 1 vs. Southern Cal (Las Vegas)

Losing Heisman Trophy winner Jayden Daniels might set back some of offense, but the Tigers are well-positioned to transition to QB Garrett Nussmeier, a pure passer who threw for 395 yards in the team's bowl win. The offense faces questions at running back and receiver, but Will Campbell and Emery Jones give them two standouts on the offensive

line. The first step in upgrading the defense was hiring coordinator Blake Baker from Missouri. His biggest task will be unlocking LB Harold Perkins, who slumped as a sophomore.

13. Utah (8-5)

Points: 665. **Previous ranking:** Not ranked. **Opens:** Aug. 29 vs. Southern Utah

Cam Rising is finally back for his swan song in Salt Lake City. The quarterback led his squad to back-to-back Pac-12 titles before an injury in the Rose Bowl at the end of the 2022 season caused him to miss all of last year's campaign. The Utes start life in the Big 12 as one of the top contenders. Their defense remains powerful, and most of their tough games will be played at intimidating Rice-Eccles Stadium, making Utah a strong candidate to win the conference.

14. Clemson (9-4)

Points: 657. **Previous ranking:** 20. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Georgia (Atlanta)

It's not like the Clemson program has fallen off a cliff, but the last couple of seasons have not lived up to high standards set during the time when the Tigers were College Football Playoff regulars. The defensive side of the ball hasn't been the issue, though some next-level talent on the front line will have to be replaced this year. The biggest question once again is whether QB Cade Klubnik can take the next step and start making the kinds of plays championship offenses must have in the modern game, and whether the wide receiver group can finally break out.

15. Tennessee (9-4)

Points: 621. **Previous ranking:** 17. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. East Tennessee State

The long wait for Volunteers fans is over. The Nico Iamaleava era is finally here. There will be growing pains for the sophomore quarterback, but his consistency throwing the ball should make the offense more functional than last season. Squirrel White is among the receivers who should be productive targets, and Cooper Mays is part of a veteran offensive line that can be counted on. Ultimately, getting into the College Football Playoff picture will come down to the defense. DL James Pearce will look to repeat his double-digit sacks. The secondary is the rebuilt and unknown quantity.

16. Oklahoma (10-3)

Points: 609. **Previous ranking:** 15. **Opens:** Aug. 30 vs. Temple

In an unanticipated twist, there are more questions about the Sooners on offense as they transition to the Southeastern Conference. QB Jackson Arnold brings tremendous potential after serving as Dillon Gabriel's understudy. Arnold will be working behind an offensive line with uncertainty. On the plus side, Oklahoma has a deep receiving group with Nic Anderson, Jalil Farooq and Purdue transfer Deion Burks among the standouts. Head coach Brent Venables has rebuilt the Oklahoma defense ahead of his third year and is blessed with the return of LB Danny Stutsman and DB Billy Bowman after both considered the NFL draft. It's a deep and aggressive group at all three levels that forces turnovers.

17. Kansas State (9-4)

Points: 416. **Previous ranking:** 19. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Tennessee-Martin

Chris Klieman has made the Wildcats a constant contender in his tenure, and this could be among his best teams. QB Avery Johnson showed enough promise in limited action to justify high expectations and send last year's starter, Will Howard, to the portal. The addition of RB Dylan Edwards in the backfield to complement DJ Giddens is a big plus for the top-scoring team returning to the conference. The linebacker duo of Austin Moore and Desmond Purnell should be the foundation of a strong defense.

18. Oklahoma State (10-4)

Points: 359. **Previous ranking:** 16. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. South Dakota State

With Heisman Trophy contender RB Ollie Gordon leading a team that has most of its starters back, Oklahoma State should be in the mix to push the best teams in the Big 12 Conference. Entering his seventh season, Alan Bowman is a seasoned quarterback now. He just needs to avoid injury. The defense is full of returning talent. LB Nick Martin and DBs Kendal Daniels and Trey Rucker all totaled at least 100 tackles last year.

19. Miami (Fla.) (7-6)

Points: 292. **Previous ranking:** Not ranked. **Opens:** Aug. 31 at Florida

So what do we make of the Hurri-

canes, the team with perennially outsized expectations seeking to recapture the glory days? Mario Cristobal's squad has talent, assembling an accomplished backfield from the remnants of the Pac-12 with QB Cam Ward coming in from Washington State and RB Jacob Martinez from Oregon State to work behind what could be the league's best offensive line. If the defense that seemingly broke down at the most inopportune moments can be more consistent, Miami should see its win total increase with a manageable slate.

20. Texas A&M (7-6)

Points: 273. **Previous ranking:** Not ranked. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Notre Dame

The biggest factor for the Aggies and new coach Mike Elko this season could be the health of QB Connor Weigman, who missed all but four games in 2023 but showed signs of being the signal-caller the team has been lacking. The offensive line will be anchored by Trey Zuhn and should be improved. Defense is Elko's specialty, and there's enough talent on that side of the ball to be a strength after years of recruiting success. DL Nic Scourton is expected to be a big part of the pass rush after leading the Big Ten with 10 sacks at Purdue last season.

21. Arizona (10-3)

Points: 230. **Previous ranking:** 11. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. New Mexico

After its best finish in the coaches poll since 1998, it looked like Arizona would be back to square one when coach Jedd Fisch bolted for Washington. But new coach Brent Brennan arrived from San Jose State and got off to a solid start by making sure the standouts – QB Noah Fifita, WR Tetairoa McMillan and DB Tacario Davis – all stayed in Tucson, giving Wildcats fans hope that last season's success wasn't a one-year wonder The defense is solid, but the question will be if Brennan can build on the success and win the Big 12.

22. North Carolina State (9-4)

Points: 216. **Previous ranking:** 21. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Western Carolina

For whatever reason, the Wolfpack always seem to be the team on the edge of breaking through and reaching the top of the ACC. They just can't put it all together for a championship. Last season, it was the early loss to Louisville that wound up keeping them from a shot at the ACC crown. The arrival of QB Grayson McCall following a stellar career at Coastal Carolina and the return of WR Kevin Concepcion could give the offense that extra gear as long as the defense continues to hold up its end.

23. Southern Cal (8-5)

Points: 199. **Previous ranking:** Not ranked. **Opens:** Sept. 1 vs. LSU (Las Vegas)

The Trojans defense will again be one of the most heavily scrutinized groups in college football. Under new coordinator D'Anton Lynn, formerly of UCLA, the unit could take a noticeable step forward after finishing last year ranked 121st nationally in scoring. Two transfers in the secondary, Akili Arnold from Oregon State and Kamari Ramsey from UCLA, will help immediately. QB Miller Moss has the unenviable task of following Caleb Williams. He played well in USC's bowl game. But doing so in Lincoln Riley's offense in the regular season will be a different challenge.

24. Kansas (9-4)

Points: 186. **Previous ranking:** 23. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. South Dakota State

The hype for Kansas hasn't been this high since its last appearance in the preseason poll in 2009. The offense should be one of the best in the Big 12 with QB Jalon Daniels returning from injury alongside RB Devin Neal, who rushed for almost 1,300 yards. Making sure Daniels stays healthy after appearing in just three games last season is critical and likely will determine how far Kansas can go. The defense needs to plug some holes up front, but the secondary should be solid.

25. Iowa (10-4)

Points: 148. **Previous ranking:** 21. **Opens:** Aug. 31 vs. Illinois State

Behold, a new offensive coordinator: Tim Lester, formerly the head coach at Western Michigan, replaces the much-maligned Brian Ferentz. After Iowa finished near the bottom in most categories, Lester likely can't do any worse than his predecessor simply because of the projected return of former Michigan quarterback Cade McNamara, who was injured last October and missed the rest of the season. As usual, the Hawkeyes will be stout on defense and special teams. Being great in those areas has been the formula to win games and it won't change this year.

NFL

Reports: Butker becomes highest-paid kicker

Michael Middlehurst-Schwartz
USA TODAY

The NFL has a new highest-paid kicker.

Harrison Butker and the Kansas City Chiefs agreed Monday to a four-year, $25.6 million contract extension that includes $17.75 million guaranteed, according to multiple reports. The agreement vaults Butker past the Baltimore Ravens' Justin Tucker and Philadelphia Eagles' Jake Elliott, who previously were tied as the top earners at the position with four-year, $24 million deals.

Butker, 29, converted a career-best 94.3% (33 of 35) of his field goals last season while hitting all 38 of his extra-point attempts.

His career 89.14% career field goal conversion percentage ranks second in NFL history, trailing only Tucker's mark of 90.18%.

The seven-year veteran sparked controversy in May when he said in a commencement speech at Benedictine College that most women receiving degrees would be more excited to be married and have kids than begin their careers. He also criticized the promotion of "dangerous gender ideologies" and took aim at Pride Month.

Butker said he does not regret expressing his beliefs despite the widespread criticism he has faced. Chiefs stars Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce each said they disagreed with Butker's views but still supported him.

"I can't say I agree with the majority of it, or just about any of it, outside of him loving his family and his kids," Kelce said on the "New Heights" podcast. "I don't think that I should judge him by his views, especially his religious views, of how to go about life. That's not just who I am."

Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker (7) celebrates after kicking a field goal against the Bengals at GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium. DENNY MEDLEY/USA TODAY SPORTS

Browns' Smith carted off field

Chris Easterling
Akron Beacon Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

BEREA, Ohio — The story of the Cleveland Browns' defense through the start of training camp has been as much about who hasn't been on the field as it has been who's on the field.

Injuries have caused havoc, both big and small, to the defense that ranked No. 1 in the NFL last year. The emphasis most definitely went on big on Monday when defensive end Za'Darius Smith was carted to the locker room after suffering an injury during an 11-on-11 red-zone drill.

Smith's injury happened while he was pulling up to avoid contact with defensive end Myles Garrett, who was pursuing quarterback Deshaun Watson on the play. After he went down to the ground behind the play, he appeared to grab his left knee as a trainer approached.

The Browns have not made any official announcement about Smith's injury or his status.

Smith wasn't the only defensive lineman to go off with a trainer during Monday's practice. Defensive tackle Sam Kamara, just moments before Smith got on the cart, walked to the team's facility with a trainer.

Kamara had seen his practice reps increase in numbers because of the rash of injuries to the defensive tackle position. Hours earlier, prior to practice, defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz had talked glowingly of the job Kamara had done in shifting inside after primarily working at defensive end before this year.

"Sam Kamara has had a really good camp," Schwartz said. "He's playing pretty much full-time inside after being a swing guy and mainly concentrating

Browns defensive end Za'Darius Smith was carted to the locker room after suffering an injury during an 11-on-11 red-zone drill on Monday. BOB DONNAN/USA TODAY SPORTS

on end last year. But he's been very impressive so far and really taking advantage of a lot of those plays."

The Browns' first two defensive tackles on the field Monday were Quinton Jefferson and Maurice Hurst II. Hurst had been running with the first unit all camp after Dalvin Tomlinson was placed on the active/physically unable to perform list due to arthroscopic knee surgery he underwent on July 26.

Jefferson, who was signed in the off-

season after an six-sack season last year with the New York Jets, has been running with the first unit since Shelby Harris sustained what has remained an undisclosed injury early last week while the team was still at The Greenbrier in West Virginia. Harris has not been seen on the field since July 29.

That's also opened the door behind Jefferson and Hurst, specifically for rookies Mike Hall Jr. and Jowon Briggs.

"Well, it's not just D-line," Schwartz

said.

"I mean, we have a lot of guys that are benefiting from a lot of reps and some guys that need to take a little better advantage of some of the opportunities. But we've been practicing most of the last week, obviously without Dalvin, but also without Shelby, so two of our major contributors last year. It just opens up a lot more for guys like Michael Hall, guys like Jowon Briggs, guys like Sam Kamara."

NOTEBOOK

Reports: Vikings WR Addison charged with two misdemeanors

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Jordan Addison was charged with two misdemeanors after an arrest for suspicion of driving under the influence last month, multiple outlets reported Monday.

Addison is set for an Oct. 7 arraignment at Los Angeles County Superior Court after he was officially charged last week with driving under the influence and driving with a blood alcohol content of .08 percent, according to court records.

According to NFL policy on substances of abuse, Addison faces a potential suspension of at least three games.

Addison reportedly was arrested July 12 in Los Angeles on suspicion of driving under the influence.

Citing the arrest report, the Los Angeles Daily News reported the 22-year-old Addison, who played his final collegiate season at Southern California in 2022, was found asleep at the wheel of his vehicle, which was blocking the primary freeway offramp to Los Angeles International Airport, just after 11 p.m. on July 12.

A half hour later, California Highway

Patrol officers arrested Addison following a DUI investigation. He was released from custody shortly after 1:30 a.m. Saturday morning, according to the report.

"We are aware of Jordan Addison's arrest this past Friday and are currently gathering more information regarding the incident," the Vikings said in a statement at the time.

After being selected 23rd overall in 2023, Addison hauled in 70 passes for 911 yards and 10 touchdowns last season, making the NFL All-Rookie team.

Last July, before his rookie season, Addison was cited in Minnesota for speeding and reckless driving after being clocked going a reported 140 mph in a 55 mph zone.

Bengals DE Sample out for season

Cincinnati Bengals defensive end Cam Sample will miss the 2024 season with a torn Achilles, head coach Zac Taylor said.

Sample, 24, went down during 11-on-11 drills Thursday and was carted off the field.

A fourth-round draft pick by the Bengals in 2021 out of Tulane, Sample started two of his 17 games played last season, with 29 tackles, 1½ sacks and eight

quarterback hits.

In three seasons with the Bengals, Sample has 68 career tackles, five sacks and 20 quarterback hits in 47 games (three starts).

Giants undecided on Jones' status for preseason opener

New York Giants quarterback Daniel Jones is expected to participate in combined practices with the Detroit Lions this week as he continues to work his way back from a knee injury that cut his 2023 season short. Still unknown is whether Jones will play in Thursday's preseason opener at home against the Lions.

"Yeah, we're just going to focus on these two days (of practices)," Giants head coach Brian Daboll said Monday. "We'll go through all that later in the week. But expect him to go out there and practice well."

Daboll said last week that Jones was "ready to go." But he immediately followed that by saying "we'll take it as we go." Jones played just six games last season before he came away with an ACL tear in a Week 9 game against the Las Vegas Raiders.

"He'll practice like he normally has,"

Daboll said. "Again, it's practice. It's a competitive practice against two teams. We'll try to do it the right way. (Lions head coach) Dan (Campbell) and I have talked about it. We talked about it last year. We thought we got a lot out of it. But again, it's practice. It's just a higher-tempo practice because you're practicing against somebody else."

Free agent signee Drew Lock enters preseason as the No. 2 quarterback for the Giants with Tommy DeVito No. 3.

MRI clean for Panthers' Legette

An MRI on Carolina Panthers rookie receiver Xavier Legette's foot revealed no fractures, and the first-round pick is expected to return to action this week.

Head coach Dave Canales updated Legette's status on Monday after the wideout exited Sunday morning's practice with a lower leg injury.

The Panthers traded with the Buffalo Bills to obtain the 32nd pick of the 2024 NFL Draft and select Legette, 23, out of South Carolina. In five seasons, he caught 113 passes for 1,678 yards and 12 touchdowns for the Gamecocks. He had a career-best season in 2023 with 71 receptions for 1,255 yards and seven scores.

MLB

Smith lifts Rangers over Astros in 10

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Josh Smith hit a two-run, walk-off homer with two outs in the bottom of the 10th inning to give the Texas Rangers a dramatic 4-3 victory over the Houston Astros on Monday night at Arlington, Texas.

Smith ripped a 3-1 fastball from Caleb Ferguson (1-4) well into the stands in right-center to give the Rangers just their third victory in the past 10 games.

Corey Seager also homered for the Rangers, who out-hit the Astros 5-4. Smith's blast was his 12th of the season and also scored automatic runner Adolis Garcia.

Alex Bregman homered and Jeremy Pena had two hits and two RBIs for Houston, which lost for the sixth time in eight games.

Dodgers 5, Phillies 3

Teoscar Hernandez and Shohei Ohtani homered as the Los Angeles Dodgers celebrated the return of Freddie Freeman with a victory over the visiting Philadelphia Phillies.

Freeman had a hit in four at-bats after missing the previous eight games to be with his 3-year-old son, who was dealing with an autoimmune syndrome that caused temporary paralysis and necessitated the use of a breathing machine.

Right-hander Tyler Glasnow (9-6) gave up three runs on five hits over six innings with nine strikeouts and no walks as Los Angeles moved a half a game behind the National League-best Phillies. Glasnow now has a career-best 164 strikeouts.

Austin Hays had two hits for the Phillies, who lost for the seventh time in their past eight games. Philadelphia is 1-3 on a 10-game road trip.

Diamondbacks 7, Guardians 6, 10 innings

Joc Pederson hit a pinch-hit, go-ahead two-run homer in the eighth inning, then after Arizona blew its lead in the ninth, Eugenio Suarez's 10th-inning sacrifice fly sent the surging Diamondbacks to a victory over the host Cleveland Guardians.

With Arizona down 5-4 and a man on, Pederson lined a Scott Barlow pitch into the right-field seats for his 18th homer. However, the Guardians answered in the ninth when Bo Naylor drove a pitch from Ryan Thompson (6-3) off the 19-foot-high wall in left-center field that went for a triple. Daniel Schneeman's sacrifice fly tied the contest.

Suarez, though, delivered a one-out sacrifice fly off Emmanuel Clase (4-2) and Justin Martinez stranded a pair of runners in the ninth for Arizona, which has won 10 of 12 and is 22-9 since June 29. Ketel Marte and Gabriel Moreno opened the game with back-to-back homers for the Diamondbacks.

Jose Ramirez and Andres Gimenez each had three hits for the AL Central-leading Guardians, who have lost three straight.

A's 5, White Sox 1

The Chicago White Sox tied the American League record for consecutive losses with a 21st straight, succumbing to seven strong innings from left-hander JP Sears in a defeat at the hands of the host Oakland Athletics.

The White Sox, who haven't won since July 10, matched the AL record set by the Baltimore Orioles in 1988. Since 1900, the major league record is 23, set by the Philadelphia Phillies in 1961.

After Oakland scored in the bottom of the first without benefit of a hit against Ky Bush (0-1) in his major league debut, Chicago drew even in the fourth on a one-out double by Andrew Vaughn and a two-out RBI single by Andrew Benintendi. However, that was the last of the visitors' scoring on a night when they got just two other hits against Sears and relievers Austin Adams and Tyler Ferguson.

Reds 10, Marlins 3

Elly De La Cruz homered twice, and Nick Martinez – pitching in his native city on his 34th birthday – earned the win with five scoreless innings as the Cincinnati Reds defeated the host Miami Marlins.

De La Cruz finished 4-for-5 with three RBIs, three runs and four extra-base hits, including two doubles. His

Rangers left fielder Josh Smith hits the game-winning walk-off home run against the Astros during the 10th inning at Globe Life Field. JEROME MIRON/USA TODAY SPORTS

Dodgers left fielder Teoscar Hernandez (37) celebrates with first baseman Freddie Freeman (5) after hitting a two-run home run in the third inning against the Phillies at Dodger Stadium. JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/USA TODAY SPORTS

homers were clocked at 109 and 108 mph, and one of his doubles was clocked at 113 mph.

Miami was led by Jesus Sanchez, who hit a mammoth 480-foot homer in the sixth inning off of reliever Jakob Junis. It was the longest homer in the majors this year.

Giants 4, Nationals 1

Matt Chapman hit a three-run homer to help the visiting San Francisco Giants to a win against the Washington Nationals in the opener of a four-game series.

Tyler Fitzgerald added a solo shot and Jerar Encarnacion contributed two hits for the Giants, who have won eight of their past 10.

San Francisco starter Logan Webb (9-8) allowed one run and four hits in 5⅔ innings. He struck out four and walked three.

Nationals starter Patrick Corbin (2-12) allowed four runs and seven hits in six innings, striking out six and walking one. Travis Blankenhorn had two hits for the Nationals, who have lost six of their past eight.

Mets 6, Cardinals 0

Sean Manaea struck out 10 batters in seven innings as the visiting New York Mets blanked the St. Louis Cardinals in a makeup game stemming from a May 8 postponement.

Manaea (8-4), who allowed six hits and walked nobody, has pitched 14 scoreless innings and struck out 21 batters in his past two starts. Ryne Stanek and Edwin Diaz each pitched a hitless inning of relief to back Manaea on Monday. Tyrone Taylor hit a three-run double and Jeff McNeil hit a solo home run and scored twice for the Mets, who rebounded after losing their previous two games.

Cardinals starting pitcher Andre Pallante (4-6) allowed five runs on five hits and two walks in 4⅔ innings. He struck out two.

Red Sox 9, Royals 5

Jarren Duran hit a tiebreaking double in the sixth inning, leading the visiting Boston Red Sox to a win over the Kansas City Royals.

With two outs, Duran smacked his

American League-leading 35th double inside the left field line, scoring two to snap a 2-2 tie. The Red Sox added four runs in the seventh to pull away.

Maikel Garcia had two hits and an RBI and Michael Massey doubled, tripled and scored twice for the Royals, who had won six of their previous seven games.

Twins 3, Cubs 0

David Festa and four Minnesota relievers held the Cubs to four hits as the visiting Twins blanked Chicago in the opener of a three-game interleague series.

Manuel Margot hit a solo home run and Royce Lewis had an RBI for Minnesota, which won its fifth straight game. Margot, Trevor Larnach and Matt Wallner each tallied two hits.

Festa (2-2), making his fifth major league start, set a career high with nine strikeouts over five innings. He allowed two hits and two walks.

Pete Crow-Armstrong and Ian Happ each hit a double for the Cubs, who struck out 14 times and never advanced a runner past second base.

MLB

MONDAY'S BOX SCORES

L.A. Dodgers 5, Philadelphia 3

```
Philadelphia 020  001  000 –  3  8  0
LAD .......... 004  000  01x –  5  9  0
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Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Schwarber dh	3	1	1	0	1	2	.251
Turner ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.308
Harper 1b	4	0	1	0	0	3	.276
Bohn 3b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.295
Marsh cf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.249
Castellanos rf	4	1	2	0	0	1	.240
Stott 2b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.241
Hays lf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.242
Stubbs c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.188
Totals	35	3	8	2	1	12	

L.A. Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Ohtani dh	3	1	2	2	0	0	.309
Hernandez lf	4	1	1	2	0	0	.267
Freeman 1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.287
Smith c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.249
Lux 2b	3	0	2	0	0	0	.245
Hernandez 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.211
Heyward rf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.209
Pages cf	3	1	1	1	0	1	.241
Ahmed ss	3	1	1	0	0	1	.233
Totals	30	5	9	5	0	5	

2B: Harper (24), Ohtani (29), Lux (14), Heyward (9), Pages (18). **3B:** Castellanos (3). **HR:** Ohtani (34), Hernandez (24). **RBI:** Bohm (78), Stott (45), Ohtani 2 (81), Hernandez 2 (73), Pages (33). **SB:** Ohtani (32). **SF:** Ohtani. **Runners left in scoring position:** Philadelphia 3 (Marsh 2, Stubbs), L.A. Dodgers 2 (Freeman, Pages). **RISP:** Philadelphia 1 for 5, L.A. Dodgers 3 for 8. **GIDP:** Smith, Hernandez. **DP:** Philadelphia 2.

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Nola L, 11-5	6.0	8	4	4	0	4	96	3.54
Banks	2.0	1	1	1	0	1	18	1.80

L.A. Dodgers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Glasnow W, 9-6	6.0	5	3	3	0	9	91	3.54
Kopech H, 2	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	15	0.00
Banda H, 6	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	21	2.30
Hudson S, 8	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	11	1.76

WP: Glasnow. **Umpires:** HP-Hudson, 1B-Wendelstedt, 2B-Ballou, 3B-Mahrley. **T:** 2:25. **A:** 48,178 (56,000).

Oakland 5, Chicago White Sox 1

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CWS.............. 000  100  000 –  1  4  0
Oakland ...... 100  201  01x –  5  4  0
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Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Vargas 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.125
Sosa 2b	4	0	1	0	0	3	.223
Robert Jr. 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	1	.200
Julks rf	2	0	1	0	0	1	.231
c-Lee ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.211
Robinson c	2	0	0	0	0	2	.133
b-Sheets ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.213
Totals	31	1	4	1	1	9	

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Cameron rf	2	1	0	0	1	2	.182
a-Butler ph-rf	2	1	1	1	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	1	1	0	0	.235
Bleday cf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.243
Gelof 2b	2	2	0	0	2	2	.188
Hernaiz 3b	4	0	1	2	0	2	.178
Schuemann ss	4	0	1	0	0	2	.251
Totals	26	5	4	4	9	8	

a-homered for Cameron in 6th. b-flied out for Robinson in 8th. c-struck out for Julks in 8th.

2B: Vargas (1), Vaughn (23), Bleday (32). **HR:** Butler (13). **RBI:** Benintendi (34), Butler (36), Nevin (16), Schuemann 2 (28). **CS:** Hernaiz (1). **SB:** Julks (4), Gelof (14). **SF:** Nevin. **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 2 (Sosa 2), Oakland 3 (Andujar, Bleday, Gelof). **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

HBP: Hernaiz. **WP:** Bush. **Umpires:** HP-Mososo, 1B-Carapazza, 2B-Hanahan, 3B-Hamari. **T:** 2:15. **A:** 4,971 (46,847).

Texas 4, Houston 3 (10)

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Houston . 001  000  010  1 –  3  4  1
Texas ..... 000  010  010  2 –  4  5  0
```

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Altuve 2b	4	2	1	0	1	0	.301
Bregman 3b	5	1	1	1	0	0	.264
Alvarez dh	3	0	0	0	2	1	.298
Diaz c	2	0	0	0	2	0	.295
Pena ss	4	0	2	0	0	0	.273
Meyers cf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.230
McCormick lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.209
a-Caratini ph	0	0	0	0	1	0	.260
Cabbage lf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.277
Dubon 1b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.259
c-Singleton ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.230
Leon rf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.111
Totals	33	3	4	3	6	12	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Smith lf	5	1	1	2	0	1	.278
Seager ss	4	1	1	1	0	1	.277
Semien 2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.244
Jung 3b	3	0	1	1	1	1	.324
Langford dh	3	0	0	0	1	1	.242
Lowe 1b	3	1	0	0	1	2	.250
Garcia rf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.239
Taveras cf	2	0	0	1	0	0	.236
b-Grossman ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Kelly c	2	0	0	0	2	1	.239
d-Heim ph-c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Totals	33	4	5	4	3	11	

a-walked for McCormick in 7th. b-struck out for Taveras in 10th. c-struck out for Dubon in 9th. d-grounded out for Kelly in 8th.

E: McCormick. **2B:** Jung (3). **HR:** Bregman (15), Smith (12), Seager (23). **RBI:** Bregman (52), Pena 2 (50), Smith 2 (48), Seager (55), Taveras (31). **SF:** Taveras. **S:** Meyers. **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 6 (Cabbage 4, Leon 2), Texas 3 (Smith, Langford, Garcia). **RISP:** Houston 1 for 9, Texas 1 for 8.

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Brown	6.0	3	1	1	2	4	97	3.98
Abreu	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	17	2.60
Pressly BS, 7	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	15	3.50
Hader	1.0	0	0	0	1	3	26	3.86
Ferguson L, 1-4 BS, 2	0.2	1	2	1	0	2	12	5.50

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Heaney	6.0	1	1	1	4	8	90	3.98
Leclerc	0.1	0	0	0	1	0	15	4.05
Chafin	0.2	0	0	0	1	3	14	3.40
Robertson	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	27	3.00
Yates W, 4-1	2.0	0	1	0	4	2	25	1.08

Inherited runners: Chafin 2-2. **HBP:** Diaz, Pena, Meyers. **IBB:** Robertson (3), Yates (5). **WP:** Robertson. **Balk:** Hader (2). **Umpires:** HP-Little, 1B-Lentz, 2B-Barksdale, 3B-Thomas. **T:** 3:01. **A:** 31,605 (40,518).

Boston 9, Kansas City 5

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Boston........ 020  002  410 –  9  18  0
Kansas City.. 001  100  210 –  5  9  0
```

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Duran lf	5	0	1	3	0	1	.295
Abreu rf	5	1	3	0	0	1	.295
Yoshida dh	5	2	4	0	0	0	.277
Devers 3b	4	1	2	0	1	1	.307
Wong c	5	1	2	2	0	2	.307
Smith 1b	3	1	2	0	2	1	.209
a-Gonzalez ph-1b	2	1	1	1	0	0	.221
Sogard 2b	5	2	2	0	0	1	.333
Hamilton ss	5	0	2	1	0	0	.256
Rafaela cf	2	0	0	1	1	0	.260
Totals	42	9	18	8	2	8	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Garcia 3b	5	0	2	1	0	0	.228
Witt Jr. ss	4	0	1	1	1	0	.309
Pasquantino 1b	4	0	1	0	1	1	.265
Perez c	4	0	0	0	1	1	.269
Renfroe rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.227
Massey 2b	4	2	2	0	0	1	.257
Fermin dh	4	0	1	1	0	2	.240
Hampson lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.395
c-Frazier ph-lf	1	1	1	0	0	0	.221
Isbel cf	3	2	1	0	1	0	.229
b-DeJong ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.208
Totals	35	5	9	5	2	7	

a-homered for Smith in 7th. b-walked for Isbel in 9th. c-singled for Hampson in 7th.

2B: Duran (35), Yoshida 2 (11), Wong (12), Hamilton (14), Garcia (20), Massey (10). **3B:** Massey (2). **HR:** Gonzalez (3), Pasquantino (16). **RBI:** Duran 3 (58), Wong 2 (40), Gonzalez 2 (14), Hamilton (20), Garcia (46), Witt Jr. (80), Pasquantino (80), Fermin (30), Frazier (16). **SB:** Duran (27), Fermin (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** Boston 4 (Abreu 2, Wong 2), Kansas City 2 (Witt Jr., Hampson). **RISP:** Boston 6 for 13, Kansas City 1 for 8. **GIDP:** Wong, Witt Jr. **DP:** Boston 1, Kansas City 1.

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Paxton W, 1-1	6.0	5	2	2	1	4	90	4.35
Criswell	0.2	3	2	2	0	0	17	3.17
Sims	0.1	0	0	0	0	4	4.00	
Garcia	1.1	1	1	1	0	2	16	3.72
Booser	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	15	2.61

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Singer L, 8-7	5.2	10	4	4	1	6	107	3.03
Zerpa	0.1	5	4	4	0	0	23	4.17
Stratton	2.0	3	1	1	1	2	22	4.40

Diamondbacks pinch hitter Joc Pederson (3) celebrates his two-run home run in the eighth inning against the Guardians at Progressive Field. DAVID RICHARD/USA TODAY SPORTS

McArthur	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McArthur	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	5.20

Zerpa pitched to 4 batters in the 7th.

Inherited runners: Sims 1-1, Zerpa 2-0. **IBB:** Stratton (1). **WP:** Zerpa. **Umpires:** HP-Barry, 1B-Moore, 2B-Jimenez, 3B-Miller. **T:** 2:46. **A:** 20,087 (37,903).

Minnesota 3, Chicago Cubs 0

```
Minnesota.... 001  010  001 –  3  8  0
CHC .......... 000  000  000 –  0  4  0
```

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Castro ss	3	1	0	0	1	2	.263
Larnach lf	4	0	2	0	0	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	2	.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
Totals	32	3	8	2	1	9	

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	.273
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	0	0	0	0	.204
Amaya c	2	0	1	0	0	1	.214
Totals	31	0	4	0	2	14	

2B: Wallner 2 (8), Santana (22), Happ (25), Crow-Armstrong (8). **HR:** Margot (4). **RBI:** Lewis (29), Margot (26). **SB:** Larnach (4). **SF:** Lewis. **Runners left in scoring position:** Minnesota 2 (Wallner, Margot), Chicago 3 (Happ, Busch 2). **RISP:** Minnesota 1 for 4.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Festa W, 2-2	5.0	2	0	0	2	9	82	5.55
Thielbar H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	15	5.34
Alcala H, 13	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	2.63
Duran H, 5	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	15	3.47
Jax S, 8	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	13	2.01

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Hendricks L, 3-10	6.0	5	2	2	1	5	93	6.60
Lopez	2.0	1	0	0	0	2	11	2.63
Pearson	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	18	3.38

Umpires: HP-Randazzo, 1B-Cuzzi, 2B-Tosi, 3B-Bellino. **T:** 2:16. **A:** 35,382 (41,649).

Arizona 7, Cleveland 6 (10)

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Arizona.200  002  020  1 –  7  10  0
Cle. ......210  002  001  0 –  6  10  0
```

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Marte dh-2b	4	1	1	1	1	1	.300
Moreno c	2	1	2	1	0	0	.262
a-Herrera pr-c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.229
Gurriel Jr. lf	5	0	1	0	0	1	.266
Bell 1b	5	1	2	0	0	1	.239
Grichuk rf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.270
b-Carroll ph-rf	2	2	1	0	1	0	.214
McCarthy cf	2	2	1	0	1	0	.294
Suarez 3b	3	0	1	2	1	0	.229
Newman 2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.276
f-Pederson ph	1	1	1	2	0	0	.285
c-Thomas ph	0	0	0	0	0	0	.207
Perdomo ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.275
Totals	37	7	10	7	4	6	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Kwan lf	5	0	2	0	0	0	.334
Thomas rf	5	0	2	0	0	0	.177
Ramirez 3b	4	2	3	1	1	0	.282
Naylor 1b	4	1	1	1	1	0	.273
Fry dh	5	0	0	0	0	1	.274
Gimenez 2b	4	1	3	2	0	0	.250
Freeman cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.240
d-Martinez ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.240
Naylor c	4	1	1	2	0	0	.206
Rocchio ss	4	1	0	0	0	1	.207
e-Schneemann ph-ss	0	0	1	0	0	0	.240
Totals	37	6	10	6	3	2	

a-ran for Moreno in 2nd. b-grounded out for Grichuk in 7th. c-grounded out for Thompson in 10th. d-struck out for Freeman in 9th. e-hit a sacrifice fly for Rocchio in 9th. f-homered for Newman in 8th.

2B: Suarez (18), Ramirez (25), Gimenez (17), Bell (2), Kwan (13), Naylor (2). **3B:** Bell (3). **HR:** Marte (78), Moreno (41), Suarez 2 (61), Pederson 2 (51), Perdomo (19), Ramirez (34), Naylor (32), Schneemann (17). **SB:** Ramirez 2 (24), Naylor (4). **SF:** Schneemann, S: McCarthy. **Runners left in scoring position:** Arizona 4 (Marte, Carroll, Newman 2), Cleveland 3 (Kwan, Thomas, Fry). **RISP:** Arizona 2 for 6, Cleveland 2 for 11. **GIDP:** Bell, Freeman, Rocchio. **DP:** Arizona 3, Cleveland 1.

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gallen	7.0	8	5	5	2	4	93	3.75
Ginkel H, 13	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	12	3.17
Puk H, 10	0.1	0	0	0	1	0	15	4.10
Thompson W, 6-3	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	2	4.08
B5, 6								
Martinez S, 1	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	20	2.01

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Allen	5.0	5	2	2	2	4	84	5.56
Smith BS, 2	3.2	2	2	1	1	2	34	2.17
Avila	0.1	0	0	0	1	0	6	3.02
Gaddis H, 25	0.2	1	0	0	1	6	1.37	
Herrin H, 12	0.2	2	2	2	0	0	17	4.02
Barlow BS, 1	0.2	1	1	1	1	1	17	1.72
Morgan	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	16	2.63
Clase L, 4-7	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	17	0.61

Inherited runners: Puk 1-1, Avila 1-0. **HBP:** McCarthy. **IBB:** Martinez (3). **WP:** Gallen. **Umpires:** HP-Ramos, 1B-Tumpane, 2B-Reyburn, 3B-Hoye. **T:** 2:47. **A:** 19,570 (34,830).

Cincinnati 10, Miami 3

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Cincinnati .202  210  012 – 10  15  2
Miami ........ 000  001  200 –  3  11  2
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Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
India 2b	5	3	4	1	0	0	.261
De La Cruz ss	5	3	3	0	0	2	.261
Steer lf	4	0	0	0	1	0	.242
Wiemer lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.154
Friedl cf	3	0	1	1	1	0	.216
Candelario dh	5	1	1	0	0	1	.226
France 1b	5	1	3	2	0	0	.226
Fraley rf	5	1	2	4	0	1	.270
Marte 3b	5	1	1	2	0	1	.370
Maile c							
Totals	42	10	15	9	3	4	

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Edwards ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.383
Burger 1b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.239
a-Hill ph	4	0	0	0	0	1	.231
Bride dh	4	2	2	0	0	0	.222
Stowers lf	4	0	2	1	0	1	.200
Rivera 3b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.210
Jorgan cf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.250
Brujan cf	2	0	1	1	0	0	.213
Fortes c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.170
b-Sanchez pr-c	1	0	1	0	0	0	.170
Totals	37	3	11	3	2	9	

a-struck out for Sanchez in 9th. b-ran for Fortes in 7th.

E: Martinez, De La Cruz, Lopez, Munoz. **2B:** De La Cruz 2 (20), France (1), Marte (3), Sanchez (10). **HR:** De La Cruz (20), France 2 (48), Friedl (12), France 1, Fraley 2 (21), Marte 2 (11), Sanchez 2 (43), Bride (13). **SB:** Steer (18), Edwards (12). **SF:** Friedl. **Runners left in scoring position:** Cincinnati 7 (India 2, Friedl, Stephenson 2, Candelario, Fraley), Miami 6 (Burger 2, Rivera 2, Lopez, Brujan). **RISP:** Cincinnati 2 for 10, Miami 2

Red Sox left fielder Jarren Duran runs up the first-base line after hitting a two-run double in the sixth inning against the Royals at Kauffman Stadium. PETER AIKEN/USA TODAY SPORTS

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for 11. **GIDP:** Sanchez, Lopez. **DP:** Cincinnati 2.

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Martinez W, 6-5	5.0	4	0	0	5	70	3.43	
Junis	3.0	4	0	0	1	3	4.94	
Farmer	1.0	3	0	1	1	18	4.94	
Wilson	1.0	0	0	1	1	18	10.97	

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Munoz L, 2-6	3.2	7	7	6	1	3	85	5.41
Anderson	5.1	8	3	2	6	2	10.97	

Inherited runners: Farmer 1-1, Anderson 3-3. **HBP:** Rivera, Fortes. **Umpires:** HP-Wolf, 1B-Porter, 2B-Barber, 3B-Blakney. **T:** 2:47. **A:** 9,460 (37,446).

San Francisco 4, Washington 1

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SF ............. 103  000  000 –  4  9  0
Washington . 000  001  000 –  1  6  0
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San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Fitzgerald ss	4	1	2	2	0	0	.314
Chapman 3b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.240
Conforto lf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.246
Chapman 3b							
Soler dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.238
Encarnacion rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.253
Bailey c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.245
Luciano dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.170
Totals	35	4	9	4	0	9	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Abrams ss	5	0	1	0	0	1	.257
Yepez lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Garcia Jr. 2b	4	1	2	1	0	0	.290
Ruiz c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.250
Wood lf							
Blankenhorn dh	3	0	1	0	0	0	.382
Call rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.224
Vargas 3b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.233
Young cf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.249
Totals	33	1	6	1	0	8	

a-singled for Canha in 8th.

2B: Conforto (21), Yastrzemski (10), Ruiz (11), Young (16). **HR:** Fitzgerald (12), Chapman (18). **RBI:** Fitzgerald (24), Chapman 3 (54), Wood (21). **SB:** Garcia Jr. (11). **Runners left in scoring position:** San Francisco 3 (Conforto, Encarnacion 2), Washington 5 (Abrams, Blankenhorn, Call 2). **RISP:** San Francisco 1 for 8. **GIDP:** Conforto. **DP:** Washington 1.

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Webb W, 9-8	5.2	4	1	1	3	4	95	3.42
Walker H, 21	1.1	0	0	0	2	16	2.29	
Rogers H, 5	0.2	0	0	0	2	13	2.23	
Doval S, 21	0.1	0	0	0	0	3	4.29	

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Corbin L, 2-12	6.0	7	4	4	1	90	5.88	
Barnes	2.0	1	0	0	2	14	3.97	
Salazar	1.0	1	0	0	2	12	9.00	

Inherited runners: Walker 2-2, Rogers 2-1. **HBP:** Vargas. **Balk:** Webb (1). **Umpires:** HP-Carlson, 1B-Merzel, 2B-Scheurwater. **T:** 2:22. **A:** 14,674 (41,380).

N.Y. Mets 6, St. Louis 0

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NYM ........ 010  041  000 –  6  9  1
St. Louis .... 000  000  000 –  0  6  0
```

N.Y. Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Lindor ss	4	1	2	0	1	1	.257
Taylor lf	5	0	2	2	0	1	.236
Nimmo lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.233

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Winn ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.278
Pham lf	4	0	2	0	0	2	.260
Contreras dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.236
Goldschmidt 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.244
Burleson rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.266
Donovan 2b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.275
Pages c	3	0	1	0	1	0	.225
Scott II cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.184
Totals	33	0	6	0	1	12	

E: Lindor. **2B:** Taylor (13), Bader 3 (28), Arenado (16). **HR:** McNeil (10). **RBI:** Taylor 3 (28), McNeil (37), Bader (19). **SB:** Winn (10). **Runners left in scoring position:** N.Y. Mets 4 (Lindor 2, Martinez, Alvarez), St. Louis 5 (Winn, Contreras 2, Donovan, Pages). **RISP:** N.Y. Mets 2 for 7. **GIDP:** Goldschmidt. **DP:** N.Y. Mets 1.

N.Y. Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Manaea W, 8-4	7.0	6	0	0	1	10	102	3.30
Stanek	1.0	0	0	0	1	14	10.13	
Diaz	1.0	0	0	0	1	16	3.66	

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pallante L, 4-6	4.2	5	5	5	2	90	4.43	
Armstrong	2.1	2	1	1	2	4	2.25	
Liberatore	2.0	2	0	0	1	1	1.08	

Inherited runners: Armstrong 1-1. **WP:** Manaea, Pallante. **Umpires:** HP-Gonzalez, 1B-Tichenor, 2B-Blaser, 3B-Ceja. **T:** 2:22. **A:** 34,881 (44,383).

OLYMPICS

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The USA graybeards are into the semifinals

Gentry Estes
USA TODAY NETWORK

PARIS – They've been to parks, rode horses, watched some water polo.

"And doing puzzles!" chimes in Zeke, the older brother.

Five-year-old Zeke is one of U.S. men's volleyball captain Micah Christenson's three children, and at this moment, he's getting a little bored with his daddy's post-match interview. But he and his 3-year-old brother Quinn are hanging in there and hanging out, while their baby sister Finley, "can't hang just yet with these boys," says Christenson.

A few moments earlier, teammate Matt Anderson had walked past, holding his 4-year-old son Jamie's hand and 2-year-old daughter Juno is his arms, headphones still on her ears. Outside in the walkway, there's more kids and families celebrating a big win.

It's a heart-warming picture that tells you something important about this U.S. team.

"Yeah, we're old," Christenson says, with a laugh. "That's what it says."

This gray-bearded U.S. team – past bedtime, as it were – had just improved to 4-0 at these Paris Olympics, beating Brazil 26-24, 28-30, 25-19, 25-19 in Monday's late-night quarterfinal. The victory moved the Americans into the semifinals, where they'll face world No. 1 Poland for a spot in the gold medal match.

The win extended a spirited Olympics run for a U.S. team whose best quality might be its experience. Of the 12 players on Monday's start list, nine are older than 30. Four are on the other side of 35.

Which helps explain all these kids running around the backstage of South Paris Arena.

"Shows how many life experiences we go through together in being dads and sharing that experience," Christenson says. "It's just wonderful. My kids call all of our teammates uncles. This is one big family."

Five U.S. players – Christenson, Anderson, David Smith, Aaron Russell and Garrett Muagututia – have either had kids attend these Games or they are planning to be here at some point, according to the team.

That number doesn't include coach John Speraw, whose daughters Brooklyn and Hailey – ages 8 and 7 – are rushing to greet him. He picks up both in his arms, being told by someone that next Olympics, he won't be able to do that with them anymore.

"I got a little later start than some of my players," said the 52-year-old Speraw, "so (the kids) are all around the same age. The dads are busy doing
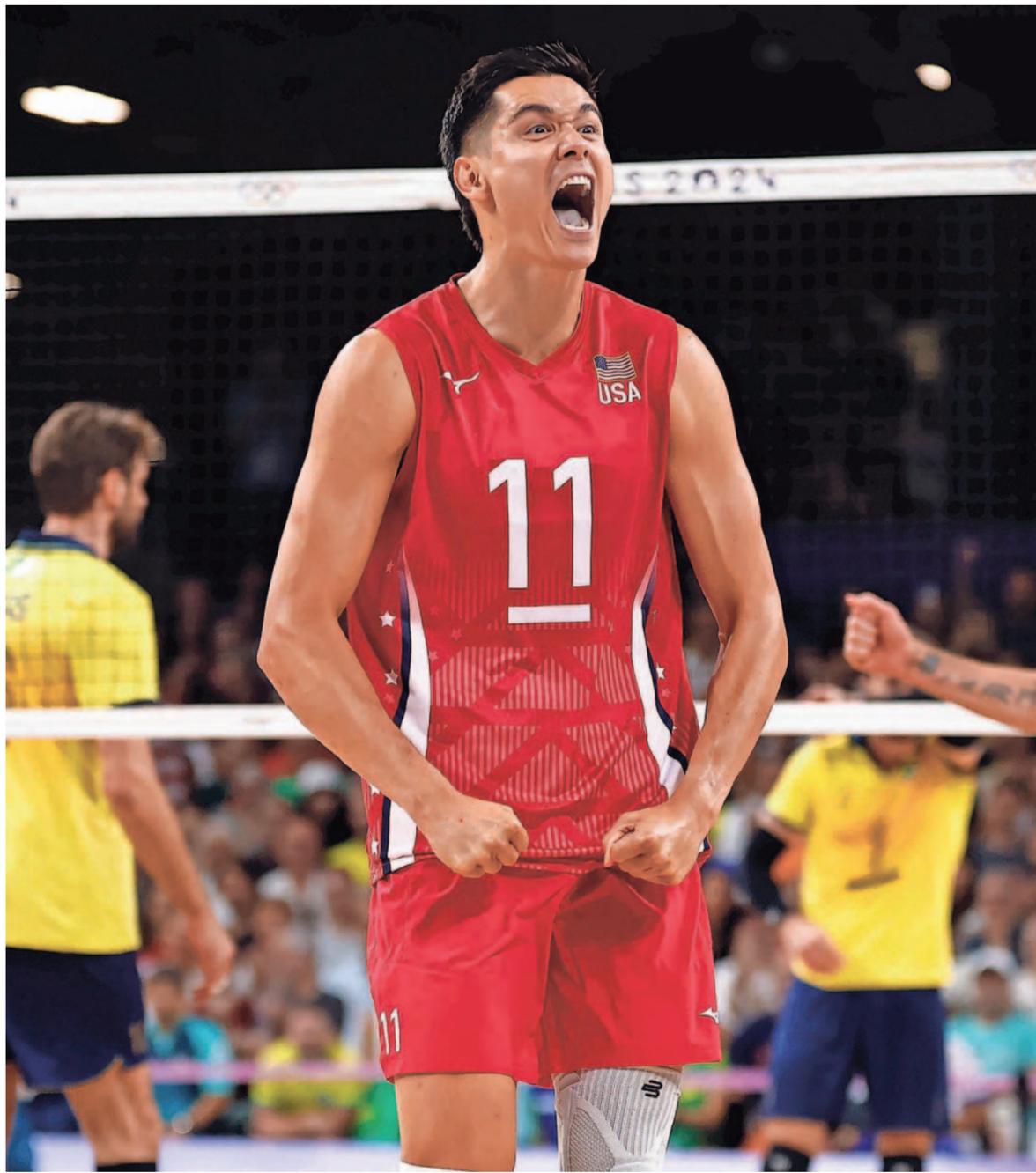
U.S. setter Micah Christenson celebrates during a victory against Brazil. YUKIHITO TAGUCHI/USA TODAY SPORTS

work, and they're having a great time. I mean, Paris has been fantastic for an Olympic Games."

Speraw's players have been pretty fantastic, too. Against Brazil, as in previous matches in this Olympics, the team's maturity showed in how they responded when circumstances got dicey.

After squeaking out the first set, the U.S. team blew a six-point lead to cough up the second despite leading it 21-16

and having two set points. Brazil was suddenly rolling with a noisy crowd in its corner. Didn't matter. The U.S. jumped ahead early in the third set (and made that lead hold up) before gradually pulling away in the fourth.

The next one against Poland will be tougher, the Americans realize. But there's time to worry about that later.

In the meantime, it's hugs and photos and memories.

And maybe, if there's time, a few puzzles.

"I'm happy for all the families that support our guys," Speraw says. "This is not an easy profession. Our guys are gone a lot or families are gone a lot.

"For them to be here to share this moment, I think it's really special."

Reach Gentry Estes at gestes @gannett.com and on the X platform @Gentry_Estes.

MEN'S SOCCER

France reaches first Olympic final in 40 years

Janina Nuno Rios
REUTERS

PARIS – Hosts France will play an Olympic men's soccer final for the first time in 40 years after beating Egypt 3-1 in extra time at the Lyon stadium on Monday and will face Spain for the gold medal.

France fought back after conceding its first goal in the tournament when Mahmoud Saber grabbed a stunning lead for Egypt before Jean-Philippe Mateta leveled with a late strike.

Mateta got a double before Michael Olise scored in extra time to earn Thierry Henry's side the victory and extend their quest for a second Olympic title in Friday's final at Parc des Princes against Spain, who earlier beat Morocco 2-1.

"What a night! All credit to the players. Egypt were really good today but we never stopped going after the win and the fans pushed us forward," coach Henry said.

"We have secured a medal now but we have one more step to go to win our first football gold medal after 40 years. Now Spain await us in the final and it's going to be a big game."

Egypt, which was playing its third Olympic semifinal, had more shots on goal during the first half before Saber opened the scoring in the 62nd minute, capitalizing on a rebound to power in a second attempt.

France, which hit the woodwork three times throughout the match, equalized when Mateta finally found the

Jean-Philippe Mateta of France celebrates scoring the team's second goal against Egypt. NIR ELIAS/REUTERS

net seven minutes from time from an Olise pass through Egypt's back line.

Egypt went down to 10 men early in extra time when Omar Fayed got a second yellow card for a foul on Desire Doue and was dealt a further blow when Mateta scored again to put France ahead with a towering header in the 99th minute.

"This was the night of my dreams," Mateta said. "But I need one more night now to keep dreaming. This is for the fans, they kept chanting even after we

went behind in the score."

Olise also got on the scoresheet three minutes into the second half in extra time to seal the win and send Egypt to the bronze-medal match against confederation rivals Morocco in Nantes on Thursday.

Spain 2, Morocco 1

Spain reached its second successive Olympic final when it beat Morocco thanks to second-half goals from Fer-

min Lopez and Juanlu Sanchez.

Spain fought back after Morocco went ahead to earn the chance to improve on its silver medal at the Tokyo Games.

"It was an intense, tough, complicated, physical match but the team has bounced back in the most difficult match we have had so far," goalkeeper Arnau Tenas told Spanish newspaper AS.

"We knew the level of Morocco both defensively and offensively."

In a extended first half following an injury to referee Ilgiz Tantashev, who had to be replaced, Morocco opened the scoring in the 37th minute when the tournament's top scorer Soufiane Rahimi converted a penalty for his sixth Olympic goal following a Pablo Barrios foul.

Spain was more dangerous after the break and equalized in the 66th minute when Barcelona's Lopez pounced on some sloppy defending by Morocco to steal the ball in the box and strike home.

"I hope I can score in every game. The most important thing is that we took a step forward and got the win," said 21-year-old midfielder Lopez, who scored a brace in the 3-0 quarterfinal win over Japan.

"From halftime onwards we were ourselves and I think the team deserved the win for our effort."

Substitute Sanchez earned the Spaniards the lead five minutes from time after a fine team move from the right and a low shot from a tight angle.

OLYMPICS

TRACK AND FIELD

Allman wins back-to-back discus golds

**Chase Goodbread, Lindsay Schnell
and Tyler Dragon**
USA TODAY

SAINT-DENIS, France — The Olympic field in women's discus had three years to close the gap on Valarie Allman, and on Monday, they found out they'll need four more.

The defending gold medal winner from the 2021 Tokyo Games did it again for Team USA Monday, making it back-to-back golds with a throw of 69.50 at the Paris Olympics. The silver medal went to China's Bin Feng (67.51) and the bronze to Croatia's Sandra Elkasevic (67.51). Allman fouled on her first attempt, landing the discus wide of the right-side boundary, but took the lead on her second try with a throw of 68.74, and put the competition totally out of reach with the 69.50 on her fourth attempt.

If there was any doubt that Allman was the one to beat, she removed it in qualifying on Friday with a throw of 69.59 that was nearly four meters farther than anyone else. She didn't win the gold quite that comfortably, but easily enough.

Allman won her gold medal in Tokyo with a throw of 68.98 and holds the national record at 71.46. She is now only the fourth woman ever to win two Olympic gold medals in discus, and just the third to do so in back-to-back Games. Previously, it was last accomplished by Croatian Sandra Perkovic, who took consecutive golds in 2012 and 2016.

It's been a remarkable professional career for someone whose first passion was dance. The coordination and balance required translated well to discus, and Allman began turning from dancer to discus while at Longmont (Colo.) Silver Springs High School. She took to it quickly enough to become a national champion and earn a scholarship to Stanford.

Thomas advances to 200 final

Americans Gabby Thomas, McKenzie Long and Brittany Brown advanced to the women's 200-meter final at the Paris Olympics.

Thomas, the defending bronze medalist and favorite to win gold this time, blazed through her semifinal heat to win in 21.86. She has the fastest 200 time in the world, 21.78, which she ran June 28 at the U.S. track and field trials in Eugene, Oregon.

Thomas was behind at the curve, but easily overtook Dina Asher-Smith of Great Britain on the straightaway. Asher-Smith, who finished in 22.31, also advanced to the finals.

Long, whose story of reaching the Olympics as she navigated the sudden death of her mother has inspired other runners, owns the second fastest 200 time in the world this year at 21.83. She finished third in her heat at 22.30, but qualified for the final on time. Julien Alfred, who won the women's 100 Saturday and earned Saint Lucia's first-ever medal, won Long's heat in 21.98.

A star at Ole Miss, Long won the 100 and 200 NCAA titles in June. Paris is her first Olympics.

It is also the first Olympics for Brown, who won the third and final heat in 22.11.

None of the American sprinters stopped to speak with reporters after their heats.

The women's 200 final is scheduled for Tuesday at 3:40 p.m. ET (9:40 p.m.in Paris) at Stade de France. It is the last event of the day.

Lyles cruises in 200 opener

The 100 champion is off and running in the 200.

Noah Lyles coasted to an easy win in

Valarie Allman celebrates after winning the women's discus throw final during the Paris Olympics at Stade de France.
JAMES LANG/USA TODAY SPORTS

Noah Lyles prepares to run a men's 200-meter heat race.
KIRBY LEE/
USA TODAY SPORTS

the men's 200 on Monday. Lyles took the lead around the turn, led comfortably down the home stretch and crossed the finish line in 20.19 seconds to win the sixth and final heat of the 200.

"That was kind of getting the legs moving and stuff like that. Me and my coach knew it was a race where we were really gonna have to play it by ear," Lyles explained after the first round. "He said (come in) top two. In my heart I said one. In my heart I said win the first 120 (meters), win the second 150 (meters) and then from there, check the surroundings and make adjustments."

Lyles, who still had a smile on his face after his victory in the 100, told reporters he watched tape of his 100 win multiple times last night.

"I watched it last night and I watched it this morning," Lyles said. "I watched it quite a few times throughout the day."

Lyles is trying to become the first American sprinter to win Olympic gold medals in both the 100 and 200 since Carl Lewis accomplished the feat at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. He came into the Olympics with the No. 1 200 time in the world this year (19.53). He's also the American record holder in the event.

The U.S. sprinter won his first ever Olympic gold medal in the 100 on Sunday in a dramatic photo finish.

The 200 is Lyles' signature event.

All three Americans advance in 200 men's semis

Kenny Bednarek won the fourth heat in the 200 with a time of 19.97.

Bednarek is hoping to get on the 200 Olympic podium after he finished seventh in Sunday's 100 final. He raced to a silver medal in the 200 at the Tokyo Olympics. Erriyon Knighton won the fifth heat in 19.99. The 20-year-old sprinter is a candidate to be on the podium along with Bednarek. Knighton won silver at the 2023 world championships.

Record

favorites of the athletics program, went above and beyond to the delight of the crowd.

Having seen off silver medalist American Sam Kendricks and bronze winner Emmanouil Karalis for the gold, he duly knocked off 6.10 at the first attempt to overhaul Thiago Braz's Olympic record 6.03 from the 2016 Rio Games.

With all other events finished, the capacity Stade de France crowd then focused fully on Duplantis' bright yellow shirt and neon pink-lit pole frame as he tried to beat the world record of 6.24 he set in April. The first two attempts were close but he slipped over and around the bar with incredible athleticism on the third, bringing a deafening roar from the 69,000 fans who had stayed to witness athletics history.

Still only 24, Duplantis is the world record holder, double Olympic, double world, triple European and double indoor world champion. He is representing Sweden but was born and raised in Lafayette, Louisiana.

His father is American. His mother is Swedish. He set national records while

Mondo Duplantis, left, and Sam Kendricks celebrate after the men's pole vault final during the Paris Olympics at Stade de France. KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

attending Lafayette (Louisiana) High School. He set NCAA records and earned a silver medal at the 2019 world championships while attending LSU — where he also was teammates with Sha-'Carri Richardson. He won a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics and won the world championships in 2022 and 2023. He's the first back-to-back champion in the Olympic pole vault since American Bob Richards in 1952 and 1956.

"I haven't processed how fantastic that moment was," he said. "It's one of those things that don't really feel real, such an out of body experience.

"It's the biggest possible stage for a pole vaulter. The biggest dream since I was a kid was to break the world record at the Olympics, and I've been able to do that in front of the most ridiculous crowd I've ever competed in front of.

"I felt really prepared. I've never been so locked in my life than in these past three months. Now I'm just ready to eat a bunch of food. The party is going to be pretty big."

Around three hours earlier, the pole vault had been something of a sideshow to the track action as Duplantis entered the fray at 5.70 and promptly cleared it by about a meter.

He sat out 5.80 before flying easily over 5.85, as others all around him were starting to fall by the wayside.

He then cleared 6.00 – the ultimate target for most vaulters - as if he was warming up, and that was all he needed.

Kendricks, the 2017 and 2019 world champion and 2016 Olympic bronze medalist, missed the Tokyo Games after testing positive for COVID following his arrival and spoke this week about the turmoil he suffered as brands considered him "damaged goods."

The pent-up emotion exploded when he equaled his season's best of 5.95 but he could not get over 6.00 with three attempts, leaving Duplantis as the winner on that height, without a fail.

Karalis, 24, cleared his personal best of 5.93 this season and was delighted to get over 5.90. His attempts at 5.95 and 6.00 never looked convincing but he was delighted with his bronze having finished joint-fourth in Tokyo.

It was Greece's fourth bronze in the event but first since 1956, after a shared bronze in the first Games of 1896, when the winning height was 3.30 meters.

Contributing: USA TODAY

OLYMPICS

3X3 BASKETBALL

Dutch men, German women win gold

Benjamin Mallet REUTERS

PARIS – The Netherlands won gold in the men's 3x3 basketball by edging France 18-17 in overtime in the final at the Paris Olympics on Monday, just a few minutes after Germany had earned its first international title in the women's tournament.

France were backed by a passionate crowd, but Worthy de Jong, instantly recognizable with his bleached blond hair, tied the score in the last seconds of regulation and sealed the title for the Dutch with a two-point, long-range shot in overtime.

"To end like this is amazing. These shots are how legends are made," de Jong said.

"We came here with a goal and we made it. This is our canvass and like Picasso, we painted a masterpiece."

On the women's side, Germany beat Spain 17-16 after Sonja Greinacher hit a two-pointer that gave them a decisive lead with 30 seconds remaining at Place de la Concorde.

Greinacher had already scintillated in a back-and-forth semi-final contest against the Canada, delivering 11 points and five rebounds for a 16-15 win.

"We definitely wanted that gold medal," Greinacher said after getting a congratulatory hug courtside from compatriot and 14-times NBA All-Star Dirk Nowitzki.

The men's bronze went to Lithuania after it dispatched Tokyo gold medalist Latvia 21-18, which picked a bad day to suffer their only two losses of the tournament.

The United States, which won the women's gold in Tokyo, prevailed over Canada 16-13 to claim bronze this time around, a consolation prize after losing 18-16 to Spain in overtime in the semifinals.

"After we lost this morning and had our gold dream crushed, we were down," said American Hailey van Lith.

"We were kind of feeling sorry for ourselves. It took a lot of mental toughness just to compete in this game," she added.

In the bronze medal game, the United States had to rely on close one-point shots and five free throws to beat Canada and the Plouffe twins, Katherine and Michelle, the number one and number three-ranked players in the world.

The United States' Hailey van Lith (9) drives to the basket against Canada's Kacie Bosch in the women's 3x3 basketball bronze-medal game during the Paris Olympics at La Concorde 1. MICHAEL MADRID/USA TODAY SPORTS

Armour

Continued from Page 1NS

I'd be back here at an Olympic Games. Competing and walking away with four medals, I'm not mad about it," Biles continued. "I'm pretty proud of myself."

Of course Biles was disappointed with the outcome Monday. She is, after all, fiercely competitive, and her performances in the balance beam and floor exercise finals weren't what she imagined for herself. Or what anybody imagined for her.

The last day of event finals was supposed to be a coronation, an exclamation to what, for the first 10 days of the Olympics, were "The Simone Games." At least one other gold medal from the balance beam or floor exercise finals, maybe even a historic ninth one that would tie her for most by a female Olympian. Two medals for sure, moving her past Allyson Felix for most overall by an American woman who is not a swimmer.

As Biles learned all too well three years ago in Tokyo, however, life isn't neat and tidy. Things don't always go how you want, or expect. Sometimes you win all the things, sometimes you don't.

On Monday, she didn't.

She fell off balance beam, breaking her streak of winning a medal on every all-around, vault, balance beam and floor exercise final she's competed in at the world championships or Olympics.

Then, on floor, an event she'd never lost at a world championships and Olympics, she finished second to Andrade after going out of bounds one too many times.

"She's a little tired, emotionally and physically," said Cecile Landi, who is Biles' co-coach with husband Laurent. "You know, she made mistakes on floor. But you make mistakes and (are) still a silver medalist, it's pretty cool."

But as Biles showed in Tokyo, it's easy to have character when things are

Simone Biles, left, and Jordan Chiles of Team USA bow to gold medalist Rebeca Andrade of Brazil after the floor exercise on Monday. JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY SPORTS

going well. The truer measurer is how you respond when they're not.

When it was announced in the post-meet news conference that the 1-2 finish on balance beam by Italy's Alice D'Amato and Manila Esposito gave the country its first medals for the event, Biles enthusiastically applauded and smiled. Not only was she happy for D'Amato and Esposito, but she also recognizes the impact it will have in their country.

"They're building the bricks for the younger Italians," Biles said. "Really proud of them. They did their job."

When Chiles' score was changed, giving her the bronze medal, Biles looked happier for her teammate than she did

herself. As Chiles ran along the sidelines, sobbing, Biles gave chase, wrapping her in a bearhug when she finally caught up to Chiles.

As for celebrating Andrade, that was easy. Andrade's floor gold is the culmination of the years the Brazilian has pushed Biles and motivated her to get better. Also a rightful recognition for how she's elevated Brazil, which won its first Olympic team medal in Paris, one year after winning its first team medal at the world championships.

"She's queen," Biles said, simply.

Biles is, too often, held to an impossible standard. She's expected to be both perfect and infallible. Superhuman. We've become so accustomed to

her greatness that we take it for granted, assuming she will deliver on command. And more often than not, she does, as she did in the team and all-around finals.

"It's amazing to recover (from Tokyo) the way she did," Laurent Landi said. "To do the work, the personal work, to be here and to perform – it's amazing. It just shows how tough the mind is and if you heal it properly, you can be very, very successful."

But sometimes, Biles is at her best when she's not doing "Simone things." When she's just being Simone.

It's the grace and generosity she shows in those moments that reflect a true champion.

SCOREBOARD

MLB

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	67	46	.593	—
N.Y. Yankees	67	46	.593	—
Boston	60	51	.541	6
Tampa Bay	57	54	.514	9
Toronto	51	61	.455	15½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	67	45	.598	—
Minnesota	63	48	.568	3½
Kansas City	63	51	.553	5
Detroit	53	60	.469	14½
Chicago	27	88	.235	41½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	59	54	.522	—
Houston	57	55	.509	1½
Texas	54	59	.478	5
L.A. Angels	49	63	.438	9½
Oakland	47	67	.412	12½

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	66	46	.589	—
Atlanta	60	51	.541	5½
N.Y. Mets	59	53	.527	7
Washington	51	62	.451	15½
Miami	42	71	.372	24½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	62	49	.559	—
Pittsburgh	56	55	.505	6
St. Louis	57	56	.504	6
Cincinnati	55	57	.491	8½
Chicago	55	60	.478	9

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	66	47	.584	—
Arizona	61	52	.540	5
San Diego	61	52	.540	5
San Francisco	57	57	.500	9½
Colorado	41	72	.363	25

Sunday's Scores

San Francisco 8, Cincinnati 2
Miami 7, Atlanta 0
Washington 4, Milwaukee 3
N.Y. Yankees 4, Toronto 3
Arizona 6, Pittsburgh 5
Baltimore 9, Cleveland 5
Kansas City 3, Detroit 1
Tampa Bay 1, Houston 0
Minnesota 13, Chicago White Sox 7
Boston 7, Texas 2
L.A. Angels 3, N.Y. Mets 2
L.A. Dodgers 3, Oakland 2
Philadelphia 6, Seattle 0
San Diego 10, Colorado 2
Chicago Cubs 6, St. Louis 2

Monday's Scores

N.Y. Mets 6, St. Louis 1
Arizona 7, Cleveland 6
Cincinnati 10, Miami 3
San Francisco 4, Washington 1
Minnesota 3, Chicago Cubs 0
Texas 4, Houston 3
Boston 9, Kansas City 1
Oakland 3, Chicago White Sox 1
L.A. Dodgers 5, Philadelphia 3

Tuesday's Games

Arizona (TBD) at Cleveland (Lively 10-6), 6:40 p.m.
Cincinnati (Lodolo 8-4) at Miami (Meyer 2-1), 6:40 p.m.
San Diego (King 9-6) at Pittsburgh (TBD), 6:40 p.m.
San Francisco (Birdsong 3-0) at Washington (Gore 6-9), 6:45 p.m.
L.A. Angels (TBD) at N.Y. Yankees (Gil 11-5), 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Rodriguez 13-4) at Toronto (Bassitt 8-10), 7:07 p.m.
Milwaukee (Rea 9-3) at Atlanta (Sale 13-3), 7:20 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Springs 0-0) at St. Louis (Gray 10-6), 7:45 p.m.
Minnesota (Lopez 10-7) at Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 8-2), 8:05 p.m.
Houston (Valdez 10-5) at Texas (Heaney 4-11), 8:05 p.m.
Boston (Bello 10-5) at Kansas City (Lugo 13-5), 8:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Severino 7-4) at Colorado (Freeland 3-4), 8:40 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (TBD) at Oakland (Stripling 2-10), 9:40 p.m.
Detroit (TBD) at Seattle (Castillo 9-10), 9:40 p.m.
Philadelphia (Sanchez 7-7) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 0-1), 10:10 p.m.

MLB Leaders

American League

Batting Average — Witt Jr., Kansas City .344; Kwan, Cleveland .333; Judge, New York .322; Guerrero Jr., Toronto .316; Soto, New York .310; Devers, Boston .305; Altuve, Houston .302; Alvarez, Houston .301; Duran, Boston .296; Diaz, Houston .296.

Home Runs — Judge, New York 41; Santander, Baltimore 32; Ramirez, Cleveland 29; Henderson, Baltimore 29; Soto, New York 28; Rooker, Oakland 28; Devers, Boston 25; Naylor, Cleveland 24; Raleigh, Seattle 23; Seager, Texas 22.

RBI — Judge, New York 103; Ramirez, Cleveland 93; Rooker, Oakland 81; Naylor, Cleveland 80; Pasquantino, Kansas City 79; Witt Jr., Kansas City 79; Soto, New York 78; Perez, Kansas City 75; Santander, Baltimore 75; Guerrero Jr., Toronto 72.

Stolen Bases — Thomas, Cleveland 28; Hamilton, Boston 28; Caballero, Tampa Bay 28; Garcia, Kansas City 27; Duran, Boston 26; Witt Jr., Kansas City 25; Rengifo, Los Angeles 24; Chisholm Jr., New York 24; Ramirez, Cleveland 22; Moore, Seattle 20.

Wins — Lugo, Kansas City 13; Rodriguez, Baltimore 13; Rodon, New York 13; Burnes, Baltimore 12; Skubal, Detroit 12; Gil, New York 11; Ober, Minnesota 11; Lively, Cleveland 10; Lopez, Minnesota 10; Valdez, Houston 10.

ERA — Ragans, Kansas City 2.57; Skubal, Detroit 2.57; Burnes, Baltimore 2.63; Singer, Kansas City 2.88; Blanco, Houston 2.98; Kirby, Seattle 3.04; Gilbert, Seattle 3.05; Anderson, Los Angeles 3.05; Houck, Boston 3.09; Crochet, Chicago 3.19.

Strikeouts — Skubal, Detroit 162; Crochet, Chicago 162; Ragans, Kansas City 159; Ryan, Minnesota 145; Gilbert, Seattle 143; Lopez, Minnesota 142; Kikuchi, Houston 141; Rodon, New York 137; Burnes, Baltimore 132; Gil, New York 132.

Saves — Clase, Cleveland 33; Kimbrel, Baltimore 23; Holmes, New York 23; Hader, Houston 22; Fairbanks, Tampa Bay 21; Jansen, Boston 20; Yates, Texas 20; Munoz, Seattle 18; McArthur, Kansas City 18; Duran, Minnesota 15.

National League

Batting Average — Ohtani, Los Angeles .306; Arraez, San Diego .305; Marte, Arizona .300; Profar, San Diego .300; Ozuna, Atlanta .300; Bohm, Philadelphia .295; Garcia Jr., Washington .290; Reynolds, Pittsburgh .289; Freeman, Los Angeles .288; Merrill, San Diego .283.

Home Runs — Ohtani, Los Angeles 34; Ozuna, Atlanta 32; Marte, Arizona 27; Harper, Philadelphia 25; Walker, Arizona 23; Hernandez, Los Angeles 23; Schwarber, Philadelphia 23; Alonso, New York 23; Lindor, New York 22; Profar, San Diego 19.

RBI — Ozuna, Atlanta 86; Ohtani, Los Angeles 80; Marte, Arizona 77; Bohm, Philadelphia 77; Walker, Arizona 71; Profar, San Diego 71; Hernandez, Los Angeles 71; Adames, Milwaukee 71; Harper, Philadelphia 69; Freeman, Los Angeles 67.

Stolen Bases — De La Cruz, Cincinnati 51; Doyle, Colorado 25; Acuna Jr., Atlanta 24; Young, Washington 26; Lindor, New York 23; Stott, Philadelphia 23; Yelich, Milwaukee 21; Doyle, Colorado 21; Crow-Armstrong, Chicago 21; Kim, San Diego 20.

Wins — Sale, Atlanta 13; Wheeler, Philadelphia 11; Nola, Philadelphia 11; Cease, San Diego 11; Gray, St. Louis 10; Suarez, Philadelphia 10; Keller, Pittsburgh 10; Rea, Milwaukee 9; Gallen, Arizona 9; King, San Diego 9.

ERA — Sale, Atlanta 2.71; Wheeler, Philadelphia 2.77; Flaherty, Los Angeles 2.80; Greene, Cincinnati 2.83; Suarez, Philadelphia 2.87; Imanaga, Chicago 3.09; Keller, Pittsburgh 3.20; King, San Diego 3.26; Fedde, St. Louis 3.34; Sanchez, Philadelphia 3.36.

Strikeouts — Cease, San Diego 174; Sale, Atlanta 155; Glasnow, Los Angeles 155; Peralta, Milwaukee 149; Greene, Cincinnati 149; Wheeler, Philadelphia 148; Gray, St. Louis 147; King, San Diego 144; Flaherty, Los Angeles 140; Nola, Philadelphia 130.

Saves — Helsley, St. Louis 34; Finnegan, Washington 30; Suarez, San Diego 22; Iglesias, Atlanta 23; Diaz, Cincinnati 22; Estevez, Philadelphia 20; Megill, Milwaukee 20; Bednar, Pittsburgh 20; Doval, San Francisco 20; Scott, San Diego 18.

OLYMPICS

Medal Leaders

Through Aug. 5

Nation	G	S	B	Total
United States	20	30	28	78
PR of China	21	18	14	53
France	12	16	18	46
Great Britain	12	13	17	42
Australia	13	11	8	32
Rep. of Korea	11	7	6	24
Japan	10	5	11	26
Italy	9	10	6	25
Germany	7	5	5	17
Canada	5	4	8	17
Brazil	2	4	6	12
New Zealand	5	3	1	9
Spain	1	3	5	9
Hungary	3	3	2	8
Sweden	3	3	2	8
Romania	3	3	1	7
Ukraine	2	2	3	7
Ireland	3	0	3	6
Israel	1	4	1	6
Switzerland	1	1	4	6
Greece	0	1	5	6
Croatia	2	1	2	5
Belgium	2	0	3	5
Hong Kong	2	0	2	4
Georgia	2	2	1	4
Kazakhstan	1	1	2	4
South Africa	1	1	2	4
Chinese Taipei	1	0	3	4
Poland	0	1	3	4
Individual Neutral Athletes	1	2	0	3
Kenya	1	2	0	3
Uzbekistan	1	0	2	3
DPR of Korea	0	2	1	3
Jamaica	0	1	2	3
Mexico	0	0	3	3
India	0	0	3	3
Tajikistan	2	0	0	2
Azerbaijan	2	0	0	2
Philippines	2	0	0	2
Serbia	1	1	0	2
Denmark	1	0	1	2
Czechia	1	0	1	2
Guatemala	0	1	1	2
Ethiopia	0	2	0	2
Kosovo	0	1	1	2
Türkiye	0	1	1	2
Dominican Rep.	0	1	1	2
Lithuania	0	0	2	2
Malaysia	0	0	2	2
Moldova	0	0	2	2
Algeria	1	0	0	1
Argentina	1	0	0	1
Chile	1	0	0	1
Dominica	1	0	0	1
Ecuador	1	0	0	1
Norway	1	0	0	1
Saint Lucia	1	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	1
Uganda	1	0	0	1
Armenia	0	2	0	2
Colombia	0	1	0	1
Fiji	0	1	0	1
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
Thailand	0	1	0	1
Tunisia	0	1	0	1
Austria	0	0	1	1
Cape Verde	0	0	1	1
Cuba	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Grenada	0	0	1	1
Indonesia	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Slovakia	0	0	1	1

August 05 Results

3x3 Basketball

Women's Semifinal: Spain 18, United States 16
Men's Semifinal: Netherlands 20, Lithuania 19
Women's Semifinal: Germany 16, Canada 15

Athletics

Men's Pole Vault Final

1. Armand Duplantis, Sweden, 6.25 points (WR).
2. Sam Kendricks, United States, 5.95.
3. Emmanouil Karalis, Greece, 5.90.
4. Ernest John Obiena, Philippines, 5.90.
5. Ersu Sasma, Türkiye, 5.85.
6. Kurtis Marschall, Australia, 5.85.
7. Bokai Huang, China, 5.80.
8. Sondre Guttormsen, Norway, 5.80.
9. Bo Kanda Lita Baehre, Germany, 5.70.
10. Oleg Zernikel, Germany, 5.70.
11. Menno Vloon, Netherlands, 5.70.
12. Valters Kreiss, Latvia, 5.50.

Women's Discus Throw Final

1. Valarie Allman, United States, 69.50 points.
2. Bin Feng, China, 67.51.
3. Sandra Elkasevic, Croatia, 67.51.
4. Marike Steinacker, Germany, 65.37.
5. Vanessa Kamga, Sweden, 65.6.
6. Claudine Vita, Germany, 63.62.
7. Jorinde van Klinken, Netherlands, 63.35.
8. Daisy Osakue, Italy, 63.11.
9. Irina Rodrigues, Portugal, 61.19.
10. Kristin Pudenz, Germany, 60.38.
11. Alexandra Emilianov, Republic of Moldova, 58.08.
12. Melina Robert-Michon, France, 57.03.

Women's 5000m Final

1. Beatrice Chebet, Kenya, 14:28.56 points.
2. Faith Kipyegon, Kenya, 14:29.60.
3. Sifan Hassan, Netherlands, 14:30.61.
4. Nadia Battocletti, Italy, 14:31.64.
5. Margaret Chelimo Kipkemboi, Kenya, 14:32.23.
6. Ejgayehu Taye, Ethiopia, 14:32.98.
7. Medina Eisa, Ethiopia, 14:35.43.
8. Karoline Bjerkeli Grovdal, Norway, 14:43.21.
9. Gudaf Tsegay, Ethiopia, 14:45.21.
10. Karissa Schweizer, United States, 14:45.57.
11. Elise Cranny, United States, 14:48.06.
12. Rose Davies, Australia, 14:49.67.
13. Nathalie Blomqvist, Finland, 14:53.10.
14. Whittni Morgan, United States, 14:53.57.
15. Joselyn Daniely Brea, Venezuela, 15:17.04.
16. Francine Niyomukunzi, Burundi, 15:22.40.

Women's 800m Final

1. Keely Hodgkinson, Great Britain, 1:56.72 points.
2. Tsige Duguma, Ethiopia, 1:57.15.
3. Mary Moraa, Kenya, 1:57.42.
4. Shafiqua Maloney, StVincent&Grenadines, 1:57.66.
5. Renelle Lamote, France, 1:58.19.
6. Worknesh Mesele, Ethiopia, 1:58.28.
7. Juliette Whittaker, United States, 1:58.50.
8. Prudence Sekgodiso, South Africa, 1:58.79.

Badminton

Women's Singles Gold Medal Match: AN Se Young 2, HE Bing Jiao 0
Men's Singles Bronze Medal Match: Zii Jia LEE 2, Lakshya SEN 1
Men's Singles Gold Medal Match: Viktor AXELSEN 2, Kunlavut VITIDSARN 0

Beach Volleyball

Women's Round of 16: TINA/ANASTASIJA 2, MULLER/TILLMANN 1
Women's Round of 16: HERRERA/GAVIRA 2, BRYL/ŁOSIAK 0
Women's Round of 16: ALVAREZ M/MORENO 2, STAM/SCHOON 1
Men's Round of 16: MOL/SORUM 2, EVANS/BUDINGER 0
Men's Round of 16: PARTAIN/BENESH 2, COTTAFAVA/NICOLAI 0
Women's Round of 16: MELISSA/BRANDIE 2, NUSS/KLOTH 0
Women's Round of 16: ANA PATRICIA/DUDA 2, AKIKO/ISHII 0
Men's Round of 16: CHERIF/AHMED 2, M.GRIMALT/E.GRIMALT 0

Cycling Track

Women's Team Sprint, Finals - For Places 7-8: Canada 47.631, Poland 47.175
Women's Team Sprint, Finals - For Places 5-6: China 46.572, Mexico 46.251
Women's Team Sprint, Finals - For Bronze: Netherlands 45.690, Germany 45.400
Women's Team Sprint, Finals - For Gold: New Zealand 45.659, Great Britain 45.186

Field Hockey

Women's Quarter-final: China 3, Australia 2
Women's Quarter-final: Argentina 1, Germany 1
Women's Quarter-final: Netherlands 3, Great Britain 1
Women's Quarter-final: Belgium 2, Spain 0

Shooting

Skeet Mixed Team Bronze Medal Match: China 44, India 43
Skeet Mixed Team Gold Medal Match: Italy 1 45, United States 1 44

Soccer

Men's Semi-final: Spain 2, Morocco 1
Men's Semi-final: France 3, Egypt 1

Surfing

Men's Semifinals - Heat 1: Kauli VAAST 10.96, Alonso CORREA 9.60
Men's Semifinals - Heat 2: Jack ROBINSON 12.33, Gabriel MEDINA 6.33
Women's Semifinals - Heat 1: Caroline MARKS 12.17, Johanne DEFAY 12.17
Women's Semifinals - Heat 2: Tatiana WESTON-WEBB 13.66, Brisa HENNESSY 6.17
Men's Bronze Medal Match: Gabriel MEDINA 15.54, Alonso CORREA 12.43

Table Tennis

Men's Team Round of 16: Sweden 3, Denmark 0
Men's Team Round of 16: Chinese Taipei 3, Egypt 0
Women's Team Round of 16: Japan 3, Poland 0
Women's Team Round of 16: India 3, Romania 2
Men's Team Round of 16: Japan 3, Brazil 0
Men's Team Round of 16: Brazil 3, Portugal 1
Women's Team Round of 16: China 3, Egypt 0
Women's Team Round of 16: Thailand 3, France 2
Men's Team Round of 16: France 3, Slovenia 0
Women's Team Round of 16: Germany 3, Canada 0
Women's Team Round of 16: Korea 3, Brazil 1
Men's Team Round of 16: Sweden 3, Hong Kong, China 2

Volleyball

Men's Quarterfinals: Poland 3, Slovenia 1
Men's Quarterfinals: Italy 3, Japan 2
Women's Quarterfinals: France 3, Germany 2
Men's Quarterfinals: United States 3, Brazil 1

Water Polo

Men's Preliminary Round: Hungary 17, Serbia 13
Men's Preliminary Round: Japan 14, Australia 13
Men's Preliminary Round: Greece 9, Italy 8
Men's Preliminary Round: United States 14, Croatia 11
Men's Preliminary Round: Spain 10, France 8
Men's Preliminary Round: Montenegro 10, Romania 7

Wrestling

Men's Greco-Roman 130kg 1/8 Final: Amin MIRZAZADEH 3, Adam Jacob COON 1
Men's Greco-Roman 60kg Qualification: Enes BASAR 8, Georgij TIBILOV 7
Women's Freestyle 68kg 1/8 Final: Amit ELOR 10, Buse CAVUSOGLU TOSUN 2
Men's Greco-Roman 130kg 1/8 Final: Mijain LOPEZ NUNEZ 7, LEE Seungchan 0
Men's Greco-Roman 60kg 1/8 Final: RI Se Ung 10, Victor CIOBANU 3
Women's Freestyle 68kg 1/8 Final: Wiktoria CHOLUJ 10, ZHOU Feng 3
Men's Greco-Roman 130kg 1/8 Final: Heiki NABI 1, Sabah Saleh SHARIATI 1
Men's Greco-Roman 60kg 1/8 Final: Nisha NISHA 4, Tetiana SOVA RIZHKO 4
Men's Greco-Roman 130kg 1/8 Final: Alimkhan SYZDYKOV 3, Alin ALEXUC CIURARIU 1
Men's Greco-Roman 60kg 1/8 Final: Raiber Jose RODRIGUEZ OROZCO 6, Murad MAMMADOV 5
Women's Freestyle 68kg 1/8 Final: PAK Sol Gum 10, Irina RINGACI 6
Men's Greco-Roman 60kg 1/8 Final: MENG Lingzhe 4, Jello KRAHMER 1
Men's Greco-Roman 60kg 1/8 Final: CAO Liguo 6,Moamen MOHAMED 2
Women's Freestyle 68kg 1/8 Final: Koumba LARROQUE 6, Tayla Tuahine FORD 0
Men's Greco-Roman 130kg 1/8 Final: Mantas KNYSTAUTAS 9, Oussama ASSAD 1
Men's Greco-Roman 130kg 1/8 Final: Zholaman SHARSHENBEKOV 6, Aidos SULTANGALI 3
Women's Freestyle 68kg 1/8 Final: Blessing OBORUDUDU 8, Linda MORAIS 2
Men's Greco-Roman 130kg 1/8 Final: Kiril Milenov MILOV 1, Yasmani ACOSTA FERNANDEZ 1
Men's Greco-Roman 60kg 1/8 Final:
Razvan ARNAUT 4, Enes BASAR 2
Women's Freestyle 68kg 1/3 Final: OZAKI Nonoka 10, Soleymi Antoni. CARABALLO HERNANDEZ 0
Men's Greco-Roman 130kg 1/8 Final: Abdellatif MOHAMED 3, Muhammet Hamza BAKIR 1
Men's Greco-Roman 60kg 1/8 Final: Mehdi MOHSEN NEJAD 9, Abdelkarim FERGAT 0
Women's Freestyle 68kg 1/8 Final: Meerim ZHUMANAZAROVA 8, Delgermaa ENKHSAIKHAN 3
Men's Greco-Roman 130kg 1/8 Final: Mijain LOPEZ NUNEZ 3, Amin MIRZAZADEH 1
Men's Greco-Roman 60kg 1/8 Final: FUMITA Kenichiro 11, Kevin Yuran de ARMAS RODRIGUEZ 1
Women's Freestyle 68kg 1/4 Final: Amit ELOR 8, Wiktoria CHOLUJ 0
Men's Greco-Roman 130kg 1/4 Final: Sabah Saleh SHARIATI 4, Alimkhan SYZDYKOV 0
Men's Greco-Roman 60kg 1/4 Final: RI Se Ung 9, Islomjon BAKHRAMOV 0
Women's Freestyle 68kg 1/4 Final: PAK Sol Gum 10, Nisha NISHA 8
Men's Greco-Roman 130kg 1/4 Final: MENG Lingzhe 1, Mantas KNYSTAUTAS 1
Men's Greco-Roman 60kg 1/4 Final: CAO Liguo 5, Raiber Jose RODRIGUEZ OROZCO 3
Women's Freestyle 68kg 1/4 Final: Blessing OBORUDUDU 6, Koumba LARROQUE 2
Men's Greco-Roman 130kg 1/4 Final: Yasmani ACOSTA FERNANDEZ 2, Abdellatif MOHAMED 1
Men's Greco-Roman 60kg 1/4 Final: Zholaman SHARSHENBEKOV 9, Razvan ARNAUT 0
Women's Freestyle 68kg 1/4 Final: Meerim ZHUMANAZAROVA 8, OZAKI Nonoka 6
Men's Greco-Roman 60kg 1/4 Final: FUMITA Kenichiro 4, Zholaman SHARSHENBEKOV 3
Men's Greco-Roman 60kg Semifinal: CAO Liguo 3, RI Se Ung 3
Men's Greco-Roman 130kg Semifinal: Mijain LOPEZ NUNEZ 4, Sabah Saleh SHARIATI 1
Men's Greco-Roman 130kg Semifinal: MENG Lingzhe 1, Yasmani ACOSTA FERNANDEZ 1
Women's Freestyle 68kg Semifinal: Amit ELOR 10, PAK Sol Gum 0
Women's Freestyle 68kg Semifinal: Meerim ZHUMANAZAROVA 3, Blessing OBORUDUDU 1

August 06 Schedule

Artistic Swimming

1:30 p.m. Team Free Routine

Athletics

4:05 a.m. Women's 1500m Round 1
4:20 a.m. Men's Javelin Throw Qualification
4:50 a.m. Men's 110m Hurdles Qualification Round
5:15 a.m. Women's Long Jump Qualification
5:20 a.m. Women's 400m Repechage Round
5:50 a.m. Men's Javelin Throw Qualification
6:30 a.m. Men's 400m Hurdles Repechage Round
6:30 a.m. Men's 200m Repechage Round
1:35 p.m. Men's 400m Semi-final
1:57 p.m. Women's Hammer Throw Final
2:07 p.m. Women's 400m Hurdles Semi-final
2:15 p.m. Men's Long Jump Final
2:50 p.m. Men's 1500m Final
3:14 p.m. Women's 3000m Steeplechase Final
3:40 p.m. Women's 200m Final

Basketball

5 a.m. Men's Quarterfinal: Germany vs Greece
8:30 a.m. Men's Quarterfinal: Serbia vs Australia
12 p.m. Men's Quarterfinal: France vs Canada
3:30 p.m. Men's Quarterfinal: Brazil vs United States

Beach Volleyball

11 a.m. Men's Quarterfinal: EHLERS/WICKLER vs BOERMANS/DE GROOT
12 p.m. Men's Quarterfinal: EVANDRO/ARTHUR vs AHMAN/HELLVIG
3 p.m. Women's Quarterfinal: MARIAFE/CLANCY vs ESMEE/ZOE
4 p.m. Women's Quarterfinal: HUGHES/CHENG vs HUBERLI/BRUNNER

Boxing

3:30 p.m. Men's 71kg - Semifinal: Omari JONES vs Asadkhuja MUYDINKHUJAEV
3:46 p.m. Men's 71kg - Semifinal: Lewis RICHARDSON vs Marco Alonso VERDE ALVAREZ
4:02 p.m. Women's 50kg - Semifinal: WU Yu vs Nazym KYZAIBAY
4:18 p.m. Women's 50kg - Semifinal: Buse Naz CAKIROGLU vs Aira VILLEGAS
4:34 p.m. Women's 66kg - Semifinal: Janjaem SUWANNAPHENG vs Imane KHELIF
4:50 p.m. Women's 66kg - Semifinal: CHEN Nien Chin vs YANG Liu
5:06 p.m. Women's 60kg - Final: YANG Wenlu vs Kellie HARRINGTON

Canoe Sprint

3:30 a.m. Men's Kayak Four 500m Heats
4 a.m. Women's Kayak Four 500m Heats
4:30 a.m. Men's Canoe Double 500m Heats
5 a.m. Women's Canoe Double 500m Heats
5:30 a.m. Men's Kayak Double 500m Heats
6:10 a.m. Women's Kayak Double 500m Heats
7:10 a.m. Men's Kayak Four 500m Quarterfinals
7:40 a.m. Women's Canoe Double 500m Quarterfinals
8:10 a.m. Men's Canoe Double 500m Quarterfinals
8:30 a.m. Men's Kayak Double 500m Quarterfinals

Cycling Track

11:30 a.m. Women's Team Pursuit, Qualifying
12:59 p.m. Men's Team Sprint, First Round
1:15 p.m. Men's Team Pursuit, First Round
1:54 p.m. Men's Team Sprint, Finals - For Places 7-8
1:55 p.m. Men's Team Sprint, Finals - For Places 5-6
2:05 p.m. Men's Team Sprint, Finals - For Bronze
2:10 p.m. Men's Team Sprint, Finals - For Gold

Diving

4 a.m. Men's 3m Springboard Preliminary
4 a.m. Jumping Individual Final

Field Hockey

8 a.m. Men's Quarterfinal: Netherlands vs India
1 p.m. Men's Semi-final: Germany vs India

Handball

3:30 a.m. Women's Quarterfinal: Denmark vs Netherlands
7:30 a.m. Women's Quarterfinal: France vs Germany
11:30 a.m. Women's Quarterfinal: Hungary vs Sweden
3:30 p.m. Women's Quarterfinal: Norway vs Brazil

Sailing

6:03 a.m. Men's Kite - Race 6
6:05 a.m. Mixed Multihull - Race 10
6:13 a.m. Mixed Dinghy - Race 7
6:23 a.m. Women's Kite - Race 6
6:28 a.m. Men's Kite - Race 7
6:53 a.m. Men's Kite - Race 8
6:57 a.m. Mixed Multihull - Race 11
7:13 a.m. Men's Kite - Race 9
7:22 a.m. Mixed Dinghy - Race 8
7:38 a.m. Women's Kite - Race 7
7:49 a.m. Mixed Multihull - Race 12
7:49 a.m. Women's Kite - Race 8
8:29 a.m. Mixed Dinghy - Race 9
8:43 a.m. Women's Dinghy Medal Race
9:36 a.m. Mixed Dinghy - Race 10
9:43 a.m. Men's Dinghy Medal Race

Skateboarding

6:30 a.m. Women's Park Prelims
11:30 a.m. Women's Park Final

Soccer

12 p.m. Women's Semi-final: United States vs Germany
3 p.m. Women's Semi-final: Brazil vs Spain

Sport Climbing

4 a.m. Women's Boulder & Lead, Semifinal Boulder
7 a.m. Men's Speed, Qualification Seeding
7:35 a.m. Men's Speed, Qualification Elimination heats

Table Tennis

4 a.m. Men's Team Round of 16
4 a.m. Women's Team Round of 16
9 a.m. Men's Team Quarterfinal: Japan vs Chinese Taipei
9 a.m. Women's Team Quarterfinal: vs Korea
2 p.m. Men's Team Quarterfinal: Sweden vs Germany
2 p.m. Women's Team Quarterfinal: Thailand vs Japan

Volleyball

4 a.m. Women's Quarterfinals: China vs Türkiye
7 a.m. Women's Quarterfinals: Brazil vs Dominican Republic
11 a.m. Women's Quarterfinals: United States vs Poland
3 p.m. Women's Quarterfinals: Italy vs Serbia

Water Polo

8 a.m. Women's Quarterfinal: Canada vs Spain
9:35 a.m. Women's Quarterfinal: Netherlands vs Italy
12 p.m. Women's Quarterfinal: Australia vs Greece
2:35 p.m. Women's Quarterfinal: Hungary vs United States

Wrestling

5 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 130kg Repechage: LEE Seungchan vs Amin MIRZAZADEH
5 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 60kg Repechage: Moamen MOHAMED vs Raiber Jose RODRIGUEZ OROZCO
5 a.m. Women's Freestyle 68kg Repechage: Buse CAVUSOGLU TOSUN vs Wiktoria CHOLUJ
5:07 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 130kg Repechage: Kiril Milenov MILOV vs Abdellatif MOHAMED
5:07 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 60kg Repechage: Kevin Yuran de ARMAS RODRIGUEZ vs Mehdi MOHSEN NEJAD
5:07 a.m. Women's Freestyle 68kg Repechage: Delgermaa ENKHSAIKHAN vs OZAKI Nonoka
5:14 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 77kg 1/8 Final: KUSAKA Nao vs Abd Elkrim OUAKALI
5:14 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 97kg 1/8 Final: Artur ALEKSANYAN vs KIM Seungjun
5:21 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 77kg 1/8 Final: SUSAKI Yui vs Vinesh VINESH
5:21 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 97kg 1/8 Final: Mahmoud ABDELRAHMAN vs Aram VARDANYAN
5:21 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 77kg 1/8 Final: Rustam ASSAKALOV vs Kevin MEJIA CASTILLO
5:21 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 97kg 1/8 Final: Aktenge KEUNIMJAEVA vs Oksana LIVACH
5:28 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 77kg 1/8 Final: Yosvanys PENA FLORES vs Amin KAVIYANINEJAD
5:28 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 97kg 1/8 Final: Arvi Martin SAVOLAINEN vs Fadi ROUABAH
5:28 a.m. Women's Freestyle 50kg 1/8 Final: Alisson Camila CARDOZO REY vs Gabija DILYTE
5:35 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 77kg 1/8 Final: Jonni Kunnari SARKKINEN vs Malkhas AMOYAN
5:35 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 97kg 1/8 Final: Lucas Alexandros LAZOGIANIS vs Gabriel Alejandro ROSILLO KINDELAN
5:35 a.m. Women's Freestyle 50kg 1/8 Final: Yusneylis GUZMAN LOPEZ vs Evin DEMIRHAN YAVUZ
5:42 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 77kg 1/8 Final: Akzhol MAKHMUDOV vs Kamal Ameer BEY
5:42 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 97kg 1/8 Final: Mohammadhadi SARAVI vs Josef Patrick RAU
5:42 a.m. Women's Freestyle 50kg 1/8 Final: FENG Ziqi vs Nada MOHAMED
5:49 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 77kg 1/8 Final: Jair Alexis CUERO MUNOZ vs Demeu ZHADRAYEV
5:49 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 97kg 1/8 Final: Uzur DZHUZUPBEKOV vs Mindaugas VENCKAITIS
6:03 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 77kg 1/8 Final: Aik MNATSAKANIAN vs Sanan SULEYMANOV
6:03 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 97kg 1/8 Final: Roberti KOBLIASHVILI vs Abubakar KHASLAKHANAU
6:03 a.m. Women's Freestyle 50kg 1/8 Final: Emanuela LIUZZI vs Otgonjargal DOLGORJAV
6:10 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 77kg 1/8 Final: Mariya STADNIK vs Anastasia BLAYVAS
6:10 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 97kg 1/8 Final: FENG Ziqi vs Nada MOHAMED
6:17 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 77kg Final
6:17 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 97kg Final
6:17 a.m. Women's Freestyle 50kg Final
6:24 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 77kg Final
6:24 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 97kg Final
6:24 a.m. Women's Freestyle 50kg Final
6:31 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 77kg Final
6:31 a.m. Men's Greco-Roman 97kg Final
6:31 a.m. Women's Freestyle 50kg Semifinal
12:15 p.m. Men's Greco-Roman 77kg Semifinal
12:22 p.m. Men's Greco-Roman 97kg Semifinal
12:29 p.m. Men's Greco-Roman 77kg Semifinal
12:36 p.m. Men's Greco-Roman 97kg Semifinal
12:43 p.m. Women's Freestyle 50kg Semifinal
12:50 p.m. Women's Freestyle 50kg Semifinal
12:57 p.m. Men's Bronze Medal Match: vs Zholaman SHARSHENBEKOV
1:04 p.m. Men's Greco-Roman 60kg Bronze Medal Match: vs RI Se Ung
1:11 p.m. Men's Greco-Roman 60kg Final: FUMITA Kenichiro vs CAO Liguo
1:18 p.m. Men's Greco-Roman 130kg Bronze Medal Match: vs Sabah Saleh SHARIATI
1:25 p.m. Men's Greco-Roman 130kg Bronze Medal Match: vs MENG Lingzhe
1:32 p.m. Men's Greco-Roman 130kg Final: Mijain LOPEZ NUNEZ vs Yasmani ACOSTA FERNANDEZ
1:46 p.m. Women's Freestyle 68kg Bronze Medal Match: vs PAK Sol Gum
1:46 p.m. Women's Freestyle 68kg Bronze Medal Match: vs Blessing OBORUDUDU
1:53 p.m. Women's Freestyle 68kg Final: Amit ELOR vs Meerim ZHUMANAZAROVA

August 07 Schedule

Athletics

1:30 a.m. Marathon Race Walk Relay Mixed
4:05 a.m. Men's High Jump Qualification
4:15 a.m. Women's 100m Hurdles Round 1
4:25 a.m. Women's Javelin Throw Qualification
5:10 a.m. Men's 5000m Round 1

5:50 a.m. Women's Javelin Throw Qualification
5:55 a.m. Men's 800m Round 1
6:45 a.m. Women's 1500m Repechage Round
1 pm. Women's Pole Vault Final
1:05 p.m. Men's 110m Hurdles Semi-Final
1:15 p.m. Men's Triple Jump Qualification
1:35 p.m. Men's 400m Hurdles Semi-Final
2:02 p.m. Men's 200m Semi-Final
2:25 p.m. Men's Discus Throw Final
2:45 p.m. Women's 400m Semi-Final
3:20 p.m. Men's 400m Final
3:43 p.m. Men's 3000m Steeplechase Final

Basketball

5 a.m. Women's Quarterfinal: Serbia vs Australia
8:30 a.m. Women's Quarterfinal: Spain vs Belgium
12 p.m. Women's Quarterfinal: Germany vs France
3:30 p.m. Women's Quarterfinal: Nigeria vs United States

Beach Volleyball

11 a.m. Women's Quarterfinal: ALVAREZ M/MORENO vs MELISSA/BRANDIE
12 p.m. Women's Quarterfinal: ANA PATRICIA/DUDA vs TINA/ANASTASIJA
3 p.m. Women's Quarterfinal: HERRERA/GAVIRA vs MOL/SORUM
4 p.m. Men's Quarterfinal: CHERIF/AHMED vs PARTAIN/BENESH

Boxing

3:30 p.m. Women's 57kg - Semifinal: LIN Yu Ting vs Esra YILDIZ KAHRAMAN
3:46 p.m. Women's 57kg - Semifinal: Nesthy PETECIO vs Julia SZEREMETA
4:02 p.m. Men's +92kg - Semifinal: Nelvie Raman TIAFACK vs Bakhodir JALOLOV
4:18 p.m. Men's +92kg - Semifinal: Djamili-Dini ABOUDOU MOINDZE vs Ayoub GHADFA DRISSI EL AISSAOUI
4:34 p.m. Men's 63.5kg - Final: Sofiane OUMIHA vs Erislandy ALVAREZ BORGES
4:51 p.m. Men's 80kg - Final: Nurbek ORALBAY vs Oleksandr KHYZHNIAK

Diving

3 a.m. Men's 3m Springboard Semifinal
9 a.m. Men's 3m Springboard Preliminary

Field Hockey

8 a.m. Women's Semi-final: Netherlands vs Argentina
11:30 a.m. Women's Semi-final: Belgium vs China

Golf

3 a.m. Women's Individual Stroke Play Round 1

Handball

3:30 a.m. Men's Quarterfinal: Spain vs Egypt
7:30 a.m. Men's Quarterfinal: Germany vs France
11:30 a.m. Men's Quarterfinal: Denmark vs Sweden
3:30 p.m. Men's Quarterfinal: Norway vs Slovenia

Table Tennis

4 a.m. Men's Team Quarterfinal
4 a.m. Women's Team Quarterfinal: India vs
4 a.m. Men's Team Quarterfinal: Brazil vs France
9 a.m. Women's Team Quarterfinal: China vs
2 p.m. Men's Team Semifinal

Volleyball

10 a.m. Men's Semifinals: Poland vs United States
2 p.m. Men's Semifinals: Italy vs France

Water Polo

8 a.m. Men's Quarterfinal: Croatia vs Spain
9:35 a.m. Men's Quarterfinal: Greece vs Serbia
1 p.m. Men's Quarterfinal: United States vs Australia
2:35 p.m. Men's Quarterfinal: Italy vs Hungary

Weightlifting

9 a.m. Men's 61kg
1:30 p.m. Women's 49kg

TRANSACTIONS