

GOOD AS GOLD

PAGES 8-9 AND SPORTS



Men's hoops, women's soccer showing their medal



Robberies, assaults surge in Central Park

PAGES 4-5



Robberies have surged 222% in Central Park so far this year, while felony assaults have rocketed 100%, terrifying tourists and locals alike — and turning the urban oasis into a “dystopian” nightmare, said recent mugging victim Julian De Flandres.

LAWN & DISORDER

Qns. anti-car pol's speeding tix



ZOOM-ZOOM: Queens Councilwoman Tiffany Cabán (above and right) has racked up seven traffic tickets since November 2022, including four for on-camera speeding in school zones.

By RICH CALDER

A far-left city councilwoman who ran for office on an anti-car agenda and pushed a crackdown on dangerous driving is a road menace who's racked up four speeding tickets in a little more than a year, The Post has learned.

Queens Democratic Socialist Tiffany Cabán has been slapped with seven traffic tickets totaling \$490 in fines and late fees since November 2022 — including four in the past 13 months for being caught on camera speeding in school zones, a review of city records shows.

The remaining summonses on the pol's black Chevy Cruze include two for blocking fire hydrants and another for parking in a "No Standing" zone.

"New Yorkers are tired of the self-righteous, sanctimonious, anti-public safety elected officials who push their 'do as I say, not as I do' agendas, demanding we abandon our cars while they drive everywhere, and flout the very laws they impose on us," said Councilman Robert Holden, a moderate Queens Dem.

"The hypocrisy and double standards of the left is truly astounding," he added.

This lefty's a lead foot!

While campaigning for Council in 2021, Cabán advocated converting at least 25% of all city roadways "into space for people" as part of her New York version of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's stalled Green New Deal plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions nationwide.

'Open Streets'

Cabán, who represents Astoria and nearby neighborhoods, called on the city during the campaign to create "1,000 lane miles" of permanent car-free

"Open Streets," 500 miles of dedicated bus-only lanes and 500 miles of new bike lanes.

"We can improve living conditions for [District 22] residents by improving air quality, reducing noise pollution, encouraging social and physical activity, and increasing accessibility through transit and biking upgrades," said Cabán in campaign literature pushing the pie-in-the-sky plan.

"In order to advance these priorities and meet our climate goals, we must reduce car and truck transportation, which are the city's second-largest source

of greenhouse gas emissions."

The Queens pol is the latest in a long line of socialists and other lefty lawmakers with a history of being serial speeders despite publicly pushing safe-streets and environmentally conscious platforms, including mayoral candidate Comptroller Brad Lander, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine and Public Advocate Jumaane Williams.

"Rules for thee, but not for me, really does seem to be the mantra of the far-left," said Councilwoman Joann Ariola (R-Queens).

Brigitte Steizler/Artiside/Economopolisist

'Predatory' puff & play e-cig sales

New e-cigarettes with built-in video games are being illegally sold in New York and other parts of the United States, critics warn.

The disposable "smart vapes" are available in catchy-named flavors like "merry berry" and "cherry pop," and have built-in, high-definition screens preloaded with multiple games, including ripped-off versions of classics like Tetris and Pac-Man.

They also offer digital prizes as incentives depending on how much a person vapes, and critics caution they're being used to illegally lure America's youth into nicotine addiction.

"Banned candy flavors melded with 'Candy Crush'-type video games is a predatory recipe to get teens hooked," said New York Association of Convenience Stores President Alison Ritchie, which represents 1,600 stores statewide.

Ritchie's group is warning parents, teachers and law enforcement to be on the lookout for the new vapes, adding many are made in China. Although the smart vapes are banned in much of the US, they can be purchased by anyone via the Internet claiming to be 21 for as little as \$17.95 each.

Vapes usually contain nicotine and other chemicals linked to health risks.

Under state law, it's illegal to sell flavored tobacco and vaping products, except menthol, mint or wintergreen-flavored.

Councilwoman Kamillah Hanks (D-SI) introduced a bill to crack down on the sale in the city of illegal vaping devices disguised as school supplies. *Rich Calder*



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LOTTERY

NEW YORK

■ Midday Nos. Sat.: 121
■ Midday Win-4 Sat.: 0902
■ Midday Take 5 Sat.: 2, 15, 16, 25, 30
■ Evening Nos. Sat.: 247
■ Evening Win-4 Sat.: 4526
■ Evening Take-5 Sat.: 9, 11, 13, 20, 32
■ Lotto Sat.: 9, 29, 38, 40, 48, 57; Bonus: 50
■ Pick-10 Sat.: 3, 6, 12, 16, 17, 18, 21, 27, 34, 41, 44, 49, 53, 55, 58, 63, 64, 68, 75, 80

■ Cash-4-Life Sat.: 8, 13, 20, 25, 39; Cash Ball: 2
■ Powerball Sat.: 9, 24, 33, 64, 69; Powerball: 9;
Power Play: x2

NEW JERSEY

Pick-3 Sat.: 888; Fireball: 0
Pick-4 Sat.: 5102; Fireball: 0
Cash-5 Xtra Sat.: 11, 14, 15, 28, 31; Xtra: 2

CONNECTICUT

Play-3 Sat.: 305; Wild: 8
Play-4 Sat.: 6211; Wild: 8
Cash-5 Sat.: 3, 8, 9, 17, 35

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Star-spangled athletes



They're true red-white-and-blue American heroes. Ex-military, cops and first responders run and swim Saturday from New Jersey's Liberty State Park to the World Trade Center for the New York City SEAL Swim. (Read more at navysealfoundation.org)



Artistide Economopoulos for the NY Post

No Paris 'rap' on Travis

Rapper Travis Scott has been released and no charges have been filed against him over an incident at a Paris hotel, according to the rapper's reps.

The "Goosebumps" recording artist, 33, was arrested early Friday at the Four Seasons Hotel George V after he got into an argument with his own bodyguard, and a security guard intervened to separate them.

A source familiar with the star told Page Six, "He was arrested over an argument with his bodyguard over getting harassed" by paparazzi during the Olympics.

Another source close to Scott told Page Six Saturday morning, "He's out, no charges." *Ian Mohr*

ENVIROS' RED GLARE

By MATTHEW SEDACCA and GEORGIA WORRELL

Two scientists want to blow up the way Macy's celebrates the Fourth of July, saying the fireworks are an air pollution hazard.

Drones should replace fireworks at the annual show, according to David Lugliom, a postdoctoral fellow at Tulane University who co-authored an explosive study published last week in the *Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology*.

"In the ideal situation, if we wanted to protect our health as best as possible, let's replace fireworks with drones," said Lugliom.

At the very least, those who gather in person to watch the displays should consider wearing medical face masks, according to the paper, which found microscopic pollutant levels briefly rocketed 23,500% in Midtown after the 2023

They say mask up, nix fireworks, use drones

Macy's show on the East River.

"Wearing an N95 or KN95 mask is a good way to avoid inhaling smoke when standing near a display, especially for children and for those with preexisting heart and lung problems," said co-author Antonio Saporito, a doctoral student at NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

Critics, however, were ablaze over the idea of replacing the beloved Independence Day fireworks shows with a banal drone display.

"As usual, environmentalists reveal they are little more than killjoys," said City Council Minority Leader Joe Borelli (R-SI).

Bay Ridge resident George Smith

said he would be "offended" if he saw buzzing drones rather than awesome pyrotechnics.

"It's a tradition! A patriotic tradition!" roared Smith, 49.

Last year's Independence Day display set off roughly 60,000 shells over the East River, causing the concentration of airborne pollutants to jump to 3,528 micrograms per cubic meter at East 34th Street and First Avenue in Manhattan 30 minutes after the event ended, the study found. Fifteen micrograms per cubic meter is the daily average for the city, the experts said.

At three other sites near the East River, just north of Stuyvesant

Town and in Long Island City, Queens, airborne pollution levels were more than double or even triple the June 2023 concentration of 460 micrograms per cubic meter recorded when smoke from Canadian wildfires turned the Big Apple skies post-apocalyptic orange. It was unclear when the concentrations returned to baseline levels at these sites.

Exposure to high concentrations of such particles can aggravate asthma and emphysema, and increases the risk of respiratory infections, according to the study.

Inhaling the pollutants also is strongly correlated to heart disease, the researchers wrote.

A Macy's spokesperson said the company works closely with government agencies to follow applicable laws and regulations when producing and executing its annual fireworks display.

mstedacca@nypost.com

Little kids robbed me

Crooks as young as 8

By GEORGIA WORRELL and TINA MOORE
Police Bureau Chief

Julian De Flandres, a 37-year-old Upper West Side software engineer, was chatting with a friend on a bench near Wollman Rink in Central Park when he was robbed at knifepoint around 10:30 p.m. on Aug. 1 by a mob of as many as 20 teens and children — some as young as 8.

Here's his story, as told to The Post's Georgia Worrell.

We were sitting on the bench, talking. We had a few bags with us; we had just had dinner so we had leftovers.

Even though it was dark, it never occurred to me to look out for our surroundings. There were so many people and security cameras, so I didn't think it would be a risky place to be.

At knifepoint

Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a group of people coming. Tons of people were walking around, so I didn't pay them much attention.

The small kid with them — he could have been 8, maybe 9 at the most — bee-lined right up to us. I was like "Oh, can I help you?"

At that point, all of the kids surrounded us and started grabbing at our bags. I realized, "Oh, they're trying to take our stuff." They were trying to grab our cellphones out of our pockets and stuff like that.

One kid, maybe a 10-year-old,



Michael Nagle

OFF GUARD: Julian De Flandres returns to Central Park about a week after he was robbed at knifepoint near Wollman Rink on Aug. 1 by a group of 20 teens and children.

grabbed my wallet out of my back pocket. I ran after him, but other kids ran up to me and a few of them pulled knives.

I put my hands up, and I was like, "Oh, OK, it's yours — you can take it."

About four minutes later, one kid came back on his bike. He gave me my wallet and said, "I'm very sorry." He looked 14 or 15. He seemed so sincere that I almost felt sorry for him.

Within 20 minutes, I started getting credit-card charges. They were at a McDonald's, spending \$70, \$80.

It was a surprise to have this happen in Central Park. The fact that it started with an 8-year-old child was just like a dystopian feeling.

T. Square girls targeted

In a sign the bad old days are back in Times Square, a sleazy Svengali sexually exploited two teen girls he met on the Great White Way, plied them with drugs and booze and made them sell drugs on the streets of the city, authorities said.

Shymell "Shy" Ephron, 35, allegedly supplied the girls, 15 and 17, with ecstasy, marijuana and alcohol; gave them a cellphone to monitor their whereabouts; and had sex with them in his Harlem apart-

ment for a week in May, Manhattan federal prosecutors said in court papers. He was arrested July 10.

FBI agents and NYPD cops "rescued" the girls and want to know if others have been similarly abused, the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York said.

"This is 100% reminiscent of the '70s, '80s and early '90s pre-Giuliani Times Square of pimps and prostitution," fumed retired NYPD Lt. John Macari. *Dean Balsamini*

NO WALK

By GEORGIA WORRELL and TINA MOORE

Robberies and assaults are skyrocketing in Central Park, terrifying both tourists and lifelong New Yorkers — who told The Post they're on edge thanks to a troubling mix of violent teens, unhinged vagrants and lawless migrants roaming the green space.

There's been a 222% spike in the number of robberies so far in 2024, compared to the same point in 2023, NYPD data shows. This year's 29 incidents already surpassed the total number reported in 2019, according to the data.

Felonious assaults have jumped 100%, doubling from five to 10, and are up from seven in all of 2019, according to the data.

"I've started waiting to come in here later because when I come in here too early, I see a lot of people who, unfortunately, have mental health issues, and they're screaming," said Upper East Side resident Kirsten Edwards — who regularly walks her dog in the park. "Frankly, I've never felt this unsafe in Central Park."

Major crimes in the park overall are up 49% — from 47 to 70. And there have been two rapes reported in the park this year, compared to none during the same period last year, the data show.

Under attack

In one Aug. 1 incident reminiscent of the "wilding" of the 1980s, up to 20 people, some believed to be as young as 8, surrounded and robbed software developer Julian De Flandres, 37, as he sat on a bench near Wollman Rink.

Other recent robberies and assaults in the park include:

■ A 21-year-old man was robbed while on a bench at West 59th Street and Center Drive on July 8, when a stranger snatched \$80 and his phone and demanded, "Put in your password," police said.

■ An 83-year-old man taking photos around 3 p.m. on May 23 at 94 West Drive had his camera snatched by a thief who then ran away with it.

■ Ashikur Chowdhury, 25, made The Post's front page when he charged at two teens — one armed with a gun — who threatened to shoot him for his cellphone as he walked home to Harlem on April 26. The teens fled.

■ A hate-spewing Citi Bike rider slugged Allan Ripp, 70, calling him a "F-king Jew pig" and threatening to kill him around 6 p.m. July 13 along West Drive

Visitors fear famed green space amid soaring crime

Robberies and felony assaults have surged in Central Park

Crime	Incidents reported		Change
	2024	2023	
Rape	2	0	(∞)
Robbery	29	9	+222%
Felony Assault	10	5	+100%
Burglary	0	3	-100%
Grand larceny	29	30	-3%

*There were no reports of murder or grand-larceny auto in either year; source: NYPD data



near the 97th Street Transverse.

■ A woman was sexually assaulted April 25 by a pervert who demanded, "Give me your phone, give me your wallet, give me sex," authorities said.

The rising crime is upending long-standing daily routines.

"I stay where I am close to the road and [where] other people can hear me. It's a bummer because I never used to have to worry about safety," said Upper West Side opera singer Alyson

Cambridge, 45, who's been running in the park for three decades.

"I'm always looking over my shoulder," she added. "If I'm running and have my earbuds in, if I see a shadow I jump. It sucks."

Some of the problems stem from at least one nearby migrant shelter, said a 57-year-old woman, referring to the 600-room Watson Hotel on West 57th Street, which was converted to a migrant shelter in November 2022.

That area — the Midtown

IN THE PARK

Sexual assault near Gracie

A 19-year-old woman was sexually assaulted just steps from Gracie Mansion, leaving her bloodied and screaming for help, police said.

The disturbing attack occurred at around 1:20 a.m. Saturday in the vicinity of East 90th Street and East End Avenue, about a block from the mayor's official residence.

An alert doorman rushed to the woman's aide after hearing her cries for help, and is credited with spooking the predator, who had sneaked up behind her and shoved her to the ground before assaulting her, police said.

"This young lady was on the floor frantically crying, blood on her shirt and nose," the doorman, Hector Mateo, recalled.

The thug took off west on East 90th Street. The victim went to New York Presbyterian Cornell Medical Center in stable condition, police said.

Mateo told The Post he "heard someone screaming," grabbed his flashlight and went down the block to investigate.

He spotted the suspect running toward York Avenue and shouted, "Hey, what are you doing?"

The pervert kept running. The good Samaritan then turned his attention to the assault victim.

Mateo, who stayed with the victim until police arrived, said he has a 20-year-old daughter and his "instincts as a father kicked in. I just wanted to help."

Hours after the attack, other neighborhood doormen said they were warning residents "to be careful," especially at night.

"This area is very desolate when it gets late," said one, adding, "I hope she is going to be OK."

Police said the suspect is about 6 feet tall and was wearing a gray sweatshirt with white stripes and dark jeans. They later released a surveillance image of the suspect.

The NYPD would not say if the victim was a neighborhood resident. Three weeks ago, a retired probation officer fatally shot her former daughter-in-law, then herself, also near Gracie Mansion.

Anyone with information on the Upper East Side assault is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 888-57-PISTA (74782).

Dean Balsamini, Georgett Roberts



RUNNING SCARED: A rise in violent incidents at Central Park — like the thwarted robbery of Ashikur Chowdhury (top left) — has locals like opera singer and avid runner Alison Cambridge (bottom left) looking over their shoulders.

Michael Nagler; Ariside Economopoulos; HeJayne Selman

North Precinct — has seen a 96% jump in robberies and a 60% rise in felony assaults, city data shows.

"We're in close proximity to the worsening conditions of West 57th Street," she said. "So it doesn't surprise me that there's more crime moving in here as well."

It's changed the park-going experience, visitors said.

"My head is definitely on a swivel in here all the time. You have to protect yourself," said an Upper West Side actor who

declined to give his name because he feared retribution for his views. "I think you really have to stop a lot of the progressive laws that are in place right now that are really bad."

Lost 'oasis'

Soho nanny Alexa Makuch sought therapy after a sicko flashed her in broad daylight in the Strawberry Fields section.

Makuch, 25, had been picnick-

ing with another friend on July 14 when the man came up and disrobed in front of them, she said.

They took out their phones to record him before he ran away.

"In Central Park, you definitely feel like it's supposed to be an oasis — that's the whole point of it, and I feel a little bit like that feeling was taken away from me since this happened," Makuch added. "It's sad."

Conor Wright, who was visiting from Seattle last week, told The Post it was "frightening and dis-

DRINK TO FORGET

'DWI killer': I don't like to think of LI victims

By LAUREN ELKIES SCHRAM

The man accused of drunkenly plowing into a Long Island nail salon at 78 miles per hour and killing four people — including an off-duty NYPD cop — is apparently not thinking much about his victims.

During a 35-minute exclusive jailhouse interview this week with The Post, the self-centered Steven Schwally didn't bring up Officer Emilia Renhack and the three salon workers whom he mowed down in the June 28 incident — until a reporter finally asked what he would say to the grieving families if given the chance.

After first quizzing a reporter on how she would answer the question, Schwally, 64, said he would tell them he was “sorry” for the harm he caused.

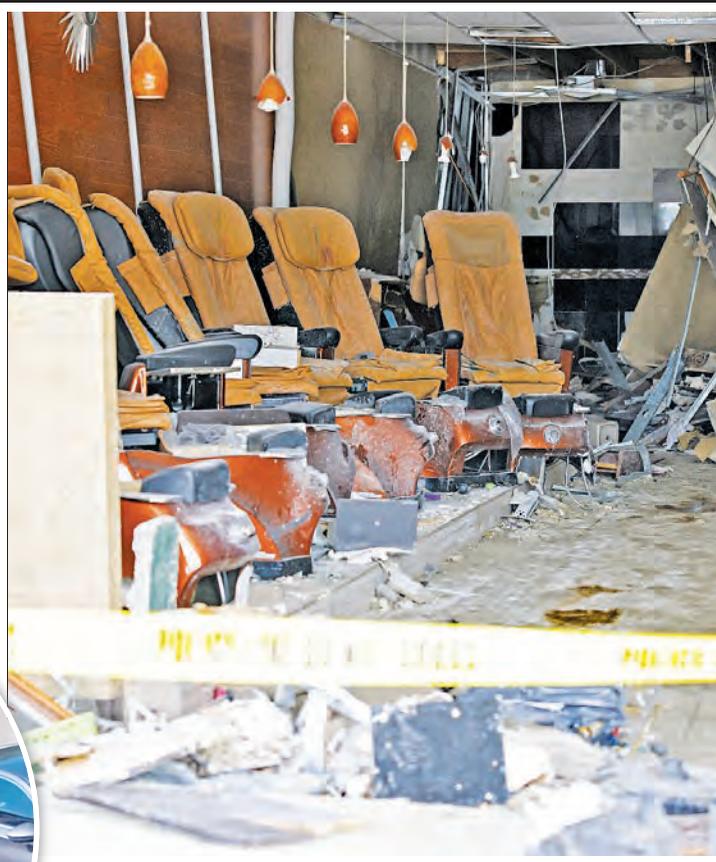
He quickly added: “I don't like to think about it.”

The three-year Marine veteran, who is twice divorced, unemployed and homeless, said he remembers first responders dragging him out of the driver's side window of his Chevrolet Traverse after he crashed it into Hawaii Nail & Spa in Deer Park, and recalls seeing how smashed up his vehicle was — but nothing else.

Though he pleaded not guilty when indicted on four counts of



hawaii_nail_spa/Instagram



Kevin C. Downs

CARNAGE: Steven Schwally (top left) sighed to The Post his “goose is cooked,” but he did not have much to say about the four people he killed — including a woman NYPD cop — when he allegedly drunkenly plowed his car (left) into a Long Island beauty salon.

second-degree murder and other charges, Schwally told The Post he was “guilty” during the interview at Riverhead Correctional Facility, where he is being held on \$1 million bail.

'It's over for me'

“My goose is cooked,” whined Schwally, who wore a yellow prison jumpsuit and had a walker nearby. “It's over for me.”

Schwally admitted to The Post

that he's an alcoholic.

He is believed to have consumed a couple bottles of Montebello Long Island Iced Tea before the shocking incident, which resulted in nine others being hurt.

He said his days on the outside generally consist of waking up, buying some booze, driving around locally and stopping to make phone calls.

Schwally told police he downed 18 beers and stopped drinking at around 3 a.m. the day of the crash, authorities have said.

Schwally spent a week in the hospital in the immediate after-

math, and griped that he'd been heavily medicated by jail staff and couldn't sleep.

Schwally insisted that he isn't “always drunk,” and really didn't begin drinking until around 25 years ago.

He was hit with a DWI charge in Dix Hills, LI, in 2013 when he smashed into a mailbox.

He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years of probation.

Families of the Hawaii Nail & Spa victims either declined to comment or weren't immediately reachable.



Long heal for slugged Finest

The female NYPD officer who was slugged in the face by a repeat offender in a wild, caught-on-camera attack in The Bronx has a “long road to recovery ahead,”

police union officials said.

“I spoke to the officer today,” Police Benevolent Association President Patrick Hendry told The Post Saturday.

“She is in pain but in good spirits,” the union head said. “She said she is deeply appreciative of the support she's getting from her fellow cops and the public.”

The rookie officer, identified in court documents as Mary Fay, also told him she was “just doing her job that day, trying to keep the peace.”

“She's looking forward to getting back to doing that job,” he said. “But she has a long road to recovery ahead.”

Repeat offender Ernst Delma, 41, allegedly slugged Fay when she tried to break up a fight between him and a group of kids on a Clason Point street corner around 7:10 p.m. Aug. 1, authorities and law enforcement sources said.

Delma sported a stitched-up swollen eye — and tried to show remorse for his actions — when he was walked out of a Bronx police precinct hours after his arrest.

“I didn't mean to punch her,” said Delma, clad in a T-shirt sporting the iconic image of Muhammad Ali after he knocked out Sonny Liston. “It was a self-defense thing.”

A judge was unmoved and set his bail at \$100,000 bond. His next court appearance is set for Aug. 14. *Tina Moore*

Crypto creeps rob Qns. bizman's \$300K

A Queens auto body shop owner lost his \$300,000 retirement nest egg after a California man stole his Bitcoin — and used the funds to buy a diamond pendant, a Rolex and a Mercedes-Benz, authorities said.

The victim, 61, had 5.75 Bitcoin worth \$92,000 in a Blockchain digital “wallet” hack, which also involved when it was allegedly stolen

by Aaron Peterson Jr., 20, in November 2022, the Queens District Attorney's office said.

The digital currency is now worth more than triple, prosecutors said.

Peterson — who was a teen at the time — was the “mastermind” behind the Blockchain digital “wallet” hack, which also involved his parents, Aaron Peterson

Sr., 39, and Autumn Clark, 37, and four others.

All were indicted Friday on charges of grand larceny, money laundering, identity theft and other crimes, according to Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz.

The victim, of Jamaica, Queens, bought the cryptocurrency in 2017, sources said. He was believed to be

counting on the Bitcoin for retirement when he noticed the unauthorized activity.

He reported the Bitcoin theft to Assemblyman Clyde Vanel's office, who alerted the Queens district attorney, who launched the probe.

The funds were allegedly laundered over eight months through a series of small transactions sent to

individual Bitcoin wallets, a technique known as a “peel chain,” the DA said.

The participants, including Dontay Brown, 39, and Ronald Moland, Jr., 22, as well as two unidentified suspects, deposited the crypto into Cash App accounts and then withdrew the dough, according to officials. *Deirdre Bardolf*

Planned probe of NYC's big apple rot

State and federal officials are headed to New York City to investigate its big apple crisis — while the city has told vendors to keep accepting deliveries despite thousands of cases of fruit going to waste.

Representatives from the US Department of Agriculture and the state Office of General Services will be visiting facilities on Aug. 15-16 to assess the quantity and quality of the produce — prompted by The Post's exclusive report that the city had ordered nearly 279,000 cases of free apples from the USDA, far more than it could use, insiders said.

The city's Department of Education food-service managers placed the order as part of a federal and state partnership to give schools fresh fruit. Since then, schools and food distributors have been overwhelmed by the nonstop deliveries of apples. Some are delivered spoiled while others go uneaten and are left to rot.

Sources estimate the order was worth \$5.5 million, and that at least 45% of the apples delivered since March have been trashed.

The trip was initially planned for this week but postponed because of Tropical Storm Debby, officials informed city Department of Education food distributors.

In the meantime, the DOE's Office of Food and Nutrition Services has continued to recommend that its food distributors accept the apples, even those that come spoiled or damaged, sources said.

Photos shared with The Post show trash cans full of apples. One showed several garbage bags filled with apples on a school curb. A custodian told a parent that it happened "most days."

Kids didn't eat the apples and they weren't donated because of "red tape," the mom was told. A source said the city won't donate them because it doesn't want to admit it over ordered.

The city did not respond to an inquiry from The Post.

Deirdre Bardolf and Susan Edelman

DOESN'T ADD UP

Gotham teachers bash Adams' new algebra program

By SUSAN EDELMAN

NYC algebra teachers are dreading the next school year — when nearly all of them will have to use a commercial math curriculum being blasted as "a complete disaster."

Last year, teachers at 265 schools piloted the Illustrative Mathematics curriculum, which Chancellor David Banks is betting on to improve the city's lagging math scores.

The program overhauls how teens learn math. Teachers must stick to scripted lessons on a rigid schedule. Students work in groups to tackle problems together and are expected to "discover" the answers themselves with little instruction.

Gifted students can handle it, but those below grade level become frustrated, teachers said.

"It's the worst," one teacher wrote recently in a Facebook chat group shared with The Post.

"No one was happy with it. The kids didn't know wtf was happening when we used the lessons. Not to mention you get reprimanded by the superintendent's office if you go 'off script' and don't use verbatim the words in the curriculum."

"It's been a complete disaster," a colleague agreed.

Another wrote simply, "SUCKS!!!"

The city Department of Education refuses to say how students at the 265 schools scored on the Algebra 1 Regents exam given on June 4.

"We do not yet have the results," a DOE spokeswoman claimed.

But DOE teachers scored all the exams within a few days, insiders said. Individual schools and students have received their own results. This month, NYC must submit scores to the state, which will release citywide and borough results in the fall.



Data leaked to The Post already suggests troubling outcomes.

Students from more than 25 schools in three Bronx districts, including some that used Illustrative Math, scored an average failing 56.5 on the exam. That fell below last year's Bronx borough average of 61. A passing grade is 65, which requires that students answer 35% of questions correctly.

Failing students

In one Queens district that used Illustrative Math, Regents scores dropped from last year in all but two of 25 schools, an insider told The Post.

At Forest Hills HS, 660 kids took the exam, but just 44% passed, documents show. The school's average score dropped from 65 last year to 62.

"Being forced to use illustrative Math for Algebra 1 brought down my students' average score from 69 to 64," a teacher told The Post.

In addition, the passing rate of the teacher's English language learners — kids who struggled the most with Illustrative Math — dropped by nearly 20%.

Among the hurdles of Illustrative Math, teachers must stick to a rigid "pacing calendar" of lessons, which are tightly scripted.

"If my students didn't

Here's how the teaching of the Illustrative Mathematics curriculum differs from traditional algebra instruction:

TRADITIONAL	ILLUSTRATIVE MATHEMATICS
Teachers guide students through a problem.	Students discuss problems in groups.
Teachers show how problems are solved.	Students "discover" the process themselves.
Students "discover" the process themselves.	Students lacking foundation given advanced work.

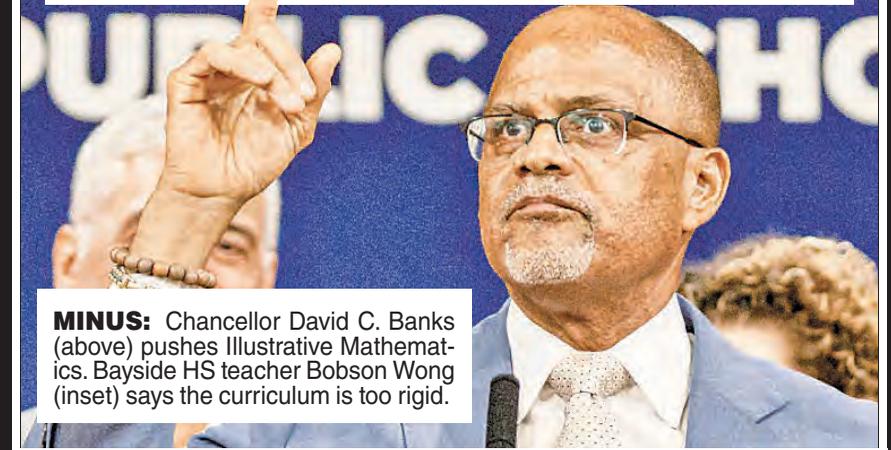
HOW PROBLEMS ARE PRESENTED:

- Evaluate:
 $f(x) = 10 - 2x$
where $x = 5$
- Evaluate:
 $g(x) = x^3$
where $x = 3$

What do you notice? What do you wonder?

x	$f(x) = 10 - 2x$	x	$g(x) = x^3$
1	8	-2	-8
1.5	7	0	0
5	0	1	1
-2	14	3	27

Sources: Illustrative Math, NYC teachers



MINUS: Chancellor David C. Banks (above) pushes Illustrative Mathematics. Bayside HS teacher Bobson Wong (inset) says the curriculum is too rigid.

get something, we had to move on," the teacher said. "There was no time allotted to pull kids aside and help them catch up."

What's worse, several skills tested on the Regents exam — rationalizing denominators, unit conversions, polynomials and sequences — are "not sufficiently covered" by Illustrative Math, according to a DOE instructional guide. That forced teachers to squeeze in those topics.

Bobson Wong, a teacher at Bayside HS in Queens and co-author of "Practical Algebra: A Self-Teaching Guide," said the curriculum has "a lot of interesting problems and activities."

But Wong, who did not take part in the pilot, recoils at the uniformity: "There seems to be little leeway for teachers to adjust the curriculum based on our students' needs."

NYC Solves what?

Illustrative Math is a key component of NYC Solves, a DOE math initiative expected to cost \$34 million over five years, including professional training.

Mayor Adams and Banks announced on June 24 that all 420 NYC high schools — except six top-tier specialized schools — and 93 middle schools must adopt the curriculum this fall.

The DOE claimed on its website that Illustrative Math had the "endorsement" of a respected think tank, EdReports.

But EdReports disputed the claim. "It is inaccurate and was not provided by or approved by EdReports," spokeswoman Janna Chan told The Post.

Chan contacted the DOE, which deleted the word "endorsement," citing only an unspecified "review."

The DOE said the curriculum "has undergone a formal review by a committee of NYC educators" but a spokeswoman would not name them or release their findings.

sedelman@nypost.com



FLOORED: US gymnast Jordan Chiles may lose her bronze medal after a ruling.

Gymnast Chiles' bronze in jeopardy

Jordan Chiles could soon lose the bronze medal she won during the Olympic Games in Paris.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled Saturday Chiles should have finished in fifth place during the floor exercise competition, and that an appeal from her coaches which changed her score and resulted in the medal was improperly granted.

Chiles' coaches had asked judges to walk back a deduction in her score worth one-tenth of a point, but the appeal was submitted past the one-minute deadline, the court ruled.

Chiles, 23, will likely have to forfeit the bronze now to Romanian gymnast Ana Maria Barbosu, 18.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport's ruling does not, however, seek to strip Chiles of the medal.

The Federation Internationale de Gymnastique restored the original order of finish, with Barbosu in third and Chiles in fifth after the CAS decision. But it said the decision on medals was up to the International Olympic Committee, leaving open the question of whether Chiles will get to keep her bronze.

Ethan Sears and Chris Harris



JOHNNY OLEKSINSKI

It was rough being an entertainment writer the past two weeks. Americans haven't cared much at all about Hollywood.

Instead they've been addicted to the 2024 Olympic Games, which have averaged a huge daily viewership of 32 million across NBC and Peacock.

And those who were not glued to around-the-clock coverage of gymnastics, track and swimming were surely reading the nonstop headlines about broken records, personal triumphs, hard losses and, naturally, juicy controversies that enlivened the competition in Paris.

Yes, it's been a challenging fortnight for an entertainment writer. And I loved every second of it.

For 16 merciful days, the Olympics replaced vacuous Hollywood in the media, and amazing athletes became the A-listers instead of those bozos out in California.

What a beautiful break it was.

How wonderful that people stopped paying attention to Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez's annoying supposed breakup, as their marriage deflates more slowly than a forgotten birthday balloon.

Nobody was forced to endure George Clooney, star of "Ocean's Thirteen," trying to alter the course of a national election.

Britney Spears announced a new biopic by the director of "Crazy Rich Asians," and it was as though a tree fell in a forest.

We didn't miss them. The Olympics had all of showbiz's glitz and glamor, only paired with superhuman capabilities and stakes of global proportion. It was riveting.

There were stunningly attractive people, who emerge every four years like sexy cicadas, that the entire world obsessed over.

They won awards. But instead of Oscars, competitors accepted bronze, silver and gold medals that made their countries proud — like Gabby Thomas (above left), who won three racing golds in Paris. And we got plenty of meat for the gossip pages: marriage proposals, scandals, spats and sex (200,000 condoms in the Olympic Village this year).

Like the best Academy Awards broadcasts, we were inspired.

Katie Ledecky, 27, was the Games' Meryl Streep, an athlete so fiercely dominant that her name is synonymous with victory.

The swimmer (above, center



H'wood has nada on our real stars

left) is now the woman with the most gold medals in the world (she's tied with Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina, who's 89) with nine. This time, she took home two gold, one silver and one bronze. An astounding feat.

Simone Biles is close behind. A regular Frances McDormand. The 27-year-old (above, center right) became the most decorated gymnast in American history after adding three golds and a silver to her already massive haul of seven medals from prior Olympics.

Bringing some drama, Biles also made a historic comeback, like Robert Downey Jr. before her, after a rocky go in Tokyo in 2021.

"I've accomplished way more than in my wildest dreams," Biles said at a press conference, though she could've been onstage at the Dolby Theater wearing Valentino.

And our Daniel Day-Lewis was Mijaín López, 41, a Cuban wrestler who has the distinction of being the only athlete in modern times to win five consecutive gold medals in the same event, from Beijing 2008 to Paris 2024.

Then, at the peak of his powers, he retired like he had just wrapped "The Phantom Thread."

But it couldn't be all tears, camaraderie and pride. Trashiness abounded too. At times it was practically a Bravo show.

One of the biggest, ahem, stories out of the games concerned French pole vaulter Anthony Ammirati, whose, ahem, genetic advantages caused him to not clear the bar.

"It's a big disappointment ... I'm a bit gutted," Ammirati, 21, said with a touch of la mélancolie.

Something for everyone

Cheer up, Tony (above right). You didn't medal, but you went home with 269,000 Instagram followers. As Kim Kardashian well knows, there are many unexpected paths to fame and fortune.

Classy as a Real Housewife was Paraguay's Luana Alonso, who was allegedly booted from the Olympic Village for wearing revealing outfits that distracted teammates. Hard to imagine what that could mean for a swimmer

from the southern hemisphere.

She denied it — nothing more Hollywood than that! — but the head of the Paraguayan Olympic committee said, "Her presence is creating an inappropriate atmosphere within Team Paraguay."

Alonso, 20, reportedly dreams of competing for Team USA. Sounds fun to me!

You see? The Olympics had something for everyone.

Sadly, like Brigadoon, all of that magic disappears into the Parisian fog on Sunday with the closing ceremony (which I pray to God is better than the opener).

Our oasis from mind-numbing stories about Joaquin Phoenix's selfishness and Justin Bieber screaming at teenagers in a tank top — not to mention the election whiplash — is over.

On Monday, we'll all be back at our depressing desks, dreaming of the day four years from now when a bunch of synchronized swimmers will come to our rescue yet again.



Goaaaaal!! 1-0 soccer win over Brazil

US WOMEN

NET GOLD



Getty Images

JUBILANT: Trinity Rodman (from left), Mallory Swanson and Sophia Smith flash smiles and gold medals Saturday.

By BRIDGET REILLY
and CHRIS HARRIS

The United States women's soccer team had their first Olympic golden moment in 12 years, beating Brazil 1-0 Saturday in the final match of the Paris Games.

The Americans found new gaps while keeping their opponents at bay during the added final 10 minutes of the match, which was Brazilian soccer legend and six-time FIFA Player of the Year Marta's last professional contest.

During the game's 57th minute, the US's Korbin Albert, who'd started in place of Rose Lavelle, came up with the ball in midfield and watched Sophia Smith capitalize on the space in Brazil's backfield.

Smith and Mallory Swanson both set off down the field, and Albert lofted a perfect pass to Swanson, who launched the ball into the far right corner, resulting in the 1 winning goal.

US fans erupted with glee at Parc des Princes in Paris and further celebrated the goal after it was confirmed Swanson was not offside.

Ten minutes had been added to the game's second half, and US goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher made a crucial save in the 94th minute to keep the Brazilians from scoring the equalizer.

Brazil's Adriana received an over-the-top pass, heading it towards the far left corner of the goal. But Naeher had another impressive reaction save to keep the Americans alive.

'It's been a dream'

"I'm very emotional. It's been a dream of mine to be in this position," said US coach Emma Hayes. "I have to thank my dad because he's the one who pushed me to this point to be able to come and coach an unbelievable group of players that have received me so well and taken on board everything I have asked. They are tremendous people

and players and role models. Yeah, I love them."

It was the Americans' third victory over Brazil in an Olympic final, and the US became the first team in women's soccer to earn five Olympic gold medals, increasing their Olympic soccer total to seven.

It was the US team's first gold since the 2012 London Games. They showed their worth in Paris after falling to bronze in Tokyo three years ago and suffering an early quarter-final exit in 2016 at the Rio games.

"The crowd was tremendous, Brazil was tremendous, I'm speechless," Hayes added.

After a tight first half, the Americans found their chances in the second, but couldn't find the net again to add comfort to their shallow lead.

Marta, who has never won a World Cup or Olympics, started on the bench after serving a two-match suspension for a red card. The entire crowd cheered for her as she left the field, full of emotion. *With Wires*

Uvalde kin's 911 plea



NEW REVELATION: As the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, was underway in 2022 (memorial above), the uncle of shooter Salvador Ramos (bottom right) pleaded in vain with police to let him try to talk the killer down, according to a 911 call. "He does listen to me," the uncle said.

By OLIVIA LAND

The uncle of the teenage gunman who killed 19 students and two teachers in the Uvalde school shooting begged police to let him try to talk his nephew down, according to a new trove of transcripts and recordings released by the city.

Armando Ramos, an uncle of shooter Salvador Ramos, 18, told police that his nephew always listened to him and that if he could talk to him he might be able to convince him to stop shooting, a 911 call released Saturday revealed.

"Maybe he could listen to me because he does listen to me, everything I tell him he does listen to me," Ramos explained to dispatchers.

"Maybe he could stand down or do something to turn himself in," he added, his voice cracking.

The uncle told the dispatcher that the shooter was with him at his house the night before.

He said his nephew stayed with him in his room all night, and mentioned that he was upset because his grandmother was "bugging" him.

"Oh, my God, please, please don't do nothing stupid. I think he's shooting kids," Ramos panicked on the call.

The call came in about 1 p.m. on

May 24, 2022 — 10 minutes after the shooting stopped and Ramos was already dead.

Phone calls and police videos from the Robb Elementary School massacre were released this weekend by Uvalde city officials following a prolonged legal battle.

Records released

The records were released in response to a lawsuit filed by The Associated Press and other news outlets after city officials refused to release documents related to the shooting.

The law enforcement response to the scene — during which nearly 400 officers waited over 70 minutes before confronting the gunman — has been widely condemned as a massive tactical and moral failure.

A damning video from the scene showed police officers lingering in the hallway — some equipped with rifles and bulletproof shields — while the gunman was inside the classroom, targeting the kids and teachers.

A tactical team finally entered the room and fatally shot Salvador Ramos by about 12:50 p.m.

Former Uvalde school Police Chief Pete Arredondo and former school officer Adrian Gonzales have both pleaded not guilty to

multiple felony charges of child abandonment and endangerment in connection with one of the worst school shootings in US history.

In an interview with CNN this week, Arredondo claimed he had been "scapegoated" for the botched response.

A Texas state trooper from Uvalde who was suspended over the controversy was reinstated this month.

Despite the massive outcry, a report commissioned by the city commended the officers for "immeasurable strength" and "level-headed thinking" as they confronted the shooter.

The parents of the victims cried and slammed the city officials as "cowards" when they heard the results of the report in March.

"You said they did it in good faith. You call that good faith? They stood there 77 minutes," Kimberly Mata-Rubio, whose 10-year-old daughter Lexi was killed by the gunman, said after the presentation.

Parents of the victims have also called for more officers to be charged and filed federal and state lawsuits against law enforcement, social media and online gaming companies and the gun manufacturer behind the rifle the shooter used.

With Wires

Pol eyes liability insurance for cops

A Queens Democrat is trying to drum up City Council support for a controversial state bill requiring police officers to buy personal liability insurance in case of lawsuits — a move critics say is a veiled attempt to "defund the police."

Councilwoman Nantasha Williams urged other council members this week to back the state legislation, claiming it would save local governments a fortune.

"By shifting the financial responsibility for lawsuit payouts to insurance companies and the officers themselves, local governments can save millions in taxpayer dollars," Williams wrote in an Aug. 7 letter to her fellow council members.

"Additionally, this measure would incentivize improved police conduct, fostering greater accountability within the force," Williams contended, noting she plans to introduce a City Council resolution Wednesday calling on state legislators to pass the bill.

The bill was originally introduced in 2020 by Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman (D-Queens) and then-Sen. Alessandra Biaggi (D-Bronx), following the police killing of George Floyd in Minnesota that spurred nationwide riots and now infamous calls to defund police.

It stalled during that year's legislative session but was re-introduced this year by Hyndman, with Bronx Democrat Nathalia Fernandez replacing Biaggi on the Senate version of the legislation.

The proposed resolution to back the state bill is already getting some pushback in the Big Apple from the Police Benevolent Association and both conservative and moderate members of the mostly lefty council.

"This bill is an attempt to 'Defund the Police' in disguise," PBA President Patrick Hendry told The Post.

The NYPD declined to comment. *Rich Calder*

'Let me talk to shooter nephew'





Michael Goodwin

mgoodwin@nypost.com

THE grumbling that Kamala Harris is avoiding reporters like the plague led to a headline on Fox News that demanded “Liberal media minions need to do their jobs.”

Ah, but they are doing their jobs. Their assignment, as they see it, is to stop Donald Trump from becoming president and no effort is being spared.

If they had another goal, they would be furious as Harris ignores them and their questions. But meekly accepting her cold shoulder is all part of a dishonest day’s work.

They will do whatever it takes to elect her.

All of which means Trump shouldn’t hold his breath waiting for Harris to be exposed during a tough round of interviews.

He may be right, as he said Thursday, that “she can’t do a news conference.” He said that during a long question-and-answer session he held to draw a contrast with her.

But he, too, misses the larger point: Harris could do an endless loop of interviews and press conferences and it probably wouldn’t matter.

She’ll choose friendly outlets where Democrats with press passes will throw her big juicy softballs. If she swings wildly and misses, they’ll declare it a home run.

If she dishes up one of her zany word salads, she’ll be deemed a genius beyond the comprehension of ordinary mortals.

And her annoying cackle will be proclaimed endearing.

Fixed on the prize

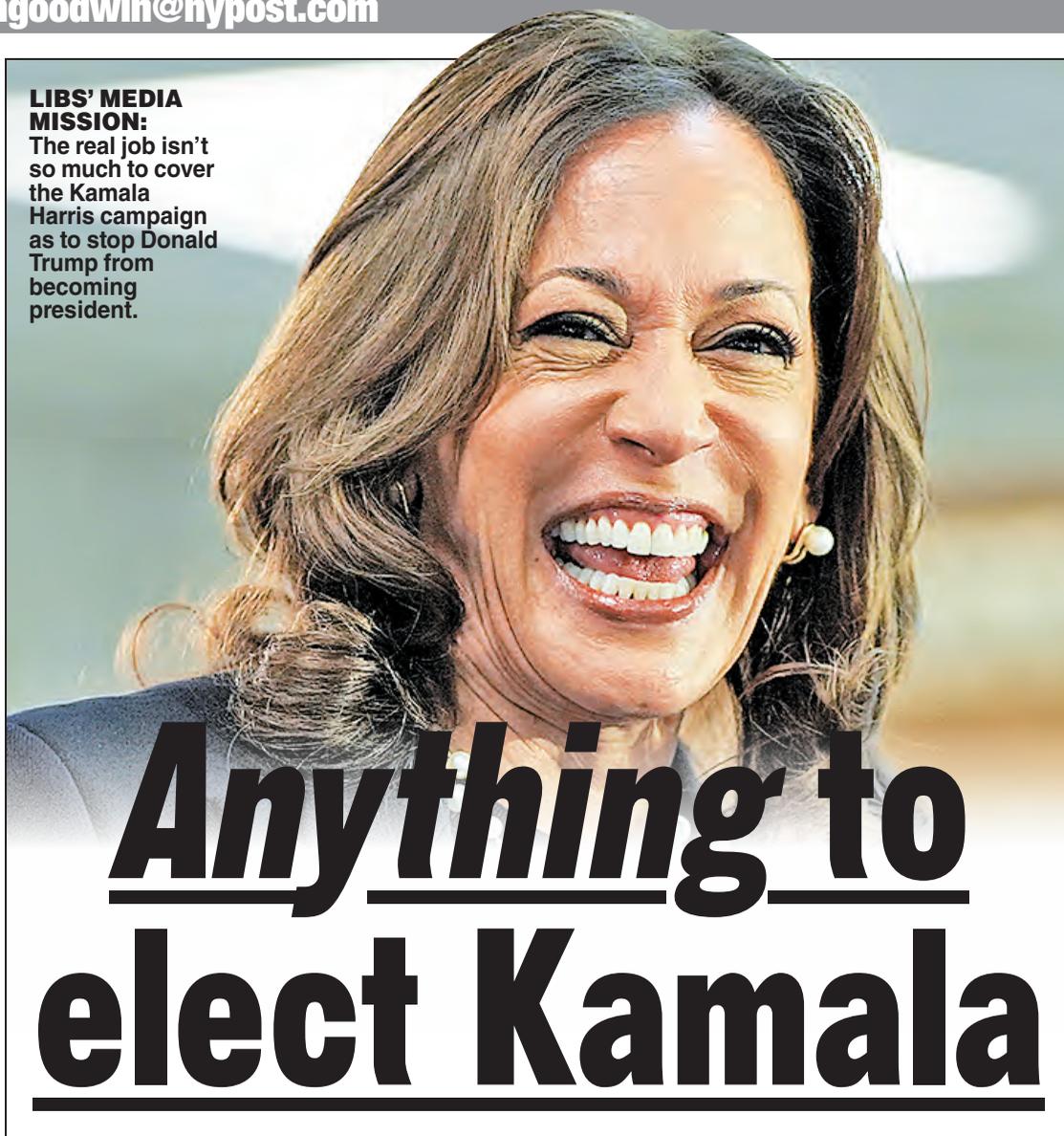
America is experiencing a remarkable series of events, featuring the shooting of the Republican candidate by a would-be assassin and the pressured removal of the Democratic president from his re-election campaign, yet the media hasn’t blinked.

They remain fixed on the prize of making certain Trump doesn’t get back to the Oval Office.

The mission includes turning away from the attempt to assassinate him. You don’t have to be a historian to marvel at how little interest there is about the background and motivation of the 20-year-old shooter, Thomas Crooks.

Nor is there much detail about an Iranian plot to assassinate Trump that, we recently learned, had been broken up by the FBI just the day before the Pennsylvania shooting. Crooks reportedly had three foreign email accounts but we are assured by anonymous

LIBS’ MEDIA MISSION:
The real job isn’t so much to cover the Kamala Harris campaign as to stop Donald Trump from becoming president.



“official” sources speaking to leftist outlets there is no connection between the two plots.

PBS, a reliable indicator of the radical mindset, put it this way: “U.S. officials acknowledged last month that a threat on Donald Trump’s life from Iran prompted additional security in the days before a Pennsylvania rally in which Trump was injured by a gunman’s bullet. That July 13 shooting, carried out by a 20-year-old Pennsylvania man, was unrelated to the Iran threat . . . a law enforcement official said.”

So there was “additional security” in Pennsylvania, but still Crooks was able to fire at Trump from an open rooftop just 130 yards away?

This, of course, is the same Secret Service that dropped its probe into a bag of cocaine found at the Biden White House because it couldn’t find the perp in two weeks.

The Keystone Kops were more diligent.

If the assassination plots involved Biden or any Democrat, the media would treat them as earth-shattering stories. Every rumor, speculation and tidbit of information would be blasted out in breathtaking fashion about a national security crisis.

Unfair play

Republicans would be lashed with harsh denunciations about overheated political rhetoric and accused of sparking violence.

But when Dems and the media repeatedly declare Trump a threat to democracy and then he narrowly avoids death, and when a foreign power also assigns an agent to kill him, the page is quickly turned.

There is no outrage toward Iran, nor does the media express any curiosity about why Iran wants to kill Trump but not Biden.

The reason is obvious, but to spell it out would be to expose

Biden’s appeasement policies. Recall that Trump droned Iran’s terror chief and put tough sanctions on the mullahs’ oil, while Biden lifted the sanctions and keeps trying to bribe Iran to rejoin the failed nuclear pact that Trump scuttled.

Even after Iran loosed its terror proxies on Israel and the groups killed three American service members in Jordan, wounded others in Iraq and took Americans hostage in Israel, Biden pulls his punches and demands Israel do the same.

Then came Friday’s reports that Iran is using fake news sites and other online activity to interfere in the fall election. Not until the third paragraph does the AP note that “U.S. officials have previously hinted that Iran particularly opposes former President Donald Trump.”

A more honest way to write the same story would be to say upfront that Iran wants to help elect Harris. That’s how it would be

written if Iran was trying to help elect Trump.

Here’s another comparison: If J.D. Vance were accused of “stolen valor” by his former military comrades, would the media circle the wagons around him the way they are protecting Tim Walz against the same charges?

The question answers itself.

Sadly, even tragically, there is nothing new in the media jihad against Trump. It started in 2016 and hasn’t stopped.

The big outlets tried to drag Hillary Clinton over the finish line, but couldn’t do it. So many newsrooms, so many tears.

In 2020, they were happy to let Biden hide in his basement. They knew then he was in decline, but believed it better to have a decrepit Democrat in the White House than the evil Trump.

During his tenure, Biden set a modern record for the fewest press conferences and interviews. It should have been treated as a scandal, but even as Biden ignored them, reporters ignored his cognitive decline.

Different standards

When the president scolded the press for mild criticism, they remained loyal to his re-election.

He said publicly his son Hunter Biden did nothing wrong, and they didn’t bother to note that it was improper for a president to comment on a case pending before his Justice Department.

He let it be known he wanted Trump prosecuted and thrown in jail, which should have been met with thunderous outrage, but instead, crickets.

Actually, it wasn’t crickets. There was a very loud applause because that’s what the media wants, too.

They stuck with Biden until it was clear he would lose, then flipped on a dime and led the charge to replace him. They didn’t know who Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi and the megadonors would replace him with — and didn’t care.

Any Dem who increased the odds of beating Trump would do.

To judge from reports about Harris’ “joyful” campaign, many in the media are giddy that she is generating so much enthusiasm and, according to polls, is now beating Trump.

That makes it extra delusional for anyone, including him, to believe the press will jeopardize her chances by holding the two candidates to the same standards.

If Trump is going to win, he’ll have to do it the way he did it in 2016: despite the media.

Trump campaign: Iran hacked us

Donald Trump's campaign said Saturday that it had been hacked, and blamed Iran, days after Microsoft revealed that nation has been ramping up online activity in an attempt to influence the US election.

Trump spokesman Steven Cheung made the announcement following a report from Politico that said the outlet had received anonymous emails that included documents from inside Trump's campaign operation.

The campaign cited the report from Microsoft on Friday that said a presidential campaign had been targeted with an email phishing attack in June.

"These documents were obtained illegally from foreign sources hostile to the United States, intended to interfere with the 2024 election," Cheung said.

"On Friday, a new report from Microsoft found that Iranian hackers broke into the account

of a 'high ranking official' on the U.S. presidential campaign in June 2024, which coincides with the close timing of President Trump's selection of a vice presidential nominee," he continued.

"The Iranians know that President Trump will stop their reign of terror," he added.

Cheung declined to say if there was further information to substantiate Iran's involvement.

He noted that the hack came "after recent reports of an Iranian plot to assassinate President Trump around the same time as the Butler, PA tragedy," referencing the July 13 assassination attempt on the ex-president.

Politico reported it began receiving purported communications July 22 from a "senior Trump campaign official" that included vetting documents related to Trump's pick for Vice President, Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance.

Deirdre Bardolf, with Wires

'Swing' from Don to Dem

Former President Trump is trailing Vice President Harris in key swing states — in an early indication the 2024 race is tightening after President Biden's exit from the Democratic ticket.

In Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, Trump trailed Harris by four points, with Harris holding onto 50% support to Trump's 46%, according to a New York Times/Sienna poll released Saturday.

The Times/Sienna survey, which spoke to more than 600 voters in each of the three key states, was conducted from Aug. 5 to 9.

The poll is a significant reversal from President Biden's numbers, which showed the incumbent trailing Trump in most key swing states during his final weeks of the campaign before he announced that he would not run again.

However, other recent polls showed Trump faring better. According to the Trafalgar Group and InsiderAdvantage between Aug. 6 and Aug. 8, Trump led Harris by one point in Arizona, three points in Nevada and two points in Pennsylvania.

A.G. Gancarski and Jon Levine

Kam gets tax 'tip' from foe

Vice President Kamala Harris rolled out a promise to stamp out taxes on tips during a campaign stop in Las Vegas on Saturday, prompting Donald Trump to rip her for "copying" one of his signature proposals.

The Democratic presidential nominee made the vow at the top of her speech in the battleground state.

"When I am president, we will continue our fight for working families of America, including... eliminate taxes on tips for service

and hospitality workers," Harris said.

Trump, who has been touting the same idea since before Harris entered the race, immediately called her out for pandering to the crowd in Nevada, which has one of the highest concentrations of tipped workers in the country.

"Kamala Harris... Just copied my NO TAXES ON TIPS Policy," the GOP presidential nominee wrote on Truth Social. *Mark Kellner, Katherine Donley and Dierdre Baldorf*

BAR'S FIRE

Ex-teacher fails schools

Democratic vice-presidential candidate and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz touts his credentials as a former public school teacher on the campaign trail — but the state's education performance has deteriorated under his leadership, critics say.

Since Walz entered the governor's office in 2019, students' comprehension statewide for reading and math has plummeted, while his administration has come under fire for pushing what's been described as an extremist curricula.

"He spent most of the last two years working to accommodate far-left demands in his party rather than working to address real education issues," said Republican state Sen. Carla Nelson, also a former teacher. "The Walz agenda has included burdensome mandates... [that] have since led to budget shortfalls across the state and pulled teachers away from their students."

Under Walz's leadership: ■ Reading proficiency among Minnesota students fell to 49.9% in 2023 from 59.2% in 2019, according to the state's Department of Education. Math com-

Kids got dumb because Tim Walz was their gov:		
Subject proficiency	'19	'23
Reading	59%	50%
Math	55%	46%

prehension similarly sank, from 55% in 2019 to 45.5% last year.

■ Thirty percent of students were chronically absent, missing more than 10% of school days, in the 2021-22 school year, up from 14% in 2019, according to the American Enterprise Institute.

■ The Minnesota DOE revised the K-12 social studies standards to require an "ethnic studies" component, which critics say is aimed at influencing graduates with a radical worldview.

Walz, who was a social studies teacher and football coach at Mankato West HS, has also been slammed for using draconian measures to keep schools shut during the pandemic.

Kevin Munoz, a Harris-Walz campaign spokesman, said "schools shut down because Trump failed on COVID."

Minn. 'retire-\$\$ woe'

Minnesota's retirement system for public school teachers under Gov. Tim Walz is "cooking the books," a top pension investigator said.

The state-run Teachers Retirement Association has publicly disclosed less than 10% of an estimated \$2.9

billion spent on management fees in the past 10 years, said Edward Siedle, a former Security and Exchange Commission lawyer.

The TRA also claimed to beat its own custom benchmark over periods of one, five, 10, 20 and 30 years by exactly 0.2%. Siedle called the

results "virtually impossible," terming them a "Madoff miracle under Walz's watch" that raise the possibility the fund is being underfunded or mismanaged.

Walz and TRA officials did not comment.

Susan Edelman and Rich Calder

By STEVEN VAGO and MATTHEW SEDACCA

MINNEAPOLIS — A bar owner whose nearly century-old watering hole was torched by rioters during the 2020 George Floyd riots slammed Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as a "criminal" who let the city descend into a lawless hellscape by refusing to immediately call in the National Guard.

Bill Hupp, who owned the Hexagon Bar in the Seward neighborhood, roared that the fiery destruction of his family-run business rests on Walz's shoulders.

"It's just complete neglect of the people you are supposed to represent," the 74-year-old father of six said of Walz's actions at the time.

"He could have called [the guardsmen] in, [but] he didn't," Hupp added. "I didn't have a drop of water put on my place. Not a drop of water for those three-and-a-half days. Crazy. It's [a] complete loss of leadership, totally."

As mayhem coursed through the state's largest city — with rioters looting businesses and setting stores aflame — Walz, a 24-year National Guard veteran who took office the prior year, waited an astonishing 18 hours after Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey pleaded for at least 600 guardsmen before finally sending in the troops.

The chaos had ripped through the Twin Cities after police officer Derek Chauvin killed George Floyd on May 25, 2020.

When Walz finally acted, three days later on May 28, he sent just 100 guardsmen, according to a damning post-mortem from the state's Senate and Minneapolis residents.

Those that did arrive did little to control the damage — including the destruction of the Hexagon Bar.

Hupp said he, his son and a few of his son's friends, were boarding up the bar's windows around 6:30 p.m. on May 28 when roughly 300 people surrounded the venue.

The rioters began throwing frozen water bottles and shoes at them, while refusing to let the group leave and deriding their "white privilege."

"We thought they were going



ALARM FOR WALZ

BURNED: Bill Hupp (bottom) says his Hexagon Bar in Minneapolis was burned down because Gov. Tim Walz waited to call in the National Guard during the 2020 George Floyd riots.

Minn. gov let rioters torch my biz: owner

to kill us. They pretty much kidnapped us," he said. "We didn't know if we were going to get out of there."

Hupp's group eventually managed to make their way home, but in the early hours on May 29, the 92-year-old bar erupted in flames after an arsonist and two accomplices chucked Molotov cocktails at the back of the building.

"All of a sudden everything went bright white," said Hupp, who saw the devastation on his surveillance camera.

All that remained were the charred brick walls.

Walz's leadership during one of the Minneapolis' worst crises in modern history has come under renewed scrutiny after Vice President Kamala Harris tapped him as her running mate last week.

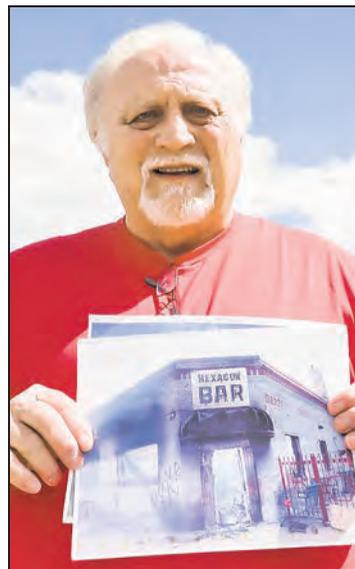
Beyond dragging his heels on sending in the National Guard, Walz also has been accused of sharing confidential information with his then-teenage daughter, including law enforcements' plans and the troops' response times.

Hupp, who demanded an apology from Walz for the community, called Harris' decision to pick him as the Democratic vice presidential candidate "absolute insanity," and decried the governor as "a criminal."

"It's crazy," he said. "Why? Because of [his] total ineptness of leadership . . . [his] absolute ignorance of safety for people and the way of handling it properly."

"He should have never been in the position he was in."

Walz's office did not respond to a request for comment.



Steven Garcia



Team Kam: Tim 'slipped'

Vice President Harris' presidential campaign admitted Friday that her running mate, Gov. Tim Walz, "misspoke" about his past military service as a growing chorus of critics accuse him of "stolen valor."

"Governor Walz would never insult or undermine any American's service to this country — in fact, he thanks Senator Vance for putting his life on the line for our country. It's the American way," Team Harris said in a statement to NBC News Friday.

"In making the case for why

weapons of war should never be on our streets or in our classrooms, the Governor misspoke. He did handle weapons of war and believes strongly that only military members trained to carry those deadly weapons should have access to them, unlike Donald Trump and JD Vance who prioritize the gun lobby over our children."

Walz had been facing pressure to clarify his military record after a 2018 video surfaced of him touting his career in the National Guard as a reason for increased gun control. *Jon Levine*

By ANGELA BARBUTI

Honestly, we're dating-app liars

It's a world wide web of lies when it comes to dating in New York.

The Empire State ranked as the worst in the nation in a survey rating honesty among online daters — scoring 3.4 out of 10, below the national average of 5.1.

DatingAdvice.com surveyed 3,000 singles on the truthfulness of those they matched with via dating apps, ranking the accuracy of information such as age, job and real-life appearances listed on profiles on a scale of 1 to 10.

Cameron Aragon of Hell's Kitchen once matched with a man on Hinge who appeared to have an athletic build in his photos, but when she arrived for their first date, she didn't even recognize him.

"He put this persona on that he lived an athletic life and had a shirtless picture with a little bit of abs going on, but he was unfit," she told The Post. "I couldn't get out of the Uber. I was in shock . . . this person in front of me was unrecognizable. It felt like I was being catfished."

Location is everything

The man, who worked in finance and lived in the Financial District, even admitted that other women had given him the same feedback.

"When I called him out for it, he was like, 'Yeah, I know, I've been told this before. Those pictures are a little old,'" recalled Aragon, 25, an actress. "I probably would have gone out with him if he accurately presented himself. But I was uncomfortable just because I was like, 'I don't know what else he's lying about.'"

Big Apple guys lie the most about where they live, pretending they reside in pricier neighborhoods in the same borough, Aragon noted.

"They'll say they live in Manhattan, but they're actually in Hoboken, or they say Williamsburg, but they're in Bushwick," said Aragon. "A really popular one is guys love to say they live in Gramercy Park, but they live in Kips Bay or the East Village."

Singles taking the survey also weighed in on the specific things they found dating app users lied the most about.

Relationship status came in

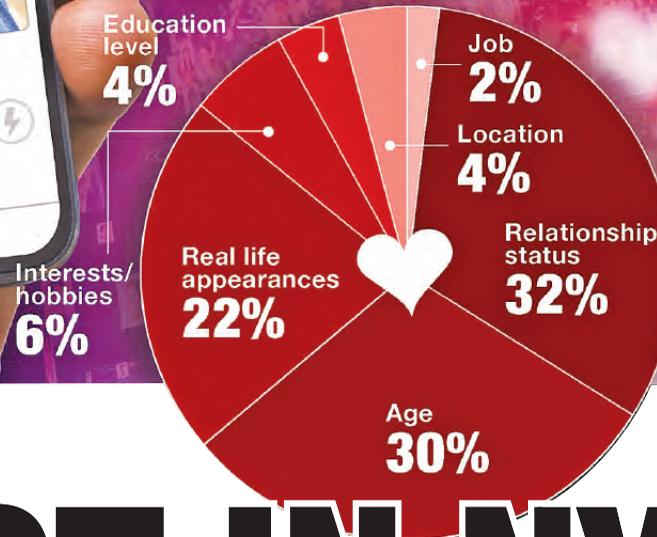
Most honest states (scale of 1 to 10)	
South Dakota	7.5
Alaska	7.3
Delaware	7.0
Least honest states	
Washington	4.1
New Jersey	4.1
Pennsylvania	4.0
New York	3.4



Liar, liar app's on fire

New Yorkers are the least honest users of dating apps:

What people lie about:



'TRUE' LOVE? NOT IN NY

first at 32%, meaning many users are finding that their matches aren't actually single.

"Unfortunately, most people I know have encountered somebody who's on a dating site, who's already in a relationship," said Brooklyn-based online dating coach Erika Ettin.

"People get bored in their relationships. They want to feel attractive. They want to feel like there's still options," Ettin said.

'Lying comes naturally'

Age came in second at 30%, and real-life appearances landed in third, at 22%.

Employment, education and age are also prime lying zones.

New Jersey and Connecticut daters were nearly as dishonest as New York, with scores of 4.1 and 4.9, respectively.

South Dakotans were the most honest in the country, with a score of 7.5.

Comedian Maximillian Lowe, who also lives in Hell's Kitchen, said it's not hard to see why New Yorkers took home the most deceitful crown.

"Because we already lie to ourselves so much, so lying to other people comes naturally to us. We lie to ourselves that this city doesn't smell like s--t, we pretend that the bus is gonna be on time, or that we can afford that new apartment," said Lowe, 27.

"Lying about my height on Tinder is exactly the same as pretending that you have a limp so that you can get a seat on the subway. That's just survival of the fittest, and sometimes you gotta bring that same attitude to the dating game," Lowe maintained.

'Be where' this trend

New York-adjacent singles are claiming to be city residents on their dating profiles — a sneaky trend dubbed "hoodfishing."

"Every few conversations on [a dating] app, there's a woman who is like . . . 'Oh, I live in Westchester,' or 'I live on Long Island,'" even though their profiles said they are located in the city, griped comedian Jared Fried in a viral TikTok.

He claimed that if it takes three trains to get to the date, you know someone's hoodfishing — a cousin to catfishing, in which someone makes a fake online persona to lure in romantic interests.

"Our first date would have different stakes," he said. "You're sitting there the whole time like, 'Well, if I make the 11:42 train . . .'"

"Date the suburban guys. There's a nice guy in your town who tucks his polo into his underwear that is ready to go out with you," Fried urged.

But saying she lived in NYC got one woman from central New Jersey more options, she said. Once she changed her location to Midtown, it only took two months to find a match.

"As long as men height-fish, income-fish, marital status-fish, I will keep hood fishing!!!" said another. *Deirdre Bardolf*



Tragic YouTube chief dead at 56

Susan Wojcicki, who served as YouTube's CEO for nine years and played a crucial role in Google's success, died Friday, according to her family. She was 56.

She had been living with non-small-cell lung cancer for the past two years.

"It is with profound sad-

ness that I share the news of Susan Wojcicki passing," her husband, Dennis Troper, said on Facebook. "Susan was not just my best friend and partner in life, but a brilliant mind, a loving mother, and a dear friend to many. Her impact on our family and the world

was immeasurable."

Wojcicki had close ties with Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin and rented her small Menlo Park home's garage to them in September 1998, the same month the Internet giant was incorporated.

In 2006, while overseeing

Google Video services, Wojcicki recommended the tech giant acquire YouTube, which it did for \$1.65 billion.

Wojcicki was appointed YouTube CEO in 2014 and named one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people the following year.

Wojcicki resigned in Feb-

ruary 2023 to "start a new chapter focused on my family, health, and personal projects."

Wojcicki and Troper had five children. Her son, Marco Troper, 19, died of an accidental drug overdose in February. *Alec Gearty and Nicholas McEntyre*

Iconic Southampton Investment Opportunity

Rare Offering of a Prime Highway Business Property For Sale



Impressive Commercial Asset at the Intersection of County Rd 39 / Montauk Hwy.

The 19,500sf commercial structure on a shy 3-acre parcel offers maximum exposure in one of the wealthiest enclaves in the Northeast. The property size currently allows for 107 parking spaces in both the front and rear of the building. An easement exits through a back roadway allowing cars to enter and exit onto Flying Point Road, facilitating access to the site.

The 130 feet of frontage guarantees maximum visibility to year round, weekend, and summer habitants alike as they travel from Southampton to points East, and the reverse route home. Both the recent influx of year round population and the opening of the "infamous" Lunch restaurant next door make this area even more attractive.

The building can be tailored to various uses under the Southampton Town Highway Business Zoning—including but not limited to medical, office, furniture showroom, appliance retail, trade showroom, and more.

This site was occupied for twenty years by Pier One.

Asking Price: INQUIRE

Inquire with the Hamptons Commercial RE Team for additional information.



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Wrinkle for Iron

BEFORE **Robert Downey Jr.**'s Marvel movie return as baddie Doctor Doom was unveiled at San Diego Comic-Con, the creators of "Deadpool & Wolverine" wanted the star to cameo as Iron Man in their movie. Director **Shawn Levy** revealed that almost everyone approached for a cameo in the film agreed to participate, including **Jennifer Garner** (as Elektra), **Henry Cavill** (as a Wolverine variant) and **Wesley Snipes** (reprising his role as Blade). But busy Downey's appearance didn't materialize. "That's true," co-writer **Rhett Reese** told The Hollywood Reporter. Co-writer **Paul Wernick** added of the ill-fated idea: "There is a script. We have the Downey draft."



Unwedded bliss

GET outta gown! **Holland Taylor** and **Sarah Paulson** won't be walking down the aisle. The "Two and a Half Men" alum, 81, said on **Andy Cohen's** SiriusXM show that, after nine years together, "We've never talked about it with any interest." Taylor (above) said that recognizing their union legally "doesn't seem to mean to [us] what it means to a lot of people." She added: "We do have a wonderful resonance. We are very interested in the same kinds of things, and yet we share big differences."

SHABOOZEY'S her boo!

Emily Ratajkowski seemed to confirm that she's dating the country sensation when she showed up to watch him perform. It was their second outing in two days.

After holding hands at a sceney nightclub this past week, Ratajkowski was spotted taking in his performance at Z100's annual summer bash Thursday night.

The model seemed to be going somewhat incognito. She was wearing all black with dark sunglasses, and a spy told Page Six there was a "no pictures" policy when it came to snapping Ratajkowski. "She or her team wouldn't even let Z100 take her photo," the source claimed.

The iHeartMedia-owned hit station was still able to get some footage of the model. It posted video of her watching and swaying along to Shaboozey's performance. She appeared to be alone and separated from the crowd.

Spies caught them canoodling at Manhattan nightclub Musica Tuesday. The musician and the "My Body" author arrived at around 11 p.m. and were holding hands as they made their grand entrance. We're told they were by each other's side all night, dancing close and sipping tequila.

"They were definitely vibing and enjoying each other's company all night; they weren't

trying to be discreet," a clubgoer told us.

They've crossed paths a few times this summer. Both were at **Michael Rubin's** July Fourth party in the Hamptons, and, after the "Start a Riot" singer, 29, performed at Bounce Beach in Montauk, he was spotted dining in Soho with pals including Ratajkowski, 33.

The singer is enjoying a sudden burst of acclaim. His track "A Bar Song (Tipsy)" has been topping the charts, and he's featured on **Beyoncé's** lauded country album from March, "Cowboy Carter." He appeared on both "Spaghettii," which also features **Linda Martell**, and "Sweet ★ Honey ★ Buckiin'."

Reps didn't comment.

American pride

FASHION designer **Bach Mai** burst into tears after chef **Angie Mar** gave a speech honoring her at Le B in the West Village. Mar called Mai — who was born to Vietnamese immigrant parents in Texas and went on to work with Oscar de la Renta and **John Galliano** in Paris — "the epitome of the American dream." "Your father is so proud of you," said Mar, causing Mai to cry. American Ballet Theatre icon **Misty Copeland**, **Jessica Wang**, OpenTable CEO **Debby Soo**, socialite **Sharon Coplan Hurowitz**, RéVive Skincare CEO **Elana Drell-Szyfer** and **Kate Lanphear** were also spotted at the four-course dinner for OpenTable.

We hear

THAT margarita-loving celebs **Reese Witherspoon** and **Mattew McConaughey** have prompted the SharkNinja's viral Ninja Slushi to sell out. The stars have been promoting the \$299 frozen-drink maker on Instagram, and there's now a waitlist of 100,000 ... THAT **Bradford Rand** of Rand Luxury's Hamptons Concours car show with \$100 million in rare rides has been moved from yesterday to today.



Forever, some day

KATRINA Bowden and fiancé **Adam Taylor** are making their wedding plans ... slowly. Page Six hears that the "30 Rock" player and her musician beau decided on wedding rings (eternity bands from Keyzar Jewelry) during his band Iration's tour stop in Philadelphia recently. But they haven't exactly settled on a venue. We're told that they plan to marry next year "somewhere on a beach." Bowden (above) played Cerie, Liz Lemon's teen assistant, on the iconic comedy, and recently appeared in the **Bill Burr** and **Bobby Cannavale** movie "Old Dads." She also spent a couple years on the soap "The Bold and the Beautiful." The pair got engaged in September in Positano, Italy. She was previously married to musician **Ben Jorgensen**.

Model broker back on market

REAL estate guru and "Real Housewives of New York City" alum **Kelly Bensimon** is getting right back on the horse, it seems. The former model shocked the social set by breaking up with her fiancé just days before their wedding. But she told us she's already dating again. "I'm not in a relationship," Bensimon told Page Six, but "I am ... happy to move forward with new possibilities." She added: "I am enjoying myself. I am not hunting. I can't wait for my next chapter. I am not in a committed relationship." In June, the reality star called off her wedding to financier **Scott Litner** just four days before the ceremony was set to take place, Page Six exclusively reported. "I have decided that my two daughters are my priority and I won't be moving forward with this wedding," she said in a statement. "He thought that I would enter this union without legal protections in place, that I would leave everything to faith," she told "Entertainment Tonight." "But I've worked really, really hard as a single mother and have always made smart decisions for myself and my family, and that will continue." Bensimon will appear on "The Real Housewives Ultimate Girls Trip: RHONY Legacy," which premieres tonight.

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Lovely **Vanessa Bryant**, widow of tragic NBA legend **Kobe**, cheers on Team USA hoopsters in Paris along with their daughters.

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BABY STEPS

RHONY alum **Eboni K. Williams** (below) — the show's first black cast member — has listed her Harlem “jewel box” home for \$899,999. And it's all happening just before a very pregnant Williams, 40, is due to give birth to her first child — a baby girl — this week. To that end, Williams told Gimme Shelter she's moving to a bigger spread that she has since purchased in her beloved Harlem neighborhood. “This was my first time as a home buyer, and it was really important to me to have ownership in Manhattan and in Harlem, which is such a storied neighborhood,” Williams said. The Charlotte, NC-born lawyer, TV personality and pageant queen is also the author of “Bet on Black: The Good News About Being Black in America Today.” In addition, she's also the star of a nationally syndicated show, “Equal Justice with Judge Eboni K. Williams” and the host of an award-winning NAACP podcast, “Holding Court with Eboni K. Williams.” Williams bought this one-bedroom, one-bath, 688-square-foot dwelling at 300 W. 122nd St. — a development otherwise known as 300 West — for \$830,000 in 2022. “I bought it sight un-



seen and I was able to watch it come to completion,” Williams said. Williams describes herself as a “working, entrepreneurial single mom by choice.” Williams froze her eggs at 34, created an embryo at 39 and is slated to give birth shortly before her 41st birthday.

After enjoying some downtime as a new mom, Williams told Gimme that she plans to be back to her “bicoastal lifestyle” soon, as she films her show in LA. This one-bedroom residence, with designs by Ty Larkins Interiors, features Italian chandeliers from the 1880s, gold leaf French mirrors and grey velvet seating. Details include 9-foot ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows. It's also pet friendly — Williams lived here with her dog, a Cavalier King Charles spaniel named Carey James, after her grandfather. With the baby soon to arrive, Williams is moving to a home that, at 1,450 square feet, is more than double the size — but still close by. She loves having Morning-side Park as her backyard and the condo is close to everything, from the Apollo Theater to Whole Foods, a just-opened Trader Joe's and the “newer, fancier” restaurants. The listing broker is **Stan Montfort** of Serhant.

Zoe Weherall (2); Rene Cervantes

15 Commerce St.



Douglas Elliman (2); Gey Images

25 to life

INTERIOR designer **Sasha Bikoff's** West Village townhouse can be yours for \$25,000 a month. The colorful abode, located at 15 Commerce St., is 21 feet wide and 2,394 square feet. Bikoff (inset), who rose to prominence in the design world at a young age in the last decade with her signature taste and flair, bought the property for \$6 million in 2019. “Commerce is one of my favorite streets.



It's really special, and I love the West Village,” Bikoff told Gimme Shelter. She bought the home as an investment property. Then COVID hit. She ended up moving in and living there for the next three years with **Adam Cooper**, her husband, their 10-month-old son **Dino** and their two dogs. Now Bikoff is pregnant again. The family has spent the summer in their shelter magazine-friendly Hamptons home and have bought a four-bedroom co-op at East 79th Street and Madison. The listing broker is **Leslie Mason** of Douglas Elliman.

Dune: part two



Gravin Zeigler; YS Kim Foundation

366 and 376 Gin Lane

THE new owners of La Dune — the Southampton estate that made waves for its \$150 million asking price before it crashed at auction this year — are **Charles Kim**, a young investor and philanthropist, and his wife **Jean** (both inset), Gimme Shelter can reveal exclusively. Kim is a co-founder of Alpine Group, an investment firm. The 4-acre estate, which consists of 366 and 376 Gin Lane — two parcels on one of the swankiest oceanfront



streets in the Hamptons — ultimately sold at an hours-long auction for \$88.48 million in an all-cash deal in January. The seller was **Louise Blouin**, a philanthropist and art magazine publisher who entertained **Prince Andrew** and others at the estate over the years. The sale was run by Sotheby's Concierge Auctions in partnership with Sotheby's International Realty co-brokers **Harald Grant**, Corcoran's **Tim Davis** and Bespoke's **Cody Vichinsky**.

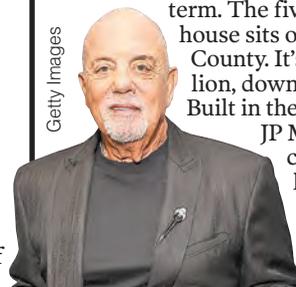
Start the buyer



Wendy Maitland

THIS historic Hudson Valley estate known as Overlook is where music legend **Billy Joel** (below) found inspiration to compose songs including “New York State of Mind,” released in 1976, which he started writing on a bus on his way back to 26 Kings Road in Highland Falls, NY. While Joel never owned this dwelling, he leased it long-term. The five-bedroom, four-bathroom main house sits on 2.26 riverfront acres in Orange County. It's now on the market for \$1.99 million, down from its earlier \$2.5 million ask. Built in the 1950s, it sits on the foundation of JP Morgan's Gilded Age summer escape. When Joel moved in, he had his piano hoisted up through a window into a bedroom on the second floor. The listing broker is **Wendy Maitland** of Atelier by Wendy Maitland.

Getty Images



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BLAKE Lively and Justin Baldoni clashed on the set of “It Ends With Us,” with multiple sources telling Page Six he made her feel “uncomfortable.”

The pair star in the much-anticipated big-screen version of Colleen Hoover’s hit novel about a toxic and abusive romance, out Friday. But rumors have swirled this week as the two seemed to avoid each other at the movie’s Manhattan premiere Monday.

One industry source claimed that Baldoni, who also directed the movie, created an “extremely difficult” atmosphere behind the scenes for the entire cast.

And another industry insider said there were a few moments on set that made Lively, who is a producer on the project, feel “uncomfortable” about her postpartum body.

Lively, 36, joined “It Ends With Us” soon after giving birth to her fourth child with Ryan Reynolds, son Olin.

As photos leaked at the start of production, fans called out Lively’s “frumpy” costumes for her character, Lily Bloom — prompting Lively to delve into her own wardrobe for some of the looks, borrowing clothes from BFF Gigi Hadid and husband Ryan Reynolds and wearing her own jewelry.

Sources who have worked with Baldoni were quick to say the father-of-two would never intentionally set out to make any of his actors feel unsupported.

By the end of filming, however, there was apparently no love lost between the cast.

“It’s not just Blake,” added the industry source. “None of the cast enjoyed working with Justin . . . They certainly didn’t talk to him at the premiere.”

Keeping distance

Lively and Baldoni did not pose with each other at the New York City premiere Monday night. Baldoni hosted a screening in Chicago Thursday night, while Lively attended a red carpet event for it in London. She also attended a Denmark premiere Friday night without her director.

At the New York premiere, Baldoni, 40, arrived with his wife Emily, who has a small role as a doctor in the movie. Lively, meanwhile, posed on the carpet with co-star Brandon Sklenar as well as her husband Reynolds and pal Hugh Jackman.

Sources said Baldoni sat in his one theater at AMC Lincoln Square with family, friends and execs, while Lively watched the movie in a different theater with her own guests, including sister Robyn Lively and her nieces and nephews.

Lively and Baldoni have also not appeared together to promote

A Lively clash of wills

Sources reveal behind-the-scenes drama between Blake and co-star



STAR WARS: At Monday’s NYC premiere for “It Ends With Us,” star Blake Lively (above) posed with pal Hugh Jackman, husband Ryan Reynolds, mother-in-law Tammy Reynolds and co-star Brandon Sklenar — but appeared to avoid director and co-star Justin Baldoni, who posed on the carpet with his wife Emily. Sources said the stars watched the movie in separate theaters.

the movie. Instead, Lively has given interviews with co-star Jenny Slate, appearing on the “Today” show Monday, as well filming an interview for CBS “This Morning” with Sklenar.

Things on set become so diffi-

cult that sources told us Baldoni may not return for a possible sequel, even though he owns the rights to Hoover’s 2022 follow-up “It Starts With Us.”

Lively signed up for the new movie after Baldoni, who found

fame in the CW show “Jane the Virgin,” bought the rights to the book via his production company, Wayfarer Studios.

The company is named after Baldoni’s religion.

“ ‘Wayfarer’ stands for the

journey of the soul,” Baldoni told RogerEbert.com recently. “It’s named after the Wayfarer in a book called ‘The Seven Valleys and the Four Valleys,’ which comes from the Baha’i Faith, which is my faith.





UNHAPPY ENDING: Sources say director and co-star Justin Baldoni made Blake Lively feel “uncomfortable” on the set of “It Ends With Us,” which opened Friday and is based on a hit novel by Colleen Hoover.



Sony Pictures via AP



Getty Images

DIFFERENT DUO: Lively promoted the movie in June at Book Bonanza in Texas with co-star Sklenar — not Baldoni.

whose new film, “Deadpool and Wolverine,” is currently at No. 1 at the box office.

“It Ends With Us” is projected to earn a solid \$25 million to \$35 million on its opening weekend, according to Variety.

Baldoni spoke out in a headline-grabbing TED talk in 2017 amid the downfall of now-convicted rapist Harvey Weinstein and the explosion of the #MeToo movement.

He asked men in the audience, “Are you brave enough to be vulnerable? Are you strong enough to be sensitive?”

Man up

Baldoni also hosts a podcast called “Man Enough,” on which he urges men to lean into their emotions and not shy away from therapy, and has written two books, “Man Enough: Undefining My Masculinity” and the children’s guidebook “Boys Will Be Human.”

Wayfarer Studios asked the nonprofit organization No More, dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault, to take an advisory role during the development and production of “It Ends With Us.”

Variety also reported that Baldoni and Lively also worked with both an intimacy and a stunt coordinator when filming their scenes of domestic violence.

“What was important for me was that the abuse comes from Ryle’s insecurity — from a deep feeling that he wasn’t enough,” Baldoni said, “Showing that allows the movie to not have an arch villain. He’s not this mustache-twirling bad guy; he’s a guy with deep pain and deep trauma who makes terrible decisions that are never acceptable or excusable in any situation.”

The Post reached out to reps for Lively and Baldoni for comment.

“It’s the journey of the soul, trying to figure life out. Whether you are a believer in God or whether you’re spiritual — whatever you are — it’s that journey of just trying to understand the world around us and yourself in the process.”

No return in sight

Baldoni bought the rights to “It Ends With Us” back in 2019.

He told Variety how his book agent referred the novel to him in 2019, when it had already sold a million copies.

“It was sexy, and it was romantic and mysterious,” Baldoni said. “By the end, I was sobbing real snot tears.”

“I was very protective of this book,” author Hoover told Variety, revealing that she rejected several offers before Baldoni’s.



‘IT ENDS WITH US’ STARS ON TODAY

TODAY

NO ‘US’: Lively has not promoted the movie with Baldoni, though they play the leads and he directs. She appeared on “Today” with co-star Jenny Slate.

“But then I got an email from Justin that was really heartfelt, and I felt like he understood the book and he understood the importance of people needing to

see it on screen.”

While the movie has not yet gotten the green light for a sequel, Baldoni, who plays Ryle Kincaid, has already said he’s not

sure he’s up to the task of directing another one.

At Monday’s NYC premiere, Baldoni told Entertainment Tonight, “I think that there are better people for that one . . . I think Blake Lively’s ready to direct, that’s what I think.”

Box office clout

Lively has said she put her heart and soul into the movie, while Baldoni told People, “She’s a creative force, she’s an executive producer on the film, and she is so brilliant.”

“And I believe that her performance is going to help so many women feel seen and showcase this unique experience in a way that I don’t believe I’ve seen in another film.”

Lively will do battle this weekend with husband Reynolds,

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ARMORED FORCE: Ukrainian tanks on Saturday roll in the Sumy region, near where Kyiv's forces crossed into Russia last week.

Reuters

RUSHIN' TO GET AWAY

Town flees from Ukr. troops

By CHRIS HARRIS

The Kremlin scrambled to evacuate residents from a border town Saturday, as Ukrainian troops quickly advanced toward a nuclear plant, four days after gaining a foothold in Russia's southwestern Kursk region.

Mayor Igor Korpunkov of Kurchatov said Ukrainian forces had crossed the border into Russia last week with their sights set on the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant.

"The situation is tense, a state of emergency is in effect," said Korpunkov. "However, all services and enterprises, including the city administration, are operating normally. I am personally in the city, at my workplace, monitoring the situation."

There were reports of sporadic power outages

throughout the region since Monday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is monitoring the situation "and has channels of communication open to both sides of the conflict," read a statement, issued to Russian news agency TASS. "At this point there is no reason for concern with regard to nuclear safety and security."

Convoy plastered

On Friday, Ukraine knocked out an entire Russian reinforcement convoy, as fighters caught Russian troops off-guard. Video of the aftermath showing smoldering Russian trucks was shared online.

Ukrainian soldiers continued to move further into Russia, reaching at least 6 miles, the deepest

advance since Moscow invaded the neighboring nation in February 2022.

As it moved to tighten security, Russia designated three regions — Kursk, Belgorod and Bryansk — as sites for "counter-terrorism" operations, aimed at halting Ukrainian troops from gaining any more ground.

Russia's Defense Ministry contended it successfully pushed back against Ukrainian soldiers Saturday, stopping them in their tracks.

Ukraine officials have not yet officially acknowledged the cross-border incursion, although in his daily address Saturday, President Volodymyr Zelensky thanked defense units that are "squeezing the war on the territory of the aggressor."

With Wires
charris@nypost.com

'It Ends (and Soars) With Us'

"It Ends With Us," bloomed in the No. 1 box office spot on its opening day Friday, grossing \$24 million, according to The Numbers.

"Deadpool & Wolverine" dropped a spot from last week to No. 2. The comic book movie earned \$15.7 million on Friday.

"Twisters," a reboot about competing storm-chasing teams, got chased down to

No. 3 from No. 2 last week, with earnings of \$4.4 million.

Video game movie "Borderlands" brought in a cool \$4 million on Friday.

Rounding out the top five was "Despicable Me 4," the latest entry in the animated series. It raked in \$2.5 million, dropping from fourth place last week to fifth place Friday.

Lauren Elkies Schram



DANIEL STEIGER

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LESSON FOR HAMAS

IDF nails school hiding terrorists

By MATTHEW SEDACCA

Israel said it struck a school housing refugees in northern Gaza on Saturday that had been sheltering over a dozen Hamas terrorist operatives and senior commanders.

Local health officials said at least 90 people were killed in the strike on the Tabeen school in Gaza City, but the Israel Defense Forces said the Hamas-backed administrators inflated the number of casualties.

Fadel Naem, director of al-Ahli hospital in Gaza City, said the facility had received 70 corpses from the strike and the body parts from at least 10 others, while Mahmoud Bassal, spokesperson for the Hamas-run Palestinian Civil Defense, said in a televised news conference there were “more than 93 martyrs, including 11 children and six women.”

Gaza’s Hamas-run media office said people who had been sheltering in the complex were saying dawn prayers during the attack. Izzat El-Reshiq, of Hamas’ political office, claimed none of

those killed were militants.

The Israeli military, however, said Gazan officials numbers were “exaggerated and do not match the information available in the IDF, the precise munitions used, and the accuracy of the strike.” It estimated about 20 terrorists were killed in the strike.

‘Human shields’

The IDF hit an “active” Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad command center set up in a mosque at the Tabeen school, according to IDF spokesman Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani.

The terrorist operatives had been using the hub as a hideout where they could plot attacks on Israeli forces, the IDF said. The IDF said it took precautions to limit the harm to civilians.

Israeli military officials lashed out at Hamas for violating international law by using the civilians and institutions in Gaza “as human shields for their terror activities.”

With Wires
msedacca@nypost.com



Olympic wring vs. flag-bearer

French police violently arrested a Hell’s Kitchen man after he tried to take a photo with an Israeli flag, the tourist told The Post.

Neil Frias (above), 35, who is Jewish, was posing for a selfie with the Israeli flag outside the Olympic Aquatics Center when three cops began interrogating him, he recalled.

The cops seized Frias’ phone and “tried to rip” his flag, according to a complaint.

Frias was sent on his way after

the cops verified his passport.

Roughly 15 minutes later, however, as he stood in line to have his ticket scanned, a different group of cops suddenly tackled him, he recalled.

Police shoved him against a tree before dragging him by his feet to the police van, causing bruising and bleeding, according to the complaint.

“I came to Paris to support the Israeli team,” Frias told The Post. *Matthew Sedacca and Isabel Vincent*

Neil Frias

Iran prez vs. hard-liners

Iran’s newly elected president is reportedly fighting with hard-line Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps leaders to rein in the scale of Tehran’s retaliation over the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh last month.

The IRGC’s top generals, hellbent on revenge over the killing in Tehran

of the terrorist group’s top political leader, are pushing for the Islamic Republic to launch direct missile strikes on military bases in Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities, The Independent reported.

President Masoud Pezeshkian, a relative moderate who trounced the IRGC’s candidate in last month’s elections, is

looking to avoid slipping into a full-blown war and instead wants to target hidden bases of Israel’s Mossad intelligence agency located in countries surrounding Iran.

Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will have the ultimate say on how Tehran responds to the July 31 assassination. *Matthew Sedacca*



CZECH REPUBLIC

They hopped, skipped, jumped and dug their way outta jail!

Two kangaroos escaped a prison near the Czech capital of Prague last week, apparently having dug their way out.

One returned on its own, while the other remains on the lam.

The marsupials and other animals, including rabbits and llamas, have been used to help inmates with anger issues at the facility since 2018.

CHINA

Pandas, China’s beloved national mascots, have given a bamboost to the economy of Sichuan province.

Social media panda-monium drew 20 million tourists and generated nearly \$2.1 billion in May.

The newly dubbed “panda economy” is centered around tourism and merchandising.

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia inked a deal for the design of what will be the largest airport in Africa once construction is completed in 2029.

The four-runway facility, 30 miles outside the capital of Addis Ababa, will accommodate 100 million passengers a year and house 270 aircraft, officials announced.

The first phase of the project will cost about \$6 billion.

COLOMBIA

The first robotic exploration of a 300-year-old shipwreck off the coast of Colombia revealed “an unprecedented set of archaeological evidence,” officials announced.

The survey was conducted from May to June and its findings included an anchor, cannons, porcelain and possibly gold.

It followed an announcement in February from the government that extractions would begin on the “holy grail” of shipwrecks, a Spanish vessel sunk by the British in 1708.

SOUTH KOREA

South Korea has managed to turn nearly all of the country’s food waste into feed, compost or energy after setting out 20 years ago to tackle the issue of soil pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions.

The nation banned food scraps from landfills and mandated that residents separate them from trash and recycling.

Despite initial pushback, it has now become a way of life, with 300 facilities across the country recycling 15,000 tons of scraps daily. *Deirdre Bardolf, Wires*

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UNCLAIMED FUNDS

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Marriott's alien-ated Sues migrant hotel

By LAUREN ELKIES SCHRAM

Marriott International has filed a \$2.6 million federal lawsuit against a hotel in Queens for becoming a migrant shelter in violation of its franchise agreement.

The hotel chain claims the owners of the Pride Hotel in Jamaica had a 2015 deal with Marriott to operate a dual-branded Aloft and Element hotel at 149-03 Archer Ave., according to the complaint filed last week in the Southern District of New York.

Brand issue

Marriott alleged the hotel's owner, Pride Hospitality Group, made a "lucrative" agreement with the city to house migrants and asylum seekers "just months before" its slated Nov. 1 opening, after eight years of construction. In doing so, it broke the agreement and gave up the right to use Marriott branding.

By Aug. 22, 2023, Marriott says it confirmed the property — an 18-story hotel with 283 units near John F. Kennedy International Airport — was being used for migrant housing.

Pride Hotel nevertheless kept using Marriott's signage and proprietary marks, the suit claims.

Pride Hotel sent Marriott a letter proposing an agreement to use the hotels for migrant housing. Marriott provided a list of requirements that needed to be satisfied in order to consider the change in use, but didn't hear back for two months — while migrants continued to live on site, according to the suit. Pride Hotel, meanwhile, sent Marriott none of the franchise agreement's required fees, the suit maintains.

Marriott says it sent Pride notices of default and provided opportunities to resolve the issue in November and December to no avail, before terminating the agreement on March 18.

Having Marriott signage on a migrant hotel has "caused and will continue to cause significant harm to Marriott," the suit claims. In addition, Marriott says it would be tough for it to re-enter the lucrative Jamaica market serving JFK, as it's "already saturated with existing hotels."

Pride Hotel could not immediately be reached for comment.

Bone-break flight \$uit

A seat belt snafu aboard a JetBlue airliner left a Long Island woman with a broken ankle, deep vein issues and shattered dreams of a trip from John F. Kennedy International Airport to the Bahamas with her husband, she said in a federal lawsuit.

The ugly air saga unfolded around 8:15 a.m. on July 23, 2022, when Maria Mistretta, 59, got up from her second-row seat and stepped into the aisle, where her foot became entangled in a low-hanging seat belt — flipping her onto her back, she said in Brooklyn court papers filed July 31.

Maria and her husband, Salvatore, implored the

flight crew for a first aid kit and ice, but were told "everything was packed up and inaccessible," they said in the litigation.

Upon landing in the Bahamas, the Mistrettas claim JetBlue personnel advised the couple to return to New York for medical evaluation.

Once back at JFK, "they immediately" went to a local hospital where doctors determined Maria suffered a fractured right ankle, deep vein thrombosis in the right leg and aggravation of a preexisting back condition during Flight 121, they said.

The couple wants \$170,000 in damages. *Dean Balsamini*

With crew unable to return to

By MICHAEL KAPLAN

IN space, no one can hear you scream.

But there's always a shrink on call, back on Earth, to listen to stressed-out astronauts cry if they need to.

"I could bitch at him, cry with him, whatever," said retired astronaut Clayton "AstroClay" Anderson of the long-distance psychologist who helped him when he spent 152 days aboard the International Space Station in 2007. "He had my back. He could try to effect change [with NASA] and talk to my family if he needed to."

NASA's Earth-bound shrinks might be busy right now, with astronauts Sunita "Sunni" Williams and Barry "Butch" Wilmore "stuck" at the ISS because of spacecraft malfunctions.

As of Aug. 10, the two will have spent their 66th day trapped aboard the International Space Station — a mission that was supposed to be just 10 days long.

NASA announced Wednesday that Wilmore and Williams may have to remain in place until February 2025.

Two more astronauts are set to travel to the ISS as early as September on the CrewDragon, made by Elon Musk's SpaceX. The four would work together on the ISS until February, then travel home in the CrewDragon.

Remarkably, Anderson said, there is not any real training in terms of what happens if you get stuck, despite a two-year prep course before setting out for the International Space Station.

"I never thought about being stranded; I thought, 'Hey, I have a job to do. I'm up here for a certain amount

of time. That time is variable,'" the 65-year-old told The Post. "I don't remember getting much training or psychology in terms of how you deal with it."

Astronauts are "trained to do many repairs by following procedures," Anderson said — and it helps if they are halfway-decent plumbers, too.

DIY toilet repair

"There was a time when the Russian-made toilet broke on a Friday night and Mission Control in Russia didn't come back on until Saturday," he recalled. "So [we] had to survive overnight without the toilet."

In the meantime, he relied on a makeshift anti-gravity toilet called a Soyuz. "I also had Apollo poop bags" — literally, a bag meant to be sealed and stored in a box — "but I got no training in how to use those bags. Ick!"

As for repairs, Anderson said, "You get instructions for fixing it the next morning and then hope that the right parts were [on board]. I think we got it fixed in a

They're probably just working hard, having a good time and trusting the system. It's kind of fun being up there.

— Astronaut Clayton Anderson



OUT OF THIS WORLD: Retired astronaut Clayton Anderson spent 152 days aboard the International Space Station in 2007 and says he had a shrink on call — and that his crew scrambled to fix their broken toilet.

day. But sometimes the parts have to be sent up."

Remarkably, transport time for supplies can be as little as four hours.

There's not a worry of going hungry, because cargo ships ferry fresh clothing and food supplies to the ISS every couple of months from the US.

(Williams and Wilmore cannot hitch rides home on the haulers, though, because they are not graded for human transport.)

But sometimes the cupboards can run "down to the bare bones," Anderson said. "There were certain dishes on the Space Station that everyone hated. Tofu teriyaki and tofu with chili flavor were two that I would never touch."

A collaboration between the United States, Russia, Europe, Japan and Canada, the ISS launched in 1998 and is now used for scientific research by 15 countries.

NASA describes it as being "larger than a six-bedroom house with six sleeping quarters, two bathrooms, a gym and a 360-degree bay window."

It has electricity via solar cells and a small galley kitchen that features a fridge, hot and cold running water, and a food heater.

While medical supplies on board are more advanced than your average first-aid kit, they still sound more mundane than you might expect. Anderson recalled gear for sutures and intubation, and an intravenous fluid kit with syringes, in addition to Imodium A-D and sleeping pills. In a crisis, astronauts would be guided through care by a doctor on the ground.

"I'm sure that Sunni and Butch have medical and psychological support people while they're up there," said Anderson who had both at his disposal.

He was stuck, too

And sometimes astronauts are medical experts. Frank Rubio was a flight surgeon when he was selected in 2017 to begin his two-year training for a 2022 stay at the ISS with two Russian cosmonauts.

It was meant to be a 180-day mission — but turned into 371, setting the record for the longest spaceflight by an American, due to a radiator leak caused by a meteorite or space junk hitting the Russian spacecraft meant to bring the astronauts home.

Rubio told NPR about going a little stir-crazy from "being in a very enclosed space" where "the only privacy you have is about the size of a small phone-booth."

Contrary to NASA, he described the ISS as being like a "two- to

Earth, an insider reveals what it's like to be...

STUCK IN SPACE



Getty Images; AP

HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM: Astronauts Suni Williams (above left) and Butch Wilmore were supposed to be at the International Space Station (left) for 10 days. Because of problems with their vessel, they have already been stranded 66 days — and might not get home before February 2025.

three-bedroom house composed entirely of hallways.”

Being stuck in space takes a physical toll. As Rubio told CNN, “We’re not walking, we’re not bearing our own weight [while in space], so it will be from two to six months before I essentially say that I feel normal.”

NASA is careful not to use the words “stuck” or “trapped” or “stranded.” During a press conference in June about Wilmore and Williams, Steve Stich, manager of NASA’s Commercial Crew Program, stated, “Our plan is to return then home on Starliner and to return them home at the right time.”

The fact that Williams and Wilmore’s faulty return vessel is made by Boeing — a company that has gotten loads of bad press over the course of 2024 due to a laundry list of mechanical and human failures — “gives you pause,” Anderson said. “But the airplane division is different from the space division.”

Stich said this week, “In the last few weeks we have decided to make sure we have that capabil-

ity there [the SpaceX option], as our community, I would say, got more and more uncomfortable.”

It was known even before blastoff that the Boeing Starliner craft that carried the Williams and Wilmore to the ISS had a small helium leak.

Additional leaks in the vessel’s plumbing were found and re-

paired from the ground, according to CBS News, but even more problems came to light after the Starliner docked at ISS, including malfunctioning thrusters and helium leaking from the propulsion system.

Anderson, author of “The Ordinary Spaceman,” said the two are likely not scared at this point.



PIECE OF SHIP: Wilmore and Williams’ Boeing Starliner has been plagued with helium leaks and malfunctioning thrusters — yet another PR problem for the troubled aeronautics company.

“Butch and Suni were test pilots before they became astronauts,” he said. “I’m speculating here, but I think part of them is saying, ‘We’re test pilots, we can handle this, we’re not afraid.’”

Even without an unexpected delay, going into space for extended periods of time can wreak havoc on relationships with spouses and children.

‘Getting antsy’

“My wife and I, we talked about our ability to sustain if the mission extended by a month or so,” Anderson said of his wife Susan, who also worked for the space program. “But if it had been three months or four months, we’d have gotten into tougher territory. I can’t speak to individual family situations, but I imagine that [Butch’s] family is getting a little antsy. His kids are older . . . but they must miss having their dad on the ground.”

Wilmore, 62, and his wife are from middle Tennessee and have two daughters. A retired US Navy captain, he was selected to be an astronaut in 2000.

Williams, 58, is married and is a federal police officer in Oregon. Prior to being selected as an astronaut, in 1998, she had been a naval test pilot.

Silver lining

Anderson met Williams in 1998, while they were both training to be astronauts, and imagines she “is loving every day she gets to be in space. I don’t imagine she or Butch have any panic in their sites right now. They’re probably just working hard, having a good time and trusting the system. It’s kind of fun being up there.”

Anderson, who is now the as CEO for the SAC Aerospace Museum in his hometown of Ashland, Neb., remembers missing his family while in space.

But, he admitted, that wasn’t the case for everyone.

“We had astronauts who loved going to Star City [the Russian space training center northeast of Moscow] to train,” he recalled. “That way they didn’t have to deal with any family issues.”



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LUCKIEST FEW

Passengers miss doomed plane

By OLIVIA LAND

Two of as many as 11 would-be passengers with tickets to fly on the plane that crashed in Brazil on Friday, killing all 62 people on board, have revealed that they avoided death thanks to travel hiccups.

One of the travelers, Adriano Assis, told Brazilian outlet GloboNews that the only reason he is still alive was because he was confused as to which airline he was flying on, according to Fox News.

After not seeing a LATAM airlines Flight 2238 on the arrival or departure signs at the Cascavel airport, Assis realized he had booked his trip on VoePass airline, rushed to the gate. But he was told by a staffer that it was too late to board.

"I argued with him and stuff, and that was it, and



Zuma



HIGH TOLL: Capt. Romano was among 62 people who lost their lives in the crash on Friday.

he saved my life, man," he told the outlet, welling up with tears.

A second Flight 2388 passenger, José Felipe, said he was part of a group of 10 that made the same mixup. "Thank God, we didn't get on that plane," he said.

The victims of the crash included a pilot with 10 years of experience.

Capt. Danilo Santos Romano, 35, was the first

victim identified after the fiery crash in the state of São Paulo, which left no survivors, Brazilian outlet Globo TV News reported.

Several doctors were also aboard en route to a seminar, including Arianne Albuquerque Estavan Risso and Mariana Comiran Belim, both of whom were clinical oncology residents at the Cascavel Cancer Hospital (Uopecan). *With Wires*

Post Weather Report

Sunday	Monday
 Today: Partly sunny with low humidity. High 78 to 84. Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 62 to 68.	 Tomorrow: Partly sunny. High 77 to 83. Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy. Low 61 to 67.
Tuesday	Wednesday
 Clouds and sun. High 78 to 84. Evening: Mainly clear. Low 64 to 70.	 Partly sunny. High 80 to 86. Evening: Clear. Low 66 to 72.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 12PM

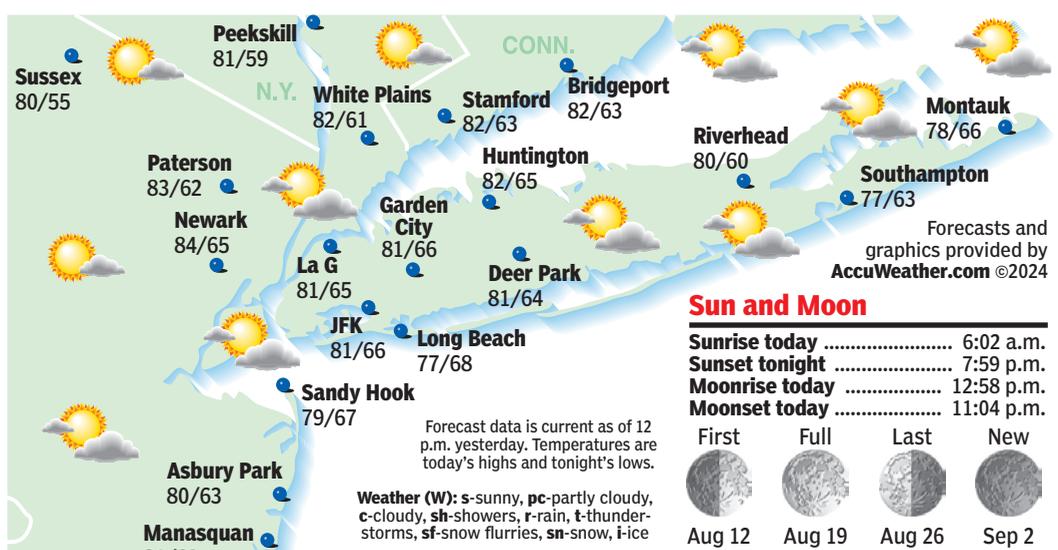
Temperature
High: 83, Low: 73, Mean: 78

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: +1 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 4.10", Year: 33.98", Normal year to date: 30.00"

Cooling Degree days yesterday13
Total for the month (normal)131 (121)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal)1011 (822)
Last year to date804
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 84
UV index (for Sun.) 8 (Very High)
Humidity (at noon) 45%

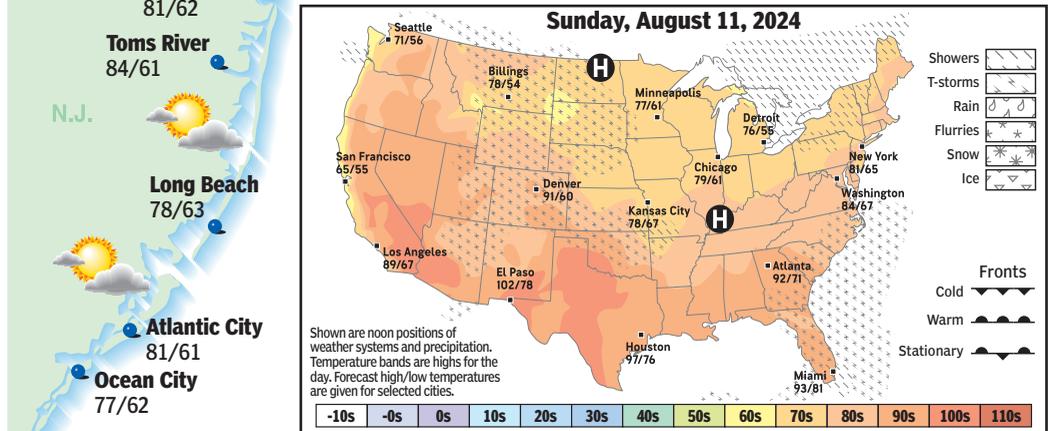
AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Moderate Predominant pollen: Weeds
AQI rating: (for Sun.)Moderate



Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 6:02 a.m.
 Sunset tonight 7:59 p.m.
 Moonrise today 12:58 p.m.
 Moonset today 11:04 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Aug 12	Aug 19	Aug 26	Sep 2



AccuWeather Get the AccuWeather app

New York Tides	TODAY	TOMORROW
High Tide for Coney Island	12:35a	1:16p
Fire Island	12:42a	1:17p
Hempstead	4:11a	4:33p
Huntington	4:24a	4:45p
Jones Inlet	12:19a	1:00p
Montauk Point	2:20a	2:52p
Port Washington	4:07a	4:29p
Sandy Hook	12:39a	1:20p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	79/58/pc	74/58/t
Danbury	81/58/s	80/56/pc
Glens Falls	76/56/t	72/52/t
Gr Barrington	78/55/s	72/54/sh
Kingston	81/57/s	78/56/t
Liberty	74/55/s	71/53/t
Monticello	76/53/s	72/52/t
Newburgh	81/57/s	77/56/pc
Poughkeepsie	81/57/s	80/56/pc
Saratoga Springs	76/57/t	73/55/t
Stroudsburg	79/54/s	77/55/pc
Torrington	80/57/t	75/57/pc
Syracuse	75/61/t	75/60/t

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	94/82/s	95/77/s
Baghdad	112/88/pc	113/87/pc
Beijing	91/75/pc	87/74/pc
Berlin	78/55/pc	81/57/s
Cairo	98/79/s	96/80/s
Dublin	71/60/pc	71/58/pc
Geneva	91/67/c	91/65/pc
Hong Kong	90/82/t	89/81/c
Jerusalem	86/69/s	88/68/s
Kabul	92/65/s	92/65/s
London	81/64/pc	90/60/pc
Madrid	101/74/s	98/71/s
Mexico City	77/59/r	72/56/r
Montreal	72/58/sh	73/61/pc
Moscow	66/52/sh	64/53/r
Paris	90/68/pc	98/69/s
Rio de Janeiro	71/62/c	72/61/pc
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MARRIAGE 'FLOP'

By JEANETTE SETTEMBRE

HGTV star Christina Hall is undergoing major renovations on her personal life — again.

The 41-year-old Hall built a career buying, renovating and reselling homes for profit on the hit “Flip or Flop” with her first husband, Tarek El Moussa. Now, her third marriage is crumbling and things are getting ugly.

On July 15, she filed for divorce from husband Josh Hall, 43, in Orange County, Calif.

The pair co-starred together on two seasons of “Christina in the Country,” and Josh was also credited on one episode, from 2022, of “Christina on the Coast.”

More recently, they were shooting — alongside El Moussa and his wife, Heather Rae Young, 36, from “Selling Sunset” — a new HGTV series called “The Flip Off.” It was slated to air in 2025.

But, behind the scenes, Christina and Josh hadn't quite built a happy life together.

“He was really piggybacking off her,” an HGTV insider told The Post. “I'm sure this show ‘The Flip Off’ was probably the last straw for [Christina]. He wasn't good on camera.”

Christina's rep, Cassie Zebisch-Schienenle, said that her client is “looking forward to moving forward in this chapter of her life.”

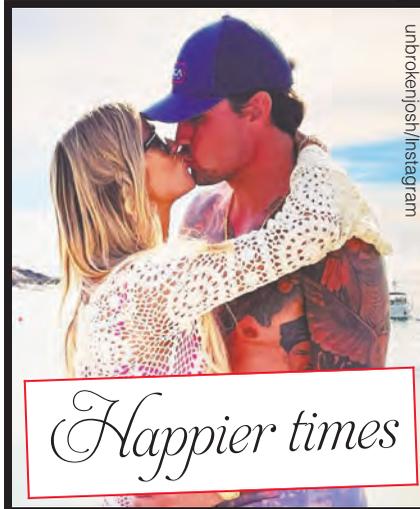
The Post has reached out to Hall's spokesperson as well as HGTV for comment.

Josh filed for divorce the same day as Christina, citing irreconcilable differences.

“The marriage was strained, but Josh never expected this ending,” a source close to him told The Post.

According to court documents filed in Orange County Superior Court and obtained by The Post, Christina is asking a judge to order Josh to give back \$35,000 that she alleges he transferred to his personal bank account the day before she requested a divorce.

Christina feels he was trying to “steal money from her,” a source told The Post.



unbrokenjosh/instagram

LOVESTRUCK: “The synchronicities hit us so hard and fast,” Christina said in 2021, when she and Josh Hall were first linked.

The source close to Josh disputes that claim.

“He transferred money from a joint bank account solely to pay the bills on one of their rental properties, which he has continued to manage following their separation. It was used in the ordinary course of business. Nothing was ‘stolen.’ Any insinuation that Josh stole or mishandled funds is defamatory,” said the source. “Josh was always very financially responsible with the couple's money.”

An unexpected ending

Christina is also asking that Josh pay her attorney fees and seeking to maintain exclusive use of their \$12 million Newport Beach, Calif., residence, according to the docs. While the property is in both of their names, she claims that it was purchased by her through the sale of a home in nearby Dana Point.

Josh, according to the source close to Christina, requested spousal support, half of the Newport Beach house and the rights to the HGTV-Discovery Network shows he participated in.

The split has become so contentious that, on July 24, Christina broke

her silence on the matter.

“I have worked my ass off to build this life for myself and my children and anyone who would try and take what they do not deserve/what they did NOT work for should be



J.C. Rice

OH! DE TOILET! The Social House Cafe in Williamsburg makes its ‘Number 2’ policy crystal clear.

Cafe: Only pee!

By MATTHEW SEDACCA

They don't want people giving them crap.

A Williamsburg cafe has bombarded its broom-closet-sized bathroom's walls and door with about a dozen signs to warn backed-up customers.

“No Poop! No! To Everything! Except for tinkle and small amounts of toilet paper. The pipes can't handle it,” reads one gargantuan sign hanging over the john at Social House Cafe.

“No s--ting!” another sign featuring Uncle Sam implores.

Caroline Hill, an artist who works down the block, said she had rushed into the store this week to go No. 2, but the call of nature dissipated after witnessing the store's poo-free campaign.

“The variety of the vocabulary, all the ways they came up to say ‘Do not poop in this toilet,’ really hammered it home for me,” she told The Post.

Hill posted photos Monday on X of the store's war on crappy customers, and

they quickly went viral, with more than 6.3 million views. Critics sniffed over the brazenness of a coffee shop shaming its clientele into holding it in.

“A place that sells coffee but you're NOT allowed to poop is diabolical,” one user wrote.

Calling BS

Social House co-owner William Somerville bizarrely poo-pooed the idea that customers couldn't let nature call in his cafe's commode — despite putting numerous signs saying just that.

Instead, he claimed the goal is to deter people from flushing tampons and other machine-made products down the store's ancient pipes, Somerville said, adding that toilet repairs cost the business more than \$10,000 last year alone.

“Since we put the signs up, it's helped with people not putting things in the toilet that weren't supposed to be in it,” he said.

mstedacca@nypost.com

‘Flip or Flop’ star Christina Hall is taking a wrecking ball to her ‘strained’ marriage as she seeks third divorce in six years

THE OTHER EXES



Husband #1



Husband #2

STUDS AND DRYWALL: HGTV's Christina Hall was married to her "Flip or Flop" co-star Tarek El Moussa (left) from 2009 to 2018. She and Ant Anstead (above) wed in 2018 and split in 2021.

Getty Images (2)



TEARING IT ALL DOWN: After marrying in 2022, Christina and Josh Hall each filed for divorce this past July. Christina's past two divorces have been relatively amicable because there were children involved. Not so this time, and a source says Christina is "being very vocal" about the messy split.

unbrokenjosh/instagram

ashamed," she wrote on Instagram going on to call her ex an "insecure man with a large ego."

"[Josh] was spending too much money and not contributing financially to the relationship," the

source close to her said.

The person close to Josh claims that isn't true, saying that "Josh spent 24/7 managing the couple's businesses" — including their homes.

Christina, a mom-of-three — she shares son Brayden, 8, and daughter Taylor Reese, 13, with El Moussa and 4-year-old Hudson with second husband Ant Anstead — reportedly wanted her kids to see her in a happier relationship.

When she divorced El Moussa in 2018 and Anstead in 2021, she kept things relatively civil because children were involved.

"Co-parenting and communication with Tarek and Ant are in a great place," according to Zebisch-Schienze.

(There was still drama at some points. Her initial separation from El Moussa, in 2016, was preceded by an incident in which he ran from their home with a gun after an argument. At the time, he said he was going for a hike and took the gun for protection from wild animals, The Post previously reported.)

'She's fighting back'

Things are far less amicable between Christina and Josh — and the pair seemingly didn't have a prenuptial agreement.

"Christina is being very vocal. The last two divorces she really was like, 'I'm not going to speak poorly about my ex-husband because he's the father of my children,'" the source close to her said. This time, "she's fighting back."

The divorcing duo were first linked in July 2021, when they were spotted holding hands at

LAX Airport, just a month after Christina's divorce from Ant was finalized. Around the same time, Ant was linked to actress Renée Zellweger, and the two have been together ever since.

"I met Josh when I wasn't in a state of fear or fight-or-flight . . . I had taken time off social, hired a spiritual coach, and smoked [psychedelic] Bufo toad (which basically reset my brain and kicked out years of anxiety in 15 mins)," she gushed on Instagram in July 2021. "The synchronicities hit us so hard and fast they were impossible to ignore."

In April 2022, she changed her Instagram name from Christina Haack to Christina Hall, revealing that she had married the Realtor and former cop from Austin, Texas.

They celebrated their union that September with about 40 friends and family at Merriman's Kapalua on Maui, Hawaii.

"My dream man on the dreamiest island," Christina wrote on Instagram at the time, with a photo of her and Josh at their Hawaiian wedding.

On Sunday, Josh was photographed moving his belongings — including a vintage DeLorean valued at more than \$50,000 — out of their shared Newport Beach home.

That same day, he addressed news of the divorce on Instagram, posting a photo of him with his dog.

"I prefer privacy, especially during something as life changing as a divorce I did not ask for. I will not publicly badmouth anyone as people have families, friends and others who respect and love them," he wrote in the caption.

"We are real humans, this is our life and I am not here to entertain people I don't know with my private matters," he continued. "Those details will be handled fairly behind closed doors with our respective counsels in due time. Those who know each of us, know who we are."

'Breaking point'

Christina, for her part, seems to be moving forward, indulging with a "much needed" girls' trip last weekend in Palmetto Bluff, SC.

"The pure peace I felt there was something I haven't felt in a long time," she wrote last Sunday on Instagram in a selfie caption.

"She tried to make it work, and there's a breaking point," said the source close to Christina, noting that shooting on "The Flip Off" has resumed without Josh. "Things have not been great for a really long time . . . It's almost been a weight off her shoulders."

But, it's unlikely that this will be the last romantic drama for Christina.

"She goes into these relationships genuinely believing that this is the one," said the HGTV insider. "She's in love with love."

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Disney



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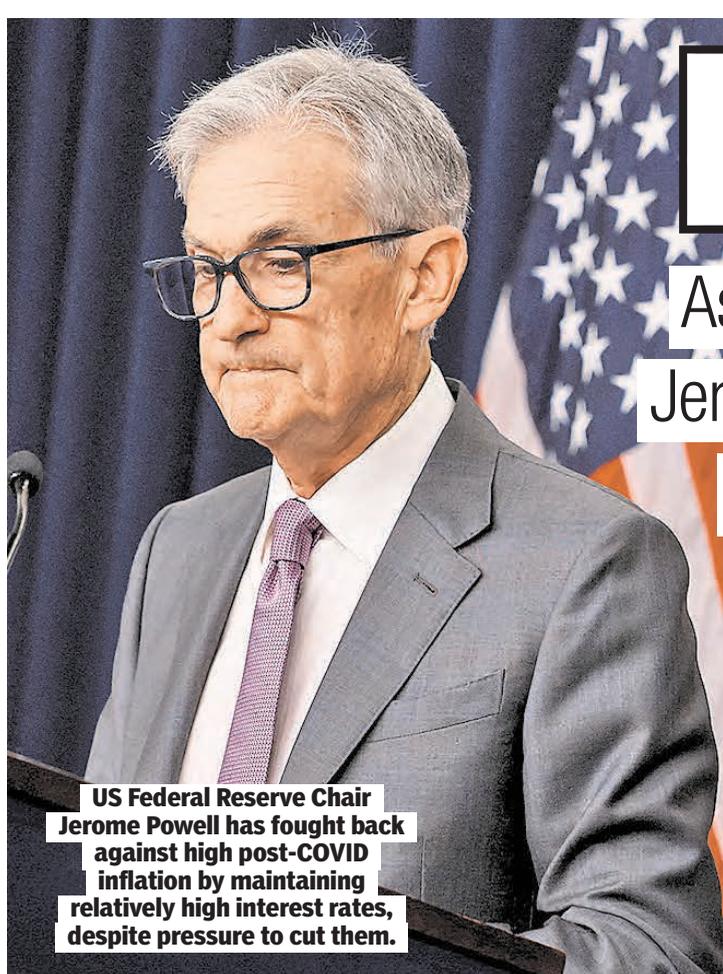


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The dinosaurs
who took over
Victorian
Britain

P. 42



US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has fought back against high post-COVID inflation by maintaining relatively high interest rates, despite pressure to cut them.

FED ALERT

As Wall Street wobbles, Fed head Jerome Powell is suddenly the most important man in Washington



HOW much difference could one man possibly make to Kamala Harris's presidential campaign? A great deal, possibly — but not if you're talking about Tim Walz, the unholy love child of Bernie Sanders and Garrison Keillor who was picked on Tuesday as the would-be veep by the current veep.

No, I'm talking about Jerome Powell. You may have noticed some turbulence in the stock markets this week, and you may have heard a story—an untrue story—that this is a response to a weak employment report. The jobs numbers weren't great, but they're fine. The past week's topsyturvy markets were convulsed largely by exotic stuff of little relevance to ordinary investors, specifically an interest-rate hike at the Bank of Japan that messed up the “yen carry trade”—an investment strategy based on exploiting differences between interest rates in different countries.

That's what drove the downturn in the market, which was largely reversed in the days after. But Democrats are telling a different story, hoping to influence Powell and his Federal Reserve colleagues. The Fed is independent—but, then, so is the Supreme Court, in theory, and that hasn't stopped Democrats from trying to apply political pressure to get the outcomes they demand by any means necessary.

Democrats are desperate for the Fed to cut interest rates and give the economy a little bit of a sugar rush before the November elections. Rates have been painfully high for what seems like forever (but in reality only a few years) as the Fed has done its best (and it is one of the few big institutions in American public life that re-



KEVIN D. WILLIAMSON

ally does seem to try to do its job) to wring all that awful Joe Biden-era inflation out of the economy.

That has made life miserable for people who want to borrow money to buy houses or cars, for a lot of the people who sell houses and cars, and for many other Americans, especially those of modest or middle-class means. A rate cut could goose some economic activity—and it also could reignite inflationary pressures. Democrats are ready to order the vodka shots now and worry about the hangover in January.

Over at The New York Times, poor Paul Krugman is practically kicking his cat and waving his Nobel Prize around while shouting about our “pre-recessionary” economy. GDP grew at 2.8% last quarter, twice the rate of the previous quarter, which is pretty decent. And some of you will remember that not long ago when we had two consecutive quarters of GDP contraction—one of the textbook red flags for a recession—Prof. Krugman was among those

denouncing all talk of recession as the work of partisans and ignoramuses. That our most famous economist's analysis just might be tinged with wishful partisan thinking is suggested by the frank headline of his column from the summer of 2022: “I Was Wrong about Inflation.”

Now Prof. Krugman is once again high on certitude: “It's already clear that the Fed made a mistake by not cutting rates last week; indeed, it probably should have begun cutting months ago,” he writes, adding that the Fed “can and should make a substantial cut—probably half a percentage point, rather than its usual quarter-point—at its next meeting, scheduled for mid-September.” Prof. Krugman acknowledges that a rate cut would help Democrats but insists that the case for his policy is “overwhelming.”

That's an interesting tightrope for Democrats to walk: On one hand, they want to argue that the economy has done wondrously under the management of President Biden and his No. 2; on the other hand, they know that isn't true, that the economy's performance has been mediocre for many and quite bad for some, and that the right kind of signal from the Fed in September would help



Democrats would love a rate cut to goose the economy under President Biden.



The Kamala Harris-Tim Walz campaign promises lots of government spending.

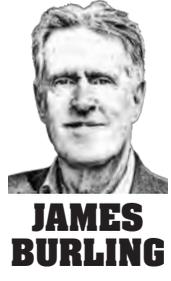
Harris's choice of big-spending progressive Tim Walz as her running-mate suggests that she means to run an old-fashioned guns-and-butter-and-lots-more-butter campaign, promising voters—especially members of public-sector unions—all the ice-cream they can eat and all the ponies they can ride, the gob-smacking cost of which will be someone else's problem in a few years. That is, of course, a big part of how we got into the current economic mess: by over-extending COVID-era stimulus measures and shunting rivers of money into an economy still constrained by supply-chain problems, with the predictable result of high inflation.

If the Fed doesn't give Democrats what they want, look for them to trash it—the same way they have been trashing the Supreme Court since it stopped acting as a Pez dispenser for progressive social policies. Jerome Powell, who has served with Democrats as well as Republicans, is one of the last men in Washington who seems committed to actually doing his job.

There's no political future in that, God knows, but sometimes virtue really had better be its own reward.

POSTSCRIPT Culture Club

IN late July, freed from the shackles of a disastrous Ninth Circuit decision by the Supreme Court, California Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered the state's burgeoning homeless camps to be cleared out. It won't work. On the other coast, Gov. Hochul has tried to suspend New York's "right to shelter" while throwing millions more dollars



JAMES BURLING

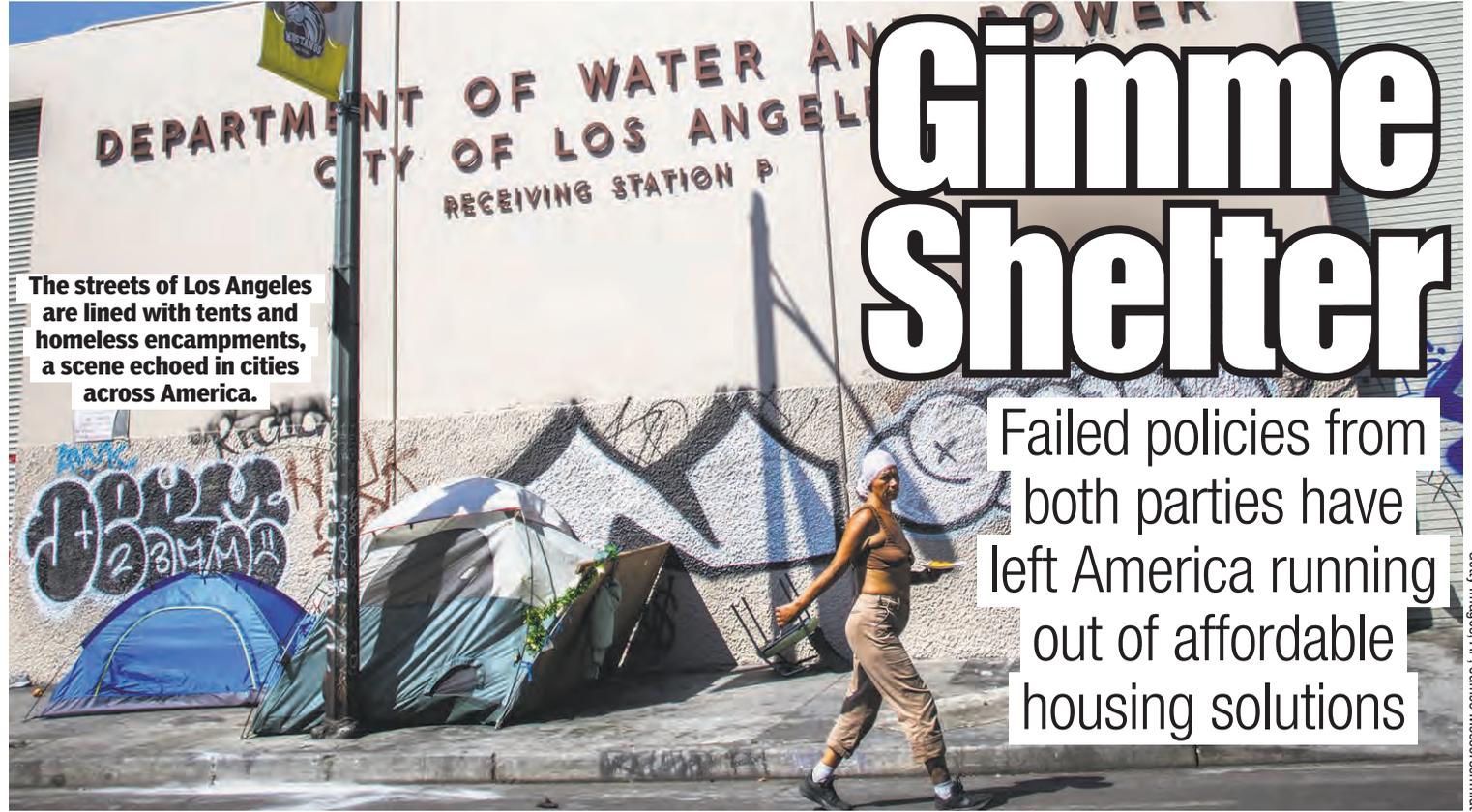
into housing the homeless. It won't work. Earlier this week, after failing to persuade the homeless to get help, Atlantic City announced it will ban sleeping in public areas. It won't work.

Moving the homeless from one place to another won't solve anything because it won't create the new homes America desperately needs.

In the dead of each January winter, people fan out across every city and town in America. They look under bridges, they search along isolated riverbanks, they walk up and down tent cities, they look on top of and under park benches, they seek out parked cars, and they visit shelters. They count our homeless. They count the casualties of failed government policies.

In 2024, they counted a record 653,104 homeless. That's roughly equivalent to a mid-sized American city. But this is not the America that many of us grew up in. Today's America has cities like New York that have run out of shelter space. Cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles with block after block of tents sprawled across downtown sidewalks. This is America slouching toward the Third World.

How did we get here? If we understand how we have arrived at this state of woe, perhaps we can figure out how to get out of the mess. At least, that is the hope behind my book, "Nowhere to Live — The Hidden Story of



The streets of Los Angeles are lined with tents and homeless encampments, a scene echoed in cities across America.

Gimme Shelter

Failed policies from both parties have left America running out of affordable housing solutions

Getty Images/AP — James Messerschmidt

America's Housing Crisis." As explained, it has taken over a century of bad policies to reach today's crisis point. We have adopted law after law that has slowly destroyed the property rights of landowners to build homes where people actually wish to live.

Take zoning. The first zoning law in America was adopted in Baltimore in 1910 — to make it a crime for a black person to move into a white neighborhood.

Other cities followed, but the Supreme Court soon struck down such laws. The Court ruled that people had a property right to sell a home to anyone who wanted to buy it.

But it didn't take long for cities — modeled after New York City's zoning law — to do an end run around the Supreme Court. Cities began to adopt economic zoning. Apartments and other multi-family housing were banned in large parts of our cities and suburbs. Most notoriously, Euclid, Ohio, zoned virtually all of its land as single-family residential — even property next to a large tractor factory. After Euclid convinced the Supreme Court that apartments were nuisances, there were fewer places across the nation to build lower-cost housing open to minorities and the working class. Shortages began and have continued

to worsen ever since. American cities have often destroyed working-class neighborhoods in the name of redevelopment. Detroit's Poletown neighborhood was leveled for a since-abandoned GM Plant. New London, Conn., reduced a middle-class neighborhood to make way of the headquarters of Pfizer Pharmaceutical — also now abandoned.

We have well-meaning environmental laws that have been co-opted by NIMBYism to throw monkey-wrenches into new home-building. California is rife with stories of housing projects that have been delayed for decades by one abusive lawsuit after another.

Government solutions often cause more pain than they cure. Front and center is rent control which does nothing to lower the overall cost of housing but does everything to pre-

vent new housing from being built in the first place. From New York City to Santa Monica, the construction of new apartments makes little sense under rent control.

We have not managed to repeal the law of supply and demand. Every government policy that reduces our ability to build new homes reduces supply and raises prices.

Unwinding these ill-conceived government policies will not be easy. But if we recognize how we have created the hole we are in today, perhaps we can crawl out of it — by once again respecting rights in property and allowing people to build homes and apartments where people need to live.

James Burling is the author of *Nowhere to Live: The Hidden Story of America's Housing Crisis*. He is the Vice President of Legal Affairs at the Pacific Legal Foundation.



Calif. Gov. Gavin Newsom and Gov. Hochul's efforts to clear the streets won't work without more housing being built.

Chatter

"The suspects actually had very specific and detailed plans... to leave a bloodbath in their wake."

— Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer on a foiled ISIS-style plot against Taylor Swift's shows

"Maybe that's where I got my brain worm."

— Robert F. Kennedy Jr., admitting he once dumped a dead bear cub in Central Park

"Our neighborhoods need help right now."

— Councilman Erik Bottcher, writing to Mayor Adams on the crisis of crime and homelessness on Manhattan's West Side



"Simone, I am asking you directly and publicly to please put a stop to this."

— Ex-Team USA gymnast MyKayla Skinner, saying she's been cyberbullied since criticizing Simone Biles' current squad

CODDLE CHAOS

'SO I do have a serious question . . . When people are taking showers at home, are they re-using the same towel again & again, without washing it?" This was a question recently posted on the Facebook group Dorm Room Mamas. With 192,000 members, it is easy to see how you might get a few people



NAOMI SCHAEFER RILEY

who are a little, well, off, in their expectations about college-age personal hygiene. But at last count 131 people had responded to the idea that an 18-year-old would be

washing seven towels a week.

The shower query was only the tip of the iceberg on what might be considered a support group for helicopter parents. These mothers (though there may also be fathers subscribed) have asked about which bathrobes to buy their kids, whether their sons should wear flip-flops in the shower, whether they should send a fire extinguisher or even a carbon monoxide detector to school with their child. Some even post their regrets about sending their older children unprepared.

One mother explained that the towels she purchased last year "weren't absorbent and didn't dry him off properly." Which is worse? That the mother is posting this or that her son who is old enough to serve in the army couldn't go to Target himself to buy a towel to his liking.

But at least his mother is not the one saying, "No one has mentioned it but let's add it to the list . . . CONDOMS!!!" To which another poster helpfully added that she would also be buying them for her daughter. (Yay feminism!)

Ladies, if your son is not old enough to buy his own condoms, he may not be mature enough for sex.

From fire extinguishers to condoms, 'ultra-helicopter' parents can't stop shopping for their kids' dorm rooms



A rising number of neurotic parents are even more online than their college-bound kids, micro-analyzing every dorm-decor decision via social-media forums.

On the G-rated front, one contributor posted a bitmoji of herself with a loud-speaker proclaiming that she was "looking for inspiration on how the kids are storing their snacks, ramen and Mac n cheese." There are also plenty of Pinterest boards posted with matching comforters, pillows, rugs, headboards, etc. But if



"No one has mentioned it but let's add it to the list," says one parent of buying condoms for their kid, while others wonder about fire extinguishers.

your child is really concerned with such things, why not just let them loose with your Amazon Prime account and a budget. Do you really need to spend months planning their décor?

Speaking of things your child will not need to bring with them, one post explained, "My daughter

didn't come home for the holiday bbq so I'm taking the bbq to her! This will all fit in her mini fridge." Underneath is a picture of more than 20 sandwich bags filled with what appear to be hot dogs, chicken and potato salad. Have these people seen college cafeterias recently? They have every kind of cuisine imaginable? If you're paying astronomical tuition, you might as well get something for your money.

Other posts include a picture of the bathroom drawn with measurements and questions about tension rods, as well as a giant box of every medication imaginable because "not being there when she doesn't feel good rips my heart out and stomps on it."

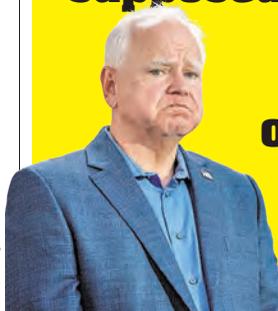
We cannot blame college administrators for the current situation. They've worked hard to get parents to leave campus after dropping off their children. They've been informed about university policies (and why they shouldn't call professors to get them to change grades). But these actions are no match for our never-ending coddling culture. It's also possible that the pandemic made things worse, inhibiting students' independence and making it even harder for parents to let go.

One might have thought that all the attention focused on helicopter parenting in recent decades — including all the jokes about it — would have had some impact. Maybe it would have caused these mothers to step back and ask whether they're really doing everything they can to push their kids into responsible adulthood. But they can't help themselves. When a mother takes her son shopping for "storage" at Target, he tells her he doesn't need any because the dorm comes with everything. She says she is "taken aback" by this response and needs the support of her online community to convince him otherwise.

There is now only a little more than a month before kids leave for college. Maybe it's too late, but parents who really want to prepare their children to leave the nest should end the bathrobe hunt, unsubscribe Dorm Room Mamas and tell their kids to figure it all out on their own.

THEY'RE NOT KIDDING

US adults ages 18-49 on why they don't plan to raise families.



"When your country calls, you are supposed to run into battle — not the other way."

— Ret. command sergeant major Thomas Behrends on Tim Walz retiring from the National Guard before deployment to Iraq

VICE-CAPADES

"This is a ticket that would want this country to go communist immediately, if not sooner."

— Former President Donald Trump on Kamala Harris' VP pick Tim Walz



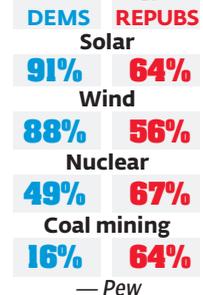
"Have they given you guys an explanation for why she won't take questions from reporters?"

— JD Vance to members of the press outside Harris' plane in Wisconsin



POWER SUPPLY

Democrats and Republicans in favor of expanding sources of US energy.



POSTSCRIPT Wartime

As Israelis wait for Iran and its allies to attack, life somehow

THE sight of an assault rifle perched in front of a ball pit filled with squealing toddlers is incongruous but not uncommon these days in Israel. Its owner, attending to his crying 5-year-old, is a volunteer for a rapid response counter-terrorist squad with the police.



DEBORAH DANAN

Many such squads have formed in Israeli cities in the months following Hamas' attack on Oct. 7, in which 1,200 people were murdered and 253 were taken hostage into Gaza. But since a pair of strikes last month attributed to Israel took out Hamas chief Ismail Haniyah in Tehran and Hezbollah leader Fuad Shukr in Beirut, the squads — and Israelis in general — have been on high alert. Amid the looming threat of a multifront retaliation from Iran and its proxies, Israelis are navigating a strange blend of high tension and continuing on with their daily routine.

For many, this means finding ways to keep their children entertained and protected from the sun — as much as missiles — during the long summer vacation. For others, it means continuing to go to work or on vacation, with varying degrees of adjustments. Nevertheless, Tel Aviv's beaches and cafes are still bustling, and the highways remain clogged with their usual traffic.

"People are not putting their daily lives on hold," says analyst and public opinion researcher Dahlia Scheindlin, author of the book *"The Crooked Timber of Democracy in Israel."* "But there is nothing normal about those daily lives right now."

The rapid response volunteer at the gymboree is a prime example. A hotelier by day, his Tel Aviv property would typically be bustling with European tourists during the summer's peak season. But for the past 10

months, the hotel has been repurposed as a temporary home for Israelis from Kiryat Shmona, an Israeli town abutting the border with Lebanon. As many as 80,000 Israelis have evacuated Israel's embattled north owing to daily pummeling from Hezbollah rockets. Just last month, 12 Druze Israelis were killed by a Hezbollah missile launched from Lebanon.

ISRAELIS are uncertain about what course the country should take militaristically. A poll this week found that 48% of Israelis support a pre-emptive strike against Iran and Hezbollah, while more than a third believe Israel should wait, and only respond if attacked. The stakes could not be higher: During Iran's first assault on Israel in April, some 400 missiles and drones were launched, virtually all intercepted by a multinational coalition of Western-led forces.

This time the threat could be far worse Hezbollah in Syria and Lebanon along with Houthi rebels in Yemen have vowed to join Iran in any potential assault featuring thousands (rather than hundreds) of weapons. Only last month, a Houthi drone managed to evade Israeli defense systems, killing one civilian when it landed minutes from the beach.

"There is a sense of very deep anxiety about what is going to happen, minute by minute, hour by hour," said Scheindlin. But the feelings of dread, she added, were balanced by Israelis' typical resilience.

Gil Shohat, a pianist and composer from Tel Aviv, describes the current situation as nothing short of surreal, comparing it simultaneously to a Dali painting and a dystopian film. His concerts are full, he said, but nevertheless, every performance feels like it could be the last.

"Last week I finished a show [in Is-



Life goes on in Tel Aviv amid Israel's war with Hamas, even as Israelis brace themselves for Iran and its allies to attack. "People are not putting their daily lives on hold," said researcher Dahlia Scheindlin. "But there is nothing normal about those daily lives right now."

rael's north] playing Beethoven and Mozart, and the forest around me was in flames from Hezbollah missiles," he said. "It's like living in *The Matrix*. You are in reality, but it is not reality."

For many Israelis the only reality right now is maintaining a sense of calm for their children. Meital Cohen, a vacationer from the southern Israeli city of Kiryat Gat, was also at that Tel Aviv gymboree, escaping the scorching sun with twin toddlers. "We have to keep going for the kids," she said, "they feel it too. I'm scared, but I'm also a woman of faith." Repeating a refrain routinely heard these days, she added, "Life is stronger than everything."

Adam Ezekiel, a fitness trainer and observant Jew who moved

to Israel from Toronto in 2008, also credited his devotion for helping manage his fears. "Of course, it's not to say that damage or loss of life can't occur," he said. "But I personally feel God is with me and we'll be okay." Ezekiel ought to know: Last month he was on an organized tour in the Samarian hills when a Palestinian sniper shot him in the chest. Doctors decided against removing the bullet, fearing it could leave his arm paralyzed.

IN the communal dining room of Orly Rafaeli's kibbutz in the center of the country, the possibility of a broader attack dominates nightly conversations. The kibbutz's proximity to a key army base has heightened her fellow kibbutzniks' fears. But Rafaeli, despite living far from a bomb shelter, remained calm. A self-described atheist, she attributed her composure to fatalism. "If we have to die, we die. If we have to be



Adam Ezekiel was shot by a Palestinian sniper last month in the Samarian hills. Doctors decided not to remove the bullet.

Courtesy of Deborah Danan



A Hezbollah rocket killed 12 Druze Israelis last month (above). The terror group (right) has been firing over the border with Lebanon since the Oct. 7 war began.

continues amid unprecedented fear, anxiety and patriotism

TOUGH



Reuters, AFP via Getty Images

event of an attack, Rafaeli plans to cycle to her daughter's house to help shuttle her grandchildren to their bomb shelter. Still, she adds, the warning provided by emergency sirens — which sounds only a minute or so before the projectile's impact

— are woefully inadequate.

Tami Jeffay was forced to make a snap decision to cancel a late-night activity at the day camp she runs in the hilltop town of Zichron Yaakov due to mounting threats of an imminent attack. Israeli authorities have

ordered an end to most overnight camps but day camps are still operating. “The kids hardly complained,” she said. “It’s the parents who are more of a problem,” she added, recounting frantic calls from parents asking if the site had a bomb shelter.

EVEN without the latest threat from Iran, Jeffay pointed out that “routine” acts of terror, like the shooting attack on Ezekiel, continue unabated. “We can only control so much. Just look at what happened in Holon,” she said, referring to Sunday’s killing of two civilians by a Palestinian infiltrator in suburban Tel Aviv.

“The only time we really saw people’s lives come to a standstill was just after October 7th because we didn’t know if there were still terrorists in the country,” observed Adam Scott Bellos, CEO of the Israel Innovation Fund. More than 3,000 terrorists from Gaza breached the border, resulting in fierce battles over the ensuing days.

An Iran-led attack is likely to target critical infrastructure, including the power grid, prompting many NGOs and civil society groups to implement new mechanisms to prepare for prolonged blackouts. Drawing lessons from Oct. 7, when entire towns were inaccessible for hours, Magen David Adom, Israel’s national emergency organization, has conducted nationwide drills involving more than 10,000 paramedics, midwives and doctors simulating a response to a scenario without phones, GPS, radio or the Internet.

Israeli healthcare aid organization Yad Sarah has equipped Israelis living in areas under acute threat with medical equipment including portable, battery-operated oxygen concentrators and hospital-grade beds. International relief organization IsraAID and the Israeli Association of Community Centers have invested millions of dollars to train 140 community-based emergency teams across north-



AFP via Getty Images, Reuters

Israel killed Hamas leader Ismail Haniyah (inset) and Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr last month.

ern Israel.

EVEN millennia-old citadels like the Tower of David in Jerusalem have revised their emergency policies with Iran in mind. Two days after the Haniyah killing in Tehran, stickers appeared across the site instructing visitors to remain in the galleries in the event of a siren. Once used as guard rooms, the ancient walls are robust enough to serve as bomb shelters, the museum said.

Although phone lines and internet connections have so far remained intact, the Israeli military has been scrambling GPS for months in an ef-

fort to curb Hezbollah rocket and drone attacks. For Cohen and other Israeli vacationers who rely heavily on GPS apps like Waze to navigate away from dangerous areas, it has caused an extra layer of frustration. “Still, it’s not enough to make me vacation overseas,” Cohen said, citing soaring antisemitism.

Many share Cohen’s feelings. Asked if he would leave — at least for the duration of a potential war — Todd Singer, a retired criminal and civil judge living in the coastal town of Netanya, was resolute. “Never. Israel is and will always be my only true home. I refuse to change my daily life, that’s what they want us to do.”

Still, he conceded that the war would result in “collective PTSD for generations,” illustrating his point by sharing a drawing of a rocket by his 4-year-old granddaughter.

For Israelis currently overseas, the experience is mixed. Jerusalem-based chef Tali Friedman, for instance, is now in the US — but longs to return to Israel, citing her fears of being far from loved ones in the event of an attack. “All I really want to do is just be home... with my children, with my family and with my people,” she said.

Tamar Shapira, an Investor Relations specialist, said she was relieved to be out of the country. She, her husband and their two children boarded the last available flight to Thailand for a vacation planned months ago. “We don’t even know if we’ll have a flight back or if we’ll be stuck here but I’m actually kind of happy about that — for the kids at least.”

Richard Binstock, an immigrant from the UK, is moving back to London at the end of the month at his Israeli wife’s urging, underscoring the tension of what he calls “the waiting game.”

“They broke her,” he said, referring to Israel’s enemies. “She’s no longer willing to put up with the nightly threat of war that never actually happens.”

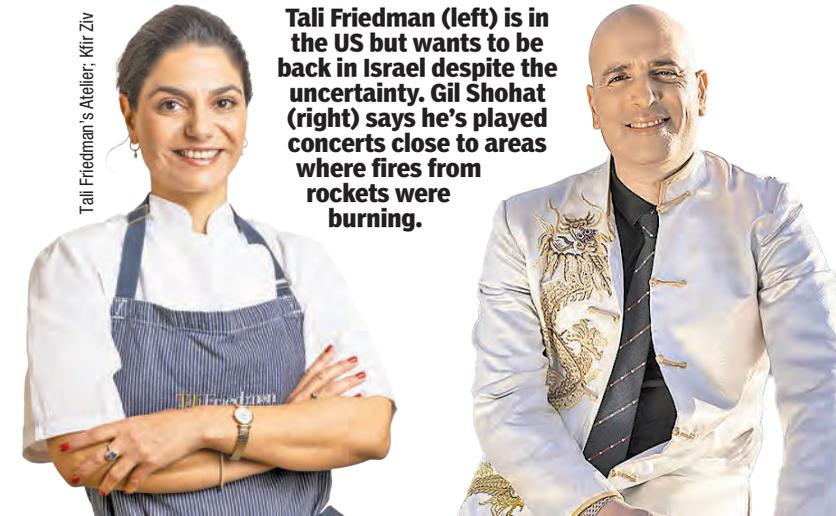


AP, AFP via Getty Images

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei’s (left) Iran (above) has threatened retaliation after Israel’s strikes, leading to fears of a wider war with Iran as well as Hezbollah and the Houthis in Yemen.

Tali Friedman’s Atelier, Kir Ziv

Tali Friedman (left) is in the US but wants to be back in Israel despite the uncertainty. Gil Shohat (right) says he’s played concerts close to areas where fires from rockets were burning.



NEW YORK POST

AMERICA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED DAILY NEWSPAPER

Invitation to Terror

Thanks to Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, a domestic terror attack is a question of when, not if: The duo oversaw the release of nearly 100 illegal immigrants on the terror watch list since the start of their term.

Why on earth would the man charged with defending and protecting the United States from all enemies foreign and domestic and his border czar let terrorists free to wander the nation?

Oh, yes: Because their open-borders fanaticism is far more important to them than even the most basic tenets of national security.

Like if you catch terrorists trying to sneak into your country, don't let them go — yet these suspects were apprehended and then let go by US border agents.

The grim data comes from the House Judiciary Committee, increasingly the only functional check on the lawlessness of the Biden administration.

Want even scarier numbers? Illegals are streaming here from terrorism-hotbed countries around the globe. The committee found 541 Iranian nationals, 3,104 Uzbek nationals and 2,134 Afghan nationals encountered by the Border Patrol over that same timespan.

Don't forget the mega-inflows from nations like Venezuela and Cuba, beneficiaries of a special parole program that the Biden administration just suspended because it was — gee, who'd a thunk! — absolutely rotten with fraud.

That setup was designed to let in as many as 30,000 illegals *per month*.

And these are just the ones we know about. The more than 2 million “gotaways,” illegals spotted but not stopped by border agents, to enter under Biden-Harris mean countless more likely terrorists may be roaming American communities (after all, terror networks have the resources to pay the cartels plenty for info on where to sneak in), and that no federal law enforcement has any eyes on them at all. Until it's too late, and innocents have been slaughtered.

Remember, too, that we've already seen barely foiled terror plots.

The eight Tajik nationals arrested for a terror plot earlier this year were border jumpers. And one of the two Jordanians who launched a box-truck attack at a Virginia Marine base reportedly was an illegal entrant as well.

That's the context in which Harris and Homeland Security chief Alejandro Mayorkas crow about the border being secure.

Joe Biden erased the border starting the day he came into office, removing all of the sensible Trump-era policies; he's since created multiple new “legal” pathways for *illegal* entry.

The result has been the immiseration of border towns, the fiscal destruction of big cities and the abolition of any pretense that the United States is secure.

The worst part? Harris will give us four more years of the same if she wins in November.

Be afraid, America. Be very afraid.

Free Rein for Migrant Crime

Venezuelan migrant Daniel Hernandez Martinez, 30, is the latest “poster boy” for Team Biden-Harris and Democrats’ refusal to enforce law after law after futile law when it comes to criminal border crossers.

He was nabbed after a multistate crime spree that began with an illegal gun arrest in Chicago, then a stopover in Denver where he pistol-whipped two women before stealing their jewelry, before hitting the Big Apple. A suspected Tren De Aragua gang member, he committed *at least 22* criminal offenses in New York City from June to November last year.

His transgressions — attacking three strangers and two cops — resulted in eight arrests on 14 different charges. Yet he got released *every time*.

When border agents first arrested Hernandez Martinez at the Texas border in January 2023, they suspected he was a Tren gang member and returned him to Mexico under the Trump-era Title 42 COVID expulsion order.

Yet he later made his way back in: There's always a way under Biden-Harris, with dozens of parole and “passthrough” programs and specific loopholes for “asylum seekers” from over 100 countries.

Then he expertly exploited “sanctuary city” laws across the country to avoid expulsion: At no point during his crime wave did local authorities turn Hernandez Martinez over to federal immigration enforcement agents for deportation.

In Democratic-run cities, the combo of “sanctuary” rules and “criminal justice reforms” virtually guarantees that migrant criminals get “catch-and-release” treatment, even though cops know the tattoos that signal membership in MS-13, Tren and other vicious gangs.

Meanwhile, Biden-Harris “leadership” aims to keep us all in the dark: Homeland Security officials stonewalled congressional requests for months about Daniel Hernandez Martinez.

Kamala Harris's spokesfolk have announced she's abandoned a host of her previous extreme positions — but not a word about breaking with the open-border rules of the last 3½ years, despite all the murders of innocent Americans.

And her chosen No. 2, Tim Walz, is another “wave them all in” enthusiast.

If you want the madness to end, a vote for Donald Trump and JD Vance is your only recourse.

BOOK REPORT

EVEN though much of America's education landscape is so depressing right now, there is hope that better times could be ahead. Today, states — both red and blue — are passing laws that emphasize the teaching of reading using proven evidence-based methods such as phonics instruction.

The inability of America's children to read proficiently is frightening.

On the 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) fourth-grade reading exam, 66% of students taking the exam failed to achieve at the proficient level.

The results were even worse on the eighth grade reading exam, with 69% of students who took the test failed to demonstrate proficiency.

These poor reading scores are the result of too many schools using ineffective instructional approaches such as balanced literacy that rely on the so-called “three-cueing method.”

A 2023 National Council on Teacher Quality study says that under the three-cueing reading instructional approach, “children who encounter a word they do not recognize are instructed to use one of three strategies: ‘guess what the word might be’ based on context; ‘look at the picture to help guess what the word might be;’ and ‘look at the first letter to help guess what the word might be,’ and if the guess makes sense, then check to see if it ‘looks right.’”

In other words, instead of sounding out letters and connecting them to make a word, the three-cueing method encourages children to guess what the word might be.

Yet, as the NCTQ study points out, “Despite widespread use by K-2 and elementary special education teachers, reading experts discourage guessing techniques because they represent lost opportunities to help children practice decoding [i.e., pronouncing], and represent an ineffective strategy for reading advanced texts.”

In fact, the ineffectiveness of the three-cueing technique has become so apparent that a top popularizer of three-cueing, the Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University's Teachers College, was dissolved last



Some 66% of fourth-graders failed to read at a proficient level in a 2022 assessment, as Columbia University dissolves its “three-cueing” project.

year amid growing criticism.

A Georgia school principal said her school had used the three-cueing method, but “we didn't have the data to back up what we were doing.”

Thankfully, policymakers are finally moving to implement reading instructional programs that actually have proven records of effectiveness.

Last year, 17 states enacted laws or implemented policies encouraging schools to adopt the science of reading, which emphasizes techniques such as phonics that attach speech sounds to letters — along with letter combinations that give students the ability to sound out words when they see them on a page.

The NCTQ has reported that more than half a century of reading research shows that use of science-of-reading instructional methods “could dramatically reduce the rate of reading failure.”

States switching to the science of reading span the political spectrum.

In 2023, heavily red Indiana enacted a law that requires school districts to



Gov. Hochul is promoting science-of-reading tactics, but Calif. state Sen. Blanca Rubio's efforts are being blocked by teachers unions.



LANCE IZUMI

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The data are clear
about how best to
get kids reading
— so why
is politics still
getting in the way?



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CHATTER

Homegrown terror

Regarding the cowardly anti-Israel vandalism of a Columbia University executive's apartment, the writer Cathy Wilkerson offers an apt description ("Anti-Israel vandals release crickets, splash red paint over Columbia exec's NYC apartment building," Aug. 9).

In reviewing a book on the Weather Underground domestic terrorist group, Wilkerson, who was a former member, described the movement as a "cynical, superficial romp" through the turbulent period of the 1960s, aimed at changing "our country's unjust and inequitable institutions."

Instead of opting for peaceful protest, student protesters today are, unfortunately, taking their cues from the bomb-makers and -throwers.

Gene Roman, The Bronx

Storm brewin'

While only a mere Category 1 hurricane when she slammed ashore along Florida's southwest coast, Hurricane Debby really packed a wallop ("Debby to produce 'historic' rainfall," Aug. 7).

With sustained winds averaging 70 miles per hour and torrential flooding rains and storm surges as high as 4 to 6 feet above sea level, the storm downed hundreds of trees and power lines, knocking out power to over half a million Floridians. The storm also tragically caused the deaths of five individuals in Florida, and one

in Georgia, as it roared ashore.

Now, with the threat of record breaking rainfall in the Southeast, Debby is going to be one for the weather record books.

This is only the beginning of what promises to be a very active and dangerous Atlantic hurricane season, which will certainly begin to ramp up during August and September. The entire Eastern Seaboard, as well as the Gulf Coast, needs to be ready for these invaders from the tropics.

John Amato, Fresh Meadows

Elephant love

I am writing to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your recent coverage of the elephant at the Bronx Zoo, who has been out of the public view for several weeks ("Happy daze at Bx Zoo," Aug. 7).

The Post's attention to this story has not only brought relief to many concerned patrons but also highlighted the importance of wildlife conservation and animal welfare.

As an avid supporter of wildlife and conservation efforts, thank you for keeping the public informed about the well-being of the Bronx Zoo's cherished elephant.

Jacinta Kuznetsov, Toronto, Canada

Mad mask ban

The Nassau County No Mask Law must be nullified and overturned by the state judicial system ("A 'Mask'demeanor,'" Aug. 7).

Innocent people, peaceful

protesters who are wearing masks, who have asthma, diabetes or cancer could be fined \$1,000 or put in prison for one year under this unjust law. This law discriminates against peaceful protesters who wear masks, possibly to prevent getting COVID-19, which still poses a risk to many.

Arthur L. Mackey Jr., Roosevelt

Putin's problems

Vladimir Putin realizes the outbreak of an expanded war in the Middle East would result in attacks on the military structure of Iran ("Vlad's Iran warning," Aug. 8)

This would disrupt the weapons he is receiving from Iran, which would impact his ability to attack Ukraine.

"Vlad" is no peacemaker — just a geopolitical realist. War in the Middle East will impact Ukraine to the detriment of Russia.

Ed Houlihan, Ridgewood, NJ

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Include name, address and daytime phone number. No unverifiable letter will be published. The Post reserves the right to edit all letters.

The Reading & Writing Project
TEACHERS COLLEGE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

adopt curriculum aligned with the science of reading and bans use of the three-cueing teaching method.

This year, in deep blue New York, Gov. Hochul's Back to Basics Initiative, which increases funding for programs promoting the science of reading, was enacted in the 2024-25 state budget.

Evidence shows that student reading performance improves when states change to science-of-reading instruction.

According to the NCTQ, when Mississippi switched to a comprehensive science-of-reading approach, "the state saw fourth grade NAEP scores rise dramatically, including for historically marginalized groups such as Black and Hispanic students."

While some states are moving to the science of reading, others, unfortunately, are encountering special-interest roadblocks.

In California, a bill by Democratic state legislator Blanca Rubio to integrate the science of reading in teacher training and curriculum decisions stalled in the face of opposition from the powerful California Teachers Association.

The union claimed that

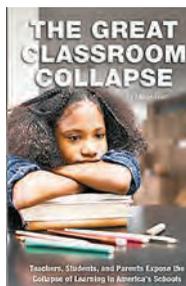
the science of reading is still evolving and that teachers should have the discretion to choose which instructional method to use.

But the overwhelming research evidence shows that the science of reading is the best way to teach reading and that many teachers, unfortunately, lack the adequate training needed to effectively pass on these skills to their students.

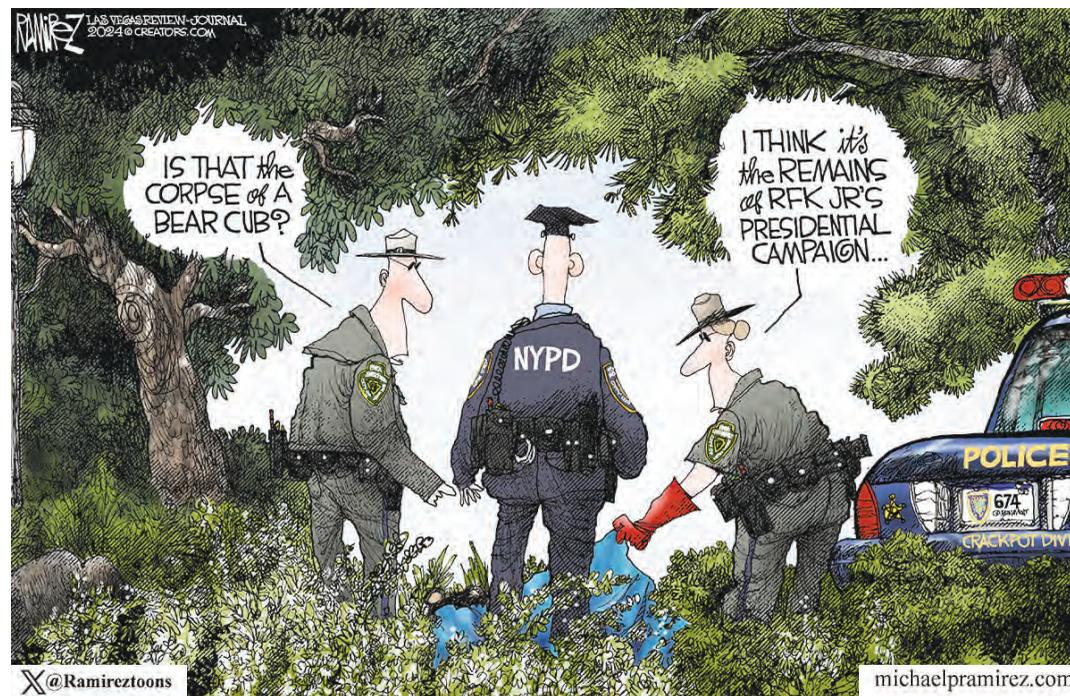
Nonetheless, as Rubio told me in an interview for my new Pacific Research Institute book, "The Great Classroom Collapse," many Democratic and Republican legislators have come together to co-sponsor her bill because on this issue, "They don't care about their political ideology, they're caring about the outcomes for kids."

"Teachers have unions," said Rubio, but "students do not." "We are the only ones that have to advocate for the kids."

Despite such setbacks, the momentum is on the side of reading instruction that actually works. As Hochul said, "we're throwing out debunked reading instruction practices and getting back to basics, using phonics, reading comprehension, and other effective techniques to set our kids up for success."



Lance Izumi is senior director of the Center for Education at the Pacific Research Institute. He is the author of the new book "The Great Classroom Collapse: Teachers, Students, and Parents Expose the Collapse of Learning in America's Schools."



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REQUIRED READING
by Hailey Eber

The Snap: A Novel

Elizabeth Staple (*Doubleday*) Staple, who worked in media relations for the Giants, Patriots and three Super Bowls, knows what she writes about. The protagonist of her novel, Poppy Benjamin, works in media relations for a fictional NFL team. Poppy depends on a secretive coterie of high-powered women in sports to navigate the boy's club and what they call "groping s--heads." But when her team's head coach turns up dead, the girl gang — and all that Poppy has worked for — come under threat.



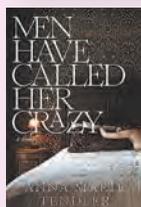
Lady Macbeth: A Novel

Ava Reid (*Del Rey*) The bestselling author of "A Study in Drowning" offers a re-telling of the Shakespearian tragedy by fleshing out Lady M.'s past and empathetically examining her machinations.



Men Have Called Her Crazy

Anna Marie Tendler (*Simon & Schuster*) The artist — and ex-wife of comedian John Mulaney — recounts her struggles with severe anxiety and depression and how she checked herself into a psychiatric hospital in 2021. She also reflects on her life before the hospitalization, including her interactions with various men.



Angel of Vengeance: A Pendergast Novel

Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child (*Grand Central Publishing*) In the final book in the Pendergast series, the time-traveling FBI agent and his ward Constance Greene make a final push to stop a brutal New York serial killer.



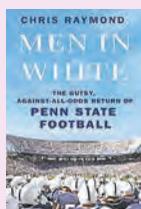
Woman of Interest: A Memoir

Tracy O'Neill (*HarperOne*) After the breakup of a long-term relationship, O'Neill, who is adopted, starts thinking about the birth mother in Korea she never knew. She hires a private investigator and embarks on a year-long search to find her, relaying her story at times as if she's living a classic noir.



Men in White: The Gutsy, Against-All-Odds Return of Penn State Football

Chris Raymond (*St. Martin's Press*) In 2011, Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky was charged with 40 counts of child molestation and the college's legendary football program fell to its knees. Raymond tells of the players who stayed and worked to rebuild the team in the wake of the scandal, despite a near total lack of support.



More than 200 years ago, the discovery of

by ERIC SPITZNAGEL

THIS year marks the 200th anniversary of one of the weirdest and most reality-shifting moments in science. On Feb. 20, 1824, at the annual meeting of the Geological Society in London, the world was introduced to the very first dinosaur: the megalosaurus.

Before a packed crowd, Oxford geologist William Buckland shared details of a creature unlike anything "civilized" society had ever dared imagine. It was so new, even the word "dinosaur" hadn't been coined yet; that would take another 18 years.

Buckland "did not have anything like a complete skeleton to show his fellow geologists, but he had seen enough bones and teeth for a mental reconstruction," writes Edward Dolnick in his new book, "Dinosaurs at the Dinner Party: How an Eccentric Group of Victorians Discovered Prehistoric Creatures and Accidentally Upended the World" (Scribner, out now).

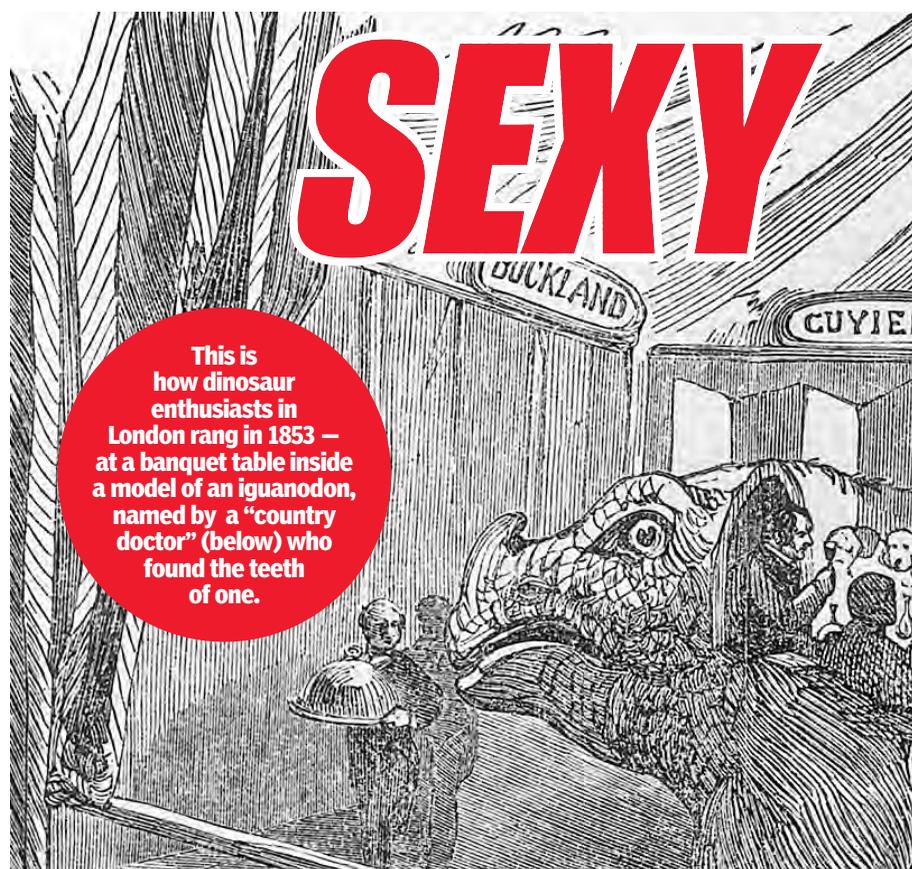
The megalosaurus — a hybrid of two Greek words: *mega*, meaning "giant," and *saurus*, meaning "lizard" — whose skeletal remains had been discovered near Oxfordshire, England, was a "meat eater and a reptile" that stood "upright like a mammal" and was "more than twice as long as a crocodile and twice as massive as a rhinoceros," Buckland explained during his lecture.

Buckman, with his gift for oratory and showman's flair, "painted a garish picture for his enthralled audience," Dolnick writes. He also "lumbered about the stage," imitating the ungainly movements of one of the largest carnivores of the middle Jurassic era. His audience, Dolnick writes, "roared in delight."

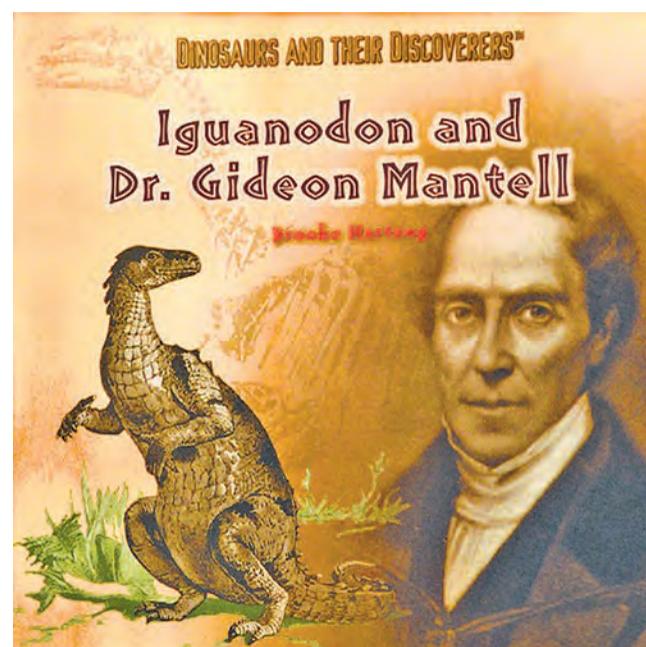
IT'S impossible to overstate just how staggering this news was to the general public, who were "blindsided in a way that people in today's world — who have known about the search for ET for decades — could never be." Imagine living in a world where one morning, every animal that ever existed still walked the earth, and not much had changed since the Garden of Eden story in the Bible.

But the next day, you were told, "Oh wait, we were wrong. Gigantic flesh-eating lizards were here first, like something out of your worst nightmare."

These Victorians were "the first generations to confront the reality of dinosaurs," writes Dolnick. And they responded with the same fascination and dread of any 6-year-old kid today. Dinosaurs were "the best sort of monsters — big, scary, and, best of all, dead," writes Dolnick.



This is how dinosaur enthusiasts in London rang in 1853 — at a banquet table inside a model of an iguanodon, named by a "country doctor" (below) who found the teeth of one.



had been found in the 17th century, discovered by workmen digging in a quarry about 20 miles from Oxford University, and the best guesses of scientists at the time were that they originated from either an elephant, or even more absurdly, "a pair of enormous testicles from a bygone human giant," writes Dolnick.

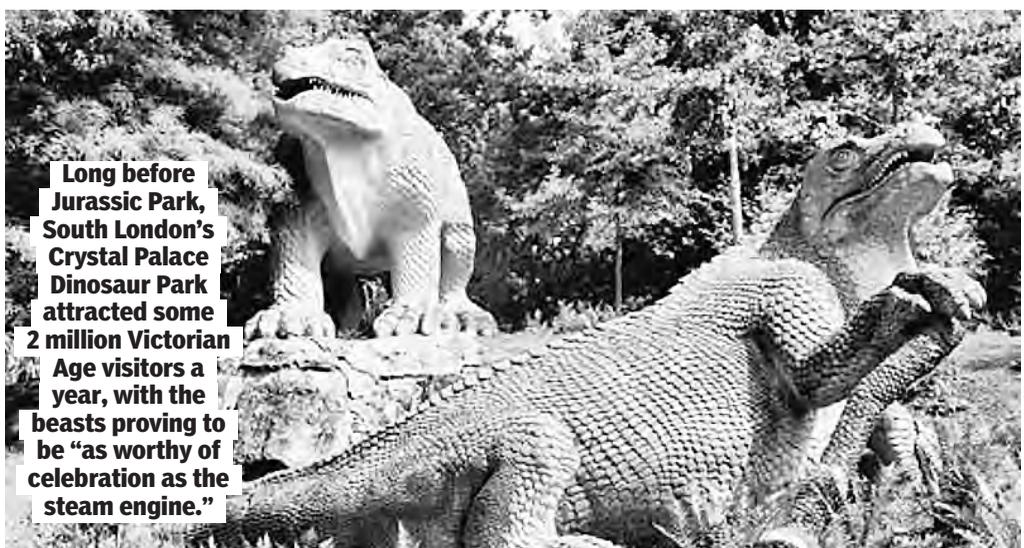
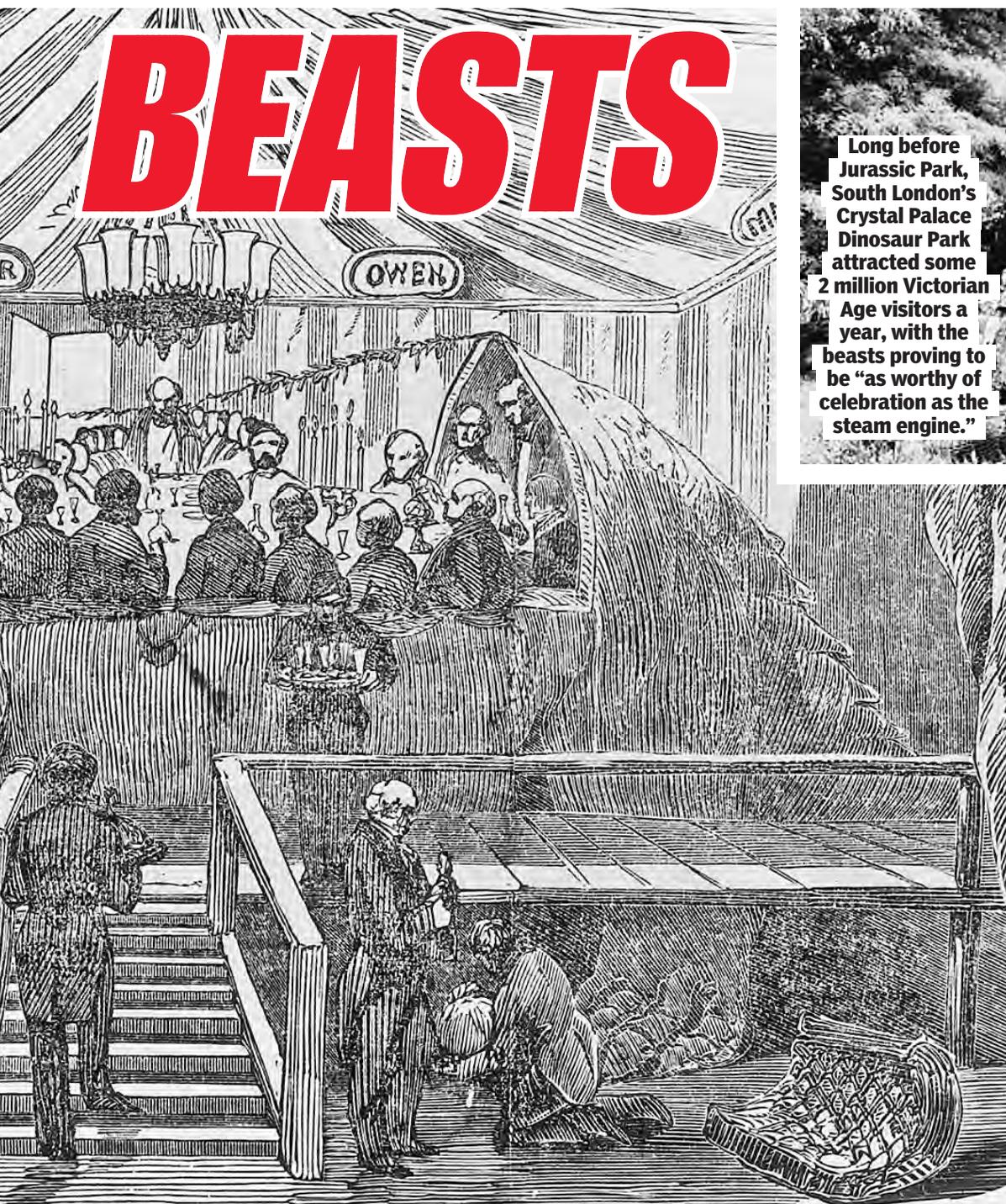
The theatricality of scientists like Buckland was essential at the time, given how few bones had been discovered and how little was actually known about the creatures they belonged to. It was a bit like solving a murder without an entire body. "Instead, most often, they had only a few bones or teeth, and their task was to *imagine* a body from those scanty hints," writes Dolnick.

Dinosaur bones weren't exactly new discoveries, but the explanations were. Many of the same bones that Buckland imagined as belonging to a megalosaurus

DINOSAUR fossils became more commonplace in the early 1800s, mostly because "the Industrial Revolution brought a frenzy of digging of all sorts," writes Dolnick. The deeper that workers tore into the earth with picks and shovels, building canals and

dinosaur fossils changed British science — and society — forever

BEASTS



Long before Jurassic Park, South London's Crystal Palace Dinosaur Park attracted some 2 million Victorian Age visitors a year, with the beasts proving to be "as worthy of celebration as the steam engine."

Heritage Images/Getty Images

enough to put food on the table for six months."

THE excitement over these strange new creatures reached a crescendo on New Year's Eve, 1853. That's when Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins, a renowned artist and sculptor (and a showman in his own right), hosted a party in South London to show off full-size replicas of some three dozen prehistoric creatures, including three dinosaurs, which he'd personally created, and would later be displayed at an upcoming exhibit in London.



sciencephoto.com

Sculptor Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins designed the model depicted at left, among dozens of other prehistoric replicas.

age of dinosaur fossils were so lucky. Mary Anning was a poor and uneducated young woman from a small town on the English Channel who hunted relics to raise money for her family. In 1812, while digging for fossils on a beach in Lyme Regis, she unearthed the skeleton of an "enormous dolphin-like creature, seventeen feet long... with huge jaws and daunting teeth," writes Dolnick. This "tyrant of the deep," as one scientist described it, was later named an ichthyosaurus ("fish lizard"), but Anning had no say in its naming.

"Names were bestowed by scientists, not unlettered girls," writes Dolnick. "A local landowner paid £23 for her find, and that was money

tunnels and quarries, the more behemoth bones they began to uncover. And every skeletal fragment brought the same questions: *Whose bones were these?*

The discoveries turned some of the scientists and fossil finders into celebrities. Like Gideon Mantell, a "handsome, charming country doctor," writes Dolnick, from Sussex, south of London. In 1822, he (or perhaps his wife, while accompanying him on a house call) stumbled upon some mysterious (and gigantic) fossil teeth in West Sussex.

Despite his discovery being repeatedly rebuffed by paleontologists as having "no particular interest," he

took the bones to London's Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons — named for the surgeon who inspired Mary Shelley's mad scientist, Victor Frankenstein. After comparing his find with endless drawers of reptilian teeth and jaws, Mantell realized that his "large fossil teeth looked strikingly like the iguana's small teeth in every respect but size," writes Dolnick.

HE named this new creature Iguanodon, a name that's still used today. "Like Frankenstein," Mantell later wrote, "I was struck with astonishment at the enormous monster which my inves-

tigations had, as it were, called into existence."

Mantell went on to draw large, enthusiastic crowds, who were "bowed over by word of a 10-ton lizard," writes Dolnick. But what's remarkable wasn't just what he discovered, by *how* he put together the puzzle pieces. "It was not just that he had fashioned a dinosaur from a few discolored teeth and some fractured bones," writes Dolnick. "The genuine coup was imagining such a beast in the first place. To dig up a dinosaur would have been a feat; to *dream up* a dinosaur was better still."

Not all of the pioneers in the golden

The party took place "inside a huge, cut-open model of a dinosaur," writes Dolnick. Dozens of Britain's most prominent scientists gathered around banquet tables inside "a life-sized model of an iguanodon," writes Dolnick. "The beast's back had been cut away, to make room for the tables." It was notable not just because of its audaciousness, but because it marked "the first time the public had ever laid eyes on dinosaurs as they might have been."

Hawkins' replicas of these prehistoric monsters were later moved to the Crystal Palace Dinosaur Park in South London, which opened in 1854 and attracted 2 million visitors a year. "In Victorian eyes, the massive sculptures were as worthy of celebration as the steam engine or the locomotive or any other emblem of modernity and power," writes Dolnick. They represented "an expression of successful conquest," as the historian Martin Rudwick described it. Which wasn't entirely correct, as humans didn't make their first appearance until 65 million years *after* the dinosaurs went extinct. So humans in no way "conquered" them.

"But no one looks for logic in a toast," writes Dolnick. "Dinosaurs were dead and we weren't, and that was excuse enough to lift a glass to the story of triumphant humanity."



Edward Dolnick



POSTSCRIPT Books

by CAROLINE HOWE

IN Gill Paul's latest book, "Scandalous Women," a historical novel about phenomenally bestselling authors Jacqueline Susann and Jackie Collins — both famous for their sex-driven fiction, and their battles for recognition and critical acceptance in the male-dominated publishing world of the 1960s — there's a shocking scene that could be right out of the #MeToo scandals of today.

A key character, a recent college graduate named Nancy, desperate for a career as a book editor, finds that in order to secure a job as a lowly assistant in the Manhattan publishing house, Bernard Geis Associates — Susann's real-life publisher — she must pass a test that has nothing to do with the musty, staid world of books. With her "tight knee-length skirt" hiked up, she's required to slide down the office's shiny, slippery fireman's pole as the company's male staffers gleefully ogle from below.

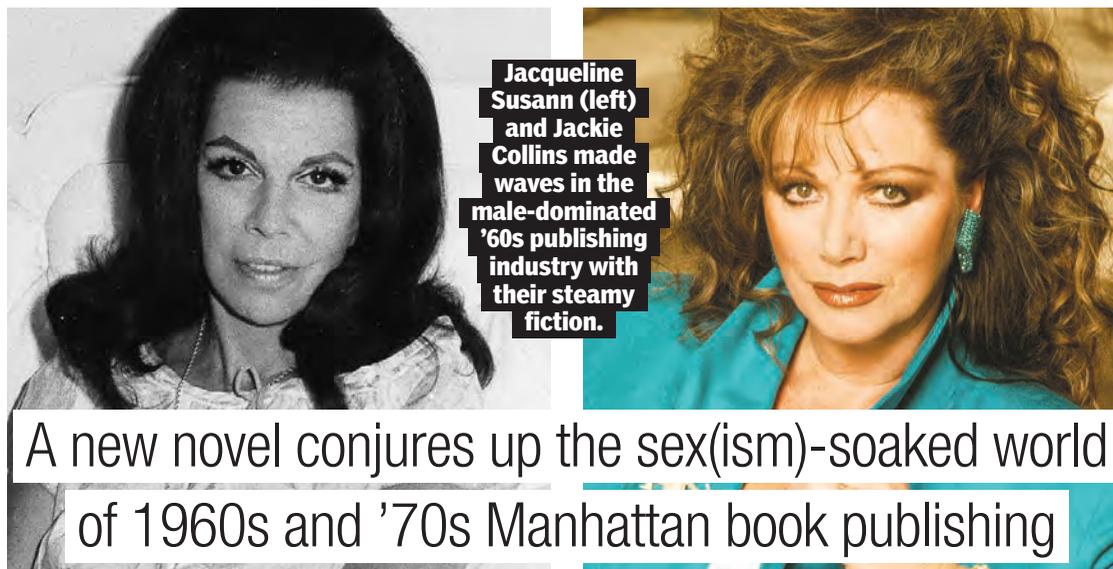
"It's our initiation test to check if you're the right sort," a Geis staffer calls out to Nancy as she's about to begin the career slide of her life. "Come on sweetheart, don't be afraid," shouts another office brute. "Prove you're a good sport."

Nancy proved it to "general applause, hooting and cheering," as Bernie Geis himself declares, "I think she's earned the job."

The fictional Nancy would go on to edit the real-life former Broadway actress Susann's first novel, "Valley of the Dolls," one of the world's biggest bestsellers which would make Susann a household name. She'd also bring her together with the equally bestselling British writer, Jackie Collins, in this fun read, with a serious theme.

The British bestselling author Gill acknowledges in this pink-jacketed softcover that most everything — dialogue, thoughts, feelings, and many events — are made up, with stories loosely designed to "resemble the kinds of plots found in novels" by Collins and Susann. But she chose

WOMEN OF A CERTAIN AGE



to write "Scandalous Women" because she felt the two authors' "treatment by the publishing industry, the media, and the public in the 1960s was an important story to tell."

She found it "extraordinary how shocking it was considered for women to write about sex back then, even though the two Jackies' descriptions were never graphic or detailed."

Still, Collins and Susann faced barages of actual hate mail, vicious reviews and nasty critiques by the literati, along with condemnation by feminists many decades before snarky social media.

Next to contemporary erotica like

"Fifty Shades of Grey," also written by a woman, Collins and Susann's work was "tame by comparison, but both were terrific story tellers, and that's the key to their phenomenal, continuing success," writes the author.

"Valley of the Dolls" has sold more than 31 million copies while Collins's 32 novels have sold more than 500 million copies, which Paul declares, "is not bad for two women with challenges in their private lives, operating in what was still very clearly a man's world."

In putting her characters in the Swinging Sixties, Paul had clearly read "several" memoirs by people who had worked in publishing dur-

ing that period "and gleaned insights from them about the way female staff members were treated."

But there's no evidence to support the bizarre slide-for-a-job fireman's pole scene involving Nancy, except that Geis, who died at 91 in 2001, reportedly did have such a device in his Midtown office, allowing him to slide down it at



the end of the workday.

Paul also "invented" the Collins-Susann relationship, with the author stating, "It was wishful thinking on my part."

Susann "spilled her life" in the pages of "Valley of the Dolls," having gone through "five separate drafts," and "included the wisdom she's acquired about relations between the sexes, based on her own affairs and her long experience of advising friends on their romantic escapades. And she's included lust — plenty of steamy explicit sex. She still cringed every time she pictured her mother reading it."

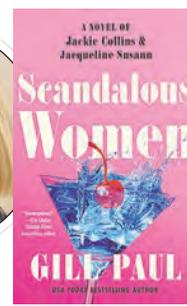
And Susann, according to the narrative, was even nervous about her showbiz producer husband, Irving Mansfield, having an early read "because of the sex scenes that involved feats they'd never attempted in the marital bed, but he said he loved it. He always had her back, no matter what."

Among the many presumably fictional scenes was Susann's appearance on the "Tonight Show" to promote "Valley of the Dolls." Johnny Carson holds up the book and tells his huge audience, "I know lots of readers love your novel, but it must be disheartening to have received such terrible press reviews." Her response: "Let me tell you, Johnny, the more rocks they throw at me, the more copies I will sell."

While Susann and Collins became wealthy, glitzy stars from what critics considered their trashy novels, their lives ended sadly; both were felled by cancer, Susann at 53, in 1974, Collins at 77, in 2015.

In the author's acknowledgements, she offers her "eternal gratitude" to Susann and Collins for "everything

they did to advance the cause of women's writing. They were trailblazers for the kinds of novels that millions of readers enjoy worldwide, with glamorous settings, juicy plots, and generous servings of sex."



BUZZ BOOK: Clean cash

In "Rinsed: From Cartels to Crypto: How the Tech Industry Washes Money for the World's Deadliest Crooks" (Penguin Business), Geoff White asks: what would you do with sudden wealth if it came from a source you couldn't admit to? "You're faced with an excruciating dilemma," he writes. "How do you enjoy your huge amounts of cash, but hide its origins?"

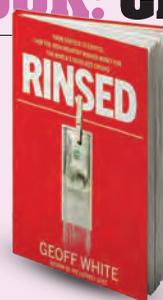
The answer is money laundering and in "Rinsed," White reveals how the symbiotic relationship between technology and laundering keeps criminals one step ahead of capture. "Technologists have a conspicuous habit of creating innovations that inadvertently have precisely the kind

of attributes money launderers crave," writes White.

In "Rinsed" White reveals money laundering's three stages, starting with the "placement" into existing financial systems. Then there's "layering" where it's mixed with legitimate cash and, finally, new availability.

"To launder money is to change its history," explains White. Technology has "put rocket boosters" under money launderers.

Citing scores of examples, from Nigeria's "Yahoo Boys" (so-called



for using the company's free email accounts) to the digital platform Hydra (the dark web "eBay or Amazon"), the explosion in cybercrime makes moving money easier.

And it's increasingly sophisticated, as the \$625 million crypto-heist from Singaporean gaming company, Sky Mavis, in 2022, demonstrates. "What made that sinister was that the technology used to wash the crypto was like a driverless car: an autonomous mixer with no control-

ling owner," writes White. "It was the perfect technocratic crime."

With every digital development comes new opportunities for fraudsters — especially when little up-front investment is required.

"The commodity you're selling is BS — cheap, abundant, infinite," writes White.

In that regard, "Rinsed" predicts difficult days ahead.

"There's an old saying: 'a rising tide lifts all boats,'" adds White. "It's usually couched in positive terms... but in money laundering, it offers a dark vision of the future. The better these launderers become, the more crime of all types will be enabled."

— Gavin Newsham



Sunday Break



“Where the Boys Are” By Doug Peterson

Across

- 1 Residence
- 6 ___ iced tea
- 10 Sgts. and cpls.
- 14 Slap sharply
- 19 Broadband device
- 20 Overcook
- 21 Subj. with AB and BC AP tests
- 22 “Cold Hearted” singer Abdul
- 23 Golden State 90-Down
- 26 Two-in-one conjunction
- 27 Midsize Hyundai
- 28 Yemeni port
- 29 Pro with a racket?
- 31 ___ bean
- 33 React to yeast
- 35 Divisions of a biblical chapter
- 36 Explosive initials
- 39 Sooner State 90-Down
- 44 Feature of Goliath, but not giants
- 46 Like carbonara
- 47 Take a strop to
- 48 Org. with a Ballpark app
- 51 Much of an atlas
- 52 Encircles with a band
- 53 Jazz style
- 54 Surf sound
- 55 Use lofty language
- 57 Hoosier State 90-Down
- 61 Olympic skating gold

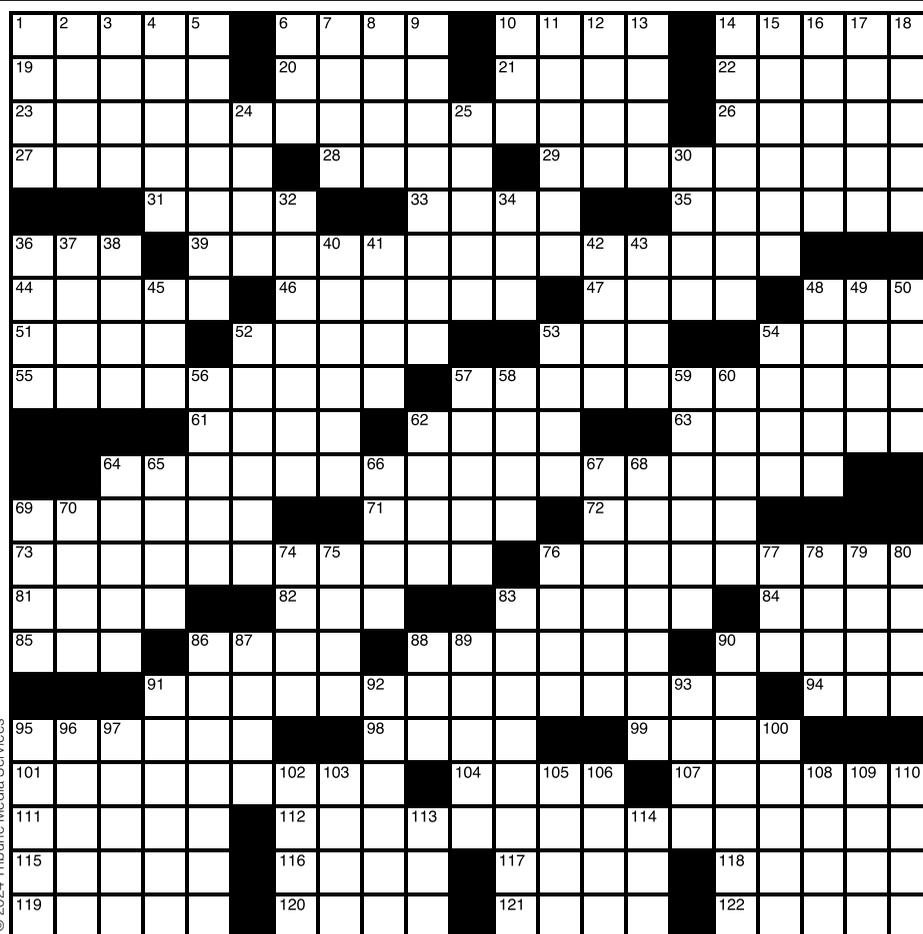
- medalist Nathan
- 62 Chorus syllables
- 63 Ready to wear, in a way
- 64 Mount Rushmore State 90-Down
- 69 Rum cocktail
- 71 Lawful borders?
- 72 Privy to
- 73 Lone Star State 90-Down
- 76 Like a noteworthy day
- 81 Highest-paid corp. employees, often
- 82 Trellis climber
- 83 Jordanian archaeological site
- 84 Shakespearean manipulator
- 85 Snack on
- 86 Bit of Christmas candy
- 88 Truckers’ competition
- 90 ___ Madness: Snapple flavor
- 91 Sunshine State 90-Down
- 94 Planet Fitness, e.g.
- 95 Before too long
- 98 Teeming (with)
- 99 Cozy hideaways
- 101 Roast lamb condiment
- 104 Wyatt of Tombstone
- 107 Sharp insight
- 111 Start to go haywire
- 112 Grand Canyon State 90-Down
- 115 Gaggle creatures
- 116 Color similar

- to chartreuse
- 117 Website with a Daily Deals section
- 118 Knight contests
- 119 Pick from a menu
- 120 Hill inhabitants
- 121 Unchanged
- 122 “Good grief!”

Down

- 1 Some movie theaters
- 2 ___-chic
- 3 Father of Thor
- 4 Windshield sticker
- 5 Acting with great feeling
- 6 Schedule abbr.
- 7 Island performance
- 8 Desiccated
- 9 Intense blazes
- 10 ATM manufacturer
- 11 Call off
- 12 Spaghetti aglio e ___
- 13 Skim through
- 14 “I really don’t want to know”
- 15 Meditation recitation
- 16 German luxury cars
- 17 Complete the deal
- 18 Go-___: mini racers
- 24 Paintballer’s attire, for short
- 25 Vegetable in pico de gallo
- 30 Mary Kay rival
- 32 Dispute settler
- 34 Place for vapor trails
- 36 Warm up

- 37 Distant exploration acronym
- 38 Cereal that’s not for a silly rabbit
- 40 Camp Pendleton soldier
- 41 “Thunderstruck” band
- 42 Greeting on the bridge
- 43 Uto-Aztec language
- 45 Big name in caulk
- 48 Movie set on the island of Motunui
- 49 Lois who debuted in Action Comics No. 1
- 50 Slender nail
- 52 Yankee legend Lou
- 53 “Dude!”
- 54 Hilarious person
- 56 Coral reef’s place
- 57 People conquered by Caesar
- 58 Secondary social media accounts, briefly
- 59 Inventor Tesla
- 60 Remote-controlled flier
- 62 “Run ___ Run”: 1998 thriller
- 64 Shortstop’s double play move
- 65 “For real?”
- 66 Seductive
- 67 Calorie counter
- 68 M3GAN, for one
- 69 Itchy and Jerry, in cartoons
- 70 Domain
- 74 Actress Fey
- 75 Fairly matched
- 76 Modernize, say



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- 77 Spanish aunt
- 78 Zippy flavor
- 79 Like hollandaise
- 80 Dorm assignment
- 83 Brewpub orders
- 86 Refrigerator drawer
- 87 Banff’s prov.
- 88 Rouen royal noir lingo
- 89 Eliminated, in Premier League powerhouse, familiarly, and an alternate title for this puzzle
- 91 Angle type
- 92 Experienced while sleeping
- 93 Sweetie
- 95 Cicada stage
- 96 Less churlish
- 97 Started a pot
- 100 “___ Q”: Creedence Clearwater Revival hit
- 102 Sch. near Bel Air
- 103 Facial feature
- 105 Country great McEntire
- 106 Brighton baby buggy
- 108 Spy-fi figure
- 109 Tinnitus docs
- 110 “Claws” actress Niecy
- 113 1980s gaming console
- 114 What pros say

Post SU DOKU

You must put a number, from 1 to 9, in each empty box. Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. **Super Su Doku**, inside, multiplies the challenge – and your enjoyment. For that one, put a number from 1 to 12 in each empty box, making sure each number appears once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-4 grids. Tips and in-depth strategies at www.SudokuWiki.org. For more Su Doku puzzles, see tomorrow’s New York Post.

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Very Easy #6,637					Difficult #6,427					Challenging #463										
	5		9	7					1											
4				1					7	6										
	7	8							4	9										
		1			2															
8	2		5	6					4	7										
			1						9											
	3	5							7	6										
9	8			2																3
6				5	9				2											

All Sunday puzzle answers on Page 52

Kakuro

Place 1 to 9 in each white cell. To choose the right number, you need to work from the clues in around the edge. The numbers below the diagonal lines are the sums of the solutions in the white cells immediately beneath. The numbers above the divide are the sums of the solutions immediately to the right. Rows and columns do NOT have to be unique.

A 10x10 grid with black diagonal lines. Numbers are placed in white cells. Clues are provided in black cells along the edges. The clues are: Row 1: 16, 5, 28, 16, 8; Row 2: 8, 20, 16; Row 3: 21, 17, 27, 16; Row 4: 8, 22, 10, 14; Row 5: 7, 27, 7, 16; Row 6: 7, 10, 13, 8, 11, 7; Row 7: 9, 24, 11, 4; Row 8: 9, 13, 8, 5, 6; Row 9: 28, 10, 7; Row 10: 11, 7.

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#463 ▲

Chess

Out in the open

By Andy Soltis

A former world champion, Vladimir Kramnik, and a future champ, Magnus Carlsen, were chatting at a Moscow tournament in 2012 and wondering why their games were more interesting than usual.

Then they realized it was because of an opening – the one they were not playing.

It's "the absence of the Queen's Gambit!" Kramnik said.

The Queen's Gambit Declined, usually begun by 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6, has been so com-

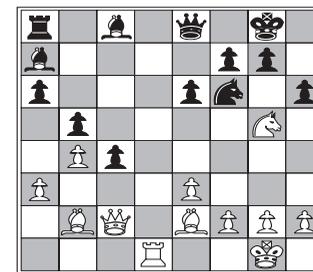
mon for a century that it is often considered boring.

But that is the nature of opening fashion. Strong openings, like this gambit and the Ruy Lopez, are often temporarily shelved by trendy alternatives. Then people forget how good they are.

In this week's game Black doesn't take seriously a common White sacrifice in the QGD and is suddenly lost. He resigned before a deadly 29 Bc2 and Qh7+.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED Sharjah 2024

Nikolas Theodorou	Erigaisi Arjun
1 d4..... Nf6	15 Qf4..... Rc8
2 c4..... e6	16 Bb3..... Qc7
3 Nf3..... d5	17 Qh4..... h6
4 Nc3..... c5	18 h3..... Rfd8
5 cxd5..... Nxd5	19 Re3..... b5
6 e4..... Nxc3	20 d5..... exd5
7 bxc3..... cxd4	21 e5..... Ne4
8 cxd4..... Bb4+	22 e6..... fxe6
9 Bd2..... Bxd2+	23 Nd4..... Nc5
10 Qxd2..... O-O	24 Rde1..... a5??
11 Bc4..... Nd7	25 Nxe6..... Nxe6
12 O-O..... b6	26 Rxe6..... Rd7
13 Rad1..... Bb7	27 Qg4!..... Rf8
14 Rfe1..... Nf6	28 Qg6!..... Resigns



White to play and win.

P. Wells-E. Gasanov
Cambridge 2024

Last week: 1...c5! 2 Kg1 Re5! 3 g4 Qc6! and wins.

KENKEN

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. 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. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

A 6x6 grid with cages and operations. Cages: (1,1)-(1,2) 1-, (1,3)-(1,4) 10x, (1,5)-(1,6) 11+, (2,1)-(2,2) 2÷, (2,5)-(2,6) 24x, (3,2)-(3,3) 9+, (3,5)-(3,6) 6+, (4,1)-(4,2) 6+, (4,3)-(4,4) 5-, (4,5)-(4,6) 11+, (5,2)-(5,3) 20x, (5,4)-(5,5) 2÷, (6,1)-(6,2) 36x, (6,5)-(6,6) 20x.

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Sunday Word Force

ENCOURAGE

From the word or phrase above, form at least 25 five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank, not both.

Bridge

"My partner and I had a bidding mishap," a club player said, showing me today's deal. "I opened one diamond, he responded one heart and I jump-shifted to two spades."

"Looks fine so far," I said. "You had no choice but to open with a one-bid."

"The trouble started when he raised me to four spades," I was told. "I thought he had a better hand to jump, so I bid six spades; he thought he'd said we should play at game and no higher."

My friend's partner applied the "Principle of Fast Arrival," the idea that the faster a contract is reached,

the weaker the hand that places the contract. With a stronger hand, you're supposed to go slow, saving space for leisurely investigation. It's an approach not every expert embraces. "Fast Arrival" may arrive in the wrong contract, and a jump

may be appropriate to emphasize a crucial feature.

I asked whether South had made his slam.

"I took the K-A of clubs," he said, "and ruffed a club in dummy. Next I cashed the Q-A of trumps and tried to ruff my

fourth club. East had the missing jack of trumps; he overruffed and cashed a heart. I think we got too high."

The contract was aggressive but makeable. Declarer wins the first club with the ace, preserving a dummy entry, and leads a heart. If East returns a diamond, South wins in dummy, ruffs a heart, goes to the king of clubs and ruffs a heart.

South then takes the A-K of trumps. He ruffs a club in dummy, draws the missing trump with the queen and wins the last three tricks with high diamonds.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH	EAST
♠ Q 5 3 2	♠ J 9 8
♥ Q 7 4 3	♥ A K 10 9
♦ Q 7 5	♦ 10 4 2
♣ K 5	♣ 9 6 4

WEST	SOUTH
♠ 10 7	♠ A K 6 4
♥ 8 6 5 2	♥ J
♦ 8 6 3	♦ A K J 9
♣ Q J 10 3	♣ A 8 7 2

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Opening lead — ♠ Q

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INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE
 3 letters = 1 point
 4 letters = 2 points
 5 letters = 3 points
 6 letters = 4 points
 7 letters = 6 points
 8 letters = 10 points
 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
 151+ = Champ
 101-150 = Expert
 61-100 = Pro
 31-60 = Gamer
 21-30 = Rookie
 11-20 = Amateur
 0-10 = Try again

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?
 Find **AT LEAST EIGHT FIVE-LETTER BIRDS** in the grid of letters.

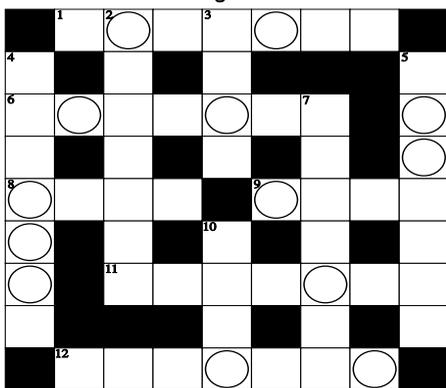
8-11-24

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JUMBLE CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt

Sunday Puzzle



ACROSS

CLUE

- Many
- Pensioned
- Vaccine bottle
- Fling, toss
- It's now X
- Expands

ANSWER

- REESLAV
 RDITERE
 LAVI
 STCA
 RWIETT
 REPSSDA

DOWN

CLUE

- Take out
- Deserve
- Cranny
- Hand
- Draw up an outline
- Location

ANSWER

- ECRTTXA
 RNAE
 REIVECC
 URESTGE
 FERTDDA
 EIST

BONUS

CLUE: The United States was founded on April 14, 1865.



How to play

Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

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SCRABBLE® G₂ R₁ A₁ M₃ S₁

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A ₁	A ₁	O ₁	X ₈	D ₂	R ₁	P ₃		Triple Word Score	
A ₁	E ₁	U ₁	D ₂	H ₄	B ₃	S ₁		3rd Letter Double	
A ₁	E ₁	U ₁	K ₅	D ₂	N ₁	F ₄			
E ₁	E ₁	O ₁	N ₁	T ₁	M ₃	M ₃			
A ₁	A ₁	X ₈	H ₄	L ₁	N ₁	P ₃			

PAR SCORE 260-270
 BEST SCORE 362

FIVE RACK TOTAL _____
 TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

Super Su Doku

	12	3			4			2	7	
4					3	2		8		12
	1			7			8	5		
	7		6					3		9
9				12				11		
	4	8	11				5		1	12
		2		5				8	4	11
	5		8				6			3
	3		10					12		
			1	2			12	9		3
3		10			9	8				
	2					7			10	8

Wonderword

First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It's best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the Wonderword.

Almonds, Amaretti, Amaretto, Anise, Baked, Bakery, Biscotti, Biscuit, Burn, Buttercream, Caramel, Chai, Chocolate Chips, Coffee, Cookies, Cool, Crispy, Crumble, Cups, Dough, Drop, Dunk, Eggs, Espresso, Even, Flour, Fortune, Fried, Funfetti, Gingerbread, Hazelnut, Key Lime, Lemon, Macaron, Macarons, Making, Mint, Mixes, Molasses, Mold, Nutmeg, Oatmeal Raisin, Oats, Oreo, Package, Peach, Peanut Butter, Pear, Pecan, Pistachio, Praline, Rolled, Sandwiches, Semi, Shapes, Shortbread, Shortcake, Sizes, S'Mores, Snickerdoodle, Soft, Speculoos, Spices, Sugar, Sweet, Taste, Teas, Toffee, Vanilla, Walnuts, White

WHEN I THINK OF COOKIES ...

SOLUTION: 13 LETTERS

M	O	K	H	D	S	E	Z	I	S	C	K	F	O	R	T	U	N	E	S
I	A	S	E	G	E	C	O	N	D	D	N	R	O	M	P	O	T	N	M
X	S	K	S	Y	U	I	O	C	E	R	U	K	A	A	I	U	I	I	A
E	P	E	I	E	L	O	R	O	L	O	D	E	C	H	N	C	N	L	M
S	U	E	P	N	R	I	D	F	L	P	R	K	C	L	K	T	M	A	O
S	C	P	A	A	G	P	M	F	O	C	A	A	E	E	E	O	C	R	L
P	R	E	C	C	H	I	S	E	R	G	T	Z	R	K	N	A	V	P	A
I	U	A	Y	I	H	S	N	E	E	S	A	D	A	D	R	A	E	N	S
H	M	N	P	E	E	P	T	G	I	H	O	C	S	O	N	C	I	M	S
C	B	U	S	M	E	T	E	P	E	O	T	O	N	I	A	S	S	B	E
E	L	T	I	A	U	M	O	L	D	R	O	I	L	N	E	P	I	A	S
T	E	B	R	B	T	S	N	L	O	T	B	L	U	U	I	S	A	K	A
A	T	U	C	U	M	L	E	H	F	B	A	R	S	C	C	S	H	E	N
L	E	T	N	O	E	T	S	U	N	R	U	B	E	O	S	E	C	R	D
O	E	T	R	M	E	T	N	O	T	E	A	S	T	A	F	I	P	Y	W
C	W	E	A	E	U	F	M	R	E	A	T	T	U	A	D	T	B	S	I
O	S	R	F	N	E	E	V	E	N	D	I	I	S	G	S	R	A	S	C
H	A	F	L	T	L	C	O	O	K	I	E	S	H	T	A	T	K	G	H
C	O	A	T	M	E	A	L	R	A	I	S	I	N	W	A	R	E	G	E
T	W	I	T	T	E	R	A	M	A	M	A	R	E	T	T	O	D	E	S

By Maude Campbell, Tori Schneebaum & Donna Grace

Snaps

IN GOOD SANDS

In Ibiza, Spain, Katy Perry revels in wrapping her music video for her latest single "Lifetimes."

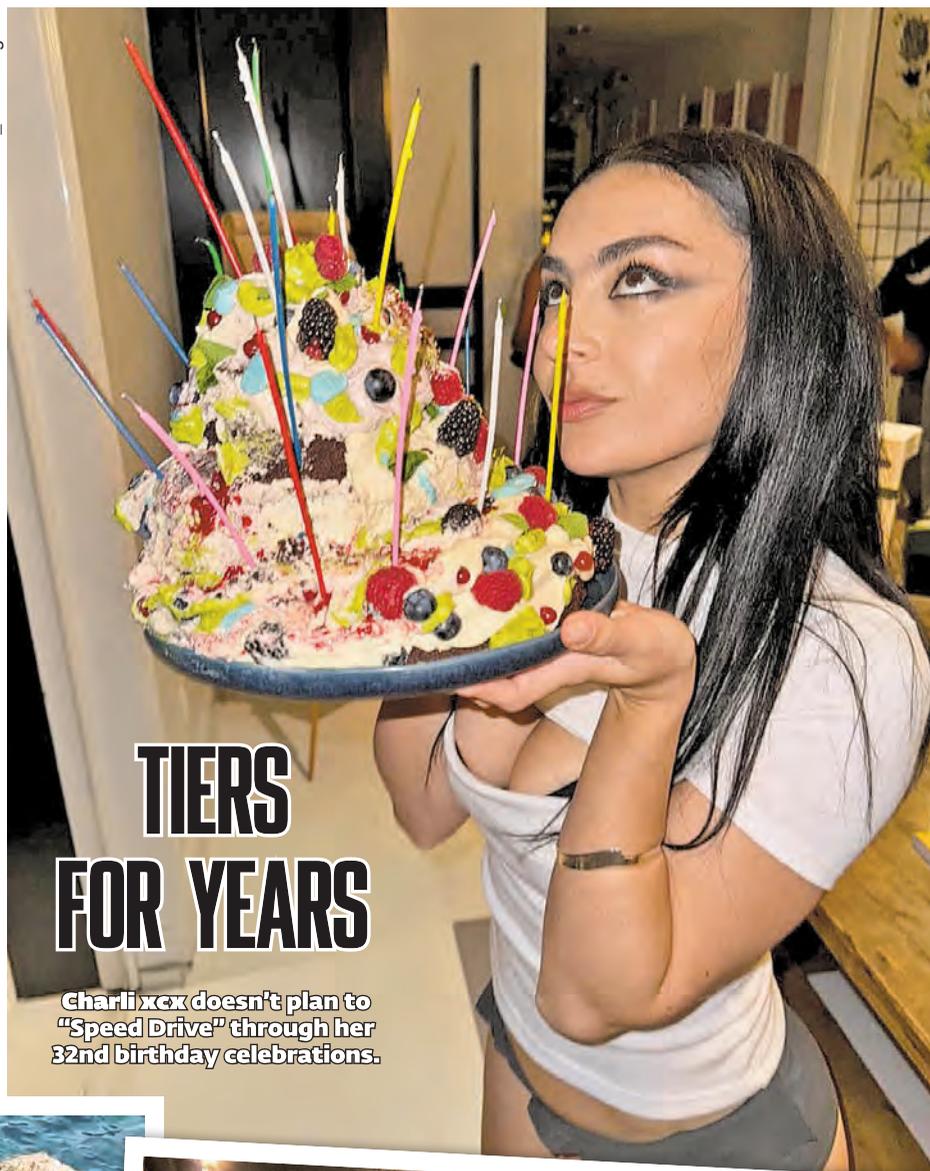


katyperry/Instagram

charli_cx/Instagram

TIERS FOR YEARS

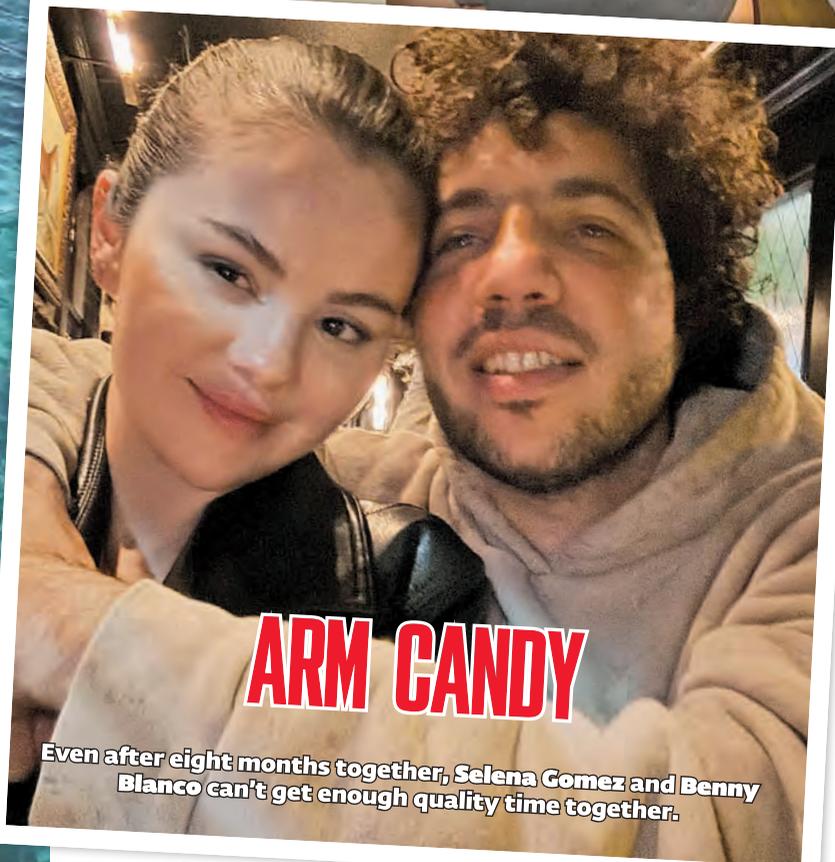
Charli_cx doesn't plan to "Speed Drive" through her 32nd birthday celebrations.



tombrady/Instagram

SEA-ZING THE DAY

Tom Brady looks on as daughter Vivian, 11, dives into the end zone.



ARM CANDY

Even after eight months together, Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco can't get enough quality time together.

selenagomez/Instagram

ROBE-TROTTER

bryan Cranston/Instagram

Vittoria Ceretti (from left), Leonardo DiCaprio, a friend and Tobey Maguire dig their toes into the sand in Ibiza, Spain.



DUNE BUGGIN'

GTres / SplashNews.com

MOORE PICNIC POWER



With pie in one hand and puppy Pilaf in the other, Demi Moore is set for success at the Sun Valley Music Festival in Idaho.

demimoore/Instagram

FLAG ON THE PLAY

Brie Larson seems to be back in the driver's seat for a Nissan commercial.

brielarson/Instagram



In Canada's Jasper National Park, Bryan Cranston maxes his relaxation time with the proper attire.

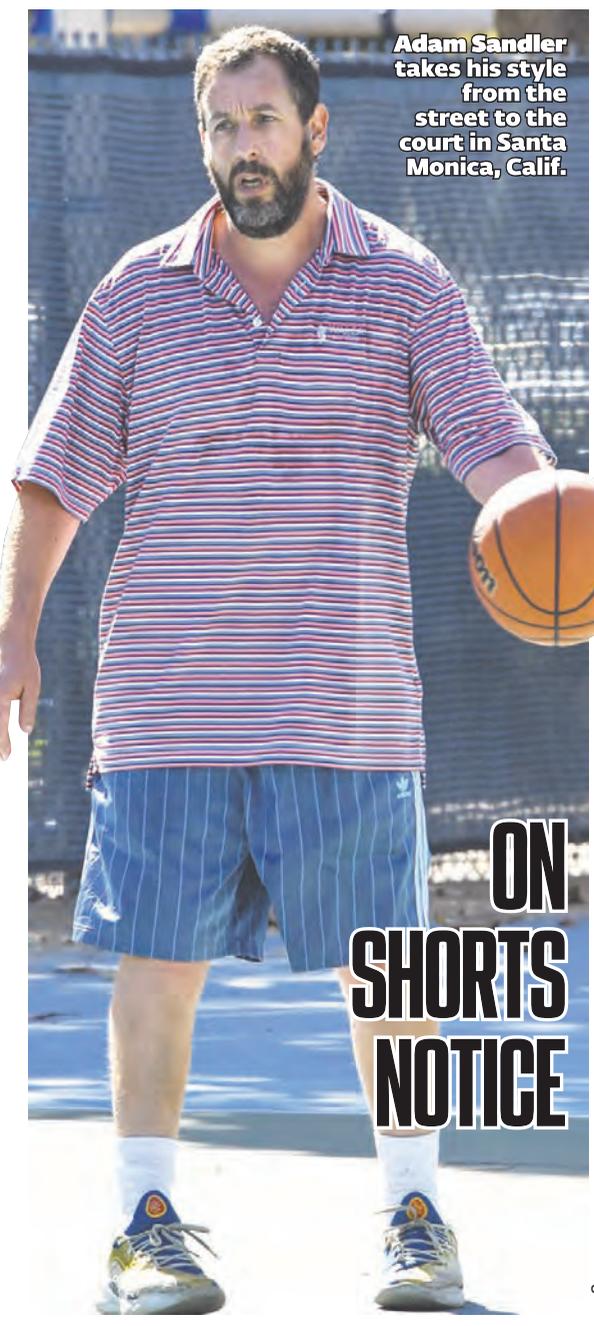


Snaps

Blake Lively goes shirtless at the London premiere of her film "It Ends With Us."



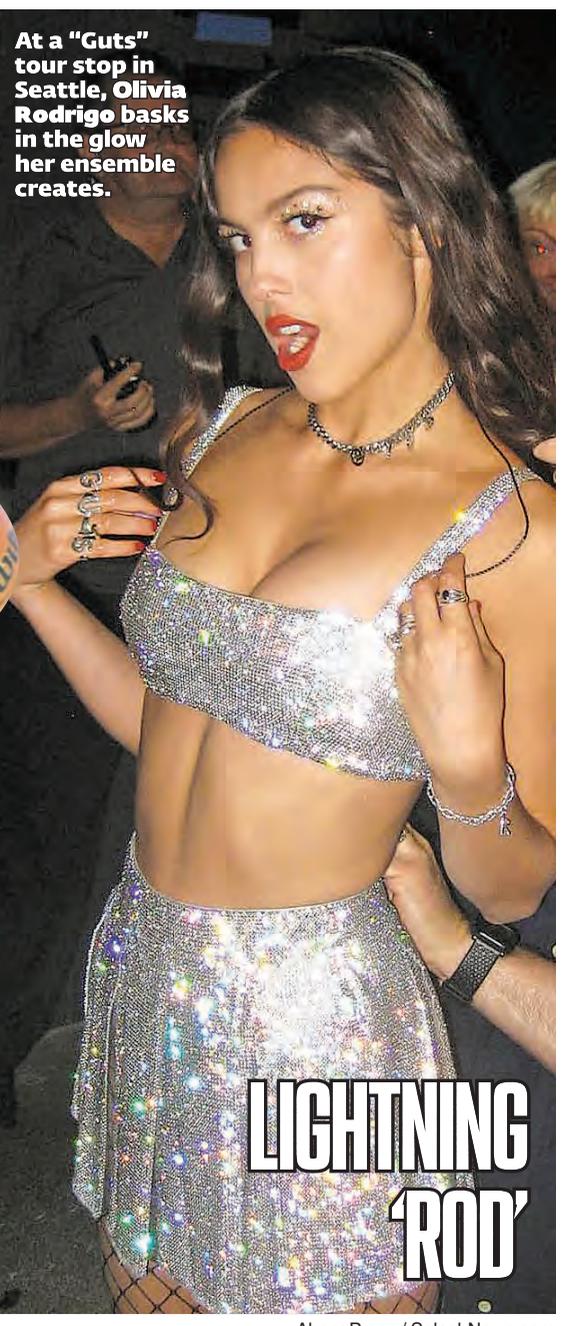
BREAST IN SHOW



Adam Sandler takes his style from the street to the court in Santa Monica, Calif.

ON SHORTS NOTICE

oliviarodrigo/instagram



At a "Guts" tour stop in Seattle, Olivia Rodrigo basks in the glow her ensemble creates.

LIGHTNING 'ROD'

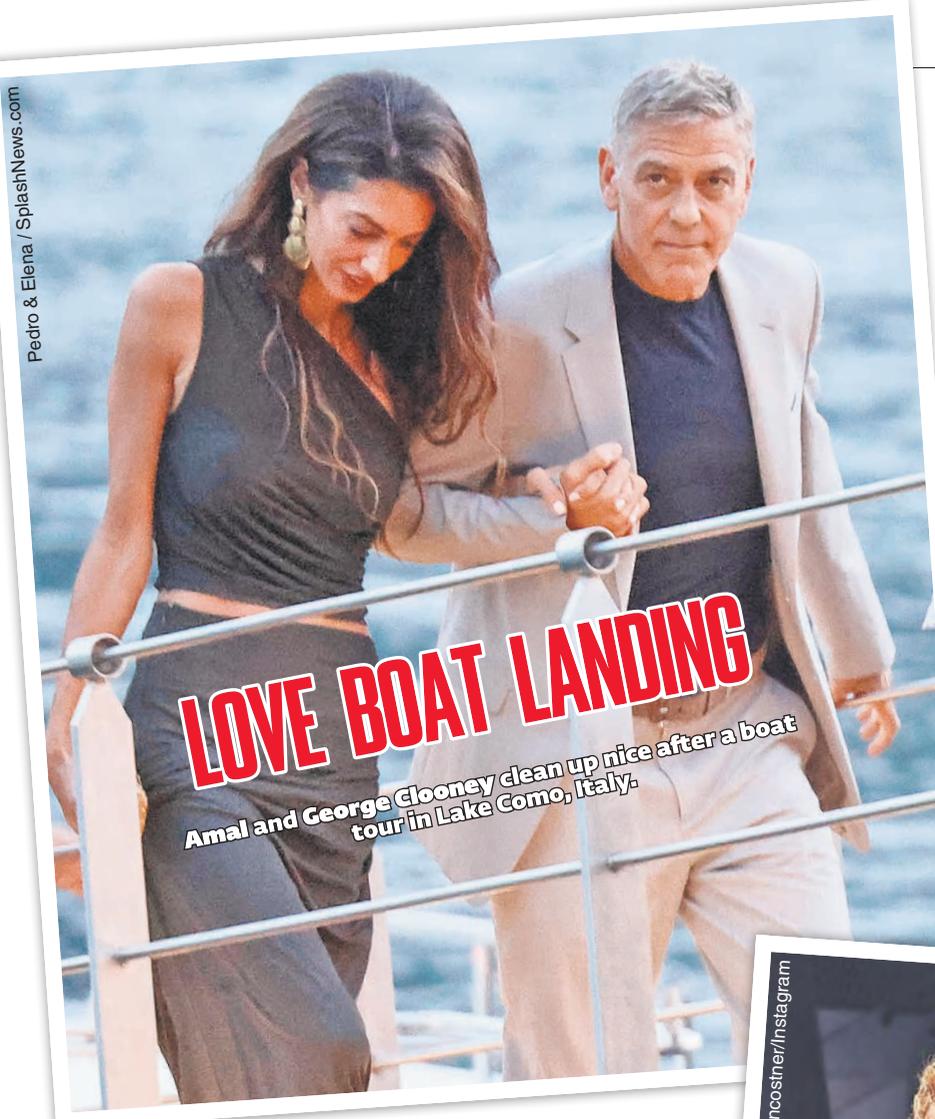
AbacaPress / SplashNews.com



John Travolta and daughter Ella, 24, pay close attention to the men's tennis final at the Olympics in Paris.

RACQUETEERING GANG

Dave Hogan/Hogan Media/Shutterstock



Pedro & Elena / SplashNews.com

LOVE BOAT LANDING

Amal and George Clooney clean up nice after a boat tour in Lake Como, Italy.

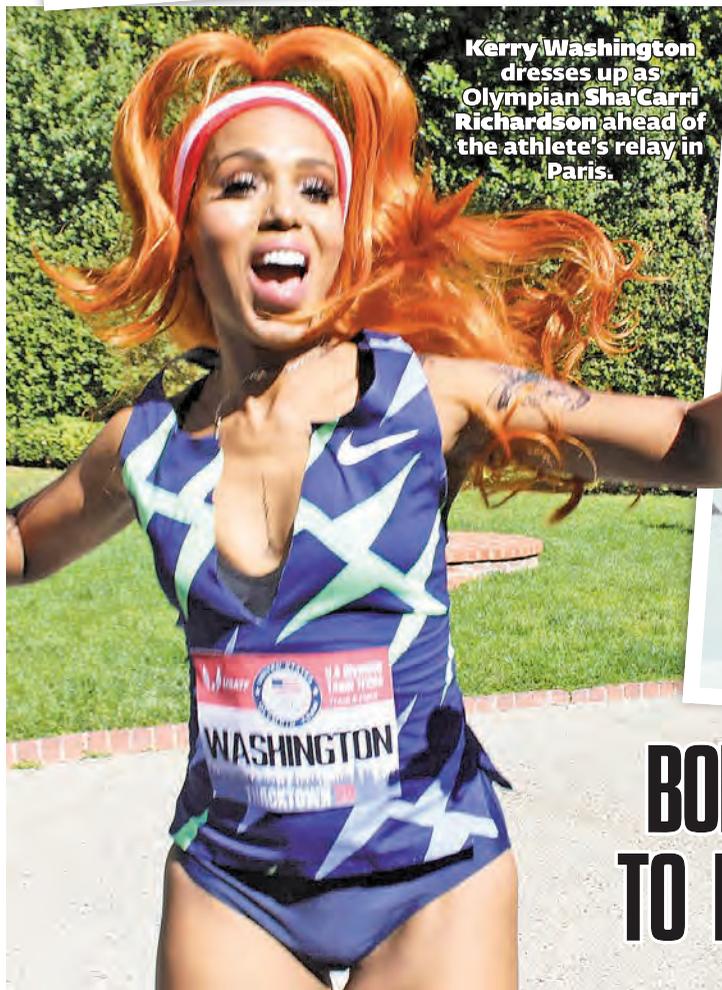
keighteller/Instagram

DOUBLE OR NOTHING



Actor Miles Teller's wife Keleigh challenges herself to a chugging contest.

SPLASH NEWS / COBRA TEAM / BACKGRID



Kerry Washington dresses up as Olympian Sha'Carri Richardson ahead of the athlete's relay in Paris.

BORN TO RUN

kevincostner/Instagram



At sea in Italy, Kevin Costner unwinds in a more peaceful version of "Waterworld."

CRUISE CONTROL

kerrywashington/Instagram



STROLL MODELS

Mom Kate Moss (right) and daughter Lila, 21, trade the runway for the beach in Ibiza, Spain.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

THIS WEEK'S GUESTS



WATCH WHAT HAPPENS LIVE

10 p.m., Bravo
Monday: Bri Muller, Katie Flood

Tuesday: Sara Al Madani, Ariana Madix (above)

Wednesday: Sean Evans, Charlamagne Tha God



TONIGHT SHOW JIMMY FALLON

11:35 p.m., NBC
Monday: Channing Tatum, Liza Colón-Zayas

Tuesday: Elizabeth Banks

Wednesday: Kim Kardashian (above), Daveed Diggs



LATE NIGHT SETH MEYERS

12:35 a.m., NBC
Monday: John Mulaney, Ilona Maher (above)

Tuesday: Mia Farrow, Patti Lupone, Myha'la

Wednesday: Casey Affleck, Meredith Hagner

Sunday August 11, 2024

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies Sports New

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2	WCBS	2	2	2	News 6:30pm	60 Minutes: Scattered Spider; Work to	Tulsa King: Token Joe	Big Brother	Tracker: St. Louis (R)	CBS News 11pm	(11:35) News			
4	WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	2024 Paris Olympics: Primetime Weekend Taped.			2024 Paris Olympics: LA28 Handover Special	News 4 New York at 11	Paris 2024 Replay.			
5	WNYW	5	5	5	TMZ	MasterChef: Millennials Auditions (R)	Krapopolis (R)	Krapopolis: Salt (R)	Krapopolis: Olive Oil (R)	The 10 O'Clock News	Sports Extra	In Depth	Raw Travel (R)	
7	WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	America's Funniest Home Videos (R)	(8:01) Home Videos (R)	(8:33) Jim Henson: Idea Man (2024, Documentary): Family, friends, and coworkers discuss the life and career of Jim Henson. NR						Eyewitness News at 11
9	WWOR	9	9	9	Chicago P.D.: Signs of	Chicago P.D.: Due Process	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
11	WPIX	11	11	11	Paid Program	The Notebook (2004, Romance): A woman chooses between a man of whom her parents approve and her first love. Ryan Gosling. PG-13 ★★★½			PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong			PIX11 Sports Nation	Yankees Nation	
13	WNET	13	13	13	American Masters: Roberta Flack (R)	Hotel Portofino: Realizations	Magpie Murders (R)		Magpie Murders (R)			Lucy Worsley Investigates: Princes in the Tower (R)		
21	WLIW	21	21	21	PBS News	Mika - Live at (R)	Simon & Garfunkel (R)		Last of the Breed			Memory Makeover		
25	WNYE	25	22	25	(5:30) TBA	GZero	Profiles (R)	On Story	Day's Work	Her B Idea	Neighbor	Voyager	Feet	Confucius Was a Foodie
31	WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Turkey Trot	NCIS: Higher Education	NCIS: Too Many Cooks	NCIS: Bridges			NCIS: Big Rig		
41	WXTV	41	6	41	Noticiero	Juntos, pero no revueltos (1939) Jorge Negrete.	El show, crónica		Aquí y ahora			Noticias	Noticiero	
47	WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	La Isla Desafío Extremo (7:58) La Isla Desafío Extremo: Brazalete			Pica y se extiende			Noticiero	Noticias (R)	
55	WLNY	55	10	10	(6:00) ET	Inside	The Point	CBS News Sunday Morning	Paid	Judge Judy	Paid	Women Of Wrestling		
A&E	46	46	181	Storage	Storage	Storage (R)	Storage	Storage	Storage (R)	Storage (R)	Storage (R)	Storage (R)	Storage (R)	Storage (R)
AMC	54	43	231	(6:00) Transformers (2007, Action) Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox. ★★★	Snowpiercer: North Star				(10:06) Orphan: Echoes			Snowpiercer: North Star		
BET	37	54	270	Madame's Protection (2012) Tyler Perry.	The Wedding Ringer (2015, Comedy) Kevin Hart. R ★★★½							Fist Fight (2017) Ice Cube.		
BBCAM	71	101	189	(4:32) Outbreak (1995) ★★★	(7:33) Twister (1996, Drama) Helen Hunt, Bill Paxton. PG-13 ★★★½				(10:04) Orphan: Echoes			(11:08) Twister (1996) ★★★½		
BRAVO	18	44	185	Girls Trip	(7:02) Real Housewives	Real Housewives	Ultimate Girls Trip (R)	Watch What	(10:35) Real Housewives	Truth R ★★★½				
CNBC	15	24	102	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank				
CNN	78	25	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom	The Whole Story with	The Whole Story with (R)	The Whole Story with (R)	The Whole Story with (R)	The Whole Story with (R)				
COM	45	50	190	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office
DIS	49	31	250	Descendants: The Rise of Red (2024) G	Primos (R)	Primos (R)	Primos (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Chiverse	
DSC	66	27	120	(6:00) Naked & Afraid: Last One (R)	Naked and Afraid: Last One Standing			(10:07) Eye of Storm	Eye of Storm: Hurricane					
E!	24	51	196	(5:30) My Cousin Vinny (1992, Comedy)	Wedding Crashers (2005, Comedy) Owen Wilson. R ★★★			The Other Guys (2010) Will Ferrell. ★★★						
ESPN	28	36	70	Baseball	MLB Baseball: New York Mets at Seattle Mariners from T-Mobile Park. Live.			SportsCenter Live.	SportsCenter Live.					
ESPN2	29	35	74	Baseball	MLB Baseball Live.			World Long Drive Tour: Long Drive Team Cup						
FBN	43	106	117	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)
FNC	44	26	118	Fox Report	The Big Weekend Show	Life, Liberty & Levin	Sunday Night	Weekend Show (R)	Life, Liberty & Levin (R)					
FOOD	50	97	164	Grocery (R)	Guy's Grocery Games (R)	Food Truck Race	Alex vs America	Alex vs America (R)	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby				
FREFRM	38	49	199	(5:20) Toy Story 2 (1999) G	(7:25) Toy Story 3 (2010, Comedy) Tom Hanks, Tim Allen. G ★★★★★			(9:55) Toy Story 4 (2019, Family) Tom Hanks. G						
FS1	400	99	83	NHRA in 30	Flat Track: Peoria TT	Flat Track Replay.	The Pokerstars Replay.	The Pokerstars Replay.	NASCAR Truck Series					
FX	10	40	53	Star Wars	Star Wars: Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back (1980) Mark Hamill. PG ★★★½			Star Wars: Episode VI: Return of the Jedi (1983) PG						
HALL		191	240	(6:00) My Dreams of You (2024)	Branching Out (2024, Drama) Sarah Drew. G			The Sweetest Heart (2018, Romance) Julie Gonzalo.						
HGTV	64	98	165	100 Day (R)	100 Day Dream Home (R)	100 Day Dream Home (R)	100 Day Dream Home (R)	100 Day	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	
HIST	40	47	128	The Booze, Bets and Sex: Sin Cities	American Godfathers: The Five Families			Gangland	Gangland	Gangland	Gangland	Gangland	Gangland	
ID	23	171	123	Monster (R)	American Monster (R)	American Monster (R)	American Monster	48 Hours on ID	Evil Lives Here (R)					
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) Amish Affair (2024, Thriller) NR	Stalked by My Amish Boyfriend (2024) NR			(10:03) Gaslit By My Husband (2024) Jana Kramer. NR						
MeTV	33	33	3	Collector	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Family	Family	Family	Family	Ed Sullivan	Burnett	Van Dyke	Van Dyke
MSG	27	87	78	(5:30) Athletes Live.	The Juice			Athletes: Team Palacios vs. Team McQuillin Replay.	Athletes Replay.					
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(12:00) FanDuel	Racing Live.	United Fight	United Fight	No Gamble No Future	No Gamble No Future					
MSNBC	14	23	103	The Sunday	Ayman (R)	Ayman	Destroyed	It's Okay	Inside With Jen Psaki (R)	Ayman (R)				
MTV	20	53	210	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	The West	The West	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous
NATGEO	65	162	121	Wick. Tuna	Wicked Tuna (R)	Wicked Tuna (R)	Wicked Tuna (R)	Wicked Tuna (R)						
NICK	6	121	252	The Boss Baby: Family Business (2021, Adventure) Alec Baldwin.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends: The Last One	
OWN	173	180	145	(6:00) 20/20	20/20 on OWN: Murder in	20/20 on OWN: Evidence	20/20 on OWN (R)	20/20 on OWN: Missing	20/20 on OWN (R)					
PARMT	36	56	54	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue: On the River	Bar Rescue (R)	Bar Rescue: My Brother's	Bar Rescue (R)	Bar Rescue: From Camo					
SNY	26	60	77	Yeah ...	NFL Preseason Football: Washington Commanders at New York Jets. Replay.	Post Game	Sports Live.	Sports Live.	Sports Live.	Sports Live.				
SYFY	17	48	180	Men in Black II (2002, Action) Tommy Lee Jones. ★★	(8:45) Men in Black III (2012, Science Fiction) Will Smith. PG-13 ★★★			Robin Hood (2010) ★★★½						
TBS	8	39	52	(4:45) Avengers: Infinity War (2018)	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Jokers (R)	Jokers (R)				
TCM	82	41	230	Notorious (1946, Thriller) Cary Grant. NR	Father Goose (1964, Adventure) Cary Grant. NR ★★★			My Favorite Wife (1940, Comedy) Irene Dunne. ★★★						
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day (R)	90 Day Fiancé (R)	90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?: Tell All: P3	(10:02) Forbidden Love	(11:02) 90 Day Fiancé						
TNT	3	37	51	Ocean's Thirteen (2007, Crime) George Clooney. ★★★	Ocean's Eleven (2001, Crime) George Clooney. PG-13 ★★★½			Now You See Me (2013)						
TVLAND	85	34	241	Mike	Mike	Mike	Men	Men	Men	Men	Men	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) NASCAR Cup Series: Richmond Live.	Post Show	Throwback	(10:20) Law & Order SVU	(11:20) Law & Order: SVU						
VH1	19	52	217	(5:00) The Hurt Locker (2009, Drama) R	The Wood (1999, Comedy) Taye Diggs. R ★★★			Diary of a Mad Black Woman (2005) Kimberly Elise.						
WE	59	42	149	Law & Ord	Law & Order: Most Likely	Law & Order	Law & Order: Slaughter	Law & Order: Dazzled	Law & Order: Foul Play					
YES	53	89	76	History of	Yankees	Jimmy	My Number	Brooklyn	Homegrown	MLB Baseball: Texas Rangers at New York Yankees.				
HBO	511	301	400	New World	(6:55) Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (2024)	Industry: L'Oro in Boca	(10:05) Industry: Il Mattino	Last Week	Industry (R)					
MAX	531	371	420	(6:22) The Losers (2010, Drama) ★★★½	Get Shorty (1995) John Travolta. R ★★★	(9:45) The Family (2013, Comedy) Robert De Niro. ★★★½	Gemini ★★★½							
MGM Plus	595	395		(6:45) Creed (2015, Drama) Michael B. Jordan, Sylvester Stallone.	Emperor of Ocean Park	Hollywood Black	Emperor: Chapter Five							
PARSHO	551	321	365	Shaft (2019, Action) Samuel L. Jackson.	Mayor of Kingstown	(9:05) Heat (1995, Crime) Al Pacino, Robert De Niro. R ★★★½								

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TV

8 THINGS TO WATCH THIS WEEK



Gloria Hampton's (left) daughter Kaeli Ware (right) joined her in Hulu's new "Dance Moms" reboot.

Lifetime



2 EMILY IN PARIS
Thursday, Netflix

"Emily in Paris" returns with a new season. Emily Cooper (Lily Collins, left) may have somewhat adjusted to life in Paris, but her dating life is still quite complicated. She's stuck between Gabriel, who is having a baby with his ex, and Alfie, who broke up with her after learning she still has feelings for Gabriel. Who will Emily choose?

3 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS CLOSING CEREMONY
Sunday 3 p.m., NBC

The 2024 Paris Olympics are officially coming to an end. There are rumors that the closing ceremony will feature a major stunt from Tom Cruise (right) as Paris prepares to hand off the baton to the next host for the summer Olympics: Los Angeles. Those who miss the live events can catch them again at 7 p.m. on NBC.



TINY DANCERS

By ALEX VENA

GLORIA "Glo" Hampton may be the coach of Studio Bleu's junior elite team, but she also boasts another esteemed title quite fitting for her new role on "Dance Moms: A New Era." Dance mom.

While speaking to DECIDER ahead of the reboot's premiere, Hampton emphasized that the series may be an iteration of the wildly popular Lifetime reality show, but it's definitely in a "new era."

"I certainly have a different teaching style than the predecessor," she said. "I think that shows I'm tough, I'm absolutely tough. I just get results a different way."

How did you approach and navigate the dance mom drama throughout this series, especially being not only a dance coach, but a dance mom yourself?

I'd like to think that these moms understand I've been there, but I am also the expert. I got my daughter to a place where she can make a career dancing and doing what she loves. It's not always easy to navigate them. Forty years of dance moms is not easy. But there comes a point where you have to lay down the law and you're like, "You have to trust me and that I have the best in-

Gloria "Glo" Hampton is bringing 'Dance Moms' into a new era on Hulu

terest for all the children." When you're dealing with mothers or fathers even, in any sport, they see their kid as the star and I have to put them all on an even playing field. Obviously, there are the breakout dancers, but they also have very different strengths and weaknesses, so it's my job to see that and navigate that.

On the other hand, was there anything from the original show that you kind of wanted to stray away from in your approach to this show?

I mean, it is a new era, and it's a new world and it's a new team and it's a new teacher. I certainly have a different teaching style than the predecessor. And I think that shows I'm tough, I'm absolutely tough. I get results a different way.

Have you reached out to Abby Lee Miller at all since making the show?

She actually congratulated me. She sent me a text and I was thrilled because I was like,

"You know, I can use some guidance here. You did this and you got eight seasons out of this. You were the trailblazer, you are the face of 'Dance Moms.'" And so after that, I did reach out to her to try to get together and she didn't seem too receptive. So I'm not sure that right now she considers me a dear friend. Maybe we'll get back to that. I'd like to.

What are you hoping that fans can take away from the show?

First of all, where I'm concerned, this is my life's work. This is what I've done since I was literally a teenager, it's just on a much bigger scale. But I'm happy to show that, I'm so excited for people to see what I've done all of these years. I'm also excited for them to see these amazingly talented little girls and their personalities and I think they're going to be mega stars. And they deserve it. They all deserve it.

Do you see a Season 2 in the show's future?

There's nothing I want more than a Season 2. I told you there was a learning curve. So I think now, we feel much more comfortable, we know what we're getting ourselves into. I think that we could knock a Season 2 out of the park.

This interview was edited and condensed for clarity.

"Dance Moms: A New Era" is streaming on Hulu.

4 INDUSTRY
Sunday 9 p.m., HBO

The sexy drama returns with a new season. 'Industry' explores the inner workings of a group of young bankers trying to climb the social ladder of high finance, where they're faced with sex, drugs, and moral quandaries. "Game of Thrones" star Kit Harington joins the cast for Season 3.

5 BEL-AIR
Thursday, Peacock

Peacock's dramatic spinoff of "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" returns. It's summertime and Will and Carlton become allies after they get new jobs at the country club. But will their friendship be able to survive their fundamental differences?

6 BAD MONKEY
Wednesday, Apple TV+
SERIES PREMIERE

Based on the popular novel of the same name, "Bad Monkey" sees Vince Vaughn (right) as a Florida detective who gets demoted to inspecting restaurants. However, when a severed arm is turned into the police department, Detective Andrew Yancy gets sucked into a harsh world of crime and corruption.



7 JACKPOT! Thursday, Prime Video

In this comedic action film, a "Grand Lottery" has been established in California, allowing citizens to kill the lottery winner before sundown to legally claim their multi-billion dollar jackpot. Starring John Cena, Awkwafina (left), and Simu Liu.



8 THE UNION Friday, Netflix

Jersey construction worker Mike (Mark Wahlberg, right) finds himself thrust into the world of super spies and secret agents when his high school sweetheart Roxanne (Halle Berry, far right) recruits him on a high-stakes US intelligence mission.



Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope



DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♌ LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)
The more the critics say your dreams will never come true the more determined you will be to prove them wrong. Anyone who thinks you will allow yourself to be affected by such blatant negativity clearly doesn't know the first thing about you.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)
Even such a self-sufficient sign as Virgo needs help once in a while and if you are smart you will ask for assistance when a task starts getting too much for you. What seems such a challenge for one person will be easily resolved by two or three.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)
There is an air of excitement and expectation about your life at the moment and it will increase rapidly over the next few days. The upcoming union of Mars and Jupiter in the most adventurous area of your chart will see you at your very best.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)
There will be a lot of sound and fury in your life over the next few days, so prepare yourself mentally and promise that you won't add to it by getting worked up about trivial things. You are a serious individual with serious issues to deal with.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
The more you do for other people the more the universe will do for you, so if you get the chance to assist someone in need don't hesitate for a single moment, dive right in and do a good deed. They will never stop thanking you for it.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
Changes on the work front may be unsettling but they are also exciting, so stop worrying about

what the end result might be and focus on making the most of the opportunities coming your way. Change is good for you, so make it your friend.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You may be a nice guy by nature but sometimes you have no choice but to get tough with people who are rude for no good reason. You don't have to put up with discourteous behavior, so come down on them quickly and come down on them hard.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)
The best way to get past a disappointment of some kind is to immerse yourself in an activity that requires 100 per cent focus. If both your mind and body are fully occupied there will be no room for negative emotions to get a hold

on you.
♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20)
You will find it hard to ignore your emotions this week but that's okay. It won't hurt to let others see your vulnerable side and they won't think any the less of you for it. Be careful though. You don't want your rivals to think you've gone soft!

♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21)
You don't take risks for the fun of it but there are good cosmic reasons why you should take a risk or two now. The planets indicate there is much to be gained by backing your hunches, so trust them even if they seem somewhat illogical.

♊ GEMINI (May 22-June 21)
You may be in the mood to get

things done but the earlier you start and the later you finish the more likely it is you will exhaust yourself, so be sensible and know when to take a break. Balance periods of intense activity with periods of relaxation.

♋ CANCER (June 22-July 23)
Family issues will weigh on your mind this week and there will be times when you wonder why you bother trying to be fair with loved ones. The reason, of course, is because it is in your nature to care and that isn't about to change any time soon.

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY
You will find yourself drawn to a cause or movement of some kind over the next few months and the more you get involved the more of a positive impact you will have and the happier you will be. Connect with something bigger and better.

Sunday Break puzzles answers

Sunday Crossword

A	B	O	D	E	T	H	A	I	N	C	O	S	S	M	A	C	K		
M	O	D	E	R	B	U	R	N	C	A	L	C	P	A	U	L	A		
C	H	I	C	O	C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A	A	N	D	O	R
S	O	N	A	T	A	A	D	E	N	C	O	N	A	R	T	I	S	T	
L	I	M	A	R	T	S	E	V	E	R	S	E	S						
T	N	T	N	O	R	M	A	N	O	K	L	A	H	O	M	A			
H	A	R	D	G	B	A	C	O	N	Y	H	O	N	E	M	L	B		
A	S	I	A	G	I	R	D	S	B	O	P	R	O	A	R				
W	A	X	P	O	E	T	I	C	G	A	R	Y	I	N	D	I	A	N	A
C	H	E	N	L	A	L	A	I	R	O	N	E	D						
P	I	E	R	R	E	S	O	U	T	H	A	K	O	T	A				
M	A	T	T	A	I	E	L	L	S	I	N	O	N						
I	R	V	I	N	G	T	E	X	A	S	R	E	D	L	E	T	T	E	R
C	E	O	S	I	V	I	P	E	T	R	A	T	I	A	G	O			
E	A	T	C	A	N	E	R	O	A	D	E	O	M	A	N	G	O		
M	I	N	T	S	A	U	C	E	E	A	R	P	A	C	U	M	E	N	
A	C	T	U	P	C	H	A	N	D	L	E	R	A	R	I	Z	O	N	A
G	E	E	S	E	L	I	M	E	E	B	A	Y	T	I	L	T	S		
O	R	D	E	R	A	N	T	S	S	A	M	E	Y	E	E	S	H		

3	5	6	9	7	4	2	8	1
4	9	2	8	1	5	3	7	6
1	7	8	2	6	3	4	9	5
5	4	1	7	9	2	6	3	8
8	2	9	5	3	6	1	4	7
7	6	3	1	4	8	9	5	2
2	3	5	4	8	1	7	6	9
9	8	4	6	2	7	5	1	3
6	1	7	3	5	9	8	2	4

9	8	6	2	7	4	5	3	1
3	1	4	9	8	5	2	7	6
7	2	5	3	1	6	9	4	8
6	3	1	4	5	9	7	8	2
2	4	7	6	3	8	1	5	9
5	9	8	1	2	7	4	6	3
4	6	3	5	9	1	8	2	7
1	7	2	8	4	3	6	9	5
8	5	9	7	6	2	3	1	4

2	7	5	9	3	1	6	4	8
3	9	4	8	7	6	1	5	2
8	1	6	5	2	4	3	7	9
9	4	3	1	8	7	2	6	5
7	6	1	2	5	3	8	9	4
5	8	2	4	6	9	7	3	1
6	5	8	7	9	2	4	1	3
4	2	7	3	1	5	9	8	6
1	3	9	6	4	8	5	2	7

Super Su Doku

8	12	3	9	1	4	5	10	6	2	7	11
4	6	7	5	11	3	2	9	10	8	1	12
10	1	11	2	7	12	6	8	5	3	4	9
1	7	12	6	10	2	11	4	3	5	9	8
9	10	5	3	12	8	1	7	11	6	2	4
2	4	8	11	9	6	3	5	7	1	12	10
6	9	2	12	5	7	10	3	8	4	11	1
7	5	1	8	4	11	12	6	2	9	10	3
11	3	4	10	8	1	9	2	12	7	6	5
5	8	6	1	2	10	4	12	9	11	3	7
3	11	10	7	6	9	8	1	4	12	5	2
12	2	9	4	3	5	7	11	1	10	8	6

Kakuro

	6	2			9	7	4	
9	4	3	5		8	9	3	7
7	1		8	9	5		1	9
5	2		4	8	6	9		
	3	4				5	6	
		3	2	5	1		3	1
1	8		1	8	4		1	4
8	9	7	4		3	1	4	2
	7	1	3			5	2	

KEN KEN

1-	4	3	5	6	2	1
2-	3	2	1	5	4	6
9+	6	4	2	3	1	5
6+	5	1	6	4	3	2
20x	1	5	4	2	6	3
36x	2	6	3	1	5	4

Jumble

ANSWERS: 1A-Several 6A-Retired
8A-Vial 9A-Cast 11A-Twitter 12A-Spreads
2D-Extract 3D-Earn 4D-Crevise 5D-Gesture
7D-Drafted 10D-Site B-Secret Service

Boggle Brain Busters Bonus

CRANE, EGRET, HERON, ROBIN,
RAVEN, FINCH, EAGLE, GOOSE

SCRABBLE G.R.A.M.S. SOLUTION

P ₃	A ₁	R ₁	A ₁	D ₂	O ₁	X ₈	RACK 1 =	101
S ₁	U ₁	B ₃	H ₄	E ₁	A ₁	D ₂	RACK 2 =	66
U ₁	N ₁	F ₄	A ₁	K ₅	E ₁	D ₂	RACK 3 =	65
M ₃	E ₁	M ₃	E ₁	N ₁	T ₁	O ₁	RACK 4 =	61
P ₃	H ₄	A ₁	L ₁	A ₁	N ₁	X ₈	RACK 5 =	69

PAR SCORE 260-270

TOTAL 362

Sunday Word Force

acorn	auger	crone	green	organ
agree	canoe	eager	groan	ounce
anger	cargo	genre	guano	range
argon	conga	goner	nacre	rogue
argue	crane	grace	ocean	rouge

Wonderword answer: COOKIE MONSTER

THE WEEK'S WINNERS



UBER

Ride-hailing giant returned to profitability on the back of solid growth in its food-delivery business, sending shares surging.

WALL STREET BANKERS

Bonuses set to swell by as much as 35% after two down years as deal-making rebounds, a report found.

FTX CUSTOMERS

Sam Bankman-Fried's defunct crypto exchange ordered to pay \$12.7 billion to fraud victims in a deal that resolves a regulator's lawsuit.

LOSERS



GARM

Rob Rakowitz's advertising cabal accused of conspiring to suppress conservative outlets disbands days after Elon Musk's X sued over censorship.

GOOGLE

Judge deems tech giant a "monopolist" that violated antitrust laws to build a dominant hold over the online search market.

DAVID ZASLAV

Warner Bros. Discovery writes down value of its cable networks by \$9 billion in latest black eye for the CEO.

LEFTIST HERD ON STREET

Con-Dem-ned to Kam?



CHARLES GASPARINO

AMID the media adulation over the very possible presidency of the former dunderheaded-turned-cool brat girl Kamala Harris, Wall Street Democrats aren't wasting any time using the momentum trying to convince those money-men and women still on the fence over the November election that Harris is a winner.

Wall Street execs should support her, and they won't be sorry. Oh yes they will, if history is any guide.

Wall Street is important for presidential candidates for the same reason you rob banks: that's where the fundraising money is. It has been my experience that most people in high finance are center-left and center-right, though they can be swayed by spin and vibe. Recall that in 2008, many middle-of-the-road Wall Street types swooned over the smooth-talking Barack Obama.

"Obama is a moderate," Larry Fink, chief executive of money-management behemoth BlackRock, assured me at the time. He wasn't alone. Top executives at Goldman Sach lined up in support of the one-term junior senator from Illinois with a tepid legislative record but an amazing stage presence that preached moderation and commonality.

They ignored his background as among the most progressive pols in the country; his private-sector "experience" as a community organizer. When elected, Obama's true political self soon emerged. He was a brilliant orator but he governed as a man of the left. He raised business taxes, ramped up regulations. He

basically destroyed Goldman Sachs' business model despite its past support, short-circuiting its once-powerful trading business with new financial edicts.

The stock market hit a low during Obama's first year, a hangover from the 2008 financial crisis, but with massive money-printing, the bull market was off and running. You might say that was good for Wall Street, but not good enough to compensate for all the taxes and regulations, and soaring deficits, which is why a few in corporate America seemed to wizen up and support Republican Mitt Romney in 2012.

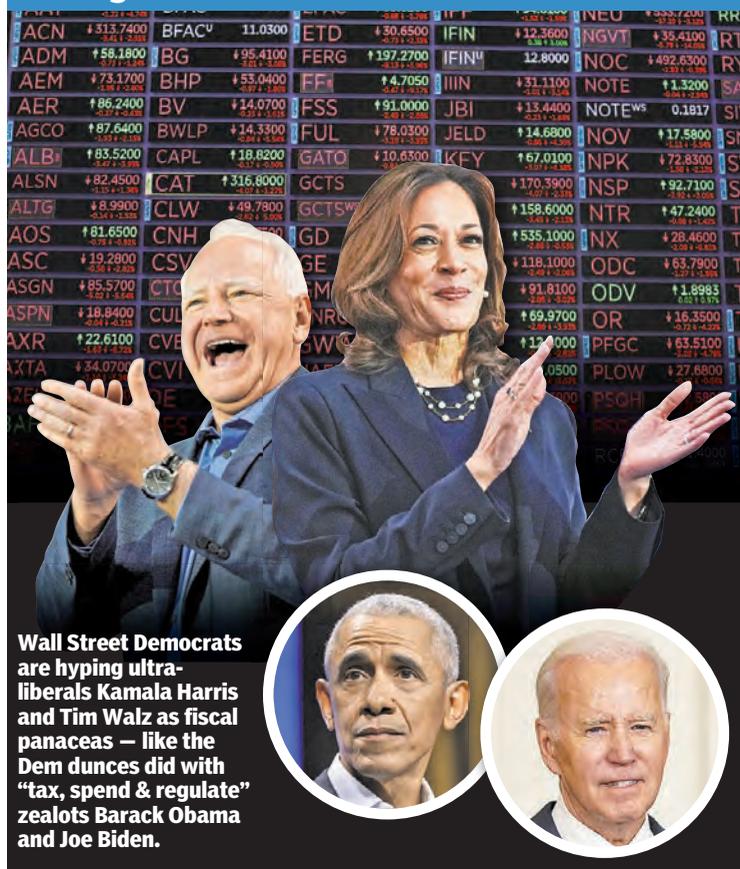
Power of incumbency

Too little and too late to overcome the power of incumbency. Obama won a second term, and there was nothing stopping his move to the left. He unleashed his regulatory apparatus on the big banks (see the fines paid by JPMorgan over nebulous, 2008-related infractions), raised taxes and continued with his industrial policy, a forerunner of the lefty Green New Deal.

Then came Trump. The bankers liked some of what The Donald brought to the table, promises of lower taxes and less regulation. They couldn't really get behind his gauche mannerisms and populist rhetoric, particularly on trade with their big new client, China Inc. When Trump defeated their favorite for the 2016 presidency, Hillary Clinton (another Goldman pick), they hunkered down praying for a savior from MAGAism.

That savior was Joe Biden, the former Obama VP and a well-known quantity in corporate America since his home state (Biden was a longtime US senator from Delaware) is where disputes are adjudicated by

Goring the bull market?



Wall Street Democrats are hyping ultra-liberals Kamala Harris and Tim Walz as fiscal panaceas — like the Dem dunces did with "tax, spend & regulate" zealots Barack Obama and Joe Biden.

the business-friendly Chancery court. In the 2020 presidential election, Biden wooed the corporate types by talking like a moderate, but once elected also reverted to form: massive regulations, antitrust assaults, taxes and spending.

Stocks soared because of COVID-relief easy money mainly by the Fed, but the regulatory stranglehold imposed by Biden's appointees to the administrative state have angered even the most ardent C-suite Dems, so much so that JPMorgan chief Jamie Dimon recently touted the great economy under Trump.

That brings us to Kamala Harris and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and whether corporate America will be fooled again by the cool vibe for these two ardent lefties being hyped by the mainstream media to gloss over their avowed records of progressivism, one that promises Bidenomics on steroids.

Given recent history, I am betting they will.

White Crypto Bros

IN the spirit of "White Dudes for Harris" comes another cringe spinoff of intersectional vote mining, named "Crypto for Harris," reports Fox Business's Eleanor Terrett.

The Harris-centric crypto organization is playing catchup to Trump's courting of the crypto crowd, the 40 million holders of digital coins who are largely one-issue voters,

Terrett writes. It's spearheaded by the likes of Mark Cuban, the Democrat tech entrepreneur and crypto enthusiast, and Anthony Scaramucci of SkyBridge Capital, who before he began hating on The Donald served as Trump's communications director in 2017, albeit for only 11 disastrous days.

Both want to make sure Trump is denied a second term and they see an opening to peel away his lead with the crypto crowd the former president has been courting for months. Good luck with that. First, with headlines like these, the group could just as easily be mocked as "Rich White Crypto Bros for Harris," except its membership includes a few rich white women, Terrett reports.

Second, they will have to paper over Harris's disastrous record as VP (border czar) and that she was part of an administration that nominally supervised Gary Gensler, the crypto-hating chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Trump recently vowed that in a second term he'd fire Gensler, who has launched a costly regulatory crackdown on the \$2 trillion industry.

As Cameron Winklevoss, half of the famous Winklevoss twins and co-founder of crypto exchange Gemini, tweeted: "Kamala Harris, please don't bother unless you are prepared to take swift, bold and concrete action. You can't burn bridges for four years and expect to rebuild them with words alone."

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ENGINEERING

Structural Engineer for Regional Testing Corp., F/T in Bronx, NY. Conduct inspections on commercial and residential construction sites to evaluate the strength, stability, and safety of structures; identify potential risks and structural vulnerabilities by examining construction plans and specifications and propose effective solutions; Communicate necessary corrections and improvements to stakeholders based on inspection findings; Monitor and enforce strict adherence to safety protocols and standards on construction sites. Master's degree in Civil Engineering & having licenses of International Code Council - Structural Steel and Bolting Special Inspector; International Code Council - Structural Masonry Special Inspector; American Concrete Institute - ACI Associate Concrete Construction Special Inspector; and American Concrete Institute - ACI Concrete Field Testing. Email resumes perm@regionaltestingcorp.com.

FINANCIAL

Credit Administrator sought by CTBC Bank Co. Ltd. (NYC) to assist manager in reviewing, evaluating & updating the Bank's Loan Review Policies & Procedures & Loan Review Prgm. Salary \$76,128/yr. Req: Bachelor's in Finance and Risk mgmt or rtd + 2 yrs exp: 1) in performing credit analysis of syndicated & commercial loan request. 2) in implmtg various risk/regulatory compliances under OFAC regs. Fax CV to 212-457-6666.

ENGINEERING

MEP Project Manager. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering plus 1 year progressive postgraduate experience. Range \$99.1K - \$100K per year. JT Magen & Co. Inc., New York, NY. Resume to recruitment@jtmagen.com

FINANCIAL

Budget Analyst (Fresh Meadows, NY) Compile & analyze cost estimates to determine the fin'l resources req'd for construction projects. Bachelor's deg in Econ or Finance rtd or foreign equiv req'd. \$71,240/yr. Apply to Prosperity Construction NY Inc., 69-21 164th St, Ste 14, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365.

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Disc Jockey (NYC) Select, play, mix records at various locs in Manhattan, NYC. Operate DJ mixer, sound eqpmt. HS diploma & 6 mos' exp in job offd. \$45k/yr. Send resume to Royale Group, 505 E. 14th St., #3F, NY, NY 10009.

Sheet Metal Duct Designer, Bohemia NY, M-F 8am-5pm, F/T, no trng, 2yr exp, sal. \$70242 neg. create 2D, 3D models of sheet metal parts w/ CAD, manufacture proper specs w/ programs, use sheet metal tools to cut prototypes fax Res: 631-732-3554, Attn: Kim or mail ET Duct, 1430 Church St. unit B, Bohemia NY 11716

Bookkeeper wanted by general construction contractors in Port Washington, NY. Must have 2 yrs exp. as bookkeeper. Must speak, read & write Korean. Apply to DKT Contractors LLC, 95 Seaview Blvd., #103, Port Washington, NY 11050. \$63,149/yr.

HEALTHCARE

Oasis Professional Mgt Grp requires LPNs for Manh, NY; assoc. deg. in nursing; \$63,400/yr; Fax CV to 212-473-3709

Yellowstone Physical Therapy PC requires PT Assistants for various worksites in Queens NY;PT/A assoc. deg. & NY PTA license; \$39,500/yr;Email CV to gabrielmalakov@yahoo.com

OPERATIONS GENERAL MANAGER - NY, NY: Review financial statements, sales or activity reports, or other performance data. Direct or coordinate financial or budget. Monitor suppliers to ensure that they efficiently & effectively provide needed goods or service. Direct non-merchandising departments of businesses. Perform personnel functions: selection, training, or evaluation. Two Years Management experience in the Restaurant Business. Salary: \$75,000/yr. Resume: RJJ Restaurant LLC, 237 W54 St NY, NY.

Pharmacist (Flushing, NY) Compound/dispense prescriptions; Advise patients on medications/drug interactions/side effects; Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an accredited School of Pharmacy/NYS Pharmacist License req'd; Min. Salary of \$107,682/yr; Mail resume to NY Northern Pharmacy, LLC, 164-16 Northern Blvd., Flushing, NY 11358 (ATTN: Mr. Jung)

PROFESSIONAL

Business Manager sought by Scotsman's Auto Body III Inc. (Farmingdale, NY) Oversee & manage daily operations of the auto body shop. Direct administrative activities directly rtd to auto body shop svcs. Prep staff work schedules & assign specific duties. Review fin'l stmnts, sales or activity reports, or other performance data to measure productivity. Monitor suppliers to ensure that they efficiently & effectively provide needed goods or svcs w/in budgetary limits of Co. 2 yrs exp. in the job offd is req'd. \$76,128.00/yr. M-F, 40 hrs/wk. Send Resume to President Asimcan Yazak, sautobody@optimum.net

Litigation Attorney, FT. The Law Office of Alexander Paykin, P.C. Legal rsrch; drafting; appear in court; Comm w/ clients. Req: J.D. deg. NYS Bar Admission. Wrk Loc: Floral Park, NY. Salary: \$80,000 to \$100,000/yr. Qualified applicants respond to: jamie@paykinlaw.net

Project Management Specialist, Bronx, NY. HS Diploma + 2yrs. exp. req. Salary \$74,506 yr. Email res. to: xjubaj@jccgroup.com Lekaj & Jubaj Inc.

Project Developer (Jamaica, NY) Must have 3 yrs of exp in ERP Saint Enterprise S/ware & in "Supply Chain" process plus Knowl of SQL Server D/base Query Deployment Process, knowl of Microsoft PowerBI platform, & Knowl of Microsoft Excel. Salary \$108,306/yr. Send resume to: Dinas Distribution Corp., 104-46 Dunkirk St, Jamaica, NY 11412. Attn: Ms. Velasquez.

Architectural Project Management Specialist (Brooklyn, NY) Resp for reviewing drawings created by CAD, selecting appropriate architectural metal materials, dvlpng & maintaining project plans, & organizing project activities to ensure timely completion, Bachelor's deg in architecture, mgmt, or rtd, Proficiency in MS Word & Excel, & Prof'l expertise to interpret architectural drawings drafted in CAD req'd. Offd wage \$73,507/yr. Mail resumes to Apple and Honey LLC at 53 9th St, Unit 37B, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

PROFESSIONAL

Unity Game Artist, Lead -New York, NY: Lead devlpmnt & implment of technol-focus projts. for original & mssive multiplayer online games. REQS: MS Deg. in Fine Arts in Desing & Tech, Desing Eng., or reltd field. M/H 1 yr exp. in design for live operat games, incldig mbile games. M/H exp utlizing skills: Unity, Google Slides, Unity w/ Mapbox, Illstrator, iOS Dvlmt. M/H exp in tchnlogies: C++ Dvlmt, Python Dvlmt, Native Dvlmt, TouchDesgner Envrmt, Unreal Eng. Envrmt, Physical cmputing/custom elctrnics, Theatrcal Lghting, & Prjection-Mpping. Hnds-on prctice w/ UI/UX design &/or devel is req. Abil to prioritize variety of tasks/prjcts in manner that enbles tmely completion. Salary \$90,958-\$110,000p/y. Prf of legl auth. to wrk in US. To be consid, pls visit Future Colossal's site @ https://www.futurecolossal.com/contc to create prfile & sub rsume & cver ltr. for Jb Rf#20231227

Project Architect. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Architecture plus 2 years progressive postgraduate experience. Range \$79.7K - \$80K per year. Howell Belanger Castelli Architects, P.C., New York, NY. Resume to gregb@hbcarch.com

NYC Health + Hospitals (NY, NY) seeks Director of Health Care Program Planning/Analysis to plan, initiate, monitor & direct studies/analysis of issues critical to the delivery of health care. Ensure optimal utilization of resources & compliance with operating standards. Salary: \$99,910 - \$124,630. Full job desc. & apply at https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/careers/.

Nonprofit Policy Attorney needed in Forest Hills, NY to support Queens Defenders by reporting avenues of policy reform directly to management. Conduct legal research. Create summaries of proposed bills. Maintain the QD policy database of research material. Monitor legislative developments. Prepare draft legal memoranda and briefs. Participate in policy campaigns, stakeholder, campaign partnership meetings, and law reform campaigns to management. Maintain caseload of clients in Criminal and Supreme Court under supervision. Salary offered \$153,254 per year. Must have a Juris Doctor or LL.M, admission to New York bar, at least one year of criminal law litigation and one year of policy and law reform experience. Submit cover letter and resume by emailing them to Joshua Epstein, Immigration Attorney Supervisor / Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at JEpstein@queensdefenders.org with the subject line "Nonprofit Policy Attorney."

Intermediate Arch Designer - (Manhattan, NY) needed by SGVA PLLC- Perform SD, DD, CD & CA, 3D 2D. Use Revit, AutoCAD, Revit, Rhino, Enscape. \$67434 to 72,050/yr. BArch + 2 yrs in any rel Arch design (intern/junior/non-registered arch). Send res to: jobs@sgstudio

Reporter (Long Island City, NY) wtd to investigate/gather/develop news stories & produce articles for a Korean language newspaper; research info; arrange interviews; etc. Sal \$152,152/yr. Resume: The Korea Daily New York, Corp. 43-27 36th St, LIC, NY 11101

Cultural Affairs Alliance and Programs Specialist, F/T (NY, NY) Coord activities of staff, convention personnel, or clients to make arrangements for group meetings, events, or conventions. Resp for Prgm Coord'n incl supporting the executive team to successfully coord the prgms & activities of the Institute & meet the organizational objectives both online & in person. \$52,500.00/yr. Bachelor's deg in Media Studies, or Media, Cultural Mgmt, Economics, Public Relations, Int'l Business or closely rtd, + 24 mos of exp in job offd or as Meeting & Event Planner, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, Cultural Asst, Convention Planner or rtd. Email resume to: Queen Sofia Spanish Institute, Inc., Attn: Maria Begonia Santos, Executive Director & C.O.O. at: info@queensofiasp.org

EMPLOYMENT

PROFESSIONAL

RE Mkt Rsch Analyst (NY, NY) Conduct quant rsch for RE mkt overviews, prop summaries, & invest highlights. Use R, SPSS, Excel, Tableau for analytic models. Focus on econ forecasting & quant analysis of mkt trends. Work w/ brokers for client mtgs. Develop data visualizations (Tableau, R) for clients. Prioritize clarity. Eval & optimize models/strategies regularly. Advise on LT Capacity Plans & Growth strategies. Recommend mkt-aligned approaches. Improve db systems for data accuracy, storage, & processing. \$111,966/yr. Req: MS in RE/rtd. Send CV to NYC Moves, 1133 Broadway, Ste 544, NY, NY 10010.

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Cook Asian Cuisine (Long Island City) NY: To prepare, season, and cook Japanese-style dishes, such as Omurice, and different ramen dishes with Kyuramen broths including miso soup, Tonkotsu soup, Tonkutsu, shio soup, etc. Also experience in sauces for Asian appetizers. 24 months. Exp. Tues-Sat 11:00am - 7:00pm 40/wk. \$44,720/Py. Please mail resume to Bobby Muir; Kyuramen; 2717 42nd Street, Long Island City NY 11101

Dera Restaurant in Jackson Heights, Queens, NY seeks cook with 2 yrs exp in Pakistan and Indian style cuisine. Duties include planning menu and making bread products such as naan and samosa, preparing meat dishes including chicken, goat and beef with curry and other spices as well as rice and vegetable dishes. Salary: \$46,758 Email resume to nagrany@aol.com attn: Mr. Ullah.

General Restaurant Manager, Bronx, NY. HS Diploma + 2yrs. exp req. Salary \$76,128 yr. Email res. to: bennycestras@hotmail.com Genti Corp.

Bartender is needed for 021NYCREW LLC (Sunnyside, NY) HS w/ 2y exp. Salary \$63,294 yearly to plan, organize and control the operations of cocktail lounge bar including plan bar menus, pricing and creating recipes. Apply: legal@021nycrew.com

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Moyi Inc. has an opening for Systems Engineer in New York, NY. 100% telecommunicating from anywhere in US permitted. Dsgn & dvlp solutions to complex apps probs. Perf svyts mgmt & integrat'n functions. Annual salary \$105,019 or more. Email resume to contact@moyi-tech.org w/ ref. #2303

F/T Network Administrator in New York, NY. Perform network admin in a jewelry comp. MS in Sc/Comp/Engn/IT req: Send CV to Popular Gems & Jewelry Inc. Popular.gemsjewelry@gmail.com

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Meet Record: 71/221 \$444.60

Saratoga Results

FIRST-7 fur; \$100,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO
1 Sandman (Davis) 6.10 3.30 2.60
2 Innovator (Rosario) 2.80 2.30
4 Aviator Gui (Prat) 3.80
● \$1 Exacta (2-1) \$6.90 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (2-1-4-7) \$8.75 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (2-1-4) \$12.62

Exacta picked by Vic C
SECOND-6 1/2 fur; \$100,000; mdn spl wt; 3up
4 Bnnd for Life (Sz) 8.70 3.30 2.90
1 Hurricane Nelson (Frnc) 2.60 2.10
7 Ready as Ever (Gomez) 6.20
● \$1 Daily Double (2-4) \$13.60 ● \$1 Exacta (4-1) \$7.90 ● \$1 Quinella (1-4) \$2.70 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (4-1-7-3) \$21.82 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (4-1-7) \$26.37

THIRD-6 fur; \$60,000; wcl(\$25,000); 4up
1 Cold as Hell (Saez) 12.60 4.80 3.00
6 Saffa's Day (Davis) 4.70 2.80
4 Secret Rules (Lezcano) 2.50
Scr: Zeebear
● \$1 Pick 3 (2-4-1) \$112.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (4-1) \$24.70 ● \$1 Exacta (1-6) \$20.30 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (1-6-4-5) \$9.72 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (1-6-4) \$25.25

FOURTH-1 mile; \$50,000; cl(\$30.0); 3upf
5 Fst Kmmme (Vzquez) 11.20 3.20
9 Miss Fashionista (Ortzjr.) 2.10
Scr: Artemis Girl, My Cara Mia Mine, Evie Does It, Wish List, Magic Eight Ball, Highway Harmony, Alley's Song, From Hello
● \$1 Pick 3 (4-1-5) \$222.75 ● \$1 Daily Double (1-5) \$42.75 ● \$1 Exacta (5-9) \$12.30 ● \$1 Quinella (5-9) \$3.35

FIFTH-6 1/2 fur; \$35,000; ctm(\$16.0); 3up (f&m)
7 Sprtlu Ldy (Gfflon) 4.20 3.20 2.70
5 Devl Blue Dress (Alvrdo) 3.40 3.00
3 Jay's Love (Rosario) 4.80
● \$1 Pick 3 (1-5-7) \$178.00 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (4-1-5-7) \$341.75 ● \$0.5 Pick 5 (2-4-1-5-7) \$1545.75
● \$1 Daily Double (5-7) \$24.00 ● \$1 Exacta (7-5) \$9.10 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (7-5-3-6) \$30.20 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (7-5-3) \$36.37

SIXTH-The Saratoga Derby will be Sunday
SEVENTH-1 mile; \$100,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO
7 Tncus Ldr (Ortzjr.) 5.20 3.30 2.70
11 Clock Tower (Velazquez) 3.50 2.70
1 Statesman (Lezcano) 4.10
Scr: Valuation Metric, Hammerhead, Davy Crockett, Sam's Rocket, English Law
● \$1 Exacta (7-11) \$8.50 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (7-11-1-4) \$10.45 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (7-11-1) \$20.12
● \$1 Exacta (7-11) \$8.50 ● \$0.1 Show (7-11-1-4) \$10.45 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (7-11-1) \$20.12

EIGHTH-6 1/2 fur; \$200,000; Saratoga Special; 2YO
2 Showcse (Ortzjr.) 8.70 5.50 4.10
4 First Resort (Prat) 8.40 5.10
1 Smoken Wicked (Gaffalione) 4.10
Scr: Noble Force
● \$1 Daily Double (7-2) \$28.00 ● \$1 Exacta (2-4) \$41.75 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (2-4-1-5) \$42.10 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (2-4-1) \$83.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (7-2) \$28.00 ● \$1 Exacta (2-4) \$41.75 ● \$0.1 Show (2-4-1-5) \$42.10 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (2-4-1) \$83.50

NINTH-5 1/2 fur; \$300,000; Troy; 4up
12 Survellinc (Gfflon) 5.00 2.80 2.20
2 Outlaw Kid (Prat) 3.90 2.70
3 Step Forward (Velazquez) 3.20
Scr: Mischievous Angel, Sosua Summer, Grooms All Bizness, Big Invasion, Witty, Xy Speed, Dancing Buck, Cogburn
● \$1 Pick 3 (7-2-12) \$64.25 ● \$1 Daily Double (2-12) \$12.50 ● \$1 Exacta (12-2) \$8.20 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (12-2-3-13) \$4.25 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (12-2-3) \$14.12 ● \$1 Pick 3 (7-2-12) \$64.25 ● \$1 Daily Double (2-12) \$12.50 ● \$1 Exacta (12-2) \$8.20 ● \$0.1 Show (12-2-3-13) \$4.25 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (12-2-3) \$14.12

TENTH-The Fourstardave will be run Sunday
ELEVENTH-6 fur; \$40,000; alw; 4up
6 Printrack (Saez) 6.00 3.80 2.90
2 Dwtntwnchlybrwn (Gfflon) 5.70 3.10
1 Poppy's Pride (Davis) 3.50
● \$1 Exacta (6-2) \$14.00 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (6-2-1-3) \$12.95 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (6-2-1) \$19.75
● \$1 Exacta (6-2) \$14.00 ● \$0.1 Show (6-2-1-3) \$12.95 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (6-2-1) \$19.75

TWELFTH-5 1/2 fur; \$150,000; Galway; 3YO F
10 Hln's Fort (Ortzjr.) 3.20 2.40
7 Baraye (Gaffalione) 2.80
Scr: Ever So Sweet (IRE), El Terreno, Star of Mystery (GB), Amidst Waves, Kairyu (IRE), Pipsy (IRE), Sunday Girl, Greavette, She's Always Rosie
● \$0.5 Pick 4 (2-12-6-10) \$56.12 ● \$0.5 Pick 5 (7-2-12-6-10) \$243.25 ● \$1 Daily Double (6-10) \$4.80 ● \$1 Exacta (10-7) \$3.05 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (2-12-6-10) \$56.12 ● \$0.5 Pick 5 (7-2-12-6-10) \$243.25 ● \$1 Daily Double (6-10) \$4.80 ● \$1 Exacta (10-7) \$3.05

Winner picked by Vic C.

1 6 1/2 fur; \$70,000; alw; 3up(f)
The Fourstardave and Saratoga Derby, moved back a day due to heavy rains, are the last 2 races on the Sunday card.

The speedy **SHES ALWAYS ROSIE** won 2 back then lost by a length. Hangs on and wins the opener for Rice. **PALMETTO FURY** loads off an easy maiden breaker (4th start). Has enough speed to dance with Rosie. Gaffalione on the Florida invader. **SHES COOL** ran 3rd last 3 starts. If top 2 duel, Irad can pick up the pieces.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Oh My Mia(L),120	J Ortiz	1-3-6	Amoss	4-1
2	She's Cool(L),120	I Ortiz, Jr	3-3-3	Rice	9-2
3	Palmetto Fury(L),120	T Gaffalione	1-3-5	Joseph	7-2
4	She's Always Rosie(L),120	J Lezcano	2-1-2	Rice	4-5
5	Answer the Call(L),120	J Rosario	7-4-1	Contessa	8-1

2 6 1/2 fur; \$90,000; ctm(\$75,000); 3YO
Wire-to-wire winner **PROPRIETARY TRADE** grabbed an early lead in the Jersey Shore before tiring. Rebounds for Chad Brown who gets Prat to ride. **ETENDRE** was last of 7 in the Carry Back at Gulfstream. Neck short this distance previously. Irad picks up the mount. **SQUINTS** and **IRIDESCENT** ran home 1-2, a nose apart here in July. Squints was well back of Etendre previously.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Apollo Code(L),118	R Santana, Jr	4-4-1	Delgado	4-1
2	Proprietary Trade(L),120	F Prat	4-1-3	C Brown	6-5
3	Iridescent(L),120	M Franco	2-2-7	Weaver	6-1
4	Squints(L),118	D Davis	1-2-2	Morley	8-1
5	Etendre(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	7-2-6	David	5-2
6	Temecula(L),118	T Gaffalione	1-6-6	Walsh	12-1

3 6 fur; \$75,000; ctm(\$40,000); 4up(f)
Break time's over for **RACHELS ROCK**. Finished up the track in February and was given a breather. Well spotted for return; 4 for 8 at the distance. Irad a good sign. **IT TAKES HEART** moved lower, won, and was claimed by Potts. Rider change to Gaffalione. 2 for 2 at the Spa but well back of **ICY REPLY** at Aqueduct. She in turn finished up the track next out.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Jackie the Joker(L),118	J Leparoux	9-1-6	Potts	8-1
2	Icy Reply(L),120	L Rivera, Jr	8-1-5	Ferraro	5-1
3	Rachel's Rock(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	6-5-1	David	2-1
4	It Takes Heart(L),118	T Gaffalione	1-5-5	Potts	3-1
5	Willow Bend(L),120	M Franco	6-1-5	Atras	7-2
6	Starship Defiant(L),120	R Vazquez	3-6-6	Jacobson	4-1

4 6 fur; \$40,000; mdn ctm(\$20,000); 3up(f)
A clear 2nd with similar at Gulfstream. **SAVE US MELANIA** moves forward. Gaffalione rides for Saffie Joseph. **BAM BAM** debuted 8th of 10 on the turf. Moves lower to make dirt debut for Cox. **COQUITO** is 0 for 4 and midpack here last month. Dips lower; runs shorter for Rudy.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Dreaming of Carli(L),124	R Vazquez	7-2-5	Barker	8-1
2	Wicked Reya(L),119	L Luzzi	10-x-x	Persaud	30-1
3	Yingle Bells(M),119	J Gomez	6-x-x	Contessa	6-1
4	That'sthefactjack(L),119	R Maragh	9-3-2	Schettino	12-1
5	Bam Bam(L),119	M Franco	8-x-x	Cox	5-2
6	Coquito(L),119	F Prat	4-7-6	Rodriguez	6-1
7	Negra Gata(L),124	J Lezcano	4-4-9	Rice	6-1
8	The dreamcontinues(L),124	I Ortiz, Jr	7-x-x	Weaver	10-1
9	Save Us Melania(L),119	T Gaffalione	2-4-3	Joseph	3-1

5 1 1/16 miles(T); \$50,000; mdn ctm(\$40,000); 3up
Two plans. If turf **CATTANI** makes his 4YO debut for Nevin. Beat a length at 36-1 this level/distance prior to the layoff. Won't see that price today. Does he need a race? Prat will know. If dirt **BIG EGO**. Runnerup in the mud last out. **WAFLR** is 0 for 15 after a 4th and 5th this distance at the Big A. Gets Gomez back. Using in deep exotics with **SWEET TONE** who was 3rd at 20-1 racing comparable this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Triple Word Score(L),118	R Vazquez	6-3-5	Bernardini	30-1
2	Judge Rules(L),118	M Franco	5-2-7	Rodriguez	9-2
3	Within View(L),118	J Leparoux	9-2-8	Sells	10-1

4	Can't Stand Disco(M),118	D Grisles Rave	8-8-x	Ferraro	30-1
5	Wafir(L),124	J Gomez	5-4-5	Donk	12-1
6	Sweet Tone(L),118	L Luzzi	3-8-3	Sells	8-1
7	Tony O(L),124	R Maragh	8-6-6	Donk	6-1
8	Cattani(L),124	F Prat	2-5-x	Nevin	2-1
9	Charming Jim(L),124	J Lezcano	4-9-6	Hennig	8-1
10	Mazzei(L),118	J Rosario	7-11-4	James Bond	5-1
11	Alpha Cat(L),118	H Harkie	7-4-4	Goodwin	30-1
12	Seminarian(L),118	K Coa	10-6-4	LeCesse	20-1
13	Tiz the Prince(L),118	R Maragh	7-5-6	Duggan	8-1
14	Senegal(M),118	Rider TBA	5-9-x	Antonucci	10-1
15	Albedo(L),118	J Lezcano	6-11-2	Serpe	10-1
16	Big Ego(L),118	J Ortiz	2-6-11	Rice	7-5

6 7 fur; \$100,000; mdn; 2YO(f)
Career debuts for many of these 2YOs. **TABLE FLIRT** (Mott/Alvarado/Constitution) and **TRADING STRATEGY** (Brown/Prat/Quality Road) can win at 1st asking. **LA CARA** was 2nd at Churchill then 4th at Saratoga. Cashes hopes the Street Sense filly responds, stretching longer. **TEJANITA** (McGaughey/Irad/Tapit) and **TRANGO TOWER** (Brown/Rosario/Curlin) load the gate 1st time as well.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Mia's Mom,119	T Gaffalione	x-x-x	Medina	12-1
2	La Cara,119	J Ortiz	4-2-6	Casse	5-1
3	Going Steady,119	M Franco	8-x-x	Lukas	20-1
4	Trading Strategy,119	F Prat	x-x-x	C Brown	5-2
5	Table Flirt,119	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	4-1
6	Quickkick,119	D Davis	x-x-x	Amoss	6-1
7	Tejanita,119	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	McGaughey III	5-1
8	Trango Tower,119	J Rosario	x-x-x	C Brown	9-2

7 6 1/2 fur; \$35,000; ctm(\$12,500); 4up
Quick turnaround for **RIDERS SPECIAL**. Drops for Rice after checking in 6th of 7 on Wednesday. Won handily last time he raced this shorter distance. **BEACH BOY AL** moved lower but failed to respond, finishing a disappointing 6th. All's 0 for 2 at this distance but upset an allowance field at Aqueduct earlier this year. Capable. **MISTER JT** exits a midpack finish at Monmouth. Winner this level/distance last October. Not since. Atlas gets Irad back. **BRONX BOMBER** is 0 for 9 at the Spa but 2nd with comparable in latest.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Notable Bob(CHI)(L),118	T Gaffalione	9-5-5	Zito	30-1
2	Joking Way(L),118	R Maragh	6-7-4	Romero	8-1
3	Nottoway(L),123	J Davis	2-1-6	Reed	12-1
4	Rider's Special(L),120	J Lezcano	6-2-1	Rice	7-5
5	Ribbons and Medals(L),118	R Santana, Jr	6-6-2	Potts	15-1
6	Beach Boy Al(L),120	D Davis	6-5-4	Englehart	7-2
7	Mister JT(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	5-6-2	Atras	6-1
8	Bronx Bomber(L),118	M Franco	2-3-6	Kantarmaci	6-1
9	Charging Aero(L),123	L Rivera, Jr	5-8-6	Abreu	15-1

8 5 1/2 fur(T); \$150,000; Mahony; 3YO
Plenty of speed in the Mahony and **REEF RUNNER** should get a pace to chase. 2 for 3 on the grass after winning at Gulfstream. Gaffalione at a price. **MANSA MUSA** was 2nd, **NO NAY METS** was 7th and **FANDOM** was 3rd when they met in the Quick Call. Blinkers off No Nay Mets who offers best value in rematch. **APOLLO TEN** is 2 for 2 at this distance after winning the My Frenchman at Monmouth.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Fandom(GB),122	J Ortiz	3-1-1	Cox	7-2
2	Howard Wolowitz,118	R Vazquez	1-8-x	D'Angelo	12-1
3	Yellow Card,118	I Ortiz, Jr	1-4-1	McCarthy	6-1
4	Apollo Ten,122	M Franco	1-2-1	Clement	8-1
5	No Nay Mets(IRE),122	D Davis	7-12-4	Weaver	15-1
6	American Rascal,122	J Rosario	4-6-2	Asmussen	8-1
7	Mansa Musa(IRE),118	J Alvarado	2-1-3	Mott	5-2
8	Works for Me,122	F Prat	1-2-6	Lee	10-1

9	Reef Runner,120	T Gaffalione	1-2-4	Fawkes	8-1
10	Run Carson,118	R Santana, Jr	1-3-3	Danner	15-1
11	Baraye,115	G Corrales	1-1-2	Ward	3-1

9 7 fur; \$45,000; ctm(\$25,000); 3up
STREET SWAGG was cruising on an uncontested lead but couldn't get home. Rodriguez shaves a furlong. Prat stays on. **THATS MONEY** took a 2 for 3 record to the Mike Lee and got outrun. May get back to business. **JJS JOKER** Turf to dirt for Sharp. Beat a 1/2 dozen last dirt start but competes at this reduced height. Gaffalione replaces Davis. Rides **EIRIK RIDGE** who went 2 for 3 before shipping from Finger Lakes. **ANTHRACITE** is 2 for 25 but 3rd here last month.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	JJ's Joker(L),125	T Gaffalione	9-7-5	Sharp	5-1
2	Street Swagg(L),123	F Prat	2-11-5	Rodriguez	8-1
3	Bobby the Tank(L),125	J Alvarado	1-4-6	Zito	12-1
4	Dads Good Runner(L),125	L Luzzi	1-5-8	Persaud	10-1
5	Anthracite(L),123	J Lezcano	3-5-3	Rice	8-1
6	Twelfth Man(L),123	R Maragh	4-2-3	Kantarmaci	10-1
7	Badlands Ruler(L),120	R Vazquez	1-7-5	Chatterpaul	15-1
8	Ski Country(L),123	J Rosario	5-4-5	Noda	15-1
9	Eirik Ridge(L),125	D Davis	2-1-1	Ryerson	6-1
10	That's Money(L),120	M Franco	4-4-1	Pletcher	9-5

10 1 mile(T); \$500,000; Fourstardave; 3up
Can Appleby's **OTTOMAN FLEET** stretch his winning streak to 3 in the Grade 1 Fourstardave? Won the longer Wise Dan gate-to-wire at Churchill. No history at a mile. Chad Brown's **CARL SPACKLER** is 4 for 5 at the distance after taking the Kelso here in June. Pletcher's **MAJOR DUDE** topped optional claimers racing 9 furlongs. 1 for 6 at this distance. That was in the Penn Mile last summer.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Strong Quality,119	D Davis	8-1-5	Casse	8-1
3	Major Dude,120	J Velazquez	1-2-6	Pletcher	8-1
4	Carl Spackler(IRE),122	T Gaffalione	1-5-1	C Brown	9-5
5	Money Supply,119	M Franco	1-6-3	Sharp	10-1
6	Ottoman Fleet(GB),123	F Prat	1-1-2	Appleby	8-5
7	More Than Looks,120	I Ortiz, Jr	6-1-3	DeVaux	7-2
scr	Master of The Seas,000	Scratch	x-x-x	Scratch	x-x

11 1 3/16 miles(T); \$600,000; Saratoga Derby; 3YO
Post time for the Saratoga Derby is 650. Should be worth the wait. **CARSONS RUN** won a shorter 100k at Monmouth. Won the Grade 1 Summer mile last year at Woodbine under Davis. Has never raced this far but we're in. **LEGEND OF TIME** won the Pennine Ridge then 3rd in the Belmont Derby. **ROYAL MAJESTY** was 3rd in the Pennine Ridge, then 4th in the Derby. **TRIKARI** won the Derby and must be considered again.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Legend of Time(GB),122	F Prat	3-1-5		

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Baltimore	70	48	.593	—	—	6-4	W-2	34-25	36-23
Yankees	69	49	.585	1	+4	6-4	L-1	31-27	38-22
Boston	61	54	.530	7½	2½	5-5	L-3	27-30	34-24
Tampa Bay	58	58	.500	11	6	4-6	L-2	30-31	28-27
Toronto	54	63	.462	15½	10½	4-6	L-1	29-30	25-33

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	68	49	.581	—	—	3-7	W-1	35-20	33-29
Minnesota	65	51	.560	2½	+1	7-3	L-1	34-22	31-29
Kansas City	65	53	.551	3½	—	6-4	W-1	38-25	27-28
Detroit	55	63	.466	13½	10	3-7	L-3	26-31	29-32
Chicago	28	91	.235	41	37½	1-9	L-3	17-42	11-49

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Houston	61	55	.526	—	—	6-4	W-4	32-26	29-29
Seattle	62	56	.525	—	3	6-4	W-3	36-26	26-30
Texas	55	62	.470	6½	9½	3-7	W-1	31-27	24-35
Los Angeles	51	66	.436	10½	13½	4-6	L-2	26-35	25-31
Oakland	49	69	.415	13	16	5-5	W-1	29-30	20-39

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

Yankees 8, Texas 0, 1st game

Texas 9, **Yankees** 4, 2nd game

Seattle 4, **Mets** 0

Oakland 1, Toronto 0

San Francisco 3, Detroit 1

Houston 5, Boston 4

Cleveland 2, Minnesota 1

Washington 5, L.A. Angels 4, 10 inn.

Kansas City 8, St. Louis 3

Cubs 3, White Sox 1

Baltimore 7, Tampa Bay 5

Sunday

Texas at **Yankees**, 1:35

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Philadelphia	69	48	.590	—	—	4-6	L-2	38-21	31-27
Atlanta	61	55	.526	7½	—	4-6	W-1	32-26	29-29
Mets	61	56	.521	8	½	4-6	L-2	30-29	31-27
Washington	54	64	.458	15½	8	5-5	W-2	28-31	26-33
Miami	43	75	.364	26½	19	3-7	L-3	23-39	20-36

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	67	49	.578	—	—	6-4	W-5	33-21	34-28
St. Louis	60	58	.508	8	2	4-6	L-1	31-27	29-31
Chicago	59	60	.496	9½	3½	8-2	W-4	32-27	27-33
Pittsburgh	56	60	.483	11	5	2-8	L-6	27-31	29-29
Cincinnati	56	61	.479	11½	5½	4-6	L-2	28-31	28-30

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	68	49	.581	—	—	5-5	W-2	37-22	31-27
San Diego	66	52	.559	2½	+4	9-1	W-7	30-29	36-23
Arizona	65	53	.551	3½	+3	8-2	W-2	33-26	32-27
San Francisco	61	58	.513	8	1½	8-2	W-4	35-23	26-35
Colorado	43	75	.364	25½	19	5-5	L-1	26-32	17-43

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

Seattle 4, **Mets** 0

San Francisco 3, Detroit 1

San Diego 9, Miami 8, 10 inn.

Milwaukee 1, Cincinnati 0

Washington 5, L.A. Angels 4, 10 inn.

Kansas City 8, St. Louis 3

Cubs 3, White Sox 1

Arizona 11, Philadelphia 1

Atlanta 11, Colorado 8

L.A. Dodgers 4, Pittsburgh 1

Sunday

Mets at Seattle, 7:10

Yankees 8, Rangers 0, 1st Gm.

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Smith ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.268
Seager dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.271
Semien 2b	2	0	0	0	1	0	.244
Duran 2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.246
Jung 3b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.300
Langford cf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.240
Taveras cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.225
Lowe 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.261
Garcia rf	3	0	2	0	0	0	.212
Jankowski rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Grossman lf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.247
Heim c	3	0	0	0	1	0	.231
Totals	31	0	5	0	5	9	

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Verdugo lf	4	1	1	0	1	1	.237
Soto rf	3	2	1	1	2	1	.305
Judge dh	4	2	3	1	1	1	.325
Wells c	5	0	2	4	0	1	.252
Torres 2b	5	0	1	1	0	0	.235
Chisholm 3b-cf	4	1	2	1	1	2	.283
Volpe ss	5	0	0	0	0	2	.254
Rice 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.198
Grisham cf	0	1	0	0	1	0	.191
Cabrera 3b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.245
Totals	36	8	12	8	6	9	

Texas	000	000	000	—	0	5	0
Yankees	102	310	01x	—	8	12	0

LOB: Texas 9, New York 11. **2B:** García (18), Wells (12), Judge (26), Cabrera (9). **HR:** Chisholm (6), off Anderson. **RBIs:** Torres (44), Wells 4 (33), Judge (105), Soto (80), Chisholm (10). **Runners left in scoring position:** Texas 5 (Grossman, Smith, Langford, Heim 2); New York 6 (Volpe, Chisholm, Torres 2, Rice 2). **RISP:** Texas 0 for 4; New York 5 for 15. **GIDP:** Heim. **DP:** New York 1 (Cabrera, Torres, Rice).

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Eovaldi, L, 8-6	3.0	6	3	3	2	4	81	3.75
Burke	1.1	5	4	4	2	2	51	9.22
Anderson	3.2	1	1	1	2	3	57	7.54

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodón, W, 13-7	5.2	3	0	0	5	6	110	4.18
Marinaccio	2.1	1	0	0	0	3	32	2.53
Hill	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	11	2.91

T: 2:57.

Astros 5, Red Sox 4

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Altuve 2b	5	0	0	0	0	0	.299
Bregman 3b	4	2	2	1	1	0	.258
Alvarez lf	4	2	2	3	1	0	.304
Dubón lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.259
Díaz dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.300
Peña ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.269
Caratini c	4	0	2	0	0	0	.275
Dezenzo 1b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.313
Meyers cf	4	0	0	0	0	4	.230
McCormick rf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.205
Totals	37	5	10	5	2	9	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Duran lf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.293
W.Abreu rf	4	0	1	2	0	1	.269
Yoshida dh	4	1	1	0	1	1	.279
Devers 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.300
D.Jansen c	4	1	1	1	0	1	.389
Smith 1b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.232
Refsnyder ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.298
Sogard 2b	3	0	0	0	0	3	.280
González ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.279
Rafaela cf	3	1	1	0	0	2	.260
Hamilton ss	2	0	0	0	1	0	.255
Totals	33	4	6	4	1	15	

Houston	100	002	110	—	5	10	0
Boston	000	010	120	—	4	6	0

LOB: Houston 7, Boston 3. **2B:** Devers (30). **HR:** Alvarez (23), off Winckowski; Alvarez (24), off Keller; Bregman (16), off Keller; Dezenzo (1), off Kelly; D.Jansen (2), off Arrighetti; Yoshida (7), off Arrighetti. **RBIs:** Alvarez 3 (62), Bregman (54), Dezenzo (1), D.Jansen (3), Yoshida (38), W.Abreu 2 (44). **SB:** Hamilton (29), Duran (29). **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 2 (Altuve, Meyers); Boston 2 (González, Duran). **RISP:** Houston 0 for 2; Boston 1 for 5.

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Arrighetti, W, 5-10	7.0	2	2	2	1	13	92	5.14
B.Abreu, H, 29	1.0	3	2	2	0	1	16	2.76
Hader, S, 25-26	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	16	3.68

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Winckowski	3.0	2	1	1	0	1	38	3.42
Keller, L, 0-1	4.0	6	3	3	2	6	74	5.66
Kelly	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	17	2.60
Martin	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	22	3.18

T: 2:30. **A:** 35,443 (37,755).

Rangers 9, Yankees 4, 2nd Gm.

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Smith 3b	5	0	2	1	0	2	.270
Seager ss	5	1	2	3	0	0	.273
Semien 2b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.244
Jung dh	5	0	1	0	0	3	.291
Langford lf	5	1	2	0	0	0	.243

POP QUIZ

From Rich Ackerman of CBS Sports Radio and Fox Sports: Name the major league ballpark that appears in the 1993 film "Sleepless in Seattle."

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S QUESTION: KEITH HERNANDEZ APPEARED IN THE TV SHOW "LAW & ORDER" AS DREW HARDING, A RETIRED BALLPLAYER. SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO: KENDAVIDOFF4@GMAIL.COM

Cubs 3, White Sox 1

Chicago (N)	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Happ lf	4	0	1	0	1	1	.229
Busch 1b	4	0	1	0	1	1	.262
Suzuki rf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.266
Bellinger dh	3	1	1	0	2	0	.279
Paredes 3b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.190
Hoerner 2b	4	1	1	0	1	0	.256
Swanson ss	4	1	2	0	0	0	.233
Crow-Armstrong cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.212
Amaya c	4	0	2	0	0	0	.217
Totals	35	3	9	3	6	3	

Chicago (A)	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Sosa 2b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.224
Robert cf	5	0	0	0	0	4	.198
Benintendi lf	5	0	0	0	0	3	.211
Vaughn 1b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.236
Sheets dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.222
Vargas 3b	2	1	0	0	2	0	.083
Lee c	4	0	2	0	0	1	.217
Julks rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.231
Baldwin ss	4	0	1	1	0	1	.211
Totals	36	1	7	1	3	13	

Chicago (N)	000 010 020	—	3	9	2
Chicago (A)	010 000 000	—	1	7	0

E: Hoerner (7), Neris (1). **LOB:** Chicago (N) 12, Chicago (A) 11. **2B:** Busch (23), Amaya (7), Paredes (3). **RBIs:** Paredes (8), Amaya 2 (23), Baldwin (5). **SB:** Julks (5). **S:** Crow- **RISP:** Chicago (N) 1 for 9; Chicago (A) 1 for 10.

Chicago (N)	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Steele	6.0	6	1	0	2	8	101	3.16
Hodge, W, 1-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	2.36
López, H, 1	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	22	5.11
Neris, S, 17-	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	3.43
21								

Chicago (A)	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Flexen	4.0	3	0	0	4	1	78	5.34
Shuster	2.0	3	1	1	0	1	37	4.47
Anderson	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	18	6.43
Kuhl, L, 0-2	0.1	3	2	2	1	0	19	3.89
Leone	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	9	6.11
Wilson	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	6	5.73

T: 2:56. A: 38,341 (40,241).

Nationals 5, Angels 4

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Stefanic 2b	4	0	0	1	0	1	.316
Neto ss	5	1	3	1	0	1	.267
O'Hoppe c	3	1	0	0	2	0	.260
Pillar cf	5	0	1	0	2	2	.277
Ward lf	5	2	2	0	0	0	.233
Rendon 3b	5	0	2	0	0	1	.250
Adell rf	4	0	2	0	1	0	.206
Drury 1b	3	0	1	2	0	0	.159
Thaiss dh	4	0	0	0	1	1	.240
Totals	38	4	11	4	4	5	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Call rf	4	0	2	1	0	1	.421
García 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.290
Yepez 1b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.322
Wood lf	4	2	2	2	0	1	.269
Ruiz c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.223
Abrams pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	.249
Tena 3b	4	0	2	2	0	0	.500
Blankenhorn dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	.125
Young cf	2	1	1	0	1	0	.247
Núñez ss	1	0	1	0	0	0	.211
Totals	30	5	9	5	1	2	

Los Angeles	010 120 000	0	—	4	11	0
Washington	011 000 200	1	—	5	9	0

No outs when winning run scored. **LOB:** Los Angeles 10, Washington 2. **2B:** Pillar (11), Neto (26), Young (17), Wood (4). **HR:** Neto (17), off Corbin; Wood (4), off Canning. **RBIs:** Drury 2 (10), Neto (6), Pillar (33), Wood 2 (25), Call (10), Tena 2 (2). **SB:** Neto (21), Young (27). **SF:** Drury. **S:** Núñez 2. **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 6 (Thaiss 2, Drury, Adell, Pillar, Stefani); Washington 1 (García). **RISP:** Los Angeles 1 for 14; Washington 3 for 6. **DP:** Los Angeles 2 (Drury, Neto, Drury; Stefani, Neto, Drury); Washington 2 (Call, García, Call; Tena, García, Yepez).

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Canning	7.0	8	4	4	0	0	88	5.11
Strickland	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	19	3.40
Crouse	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	23	3.60
Contreras, L, 1-2	0.0	1	1	0	0	0	2	3.74

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Corbin	4.0	8	4	4	3	2	95	5.98
Salazar	2.0	1	0	0	1	0	21	2.25
Rainey	1.0	0	0	0	1	10	5.82	
Ferrer	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	11	9.39
Law, W, 7-2	2.0	1	0	0	0	1	23	2.91

T: 2:50. A: 22,183 (41,376).

Royals 8, Cardinals 3

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Donovan lf	5	1	1	0	0	0	.269
Burleson dh	5	0	1	0	0	2	.277
Contreras c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.261
Arenado 3b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.271
Nothbaar cf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.227
Goldschmidt 1b	2	1	1	2	1	1	.232
Gorman 2b	4	0	3	0	0	0	.206
Pham rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.300
Crawford ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.169
Totals	35	3	10	2	2	10	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
García 2b	5	1	1	1	0	0	.238
Witt ss	4	1	2	3	1	1	.347
Pasquantino dh	5	0	0	0	0	0	.264
Peréz 1b	3	1	1	2	1	1	.280
DeJong 3b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.238
Melendez lf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.203
Fermin c	3	0	1	1	0	0	.299
Hampson rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.248
a-McCarthy ph-rf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.195
1-Blanco pr-rf	0	1	0	0	0	0	.229
Isbel cf	4	3	3	1	0	0	.228
Totals	35	8	12	8	4	4	

St. Louis	020 000 010	—	3	10	2
Kansas City	001 001 42x	—	8	12	2

E: Contreras (3), Gorman (10), Fermin (3), García (11). **LOB:** St. Louis 8, Kansas City (7). **2B:** Donovan (25), Frazier (9), Witt (11), Isbel (7). **HR:** Goldschmidt (18), off Wacha; Pérez (21), off King. **RBIs:** Goldschmidt 2 (47), Witt 3 (87), Fermin (31), García (48), Pérez 2 (78), Isbel (30). **SB:** Melendez (3), Isbel (8), García (28). **CS:** Witt (11), Melendez (3). **RISP:** St. Louis 1 for 8; Kansas City 6 for 15. **DP:** Kansas City 2 (Hampson, Pérez, Hampson; García, DeJong, Pérez, García).

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pallante	5.2	3	2	1	4	4	104	4.21
Fernandez, L,	0.1	4	3	3	0	0	18	3.38
1-4, BS, 1-3								
King	0.2	2	1	1	0	0	12	8.4
Armstrong	1.1	3	2	2	0	0	22	6.00

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wacha, W, 9-6	7.0	5	2	2	6	92	3.50	
Bubic	0.2	3	1	1	0	2	21	2.19
Erceg, S, 1-1	1.1	2	0	0	0	2	25	0.00

T: 2:45. A: 36,799 (38,427).

Orioles 7, Rays 5

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Cowser lf	6	2	3	0	0	0	.254
Santander dh-rf	3	0	0	0	2	2	.243
Henderson ss	5	1	3	0	0	0	.286
Rutschman c	5	1	3	1	0	0	.267
Mountcastle 1b	5	0	3	0	1	1	.273
Mullins cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.218
Slater rf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.333
O'Hearn ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.273
Dominguez p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Holliday 2b	4	2	1	1	1	1	.171
Urias 3b	5	1	2	0	0	0	.238
Totals	42	7	15	7	3	8	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
DeLuca cf-rf	1	0	1	0	0	3	.190
Misner ph	4	0	0	0	1	0	.000
B.Lowe 2b	5	0	0	0	0	1	.256
Diaz 1b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.271
Morel dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.152
Carlson rf-lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.238
J.Lowe lf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.236
Siri ph-cf	0	0	0	1	1	0	.203
Caballero ss-3b	4	2	2	1	0	0	.238
Mead 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.241
Walls ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.156
Jackson c	2	1	1	1	0	0	.117
Rortvedt ph	0	0	0	0	1	0	.258
Totals	34	5	7	4	4	8	

Baltimore	310 000 030	—	7	15	1
Tampa Bay	000 030 110	—	5	7	1

E: Rutschman (3), Jackson (3). **LOB:** Baltimore 12, Tampa Bay 6. **2B:** Rutschman 2 (16), Cowser (17), Jackson (6), DeLuca (9). **HR:** Holliday (5), off Alexander; Urias (6), off Poche; Caballero (8), off Smith. **RBIs:** Rutschman (68), Mountcastle 3 (59), Holliday (13), Urias 2 (20), Jackson (12), DeLuca (22), Caballero (31), Siri (38). **SB:** J.Lowe (11), Caballero (32). **RISP:** Baltimore 3 for 9; Tampa Bay 3 for 6.



The *POST* Line



MLB		
Sunday		
Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
YANKEES	\$120-142	Rangers
MARINERS	\$100-118	Mets
NATIONALS	\$120-142	Angels
Astros	\$118-138	RED SOX
BLUE JAYS	\$132-156	Athletics
Orioles	-102-116	RAYS
Padres	\$180-215	MARLINS
Guardians	\$100-118	TWINS
Braves	\$154-184	ROCKIES
GIANTS	\$144-172	Tigers
Phillies	\$100-118	D'BACKS
DODGERS	\$235-290	Pirates
BREWERS	OFF	Reds

Home teams in CAPS

Women's Olympic Basketball

Sunday- Final		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
United States	15.5 (156.5)	France

NFL Preseason		
Sunday		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
COLTS	2 (38)	Broncos
Cowboys	4 (35)	RAMS

WNBA		
Thursday		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Liberty	11.5 (168.5)	SPARKS
Mercury	2.5 (166.5)	SKY
LYNX	10.5 (156.5)	Mystics

CFL		
Sunday		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
ELKS	1.5 (49)	Lions

SPORTS SHORTS

MLB: Guardians snap losing skid

Steven Kwan homered on the second pitch of the game and **Bo Naylor** also went deep for the Guardians in a 2-1 victory over the Twins on Saturday in Minneapolis to end their season-long seven-game losing streak and create some space in the narrowing AL Central race.

● In Denver, **Matt Olson** had two homers and a career-high six RBIs, **Marcell Ozuna** and **Jorge Soler** homered, and the Braves broke a six-game losing streak with an 11-8 victory over the Rockies.

● In Phoenix, **Jake McCarthy** hit two home runs, **Ketel Marte** got his 30th of the season before leaving with a left ankle contusion and the Diamondbacks beat the Phillies 11-1.

● In St. Petersburg, Fla., **Ramón Urías** hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning and the Orioles defeated the Rays 7-5.

● In San Francisco, **Brett Wisely** hit a two-run double in the fifth inning and the Giants beat the Tigers 3-1.

● In Miami, **Luis Arraez** had two hits and drove in three runs, including a go-ahead RBI groundout in the 10th inning, and the surging Padres beat the Marlins 9-8. The Padres have won seven straight and 16 of their last 18 games.

● In Kansas City, **Bobby Witt Jr.** drove in three runs to lead the Royals to an 8-3 win over the Cardinals.

NFL: Williams has promising debut

Caleb Williams showed signs of promise in the No. 1 draft pick's preseason debut, overseeing a pair of drives ending in

field goals in the Bears' 33-6 victory over the Bills in Orchard Park, N.Y..

The 22-year-old out of Southern California completed four of seven attempts for 95 yards, and also converted a third-and-9 by bolting out of the pocket for a 13-yard gain.

● In Inglewood, Calif., **Sam Howell** threw for 130 yards and a touchdown in his Seattle debut and the Seahawks defeated the Chargers 16-3 in coach **Jim Harbaugh's** first game with Los Angeles.

● In Minneapolis, first-round pick **J.J. McCarthy** rebounded from an ill-advised throw that was intercepted by Las Vegas starting cornerback **Jack Jones** with two touchdown passes against backups, a mixed but promising preseason debut for the Vikings' future franchise quarterback in a 24-23 victory over the Raiders.

● In Cleveland, **Jordan Love** made the most of limited playing time, throwing a 65-yard touchdown pass to **Dontayvion Wicks** on Green Bay's third play as the Packers rolled to a 23-10 exhibition win over the Browns.

● In Cincinnati, Bengals quarterback **Joe Burrow**, in his first game action in the nearly nine months since tearing a ligament in his throwing hand, directed a 73-yard drive, tossed a touchdown pass to **Tee Higgins** and then walked off the field. The Buccaneers would eventually win the game 17-14.

GOLF: Kuchar takes Wyndham lead

Needing a victory to keep his FedExCup playoffs streak alive, **Matt Kuchar** shot his second straight 6-under 64 to take the second-round lead in the rain-delayed Wyndham Championship in Greensboro, N.C.

ACTION TOP PLAY

Scoreboard ablaze in Bx.

By WILLIAM SCHWARTZ
actionnetwork.com

After a rainy series loss against the Angels, the Yankees are hosting another American League West foe, the defending World Series champion Rangers. With the Yankees in an ultra-tight battle for the American League East crown, every game is a big one, so Aaron Boone will have to get creative managing this one after a Saturday doubleheader.

With the two bullpens likely to have high usage Saturday, both managers will hope to be able to lean on their starting pitchers Sunday. For the Yankees, that's Marcus Stroman, who is ice cold. He has allowed 12 runs in his past two starts across just six innings of work. Stroman will be facing a former Yan-

kee, Andrew Heaney. It's been an uneven campaign for the veteran lefty, and his Statcast metrics imply that he's getting a bit lucky (other than his newfound ability to avoid walking batters).

After a strange few days, New York's offense should be ready to get back to the strong form it showed through the early stages of August. On the other side of things, it's impossible to trust Stroman now; even though not every start has been a total clunker like the past two, he's allowed three or more runs in eight of his past 10 starts. Expect the pitchers to struggle en route to a fun of-fensive game.

THE PLAY: Rangers-Yankees Over 8.5 runs

William Schwartz handicaps baseball for Action Network.

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2024			'24 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Rangers	Heaney (L)		4-11	3.98	7-15	0-0	0.00	1-3	0-1	15.1	6.46
Yankees	Stroman (R)	(1:35pm)	7-6	4.10	14-8	1-0	0.00	2-3	0-2	11.1	9.53
Mets	Severino		7-5	4.06	11-11	—	—	2-1	0-2	13.0	8.31
Mariners	Castillo (R)	(7:10pm)	9-11	3.48	11-13	—	—	1-1	1-1	18.0	3.00
Angels	Daniel (R)		1-3	6.04	1-4	—	—	—	0-2	13.0	9.75
Nationals	Gore (L)	(11:35am)	7-9	4.66	11-12	0-0	4.91	0-0	1-1	15.1	7.63
Tigers	Montero (R)		2-5	5.62	4-4	—	—	—	1-2	18.0	5.00
Giants	Birdsong (R)	(4:05pm)	3-1	4.73	4-3	—	—	—	2-1	13.0	6.23
Astros	Brown (R)		9-7	3.98	10-12	—	—	—	1-1	17.2	3.06
Red Sox	Paxton (L)	(1:35pm)	9-3	4.42	15-5	0-1	13.50	8-5	2-1	15.1	4.70
Athletics	Sears (L)		9-8	4.35	11-12	0-0	0.00	1-0	2-1	20.0	3.60
Blue Jays	Bassitt (R)	(1:37pm)	9-10	3.95	9-14	0-0	1.12	2-0	1-2	16.0	5.62
Orioles	Suárez (R)		5-4	3.66	8-7	0-0	1.80	0-0	0-1	11.2	6.94
Rays	Springs (L)	(1:40pm)	0-1	6.23	1-1	0-0	0.00	3-0	0-1	11.2	5.40
Guardians	Bibee (R)		9-4	3.48	17-5	1-0	1.46	1-0	2-0	16.2	1.62
Twins	Festa (R)	(2:10pm)	2-2	5.55	2-2	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-2	15.0	5.40
Padres	Cease (R)		11-8	3.40	15-9	0-0	1.50	0-0	2-0	15.2	0.57
Marlins	Meyer (R)	(1:40pm)	2-2	5.10	3-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-2	13.0	9.00
Reds	Lodolo (L)		9-4	3.93	12-6	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-1	18.1	5.89
Brewers	Rea (R)	(2:10pm)	10-3	3.38	14-5	1-0	3.00	5-0	1-0	17.1	1.04
Braves	Schwellenbach (R)		4-5	4.04	5-6	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	20.0	3.15
Rockies	Freeland (L)	(3:10pm)	3-4	5.65	7-5	0-2	11.70	1-4	1-1	15.2	5.74
Phillies	Sánchez (L)		8-7	3.27	11-11	1-0	0.00	1-1	1-2	17.2	5.09
D'Backs	TBD	(4:10pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pirates	Falter (L)		5-7	3.87	8-11	0-1	11.25	0-1	1-1	9.1	3.86
Dodgers	Glasnow (R)	(4:10pm)	9-6	3.54	13-8	0-1	1.50	0-1	1-1	18.0	4.00

*REC: Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Banner day for Tanner, Guards

Someone give Cleveland the Heimlich.

The Guardians built a comfortable lead atop the AL Central but have since choked it away. They had lost seven straight heading into Saturday night's game at Minnesota. Tanner Bibee has not been part of the problem. Bibee has allowed just three runs in his past 16 2/3 innings. The surging Twins have closed the gap and were 1 1/2 games back prior to last night. David Festa has been just as efficient as Bibee. The rookie has given up three runs in his past 14 1/3. We will

take Bibee and the Guardians for \$50.

-\$

Happy Dogust! Played the road 'dog A's and they slipped past the Jays, 1-0. Yariel Rodriguez was good (1 run, 5 2/3 innings), but Osvaldo Bido was better (2 hits over six). The umpires took a look at Brent Rooker's double and turned it into the only run of the game after watching it hit the top of the wall and bounce back on the field. We are bouncing back as well. Down -591 joerudis.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups		HOME	AWAY				
	TODAY Aug. 11	MON Aug. 12	TUE Aug. 13	WED Aug. 14	THU Aug. 15	FRI Aug. 16	SAT Aug. 17
	Texas 1:35 YES WFAN 660 AM/ 101.9 FM	White Sox 8:10 YES WFAN	White Sox 8:10 YES WFAN	White Sox 8:10 Prime Video WFAN	NO GAME	Det. 6:40 YES WFAN	Det. 1:10 YES WFAN
	Seattle 7:10 ESPN WCBS 880 AM	NO GAME	Oak. 7:10 SNY WCBS	Oak. 7:10 SNY WCBS	Oak. 1:10 SNY WCBS	Mia. 7:10 SNY WCBS	Mia. 4:10 SNY WCBS
	Exhibition- Saturday Houston 1:00 TV: Channel 5 Radio: WFAN- 101.9 FM						
	Exhibition- Saturday Carolina 7:00 TV: Channel 2 Radio: WAXQ- 104.3 FM						
	NO GAME	NO GAME	NO GAME	NO GAME	L.A. 9:00 ESPN	NO GAME	Las Vegas 4:00 CBS
Saturday, Aug. 24		Tuesday			Monday, Aug. 19		
	Charlotte FC 7:30 Apple TV+		Tigres UANL 8:00 Apple TV+		Chelsea 7:00 MSG		

ODDS & ENDS

NASCAR Cook Out 400 Richmond Raceway Odds to win

DRIVER	ODDS
Denny Hamlin	+475
Christopher Bell	+475
Kyle Larson	+525
Martin Truex Jr.	+550
Ryan Blaney	12/1
Chase Elliott	12/1
Joey Logano	12/1
William Byron	14/1
Brad Keselowski	16/1
Tyler Reddick	16/1
Chris Buescher	18/1
Ty Gibbs	20/1
Josh Berry	25/1
Alex Bowman	30/1
Ross Chastain	30/1
Bubba Wallace	30/1
Kyle Busch	30/1
Austin Cindric	100/1
Michael McDowell	125/1
Chase Briscoe	125/1
Daniel Suarez	125/1
Noah Gragson	150/1
Carson Hocevar	150/1
John H. Nemechek	150/1
Erik Jones	200/1
Todd Gilliland	200/1
Austin Dillon	250/1
Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	250/1
Ryan Preece	250/1

SUMMER OLYMPICS Women's basketball gold medal final USA vs. France

FULL-GAME MONEYLINE	ODDS
USA	-1400
France	+800
1ST-HALF SPREAD	ODDS
USA -7.5	-130
France +7.5	-110
1ST-HALF MONEYLINE	ODDS
USA	-600
France	+333
POINTS	O/U
A'ja Wilson (USA)	19.5
Breanna Stewart (USA)	17.5
Gabby Williams (France)	14.5
Jackie Young (USA)	12.5
Marine Johannes (France)	11.5
Valeriane Ayayi (France)	8.5
Iliana Rupert (France)	8.5
Brittney Griner (USA)	7.5
Napheesa Collier (USA)	7.5
REBOUNDS	O/U
A'ja Wilson (USA)	10.5
Breanna Stewart (USA)	6.5
Marieme Badiane (France)	5.5
Alyssa Thomas (USA)	5.5
Napheesa Collier (USA)	5.5
Iliana Rupert (France)	4.5
Brittney Griner (USA)	4.5

ACTION BET SMART

Keselowski set to Cook at Richmond

By NICK STERLING
actionnetwork.com

The NASCAR Cup Series is back following a two-week break for the Summer Olympics. The Cup Series returns with a trip to Richmond Raceway for the Cook Out 400.

It'll be the first time the Cup Series visits a track twice in the 2024 season after Richmond hosted a race on Easter Sunday. Denny Hamlin took advantage of a late caution to score the victory.

BetMGM has Hamlin as one of the co-favorites (+475) for Sunday's race alongside Christopher Bell. Kyle Larson (+525) and Martin Truex Jr. (+550) are not far behind.

Here are my best bets:

Brad Keselowski top-5 finish (+250, bet365)

Keselowski came agonizingly close to winning the Brickyard 400, as it appeared he saved enough fuel to capture the win. However, a late caution forced him to pit from the lead.

Surprisingly, he has only two top-10 finishes in his last seven races, but that should change at Richmond, where he has six top-fives and 15 top-10s in 29 career starts.

He might have had the car to beat in last year's Summer race where he led a field-high 102 laps. Keselowski has been a consistent top-10 contender at the short flat tracks in 2024.

Richmond has long been one of his best tracks. I expect him to break out of his mini-slump with a strong top-five run.

Josh Berry top-10 finish (+120, bet365)

There aren't many surprises among the best drivers at short flat tracks in 2024. The one surprise that stands out is Berry.

Berry has excelled on the track type, posting the seventh-best speed across the five races. He has that good of a mark despite a rough performance at Phoenix. Since then, he hasn't been worse than ninth in total speed.

Berry barely missed a top 10 in the Richmond Spring race, but his average running position was eighth. He finished seventh

and third at the last two short flat tracks. Keep an eye out for the No. 4 car on Sunday. Kevin Harvick took that car to victory lane in the 2022 Summer race at Richmond.

Joey Logano to win Group B (+240, DraftKings)

Logano is on pace to have his worst season with Penske Racing, but there have been a few highlights. His first great run of the season came with a runner-up finish at Richmond.

Richmond has long been a great track for Logano. Over the last eight races, he has one finish worse than seventh. I expect him to contend for another top-five finish as he battles Ryan Blaney, Chase Elliott and William Byron.

Blaney and Elliott have better numbers on short flat tracks in 2024, but neither can match Logano's consistency at Richmond.

Byron has been in contention at the track, but his short-flat track speed has been lacking. All in all, Logano should pace this group of four drivers.

Winning manufacture: Toyota (+110, DraftKings)

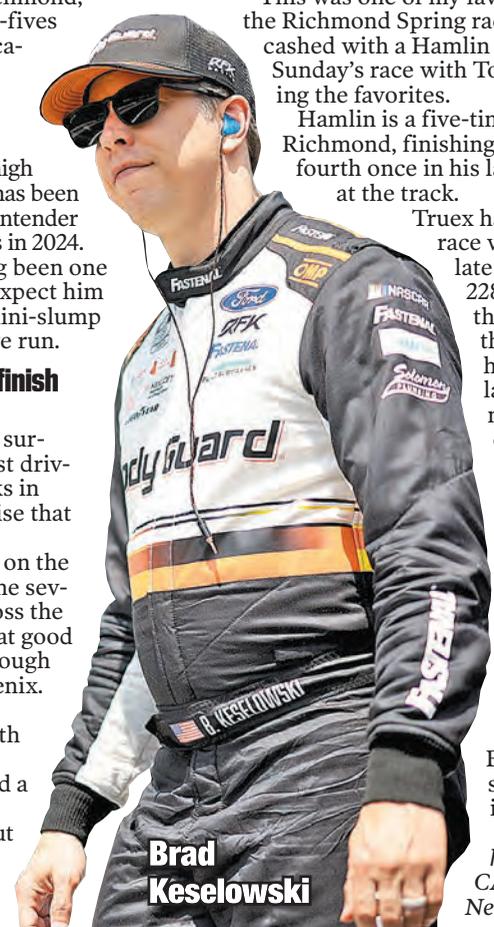
This was one of my favorite bets from the Richmond Spring race, and it cashed with a Hamlin win. We enter Sunday's race with Toyota representing the favorites.

Hamlin is a five-time winner at Richmond, finishing worse than fourth once in his last seven starts at the track.

Truex had the Spring race won before a late caution. He led 228 laps, marking the 10th time in the last 15 races he's led 80-plus laps at Richmond. Don't count out Bell, who has been the driver to beat on short flat tracks in 2024.

There's a great chance the winner comes from that group. Tyler Reddick, Ty Gibbs and Bubba Wallace should also be in contention.

Nick Sterling handicaps NASCAR for Action Network.



Brad Keselowski

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB	11:30 a.m.	Angels at Nationals	Roku
	1:30 p.m.	Orioles at Rays	MLBN
	1:35 p.m.	Rangers at Yankees	YES, WFAN (660 AM/101.9 FM)
	4:30 p.m.	Phillies at Diamondbacks (in progress)	MLBN
	7:10 p.m.	Mets at Mariners	ESPN, WCBS (880 AM)
Olympics	3 p.m.	Closing Ceremony	NBC
NFL Exhibition	1 p.m.	Broncos at Colts	NFLN
	4:30 p.m.	Cowboys at Rams	NFLN
Golf	1 p.m.	PGA Tour: The Wyndham Championship, Final Round	Golf
	3 p.m.	USGA: U.S. Women's Amateur	Golf
	3 p.m.	PGA Tour: The Wyndham Championship, Final Round	CBS
	6 p.m.	Champions Tour: The Boeing Classic, Final Round	Golf
Tennis	1 p.m.	ATP/WTA National Bank Open – Semifinals	Tennis
	6 p.m.	ATP/WTA National Bank Open – Semifinals	Tennis
Basketball	1 p.m.	BIG3: Week 9	CBS
Football	7 p.m.	CFL: B.C. at Edmonton	CBSN
Soccer	7:30 a.m.	SPFL: Celtic at Hibernian	CBSN
Auto Racing	10 a.m.	FIM Motocross: The MX2	CBSN
	11 a.m.	FIM Motocross: The MXGP	CBSN
	6 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: The Cook Out 400	USA
Horse Racing	Noon	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
	1 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS1
	2 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS2
	3:30 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS1
	4 p.m.	CrossFit Games	ESPN
Lacrosse	2 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Team Kennedy vs. Team Moreno	ESPN2
	4:30 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Team North vs. Team Apuzzo	ESPN2
Little League Softball	9 a.m.	World Series 5th-Place: TBD	ESPN
	Noon	World Series 3rd-Place: TBD	ESPN2
	3 p.m.	World Series Championship: TBD	ABC

In the third of a six-part draft preview series, Fantasy Insanity analyzes quarterbacks. Next week: running backs.

QUARTERBACKS are the jumbo shrimp of fantasy football. The strategy for drafting them in fantasy is the parking in a driveway to real-life's driving on a parkway.

It is backward and upside down. It's like wearing a tie-dyed tee to church, or dress shoes to the theme park, or a cummerbund to a barbecue.

The problem is this: There are enough useable quarterbacks to go around in most leagues. And with top QBs going off the board as early as the second or third

round, if you take one there, you are chasing the running back and wide receiver positions for the rest of your draft. When you do that, you're dressing your team poorly.

The best QBs simply cost too much. Drafting one that early is like buying a souvenir T-shirt. Despite the hefty price, it falls apart as soon as you wash it.

Maybe your overly expensive QB won't fall apart, but drafting one high increases the likelihood the

AVOID QB RUSH

Don't spend too much on fantasy signal-callers



rest of your roster could shrink upon the first wash.

So Josh Allen, Jalen Hurts, Lamar Jackson, Patrick Mahomes — we head into a draft knowing they are out of reach. They're staying on the draft shelf. Let someone else fall for that fantasy tourist trap.

We're comfortable playing the waiting game. If we happen to get off to a strong start at RB and WR, then, maybe, perhaps, we could look at Joe Burrow or Dak Prescott in Rounds 6-7, maybe.

These are still overpriced tourist fare, but not as overpriced, and the stronger material the rest of your draft is built with could give them some extra life.

But again, it is OK to wait because chances are Jordan Love will be there a round or two later. Or Kyler Murray.

The souvenirs keep getting cheaper, and the roster material keeps getting stronger. Sure, the design isn't quite as flashy, and maybe the other ones look better in the mirror, but these middle-round options can still help build a really nice fantasy outfit.

Miss out on all of these guys? No fear, there are plenty more still here. In fact, there are enough decent ones that we're

looking to grab two. That way we can platoon based on whoever has the better matchup or the hot hand.

Now, granted, there is more inherent risk the deeper you go in the draft at any position. There are fewer sure things, and even the surest of things this deep in the draft don't come with a high level of "sure." So having a backup is a good insurance policy in case one of our late picks goes belly-up.

Brock Purdy, Trevor Lawrence, Jared Goff, we're OK with any of these guys. In a given week, we feel like we can start them.

We're even willing to go back to the Aaron Rodgers well again. We're not at all worried about his recovery from an Achilles injury, and we're only marginally

worried about his age. What worries us most is the fact he has no track record with the Jets, and worse, this Jets coaching staff has no history of producing productive QBs.

Then why draft him? Because worries aren't the same as warnings. Plus ... discount!

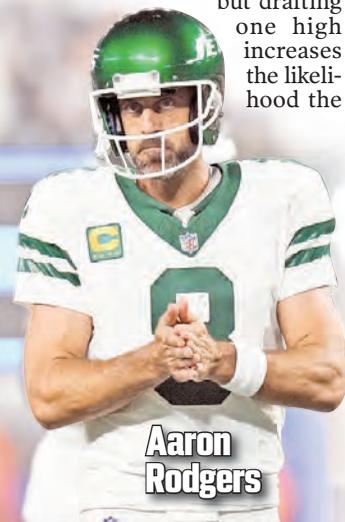
For those fantasy managers agnostic enough to stomach the pick, Deshaun Watson could actually deliver value at his deep ADP (156.5). But be warned, it is the fantasy equivalent of walking into an elementary school with a vulgar T-shirt. It just makes you feel icky and embarrassed.

Kirk Cousins, Matthew Stafford, Tua Tagovailoa, Justin Herbert, all these guys are solid and basically free.

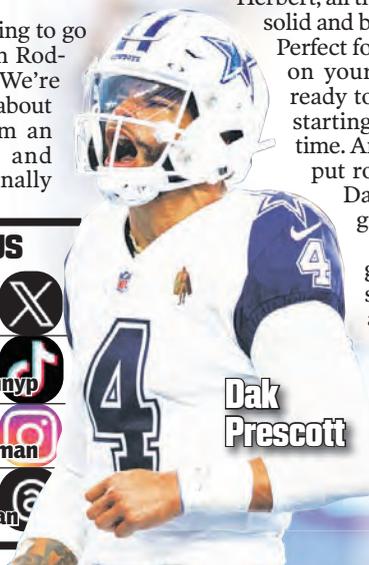
Perfect for a QB2 spot on your roster and ready to slide into a starting spot at any time. And we would put rookie Jayden Daniels in this group.

So, don't go souvenir shopping for an expensive QB. Wait until late before you tee up your QB pick.

dloftis@nypost.com



Aaron Rodgers



Dak Prescott



Jordan Love

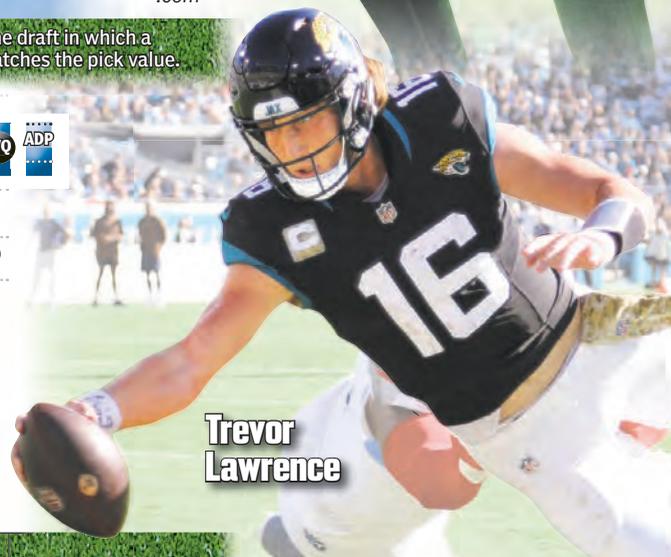
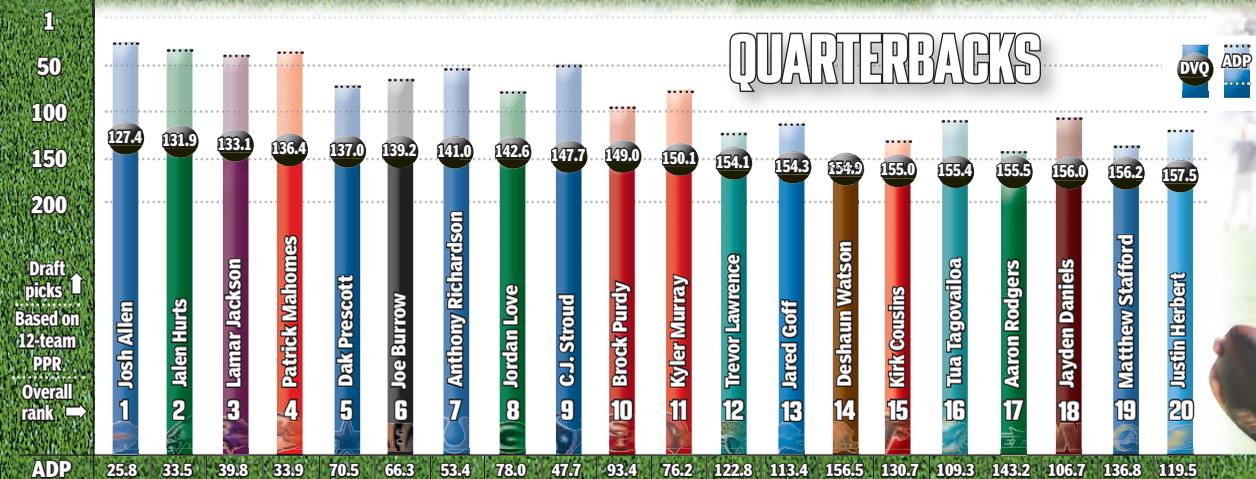
Bill Kostroun/Getty Images (2); USA TODAY Sports

Insanity insider

The Madman's DVQ rates the quarterbacks

DVQ calculates the point in the draft in which a player's projected scoring matches the pick value.

QUARTERBACKS



Trevor Lawrence

Late-round quarterbacks could be worth the wait

HOW YOU navigate the quarterback position in drafts could be the difference between winning a fantasy football championship and going home empty-handed. In a superflex league, virtually all quarterbacks have a strong value. Even that third guy you take to handle your bye weeks if you just take a cursory glance at any superflex ADP. But in a league where you are only starting one quarterback, you need to understand that forcing value at the position with a high pick could be your undoing.

While everyone else is chasing that “Konami cheat code” mobile quarterback, you have to really evaluate that tier and decide whether it is truly right for you based on how your first few picks go. Are you sure that Josh Allen, who lost Stefon Diggs, is worth that early third-round pick? What about Jalen Hurts without Jason Kelce and in a new system that is expected to feature Saquon Barkley near the goal line? Suddenly the top tier of quarterbacks is littered with question marks.

You can go for the next tier of mobile guys like Anthony Richardson or Kyler Murray, but there are, obviously, some questions there regarding health. And then from there, you’re navigating the likes of C.J. Stroud, Jordan Love and Joe Burrow. These guys are all rock-solid options and can be considered at a reasonable cost, but are you getting any real edge over your competition, statistically speaking? Last season you saw Dak Prescott, who has a cur-

rent ADP of 75 (early-seventh round in a 12-team league), finish third overall in fantasy points, more than 20 points more than Stroud, Love or even Patrick Mahomes. Jared Goff, with his 106 ADP, finished seventh in fantasy points, ahead of both Mahomes and Stroud as well. Yes, these are last season’s totals with this season’s ADP, but Goff was an afterthought in drafts last year, as were guys like Brock Purdy, Tua Tagovailoa and Baker Mayfield, who all finished among the top 10 at the position.

The takeaway here is to figure out what is more important to you in your draft. If people are drafting high-end quarterbacks, you can either join the fray or grab high-end talent like Josh Jacobs, Michael Pittman or DK Metcalf instead. Stockpiling running backs and wide receivers or grabbing an elite tight end might just be the better way to go, especially when you see veteran quarterbacks like Goff or Matthew Stafford going so late. We’re not saying that either is a better quarterback than Mahomes, but is your team better off with Mahomes and Keon Coleman or Goff and Mike Evans?

These decisions can be made before your draft, but the questions are likely better answered once you’re in the war room and seeing what everyone else is doing. And if you go the cheaper route of Stafford or Goff and you want some quarterback upside, draft Will Levis late. If you look at what Tennessee is doing, he could be top 10 by the end of the year.

Howard Bender is the VP of operations and head of content at FantasyAlarm.com. Follow him on Twitter @rotobuzzguy and catch him on the award winning “Fantasy Alarm Radio Show” on the SiriusXM fantasy sports channel weekdays from 6-8 p.m. Go to FantasyAlarm.com for all your fantasy sports advice, player projections and average draft positions.

By **HOWARD BENDER**
FANTASY ALARM



Matthew Stafford

Corey Sipkin

Saturday's Olympic Medalists

ATHLETICS

Men's 4 x 400m Relay
GOLD: United States (Christopher Bailey, Vernon Norwood, Bryce Deadmon, Rai Benjamin, Quincy Wilson)
SILVER: Botswana (Bayapo Ndori, Busang Collen Kebinatshipi, Anthony Pesela, Letsile Tebogo)
BRONZE: Great Britain (Alex Haydock-Wilson, Matthew Hudson-Smith, Lewis Davey, Charles Dobson, Toby Harries, Samuel Reardon)

Men's 5000m

GOLD: Jakob Ingebrigtsen, Norway
SILVER: Ronald Kwemai, Kenya
BRONZE: Grant Fisher, United States

Men's 800m

GOLD: Emmanuel Wanyonyi, Kenya
SILVER: Marco Arop, Canada
BRONZE: Djamel Sedjati, Algeria

Men's High Jump

GOLD: Hamish Kerr, New Zealand
SILVER: Shelby McEwen, United States
BRONZE: Mutaz Essa Barshim, Qatar

Men's Marathon

GOLD: Tamirat Tola, Ethiopia
SILVER: Bashir Abdi, Belgium
BRONZE: Benson Kipruto, Kenya

Women's 100m Hurdles

GOLD: Masai Russell, United States
SILVER: Cyrena Samba-Mayela, France
BRONZE: Jasmine Camacho-Quinn, Puerto Rico

Women's 1500m

GOLD: Faith Kipyegon, Kenya
SILVER: Jessica Hull, Australia
BRONZE: Georgia Bell, Britain

Women's 4 x 400m Relay

GOLD: United States (Shamier Little, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, Gabrielle Thomas, Alexis Holmes, Kaylin Brown, Aaliyah Butler, Quanera Hayes)
SILVER: Netherlands (Lieve Klaver, Cathelijn Peeters, Lisanne de Witte, Femke Bol, Eveline Saalberg, Myrte van der Schoot)
BRONZE: Great Britain (Victoria Oshuruogu, Laviani Nielsen, Nicole Yeargin, Amber Anning, Yemi Mary John, Hannah Kelly, Lina Nielsen, Jodie Williams)

Women's Javelin Throw

GOLD: Haruka Kitaguchi, Japan
SILVER: Jo-Ane van Dyk, South Africa
BRONZE: Nikola Ogrodnikova, Czech Republic

BASKETBALL

Men

GOLD: United States
SILVER: France
BRONZE: Serbia

BREAKING

B-Boys
GOLD: Phil Wizard, Canada
SILVER: Dany Dann, France
BRONZE: Victor, United States

BOXING

Men's 57kg
GOLD: Abdumalik Khalokov, Uzbekistan
SILVER: Munarbek Seitbek Uulu, Kyrgyzstan
BRONZE: Charlie Senior, Australia
BRONZE: Javier Ibanez Diaz, Bulgaria

Men's +92kg

GOLD: Bakhodir Jalolov, Uzbekistan
SILVER: Ayoub Ghadfa Drissi El Aissaoui, Spain
BRONZE: Nelvie Raman Tiafack, Germany
BRONZE: Djamil-Dini Aboudou Moindze, France

Women's 57kg

GOLD: Yu Ting Lin, Taiwan
SILVER: Julia Szeremeta, Poland
BRONZE: Esra Yildiz Kahraman, Turkey
BRONZE: Nesthy Petecio, Philippines

Women's 75kg

GOLD: Qian Li, China
SILVER: Atheyna Bibeichi Bylon, Panama
BRONZE: Caitlin Parker, Australia
BRONZE: Cindy Winner Djankeu Ngamba, Refugee Olympic Team

SPORT CLIMBING

Women's Boulder & Lead
GOLD: Janja Garnbret, Slovenia
SILVER: Brooke Raboutou, United States
BRONZE: Jessica Pilz, Austria

CANOE SPRINT

Men's Kayak Single 1000m
GOLD: Josef Dostal, Czech Republic
SILVER: Adam Varga, Hungary
BRONZE: Balint Kopasz, Hungary

Women's Canoe Single 200m

GOLD: Katie Vincent, Canada
SILVER: Nevin Harrison, United States
BRONZE: Yarisleidis Cirilo Duboys, Cuba

Women's Kayak Single 500m

GOLD: Lisa Carrington, New Zealand
SILVER: Tamara Csipes, Hungary
BRONZE: Emma Aastrand Jorgensen, Denmark

CYCLING TRACK

Men's Madison

GOLD: Portugal (Iuri Leitao, Rui Oliveira)
SILVER: Italy (Simone Consonni, Elia Viviani)
SILVER: Denmark (Niklas Larsen, Michael Moerkov)

DIVING

Men's 10m Platform
GOLD: Yuan Cao, China
SILVER: Rikuto Tamai, Japan
BRONZE: Noah Williams, Great Britain

FOOTBALL

Women

GOLD: United States
SILVER: Brazil
BRONZE: Germany

GOLF

Women's Individual Stroke Play
GOLD: Lydia Ko, New Zealand
SILVER: Esther Henseleit, Germany
BRONZE: Xiyu Janet Lin, China

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

Group All-Around
GOLD: China (Xinyi Ding, Qiqi Guo, Ting Hao, Zhangjiayang Huang, Lanjing Wang)
SILVER: Israel (Shani Bakanov, Adar Friedmann, Romi Paritzki, Ofir Shaham, Diana Svertsov)
BRONZE: Italy (Martina Centofanti, Agnese Duranti, Alessia Maurelli, Daniela Mogorean, Laura Paris)

HANDBALL

Women

GOLD: Norway
SILVER: France
BRONZE: Denmark

MODERN PENTATHLON

Men's Individual

GOLD: Ahmed Elgendy, Egypt
SILVER: Taishu Sato, Japan
BRONZE: Giorgio Malan, Italy

ARTISTIC SWIMMING

Duet

GOLD: China (Liuyi Wang, Qianyi Wang)
SILVER: Great Britain (Kate Shortman, Isabelle Thorpe)
BRONZE: Netherlands (Bregje de Brouwer, Noortje de Brouwer)

TAEKWONDO

Men +80kg

GOLD: Arkan Salimi, Iran
SILVER: Caden Cunningham, Britain
BRONZE: Cheick Sallah Cisse, Ivory Coast
BRONZE: Rafael Alba, Cuba

Women +67kg

GOLD: Althea Laurin, France
SILVER: Svetlana Osipova, Uzbekistan
BRONZE: Dabin Lee, South Korea
BRONZE: Nafia Kus Aydin, Turkey

TABLE TENNIS

Women's Team

GOLD: China (Meng Chen, Yingsha Sun, Manyu Wang)
SILVER: Japan (Hina Hayata, Miwa Harimoto, Miu Hirano)
BRONZE: South Korea (Yubin Shin, Jihee Jeon, Eunhye Lee)

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Men

GOLD: Sweden (David Ahman, Jonatan Hellvig)
SILVER: Germany (Nils Ehlers, Clemens Wickler)
BRONZE: Norway (Anders Berntsen Mol, Christian Sandlie Soerum)

VOLLEYBALL

Men

GOLD: France
SILVER: Poland
BRONZE: United States

WEIGHTLIFTING

Men's 102kg

GOLD: Huanhua Liu, China
SILVER: Akbar Djuraev, Uzbekistan
BRONZE: Yauheni Tsikhantsou, AIN

Men's +102kg

GOLD: Lasha Talakhadze, Georgia
SILVER: Varazdat Lalayan, Armenia
BRONZE: Gor Minasyan, Bahrain

Women's 81kg

GOLD: Solfrid Eila Amena Koanda, Norway
SILVER: Sara Ahmed, Egypt
BRONZE: Neisi Patricia Dajomes Barrera, Ecuador

WATER POLO

Women

GOLD: Spain
SILVER: Australia
BRONZE: Netherlands

WRESTLING

Men's Freestyle 125kg

GOLD: Geno Petriashvili, Georgia
SILVER: Amir Hossein Zare, Iran
BRONZE: Taha Akgul, Turkey

Men's Freestyle 74kg

GOLD: Razambek Salambekovitch Jamalov, Uzbekistan

SILVER: Daichi Takatani, Japan
BRONZE: Kyle Douglas Dake, United States
BRONZE: Chermern Valiev, Albania

Olympic Medals Table

At Paris - Saturday				
316 of 329 total events				
Nation	G	S	B	Total
United States	38	42	42	122
China	39	27	24	90
Great Britain	14	22	27	63
France	16	24	22	62
Australia	18	18	14	50
Japan	18	12	13	43
Italy	11	13	15	39
Netherlands	13	7	12	32
Germany	12	11	8	31
South Korea	13	8	9	30
Canada	9	7	11	27
Brazil	3	7	10	20
New Zealand	9	7	2	18
Hungary	5	7	6	18
Spain	5	4	8	17
Uzbekistan	8	2	3	13
Ukraine	3	5	4	12
Sweden	4	4	3	11
Kenya	4	2	4	10
Iran	3	5	2	10
Belgium	3	1	6	10
Poland	1	3	5	9
Norway	4	1	3	8
Romania	3	4	1	8
Cuba	2	1	5	8
Denmark	1	2	5	8
Switzerland	1	2	5	8
Greece	1	1	6	8
Turkey	0	3	5	8
Ireland	4	0	3	7
Bulgaria	3	1	3	7
Taiwan	2	0	5	7
Israel	1	5	1	7
Kazakhstan	1	3	3	7
Georgia	3	2	1	6
Azerbaijan	2	2	2	6
Croatia	2	1	3	6
Jamaica	1	3	2	6
South Africa	1	3	2	6
Thailand	1	3	2	6
North Korea	0	2	4	6
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	4	6
India	0	1	5	6
Czech Republic	3	0	2	5
Austria	2	0	3	5
Ecuador	1	2	2	5
Mexico	0	3	2	5
Serbia	2	1	1	4
Hong Kong	2	0	2	4
Philippines	2	0	2	4
Portugal	1	2	1	4
Armenia	0	3	1	4
Lithuania	0	2	2	4
Moldova	0	1	3	4
Slovenia	2	1	0	3
Algeria	2	0	1	3
Indonesia	2	0	1	3
Ethiopia	1	2	0	3
Argentina	1	1	1	3
Bahrain	1	1	1	3
Egypt	1	1	1	3
Tunisia	1	1	1	3
Dominican Republic	1	0	2	3
Colombia	0	3	0	3
Tajikistan	0	0	3	3
Botswana	1	1	0	2
Chile	1	1	0	2
Saint Lucia	1	1	0	2
Uganda	1	1	0	2
Guatemala	1	0	1	2
Morocco	1	0	1	2
Kosovo	0	1	1	2
Grenada	0	0	2	2
Malaysia	0	0	2	2
Dominica	1	0	0	1
Pakistan	1	0	0	1
Cyprus	0	1	0	1
Fiji	0	1	0	1
Jordan	0	1	0	1
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
Panama	0	1	0	1
Albania	0	0	1	1
Cape Verde	0	0	1	1
Ivory Coast	0	0	1	1
Peru	0	0	1	1
Puerto Rico	0	0	1	1
Qatar	0	0	1	1
Refugee Olympic Team	0	0	1	1
Singapore	0	0	1	1
Slovakia	0	0	1	1
Zambia	0	0	1	1

Q: What's the difference between organized crime and big-time college athletics?

A: Organized crime has rules.

Q: How do you make level playing fields?

A: Make them all crooked.

I don't know why or how — heck, I just learned how to use our toaster — but about twice a day CBS Sports dings my cell phone to provide me a laugh:

An “expert analyst’s” view on the coming college football season, replete with rankings, transfer portal signings, grad-school loophole additions and big signings — “big” now often meaning in exchange for expensive new sports cars dangled as NIL bribes for society’s long-term benefits, even if none can exist.

It's impossible to take any of this news seriously beyond the fact that it's in CBS's best interests to bang the drums for what “college” sports have become as CBS remains heavily invested in them even as they mimic organized crime legalized by a court system unwilling or unable to serve humanity's best interests beyond quick, fleeting cash and garish goods.

In the NCAA's \$2.8 billion settlement to pay college athletes above and far beyond full-ride scholarships and previous cash perks, reality is underscored by the absence of any documented language that includes academics — useful, life-enriching learning.

Thus, the ostensible, charter-prescribed reasons American colleges exist and have for decades and even centuries have been sacrificed to the legal system's shortsighted decision to grant total anarchy even to preexisting crooked athletic programs.

And so the academic and financial fraud on behalf of colleges winning football and basketball games, selling tickets — including the mandatory purchase of designed-for-bowl-bids mismatches — and sustaining or improving the value to networks is now a given, mandatory in order to *fairly* com-



Phil Mushnick

EQUAL TIME

Media more than willing to cover for college sports failures

FLUNKIES

CAR WRECK: Deion Sanders received two fawning profiles from “60 Minutes” last year, while a former player recently described his Colorado program as a “real-life Grand Theft Auto.” AP

pete against the other frauds.

There's no need for the sanctioned fraud to appear in legal documents as it would have been a waste of ink and paper and violated Go Green restrictions in order to keep the campus free from grime as opposed to crime.

It's a crime known to mob bosses and district attorneys as racketeering — for using their “primary

business” to serve as a false front, same as Division I universities.

That CBS Sports app last week flashed the news that Georgia's football team is ranked No. 1 despite the “distractions” suffered by head coach Kirby Smart. Smart, paid \$13 million a year plus perks, has, over the last two seasons, been responsible for the presence of full-ride players who have totaled

24 reckless driving charges, including a fatality, but have suffered nothing more than a hot new NIL or NFL-signing car.

Kirby and Georgia last week finally jettisoned WR Rara Thomas after his second felony arrest for domestic abuse, the second including a charge of “cruelty to a child.”

In Colorado, head coach Deion Sanders confirmed what most ev-

eryone knew — or didn't want to know — except the bright, hard-hitting journalists from CBS's “60 Minutes,” who twice last year presented full-length fawning profiles of Sanders as he declared himself in direct touch with God and a man of only the most altruistic actions, including endless boasting within semi-literate speeches.

Did “60 Minutes” look into Coach Prime's recent past, including his founding of a scam charter school for promising young black athletes that he modestly named Prime Academy, before leaving the kids, their guardians, faculty and creditors to contact God for a refund?

Most everyone who knew anything about Sanders knew he was a magic elixir peddler. How did “60 Minutes” miss it unless it took a dive, choosing to ignore it?

The two “60 Minutes” pieces were pure, ignore-the-truth pandering, the latest in a series from selectively gutless mass media in boosting Sanders for no legitimate reason.

Now an investigative report from Athlon Sports has revealed more of the unsurprising:

Under Sanders, Colorado's football team reportedly is thick in internecine violence, large and contested gambling debts, wads of cash and guns. The scene, according to a former player, is “Like real-life Grand Theft Auto.”

No doubt a renowned national prime-time news program that twice enabled and boosted Coach Prime with bogus profiles would be eager to make good on that, to express its regret for being an eager party to flim-flammer.

No doubt, but no chance.

Pop quiz: Which team can actually play ball?

NAME one MLB team this season that is smartly managed, well-prepared and fundamentally proficient. Take your time. I came up with none. You?

Now, how many MLB teams do you regard as inferior — highly beatable — for how they're managed, how they play and are prepared to play? I came up with 14. You?

The reigning champion Rangers entered Saturday 54-61.

➤ These days, if you face eight or more pitches before you fly out, TV and radio voices qualify it as “a good at-bat,” as if you've helped ex-

haust the starter or tire a “high-leverage or low-leverage” (ugh!) reliever. (“Hey, what do you expect? I'm just a low-leverage guy!”)

But the starter's going to be pulled after six, anyway, and most relievers are going to be allowed to pitch only one inning. Thus it's not a good at-bat, it's just an out.

➤ Don't know why so many have mocked NBC's decision to assign rap sheet rapper **Snoop Dogg** as a host of its Olympics. The ratings at Rikers Island are through the roof of the tallest guard tower!

JUSTICE now always seems a matter of depends, as in “depends on who, why, when and where.”

WFAN overnight man **Keith McPherson** recently mocked a caller for his Spanish accent. The episode was not the least bit amusing or clever as McPherson, a black man, engaged in loud, cheap and unfiltered bigotry.

The next caller dropped what he was calling about to chide McPherson for his unwarranted disrespect for that previous caller's heritage, to which McPherson, in so many similar words, defiantly responded: “Tough! It's my show; I'll say what I want!”

What has WFAN done about this? So far, nothing. McPherson, unlike ESPN's **Doug Adler** and longtime NBA Kings broadcast

No equality when it comes to punishment for racism

voice **Grant Napear**, who were fired for imaginary on-air racism, carries on.

You see, as a matter of equality, it all depends.

➤ Ahh, modern media. **Charles Barkley's** retirement Farewell Tour was even shorter than **Mike Francesa's** soulful first departure as he'll now be back on TNT. They are similar phonies.

Barkley, you'll recall, is an admitted compulsive gambler/loser who ran up a huge Vegas casino debt from which he needed a bail-

out as the law was closing in. He soon appeared as himself, a famous paid spokesperson, in TV ads to encourage young men to gamble on sports. What a champ.

Then there was his arrest for falling in sudden love with a hooker in the back of a van.

How many common folk could survive even one of the two episodes yet remain in high public esteem and demand?

But the media choose to not report such truths, only that everyone loves and admires Sir Charles.

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Jackson Thrive

BEFORE the 2024 season, four of the top 20 prospects, according to Baseball America, had one thing in common: Their first name.

Jackson Merrill, the Padres shortstop/outfielder, was ranked No. 17 and quickly made his presence felt by becoming an All-Star as a rookie. Tigers righty Jackson Jobe has not yet pitched in the majors, but was the 20th-ranked prospect. The other two were ranked No. 1 (Jackson Holliday) and No. 2 (Jackson Chourio) overall, yet they didn't have the same immediate impact as Merrill.

Chourio hit .210 with five homers, 16 RBIs, 20 runs, seven stolen bases and a .582 OPS over his first 50 games. He struck out 32 percent of the time and owned a 38.2 percent chase rate.

Despite stealing only one base, the 20-year-old raised his average from .210 to .243 in June after going 23-for-73 (.315) with four homers, 16 RBIs, 14 runs and a .897 OPS. He struck out 17.5 percent of the time, a massive dip from his first two months.

Chourio remained steady through July, boosting his average to .262 after hitting .317 with three homers, 12 RBIs, 14 runs, four stolen bases and a .876 OPS. His strikeout rate (13.6 percent) once again improved — a nearly 20 percent drop from March through May.

In his first six games this

Chourio, Holliday ending season on a high note

month, Chourio hit .433 with two homers (both of which he hit on Thursday), six RBIs, three stolen bases and a 1.102 OPS.

Since June 1, the rookie hit .335 with nine homers, 34 RBIs, 34 runs, eight stolen bases and a .921 OPS. During that span, he had the fifth-best average, the 18th-best on-base percentage (.380), the 21st-best OPS and 22nd-best slugging percentage (.541) in the league. He also had a 16.5 percent strikeout rate (half of what it was during his first two months) and a 32 percent chase rate, which was down 6.2 percent from the first 50 games of his season.

Chourio, who entered the weekend with a seven-game hit streak, is hitting .277 with 14 homers, 50 RBIs, 54 runs, 15 stolen bases and a .763 OPS. He has a 21.4 percent strikeout rate, 6.1 percent walk rate and a 32.4 percent chase rate, which, for comparison sake, is almost 5 percent lower than Merrill.

There's a reason the Brewers gave Chourio, who's been hitting atop Milwaukee's lineup, an eight-year, \$82 million deal before he ever played a game in the majors — and we've been seeing a big reason why for the past two-plus months (even if his BaBIP indicates some luck).

That's why it's hard to believe the red-hot outfielder remains available in more than 60 percent of ESPN leagues. He should be rostered (especially in dynasty leagues).

The Orioles' Jackson, however, was the most added player in ESPN leagues this week, and is now 60 percent rostered — quite the turnaround from how his career began after his April call up.

In his first 10 games, Holliday went 2-for-34 (.059) with one RBI, five runs and a .170 OPS. He looked overmatched while striking out in half his at-bats before returning to the minors.

Those days seem to be behind the top pick in the 2022 draft pick.

In his first eight games since being recalled on July 31, he hit 9-for-28 (.321) with four home runs, 11 RBIs, eight runs and a 1.173 OPS. He scored a run in each of those games and drove in at least one run in seven of them.

There's a reason Holliday was almost universally considered the top prospect in the game — and he'll get the chance to show off all his tools (he has great speed) down the stretch. Sometimes it takes time for youngsters, even those considered to be elite, to adjust to the majors.

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Jackson Chourio

Jackson Holliday

USA Today Sports; AP

Arms race ending for youngsters

AS YOU continue to push forward toward a fantasy baseball championship and brace for a potentially wild league trade deadline, preparing your pitching staff is going to take a lot of finesse. Not only are you looking to stack up strong arms, but they also need to be ready to take the mound every fifth day straight through the end of the year. Veterans like Zack Wheeler and Dylan Cease always make for fantastic options as we expect them to hit that 180-inning plateau, but what happens when your pitching staff has been carried by elite performances that may not last into September? How do you navigate pitchers like Paul Skenes and Garrett Crochet?

By **HOWARD BENDER**
FANTASY ALARM



Crochet will be a free agent after this season and the White Sox are trying to find ways to keep him. Leading up to the MLB trade deadline, they limited him to less than four innings per appearance, and following the deadline they did the same. With no playoffs in sight and a desire to re-sign Crochet, you can expect more of the same, which means he's not helping you anymore in fantasy this season. You can try to deal him in a redraft league but you may end up having to cut him. In a keeper league, if you believe a deal will help you win this season, trade him.

Skenes is a bit of a different story. The Pirates are still contending, but are long shots to make it. More than likely, they will be out of it by the end of August. Skenes has been dominant, but has already thrown 60 innings more than he did last year, and the moment the Pirates are eliminated we can expect the shutdown. If you are in a redraft league, you may want to try to trade him to someone who believes he will keep pitching. For keeper formats, unless someone is offering you a king's ransom that will lock up the win, you're going to have to put him on your bench and stash him for next season.

Navigating the pitching at this time of year can be difficult. Veteran stalwarts should anchor your rotation to the end. September call-ups should help support, but some of the top young arms we see like Skenes, Crochet or even Cole Ragans might not last this late in the year.

Howard Bender is the head of content at FantasyAlarm.com. Follow him on X @rotobuzzguy and catch him on the award-winning "Fantasy Alarm Radio Show" on the SiriusXM fantasy sports channel weekdays from 6-8 p.m. Go to FantasyAlarm.com for all your fantasy baseball news and advice.

BIG HITS

Matt Chapman 3B, Giants

Smashed six homers over his past 15 games before Friday while hitting .362 with 14 RBIs, 13 runs and a 1.206 OPS.

Bryan Woo SP, Mariners

Allowed more than three ERs just once in 13 starts, and is 2-0 with a 1.93 ERA, .205 opponents average and two walks in his past four starts.

Kyle Schwarber OF, Phillies

In first 19 games since All-Star break, hit .329 with eight homers, 19 RBIs, 15 runs and a 1.210 OPS. He entered Friday on an eight-game hit streak, hitting .469 with five HRs in that span.

Luis Gil SP, Yankees

Won three of his past four decisions while maintaining a 2.11 ERA, .203 opponents average and an 11-percent swinging strike rate.

BIG WHIFFS

Brice Turang 2B/SS, Brewers

Entered July hitting .292, but his average dropped to .259 after hitting .174 with 20 strikeouts and a .422 OPS in 29 games.

Kutter Crawford SP, Red Sox

Went 1-2 with a 10.61 ERA with 13 homers allowed, .313 opponents average and 1.184 OPS in four starts since the All-Star break.

Jeremy Peña SS, Astros

Entered Friday with four hits, one of which was an extra-base hit, in previous 38 at-bats (.105) with 13 strikeouts and a .322 OPS.

Nestor Cortes SP, Yankees

Allowed at least one home run in each of his past eight starts while going 1-5 with a 6.86 ERA, .309 opponents average and .943 OPS. He had a 5.68 ERA with 13 homers allowed over his last 12 starts.

CHECK SWINGS

● Eduardo Rodriguez picked up the win in his season debut against Cleveland, but allowed two homers and struck out only one. His second matchup should be easier at home against a Rockies team that entered Friday hitting .219 on the road with 618 strikeouts, the most in the league.

● After hitting .225 with 10 homers, 35 RBIs and a .635 OPS in the first half, Jake Burger has hit .293 with nine homers, 14 RBIs and a 1.071 in his first 20 games since the break.

● Though Yusei Kikuchi walked 4.9 per nine innings in his first two starts with Houston, he struck out 15.5 per nine. Four of his next six probable starts come against teams that have struck out the most in the majors.

TEAM NAME OF THE WEEK

Stop! Or My Kwan Will Shoot

Submit team names to: @NYPPost_Roto

Longtime Ch. 4 broadcaster Bruce Beck, a New York sports institution, takes a break from covering the Olympics and talks a lifetime of memories with Post columnist Steve Serby:

Q: If you could cover any baseball game in MLB history?

A: 1951, The Shot Heard 'Round the World. 'Cause I loved [Ralph] Branca, I loved [Bobby] Thomson.

Q: I'm guessing you would go interview Branca first.

A: I would. I always go to whoever is the person that gave up the hit or whoever the person is who lost. Would also go on Monday morning to the team that loses, whether it's Giants or Jets. You get better sound and it's usually a better story.

Q: If you could cover any game in NFL history?

A: Super Bowl III, [Joe] Namath winning with the Jets and giving the AFL credibility.

Q: If you could cover any game in NBA history?

A: Willis Reed, Game 7 against the Lakers, and I was there!

Q: Where were you sitting?

A: I was in like green or yellow seats behind the basket. But I walked down and saw, I was right there when Willis came out of the tunnel onto the court, and [Elgin] Baylor, [Wilt] Chamberlain and [Jerry] West all put their hands on the waist, they all watched in awe, and the game was over right there. My brother Jeffrey left his binoculars in a place called Deli City, it used to be right on Seventh Avenue near the corner of 33rd Street, and I had to run out of the Garden and get his binoculars and I ran back in as Willis came out on the court.

Q: If you could cover any game in NHL history?

A: I would have liked to have covered the Rangers winning the [1940] Cup before they won the Cup in '94.

Q: If you could cover one boxing match?

A: Ali-Frazier, Madison Square Garden, 1971.

Q: Favorite events that you've covered?

A: David Tyree's catch on his helmet, Super Bowl XLII. American Pharoah winning the first Triple Crown in 37 years, which was 2015. One of the most powerful moments I ever covered was Wellington Mara's funeral. I ended up winning an Emmy for that. You could drop a pin on Fifth Avenue when they came out, and [Frank] Gifford actually was carrying, I remember, the casket, and they put the casket into the hearse and [Jeremy] Shockey was crying on the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral. I would say the Rangers winning the Cup in '94, I was at MSG Network as a broadcaster. That night in the Garden was spectacular. Aaron Boone's [2003] homer is definitely up there against the Red Sox, Game 7. Jeter's 3,000th hit. I was in California, on vacation with my wife,

SERBY'S SUNDAY Q&A WITH ...

BECK

Bruce

and I was watching every day — he got two hits the night before my last night and so I took her to dinner. I drove to LA to get a redeye back for the Sunday morning game, she was mad as hell at me 'cause I blew her off and Jeter went 5-for-5, his 3,000th hit was his home run.

Q: What enabled you to get along with George Steinbrenner?

A: I don't know, he liked me. He trusted me, he thought I was fair. I was a little bit in his face but never too annoying.

Q: Can Aaron Judge break his 62-homer record and how do you feel about pitchers deciding to walk him so much?

A: I think Aaron Judge can break his own record in 2024. Pitchers walking him intentionally is frustrating for the team and the fans — but it is the ultimate sign of respect. Barry Bonds had to deal with the same exact thing but was intentionally walked even more. Judge and I talked at spring training about the record. I told him if he has to go through it again this year, I think he will handle it even better because of the experience. He totally agreed. Remember, the last month of his chase to the record was a little bumpy.

Q: The 2024 Yankees?

A: They're capable of winning it all, they're also capable of losing early. If you look at the Yankees' failures in the postseasons of recent ilk, they've lost because they didn't hit in the postseason.

Q: Do you think Steve Cohen is a threat to sign Juan Soto away from the Yankees?

A: I think it's a huge threat. It may boil down to just those two teams, and I think Cohen, after taking a year to reset, is gonna go after Soto hard. And he can throw him the most money. And he can get a face of the franchise.

Q: Is Eli Manning a Hall of Famer?

A: I just think that he is a Hall of Fame person, and I think he will be a Hall of Fame player.

Q: Jalen Brunson being named Knicks captain?

A: I think he's humble, I think he's

professional, I think he's a gentleman, I think he's a team-first guy as we saw with the contract that he took taking less to make sure the team was better. I think he is the perfect New York Knick. I think he will go down as one of the great New York Knicks in history, and I think that he has a chance of leading them to a title.

Q: How will Tom Brady do on Fox?

A: I think he will do well, because he's incredibly prepared, and he sees things we don't. And I think he will figure out a way to do this. I don't think he likes to lose.

Q: What would you tell Jets fans about Aaron Rodgers attempting this comeback from a torn Achilles at age 40?

A: I would tell them that there's hope. I would tell them that this team is built to win, if he can have a decent season, doesn't have to be a superstar, he has to be good. And he has to give them the mentality that they can win. ... He's really good at pop culture, much better than I am. And I asked him

a question about something related to how he felt going into the season and he goes: "Strong, to quite strong." And I go back to the office and I said, "Guys, I think Rodgers dissed me today, I think he was goofing on me." And they watched back and they go, "Bruce, you're an idiot, that's from 'Meet the Parents,' he knows that quote (chuckle), and he just used it on you. Don't worry, he wasn't trying to make you look bad, he was just using his pop culture knowledge (laugh)."

Q: Favorite Olympic moments in Paris?

A: Noah Lyles win-

Courtesy
Bruce Beck (3)



Interviewing
Katie Ledecky

ning the 100 meters. Cole Hocker was a 21-1 long shot to win the 1,500 meters, and ran the race of his life. The pole vault, this guy named Mondo [Duplantis] set the world record for the ninth time since February of 2020, and he's only 24 years of age. Simone Biles winning the all-around, stamping herself as the greatest gymnast of all time. Katie Ledecky winning the 800-meter freestyle, the first woman ever to win the same event in four consecutive Olympics, only Michael Phelps had done it on the men's side. I'm covering our local athletes and trying to personalize them for them the viewers, because it's not just about being in Paris, it's to me mystical, mythical and magical! Because they've given me the free rein to do all of this, I can go and make it happen. I've never not felt that a day in my life it wasn't an honor to represent NBC New York, I dreamed of working for them. Sometimes you have to pinch yourself and say, "What an honor." How lucky am I to be able to do what I do?

Q: What drives you?
A: It's the passion to be the best, and it's the passion to do what the other guys can't do, which is build relationships. I just think I should always be at every event, and I can't, but I try. I think you get so much more when you're there. What drives me is to try to do the best, what drives me is to give my all, what drives me is to give the station the chance to get something unique that nobody else gets. How can I get a 1-on-1? How can I find a story that nobody else can find? How can I create television that is different and unique, and how can I tell a story? That's what drives me. That's why the Olympics are so special, because you're telling stories, it's human drama, it's not just 5-4 the final score.

Q: Favorite interview subjects?
A: Bill Walton, absolutely loved him. My mom once called me after an interview with Walton and she said: "Bruce, you got inside his head!" I remember that vividly. [Michael] Strahan, because I'd have to talk him into talking on certain days when he wasn't supposed to talk. I once got him at a Sam's store on a Sunday in the parking lot near MetLife Stadium. I see him go by and he goes, (in high-pitched voice) "What the hell is Bruce Beck doing in a Sam's store?" Carmelo Anthony, [Derek] Jeter, David Wright, Lou Carnesecca, Brian Cashman and Eli [Manning]. I also would throw Tom Coughlin and Joe Torre into the mix as guys that were my guys that I was able to lean on and they could



With wife Janet

trust me. The other night I was doing the Olympic Zone, which is 7:30 New York time but 1:30 in the morning here [Paris]. I got off the air at 2 o'clock, and there's a text, and it's from Joe Torre. And it says — I'm just looking at my phone real quick — "Great job, Bruce. No surprise. J.T." You get stuff like that, it's kinda cool.

Q: How would you describe your style?

A: Jeter once said to me, "Be tough, but fair, and nobody will ever fault you." And I followed that to a T. I think I can still ask the difficult question, but I can do it in a manner that's fair, it's pleasing. Mark Teixeira when he used to get into a slump hated the word slump. I knew that. I would ask Teixeira in a different way and say, "Mark, you're struggling at the plate, but do you feel you're closer?" You want to ask a question everybody wants to ask about the person. Then you want to ask a question that nobody knows about. And then my third philosophy is to be a good listener and to be able to follow up. I tell kids that all the time.

Q: Announcers or broadcasters you admired?

A: [Howard] Cosell. I based everything in my life around Marv [Albert]. I memorized five of his commercials — Eastern Airlines, Manufacturers Hanover Trust, Schaefer beer, Ultra Ban 5000. Marv was my hero (imitates Marv) — "Right sideline Monroe, deep right corner DeBusschere, turns back to the basket, side jumper, Yes! and it counts. Back after this word from Schaefer beer (recites rest of commercial)." Keith Jackson. And I loved Curt Gowdy — underrated how good he was, especially at college basketball.

Q: Your longtime cameraman of 27 years Jimmy Roberts?

A: We're like Batman and Robin. Phenomenal cameraman, better person. Willing to dive and dig and do anything that I want to do. Ultimate hustler, but he gets along great with the players. It's really an asset for me. He's a wonderful partner, and my parents loved him. He's like a family member.

Q: Our late, great Post photographer Anthony Causi was your dear friend.

A: One of the most amazing people that you could ever know. His spirit was unstoppable. He would take pictures of people he never met and send it to 'em. Loved my wife, loved my kids, they all called him Causi. It hit me so hard, it was like the first time that we all realized what COVID was. There's a face to COVID, there's a name to COVID. (Voice cracking) I still cry when I read his

texts, which is still in my phone about "Bruce it's bad, it's real bad. Please look after my family, look after my kids if you can." I still have those texts, that still are gut-wrenching. There was no one who was more about the fabric of New York than Anthony Causi. He was the heart and soul.

Q: Three dinner guests?

A: John Wooden, Billie Jean King, Muhammad Ali.

Q: Favorite movie?

A: "Godfather."

Q: Favorite actor?

A: Al Pacino, old-school.

Q: Favorite actress?

A: Margot Robbie.

Q: Favorite singer?

A: Billy Joel.

Q: Favorite meal?

A: Chicken parm.

Q: Biggest obstacle you had to overcome?

A: I think I needed to stop being Marv and try to be myself. And my voice had to develop. I don't think any voice really became a confident, controlled voice that comes from your abdomen until I was in my 40s. I had to sometimes swallow my pride and learn to be a total team player. I learned to be more concise. I think I understand what the storyline needs to be. But I think overcoming the high-pitched voice, looking young, hair parted in the middle. I needed reps. I'm still learning every day. You never stop learning. [John] Wooden talks about that in his books.

Q: Adjectives you would use to describe Bruce Beck.

A: Passionate. Energetic. Driven. Warm. Caring. Kind. Respectful. Loving. Loyal. Grateful. Humble. Workaholic. Family man first (voice cracking). First and foremost.

Q: Janet Beck?

A: Love of my life. Greatest partner anyone could ever have. Forty-three years of marriage. (Voice cracking) Forty-seven years my girlfriend. Supportive. Strong. Never lets me get arrogant. Calls me up if I do. In addition to my lover, she's my best friend first.

Q: What's it like being Bruce Beck?

It's an honor. It's a privilege. It's a joy. It's exhausting. It's energizing. It's fascinating.

Jets DE shows off big power despite iffy flag

By BRIAN COSTELLO

Jets defensive end Will McDonald got to the quarterback Saturday, but it resulted in a penalty.

McDonald used a beautiful spin move to get past Commanders tackle Mason Brooks, and he hit quarterback Jeff Driskel just as he released the ball. The officials threw a flag for a questionable roughing the passer penalty that was wiped out by an offsetting penalty on the Commanders in the Jets' 20-17 preseason victory.

After the game, McDonald said he did not think he should have been flagged.

"Me, personally, I don't think it was a roughing the passer," McDonald said. "I don't really care about nobody else's opinion [except the official's]. That's the ref. They've got to do their job, and I just have to keep playing ball. I was already onto the next play."

Jets coach Robert Saleh said the officials told him McDonald landed on Driskel with all of his body weight, which is illegal.

This is a big preseason for McDonald, who was the team's first-round pick in 2023. He is fighting for playing time and has an opportunity to showcase what he can do in training camp with Haason Reddick holding out.

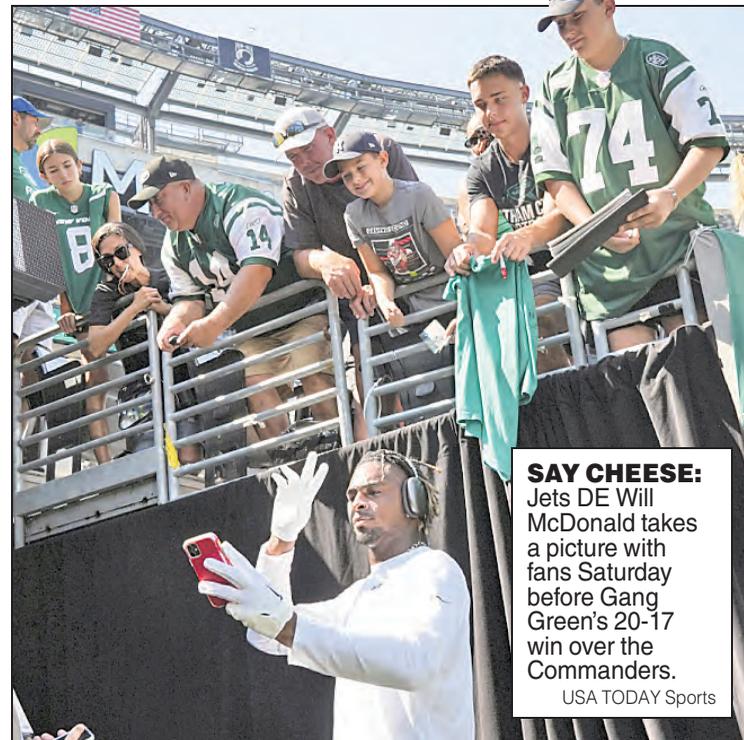
➤ Saleh was excited by the performance of second-year cornerback **Jarrick Bernard-Converse**. The man they call "JBC" was beaten for a 42-yard reception by **Dyami Brown** on the first series of the game. Bernard-Converse rebounded, though, and had some good moments in coverage.

"That might be the coolest one from a defensive perspective because he did get hit on that go ball," Saleh said. "It's very easy to tank and to get in your own head and play scared. He still played chest to chest. He still played tight coverage. He was still playing his press technique and made a lot of plays on the ball. Really, really proud of JBC and the way he bounced back."

➤ Rookie OT **Olu Fashanu** played the entire first half, more than any of the other offensive linemen who started the game. Saleh said he wanted to give the rookie extended reps. The Jets hope Fashanu will not have to play this season. That would mean starting tackles **Tyron Smith** and **Morgan Moses** stayed healthy. So the Jets want to get Fashanu plenty of work this preseason.

"It would be a great year if this was the extent of his playtime," Saleh said.

JETS NOTES



SAY CHEESE: Jets DE Will McDonald takes a picture with fans Saturday before Gang Green's 20-17 win over the Commanders.

USA TODAY Sports



Mike Vaccaro

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OPEN MIKE

SOMETIMES the eye test is all you need. The Chicago White Sox pass the eye test. They are about as bad at baseball as professional baseball players can ever be.

This would be self-evident even if you didn't have access to their season record, which includes one 14-game losing streak and one 21-game losing streak, a record that as of Saturday morning, sat at 28-90, which is a winning percentage of .237. That puts them solidly in the mix to challenge the 1962 Mets, whose 40-120 record yielded a winning percentage of a straight .250 and had long been the gold standard — maybe make that a zinc standard — for baseball futility.

You kind of have to hunt for White Sox games because it's not like they're the featured games on ESPN and Fox, although Yankees fans will have the pleasure of enjoying their slapstick this week when the Yankees go to Guaranteed Rate Field for three games against the ChiSox that should come with an NC-17 rating on YES telecasts.

NC as in "non-competitive."

How bad is it?

It's this bad: This week, the good people at Strat-O-Matic did a simulated best-of-seven series between the '24 White Sox and the '62 Mets — sort of an "Appall Classic," instead of a Fall Classic.

It came down to a Game 7, of course, because you really can't lose 'em all, even two teams as efficient at losing as the '24 Sox and the '62 Mets. And in Game 7, Jay Hook went the distance and Sammy Taylor hit a fourth-inning grand slam and the Mets pulled out a 7-5 win. That tracks because the simulated season the Strat-O-Matic team also ran for the '24 White Sox had them at 41-121 — which would give the Sox the most losses ever but still give the Original Mets the, um, honor of retaining the worst losing percentage since baseball expanded in 1961, .250-.253.

BEST OF THE WORST: Sammy Peralta and the White Sox are threatening the 1962 Mets' infamous record of a .250 winning percentage.

USA Today Sports



It's time for White Sox to ax '62 Mets from infamy

A word here: I'd still be stunned if the White Sox didn't scratch their way to, say, 45 wins. It's hard to lose that many games. It just is. There have been few teams as insulting to the eyes as the 2003 Tigers, the last

team to mount a legit season-long assault on the '62 Mets. And they were *right there*, too.

After 156 games they were 38-118 and then they got hot. Still, after 160 they were at 41-119, well within

reach. In Game 161, the Twins — a mere 49 games ahead of them in the AL Central — seized an 8-0 lead in the fifth inning. Casey and Marvelous Marv were about to have company at 120! Except the Tigers made a comeback, they scored four in the eighth, then they won it in the ninth on a walk-off wild pitch by ... (wait for it) ... 46-year-old Jesse Orosco, the final pitch of a 24-year big league career. The next day, they won 7-4 and settled for 43-119.

Ol' Jesse had made one last save for his old team, the Mets, preserving their solo place in baseball infamy.

"It's funny, the weird dynamic of being that bad is that sometimes you win games you shouldn't because other teams who are still playing meaningful games tense up because if they lose a game to you it's almost like losing twice," Hook told me years ago. And it's true: The Giants and Dodgers wound up tied for the pennant that year, and the Giants won a playoff that wouldn't have been necessary if, instead of going 16-2 against the Mets, the Dodgers had gone 17-1.

"And that bothered them," Hook said. "I know because they told me."

The '62 Mets have been good sports about this the last 62 years, truth be told, but it's probably time to pass the torch — or, in this case, the matchstick — to a new generation of awful. The '73 Sixers probably won't pop any corks if any team ever loses a 74th game (we didn't hear a peep out of any of them when the 2012 Bobcats "beat" their winning percentage in a lockout-shortened 7-59 season). And I don't recall any celebrations out of the '76 Buccaneers when they saw their 0-14 surpassed by circumstance by the '08 Lions and '17 Browns of 0-16 infamy.

Some records aren't meant to be broken. But some, out of mercy, should.

VAC'S WHACKS

I THINK if **Jazz Chisholm** plays his cards right, this could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship between him and Yankees fans.

► The Globetrotters start a 10-day residency at American Dream on Friday. Amid the games and clinics, they'll have their first-ever store with memorabilia and other unique items such as this, unearthed in their archives this week: a signed **Curly Neal** jersey. The Globies are always worth the trip, this time to East Rutherford.

► She couldn't pass up the opportunity to see her dad's team play so close to their Washington state home, so **Sarah Seaver Zaske** and her family will be seated next to the Mets' dugout in Seattle on Sunday as the Amazon's face the M's. "The Mets don't get out to this part of the country much, and we just had to be there," she said. "It's going to be great to yell, 'Let's go Mets,' again."

► Speaking of The Franchise ... I was convinced in April that if the Mets ever let **Pete Alonso** go, there would be a torch-and-pitchfork revolt at Citi Field akin to when the Mets traded Seaver to the Reds in '77. Now ... well, now I'm not so sure. What say you, Mets fans?

Peter Colford: Here's a question for you: Who will win more games this year, the Giants or the Nets?

Vac: I know the Nets are readying for a major tankapalooza. But there's a reason the '73 Sixers have had the record at 9-73 as long as they have: It's hard to lose that many games in the modern NBA. So ... Nets.

Rich LePetri: You surprised me

WHACK BACK AT VAC

with your omission of Mark Messier from today's column on captains. Did you have a reason for that? Just curious.

Vac: While Messier is the best example ever of a true captain's captain, all NHL teams have captains. It's less common in the NBA and MLB. It does merit

explanation.

@**drschnip:** Pedro Grifol, fired by the White Sox with a .319 winning percentage and both a 21- and 14-game losing streak this season, still has a higher winning percentage than three Jets head coaches with more than five games coached: Lou

Holtz, Rich Kotite and Adam Gase.

@**MikeVacc:** Just in case you thought it might've all been a dream, these last 56 years.

Alex Burton: I read a piece this week on why Aaron Judge honors Brett Gardner with a certain gesture to the crowd

before every game. Isn't it time the Yanks had a day in honor of Brett, an accomplished and career-long Yankee — and, at the time of his retirement, the last link to the 2009 champs?

Vac: I heard from so many Yankees fans for years who couldn't wait for Gardner to be gone (not Alex) who I suspect would very much like his effort and energy level on the team now.

EVERY SUNDAY MIKE VACCARO RESPONDS TO READERS' QUESTIONS AT VAC@NYPOST.COM AND @MIKEVACC ON X

Job audition

By PAUL SCHWARTZ

What the heck are the Giants going to do?

They no longer have Saquon Barkley, and behind capable replacement Devin Singletary, there is a trio of inexperienced running backs with absolutely no NFL pedigree.

How can this team figure out if any of these guys can play at a high enough level to overcome the loss in free agency of one of the best backs in the league?

"You just let them play," coach Brian Daboll said. "That's what they need to do. We've talked about this. I think I've had a lot of questions on that early on about the youth of that room. You let them play."

That is about all the Giants can do, right? Let them play and see what transpires.

One preseason game is not indicative of much, but the Giants would like to think that the 14-3 victory over the Lions at rainy MetLife Stadium on Thursday at least hints at the potential of the players assembled in the running back room. Singletary stood on the sideline with the rest of the starters on offense, and the three running backs used by the Giants all looked solid or better. The competition to lock up roster spots and to fortify a spot as the No. 2 back behind Singletary is on, and all three helped their cause.

Eric Gray, after a nondescript and uninspiring rookie year, looked like a different player in breaking off a 48-yard touchdown run. He also plowed into the end zone on a 1-yard scoring run and



MAKING THEIR CASE: The Giants backfield has been overhauled without Saquon Barkley, and in Friday's preseason opener, Eric Gray (top), Dante Miller (above left) and Tyrone Tracy (above right) each got an opportunity to make a case for playing time.

Corey Sipkin (2); USA Today Sports

Solid start for backup RBs in bid to earn a 2nd-string role

caught four passes for 46 yards, including an over-the-shoulder grab of a lob from Tommy DeVito for 24 yards. Undrafted rookie Dante "Turbo" Miller led the team with 12 rushing attempts and 63 yards, averaging 5.3 yards per attempt. Another rookie, fifth-round pick Tyrone Tracy, ran hard on his five carries for 26 yards, averaging 5.2 yards per attempt.

"I thought they were decisive," Daboll said. "I thought there wasn't a lot of stutter-stepping. I thought they were hitting the hole with good vision. They ran in space. Gray had a nice catch there from Tommy. It wasn't perfect,

but most of the time, they were going forward. They ran hard. They got their pads down. They did a nice job for the first game."

Barkley was the No. 2 overall pick in the 2018 NFL Draft, and his physical talent is undeniable. When healthy, he produced seasons of 1,307 and 1,312 rushing yards. His lower body is massive and powerful, and yet there were times when the Giants grew frustrated with what was perceived to be a lack of conviction from Barkley at the line of scrimmage. Thus, it is interesting Daboll mentioned "decisive" and the lack of "a lot of stutter-stepping" when analyzing

the work of his three young backs.

Miller, a product of Columbia and the Ivy League, broke off a 19-yard run and expressed relief that his training camp indoctrination was worth it, as far as getting him ready for the challenge of a preseason game. He credited Daboll, Joel Thomas, the first-year running backs coach, and Michael Ghobrial, the new special teams coordinator, for their expertise.

"Coach Daboll and coach Joel Thomas, coach Gobes, all of our coaches prepare us to be in the best situations to perform on game day," Miller told The Post. "When I was out there, I was like,

'Dang, they really did. I know exactly what's going on, I know the reason why we were doing things, the scheme.' It wasn't too much because they prepared us for that. It's a blessing to be coached by great coaches."

The Giants ran for 155 yards, with the second- and third-team offensive lines used in the game. There were no glaring mistakes, which is a plus when young players are out there for the first time in the preseason. Miller was called for a holding penalty in pass protection, which was declined by the Lions.

"I thought they did a good job in protections, knowing who to block," Daboll said. "It wasn't overly complicated, but they did stick their face in there and fit the window and block some blitzers. They ran hard. They knew what to do. Again, it'll be good competition for all those young players, but I think Joel Thomas has done a fantastic job with the development of that youth room."

Barkley is now with the rival Eagles, and moving on from him is a shock to the system for the Giants. Gray is the only running back on the scene nowadays who was with the team last year with Barkley, and it is impossible to ignore the absence, even with Singletary donning Barkley's No. 26 jersey.

"Everybody has felt like what you are saying," Gray said. "I feel like everybody has done a great job. Whether you're young and learning the system, or like me, a second-year player in the system, just being comfortable just being yourself."

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UP & RUNNING

Young backs show what they can offer Jets in first preseason action

THERE was a time in New York Giants history when they were enamored with smashmouth young running backs who became known as Baby Bulls.

Tucker Frederickson was the first-round pick in 1965, followed by Chuck Mercein and Ernie Koy, to join bruising second-year ground-pounders Ernie Wheelwright and Steve Thurlow.

The Jets introduced their rookie Baby Bulls in the preseason opener against the Commanders, and Braelon Allen and Isaiah Davis look ready to give Aaron Rodgers and Nathaniel Hackett comfortable insurance behind Breece Hall.



Steve Serby

Hall gave the Baby Bulls two thumbs up as he left the locker room after Jets 20, Commanders 17.

On Allen, the fourth-round draft choice: "He played very well, very decisive. Showed off his speed and power. He's getting better every day."

On Davis, the fifth-round draft choice: "Isaiah showed off the same things, as well. Showed his elusiveness and his route-running ability. It was cool to see them both showcase their talent in the big stage in the preseason."

When you are 6-foot-1, 240 pounds, it is a revelation when you can rip off a 24-yard run, which followed a 16-yard run, and Allen's day was over after six carries for 54 yards.

He passed the baton to Davis, a 6-1, 220-pounder, who streaked across the middle to catch a 24-yard pass from Andrew Peasley and finished 4-33 receiving, 4-8 rushing, 1-29 on kickoff returns and 2-6 on punt returns.

"Seeing them be able to cut it loose today, they're two awesome, very hard-running running backs," center Joe Tippmann said, "so just to see them be able to go out there and cut it loose and have the success that they did, it was a great feeling, and I was hyping 'em on the sidelines."

Allen started slowly on the MetLife



turf and with his eye on discipline.

"The more carries I get, I feel like the stronger I get," he said. "I think my last few carries I was able to impose my will a little bit and get into the flow of things."

He smiled when someone asked what he learned was the biggest difference between Wisconsin and the NFL. "I think the thing that jumped out at me was it's a lot harder to run through arm tackles," Allen said.

Davis also had some early difficulty with his footing. "I think it went good, not great," he said. "A couple of plays I wish I couldn't get back. A couple of times where I slipped on the ground."

He can be a weapon as a receiver. "I feel like a lot of people overlook my hands," Davis said.

He is also a downhill runner. "I'm 220, good-sized back, but I feel like I got a little wiggle to me, too," Davis said. "I kinda just feel like that helps me."

Davis enjoys the return game. "I

love it," he said. "I'm confident, and I played center field growing up my whole life. I feel like that's kinda helped me track a ball, and I feel like it just comes natural."

Allen was impressed with Davis. "I thought he ran hard, did his job in pass protection, did a great job on special teams, returning kicks, punts, all that," Allen said.

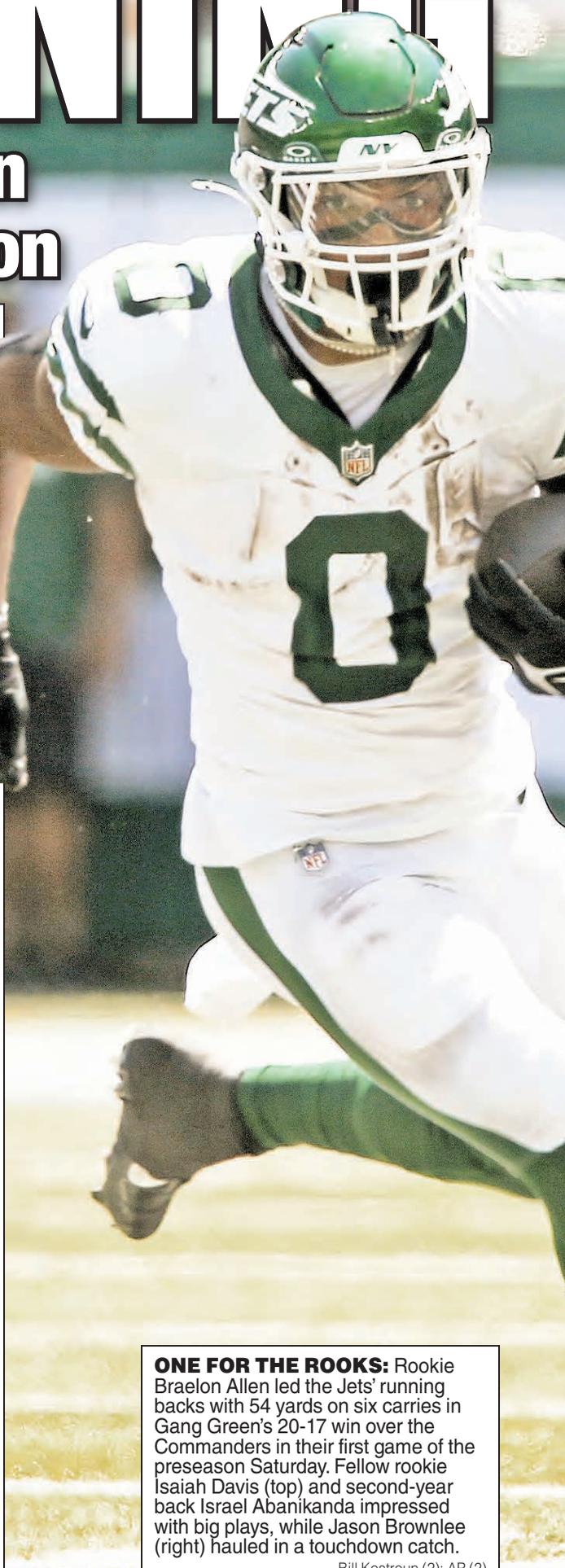
Davis was impressed with Allen. "He's a bruiser. He's gonna do whatever it takes," Davis said. "He had a great day."

One invested onlooker didn't want anyone forgetting about second-year RB Israel Abanikanda, who scored on a two-yard TD run.

"Rookie running backs look fabulous, but we have four running backs. All look really, really good," Woody Johnson said.

It doesn't have to be Aaron Rodgers-to-Garrett Wilson all the time now, does it?

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ONE FOR THE ROOKS: Rookie Braelon Allen led the Jets' running backs with 54 yards on six carries in Gang Green's 20-17 win over the Commanders in their first game of the preseason Saturday. Fellow rookie Isaiah Davis (top) and second-year back Israel Abanikanda impressed with big plays, while Jason Brownlee (right) hauled in a touchdown catch.

Bill Kostroun (2); AP (2)

By BRIAN COSTELLO

Jets center Joe Tippmann is sporting a nice shiner around his left eye. It's fitting because Tippmann has been beaten up during this training camp.

Tippmann, the second-year player from Wisconsin, has struggled with shotgun snaps during camp and that is why he was the only Jets starter who played Saturday's preseason opener with the Commanders. Tippmann played two series and had no bad snaps in the 20-17 Jets victory. He worked with backup quarterback Tyrod Taylor. It was a small victory for Tippmann, who said he struggled with a heavier workload this year as compared to his rookie training camp, when he was not the starter.

"I feel good now," Tippmann said after the game. "There were some growing pains getting there, kind of starting with just picking up the bigger load at the beginning of camp as compared to last year. I was eased into there. I think they've gotten a lot better. I've really been able to hold them down now and get them back there to the [quarterbacks]. That came with a lot of hard work, working with the quarterbacks, working with my coaches in the O-line room. I feel like we're in a good place."

Snap decision puts Gang's 2nd-year center in lineup

Tippmann has had several practices where he had bad snaps. During one practice, starting quarterback Aaron Rodgers was visibly upset with him. Then, in the team's intrasquad scrimmage, Tippmann launched a snap over Rodgers' head for a 22-yard loss.

Rodgers said he knows he can get on Tippmann, and the young center said he understands when Rodgers rides him. Tippmann would not reveal how he got the black eye, other than to say it happened in practice. Don't worry, Rodgers did not give it to him.

"It's a great relationship," Tippmann said. "Aaron's always out there trying to make me better. I really appreciate that out of him. I know it comes from a place of love. He's always just trying to make me better because he knows I can be better. Any critique that comes from him, I take it well."

Saturday was the first time Tippmann has spoken to the media since his snapping issues popped up a few weeks ago.

Jets takeaways

1 Joe Tippmann was the only Jets starter who played in Saturday's preseason game. That is a sign that, despite what they say, the Jets are concerned about his snaps. Tippmann played the first two series against the Commanders and had no bad snaps. It will be interesting to see if the Jets continue to play him in preseason situations where other starters are not in.

2 The Jets think they have a very strong running back room and the two rookies had good moments on Saturday. **Braelon Allen** had runs of 24 and 16 yards and **Isaiah Davis** had a 24-yard reception. The two rookies could be nice complementary pieces to **Breece Hall**.

3 The Jets did not use any defensive starters, but their second unit should have looked better against Commanders rookie quarterback Jayden Daniels. They got carved up on an 11-play, 70-yard drive that included a 42-yard completion by Daniels. Expectations are high for the Jets starting defense, but depth is a question.

— Brian Costello

Tippmann began his rookie year as a backup but became the starting center midway through the year. There were no obvious issues with his snaps, but this year, it has been one of the biggest stories of camp. Tippmann said he has had to fight allowing the

struggles to affect him mentally.

"It's hard," Tippmann said. "It's hard because it's the first thing you do. Usually it's something I do unconsciously. I don't even think about it. Having to really think about it every play is something I had to work through. Not

really getting that jump off the ball just because I had to think about the snaps. I've worked through that and feel like I'm in a good place."

Jets coach Robert Saleh said Tippmann's struggles were not the primary reason he was the only starter to play Saturday.

"He's a second-year kid," Saleh said. "Just trying to let him work through some kinks that he needs to work out. Also with Tyrod in there, just wanted him to mirror Tyrod's snap count."

The offense did not do much when Tippmann and Taylor were in the game. They failed to get a first down. It was not until the second quarter when the Jets broke through. Long runs by rookie running back Braelon Allen of 24 and 16 yards and a 24-yard reception by rookie back Isaiah Davis set up a 12-yard touchdown pass from Andrew Peasley to Jason Brownlee.

The Jets did not have any starters on defense. Commanders rookie quarterback Jayden Daniels put together an 11-play touchdown drive that included a 42-yard completion and ended with Daniels scoring on a 3-yard run.

The Jets scored 10 points in the fourth quarter to win the game. Running back Israel Abanikanda scored a 2-yard touchdown to tie the game at 17-17. Backup kicker Austin Seibert made a 37-yard field goal with 21 seconds left to give the Jets the win.

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OUT AT HOME

Yankees' failures in Bronx and against AL East foes could prove to be downfall

THE Yankees needed extra innings at home to beat the AL East's worst team last Sunday. Thus, requiring a decisive game — and then a bit more — to top the Blue Jays 4-3 in 10 innings to clinch the season series 7-6 against perhaps the majors' most disappointing club.

All of that underscored two issues that have beset the Yankees this season — they have not played particularly well within the AL East, nor in The Bronx. Can they win the division nevertheless? Sure. They were hanging with the Orioles atop the AL East by excelling on the road and outside of the division. But it is a much harder (no pun intended) road.

It would defy their history to be meh in these areas and still wind up earning a first-round playoff bye and getting home-field advantage — if there is an advantage at home — if they cannot reverse what is going on in the 10451 zip code.

And the Yankees followed their series against the Blue Jays, who had the fourth-

worst record in the AL, by losing two of three at home to the atrocious Angels, who had the third-worst mark. It accentuated more and more that in 2024 this is The House That Truth Built — for the facts are the facts: the Yankees simply do not win in their ballpark in a fashion familiar to seasons in which they were elite.

Overall, they entered Saturday with a winning record at Yankee Stadium at 30-26. But that was the 15th-best home record in the majors. More disturbing

is that in their past eight series in The Bronx, the Yankees were 1-6-1 and their overall record in that time was 9-18 — their worst home stretch of 27 games since they also went

9-18 in 1992. That was the last year they were below .500 for the season (they were last below .500 at home in 1991).

The Yankees' .536 winning percentage at home this year through Friday was the third-worst for the franchise in the wild-card era (since 1995). The only worse were the .531 of 2013 and the .519 of last season — two years in which they missed the postseason.

It is strange that this version of the Yankees is struggling in the venue of the short right-field porch, considering that the roster has been returned to the kind of lefty balance badly lacking in recent years. The Yankees had 2,124 lefty at-bats prior to Saturday — more than every complete season since 2018 — with their best combined lefty OPS at home since 2019.

But familiarly for the 2024 Yankees, Aaron Judge and Juan Soto had teamed for a 1.036 OPS at home while everyone else was at .669 as Alex Verdugo (.615), Gleyber Torres (.604) and DJ LeMahieu (.550) particularly have been home detriments.

Soto's home OPS was 1.007 in 239 plate appearances

compared to the other Yankee lefties at .671 in 738 plate appearances.

Meanwhile, in these last eight Bronx series, the Yankees have been out-homered 49-22 and their staff ERA has soared to 4.97 in those 27 games.

And, remember, the Yankees actually have a winning record at home. They do not within the AL East at 22-23. And the team with the best record within the AL East has won the division title each of the past seven seasons and 11 out of 12. The only divergence was 2017 when the Red Sox won the division while going 41-35 inside it and the Yankees were the wild card despite being 44-32. Perhaps the strength within the division should have revealed the mettle of those Yankees, since they reached ALCS Game 7.

Baltimore just lost two of three to Toronto, yet nevertheless has a 24-12 record within the division. The Red Sox were next best at 14-13. Do not devalue how little Boston has played in the division because 13 of their final 33 games will be against Tampa Bay and Toronto, two of the biggest sellers at the trade deadline and, thus, possessing less talent than the rosters the Yankees faced for the most part.

The Yankees have completed their season series against Tampa Bay and Toronto, going 7-6 against both while being 4-5 against Boston and 4-6 against Baltimore.

The Yankees have had a losing record within the AL East five times in the last 20 years and missed the playoffs in four of them. They have won the division title eight times in the past 20 seasons and had the best inside the division record in seven of them.

Again the difference between Judge and Soto vs. the other four AL East teams (1.144) and the rest of the squad (.694) is stark, with Verdugo at .492 particularly noticeable. Nestor Cortes, Carlos Rodon and Marcus Stroman have combined for 19 starts within the division with a 6.31 ERA. Clay Holmes has four of his MLB-high nine blown saves within the AL East and a 5.91 ERA.

The Yankees had overcome their problems within their home and within their division to be tied with the Orioles for the AL East lead as the weekend began. It is hard to think they can finish atop the division if this persists, though. They went into Saturday's doubleheader against the Rangers with 25 home games left and just seven AL East games.

But all seven against the Red Sox and Orioles come in the final two weeks of the season ... at Yankee Stadium.

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Joel Sherman
Hardball

BULLIED IN

BRONX: Yankee Stadium has hardly been a home-field advantage this season, as the Bombers entered Saturday with just a 30-26 mark in The Bronx in 2024. Nestor Cortes (from left), Alex Verdugo and Gleyber Torres have been among the culprits — compounded by struggles against the AL East, too, writes The Post's Joel Sherman.

Robert Sabo; Jason Szenes; N.Y. Post; Charles Wenzelberg

Fiery Rodon cools Texas

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

Carlos Rodon's on-mound passion can be perceived as endearing when he is rolling and detrimental when he is struggling.

On Saturday, Rodon's fiery attitude was endearing.

The Yankees lefty notched another solid start in an 8-0 win in Game 1 of a doubleheader against the Rangers — one that might be remembered best for his reaction following a strikeout rather than the strikeout itself.

Rodon, who walked five and allowed three hits in five scoreless innings, continually found himself in trouble and continually escaped that trouble, best highlighted by the third inning. After two quick outs, Rodon walked Marcus Semien and served up a single to Josh Jung, putting two on and forcing Rodon to bear down.

He battled with Texas rookie Wyatt Langford, who worked the count full and watched Rodon dot a hard fastball on the outside corner with the seventh pitch of the at-bat. Langford tossed his bat away and started toward first base when home-plate umpire Adam Hamari punched him out — and Rodon began yelling toward the plate.

As it turned out, Rodon said he was not upset with Hamari but instead was directing his words toward Langford.

"I got a little mouthy," said Rodon, whose ERA is 2.54 over his past five starts. "... I got a little fiery with my emotion. And I think I said, like, 'You swing the bat next time,' or something. It's nothing personal, just a reaction. ... Actually I tip my cap to [Langford]. I think he's a rookie. He put together two great at-bats against me."

He allowed eight base runners but held Texas to 0-for-4 with runners in scoring position, walking off the mound in the sixth to a standing ovation and saluting a Bronx crowd that booed him often last season.

"Just trying to stay where I am right now," Rodon said. "The goal for me is just to go out there and pitch and give my team the best chance to win and win the game."

Rodon allowed eight base runners but held Texas to 0-for-4 with runners in scoring position, walking off the mound to a standing ovation and saluting a Bronx crowd that booed him often last season.

CAITLIN'S SUMMER VACATION

On Saturday, it was The House that Caitlin Built.

Indiana Fever superstar Caitlin Clark hit Yankee Stadium as part of her Olympic break for the Bombers' doubleheader against the Rangers, getting a tour of the grounds before the game, while also meeting some players.

Along with boyfriend Connor McCaffery, she was pictured on the grass in foul territory during batting practice as the Yankees prepared for the twin bill.

Clark was also seen in a training room with Yankees superstar Aaron Judge.

Clark was controversially left off Team USA's women's basketball squad at the Paris Olympics, but that did allow her to take a break from basketball for the first time in a year, as she only had a short layoff between the Iowa Hawkeyes losing the national title game and starting her rookie year with the Fever.

"She was impressive," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "It was fun to see the amount of our guys that were kind of starstruck being around her."

— Ethan Sears



Jason Szenes (2)

Cautious Yankees keep Cole on pitch count

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

YANKEES NOTES

There was plenty for the Yankees to be optimistic about after Gerrit Cole's most dominant outing of the season.

There was caution, though, because it was a shorter start than most.

Cole's stuff was excellent, with a season-high 10 strikeouts, on a night he only recorded 16 outs through 90 pitches. The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner was on a "pretty strict" pitch count, manager Aaron Boone said, in being careful with an ace whose overall body soreness led to his spot being skipped in the rotation at the end of July.

The righty recovered from that soreness, allowed two runs in 5 2/3 innings in a win over the Blue Jays on Sunday, before his workload again was being closely monitored in what became a 9-4 loss to the Rangers in the back end of Saturday's doubleheader in The Bronx.

"Just making sure we're in a good spot with him," said Boone,

who pulled Cole in a sixth inning that got screwy, Texas hanging five runs on Luke Weaver in the frame.

Cole was happy with his stuff, seeing good movement and velocity and fewer pitches that didn't approach the zone.

He was only burned in the fourth inning, a frame that also showed his dominance. A single to Wyatt Langford and walk to Nathaniel Lowe presented trouble that came back to haunt him when Adolis Garcia hit an RBI single. But with two on and none out, Cole reached back to strike out Leody Taveras, Carson Kelly and Josh Smith in succession.

"I felt good today," said Cole, who induced 26 whiffs on 52 Rangers swings. "We brought out a lot of good offerings today."

After a lengthy absence with an elbow problem and a midseason respite to allow him extra time to recover, Cole is making progress — and the Yankees are trying to

ensure another setback does not arise.

➤ After another encouraging simulated game, **Clarke Schmidt** (lat strain) reiterated that he believes he can be ready to join the club before August is over.

"I would say [a return] by the end of the month I think is very realistic," Schmidt said after throwing 25 pitches and his entire arsenal in his second live session. Up next is another live session on Wednesday, after which the team will decide whether a third session is best or if Schmidt should begin a rehab assignment.

Saturday, Schmidt was happy with his strength and pitches while facing **Anthony Rizzo**, **Jon Berti** and **Jose Trevino**.

"I could throw in a game with that stuff and be very happy with it," said Schmidt, who owned a 2.52 ERA in 11 games before the injury.

➤ **Trent Grisham** was pulled from the first game with a left hand contusion after getting drilled with a fastball. Initial CT scans and X-rays were negative, and Boone said he believed "we dodged a bullet there."

Oswaldo Cabrera entered at third base, moving **Jazz Chisholm Jr.** to center field.

➤ Chisholm launched his 19th and 20th home runs of the season and became the first player in franchise history to hit at least seven homers in his first 12 games with the club.

Chisholm said that after early strikeouts in both games, he did some work in the indoor cage and his adjustments paid off.

"Just being quick to the ball, don't get too long," Chisholm said.

➤ Along with Schmidt, **Cody Poteet** threw a live session Saturday. Recovering from a right triceps strain, Poteet will throw another live session Wednesday for two "innings," after which the Yankees will decide if he throws another or begins a rehab assignment.

➤ **Anthony Volpe**, who was lifted early from Thursday's game after fouling a ball off his foot, was back in the lineup and played every inning.

— Additional reporting by Joel Sherman



GERRIT COLE

Taylor proving real value as 4th OF

By MIKE PUMA

SEATTLE — Starling Marte was a significant piece of the Mets lineup when his right knee started barking in late June, sending him to the injured list.

More than six weeks later, Marte remains sidelined — he is on a minor league rehab assignment and set to join Double-A Binghamton on Sunday — but the Mets have survived his absence in part because of the manner in which Tyrone Taylor has filled the void.

A fourth outfielder as the season started, Taylor has seen his role increase in recent weeks, along with his offensive numbers. As play began Saturday, the 30-year-old Taylor had a very respectable .294/.346/.451 slash line in 18 games since the All-Star break.

Whether it's been starting in right field, shifting to center or coming off the bench, Taylor has emerged as a valued piece for a team that is now a half-game behind Atlanta for the National League's third wild-card spot.

"I have been in the lineup a little bit more and it's been fun," Taylor said before going 0-for-3 in the Mets' 4-0 loss to the Mariners on Saturday night.

The right-handed swinging Taylor's reverse splits have endeared him to manager Carlos Mendoza, given that Brandon Nimmo and Jeff McNeil are the only starters that swing left-handed, in addition to switch-hitter Francisco Lindor.

Overall this season, Taylor has produced at a .272/.318/.462 clip with five homers in 171 plate appearances against right-handed pitchers. Against lefties he's struggled, owning a .183/.230/.293 slash line with one homer in 87 plate appearances.

On a team for which hitting with runners in scoring position has been an issue, Taylor was a solid 20-for-77 (.260) as play began.

But Taylor's offensive contributions have been perhaps secondary to the value he brings to the Mets as a defensive presence. Taylor entered play at plus-3 in outs above average, which placed him in MLB's 82nd percentile. His arm strength ranked in the 90th percentile.



OH MAN! THAT

By MIKE PUMA

SEATTLE — If the Mets are attempting to push aside OMG to become LOL, the past two nights have served as a good start.

To be clear, the Mariners have good pitching and are a team that might win the AL West and create a ruckus in October. But that excuse only gets the Mets so far when dissecting the first two games of this series.

On Saturday, they managed only four hits, barely showing life in getting shut out for a second straight night in a 4-0 loss at T-Mobile Park.

The best for which the Mets (61-56) can now hope is to win Sunday, call it a .500 road trip and head home with thoughts of another surge to increase their postseason chances. The Mets are again chasing, behind Atlanta by a half-game for the NL's third wild-card spot.

Logan Gilbert dominated the Mets, allowing only three hits and one walk over seven innings. All three of those hits were singles and two were produced by Francisco Lindor. The Mets got a fourth hit, a two-out single from Harrison Bader in the eighth, but they did not put a runner in

No-shows by starter, bats lead to Mets' frustrating loss to M's

MARINERS	4	Boxscore
METS	0	Page 56

scoring position all night.

"It's unfortunate and frustrating," Brandon Nimmo said. "But if I had to say 'super surprising,' this pitching staff can do that, so it's not like it's out of the realm of possibility."

Pete Alonso, who ended the game with a meek grounder to shortstop, had a second straight 0-for-4 performance after blasting two homers in Thursday's series finale in Colorado.

On Friday, the Mets got throttled by Bryce Miller, who surrendered only three hits with a walk over six innings.

"We have got good hitters," manager Carlos Mendoza said. "It's just the last two nights [Mariners pitchers] have been on their games and we haven't shown much."

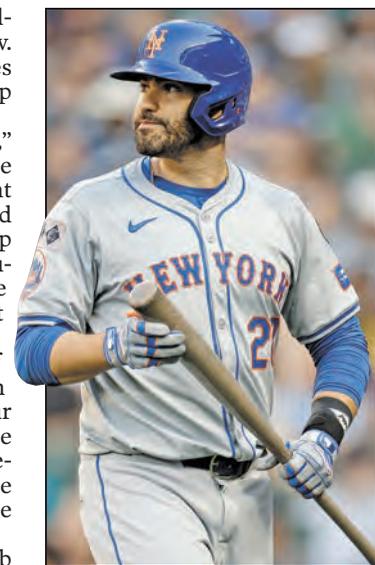
It won't get any easier for the Mets on Sunday, when Luis Cas-

tillo's high-octane arm is scheduled to face this slumping crew. The Mets will hinge their hopes of avoiding a three-game sweep on Luis Severino.

"There's no pressure on us," J.D. Martinez said. "The pressure is on everyone else, not us right now. That's what got us here and that is what we have got to keep doing. We can't get into this situation and start adding pressure to ourselves because we're not in a position to win."

The interleague portion of this four-city trip hasn't been kind to the Mets, who have four losses in five games against the Angels and Mariners. In between they won a makeup game in St. Louis and won two of three in Colorado.

After two straight superb starts that had run his scoreless streak to 15 2/3 innings, Sean Manaea turned in a clunker. The left-hander lasted only three innings — in which he threw 85 pitches — and surrendered three



earned runs on four hits with five walks and three strikeouts.

Manaea got knocked around in the first inning, when the Mariners sent seven batters to the

Garrett return big boost for Amazin' bullpen

By MIKE PUMA

METS NOTES

SEATTLE — The Mets have lost several arms this season that are never to return or still in limbo, but on Saturday they got one back.

Reed Garrett, who spent the past month on the injured list after swelling arose in his right elbow, was activated for Saturday night's game against the Mariners at T-Mobile Park. He struck out the side in the sixth inning of the Mets' 4-0 loss.

Over the first three months of the season, the right-hander was three different pitchers: lights-out, underwhelming and then respectable. Manager Carlos Mendoza said the initial plan is for Garrett to ease his way back in lower-pressure situations. But Garrett, with his 97 mph heat, brings potentially another arm for high-leverage situations.

"He's a huge addition to our bullpen," Mendoza said.

To create space for Garrett the Mets optioned lefty Alex Young to Triple-A Syracuse. Young pitched a scoreless eighth inning Friday night. The roster move left Danny Young as the club's only lefty reliever.

Garrett overall has pitched to a 3.64 ERA in 36 appearances for the Mets this season, with 63 strikeouts in 42 innings. His re-

turn came after two minor league rehab appearances for Syracuse.

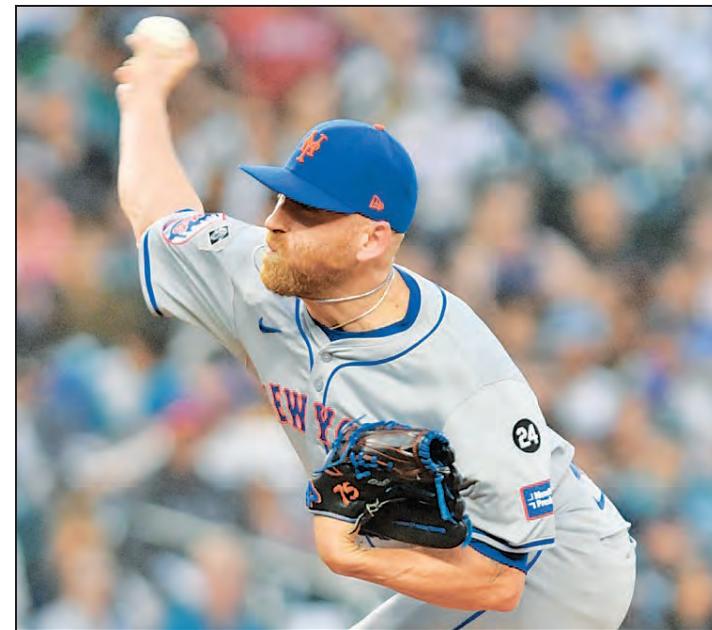
Sean Reid-Foley and Dedniel Nunez are two other relievers on the comeback trail. Reid-Foley was scheduled to pitch one-plus innings for Syracuse on Saturday and Nunez is expected to throw off a bullpen mound for the first time since he hit the IL last month with a forearm strain.

The Mets have lost Brooks Raley and Drew Smith this season to torn ulnar collateral ligaments. Christian Scott and Kodai Senga are the starting pitchers on the IL.

Scott, who was diagnosed with a sprained UCL, is symptom-free and could begin a throwing program next week — but it's still unclear if he will need Tommy John surgery.

Senga has a calf strain and is expected to miss the remainder of the regular season, but he could potentially return if the Mets reach the postseason.

➤ **Starling Marte** is scheduled to play for Double-A Binghamton on Sunday to continue his rehab assignment. Marte last week played two games for Low-A St. Lucie.



ONE-TWO-THREE: Reed Garrett had an auspicious return to the Mets on Saturday night, when he struck out the side in the sixth inning of a 4-0 loss to the Mariners.

USA TODAY Sports

NOTHING TO SEA' HERE: Starter Sean Manaea lasted three innings and the Mets could only muster four hits — one of which was from J.D. Martinez (inset) in a 1-for-4 night — in a dismal loss Saturday in Seattle. AP; Getty Images

WAS UGLY



ON DECK: at Mariners

Sunday, 7:10 p.m., ESPN, WCBS (880 AM)

RHP Luis Severino



2024 stats:
7-5, 4.06 ERA

Career vs. SEA:
2-1, 3.44 ERA

Last start:
Tuesday, at COL;
5.0 IP, 6 H, 6 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

35% 4-Seamer
27% Sinker
12% Sweeper

RHP Luis Castillo



2024 stats:
9-11, 3.48 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
1-1, 4.44 ERA

Last start:
Tuesday, vs. DET;
6.0 IP, 8 H, 3 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

44% 4-Seamer
23% Slider
17% Sinker

UP NEXT

TUESDAY: vs. Athletics, 7:10 p.m., SNY, WCBS
RHP Paul Blackburn vs. TBD

WEDNESDAY: vs. Athletics, 7:10 p.m., SNY, WCBS
LHP David Peterson vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

■ **Starling Marte** is scheduled to play Sunday in a minor league rehab game for Double-A Binghamton. The outfielder, who is returning from a bone bruise in his right knee, played two games for Low-A St. Lucie last week.

The rest of Manaea's night was ugly, but the Mariners didn't add further runs against him. Manaea walked two batters in the second but escaped. He walked the bases loaded in the third and maybe averted trouble in the inning only because of Bader's running catch on Jorge Polanco's drive to left-center with a runner on first.

Lindor's single leading off the game stood as the Mets' only hit until the sixth. Lindor never got beyond first, as Polanco's diving grab near second base on Martinez's grounder and flip across his body started a highlight reel inning-ending double play.

In the sixth, Lindor smacked a two-out single and was left stranded when Gilbert retired Nimmo.

Reed Garrett, in his return from the injured list, struck out the side in the sixth. Phil Maton pitched the seventh and surrendered an RBI single to Turner that placed the Mets in a 4-0 hole.

"We have just got to continue to fight, continue to stay positive and come back [Sunday] and win a baseball game," Mendoza said.

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plate and jumped to a 3-0 lead. Victor Robles doubled leading off and after a delayed steal of third scored on Randy Arozarena's double. Justin Turner's

shot off the right-field fence became the Mariners' third double of the inning, with another run scoring. Mitch Haniger's RBI single brought in the third run.

SPLITTIN' IMAGE

Yankees look dominant in Game 1 of DH, but have no answer vs. Texas in Game 2

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

In the span of about six and a half hours, the Yankees showed flashes of the peak of their powers, a team that could out-talent others all the way to the World Series.

And flashes of what could go wrong along the way for a club that still has holes.

YANKEES	8	Game 1
RANGERS	0	

RANGERS	9	Game 2
YANKEES	4	

An 8-0 win backed by Austin Wells, Aaron Judge and Carlos Rodon, followed by an ugly 9-4 loss to the Rangers that included a five-run, sixth-inning implosion, amounted to a doubleheader split in front of 41,996 in The Bronx for the Yankees (69-49), who have won nine of 13 and generally righted themselves after a lengthy malaise.

But on the other end of the trade deadline, there are still concerns about the team's rotation, bullpen and offense's ability to hit lefties, all of which mattered in a rough nightcap.

The positive first: The Yankees initially showed the kind of powerful and deep lineup that can do damage in October. Judge reached base in four of five plate appearances in the opener and saw 35 pitches, which made the job of the batters behind him easier.

Gleyber Torres' first-inning RBI single gave the Yankees the lead, and Wells' two-run single and two-run double helped put the game away. The Yankees knocked out Nathan Eovaldi after just three innings with six hits, several timely, in a game that rarely was in doubt.

"We were having some really solid at-bats against [Eovaldi]," said Wells, who looks natural in the cleanup hole. "They wore him down pretty good."

Batting fourth, Wells has hit .362 (21-for-58) with six runs, three doubles, a triple, two homers and 13 RBIs in 14 games.

"I think it's worked out so far," Wells said of his spot in the order.



CAP'N CRUNCH: Aaron Judge crashes into the wall, unable to grab an RBI double in the Yankees' 9-4 loss to the Rangers in Saturday's doubleheader at the Stadium. Gerrit Cole struck out 10 in less than six innings. Robert Sabo

Wells was out of the lineup for the second game, replaced by Giancarlo Stanton in the No. 4 hole for a team that was trying to match up against Cody Bradford. The team's struggles against lefties resurfaced.

The Yankees entered play with just a .705 OPS against southpaws, which was the 13th worst in MLB and far worse than their majors-best .796 OPS against righties. They again showed little pulse against a lefty, knocking just four singles in five innings against Bradford and only scoring one manufactured run: Jazz Chisholm Jr. singled in the second inning, stole second and scored on a Torres single.

"I feel like we have the people to correct that a little bit," manager Aaron Boone said of the team's struggle against lefties, mentioning the return of Stanton as a boost.

The Yankees didn't score after the second until back-to-back homers from

Stanton and Chisholm (his second of the day) in the eighth, which qualified as garbage time because the hole was too deep.

Wasted was a strong and abbreviated start from Gerrit Cole, as the Yankees unraveled once Cole was lifted in the sixth after 90 pitches. The Yankees were handling their ace carefully after general body fatigue pushed back his previous start.

Without Cole, the bullpen faltered — as did a third baseman who is still learning third base.

In a wild sixth inning, the normally solid Luke Weaver replaced Cole and served up singles to Nathaniel Lowe and Adolis Garcia. Leody Taveras hit a gapper to right-center that Juan Soto did well to chase down, nearly completing a remarkable diving catch, but he couldn't hold on.

Lowe and Garcia had to stay near their bases until they saw the ball drop. Soto threw to Torres, who threw a strike to third, where Chisholm merely had to touch the base — but instead tried to tag Lowe. A Rangers challenge found that Chisholm was too late in his tag.

Chisholm said he believed Soto had made the catch, and thus a tag was needed. The play loomed large after Weaver walked in a run, a sacrifice fly scored another and Corey Seager's three-run dinger essentially ended the game.

"That was devastating for sure," said Weaver, whose ERA swelled from 2.81 to 3.50.

The problems were not over for the Yankee bullpen, as Michael Tonkin allowed five straight two-out hits and three runs in the seventh.

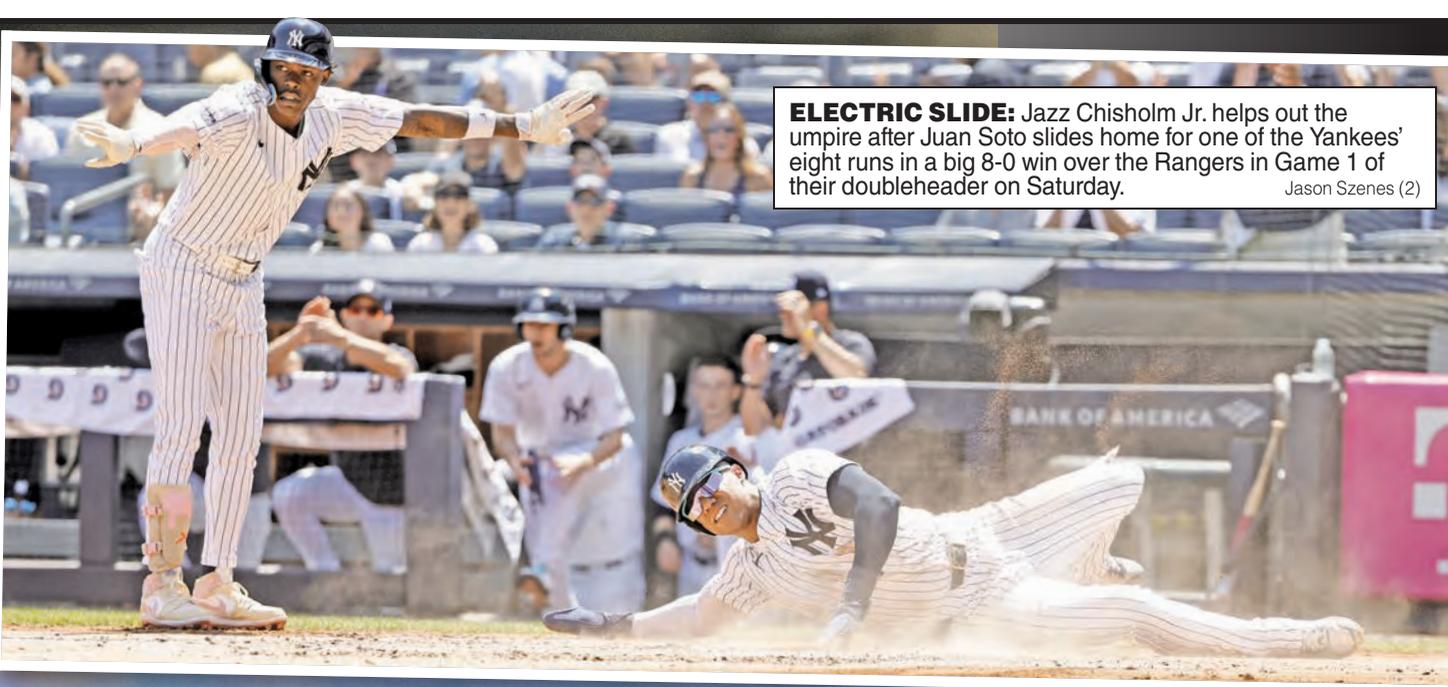
Yankees starting pitching was a bright spot, albeit not blindingly so. Both Rodon (5 ²/₃ innings, no runs, three hits, five walks, six strikeouts) and Cole (5 ¹/₃ innings, six hits, one run, two walks, 10 strikeouts) got into trouble and generally struck their way out of it. Rodon handed off to a sturdy bullpen, and Cole watched that bullpen implode.

There were things to like and things to grow concerned about after a 1-1 Saturday.

"It was a long day," Weaver said.

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ELECTRIC SLIDE: Jazz Chisholm Jr. helps out the umpire after Juan Soto slides home for one of the Yankees' eight runs in a big 8-0 win over the Rangers in Game 1 of their doubleheader on Saturday. Jason Szenes (2)

KIND OF interesting, isn't it, that Marcus Stroman might actually not be good enough to be one of the Yankees' four playoff starters?

After all, that was at the guts of the spat between Brian Cashman and Stroman in 2019 when the Yankees did not obtain the righty at the trade deadline. The Yankees GM said in the aftermath that he did not want to overpay in an acquisition because Stroman would have fallen to the bullpen in the postseason. Stroman reacted with a couple of years of social media attacks on Cashman, especially at times of postseason failure. Cashman and Stroman had to smooth over that history as part of him signing a two-year, \$37 million contract.

Yet approaching the three-quarter mark of the schedule, Stroman probably would not be in a Yankee postseason rotation. He has looked like a marathoner out of gas at 20 miles with a 7.56 ERA and 1,000 OPS against in his last six starts. He was pushed back from Thursday to a series finale Sunday against the Rangers to work on mechanics. He feels this is a glitch, not exhaustion, and can be fixed.

And part of the rest of this season for the Yankees is determining who is in a playoff rotation. Thus, an intriguing 36 hours began Saturday at Yankee Stadium with Clarke Schmidt throwing live batting practice and then Carlos Rodon and Gerrit Cole starting in a doubleheader leading into Stroman on Sunday.

Schmidt, who threw 20 pitches Tuesday, delivered 25 without a break Saturday. He said the full arsenal he

Postseason rotation starts to take shape

deployed in facing the rehabbing Jon Berti, Anthony Rizzo and Jose Trevino would have produced outs in a real game. Aaron Boone described himself as thrilled with the performance. There is still a discussion when to advance to rehab games and how many, but also a growing belief that Schmidt will return to the rotation by late this month.

Boone called Schmidt "a top 10 or 15 starter in the league" when he went down with a lat injury. That kind of pitcher earns postseason work. Still, at this moment, the only sure thing — health permitting — is Cole because, well, he is Cole. The pedigree will win out even if he is never the Cy Young of last season.

After the Yankees won the opener Saturday 8-0 over Texas behind Rodon and stellar overall at-bats, particularly from Aaron Judge and Austin Wells, Cole authored one-run ball over 5 1/3 innings in a 9-4 Ranger triumph, getting 26 swings and misses — his most in a game since May 8, 2022.

Cole had a third-inning string in which he allowed single, walk, RBI single before striking out the side to begin a seven-up, seven-

down end to his day. He was pulled after 90 pitches as the Yanks stuck with caution and the big picture for a pitcher who missed the first 2 1/2 months with an elbow injury and was in his second start since being skipped due to what the team called full body fatigue.

Cole is still trying to marry endurance, dominance and consistency — the triad that won him the Cy Young — and said he believes he has time before October to do so. But even if he doesn't, he will be given the ball for a Game 1.

Everything else is TBD: Can Stroman and Nestor Cortes regroup themselves and push back into the October picture? Can Luis Gil, after not pitching most of the last two seasons, make it to the finish line sturdy? And can Rodon continue his recent excellent run in which he is doing the difficult — getting knocked down in New York and rising.

Rodon caromed between unhealthy, unsuccessful and, at times, unprofessional in his 2023 Yankees debut. He said it became a mental game to show, "I'm better than what I put out on the field

the year before, and I want to prove that I'm capable of being the pitcher I have been."

He was good early, followed by terrible, but after 5 2/3 shutout innings Saturday he has a four-start run now with a 2.22 ERA and .197 batting average against.

To watch Rodon on Saturday was to see the good and why he still has not gained complete trust. Rodon's stuff is excellent, especially when dotting his fastball to either corner to open up expanding usage/belief in his changeup. He allowed just three singles.

But Rodon also walked five. That included Wyatt Lanford, who did not swing at any of six pitches in the second inning. Lanford only swung once at seven pitches while striking out looking to close the third. Rodon barked at Lanford to swing. Initially, home-plate ump Adam Hamari seemed to think it was directed at him, as did Boone who raced out. To risk in any way getting ejected in the third inning of a doubleheader opener revealed the fight with emotion that even Rodon concedes he still has.

Can he control his pitches and his mood enough to just benefit from the excellent stuff? The answers could determine if he is getting Game 2 behind Cole in the playoffs.

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Joel Sherman

Montefiore Einstein

Official Hospital of the New York Yankees



INJURY REPORT

■ **Clarke Schmidt** (right lat strain) and **Cody Poteet** (right triceps strain) threw 25-pitch live sessions before the doubleheader. Both are expected to throw another session Wednesday.

■ **Jose Trevino** (left quad strain) is expected to start a rehab assignment Sunday.



vs. Rangers

Sunday, 1:35 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

RHP Marcus Stroman



2024 stats:
7-6, 4.10 ERA

Career vs. TEX:
1-3, 4.79 ERA

Last start:
Aug. 2 vs. TOR;
2.2 IP, 8 H, 7 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

36% Sinker
19% Cutter
17% Slider

LHP Andrew Heaney



2024 stats:
4-11, 3.98 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
1-3, 5.29 ERA

Last start:
Aug. 5 vs. HOU;
6.0 IP, 1 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

53% Fastball
29% Slider
16% Changeup

UP NEXT

MONDAY: at White Sox,
8:10 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD

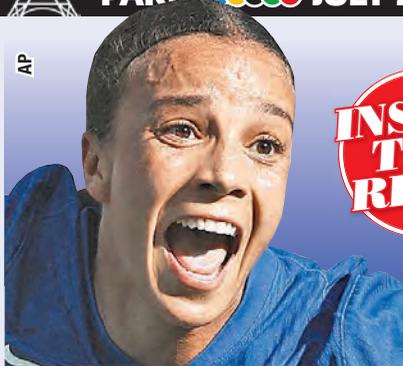
vs. LHP Ky Bush
TUESDAY: at White Sox,
8:10 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD

vs. RHP Jonathan Cannon



2024 SUMMER OLYMPICS

PARIS JULY 26-AUG. 11



ATHLETE OF THE DAY

MALLORY SWANSON
United States, women's soccer
Swanson scored the lone goal early in the second half of the 1-0 victory over Brazil to clinch gold for the USWNT, its first Olympic gold since 2012. Swanson, who is married to Cubs shortstop Dansby Swanson, scored in her 100th appearance for the U.S. in international play. **For more coverage, see pages 4-5.**



BY THE NUMBERS

0.01 Second margin of victory for the United States' Masai Russell in the women's 100-meter hurdles. She edged out France's Cyrena Samba-Mayela to win gold, with both competitors having to wait to learn the final result.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This bronze shines like gold for us."
— Vasilije Micic, who scored 19 points in Serbia's 93-83 bronze-medal victory over Germany in men's basketball. Nikola Jokic (19 points, 12 rebounds, 11 assists) had the fifth triple-double in Olympic history.

MEDAL TRACKER



Country	G	S	B	Tot
United States	38	42	42	122
China	39	27	24	90
Great Britain	14	22	27	63
France	16	24	22	62
Australia	18	18	14	50
Japan	18	12	13	43
Italy	11	13	15	39
Netherlands	13	7	12	32
Germany	12	11	8	31
South Korea	13	8	9	30

Complete medal count, Page 61



Post staff and wire reports

Lin Yu-ting has flipped her 2024 Paris Olympics experience around with a shiny gold medal.

The boxer from Taiwan, who was at the center of a gender controversy, won the women's 57kg gold medal bout against 20-year-old Julia Szeremeta of Poland at Roland Garros on Saturday in a 5-0 victory.

It was a big improvement from Tokyo, where Yu-ting exited in just the first round in 2021.

She bent down to kiss the mat after her win.

Yu-ting's length and 4-inch height advantage proved to be a challenge for Szeremeta, who did well dodging punches but failed to produce her own offense to earn points.

The young boxer was unable to make any game-changing adjustment against Yu-ting, who went on to another dominant win.

Gold for second boxer mired in gender identity controversy

The victory gives Yu-ting, 28, something to smile about after enduring an intense gender identity controversy throughout the Paris Games alongside Algerian boxer Imane Khelif, who also won gold in the women's 66kg final on Friday.



In both Yu-ting's semifinal and quarterfinal bouts, her opponents flashed two X's with their respective index fingers, which seemingly referred to the symbols of female chromosomes, since her sex has been questioned during the Olympics.

The gesture was performed by Esra Yildiz Kahraman of Turkey and Svetlana Kamenova

Staneva of Bulgaria in the semifinal and quarterfinal, respectively.

The gender of both Yu-ting and Khelif has been put under a microscope since the pair's disqualification from the 2023 World Championships for failing gender identity tests.

Water polo sinks to no medal

In a matter of days, the U.S. women's water polo team went from the pursuit of a historic gold medal to going home empty-handed.

It was quite a fall.

The U.S. blew another lead Saturday and lost 11-10 to the Netherlands on Sabrina van der Sloot's goal in the final second of the bronze-medal game at the Paris Olympics. The U.S. had been the only program to medal



PHOTO OF THE DAY

Not a bad view for a run

Men's marathon runners pass the Louvre museum in Paris during Saturday morning's event, won by Ethiopia's Tamarit Tola. He finished in an Olympic record time of 2 hours, 6 minutes, 26 seconds, becoming the first non-Kenyan to win the men's marathon since Ugandan Stephen Kiprotich in 2012.

Photo by Associated Press

in each women's water polo tournament at the Olympics since it started in 2000.

"We've talked about just trying to learn from our mistakes and getting better," U.S. captain Maggie Steffens said. "And I feel today we struggled to continually learn from our mistakes."

The U.S. arrived at the Paris Games in search of an unprecedented fourth consecutive gold medal, while continually downplaying the significance of the streak. Steffens was the only holdover from the 2012 team, and one of six returning players from Tokyo.

Ko adds to trophy case

Lydia Ko completed her Olympic medal collection on Saturday with the most valuable of them all, a gold medal that puts the 27-year-old Kiwi into the LPGA Hall of Fame.

Ko built a five-shot lead on the back nine at Le Golf National as her closest pursuers all collapsed, and then had to hang on until the very end. Her lead down to one, Ko made a 7-foot birdie putt for a 1-under 71 and a two-shot victory.

Ko won the silver medal in Rio de Janeiro.

She won the bronze in Tokyo. The missing one turned out to be more valuable than its weight in gold. The victory pushed her career total to 27 points for the LPGA Hall of Fame, one of the strictest criteria for any shrine.

Esther Henseleit of Germany finished birdie-birdie for a 66 to make Ko work for it. She wound up with the silver. Xiyu Lin of China birdied the final hole for a 69 to win the bronze.

For Nelly Korda, Rose Zhang and Morgane Metraux, it was a day to forget. All of them were in range early. All of them fell back with a double bogey or worse.

IOC head to step down

IOC president Thomas Bach on Saturday said he will leave office next year and that the Olympics is "best served with a change in leadership."

Bach, 70, has led the International Olympic Committee since September 2013. His 12-year limit was due to expire next year, but the members asked him last year to consider changing IOC rules to let him remain in office.

TODAY'S CAN'T-MISS EVENTS



1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL FINAL, U.S. vs. France (9:30 a.m., NBC): If Saturday's U.S. men's basketball matchup with France wasn't enough for you, we're running it back today with the women's final. Don't expect high drama, though, with **Sabrina Ionescu** and her teammates on a 60-game winning streak.



2

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL FINAL, U.S. vs. Italy (7 a.m., NBC): Top-ranked Italy stands in the way of captain **Jordan Larson**, 37, and her teammates repeating as back-to-back gold medalists. The last nation to repeat as Olympic champions was Brazil, in 2008 and 2012, who the U.S. eliminated in the semifinals.



3

CLOSING CEREMONY (3 p.m., NBC): **Katie Ledecky**, fresh off another historic Olympic performance in the pool, will be one of the two flag bearers, along with rower **Nick Mead**, as the 2024 Paris Games come to a close at Stade de France with the handover of the Olympic flag for the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

DAY 16: COMPLETE TV SCHEDULE (*live)

NBC		USA NETWORK	
7-9 a.m.	Volleyball: Women's Final, U.S. vs. Italy*	9:30-10 a.m.	Weightlifting: Women's Final
9-9:30 a.m.	Cycling: Track Finals	10-11 a.m.	Wrestling: Finals
9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.	Basketball: Women's Final* U.S. vs. France	11 a.m.-12 p.m.	Handball: Men's Bronze Medal Match, Spain vs. Slovenia
12-2 p.m.	Track & Field: Women's Marathon	12-1:30 p.m.	Handball: Men's Final, Germany vs. Denmark
2-3 p.m.	"Best of Paris 2024"	1:30-2:30 p.m.	Water Polo: Men's Bronze Medal Match, U.S. vs. Hungary
3-6 p.m.	Closing Ceremony	2:30-3:30 p.m.	Water Polo: Men's Final, Serbia vs. Croatia
7-10 p.m.	Closing Ceremony	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Basketball: Women's Final, U.S. vs. France
USA NETWORK		PEACOCK/DIGITAL	
5:45-7:30 a.m.	Basketball: Women's Bronze Medal Game, Belgium vs. Australia*	5-8 a.m.	Wrestling: Finals*
7:30-9 a.m.	Handball: Men's Final, Germany vs. Denmark*		
9-9:30 a.m.	Water Polo: Men's Final, Serbia vs. Croatia*		

Athletes cruised the Seine River during the Opening Ceremonies on July 26.

AP





Steph of legends: The No. 1 moment of a HOF career

THE GREATEST shooter ever may have had his greatest moment ever.

Stephen Curry has four NBA titles, a couple of MVPs and the league's all-time 3-point record. His shooting changed not just the Warriors and the NBA, but the game of basketball the world over.

But never in his surefire Hall of Fame career has he had a golden moment like this.

The only spot in Curry's overflowing trophy case still bare was for an Olympic gold medal. And he filled it Saturday, the same way he filled up the basket when Team



Brian Lewis

USA needed him in a 98-87 final victory over host France.

"It wasn't easy, but damn, I'm excited," Curry said. "This is everything that I wanted it to be and more, so I'm excited."

Curry poured in 24 points, five assists and eight 3-pointers. And it wasn't just what Curry did, but how he did it. And when.

After watching Team USA get wobbly and seeing their double-digit lead shrivel to just 82-79 with under three minutes left, the U.S. rode Curry's back.

Or more accurately, they rode his red-hot hand.

Curry scored a dozen points in the final 2:48 of the game, all on 3-pointers.

"That was an unbelievable moment. I've been blessed to play basketball at a high level for a very long time. I don't know, this ranks very, very high in terms of the excitement and the sense of relief getting to the finish line," Curry said in an on-court TV interview after the victory.

"It is special. Two years ago when we won our last championship, I knew that this was going to be on the horizon, and something that I was excited to go after. Anything you sign up for, any mission that you take on, you give everything you have. ... We missed the playoffs, so I've been preparing for a long time, but these last five weeks together with this group has been nothing but 'one, two,

three, gold.' That's all we've been saying. So for us to finally accomplish that, for me to get the gold medal, is insane, and I thank God for the opportunity to experience it."

Curry's heat-check 3-pointers — daggers from the logo — have changed the game and inspired a generation of players to emulate him. But the original was on display Saturday in Paris, and he was on fire.

After mustering just 29 points on 5 of 20 shooting from deep through Team USA's first four games, Curry erupted for 60 on 17 of 26 the

last two.

It was Curry's game-high 36 points that overturned a 17-point deficit in the semifinal win over three-time MVP Nikola Jokic. Saturday against the future of the sport, Victor Wembanyama, he pulled off an encore.

When Wembanyama got the hosts within 82-79, Curry answered back with a 3-point just 10 seconds later. Then he drained another with 1:53 to play, and another, and finally a high-arching miracle shot over a Wembanyama double-team with 35 seconds left.

That was the exclamation point on the win. And after it was over, Curry was on the podium conducting the American pockets of fans in chants of "USA! USA!" the same way he'd conducted Team USA to gold.

"It's right up there with all of the greatest games of his career," Team USA coach Steve Kerr said in a TV interview. And after winning four NBA titles with Curry in Golden State, Kerr would know.

"The shotmaking was just incredible," he said. "But under the circumstances — you know, on the road in Paris against France for a gold medal — this is storybook stuff. But that's what Steph does. He likes to be in storybooks."

Curry wasn't just in this one. He wrote the golden ending for it.



VIVE LA USA! A fired-up Stephen Curry, reacting after one of his four 3-pointers in the final minutes of the United States' 98-87 victory over France on Saturday in Paris to secure a fifth consecutive gold medal. Curry, posing alongside LeBron James and Kevin Durant (inset), earned his first gold while Durant became the all-time leader in men's history with four.

AP; Getty Images

GOLDEN



HOW? Stephen Curry gets a shot off over the outstretched arms of 7-foot-4 French phenom Victor Wembanyama.

Getty Images

Curry's heroics

By BRIAN LEWIS

Team USA completed their drive for five. And it was Stephen Curry who drove them.

First, Curry told France good night. Then, he secured Team USA's golden night, shooting them to a 98-87 win over France in the Olympic men's basketball final.

It marked the U.S. 98th Olympic gold, including five in a row. And stars Curry, Kevin Durant and LeBron James led the way in this one Saturday at Accor Arena in Paris, making big plays in the endgame to secure the title.

Curry had 24 points, five assists and eight 3-pointers. After Team USA had watched Victor Wembanyama slice a double-digit lead to just three, Curry hit four 3s in the final 2:48, laying his head in his hands after the last one in his typical celebration of having put the game to bed.

"At that point, your mind goes blank. You don't really care about the setting or the scenario or anything. It's just a shot," Curry said. "Thankfully, that one went in. ... It's just rhythm and flow and confidence and that was it."

James had 14 points, 10 assists and six rebounds, play-making early and being named Olympics MVP after averaging 14.2 points, a team-high-tying

U.S.	98	Men's basketball
FRANCE	87	



Local stars lead relay dominance

By ETHAN SEARS

The United States closed out the Olympic track and field meet in style.

First, the men set an Olympic record and won gold in the 4x400-meter relay.

Then, not to be outdone, the women smashed the field by over four seconds in their 4x400-meter relay, beating an American record that had stood since the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

The women's team of Shamier Little, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, Gabby Thomas and Alexis Holmes won the 34th medal and 14th gold for Team USA at track and field, both of which more than doubled any other country in the field.

Little chased down the Jamaican team during the first leg before handing off to McLaughlin-Levrone, who almost immediately jumped into a decisive lead.

The native of New Brunswick, N.J., and 400-meter hurdle champion ran a 47.8-second split, relegating the rest of the field to a race for second.

When Holmes crossed the line

after 3:15.27, she did so over four seconds ahead of second-place Netherlands.

What drama there was came in the men's relay, as the team of Christopher Bailey, Vernon Norwood, Bryce Deadmon and Rai Benjamin edged out Botswana by a mere tenth of a second.

Benjamin, a native of Mount Vernon, N.Y., produced a 43.18-second split in the anchor leg, holding off Botswana's Letsile Tebogo, who ran the fastest leg of the relay at 43.04.

"I calculated that run very well to a T," Benjamin told reporters. "I have a really good, high, track IQ on people and how they run and how to do a quick time, so I didn't have to come out too hard: Let's just save it up to come home."

It was the fourth gold medal in the past five Olympics for the men's 4x400 team and the seventh in a row for the women, who have been atop the podium since 1996.

"Team USA have always had dominance over the 4x4," Bailey told reporters. "We just wanted to keep it going."

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OLDIES

lift NBA greats past host France

8.2 rebounds and a team-best 10.2 assists. He sported golden sneakers, and his all-around play ensured that's what shade the U.S. medals ended up being.

Durant — who forced a trade from the Nets to Phoenix in 2023 — had 15 points, four assists and four rebounds. He earned his record-breaking fourth gold medal, surpassing former Knicks star Carmelo Anthony — who was on hand — for the most by a men's basketball player.

But when the going got tough, Team USA went to Curry.

"I've seen that from Steph a few times, but it never gets old," Team USA coach Steve Kerr said of his Warriors star. "It's a global game with a lot of great players, but we still feel we have the greatest players."

"They were all so unselfish throughout this whole thing, through all the noise, all the pressure. We might be the only team in the world whose fans are ashamed of them if they get a silver medal, and that's the pressure we face. But our players — and you saw Steph — they love the pressure. They appreciate this atmosphere, and they were fantastic."

Especially their shooting. Team USA hit 18 of 36 from 3-point range and held a talented French squad to just 9 of 30.

Team USA has won eight of the last nine golds and is 36-1 in the Olympics since 2004. That 'one' had come at the hands of France three years ago in

the group stage in Tokyo. But they beat the French in a finals rematch in 2021 and did it again Saturday.

This time around may have been tougher, solely because of Wembanyama, who had a game-high 26 points and seven rebounds and left the court in tears.

"Wembanyama was amazing tonight," Kerr said. "He's soon going to become one of the best in the world."

Team USA trailed by a point in the second quarter before surging ahead with a 20-9 run.

They never trailed again, but when Wembanyama scored to cut it to 82-79 with 2:58 left, Curry responded just 10 seconds later.

Curry hit the next four buckets for Team USA, all from deep. His first doubled the lead and steadied the ship. He hit another with 1:53 to play, and his high-arching miracle shot over a Wembanyama double team with 35 seconds to play brought on his "good night" celebration.

"This was a test. France in their home building, you know they weren't gonna quit. They threw everything at us," Curry said in a TV interview. "We got a little out of sorts down the stretch, turned the ball over, taking quick shots. Obviously, it was a big shot up three to put us up six. That kind of settled everything. Then the rhythm, the avalanche came, and thankfully, the other 3 went in."

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CAN'T CATCH 'EM: New Jersey native Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (top right) and Mount Vernon's Rai Benjamin (left) celebrate after their wins in the women's and men's 4x400 relays Saturday. Getty Images; AP

SUNDAY

NEW YORK POST

Sport

AUGUST 11, 2024

**METS GET
BLANKED AGAIN**
JUST 4 HITS IN 2ND STRAIGHT SHUTOUT / P. 72-73

**Steph says
au revoir to
France with
epic 3-point
outburst to
clinch gold**

 **P. 79-76**



USA TODAY Sports

NO MERCY

Stephen Curry put France to sleep in the fourth quarter of the United States' 98-87 victory, sinking four 3-pointers in the final 2:43 to clinch gold for Team USA. It's the fifth consecutive gold for the U.S. and fourth for Kevin Durant, who surpassed Carmelo Anthony for the most all time by an American men's basketball player.



HEROES TO ZEROES

**YANKEES WIN IN ROUT,
LAY EGG IN NIGHTCAP**

**PAGES
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