



RUNAWAY TREN

**How violent
migrant gang
is taking over
city crime**

Venezuelan migrant gang Tren de Aragua has taken hold in the Big Apple, exploiting the migrant crisis to build a violent criminal enterprise from within the walls of city shelters. The crew of thugs, whose members are told to get distinctive tattoos (right), now terrorizes Gotham with gun-toting, moped-riding hoods, sells illegal guns and runs sleazy prostitution rings in neighborhoods suddenly besieged by the marauding migrants.

PAGES 4-5



Jews trash new law

By CARL CAMPANILE

Is nothing sacred?
Orthodox Jews who observe the Sabbath are criticizing the city Department of Sanitation over its stricter evening curbside garbage drop-offs, saying they are getting slapped with fines for adhering to their religion.

In some heavily orthodox neighborhoods like Crown Heights, trash has to be brought to the curb for Saturday pickup no earlier than Friday evening — when residents are preparing to observe the Sabbath.

“The city’s new regulations regarding garbage collection now directly infringe on our religious liberties and seem to overturn nearly 100 years of precedent,” fumed Crown Heights resident Kan Tzivah.

The city now requires property owners to put out bins later than that — after 6 p.m. if the receptacle has a secured lid, or between 8 p.m. and midnight for trash bags.

The times were pushed back from the previous cutoff of 4 p.m. in an effort to reduce the time rats and rodents have easy access to food scraps, officials have said.

Tzivah noted that for about half the year, the Sabbath starts before 6 p.m., and observant Jews are supposed to refrain from activities viewed as work.

“I even tried explaining this to a DSNY worker who was issuing tickets right before Shabbos on our block recently,” Tzivah said. “Unfortunately, he simply said that while he was sympathetic to our problem, he was following orders and couldn’t make exceptions.

“It feels as though, in NYC 2024, the concerns of the Jewish community no longer count.”

Locals shared with The Post copies of summonses for bringing out their trash receptacles too early, with fines ranging from \$50 to \$300.

“I was surprised because in all my years living here in Crown Heights the DOS has been very considerate to our needs as reli-



It feels as though, in NYC 2024, the concerns of the Jewish community no longer count.

—Crown Heights resident Kan Tzivah

TRASH CAN’T: Orthodox Jews in Brooklyn get fined for putting out trash early to avoid working on the Sabbath.

Rip curb drop time on Sabbath

gious Jews,” said Rabbi Motty Lipskier, a Crown Heights resident and educator who recently received a summons.

“I appreciate all those who are working on resolving this issue and I trust that the DOS will be understanding,” Lipskier said.

Give it a rest

Brooklyn state Sen. Simcha Felder has urged sanitation officials to stop issuing summonses ahead of or during the Sabbath.

“Sabbath observant residents with Saturday collection will need to put out their trash receptacles in advance of the Sabbath, which will be earlier than DSNY’s Trash Setout Times of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.,” Felder said in a Sept. 18 let-

ter to the Sanitation Department’s enforcement chief.

“By allowing this small window of time for Sabbath observant residents with Saturday collection, we can ensure that we do not cause mounds of stagnant garbage to pile up throughout the neighborhood,” Felder said.

“Due to religious observance, DSNY should refrain from issuing violations for putting out garbage receptacles earlier on Friday evening, as this is the only time that these residents would be able to put them out before a Saturday trash collection.”

A Sanitation Department rep defended the later timetable for putting out trash — and enforcing it with summonses.

“The old 4 p.m. set-out time was

among the earliest in the country, and it meant that black bags of trash sat on our curbs more than half the day,” said Joshua Goodman, DSNY’s deputy commissioner for public affairs and customer experience.

“Changing this old status quo is getting results, with the largest year-over-year drop in rat sightings since 2010, but sustained progress depends on compliance with the rules.”

Goodman said the department has offered to change the collection day in Crown Heights from Saturday to another day of the week to work around the Sabbath. But the offer, he said, was rejected.

“While that offer was declined by community leaders,” Goodman said, “it remains on the table.”

Industrial LIC wants a brake on bikes

Businesses in one of the last-standing industrial corners of Long Island City say they can only take so much gentrification — and that a planned new bike lane has put them over the edge.

Local industries argue that the cyclist carve-out in the trendy Queens neighborhood will be dangerous for their truck drivers — not to mention the bikers.

“Not every street is safe for a bike lane. You wouldn’t put a bike lane down the middle of the LIE. It’s just not safe. And this is similar,” argued Matthew Dienstag, co-owner of the local LeNoble Lumber.

But the city — which touts on its transportation website that nearly 1 million New Yorkers regularly ride bikes — is plowing ahead with plans to connect the Pulaski and Kosciuszko bridges for bikers.

The connection will come by way of Borden, Starr and Review avenues — a dangerous sector of Blissville infamous for congestion.

Massive box trucks already swerve across both lanes to warehouses, a tricky maneuver made even more difficult by a chronic double-parking problem.

Local civic associations and the community board requested the bike lane.

Five people, including two cyclists, were killed — and more than 170 others injured — on the local roads in the past five years.

“We need to do everything we can to ensure we don’t lose another life to a preventable death,” the area’s City Council member, Julie Won, told The Post. Katherine Donlevy

INSIDE TODAY

News Columns

Miranda Devine 13

Gossip

Page Six 16

Cindy Adams 18

Weather p. 22

Fun & Games

Horoscope 22

Su Doku 30

Crosswords 30

Post Opinion p. 27-29

Business p. 31-32

Ken Fisher 31

Classifieds p. 34

Sports p. 35-57

Steve Serby 57

Television p. 58-59

LOTTERY

NEW YORK

■ Midday Nos. Sun.: 596

■ Midday Win-4 Sun.: 8014

■ Midday Take 5 Sun.: 1, 2, 5, 14, 21

■ Evening Nos. Sun.: 844

■ Evening Win-4 Sun.: 5467

■ Evening Take-5 Sun.: 1, 3, 9, 19, 21

■ Lotto Sat.: 1, 8, 18, 41, 48, 57; Bonus: 3

■ Pick-10 Sun.: 5, 10, 11, 22, 27, 32, 35, 39, 45, 52, 55, 56, 57, 63, 64, 65, 72, 75, 78, 79

■ Cash-4-Life Sun.: 6, 22, 34, 47, 53; Cash Ball: 2

■ Powerball Sat.: 17, 19, 21, 37, 45; Powerball: 14; Power Play: x2

NEW JERSEY

Pick-3 Sun.: 732; Fireball: 7

Pick-4 Sun.: 1141; Fireball: 7

Cash-5 Xtra Sun.: 8, 13, 14, 20, 30; Xtra: 2

CONNECTICUT

Play-3 Sun.: 260; Wild: 1

Play-4 Sun.: 7181; Wild: 3

Cash-5 Sun.: 15, 22, 26, 29, 35

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NY couple's chateau turning into French disaster

THEY SACRÉ BLEW \$2.6M



By EMILY CRANE

A Big Apple couple who convinced their family to sell their home in the US and splash \$2.6 million on a crumbling French chateau is now struggling to keep the dream alive after being besieged by structural problems and costly renovations.

Julia Leach, 33, and fiancée Caroline Ibarra, 37, purchased the 750-year-old chateau in Charente, 90 minutes northeast of Bordeaux, with Leach's parents in early 2021, hoping to turn it into a full-scale hospitality business, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

But two years after setting up their Lady of the Château business, the couple say they have been set back by the staggering cost of renovating the sprawling 14,000-square-foot property.

The bill to repair and restore the property has ballooned to nearly three times their expected \$1 million budget.

What's worse, they now risk being deported when their visas run out if they can't prove they're earning more than France's required minimum wage of roughly \$46,800 within the next two years.

Then the earthquake hit

The couple's dream to live in the French countryside chateau hit a snag almost immediately after they decided to uproot from their Brooklyn apartment, give up their TV and film camera-assistant careers and start a YouTube channel to document the renovation process.

They were quickly plagued by issues with the castle-like property, including structural problems, leaks, sewage backups, electrical issues — and even a small earthquake.

At one point, the couple found

themselves “knee-deep” shoveling sanitary napkins from a backed-up septic tank and removing dead animals from the infrastructure.

The couple also weren't aware when they purchased the chateau that it was listed as a historic

monument, which means architects have to be granted government approval for any structural changes to the building.

The family, including Leach's parents and sister, who also all relocated for the joint venture, had planned to make a signifi-

cant investment in the property.

“It is becoming completely unaffordable,” Leach recalled thinking early on, adding that the expense made them completely rethink the initial two years of renovation plans they had set aside.



AU REVOIR? Caroline Ibarra and Julia Leach's 750-year-old French dream castle boasts opulent grounds and interiors, but mounting renovation costs have the ladies at risk of deportation.

Leach's parents had sold off their French Provençal-style family home in La Jolla, Calif., to help pay for the chateau and invest in the business.

Champagne swillers

Leach said the chateau's gardeners and cleaners, including some who had been working there for decades, also realized early on that the couple were serious about reviving the property and weren't just there to “drink champagne in bed.”

“It was more like crushing responsibility and panic,” she recalled of the first few months at the property.

Throughout all the renovations and structural issues, the family says they are still trying to keep their business plans afloat.

Despite initially opening the property as a bed-and-breakfast, they have since shifted to focus on “immersive retreats” so they can try and turn a profit.

“I think what we're doing is, in a lot of ways, very American,” Ibarra said.

BORDER CRISIS

Venez. gang's crime op run out of shelters



Christopher Sadowski

By JOE MARINO
and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

In little more than a year, a once-obscure South American street gang has taken hold in the Big Apple, exploiting the migrant crisis to build a violent criminal enterprise from within the walls of city shelters.

Tren de Aragua, a Venezuelan-bred crew of thugs, now terrorizes Gotham with gun-toting, moped-riding hoods, sells illegal guns under the very noses of private shelter security guards and runs sleazy prostitution rings in neighborhoods suddenly besieged by the marauding migrants.

The gang, which also peddles a lethal fentanyl mix called Tussi or “pink cocaine,” has grown so fast that they have so far overwhelmed both average New Yorkers and the city’s police force.

“Not every migrant is here to commit crimes, not every migrant is a gang member,” said NYPD Chief of Detectives Joseph Kenny. “But these TDA guys hide very well in plain sight in the migrant community.

“We aren’t looking to grab the food delivery guy, but these guys go so far as to wear Uber Eats clothing, [using] the delivery bags while they’re out there committing their crimes,” the chief told The Post. “When we do arrest them they are very eager to talk about the crime they have committed.

“They are unwilling to talk about TDA itself.”

Burglary & brothels

The gang, whose name means “train from Aragua” in Spanish, now runs citywide theft and robbery crews that have terrorized neighborhoods.

In Jackson Heights, a stretch of Roosevelt Avenue dubbed the “Market of Sweethearts” has become a testament to TDA’s muscle and influence, with vendors peddling stolen items and an open-air red light district that has migrant hookers walking the streets day and night.

A 24-hour brothel raided by the

NYPD last week may have ties to the gang, sources said.

One current crime spree has seen nearly two dozen heists pulled off by migrants wielding guns or knives, with the crooks typically as young as 15 and no older than 19 years old, law enforcement sources said.

The crews move in groups of a half-dozen or more, and raid not only retailers but average New Yorkers — one victim was approached by a TDA gang and threatened with a knife, slugged and robbed in June.

In July, another victim was lounging near the Central Park playground when two thugs forcibly stole \$80 and grabbed his phone, making him give up his password before running off.

And last month a woman walk-

ing near Rockefeller Center was pickpocketed by another migrant.

The NYPD also recently shut down a major gang-linked robbery crew, with nearly two dozen migrant teens either busted or identified as suspects in 21 separate and often violent robberies.

Nasty snatch-&-grabs

“They were like, ‘We need your phone, we need your stuff, because I had my bag with me, my phone, AirPods, Applewatch,’” one victim told The Post. “They wanted everything, but I couldn’t give anything because I had some money, I had some things in my bag.

“They started and punched me to the face,” he said. “I was stepping back, you know, trying to fight back, but I couldn’t do any-

thing. And then five more guys came in, total, like, minimum, 10 of them.”

With little regard for law enforcement, TDA gangbangers are also not shy about targeting cops.

Gang member Bernardo Castro Mata, 19, was arrested in Queens in June and charged with shooting NYPD officers Richard Yarusso and Christian Abreu after nabbing the gun-toting robbery suspect.

In February, suspected gang member Jesus Alejandro Rivas-Figueroa, just 15, was busted for allegedly firing at a tourist and a police officer in Times Square.

A month earlier, a cowardly gang of migrants with alleged links to the gang jumped two NYPD cops in the same area, and one of them, identified as Jhoan Boada, 22, was

SICK CLIQUE: Tren de Aragua has expanded from the Randall’s Island shelter (top left) to moped robberies, prostitution and hoodlums with train tattoos peddling “pink cocaine” (right).



DOPI



Schools on sleazy street

By CARL CAMPANILE,
KEVIN SHEEHAN
and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

A sleazy Queens brothel is selling sex across the street from two public elementary schools near the notorious migrant “Market of Sweethearts,” according to fed-up locals, who are mounting a campaign to shut it down.

The illegal sex shop is the latest example of criminal activity around the infamous strip in Jackson Heights, an area law-enforcement sources suspect could be affiliated with the cutthroat Tren de Aragua gang.

“No good,” neighborhood mom Maria Gonzales told The Post of the brothel Sunday. “The school is just there. C’mom, no good. My husband go and say to them, ‘Not here. Too close, the niños.’ They say, ‘OK, OK, OK.’”

“Crazy,” she said. “We need police. Everyone calls, but no police coming.”

The situation is publicly surfacing days after the NYPD raided a 24-hour prostitution operation on nearby Roosevelt Avenue, where the so-called “Market of Sweethearts” hooker strip is located.

But locals near the latest uncovered brothel say this situa-

tion is even worse because the sex shop is across the street from PS 19 and PS 307.

“As a mother, we always worry about the safety and welfare of our children,” Ileana Martinez, whose two children attend the schools, said in a statement. “But what we see near Roosevelt Avenue now is terrifying. Hopefully someone will respond to the CEC resolution.”

Plea to mayor & cops

The resolution, which is due to be submitted to Community Education Council 24 at its meeting Tuesday, calls for city schools officials, police and Mayor Adams to team up to shut down the brothel and crack down on other criminal activity in the neighborhood.

“This request aligns with the NYC [Department of Education’s] commitment to ensuring that all students are provided a safe and supportive environment, crucial for fostering their academic success and social-emotional growth,” the resolution reads.

Photos from the brothel scene show that a wooden panel and a wooden door were built at the rear of the business, where apparent prostitutes sit nearby, hoping to lure in johns.

so brazen as to flash reporters the double bird as he walked out of court without bail.

For the majority of asylum-seekers, the gang is a stain on their community, and an example of the rampant violence and lawlessness that forced them to leave their homelands in the first place.

“I wouldn’t want the violence I grew up with to start here,” one Venezuelan migrant at Manhattan’s Roosevelt Hotel said Sunday. “I wouldn’t be here if I saw what I saw in Venezuela. I brought my kids here so they wouldn’t have the experiences with criminals like how it is over there.”

Another migrant simply called the gang “very bad people.”

Ground Zero for TDA’s New York City operation is Randall’s Island, where a massive tent city

was erected to help accommodate the wave of migrants from the US border.

Kenny called it “the main hub site.”

“You have the shelter itself and also have kind of like a tent city where people who are not registered to be in the shelter have taken up residence on their own,” the chief said.

Randall’s recruitment

He said one migrant dealer busted by the cops “didn’t want to go on to Randall’s because it’s too dangerous. There’s a lot of people there that don’t belong — it’s a congregation of people.”

But they’ve infiltrated other shelters — sources said one TDA bigwig was booted from the mas-

sive Hall Street shelter in Brooklyn for breaking the rules but returns every other day to collect the proceeds from drug sales at the facility and to smother over any beefs between gang members.

The 4,000-bed shelter is also home to a rival Venezuelan gang called “El Carro De Lost Caragijos 666,” which has a beef with TDA that predates their arrival in the US.

The gang itself is named for the region of Venezuela where they came from.

The gang began to expand out of their home base in 2018, and popped up on the radar for the Venezuelan military when they resorted to assassination and bribes to win lucrative railroad contracts in the city of Maracay — and soon established chapters

elsewhere in South America.

Members sneaked into the US among the millions of migrants who crossed the border, and set up shop across the nation, from cities like El Paso and Chicago to Florida beaches and Middle America.

Members are told to get distinctive tattoos that mark them as members, with the body art typically including anchors, clocks, crowns and phrases that included the word “guerrero” — which means warrior in Spanish but also pays homage to Hector “Nino” Guerrero, the leader of Tren de Aragua in Venezuela.

The gang tats also tend to feature the number “23” or NBA stars Michael Jordan and LeBron James, both of whom have worn the number on their jerseys,

while others include images of bulls, seemingly a nod to the NBA’s Chicago Bulls, who play in a city where TDA has flourished, sources said.

Just last week an immigration enforcement source told The Post that the gang has now also expanded into New Jersey, in part with new recruits plucked from the Big Apple.

In New York, TDA recruiters worked city shelters to enlist new members, many of them strong-armed into joining their ranks under the threat of having their families targeted by the gang.

Any asylum-seekers who refuse to join are labeled “Culebra” — an enemy of TDA.

*Additional reporting by Valentina Jaramillo and Jennie Taer
jfritz-gibbon@nypost.com*

Nursing homewrecker

Families urge feds to probe Cuomo after COV-panel shocker



ON HIS WATCH: Ex-Gov. Andrew Cuomo testifies before Congress this month on COVID nursing-home deaths, and allegedly edited a state report he claimed not to have seen.

By VAUGHN GOLDEN

Enraged families of COVID-19 victims are calling for former Gov. Andrew Cuomo to face charges after recently surfaced emails contradicted what he told a congressional panel about nursing-home deaths.

Peter Arbeen, Vivian Zayas and Janice Dean are asking the Department of Justice to probe Cuomo, arguing he lied to congressional investigators about a state report that lowballed deaths in nursing homes at the height of the pandemic.

Cuomo had initially claimed he had not seen the report, but a new bombshell probe appeared to show that he not only knew about the report but had edited it himself.

"We call on the Department of Justice to launch a full and fair investigation into Andrew Cuomo's statements to Congress, his coordination with other witnesses and

his role in covering up the nursing home death toll," the trio wrote in a statement, obtained by The Post.

"If it is found that he knowingly misled Congress and the American people or interfered with the congressional inquiry, he must be held accountable under the law," the statement went on.

"The families who lost loved ones deserve the truth, and the public deserves to know that no one is above the law, especially those entrusted with public office."

Andy's past denial

In June, Cuomo had downplayed any involvement in a state Department of Health report released in July 2020 that undercounted the number of nursing home deaths when questioned by the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic.

But uncovered emails in a New

York Times report showed that Cuomo had been suggesting edits to the report prior to its release, inserting language that blamed nursing home staff and visiting families for spreading the virus and contributing to the deaths.

A Cuomo spokesperson said the latest criticism was politicizing the pandemic.

"We are long past the point of absurd," Cuomo spokesperson Rich Azzopardi told The Post in a statement Sunday.

"We sympathize with every one of the 1 million-plus families who lost loved ones, but the continued attempts to purposefully distort and politically weaponize this pandemic are both transparent and sad."

Cuomo hadn't been sworn in under oath for his testimony, but officials told him he could be prosecuted if he knowingly made false statements, according to a tran-

script of the closed-doors session.

Democratic politicians also called on Cuomo to face more accountability.

"I've stood with the families of nursing homes and will continue to stand with them to hold the former governor accountable," said Assemblyman Ron Kim (D-Queens) an outspoken Cuomo critic.

"Andrew Cuomo has consistently lied and gaslit the public in pursuit of his book deal and political ambitions," Kim added. "Now, we must hold him accountable and seize this opportunity to fix our broken long-term care system."

City Councilman Lincoln Restler wrote in a statement said it was clear Cuomo's testimony before the House was "misleading and inaccurate."

"Time and again, he reveals himself to be someone New Yorkers cannot trust and who does not belong in public office," Restler said.



RAMON NAJERA
Veteran killed by pit bulls.

Prison for fatal dog maul

A Texas couple whose pit bulls viciously mauled an elderly veteran to death will each spend more than a decade behind bars for the attack.

Ramon Najera, 81, died when he was attacked by two dogs that had escaped their yard and charged at him and his wife, Juanita, 74, in San Antonio.

First responders witnessed Najera's bloodied body being dragged by one of the dogs. The canines then attacked firefighters, who were forced to fight them off with pick axes.

The dogs' owners, Christian Morena and Abilene Schneider, were each slapped with lengthy prison sentences Friday for the Feb. 24, 2023, mauling, the Bexar County District Attorney's Office said.

Juanita told a court Friday that she now suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and "extreme loneliness and emptiness."

"I would never have imagined I'd be calling myself a widow at this time in my life, and in this tragic way," she said. "PTSD is now something I will have to deal with the rest of my life."

Morena will spend the next 18 years behind bars, with Schneider receiving a 15-year sentence. The DA's Office said the couple was criminally negligent by not providing adequate fencing and allowing the dogs to roam free.

Anna Young

Bx. gas blast hurts 5, sends 100s of churchgoers fleeing

Five people were injured in The Bronx on Sunday when a gas main exploded, leaving behind a smoking crater, noxious fumes and panicked churchgoers flee-

ing into the street.

More than 100 emergency personnel descended on Bedford Park Boulevard and Decatur Avenue in Bedford Park after the 9:40 a.m.

blast, officials said.

Bystanders covered their noses and mouths as they fled the reeking fumes, which drove hundreds of worshippers from St.

Mary's Orthodox Church of India, some leaving their shoes behind in the rush to escape, witnesses told am-NewYork Metro.

Firefighters said several

people had fallen ill from the fumes, which could be smelled several miles away.

A representative for Con Edison said 21 customers were left without gas, but

that crews were working to get the gas flowing again by the end of the day.

Authorities deemed the situation "under control" by about 1 p.m. Jared Downing

Tropical storm may douse Gulf

Millions of Gulf Coast residents are being warned to stay on alert over a possible tropical storm in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico later this week.

The National Hurricane Center said several potentially severe low-pressure systems are brewing in the region — with computer forecast models depicting a strong tropical storm developing over the next seven days.

“A low pressure system is expected to form in the NW Caribbean Sea in a few days and it has a 70% chance of development while it moves generally northward across the Gulf of Mexico,” the NHC said in its latest outlook.

“A tropical depression is likely to form while the system moves slowly northward across the northwestern Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico through the end of the week.”

While forecasters warn there is still a lot of uncertainty on how the storm could actually develop, they say Gulf Coast residents should be ready.

“I really just want you to be on guard, really all the way from Texas to Florida, for tropical development,” FOX Weather meteorologist Michael Estime said.

The NHC said the system is expected to dump heavy rain over parts of Central America.

Emily Crane

Get the point? Irina Shayk dons a chic new take on an old-school brassiere on the Dolce & Gabbana runway. Saturday's Milan Fashion Week extravaganza was just the latest underwear outerwear look for Shayk, 38, who wore a see-through lingerie dress to a party earlier in the week.

Getty Images

Irina's a trailblazer

PRO-BAIL WRITE-IN FOR D.A.

Dem's long-shot re-elex

By CARL CAMPANILE

An upstate Democrat is launching a long-shot write-in campaign to keep his job as prosecutor — bashing bail and criminal-justice reforms that leaders of his own party pushed through in New York.

Albany County District Attorney David Soares, who has been in office since 2005, is campaigning again after losing a June primary to rival Lee Kindlon by 10 percentage points.

“The issues that I’m running on are statewide issues. I’ve been the sole voice of the criticisms here on bail reform. These reforms are harming our communities,” Soares (inset) said on 770 WABC’s “The Cats Roundtable.”

‘Never been worse’

Criminal justice reforms enacted in 2019 under then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the Democratic-led Legislature eliminated cash bail for mostly nonviolent felony crimes — a move activists said would put an end to a system where people who couldn’t afford bail sat in jail awaiting court dates on low-level accusations.

But critics have called the policies soft-on-crime, with backlash growing after high-profile cases of accused criminals who committed violent crimes days after being cut loose on other charges.

“We see more young men of color murdered on

the streets by other young men of color, who are allowed to access the revolving door to the criminal justice system,” said Soares, who is black.

“I’ve been here for 20 years,” he said. “I’ve seen the highs. I’ve seen the highs. I can tell you, it’s never been worse. . . . The root cause here is this irresponsible path that we’ve been put on by our leaders here in the state government.”

Soares blamed his primary loss on his own public criticism of the cashless bail law and other reforms — including changing the age for defendants to be tried as an adult from 16 to 18.

“If you call out the terrible policies that have been passed in the state capital, things are going to happen to you politically,” he said. “In my case, there was a primary run against me because of my criticisms over bail reform, raise the age. . . . Therefore, now I am a write-in for district attorney.”

He blamed the “bail laws that basically deprived judges of the discretion [and] deprived police officers in many instances from being able to make arrests.”

“The idea that my party is the party that set us down this course is troubling,” he said. “Things have to change. And by things, I mean these laws that have been passed that are hurting our communities.”

Primary winner Kindlon — who will face off with GOP candidate Ralph Ambrosio on Tuesday — dismissed the write-in candidate.

Kindlon said the public backlash over Soares using part of a state grant to provide himself a \$23,000 bonus as well as his lackluster record as DA cooked his goose.

“Soares was bad at his job and he stole taxpayer money,” Kindlon said Sunday after hearing Soares’ claims. “I didn’t win because I was a bail reform defender.

“I worry about David as much as I worry about a bug.”

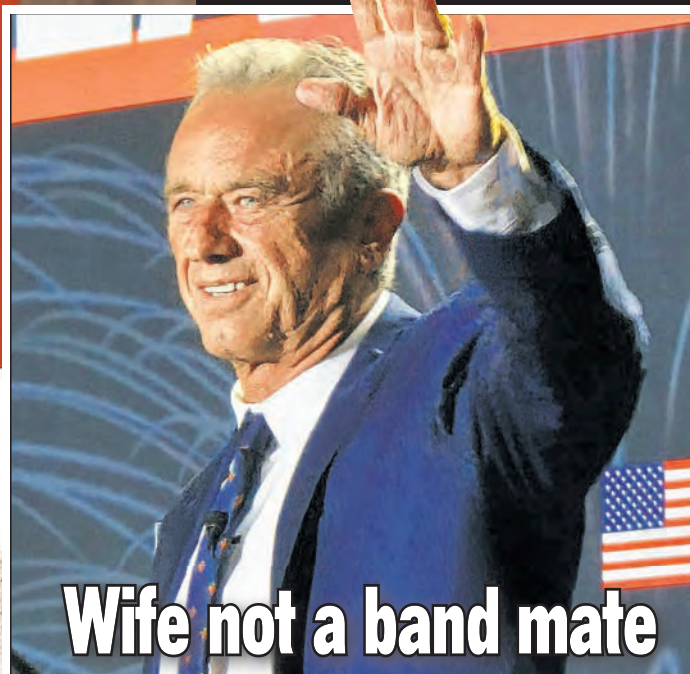


NO RFK SEXTASY!

CASUAL SEXTS: New York magazine's Olivia Nuzzi is now on leave from the publication, with a new report saying she confessed to sexting with RFK Jr. after initially denying it when grilled by the editor-in-chief.



Alexander Tamargo/Getty Images for Vox Media



Robert F. Kennedy Jr. wore his wedding ring during his first public outing since his "sexting" scandal, as his wife, Cheryl Hines, ditched hers during an Italian vacation.

RFK (above) wore the band onstage during a Las Vegas event supporting Donald Trump on Saturday night.

The former independent presidential candidate, 70, is involved in an alleged

"sexting" affair with New York magazine political reporter Olivia Nuzzi, 31, who is accused of sending him "demure" nudes.

On the same day, Hines celebrated her 59th birthday, a day after she was photographed without her wedding ring at Italy's Milan Fashion Week. She spent Saturday with her daughter from her first marriage, Catherine Young, and RFK's daughter, Kyra Kennedy. *Jacki Thrapp*

SGW/meg/les/Splashnews

Bill to get pa\$t NY bail laws

Federal officials would bypass states like New York that have policies viewed as soft on crime — and give law enforcement funding directly to localities under a bill pitched by the Empire State's GOP delegation.

The bill, sponsored by up-state Rep. Marc Molinaro and shared exclusively with The Post, would distribute some federal law enforcement funding directly to localities if states have laws on the books like New York's Clean Slate Act and loose bail laws.

"Taxpayers shouldn't be on the hook to prop up a regime in Albany that is making us less safe," Molinaro wrote in a statement. "This bill will take funds from Albany and reinvest them directly into the local police, courts, and governments that are actually doing the work to restore public safety."

The light-on-details legislation is co-sponsored by all but one of New York's Republican members of Congress.

It would require the Department of Justice to withhold funding meant for the states if they don't allow judges to base bail eligibility on a "dangerousness" standard or if they have "a general policy providing for the sealing of the criminal records of felons." *Vaughn Golden*

By RYAN KING

Nuzzi's initial denial to magazine boss

New York magazine correspondent Olivia Nuzzi repeatedly denied accusations of a sexting fling with former presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy Jr. when pressed by her boss, according to a report.

The magazine's editor-in-chief David Haskell reportedly confronted Nuzzi after catching wind of rumors about a tryst between her and Kennedy, according to the Daily Beast.

However, after getting grilled on the matter, she confessed to having a rapport with the Kennedy scion that grew personal.

New York magazine, Haskell and Nuzzi declined to comment to The Post.

Kennedy's spokesperson on Sunday denied another claim in the Daily Beast report — that he unwittingly tipped off Nuzzi's boss by boasting to his buddies

about having intimate photos of Nuzzi.

"That is absolutely false," Kennedy's spokesperson told The Post — adding that RFK Jr. did not boast about having photos of Nuzzi.

The rep didn't comment on whether Kennedy actually received intimate photos of Nuzzi.

Last Thursday, New York magazine announced it had placed the 31-year-old Washington correspondent on leave pending a third-party investigation.

The biweekly called the ordeal a "violation of the magazine's standards around conflicts of interest and disclosures" and noted it con-

ducted an in-house review of Nuzzi's work and "found no inaccuracies nor evidence of bias" in her published work.

Not 'particularly careful'

Sources previously told The Post that Nuzzi and Kennedy, 70, hadn't been good at hiding their flirtation.

"They weren't being particularly careful. There's a reason New York mag found out," one source said.

Nuzzi, the magazine's star political reporter, has been largely quiet about the specifics of the apparent tryst with Kennedy.

During much of the months-long correspondence, Nuzzi had been engaged to Ryan Lizza, the chief Washington correspondent for Politico and author of the outlet's flagship newsletter, Politico Playbook. Lizza revealed in a statement published by Politico that he called off the engagement.

Kennedy, who is married to "Curb Your Enthusiasm" star Cheryl Hines, has faced accusations of being unfaithful in the past, including that he had kept information for 43 rumored mistresses in his cellphone, including future wife Hines.

Both Kennedy and Nuzzi, who wrote a 2023 piece on the then-candidate, have been tight-lipped about the specifics of their private exchanges.

"The relationship was never physical but should have been disclosed to prevent the appearance of a conflict," Nuzzi previously said in a statement.

Lindsey is creeped out

Sen. Lindsey Graham said he is shocked by the "beyond unnerving" accusations against North Carolina gubernatorial hopeful and fellow GOPer Mark Robinson.

"If they're true, he's unfit to serve for office," the South Carolina pol told NBC's "Meet the Press" Sunday. "If they're not true, he has the best lawsuit in the history of the country for libel."

Last week, Robinson, North Carolina's first black lieutenant governor, denied a story from CNN claiming he made incendiary posts — including calling himself a "Black Nazi" and recalling "peeping" in on women in a gym shower — on a porn site between 2008 and 2012. *Ryan King*



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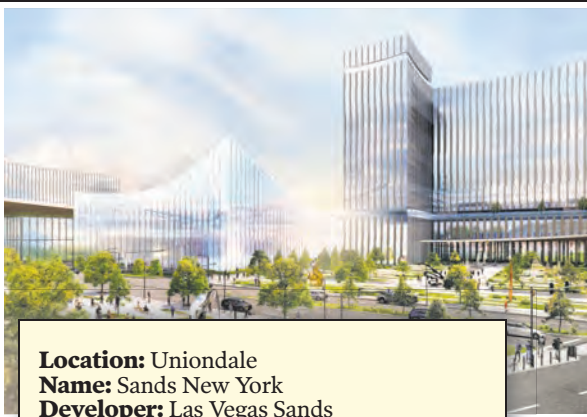
HIGH ROLLERS

Here's who's all-in on next bet meccas

By CARL CAMPANILE

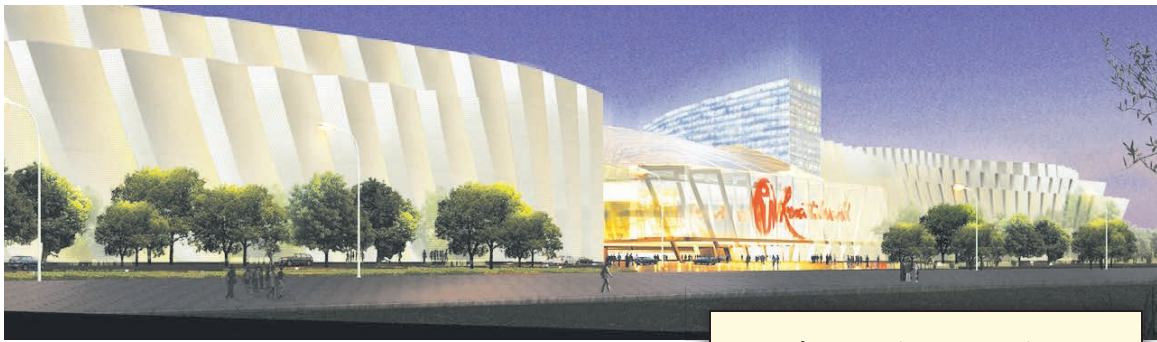
Gaming giants and real-estate honchos are putting all their chips on the table to win one of three coveted licenses to operate a casino in or around New York City.

"There's still a large market for land-based casinos in this country and the New York City metropolitan market in particular," said Albany Law School Professor Bennett Liebman, a former deputy secretary to the governor for gaming and racing, to The Post. Gaming interests have already spent millions of dollars on lobbying and media consultants to make their case to local and state officials as deadlines creep closer to submit bids next year. Here are some of the deep-pocketed contenders:



Location: Uniondale
Name: Sands New York
Developer: Las Vegas Sands
Details: The Sands secured a lease from Nassau County to convert the Nassau Veterans Memorial Museum Coliseum into a casino complex with a live performance theater, a hotel and wellness spa, dining and convention space.
Pros: Big Nassau-Suffolk market not far from Queens border, strong support from Republican-led government.
Cons: Strong opposition spearheaded by nearby Hofstra University.

Location: Far West Side
Name: Avenir
Developer: Silverstein Properties/Greenwood Gaming and Entertainment
Details: World Trade Center developer Larry Silverstein is spearheading the plan, which involves a 1.8 million-square-foot project for a hotel, casino, entertainment and residential complex on vacant land at West 41st Street and 11th Avenue, just north of the Jacob Javits Center.
Pros: As with Wynn NYC, the Avenir would be a boost to the Javits Convention Center and tourism industry.
Cons: Overcoming local opposition will be a challenge.



Location: Coney Island
Name: The Coney
Developer: Thor Equities, Chickasaw Nation's Global Gaming Solutions, Saratoga Casino Holdings and Legends Hospitality Group
Details: \$3 billion "Coney" casino, hotel and convention hall erected just steps from the storied Brooklyn boardwalk and beach, smack between the site's iconic Cyclone and Wonder Wheel.
Pros: Would help rejuvenate Coney Island as a major tourist destination.
Cons: Local Community Board 13 voted overwhelmingly against the project, with opponents saying they don't want the iconic beach to be turned into Atlantic City.

Location: South Ozone Park
Jamaica
Name: Resorts World New York City at Aqueduct
Developer: Genting/Resorts World Casino
Details: The bidder, which already owns an existing slots parlor, has proposed a \$5 billion plan that includes a pitch to expand its current operations and also offer live table games such as blackjack and craps. The proposal includes a new 7,000-seat concert venue and sports training facility.
Pros: Its slots parlor, which opened in 2011, has generated more than \$4 billion for state coffers, and its bid has strong local community and political support.
Cons: Resorts World Las Vegas — a separate casino that is part of the same Genting empire — is ensnared in an alleged illegal bookmaking scandal involving the interpreter of baseball superstar Shohei Ohtani.

FOR NY CASINOS



Location: Hudson Yards
Name: Wynn New York City
Developer: Related Companies/Wynn Resorts.
Details: \$12 billion casino complex that includes a hotel, office space, apartments, and a 5.6-acre park.
Pros: Boost to adjacent Javits Convention Center, views of Hudson River, access to the High Line.
Cons: Friends of the High Line are spearheading community opposition, local elected officials are not enthused by project, either.



Location: Yonkers Raceway
Name: Empire City
Developer: MGM Resorts International
Details: The Raceway introduced slot-machine-style gaming in 2006 with its Empire City Casino. Now it's aiming for a full-on gaming license with a \$3 billion expansion plan that would offer live table bets.
Pros: As with Resorts World at Aqueduct, it has a track record of success and local support.
Cons: Gaming expert Liebman describes MGM's initial proposal as "underwhelming," especially in comparison to the Hudson Yards, Cosmopolitan, Times Square and Sands proposals. "If other glitzier proposals actually reach the Gaming Facility Location Board, can they compete?" he asked of Yonkers.



Location: Times Square
Name: Caesars Palace Times Square
Developer: Caesars Entertainment, SL Green and Jay-Z Roc Nation
Details: \$4 billion casino complex that would be built at 1515 Broadway in the heart of Times Square.
Pros: Jay-Z curates the entertainment, and there's access to the Great White Way.
Cons: Opposition from theater producers — the Broadway League — and the No Times Square coalition that includes neighborhood groups.



Location: Ferry Point
Name: Bally's Casino
Developer: Bally's
Details: Bally's acquired the lease to run the golf course at Ferry Point from the Trump Organization and now hopes to convert portions of the site's parking lot and practice range, which count as parkland, into a casino center.
Pros: Located at the foot of the Whitestone Bridge, the casino would have easy access from Queens, The Bronx, Long Island and Westchester County. Waterfront views of the East River and Long Island Sound.
Cons: Bally's needs legislative approval to convert the parkland for commercial use.

ISRAEL UNDER ATTACK



New 10/7 thwart Strike at Hez bigs' meet to plot raid

By RONNY REYES

The senior Hezbollah leaders killed in Friday's Israel Defense Forces airstrike were meeting to plan an Oct. 7-style invasion in northern Israel, officials said.

Members of the Iran-backed terror group's elite Radwan Force were allegedly studying "plans for a ground invasion at the heart of the occupied territories" in northern Israel, a Hezbollah source told the Al-Monitor Middle East news outlet.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog reiterated the claims during a Sky News broadcast Sunday morning as he condemned Iran and its terror proxies.

"All of these leaders came together in order to launch the same horrific, horrendous attack that we had on Oct. 7 by Hamas, by burning Israelis, by butchering them, raping their women, abducting and taking hostage people and little ba-

bies," Herzog said.

"This is exactly the same plan they have been planning for years under the plans of the Empire of Evil of Iran," he added.

The IDF said it killed 16 senior commanders and Hezbollah operatives during an airstrike on Friday as the terrorists gathered inside a high-rise apartment building in the Dahiya area of southern Beirut.

IDF spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said top leaders Ibrahim Aqil and Ahmed Wahbi were among those killed in the blast as they were allegedly scheming to invade Israel.

"Aqil and the Radwan Force commanders who we attacked are the commanders who drew up and led the Hezbollah terror group's plan, to be carried out on the

day the order was given, to attack into the northern territory of the State of Israel, what they called 'The plan to conquer the Galilee,'" Hagari said.

Aqil and Wahbi were also allegedly part of Hezbollah's top brass that allegedly oversaw the near-daily attacks on Israel since Oct. 8.

Following the airstrike, which Lebanese health officials left a total of 37 people dead, Hezbollah fired more than 100 rockets over the border early Sunday.

One of the missiles hit a residential building in Kiryat Bialik,

wound-

ing at least three people as thousands across northern Israel were sent scrambling for shelters.

In retaliation, Israel fired its own rocket barrage that killed at least three people and left another four wounded near the border, according to Lebanon's health ministry.

The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah reached a boiling point after thousands of pagers, radios and other electronic devices used by members of the terror group detonated last week in attacks that were blamed on Israel.

While the US backs Israel's right to defend itself, White House National Security spokesman John Kirby told ABC's "This Week" that it is not in Israel's "best interest" to force a military escalation.

"The tensions are much higher now than they were even just a few days ago," Kirby said. "We still believe that there can be time and space for a diplomatic solution here and that's what we're working on."



IDF probing whether Hamas chief is dead

The Israeli military is investigating whether Hamas chief and Oct. 7 mastermind Yahya Sinwar may have been killed in a recent airstrike on Gaza, according to multiple reports.

Some media claim Sinwar may have been killed or wounded in one of the most recent bombings in an unspecified part of the Gaza Strip, nearly a year since the terror chief

green-lit the Oct. 7 terrorist attack that sparked the war.

Officials with the Israeli intelligence agency Shin Bet and Israel Defense Forces said there is no new evidence to suggest that Sin-

war is dead but that they are continuing to investigate the possibility.

Questions have swirled about Sinwar's fate because the Hamas chief supposedly went radio-silent dur-

ing continued airstrikes in Gaza, according to Axios reporter Barak Ravid.

Sinwar has gone quiet in the past, a tactic that has spurred false reports of his death.

Ronny Reyes

Bibi's 'siege' plan for N. Gaza

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told the country's parliament he is considering the military's "Generals' Plan," which would evacuate all residents from northern Gaza to lay complete siege to the area, a new report says.

The PM told Knesset members Sunday that his cabinet would be examining the plan, which is not backed by the US, to take control of northern Gaza as Hamas continues to regroup in the area even after a year of war, The Times of Israel reported.

Former Israel Defense Forces Maj. Gen. Giora Eiland laid forth the plan last week before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He told the panel's members the plan would ensure Israel's victory and free the hostages at a time when the cease-fire talks with Hamas lie frozen.

"We have to tell the residents of north Gaza that they have one week to evacuate the territory, which then becomes a military zone; [a zone] in which every figure is a target and, most importantly, no supplies enter this territory," Eiland said of the proposal.

Eiland, who has received backing from senior IDF reservists, said the plan would cover the entire area north of the Netzarim Corridor in Gaza City, with the forced evacuation estimated to affect about 250,000 people.

After the evacuation, IDF troops would then systematically arrest or eradicate the members of the terror group who stayed behind, and any terrorist who avoids the troops would eventually "starve to death."

Ronny Reyes



Miranda Devine

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IT'S easy to forget because he's usually invisible but we still have Joe Biden as president for four months.

That's a scary prospect considering his obvious cognitive decline. He's spent almost half his presidency goofing off and being shielded from scrutiny but the situation is rapidly getting worse.

The fate of the free world should not be left in the hands of a man who can't remember where he is or what he's meant to be doing at any given moment.

On Saturday, for instance, he made the prime ministers of India, Japan and Australia shlep to Wilmington, Del., for the annual meeting of the Quad, a partnership designed to keep an increasingly aggressive China in check.

In public remarks livestreamed by the White House the president forgot that he was supposed to introduce Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Who am I introducing next?" Biden asked the crowd.

After an awkward silence, he started shouting "Who's next?" before Modi raced on stage all smiles and saved the day.

Dr. Jill in charge

The whole thing was an embarrassment. Starting with the fact that the Quad leaders were not being hosted with dignity at the White House and instead were housed at the rundown Hotel DuPont in Biden's podunk hometown and had to hold their summit at Archmere Academy, the posh Catholic prep school Biden attended while his younger brothers had to content themselves with the local public school.

At least the Quad leaders got individual tours of Joe's palatial estate, which has been off limits to the media due to fascinating speculation about how the self-described "poorest man in Congress" could afford such luxury, a Georgian pile Joe had built by master craftsmen from Bryn Mawr on a lake in the ritziest neighborhood in Delaware, an upgrade from his former Du Pont mansion.

In photographs dribbled out by the Australian delegation, we got a glimpse of the grandeur of the custom-built wood paneled library where Joe secreted classified documents dating back to his Senate days, for which he never was held accountable because special counsel Robert Hur thought he was too old and forgetful for a jury to convict.

But why was this important meeting being held in Wilmington at all? The White House patched

Who's running this place? Sure not Joe



MADAM PRESIDENT? President Biden's first Cabinet meeting in 11 months didn't have him sitting at the head of the table on Friday. Instead it was First Lady Jill Biden, as if she was the one running the show.

up a story about Biden wanting to show off his hometown but he's never had the urge before and, quite honestly, there's not much to show off.

More likely it was that the White House was already booked out for the self-aggrandizement of the relentlessly ambitious first lady.

On Friday, Jill Biden was hosting a glitzy party for the cast of the West Wing.

Saturday night was a pet project for the "life-long educator" on the South Lawn: hosting the "first-ever Back-to-School Night at the White House to celebrate the start of the new school year with educators, school professionals, students, and families," as the press office put it.

No room at the White House for the leaders of 2 billion people to

discuss how to combat Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific. So off they trooped to Wilmington.

What a joke.

But not as much of a joke as what happened Friday, at Joe's first Cabinet meeting in 11 months. He brought in Jill to sit at the head of the table as if she were running the show. She delivered a little speech on one of her pet topics while Joe stared vacantly into space and Cabinet members had to politely clap.

Harris to blame

Whether it's Jill or someone else running the country, the bottom line is that we don't have a functional president.

This is a constitutional crisis. Kamala Harris is most to blame

because she has the constitutional duty as vice president to ensure the president's brain is not AWOL.

She also knows more about Biden's cognitive health than anyone, apart from Jill and Hunter Biden.

She has lunch with him regularly and often has boasted of being the "last person in the room" when decisions are made.

But she has been lying through her teeth to the American people about Biden's health — for instance, calling him "bold and vibrant" in February when concerns were raised.

"Our president is in good shape, in good health, and is ready to lead in our second term," she said.

A few weeks later she said: "Not only is he absolutely authoritative in rooms around the globe, but in

the Oval Office."

Even after Biden's disastrous July debate, she was still at it, like Baghdad Bob, insisting Biden might have had a "slow start," but he triumphed with "a strong finish." Sure.

She lied to make sure Joe got through the Democratic primaries with all other challengers hobbled, so that only she was left.

All she had to do was run out the clock so she could ascend to the throne without having to win actual votes or make an effort.

She would slide through with fake smiles and vacuous phrases and be anointed president as has happened in every role she has ever held.

Biden being forced out of reelection was not her preferred option but the complicit media and the old Obama hands managing her are ensuring she escapes the traditional scrutiny we expect for presidential candidates.

Harris' decision to skip the Archdiocese of New York's Al Smith charity dinner is telling. It will be the first time in 40 years a presidential candidate has not attended the roast and shows how incapable she is of the impromptu and humorous appearances that Donald Trump excels at.

Duty-bound

She can hide from the Al Smith dinner, but she can't hide from her constitutional duty.

It is her duty to ensure that Biden is fit for office.

If he is not, then she and a majority of the Cabinet are bound to invoke the 25th Amendment, at which point Harris becomes "acting president."

Law professor Jonathan Turley says that because Biden is still functioning in a fashion, and not comatose, it is not a straightforward decision.

But scheming Nancy Pelosi has made it easier to address this conundrum because in October 2020 she introduced a bill to revise the 25th and allow Congress to appoint an independent body to assess the president's physical and mental fitness.

That's the least the American people deserve. An honest report of Biden's condition instead of this increasingly farcical presidential kabuki theater.

Even the White House press corps was complaining last week that all they get are "photo ops."

It is up to Harris to ensure we have a president capable of doing the world's most important job. Anything that goes wrong in the next four months is her fault.

Getty Images

Don's 'race' against time



LAST CHANCE: Former President Donald Trump likely won't run in 2028 if he loses the Nov. 5 election to Kamala Harris.

By RYAN KING

Former President Donald Trump indicated that he likely wouldn't run in 2028 if he loses the Nov. 5 election against Vice President Kamala Harris.

"No, I don't. I think . . . that will be it. I don't see that at all," he told TV host Sharyl Attkisson on Sunday when asked about a potential fourth White House run. "Hopefully, we're gonna be successful."

Trump, 78, has been the GOP standard-bearer since 2016, and if he did hypothetically vie again in four years, he'd be older than President Biden, 81 — who is the oldest president in US history.

Most polls show Trump running neck and neck against Harris, though the GOP nominee has a history of outperforming surveys.

"I was a very consequential

president, and would certainly be, and maybe even more so this time," Trump declared in the interview on Sinclair broadcasting's "Full Measure."

"I understand countries, I understand who rips us and who doesn't."

Trump's entrance into the 2024 arena did little to deter primary competition, but the real estate mogul ultimately bulldozed about a dozen challengers and easily locked down the nomination.

Trump also suggested there was some benefit to being out of office after losing the 2020 election to Biden.

"It would have been easier if I did it, you know, contiguous," he mused. "But the benefit is more than anything else, it shows how bad they were. It shows how bad this radical left liberal crazy philosophy is."

Voters' trust in Trump

Most voters think Donald Trump is right about the economy and the direction of the country, according to two national polls that came out Sunday.

A hefty 65% of likely voters feel the country is heading in the wrong direction and trust Trump more on the economy (50% to 41%), according to a national NBC News poll.

In a separate CBS News/YouGov poll, 59% of voters rated

the economy as "bad" compared to 39% "good."

Despite a bleaker view of the state of the US, both polls showed Vice President Kamala Harris is continuing to make significant gains.

Respondents to the NBC poll favored Harris 49% to 44%.

The CBS poll, which did not include third-party candidates, had Harris up by a similar margin — 52% to 48%. *Ryan King*

CAN THEY GET JOE SOME CUE CARDS?

Befuddled prez forgets he's introducing Modi

By RYAN KING

A confused-looking President Biden fumbled and snapped at staffers after forgetting which world leader he was supposed to introduce at a press conference event during the Quad summit Saturday.

Biden, 81, was supposed to call Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to the stage, but appeared to be unsure which of the three visiting heads of government he was meant to name.

"Thank you all for being here and now, uhh, who am I introducing next? Who's next?" Biden shouted after wrapping up his remarks.

An announcer then revealed that Modi — the head of the world's largest democracy — was up next and the prime minister came up and shook hands with

Biden soon thereafter.

The outgoing president was hosting allies of the four-nation Quad alliance at his home in Wilmington, Del., for a short, two-day summit as foreign leaders travel to the US for the United Nations General Assembly meeting.

The Quad — established to help counter the influence of China — includes the US, Japan, India and Australia.

"By the way, he's from a small country like ours. A small population like ours," Biden then joked while embracing Modi, 74. "He's become a good and decent man. A good friend."

India has the largest population in the world, with about 1.4 billion people, while the US is the third-most populous at 345 million.

Biden had unveiled a global extension of his "Cancer Moonshot" initiative earlier in his remarks and

recounted his son Beau's death of brain cancer in 2015.

The new initiative entails a partnership between the four countries and seeks to reduce cancer deaths.

Return to 'Moonshot'

"I'm proud to announce that our four countries, the leaders behind me and many organizations here today are committing over \$150 million for HPV, HPV screening and therapeutics," Biden said.

"Next year, doctors and nurses in the US Navy will begin a program to train Indo-Pacific counterparts in conducting cervical-cancer screening and vaccination so we could reach every woman in the region and it matters folks."

Throughout his presidency, Biden has been dogged by similar



'WHO'S NEXT?' President Biden speaks during the Quad summit in his home state of Delaware on Saturday as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi awaits his turn at the mic. It took an announcement to remind the confused leader of the free world Modi was on deck.

faux pas and episodes of forgetfulness or confusion during high-profile outings.

Last year, for example, Biden bumped into a giant flag at the United Nations and seemingly snubbed Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva by exiting the stage without shaking his hand.

At 81, Biden is the oldest president in US history, though former President Donald Trump could top that if he wins the Nov. 5 election and serves out a full second term.

Amid consternation about his mental acuity, Democrats revolted against Biden and pres-

sured him to drop his reelection bid for the White House, rendering him a lame-duck president.

Chatty first lady

During the president's Cabinet meeting Friday, First Lady Jill Biden raised eyebrows by doing most of the talking and later hosting a Rose Garden event without him.

The weekend gathering was poised to be Biden's final summit with the Quad Alliance leadership before he departs the White House. Biden had sought to add

"personal touches" to the two-day summit and further cement his relationship with the key allies.

"Our countries are more strategically aligned than ever before," Biden had said during the summit, "While challenges will come, the world will change, because the Quad is here to stay."

Later this week, he is set to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky for the latter's fifth public trip to the US since Russia invaded in February 2022.

Zelensky is expected to discuss a "Plan for Victory" with Biden and eventually visit with Vice

President Kamala Harris as well as former President Donald Trump as part of his trip, which includes a speech before the UN General Assembly's 79th session in Midtown.

On Tuesday, Biden is scheduled to deliver remarks before the UN and confer with other world leaders throughout the week.

Days after the Nov. 5 presidential election, Biden is expected to attend his last Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation gathering, which is set to take place in Peru, and his last G20 summit, slated for Brazil.



Privatized VA musters vet interest

Earlier this month, Republican vice presidential hopeful J.D. Vance suggested a bigger role for private health care at the Department of Veteran Affairs — and drew swift backlash from Democrats.

But for some vets who have had headaches in the past dealing with the VA, bringing in more of the private sector is sparking interest.

"I've spent hours on hold, waited weeks for appointments, and driven over an hour to another state for a 15-minute visit, using my own PTO," Marine veteran Shelby Anderson, who suffered an on-base injury and lost a leg, told The Post. Anderson described Vance's remarks as "a breath of fresh air to hear."

Recent surveys have indicated that the VA's approval ratings continue to improve — a dramatic shift from a decade ago when the agency was mired in a wait-list scandal.

Still, there are lingering issues, like a 240,000 claim backlog, according to the department's most recent figures.

"I think that there are areas where the VA actually works very well," Vance (above) said in a recent interview on the "Shawn Ryan Show" podcast. "So I would not say, 'get rid of the whole thing.' But I would say, 'give people more choice.' I think you'll save money in the process."

Kate Monroe, a Marine veteran and the CEO of the Vetcomms.us organization dedicated to helping fellow vets navigate the VA, argued that any move further in the direction of more private-sector care must be done carefully.

"If we're considering privatizing portions of VA health care, we must first ensure that the funds don't end up in the hands of the same people mismanaging the system today," she said.

Ryan King

Scaglia makes poor a sport

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‘Nasty’ rhetoric

HER brother once sang: “It doesn’t matter if you’re black or white.” Apparently, **Janet Jackson** doesn’t agree — at least not when it comes to **Kamala Harris**. “She’s not black. That’s what I heard. That she’s Indian,” the “That’s the Way Love Goes” hit-maker told the Guardian. “Her father’s white. That’s what I was told.” She clarified: “I mean, I haven’t watched the news in a few days. I was told that they discovered her father was white.” Vice President Harris is the daughter of two immigrants. Her father is Jamaican, while her mother is Indian. So, who had “Janet Jackson flirts with birtherism” on their 2024 election bingo card?



Just chill out bro

MICHAEL Zegen confessed he was “nervous out of my mind” shooting a scene with **Colin Farrell** for HBO’s new “Penguin” series, but “he was so pleasant and so nice.” But there was one small hiccup. “I was shivering because he’s in all these prosthetics and had the air conditioning jacked up ... I was freezing and shivering and I hope it doesn’t show up on-screen,” he said. “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” star (above) added that he did have hand warmers on but isn’t sure if his nipples were showing. “We’ll see, we’ll see!”

SILVIO Scaglia really *must* be a financial genius: The model agency owner somehow manages to be both a globe-trotting billionaire and helplessly destitute at the same time! They don’t teach that at Wharton!

Characteristically, Scaglia — who is locked in a vicious legal battle with his soon-to-be ex-wife and former business partner **Julia Haart** — appears to have spent the summer hopping private jets and yachts around all the usual Euro enclaves with his new partner, **Michele-Marie Heinemann**.

What’s confusing, however, is that — according to court documents leaked to Page Six — back in May, the Italian businessman wrote

to a New York judge pleading poverty.

Haart and Scaglia met in 2019 when she took a job at his modeling agency, Elite World Group, which has repped **Kendall Jenner**, **Adriana Lima**, **Irina Shayk**, **Winnie Harlow** and **Behati Prinsloo**, among many others. They married shortly after. But when Haart told Scaglia in 2022 that she planned to divorce him, he fired her from EWG — setting in motion a series of brutal court cases over both the marriage and the company.

We’re told that in May, Scaglia notified the court that he was tapped. “I am currently unable to bear the financial burden of the ongoing litigation against [Haart], nor can I afford to sustain

the fees for my own legal counsel,” he wrote.

But an insider told us they were surprised — after his claim to be in financial straits — to see Heinemann posting scenes from their opulent life on her Instagram feed. According to the account, she and Scaglia have been in Tuscany, Zurich, Madrid, Sicily, Sardinia (where they appear to have traveled by convertible, a yacht and, again, a private jet) and Ireland.

Asked to explain how he’s both broke and living an apparently ultra-luxe lifestyle, Scaglia told us: “The parasitic vulture, Julia Haart, continues to try and destroy the happiness and love that my beautiful and kind wife and I share.”



Lupita Nyong'o
Basques in the
spotlight at “The
Wild Robot” photocall
during the 72nd San
Sebastian Film
Festival in
Spain.

Justin time to help

A Hamptons charity is appealing to **Justin Timberlake** to do his community service with their organization — in the same area where he got into trouble. Earlier this month, the pop star pleaded guilty to a reduced charge after getting arrested in Sag Harbor in June on suspicion of DWI. A judge told him that — along with paying a \$500 fine and doing a public service announcement — he had to perform 25 hours of community service. The court said he could do it with any volunteer group he wants, but Hamptons Community Outreach is asking the “SexyBack” star to make amends locally. “We do life-changing work and would love for Justin to be a part of it,” a rep told us. “In between the mansions, there are pockets of deeply impoverished people, many with not enough food, medical care or heat in the winter.” They added: “We would have him help us deliver food to struggling families, bring new clothing and shoes to children in need and help with our home repair projects. Justin — if you’re reading this, it’s not too late to join our mission and help the underserved in the Hamptons!”



Tot No. 2 for Munn

OLIVIA Munn and **John Mulaney** are parents again! The actress and her husband took to Instagram yesterday to announce the arrival of their daughter, who was born via surrogate. “**Méi June Mulaney** came into the world September 14, 2024, the year of the dragon,” Munn, 44, wrote in the caption. The proud mom went on to explain her emotional experience with her surrogate. “When I first met our gestational surrogate we spoke mother to mother. She showed me so much grace and understanding, I knew I had found a real-life angel,” the “Newsroom” alum (above) wrote. Munn, who married Mulaney in July, posed alongside the comedian, 42, while holding Méi in her arms. The post also included a snap with the couple’s 2-year-old son, **Malcolm**.

Pop star’s shocking diagnosis

MORE like the “Blue Pony Club”! White-hot singer **Chappell Roan** has been diagnosed with severe depression amid her whirlwind rise to fame. “I went to a psychiatrist last week because I was like, I don’t know what’s going on. She diagnosed me with severe depression — which I didn’t think I had because I’m not actually sad,” the “Pink Pony Club” songstress told the Guardian. “But I have every symptom of someone who’s severely depressed,” she noted. Some of 26-year-old Roan’s symptoms include brain fog, poor focus, forgetfulness and, as she put it, “a very lackluster viewpoint.” She theorized her depression stems from her life changing so rapidly as she transformed from an underground pop princess to a full-blown megastar so swiftly over the last year.

“Everything that I really love to do now comes with baggage,” she said. “If I want to go thrifting, I have to book security and prepare myself that this is not going to be normal. Going to the park, Pilates, yoga — how do I do this in a safe way where I’m not going to be stalked or harassed?” In August, she slammed aggressive fans for having no manners when seeing her in public and expecting to have access to her at all times.

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Page Six *Style*

YOUR DESTINATION FOR STYLE INSPIRATION.

[PAGESIX.COM/STYLE](https://pagesix.com/style)

"The New Slaves of America"

By Venkat Challa, MD

Who are these new slaves?

What are the causes of neo-slavery?

How are the new slaves different from slaves before 1865?

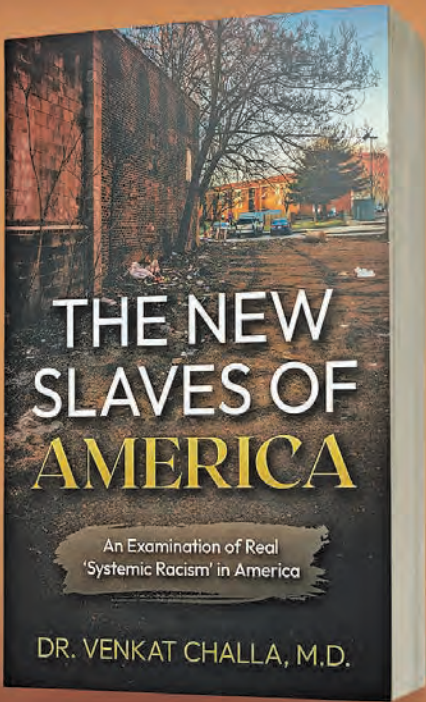
What is the role of the two-party system and of each party in neo-slavery?

What are the solutions to end/abate new slavery?

The author, a first-generation immigrant physician, has been living in this country for 50 years and has a unique point of view worthy of consideration.

"It is universally admitted that a well-instructed people alone can be permanently a free people."

- James Madison, Father of the Constitution



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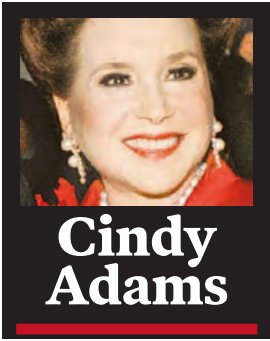
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... 10signs.org



ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

The men who cried 'Wolfs'



GEORGE Clooney and **Brad Pitt** are "fixers." New movie. Something like a dead body shows up. The film is called "Wolfs." Not the forest variety, the lone kind.

Co-star Clooney's old roommate **Richard Kind**'s in it. Even though at the premiere he was clueless and said: "It's a caper buddy movie. I haven't seen it. I don't even know if I am any good."

Also stars Clooney's longtime Hollywood BFF, visitor to his Lake Como, Italy, hideaway and frequent co-star Pitt. You may have heard of him. He's kind of a big deal.

Rounding out the crew is **Amy Ryan**, who crossed paths with Clooney nearly 30 years ago on television's "ER."

It's Apple TV+. In theaters now, streams Friday. Means it maybe needs a fixer? Movies are



Old friends **George Clooney** (left) and **Brad Pitt** team up for their seventh flick together, "Wolfs," streaming Friday.

now in theaters for a week. Then stream. This is what I believe but no-body asked me.

Get the grand old party started

AND famous words right now from my always open mouth:

Dem politics in NYC, controlled by socialists who now sniff about **Eric Adams**, are into taking him on. Unless they cannibalize each other they'll nominate a far lefty — not **Andrew Cuomo**. As displayed in the primary, which slowed **Jamaal Bowman**'s congressional career, some

Dem socialists have given a home to antisemites over the Gaza-Palestinian issue.

NY's Dem base is hopelessly divided. Perfect for a Republican **Michael Bloomberg** or **Lindsey Graham**, but the NYC Republican Party will blow it.

Kiddies, remember what Little Mother has told you.

Clout leader

SHE also told you fatigue sets in during the last weeks of a political campaign. **Taylor Swift**'s endorsement of **Kamala Harris** mightn't move the

needle, but her Instagram bobblehead followers beating up on her will try.

NYC'S socialists — may their tripe decrease — are now hunting for a tough, strong, killer powerful

leader. They're scratching to find someone who's strong, powerful and tough among men. But, unfortunately, **Bea Arthur** can no longer make it.

Bless NY and all of America, kids.

Italy's gain vs. immigs

Under Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Italy's level of illegal immigration has plunged 64% after she cracked down hard on smugglers and worked with other countries to stop the flow, Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani boasted on Sunday.

Tajani, who is in New York for this week's meeting of the UN General Assembly, said the conservative prime minister's success shows that enforcing tough border policies is possible, it just takes hard work.

"It's not easy. We've worked hard to achieve this goal," Tajani told Maria Bartiromo on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures." "We are not against legal immigration, rather against illegal immigration."

"We are working with an agreement with Tunisia, with Egypt, with Libya. We are working with the North African countries for reducing the boats coming [across the Mediterranean Sea] ... [and] fighting against the crime."

Meloni's policies have drawn mixed reactions in Europe, although newly minted UK Prime Minister Kier Starmer, a member of the left-leaning Labor Party, praised Italy's policies on that front.

Ryan King

France eyes tax hikes

French Prime Minister Michel Barnier on Sunday opened the door to raising taxes on the wealthiest individuals and some big corporations to help close a gaping hole in the public finances, but said he would protect the lower and middle classes.

"I'm not going to further increase taxes on all French people, neither on the most modest, nor on people who work, nor on the middle classes. But I cannot exclude the wealthiest from the national effort to rectify the situation," Barnier told France 2 television.

France's total debt stands at 110% of GDP. Reuters

Honeymoon tragedy & joy 9 months later

'MIRACLE' BABY OF LATE HUB

By ANNA YOUNG

A young widow is raising a "miracle" baby — who was born nine months after her husband was killed in a freak accident on their Caribbean honeymoon.

Marianna Kuhlman, 23, announced she gave birth to her son, Raphael Patrick Kuhlman, and posted pictures of the newborn on her Instagram, just nine months after husband Nate Kuhlman, 23, fell and drowned while water skiing on their honeymoon in St. Lucia.

"Clearly, God had a plan bigger than anything we could have ever imagined," Kuhlman wrote in an July Instagram post.

'Gift of life'

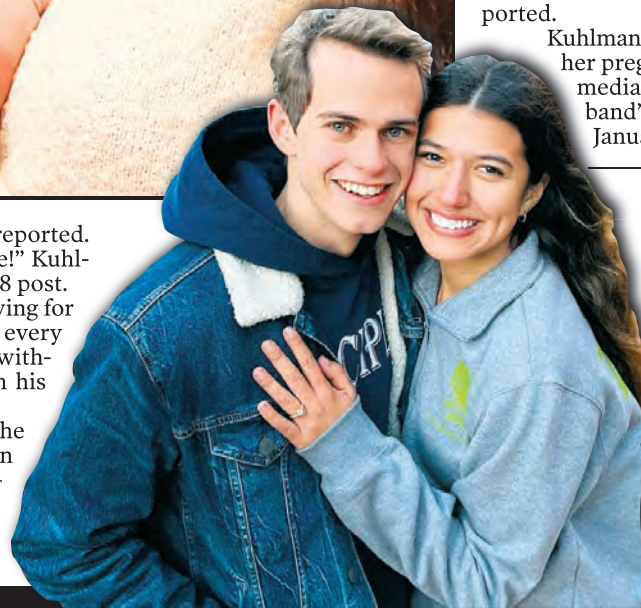
"He answered our prayers, and prayers of those around the world, just in a different way than we had expected, but still the GIFT OF LIFE; the miracle we are so overjoyed to finally share with you all."

The Ohio couple wed just three days prior to the tragic accident, and had agreed not to consummate their relationship until after they were married,

the Tampa Bay Times reported. "Nate, our son is here!" Kuhlman wrote in the July 18 post.

"I know you'll be praying for him, for us each and every day, and he will know without a doubt how much his father loves him!"

Kuhlman learned she was pregnant on Thanksgiving Day — just weeks after her husband's Oct. 31, 2023 death.



"This has to be a miracle," she recounted telling her in-laws, according to the Times.

"God himself would have to kick an egg out."

The couple met as students at Franciscan University in Steubenville in October 2021 and prayed nightly.

They eventually got engaged more than a year later and married on Oct. 28, 2023 — a date chosen specifically to avoid Kuhlman conceiving on their wedding night, the Times reported.

Beach horror

The newlyweds spent their first night married in their apartment, then drove to Miami the next night. The following morning, they arrived in the Caribbean to start their honeymoon, but then tragedy struck.

The couple kicked off their honeymoon at the beach where Nate went water skiing while Kuhlman watched from the shore. Minutes later, Kuhlman witnessed her husband receiving CPR on a boat that was racing back to land.

Attempts were made to revive the young husband but doctors informed his new wife that he wouldn't make it, the Times reported.

Kuhlman first announced her pregnancy on social media on her late husband's birthday in January.

HARD TO CONCEIVE:

Mari and Nate Kuhlman were married for three days when Nate died in an accident. Despite the low odds, baby Raphael Patrick was born this summer.

Marianna Kuhlman / Facebook

Chess authority keeps Russia, Belarus in check

Chess governing body FIDE's general assembly Sunday upheld a ban on Russian and Belarusian players imposed after Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022, while backing a move to consider easing restrictions on disabled

and junior players from those two countries.

The Ukrainian government, the State Department, chess players and members of the Ukraine Olympic team had urged chess federations to reject a motion by Kyrgyzstan to fully rein-

state the two nations.

In the end, delegates from 66 countries supported a last-minute proposal by the FIDE Council to consult the International Olympic Committee about letting players with disabilities or who are children under 12

from Russia and Belarus return to international events.

"We believe this approach upholds FIDE's commitment to inclusivity while respecting the international framework," the organization's deputy president and also a former world cham-

pion Viswanathan Anand told the assembly before the ballot.

Forty-one delegates voted not to readmit the players, 21 countries favored lifting the ban entirely and 27 abstained or were absent.

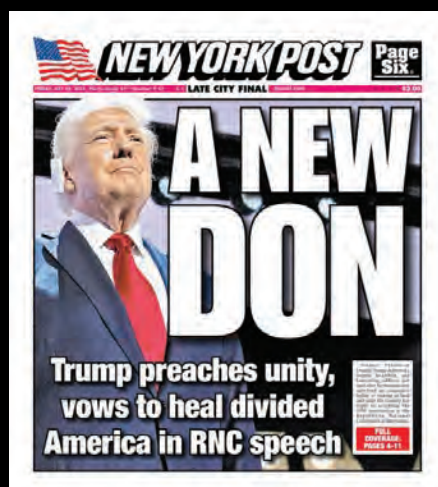
Reuters



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NYC sanit vet killed by truck

A New York City Sanitation worker died after he was run over by a garbage truck while working on Saturday evening, according to officials and sources.

Richard Errico, a 19-year veteran of the department, was killed outside of the DSNY garage for Districts 11 and 13 in Douglaston, grisly photos from the scene show.

Sources told The Post Errico fell out of a truck and was then run over.

Mayor Adams and DSNY Commissioner Jessica Tisch, who were seen walking around the scene together Saturday night, confirmed Errico had died.

“Our thoughts tonight are with Richard’s family, friends, co-workers, and everyone who knew and loved him,” said Adams in a statement, adding that he had met with his relatives. “Richard kept our streets and communities safe and clean for more than 19 years, and we should all be keeping Richard and his family in our prayers.”

Errico served the people of Douglaston, Littleneck and Bayside during his time as one of New York’s Strongest, Tisch said.

“He did it proudly. I ask all New Yorkers to pray for his family,” she said.

Patrick Reilly

Mex. party’s new leader

Mexico’s ruling Morena party on Sunday elected Interior Secretary Luisa Maria Alcalde as its new leader and awarded the son of outgoing Mexican President Andres Manuel López Obrador a high-ranking position.

Alcalde, a 37-year-old lawyer who hails from a storied Mexican political family, will be tasked with helping consolidate disparate wings of the Morena movement without its founder, López Obrador, a towering figure in Mexican politics in recent years.

His son, Andrés Manuel López Beltrán, was elected as the secretary of organization. *Reuters*

MAYOR’S ‘TORTURE’



SEEING DOUBLE: Edward Caban (above with Mayor Adams over the summer) quit as NYPD commissioner after the feds raided his home and was replaced by Interim Commissioner Thomas Donlon (far right) — whose own home was raided Friday.

Raid on new top cop latest blow



Kevin C. Downs for The Post

By CRAIG MCCARTHY
and STEVE JANOSKI

A raid on the home of the Big Apple’s interim police commissioner has raised eyebrows — coming just days after he took the job and as investigations swirl around Adams administration officials, The Post has learned.

Interim Commissioner Thomas Donlon said in a Saturday night statement that federal authorities had taken from him “materials that came into my possession 20 years ago and are unrelated to my work with the New York City Police Department” — one week after his predecessor stepped down over a seemingly unrelated raid.

Sources told The Post that agents had been searching for classified documents Donlon may have brought home during his years with the FBI and the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security — but that explanation has left a lot of law-enforcement officers scratching their heads.

“The same federal agencies that ‘recommended’ Donlon to Adams also executed the warrant — less than a week after Donlon’s appointment — to search his house for 20-year-old documents,” one source said, adding that Southern District of New York head Damian Williams actually backed Mayor Adams’ commish choice before he announced it.

“I can hear the agents laughing while they’re torturing the mayor,” the source said. “It’s open season on Adams at the SDNY and FBI.”

The same source said Donlon “clearly pissed off the wrong people at the FBI,” which led the investigators to throw “another grenade in Adams’ lap and pull the [pin].”

“Donlon was collateral damage,”

the source added.

Adams tapped Donlon, an NYPD outsider, to take over as the city’s interim commissioner on Sept. 12 — the same day former Commissioner Edward Caban abruptly resigned because of a federal investigation that has focused on him, his brother and several other close allies of the mayor.

Slew of investigations

Federal agents had seized Caban’s electronic devices as part of what sources say is a sweeping corruption probe into potential influence peddling — an inquiry that’s also ensnared Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Phil Banks, Schools Chancellor David Banks and their brother Terence Banks, as well as former NYPD official Tim Pearson and First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright.

None has been accused of

crimes and it is not clear if the investigations are connected.

On Sunday, Donlon ignored The Post as he walked out of his Upper East Side apartment and refused to answer questions about the raid.

Some sources said the raid was the feds’ way of telling Adams that nobody in his orbit is safe. But others claimed it was just the result of a vetting process for renewed clearances — criminality had nothing to do with it. Not everyone believed that though.

“They don’t search your house when they do security clearance,” said Joseph Pistone, the legendary FBI agent known as “Donnie Brasco” who infiltrated the Mafia in the 1970s and 1980s.

“If I were doing a background ingestion on Tom, I’d say he’s straightforward and loves his country,” said Pistone, who’s known Donlon since 1974.

Terminally il mom’s assisted suicide voyage

A terminally ill Missouri mom is heading to Switzerland to end her own life before her disease makes the trip impossible.

Gayle Hendrix, a 79-year-old mother of two from Cape Girardeau, has struggled with a brutal combination of

lupus and interstitial lung disease for the past four years. And although her friends say she doesn’t seem like she’s nearing the end, she says she knows otherwise.

“My friends will say, ‘But you don’t look or sound or act like somebody who is

near death.’ But I am dying, and that’s what I want to control,” the former human-resources worker recently told station 12 KFVS.

“I don’t want to get to the point of, ‘This is existing, not living,’ ” she said, adding that she’s tied to an oxy-

gen machine and can only walk short distances. “I’ve had a great life, and I want to have some dignity when I’m going to the next phase.”

Hendrix, a retiree originally from North Carolina, was always active and busy before her cruel diagnoses, daughter

Charlene Foeste said.

Several US states that have legalized assisted suicide have residency requirements. So in a few days, the mother-daughter duo will board a plane for Switzerland, where Hendrix will end her life Sept. 26. *Steve Janoski*

Sally Brompton



Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT
SALLYBROMPTON.COM

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

As values planet Venus moves into the most outgoing area of your chart today you will find it easier to interact with people who share your love of the good things in life. You don't need an excuse for a party but you will come up with one anyway.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

Honesty is a must today, especially when dealing with matters of a financial nature. Friends and family members will gladly help you out if you are a bit short of cash but don't make excuses about why you need their assistance. Tell them the truth.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Venus, planet of harmony, moves into your birth sign today and in a matter of hours you will have a smile on your face once again. Whatever issues have been worrying you these past few weeks you can and you must put

them out of your mind.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

You may be eager to move up in the world but it appears that someone is standing in your way. You won't get past them by acting in an aggressive manner. However, if you stay calm and flatter them shamelessly they can be convinced to move aside.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Cosmic activity in positive areas of your chart will encourage you to believe that all things are possible, for you personally at least. Give yourself permission to explore further afield for opportunities to shine. Meeting new people will bring good fortune.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

A problem that seems so tough actually has a simple solution and if you stop thinking about it so much the answer will come to you when you least expect it. Once you have sorted it out try helping friends and loved ones resolve their own issues.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Faraway people and places will be much on your mind over the next few days, making this a good time to plan either a short trip or a lengthy vacation. Someone you meet on your travels is destined to become a very good friend, and maybe something more.

ARIES (March 21-April 20)

You may have your doubts about the choices a friend or family member has recently been making but it is not your place to interfere. Wish them well and let

them know if they need your help you will always be there for them.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

As Venus moves into the partnership area of your chart today you can expect good news about a joint venture of some sort. It may or may not have a romantic angle but it will be a huge success if you are smart and work together.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

You need to be extra patient with people who make stupid decisions. There is nothing you can say or do to make them change their ways, so let them do their own thing and, hopefully, learn a valuable lesson from their own mistakes.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

You may strongly believe that a creative endeavor you have invested a lot of time and energy in can be made to work but not everyone will go along with that assessment. In which case just go it alone and astonish them by making a success of it.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

No doubt you are tempted to make the kind of daring move that usually works out well for you but the planets warn you have overlooked a small but important piece of information that could easily wreck your efforts. Look before you leap!

BIRTHDAY MONDAY

Your ruling planet Venus is not only linked with romantic relationships but also with what you value on a material level, including your income and your possessions. Keep telling yourself you will be rich this year and your belief will make it a fact.

Post Weather Report



Monday

Today: Times of clouds and sun. High 68 to 74.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low 54 to 60.



Tuesday

Tomorrow: Rather cloudy. High 64 to 70.

Tomorrow night: Mostly cloudy. Low 56 to 62.



Wednesday

Showers around. High 65 to 71.

Evening Cloudy, late rain. Low 58 to 64.



Thursday

Showers possible. High 68 to 74.

Evening An evening shower. Low 57 to 63.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

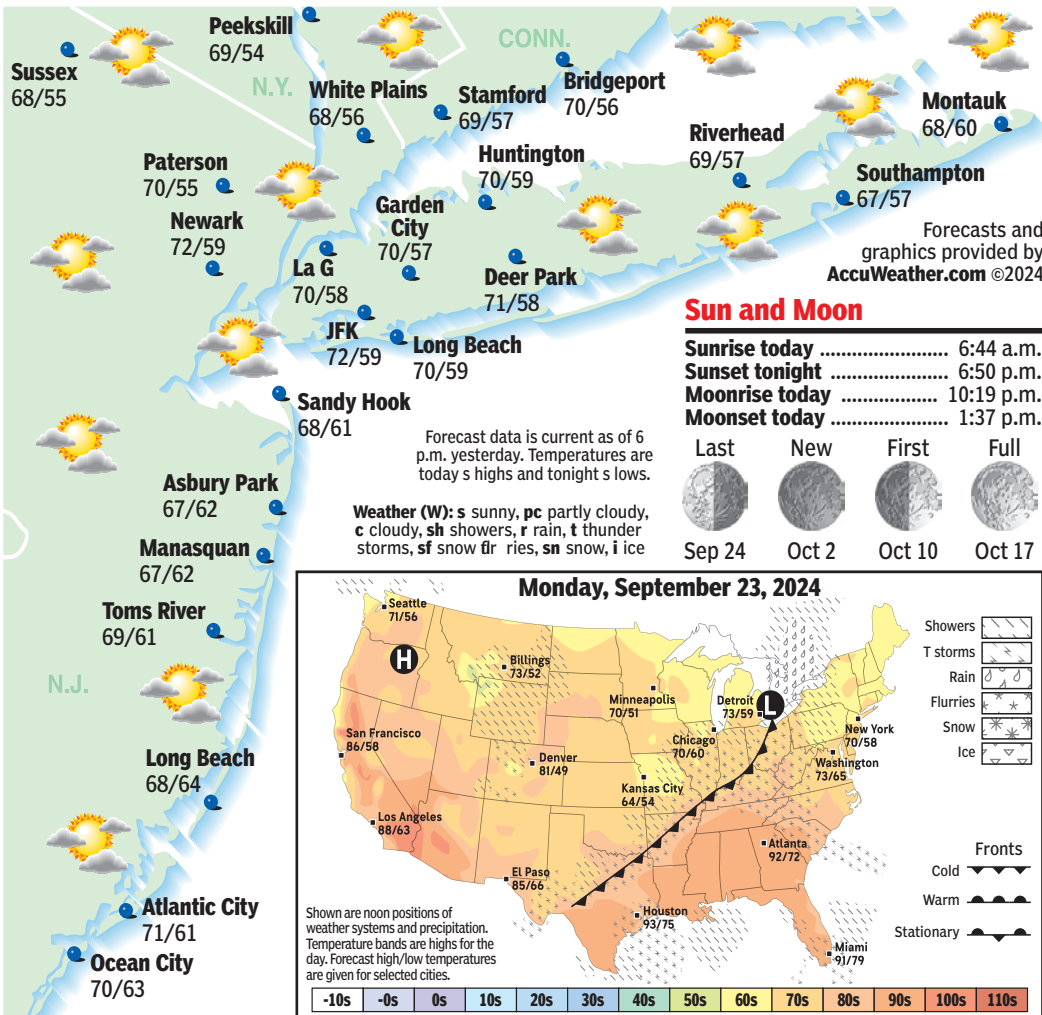
Temperature
High: 74, Low: 61, Mean: 68

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: 0 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.00 , Month: 0.24 , Year: 37.14 , Normal year to date: 36.13

Cooling Degree days yesterday3
Total for the month (normal)120 (138)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal)1320 (1185)
Last year to date1195
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 70
UV index (for Mon.) 3 (Moderate)
Humidity (at noon) 49%

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



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New York Tides	TODAY	TOMORROW
High Tide for	1st 2nd	1st 2nd
Coney Island	12:20a 12:45p	1:20a 1:44p
Fire Island	12:17a 12:54p	1:13a 1:51p
Hempstead	3:51a 4:12p	4:58a 5:22p
Huntington	3:49a 4:10p	4:49a 5:13p
Jones Inlet	12:04a 12:29p	1:04a 1:28p
Montauk Point	1:25a 2:03p	2:25a 3:06p
Port Washington	3:54a 4:14p	5:07a 5:30p
Sandy Hook	12:24a 12:49p	1:24a 1:48p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	68/49/pc	72/54/c
Danbury	68/53/pc	67/54/c
Glens Falls	66/44/pc	70/50/c
Gr Barrington	67/48/pc	68/51/c
Kingston	69/52/pc	70/55/c
Liberty	61/51/pc	63/53/c
Monticello	61/52/pc	65/53/c
Newburgh	69/53/pc	69/55/c
Poughkeepsie	70/51/pc	71/56/c
Saratoga Springs	67/47/pc	71/51/c
Stroudsburg	66/54/pc	66/56/c
Torrington	67/50/pc	66/52/c
Syracuse	67/58/sh	72/59/sh

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	81/65/s	81/68/s
Baghdad	102/80/pc	103/76/pc
Beijing	76/52/pc	78/58/pc
Berlin	77/55/pc	64/54/sh
Cairo	87/74/s	90/73/s
Dublin	62/48/c	59/43/pc
Geneva	63/51/sh	66/48/sh
Hong Kong	76/73/r	80/76/c
Jerusalem	78/61/pc	82/63/s
Kabul	91/66/s	92/73/s
London	66/54/sh	64/52/c
Madrid	76/55/s	73/59/c
Mexico City	75/58/sh	74/54/c
Montreal	66/54/pc	72/55/c
Moscow	60/37/s	67/45/pc
Paris	64/55/c	64/55/c
Rio de Janeiro	87/72/s	87/72/s
Rome	75/64/sh	76/62/r
Sydney	82/58/s	75/65/pc
Tokyo	81/67/pc	81/65/c

Deputy 'kills' Fla. gal pal

A Florida sheriff's deputy allegedly shot and killed his girlfriend while he was showing her how to clean the gun, according to reports.

Marion County Sheriff's Deputy Leslie Boileau, who had been drinking, was showing Polina Wright, 25, how to clean an AR-style rifle on Thursday when the gun discharged a loaded round into her forehead, according to the Ocala Police Department.

The deputy told investigators Wright asked him how to clean a gun and he showed her how to disassemble and clean the rifle and a 9 mm handgun, Fox13 reported. Then they pointed the guns at each other.

The pair had just returned home from dinner, where they each had three margaritas. The gun-cleaning supplies were out and Wright asked about the process.

Boileau showed her and said he dry-fired the rifle twice, according to the arrest report.

"On the second dry fire attempt, Boileau had forgotten that he placed the loaded magazine into the rifle which shot one live round in the direction of [Wright], ultimately killing her," the report said.

He has been terminated, the sheriff's office told WESH.

Anna Young

6 knifed in B'klyn

Six people were slashed during a Sunday morning attack in southern Brooklyn that sent each of them to the hospital, police said.

Cops were called to a home on Fane Court, a tiny one-way street in the Gritsen Beach neighborhood, at about 6:20 a.m. on a report that several people had been cut by a blade-wielding attacker or attackers.

The victims range in age from 16 to 30. Two were cut on their faces and the others had hand, arm, wrist or neck injuries.

Police did not provide a motive and no arrests were made. *Larry Celona, Emily Crane and Steve Janoski*

PENNIES FROM HELL

SPOILED: The Morning Glory Pool at Yellowstone National Park once was a stunning blue. The rusty hues are from a century of coins and trash thrown into it.

By STEVE JANOSKI

Tourists have ruined one of Yellowstone's most gorgeous thermal pools — turning its once pristine blue waters into a mish-mash of colors because of years of accumulated coins and trash, officials said.

The Morning Glory Pool — perched near the famous "Old Faithful" geyser — was for years a must-see attraction in the Upper Geyser Basin in Yellowstone National Park, according to Cowboy State Daily.

"There are some lovely quotes about its beauty and stunning blue colors, and likening it to the Morning Glory flower," Yellowstone National Park historian Alicia Murphy told the outlet.

But those early visitors to the park's Wyoming portion from more than a century ago weren't all that concerned about the envi-

Coin tosses ruin Yellowstone pool

ronment — and did not practice the stringent "leave no trace" policy that outdoor enthusiasts live by today, according to park officials.

Wishing well

The brilliant blue pool of scalding water was treated like a wishing well as visitors chucked coins, handkerchiefs, trash and all sorts of other debris into its depths.

Murphy said tourists often tossed things into whatever crevice or hole they could find in

America's first national park — established on March 1, 1872 — hoping it would make something interesting happen.

"People didn't understand the plumbing and how geysers worked," she said. "There were lots of ideas about, 'If we throw something into this pool, we might be able to make it erupt.'"

The items corrupted the pool's natural beauty, and its deep-blue water is now a mix of greens, yellows, blues and oranges.

Former Yellowstone ranger Jeff Henry said that at one time, the

National Park Service held regular cleanups that he equated to "harvesting a crop."

The team fished out hundreds of objects during the laborious work, Cowboy State Daily said, as it tried not to damage the delicate thermal pool.

"We found tons, probably thousands of coins," Henry added. "There were a lot of rocks that didn't belong there, and I think we found some hats that probably had blown off people's heads and landed in the pool. And they, wisely, didn't try to retrieve them."

He can't imagine the park service doing something similar now, however, given the difficulty of the work.

"Cleaning pools was done on a regular basis," he said. "But values change, and they don't clean the pools anymore, at least with the frequency and at the scale that we did."

DNA reunites kin 70 yrs. after kidnap

A California family's 70-year-long search for their kidnapped relative ended in June after an online DNA test finally put them on the right track to the complete opposite end of the country.

Luis Armando Albino, a retired firefighter and Vietnam War veteran living on the East Coast, was kidnapped from a park in Oakland, Ca-

lif. in 1951 when he was 6.

He had been playing with his older brother when a woman approached him, promising she would buy him candy if he came with her.

For many of his family members, including his mother who died in 2005, that was the last time they saw him. But the family continued to hold out hope

for seven decades.

Luis was raised by a couple on the East Coast. Officials did not specify where on the East Coast he lives today and authorities still have an open investigation into his abduction.

Luis' niece, 63-year-old Alida Alequin, took an online DNA test in 2020 "just for fun" that showed a 22%

match with a stranger who would turn out to be Albino. She tried to reach out to him but had no luck.

She picked up the search again in 2024, digging through archives of the Oakland Tribune and gathering enough evidence for law enforcement to open a new missing person case. After another DNA test, investiga-

tors told the family June 20 that Luis had been found.

The FBI helped arrange for Luis, now a father and grandfather, to come to California for a reunion with Alequin, her mother and other relatives June 24. Alequin told the Bay Area News Group that Luis "hugged me and said, 'Thank you for finding me.'"

Caitlin McCormack, Wires

stock.adobe.com

Make the fiend pay.

House's funding 'Plan B'



MONSTER: Christopher Macias, a former manager at Blue Midtown (left), was convicted of raping an employee who is now suing the club.



Steven Hirsch

By PETER SENZAMICI

A college student who was brutally raped by a club manager and promoter on her first day of work at a swanky Midtown bar is suing him and the business, saying it failed to protect her.

The woman, a former dance major who filed her suit anonymously in Queens Supreme Court last week, says trendy Blue Midtown and the company Dream Hospitality is liable for the rape by since-twice-convicted rapist Christopher Macias in September 2021.

Just two weeks before the plaintiff was attacked, Macias raped another college student, a freshman, inside his car, her suit notes.

"I showed up as an employee, ready to work, bright eyed, full of hope, and I left scarred, traumatized and victimized by him," the plaintiff, a college senior at the time, told *The Post*.

"And that's at fault of these clubs and of these people that are hiring him and allowing him into a place of position. In the nightlife industry in New York City, it's all too common."

The woman and her lawyer said the nightlife world must do a better job of protecting its workers.

Victim sues biz over sex assault by manager

"We hope this lawsuit will send a clear message to employers that they have a responsibility to protect their employees from sexual harassment and assault," said attorney Mark Shirian.

Knew just what to say.

The woman added that she wants all employees to be more aware of how people in power can take advantage of others.

She recalled for *The Post* how her only day at the West 44th Street club began with Macias showing off his Rolodex of indus-

try players as he showed her around.

"He knew what my goals were," she said. "And he kind of used that in a way to make me trust him and make me feel like I had to . . . stick with him if I wanted to be successful." She said, "he knew exactly what he needed to do in order to make me . . . trust him."

At the end of her shift after 4 a.m., Macias offered her a ride home, she said. On the way, he pulled off onto a quiet West Village street, where he raped her twice, the woman said. She fought back, and Macias got so violent

that witnesses heard her screaming and called the police, she said.

Macias was convicted in January of raping her and the other student and is now serving 18 years to life in state prison.

The woman and Shirian said the nightlife industry must weed out such predators, suggesting a background check could have helped signal Macias was prone to disturbing behavior. In 2012, he was accused of shoving a police officer down some stairs in his hometown of Hoboken, NJ.

The club did not respond to a *Post* request for comment.

House Republican leadership on Sunday unveiled its second plan to avert a government shutdown, ditching a key provision from the first attempt that Democrats had roundly opposed.

The House GOP leadership's new plan punts the government funding fight past the presidential election, keeping spending at current levels until Dec. 20.

Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) previously championed a six-month continuing resolution to keep the government funded through March 28, pairing a spending patch with the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, which would require voters to show proof of citizenship.

Democrats called the SAVE Act a nonstarter and the first plan failed on the House floor last week.

"As history has taught and current polling affirms, shutting the government down less than 40 days from a fateful election would be an act of political malpractice," Johnson wrote in a letter to his colleagues. A vote on his "Plan B" could come as soon as Wednesday.

Former President Donald Trump had implored Republicans to stick with the SAVE Act, even if it triggered a shutdown. *Ryan King*

Spend cuts out: UK big

UK Finance Minister Rachel Reeves will promise Britain on Monday there will be no "austerity" or widespread spending cuts despite previous warnings of a tough budget.

Following the Labour Party's election victory in July, Reeves suggested taxes were likely to rise in her first budget Oct. 30 because of what she said was a \$29 billion hole in public finances.

At the Labour conference in Liverpool, Reeves will use Monday's keynote speech to reiterate that "There will be no return to austerity," according to extracts from her speech. *Reuters*

Zelensky in NY for UN & talks with Joe, Kam & Don

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has arrived in New York to attend sessions at the UN General Assembly, the Ukrinform state news agency reported Sunday.

Zelensky's visit coincides with US efforts to prepare a

\$375 million military aid package for Kyiv, breaking a monthslong trend toward smaller packages.

Zelensky will present a "victory plan" in Ukraine's war against Russia to President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris in sep-

arate meetings Thursday.

Zelensky also hopes to meet GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump, who has called US aid to its ally a waste of money and has declined to say if he wants Ukraine to win.

Trump has said he will

probably meet with Zelensky this week, but no date has been announced.

Zelensky has long complained of a shortage of weapons, including crucial 155mm artillery shells made at a plant in Scranton, Pa.

Two US officials said Fri-

day that an aid package, expected to be announced this week, includes patrol boats, ammunition for high-mobility artillery rocket systems, 155mm and 105mm artillery ammunition, spare parts and other weapons. *Reuters*



DANIEL GROSSBERG
Allegedly groped stripper.

Ky. Dem in sex scandal

A Democratic Kentucky state lawmaker offered a stripper \$5,000 for sex, and was later banned from the club for fondling another dancer, according to a report.

State Rep. Daniel Grossberg, who was already in hot water for allegations that he sexually harassed several young women, is now accused of misbehaving at a Louisville strip joint called Foxy, the Lexington Herald-Leader reported.

"He was calling girls all kinds of names," club co-owner Milford Renfrow told the outlet.

"Disrespecting the girls and gabbing them."

Asked about the claims, the married Grossberg, 45, said, "The allegations get more outlandish with each story." *Jorge Fitz-Gibbon*

Power cuts in arid Ecuador

Ecuador's government announced the suspension of electricity service for nine hours Sunday in 12 of the nation's 24 provinces and placed 19 areas on red alert due to a drought that has reduced the water levels of hydroelectric plants.

The blackout was to have been from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., the Ecuadorian presidency said Saturday. It is in addition to previously announced eight-hour nightly cuts nationwide from Monday to Thursday.

Ecuador is facing its worst drought in 61 years. *Reuters*



Zendaya is 'Dune' the town

Zendaya is rocking an emerald green Louis Vuitton bubble minidress — her second of two outfits on the night — as she attends a For Your Consideration screening of "Dune: Part Two" in Midtown Saturday. Co-stars Timothée Chalamet and Austin Butler joined the star.

TheImageDirect.com

KILLER GUNMEN ON AUTO

4-slay firing 'switch'

By JARED DOWNING

The gunmen who opened fire outside a popular hookah bar, killing four people and wounding 17 others, on Saturday night likely used weapons with an illegal "switch" that allowed them to fire fully automatic, maximizing the casualties, according to authorities.

Police said the gunmen found a single intended target standing outside a nightclub and sprayed bullets into a bustling street full of bars and restaurants, which is popular with college students and just a few blocks from the University of Alabama, Birmingham.

"They were in a vehicle, got out of the vehicle, shooting occurred, they fled in the vehicle," Birmingham Police Chief Scott Thurman told reporters.

'Hell-bent on harm'

The shooting lasted only moments, but police found more than 100 empty shell casings at the scene. Police believe at least one weapon had been outfitted with a "Glock switch" that allowed the handgun to fire full auto, according to WVTM-TV.

Machine guns and other fully automatic weapons are illegal in the US, except for a few excep-

tions that require onerous federal licenses.

However, these illegal conversions have become a scourge on the streets of Birmingham, Mayor Randall Woodfin told reporters.

"There's a certain element in this community who are too comfortable riding around with semi-automatic weapons, automatic weapons, convergent switches and everything else, whose only hell-bent intent is to harm people," Woodfin said.

The gunmen's intended target had been standing outside the Hush Cigar and Hookah Lounge, a basement club that often has a long line of people waiting to get in. It is located in Birmingham's Five Points neighborhood, a trendy spot that draws many students from the nearby university.

This is the third quadruple homicide this year for Birmingham. In July, a drive-by shooting at an adult birthday party killed four and injured nine others. The city had 135 homicides in 2023, according to AL.com.

Another shooting occurred at a different night club just a few hours after the killings, although police say the two were unrelated.

No arrests have been made so far, and the hunt for the gunmen continues.

jdowning@nypost.com

Ukr. hits Russian ammo

Ukrainian drones struck two Russian munition depots in an overnight attack that caused one of Russia's largest ammo storage facilities to explode in a massive, fiery blaze Saturday, officials said.

Kyiv's military general staff said the attack targeted facilities in Tikhoretsk and Oktyabrsky, with the former allegedly harboring 2,000 tons of munitions, including weapons from North Korea.

Videos uploaded to social media

from Tikhoretsk, in Russia's southern Krasnodar region, show the moment the military facility erupts into a cloud of fire.

"The facility is in the top three largest munitions storages of the occupiers, and is one of the key points in the Russian military logistical system," the general staff said.

A Ukrainian security source said drones were used against both ammunition depots.

Ronny Reyes, Wires

LA video manse now a graffitied wreck

SCRAWL ABOUT DIDDY



Photos: ABC

By NICHOLAS McENTYRE

Sean “Diddy” Combs filmed a music video inside a now-abandoned Hollywood Hills mansion taken over by squatters and taggers who have since spray-painted “Diddy was here” on the roof after learning about the production.

Combs used several parts of the luxurious home at 7571 Mulholland Drive, including the great room, the spiral staircase and outside near the pool, as the background for his 2007 song “Last Night” featuring Keyshia Cole.



Call for security

Mary J. Blige has resided inside the mansion in years past, as have several “high-level business folks,” one neighbor named Jack told KABC.

“I think some influencers have lived here over the years. It’s a really cool house. It’s big,” the neighbor added.

“The longer it sits like this, more people are going to come and keep doing what they’re doing,” Jack said. “The neighborhood, this house specifically, could use a security guard. Two guards . . . not that expensive. Let’s keep the neighborhood safe.”

Combs is being held at Brooklyn’s Metropolitan Detention

Center after he was arrested by federal agents last week on charges of sex trafficking, racketeering and transportation to engage in prostitution.

He was placed on suicide watch inside the jail as a “preventative measure.”

The neglected mansion in the posh Hollywood Hills has been owned by John Powers Middleton since 2012. It’s been vacant for over a decade.

Middleton, the only son of businessman and Philadelphia Phillies owner John S. Middleton, owns a second Los Angeles property that has also become overrun by vagrants, according to KABC.

Squatters and taggers have been entering the Hollywood Hills property for over two years.

The unwanted guests have become headaches and safety hazards for the neighbors, who call the mansion an eyesore with the

exterior walls covered in graffiti art and “tags.”

Residents living near the home have fumed that they’re no longer safe. One homeowner was attacked by a vagrant with a “steel rebar and beer bottle,” WPVI reported.

“Every time we call, the police will come and they’ll clear it out, and then within an hour or two, five more people are there and staying the night,” one neighbor told the outlet.

Others claim the taggers are beginning to spread their work to other properties.

Nuisance

The Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety declared the property a nuisance and issued an abatement order forcing the owner to build a fence and secure the property in October 2022, NBCLA reported.

RICH RUIN: A Hollywood Hills manse once featured in a Sean Combs (inset) music video (below) has become a vacant eyesore, covered in graffiti by taggers who’ve noted Diddy’s notoriety (above).



Bad Boy Entertainment

Rough climate for UN

A marathon week of climate-change meetings opened in New York on Sunday, with celebrities and world leaders mingling with corporate leaders over talks on how to drive climate action forward.

On Sunday, UN Secretary General António Guterres launched a two-day, climate-themed “Summit for the Future” as part of the UN General Assembly. National leaders addressed the group after adopting a “Pact for the Future” aimed at ensuring and increasing cooperation between nations.

Many underlined the urgent need for more access to climate finance, and some warned that mistrust was growing between nations as climate-fueled disasters mount.

“International challenges are moving faster than our ability to solve them,” Guterres told leaders at the summit. “Crises are interacting and feeding off each other. For example, as digital technologies spread climate disinformation, that deepens distrust and fuels polarization.”

President Biden is expected to deliver a speech at an event also attended by actor and climate activist Jane Fonda and World Bank President Ajay Banga.

Reuters

Joe & Viet pres to talk

President Biden is expected to meet Vietnam’s president and ruling Communist Party chief, To Lam, on Wednesday, a person familiar with the matter said.

The meeting is expected to take place on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The White House had no comment. A Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesperson previously had not said if Lam would meet Biden.

Biden has been eager to deepen relations with the strategic Southeast Asian country and manufacturing hub in a bid to counter Russia and China.

Reuters

Green Hot Air

No, Climate Week zealots, carbon's a boon

THERE'S a whole lot of hot air coming out of New York City this week.

As politicians, celebrities and academics descend on the Big Apple for Climate Week NYC, expect a lot of bad ideas — and ironically a lot of carbon dioxide emissions — from elites eager to force their political agenda on the masses but unwilling to make the sacrifice themselves.

Starting Sunday, these self-appointed climate crusaders are busily lecturing ordinary Americans about how to live, what to drive and even what to eat, all while flying in on private jets and being chauffeured around town in SUVs. As they pontificate from podiums and plush panels about reducing carbon footprints, they conveniently ignore their own outsized ones.

Climate Week is rehashing the same tired, failed schemes of the climate movement, branded this year with an “age of urgency,” perhaps in recognition that their ideas still don’t work. Despite the ramped-up doomsday rhetoric, our environment is thriving — and this is the best time in human history to be alive.

If you’re looking for someone to blame for inflation, start with the devotees of Climate Week: Their anti-fossil fuel proposals have resulted in higher energy prices, which increase the cost of everything. Add to that the tax burden of the hundreds of billions spent on renewable-energy subsidies and pressure from the ESG movement, which bullies businesses into adopting climate initiatives or risk debanking.

Yet for all that investment — and all that cost increase — wind and solar power still represent just 5% of the nation’s energy production. Despite the Left’s best efforts, wind and solar are largely failed technologies.

They work all right when the wind is blowing and the sun is shining, but weather conditions are notoriously difficult to predict and rarely track with electricity needs. No matter how many industrial wind farms and solar panels we build, those systems rely on fossil fuels to keep the lights on.

Imagine for a moment that climate activists achieved their goal and somehow managed to delete



Hot air: Climate activists marched across the Brooklyn Bridge Friday.

every drop of oil and gas and vanish every lump of coal nationwide. First, of course, it would destroy our society and send us back to the Middle Ages — as Venezuelans found out firsthand, when week-long blackouts struck their once prosperous nation after their oil industry collapsed.

But what would happen to our dangerously warming climate?

Nothing. According to the same data models climate radicals misuse to claim the sky is falling, a total US ban on fossil fuels would shift global temperatures by a few hundredths of a degree at most. These models have significantly overestimated warming every time, so even *that* may be a stretch.

Even if the whole world participated in the disappearance of fossil fuels, the effect would still be minute — less than a tenth of a degree.

But we’re *not* doomed. Contrary to the Climate Week event snappily titled “Let’s Not Die,” climate-related deaths are down 99% in the last hundred years, according to researcher Bjorn Lomborg, even as the world’s population has quadrupled.

In fact, by the numbers, we’re growing more resilient to climate-related disasters than we are to non-climate-related disasters like volcanoes and earthquakes. Clearly, the weather isn’t the problem here.

In reality, this is the best time in human history to be alive. Around the world, in the wealthiest urban centers and the most impoverished developing nations, people are living longer, healthier, better lives than ever before. They have accessible, abundant energy to thank — and not the unreliable, unaffordable energy the climate movement promotes.

Access to affordable, reliable energy from fossil fuels dramatically improves life expectancy, infant and child mortality and economic opportunity, while reducing poverty and disease. Fossil fuels are the reason we have comfortable homes, access to nutritious foods and life-saving medicines.

They are the reason you can spend your free time reading this article instead of the back-breaking labor of life without them: subsistence farming, walking miles to collect water or firewood, and the likelihood of a short and difficult existence.

Climate Week’s dreams are nothing but fantasies that won’t stop climate change, but would ravage our society.

If its organizers really hope to create a brighter future for humanity, they should unapologetically embrace the high-carbon lifestyle and acknowledge its power to transform the human condition.

Jason Isaac is founder and CEO of the American Energy Institute.

FAST TAKES

Border beat: The Cost of the Migrant Flood

“What the citizens of Springfield and Aurora are experiencing” is “the real costs of an historically unprecedented flood of migrants into the country,” fumes the Washington Examiner’s editorial board. “From day one, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have” flagrantly abused “statutes to create dubious new pathways for otherwise illegal immigrants to enter and stay in the country.” In “Springfield, a town of 60,000,” estimates “suggest 12,000 to 20,000 Haitians have recently been deposited without the existing community’s approval or consent.” Many have “been granted Temporary Protected Status by Biden, giving them a legal status, but that does not mean they arrived legally.” If Harris “does win this fall, voters should expect much more pain like what is occurring in Springfield and Aurora [Colo.] and in many more communities.”

Eye on energy: Kam’s Plans Slam Economy

“Almost nothing could be more important to the future of American workers than access to affordable energy,” frets Liz Peek at The Hill, yet the dictates of White House climate zealots “will lead to soaring electricity costs” and cripple the “country’s ability to compete in the industries of the future,” i.e., “artificial intelligence.” The renewable-energy drive has already brought “rising electricity costs,” and the needs of AI data centers soon will be “roughly equivalent to the electricity consumption of Japan.” “Cheap electricity is essential” to the nation’s industrial future. “Abundant cheap fossil fuels” have kept prices low and given the US a “competitive edge.” “Kamala Harris could eliminate that advantage, by pursuing high-cost renewable energy and making it even harder to produce U.S. oil and gas.”

Elex watch: Working Class Flees Dems

The Teamsters’ decision not to endorse a presidential candidate, for the first time since 1996, “stung” the Kamala Harris campaign, reports Michael Baharaeen at UnHerd. “It’s the latest sign of the Democratic Party’s struggles to retain” working-class voters. Per union data, members favored Donald Trump over Harris by more than 20 points. “Democrats have tried to offset these losses by making gains among college-educated voters. But their continued decline with the working class poses serious risks.” The Dems’ chief problem: Union members and the whole working class are “more culturally conservative than the party’s ascendant college base.” If Democrats don’t “address that gap, it may raise a threat to their electoral viability.”

Tech desk: Biden Goes After Nvidia



President Biden

“The Biden administration now plans to punish” chipmaker Nvidia for its “stunning success,” thunders Adam D. Thierer at City Journal — “the greatest gift China could hope for as it looks to catch up in the global AI race.” This month “the Department of Justice sent a subpoena to Nvidia, deepening the agency’s antitrust-related probe.” Why? Nvidia has “helped fuel a \$335 billion private-sector-led explosion of AI investment.” “Could it be that, by shunning political games” like those its competitors play, “Nvidia has set itself up for a fall?” Meanwhile, “China is working to develop its own ‘national champions’ to rival Nvidia in pursuit of the CCP’s stated goal of overtaking America and becoming the world’s AI leader by 2030.”

Conservative : Joe’s Failures Haunt Kamala

“Harris shoulders a burden: Joe Biden,” explains the Washington Free Beacon’s Matthew Continetti. Joe’s “approval remains low” at 42%. He’s “a declared one-termer whose” legacy “will be long-lasting and negative.” “No miss has been greater than Biden’s retreat from Afghanistan,” while “Wars in Ukraine and Israel have had a terrible cost. The mini-war in the Red Sea against the Houthis” has “done more than interrupt global trade.” “Millions have entered the country” on his watch. Recently, “Biden said inflation had been tamed, only to see Harris blame it on price gougers.” “The toll” of his spending and regulations “is staggering.” “Biden’s long shadow will haunt America for years.” Which is why Kamala Harris is so desperate to escape it.” — Compiled by The Post Editorial Board

Hijacking Health Reform

Gov. Hochul has rightly blasted a \$9 billion home health-care program, calling it a “racket” that’s socked taxpayers — but now 1199 SEIU, the political-powerhouse health-workers union, is looking to turn her reform drive into an even bigger cash drain.

Hochul called the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program, which uses state funds to compensate family members who care for loved ones at home, “one of the most abused programs” in New York history.

Yet The Post’s Vaughn Golden reports that 1199 is looking to unionize the family workers who deliver the care — which is basically guaranteed to hit taxpayers even harder.

Easier CDPAP eligibility rules set in 2015 goosed enrollees from 20,000 to 250,000, with Medicaid spending on the program tripling over the past five years as it became wide-open to abuse. In 2020, the FBI busted a Brooklyn outfit that manipulated the hours of care workers to pocket millions in state and federal Medicaid funds.

Hochul’s office claims her reforms — consolidating the 700 payroll agents between Medicaid and caregivers into a single middle-man — will still control costs.

Yet 1199 is strong-arming the companies bidding to serve as middleman to “advocate” for higher caregiver wages and benefits. And to help unionize these workers.

It wants the bidders to commit to pushing for higher funding and to “remain neutral with respect to the question of whether” the caregivers sign up with the union.

Bidders are all too likely to fold: “The political world does not mess” with 1199, snarks Empire Center health-industry expert Bill Hammond.

Unionizing 200,000 caregivers would be a huge win for 1199, which already boasts 450,000 members. Yet it would defeat the purpose of the program — which, again, is to help *family members*, not unionized employees, care for loved ones.

And if funding is boosted so “workers” get higher pay and benefits, taxpayers won’t save a dime; quite the reverse.

The gov might well blink from bucking the union, and the Legislature is all too likely to play along. But if Hochul truly wants to end the “racket” she’s deplored and rein in runaway costs, she’ll stomp on this naked power grab immediately.

Why Harris Is Dissing Al Smith

It seems Kamala Harris is so afraid of having to be spontaneous in public that’s she’s skipping this year’s Al Smith dinner.

The Oct. 17 charity event raises millions for the city’s unfortunate: The dinner has hosted the major-party rivals every four years (with just two exceptions) since 1960, when Richard Nixon dared to join John Kennedy, the first Catholic presidential nominee since Al Smith himself, on Catholic “turf.”

The candidates are supposed to deliver light jabs at each other in their dueling addresses, which plainly can be written in advance — but the program apparently has too many risks of being called upon for spontaneous reactions for Harris to agree.

The Democratic nominee has done vastly fewer non-Teleprompter events than any past major-party candidate; one of her allies claims Harris is just too busy — though that’s never stopped a *sitting president* from attending. Kamala says she will do the Smith dinner in the future — *if* she wins in

November. (Is that a carrot or a stick?)

As for those exceptions: One came in 1996, when the then-cardinal opted to invite *neither* nominee, presumably because President Bill Clinton had vetoed a bill that banned “abortions” of babies already partly out of the mother.

That *could* be Harris’ concern now, since she and running-mate Tim Walz support unlimited abortion rights all the way through the ninth month of pregnancy. (Walz even signed a bill ensuring that babies born *despite* an attempted abortion would have no protections.)

But more likely, it’s just her fear of having to be spontaneous: After all, she just bungled a friendly conversation with Oprah Winfrey, who’s endorsed her.

That phobia must be pretty crippling: Harris has to know that the other exception came when Walter Mondale declined the invite in 1984 — and went on to lose 49 states in November.

Fix the CCRB — or End It

For all New York politicians’ pious talk of the Civilian Complain Review Board’s work examining claims of cop abuses, the mayor and City Council have crippled it by leaving five of the 15 board slots vacant.

That’s led to major delays in board rulings, leaving both accused police officers and credible complainants hanging in limbo.

We’ve long doubted the CCRB is needed: The NYPD is scrutinized by an independent monitor as well as the council and others. But having a board that can’t do its work...

Two of the vacancies are on the City Council to fill; two, on Mayor Eric Adams; the third (the chair) is on both.

Board members review cases in three-person teams; this means only three committees are at work instead of five, so the backlog keeps building.

The City Council’s Rules Committee is set to vet *one* replacement, Staten Island’s Dr. Mohammad Khalid, on Oct. 9; no word on any candidate for the Bronx seat. City Hall claims to have an “ongoing process” to fill its slots.

Since neither the council nor the mayor can bother keeping the CCRB running properly, they ought to admit it’s outlived whatever use it once had — and start the process of amending the City Charter to get rid of it.

AOC Bizarrely Condemns Pager Attack on Hezbollah

THE ISSUE: Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s vocal disapproval of the pager attack on Hezbollah soldiers.



AOC

•Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s claim that Israel’s attack on Hezbollah’s pagers and radios was illegal is antisemitic (“AOC: ‘Illegal’ to hit terrorists,” Sept. 19).

I challenge AOC to cite the international law that forbids sabotaging enemy military communications. Hezbollah’s pagers and walkie-talkies are military equipment, and interdiction of enemy communications is a legal tactic. The United States does it all the time. So why does the IDF doing the same outrage her?

Maybe because it’s the world’s only Jewish state defending itself.

Daniel Trigoboff
Williamsville

•Does anyone remember the brief moment when AOC suggested she might have Jewish ancestry?

She seems to be singing a different tune these days, now insisting that the only democracy in the Middle East is the real aggressor in the current war. I’m pretty sure kidnapping and torture violate international human-rights laws.

Noelle Levin
New Rochelle

•After the horrific events of Oct. 7, where was Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the former bartender and current US representative?

Now, after Israel’s electronic strike on Hezbollah, she resurfaces, demanding Israel be held accountable for “violations of international law.” Her understanding of international law and Israel’s right to defend itself seems to be zero.

As they say, you can’t fix stupid. **Frank Olivieri**
North Ft. Myers, Fla.

•AOC’s comments on Israel targeting Hezbollah’s pagers and radios show her ignorance. She

claims Israel “unequivocally violates international humanitarian law” and is “killing innocent civilians.”

Yet these attacks are similar to those Israel has endured since its founding. Her antisemitism is blatant; maybe it’s time she returned to bartending. **Alan Swartz**
Verona, NJ

•Someone needs to question AOC’s loyalty and sanity. To label an attack on terrorists as a violation of “international humanitarian law” is to deny the right to self-defense.

Her support of terrorists and refusal to act against antisemitism show her naivety. Yet she still receives media attention. Has she forgotten how furious she was when protesters threatened her on Jan. 6?

She questions Israel’s precision attacks on terrorists, but what about the murder of an American hostage or the thousands of rockets Hezbollah fires at Israeli women and children?

Logic and fairness seem lost on her.

Joel Glazer
Elizabeth, NJ

•Did the United States violate international law

when it defended itself after Pearl Harbor, AOC?

Hezbollah has fired over 7,000 rockets into Jewish population centers, killing hundreds and displacing 100,000. Israel specifically targeted Hezbollah militants authorized to carry those pagers.

To deny Jews the right to self-defense is antisemitism, AOC.

Richard Sherman
Margate, Fla.

•Once again, AOC has shown her true colors.

She has no understanding of what’s happening in the Middle East and Israel. In her world, killing, raping, beheading Israelis, and taking hostages is not illegal. Beauty fades, but stupidity is forever.

JJ Levine
Miami, Fla.

•Just out of curiosity, does brain-dead, completely naïve AOC realize that the Hezbollah animals were responsible for the 1983 Beirut Marine barracks bombing that killed over 200 Leathernecks?

Jake McNicholas
Whitestone

•This member of our House of Representatives is nothing more than a moron.

She blasted Israel for attacking “innocent civilians” by blowing up cell phones and pagers used to coordinate attacks on innocent Israeli civilians. Yet, little about the Oct. 7 atrocity or the hostages still being held and slowly murdered.

But she claims not to be antisemitic. The senator from Vermont, Bernie Sanders, is a self-hating Jew as well. **Ted Pilchik**
Fort Worth, Texas

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Hochul Must Restore MTA Fiscal Sanity

LAST week, the state-controlled Metropolitan Transportation Authority unveiled its next five-year capital-infrastructure plan: \$68.4 billion. It feels like the 1970s — a lot of ideas, and no way to pay.

The MTA's latest plan includes \$47.8 billion for subways and buses, including replacing railcars and continuing to digitize signals. It would spend another \$6 billion each on the region's two commuter-rail systems, and \$3 billion to maintain bridges and tunnels. Finally: \$1.7 billion to rebuild the nuts and bolts of Grand Central Terminal, and \$2.8 billion to build the "interborough" light-rail line between Brooklyn and Queens.

These are sound concepts. We *should* continue to upgrade signals, something other global cities did decades ago. We *shouldn't* let Grand Central fall down, and outer-borough light rail could alleviate traffic.

But it's all fiction — unless and until Gov. Hochul becomes a firmer leader.

The MTA usually identifies a mix of revenues for its capital plans, some speculative, but most realistic. This time, it hasn't. Yes, the bridges-and-tunnels portion takes care of itself, as tolls fully fund it. The MTA expects at least \$13 billion in federal funds, based on past plans, and expects to borrow \$10 billion. But this leaves more hole than plan: \$45 billion-ish in . . . we'll figure it out later.

Worse, it's not clear that the MTA can borrow \$10 billion. It already owes \$47.8 billion, and starting halfway through the next capital plan, it will face half-a-billion-dollar annual deficits, making it harder to pay interest on those loans.

Plus: it's not just the *next* capital plan that's unfunded. With three months left on the *current* capital plan, the MTA is still missing billions of dollars for it. The MTA was supposed to get \$3.1 billion directly from New York state's bud-



NICOLE GELINAS

had to clean up Rockefeller's mess, appointed Dick Ravitch as MTA chair. Ravitch, a real-estate developer empowered by Carey to act independently, put together a plan of what the MTA could achieve in five years — \$7.2 billion for things like buying new rail cars and fixing tracks and signals.

Then he convinced lawmakers to enact taxes, about \$800 million a year, so that the MTA could borrow funds and use the tax revenues to repay the loans. Indeed, the situation today is worse than the '70s, because we still have all those taxes, and then some. Today, the MTA's annual tax income totals \$8.6 billion a year, 43% of its budget.

If you think the MTA's problem is that the Legislature hasn't increased taxes, consider: In 2019, the

This leaves more hole than plan: \$45 billion-ish in . . . we'll figure it out later. J

get for the current plan — but has only received \$500 million of that allocation. All told, of the *current* five-year, \$55.4 billion capital plan, only \$21.8 billion in budgeted funding has been "secured."

Transit advocates cry, "Congestion pricing now!" But congestion pricing would do *nothing* to fund the next capital plan. The MTA was supposed to borrow against congestion pricing's \$1 billion-plus annual revenues to fund \$15 billion in the current plan — and still would have fallen far short.

This feels like the 1970s MTA. In 1968, then-Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, a liberal Republican, created the MTA because he wanted to run for president in an era of growing awareness about pollution and fear of urban decay. But he never *funded* it.

He promised a full Second Avenue Subway (all the way downtown) and the East Side Access terminal for the Long Island Rail Road (opened . . . 55 years later, in 2023). Meanwhile, trains continued to fall apart.

That changed in the 1980s, when Gov. Hugh Carey, a Democrat who

MTA started collecting a surcharge on Uber and taxi trips in core Manhattan, taking in \$300 million annually. A year later, it started collecting a "mansion tax" surcharge and two new taxes on internet sales, now bringing in \$700 million. And last year, to fund post-COVID deficits, the governor increased the MTA's tax on city payrolls, bringing in \$1.1 billion.

Now, Hochul must figure out: How many projects can the MTA *realistically* build in the next five years? Trying to do too much at once only pushes up construction costs. And then, figure out: How can labor unions, both construction and operating, contribute to cutting costs?

It's also worth wondering, if transit is so important, whether the state can't cut *something* out of its \$237 billion budget to make a higher contribution, without taxes or borrowing.

Absent fiscal direction, the MTA didn't issue a capital plan so much as a confused cry for help.

Nicole Gelinás' book "Movement" is out Nov. 5.



Caitlin a Gift to WNBA

Icalled a longtime friend the other day, a fellow sports fan, to catch up, and we spent the first 20 minutes talking about women's professional basketball.

Neither of us had ever exhibited the slightest interest in the WNBA, but both of us, simultaneously, unbeknownst to the other, had become Caitlin Clark fans.

There are transformational players who change the competitive balance in a league or change how the game is played, but it's rare to come across players who lift an entire league on their shoulders.

There was much knowing chatter when Clark entered the WNBA that she was in for a rude awakening after her historic college career, that she wouldn't look so special against the best women players in the world. And, yes, there was a period of adjustment, but as the WNBA regular season ends and the playoffs begin, we can say the Clark doubters have been proved categorically wrong.

Infamously, Geno Auriemma, the storied coach of the University of Connecticut women's team, said back in June, "The delusional fanbase that follows her disrespected the WNBA players by saying she's going to go in that league and tear it apart."

Delusional? Clark has had the best rookie season in WNBA history and turned everything she's touched to ratings or attendance gold.

For all the jealousy and even hostility she's elicited from other

WNBA players, Clark is doing them all a favor. The WNBA could have had an unlimited advertising and marketing budget and not produced anything like the results of simply putting "C squared" on the court.

With Clark, the everyday is extraordinary. For the final game of the season against the Fever, the unremarkable Washington Mystics moved the event to the NBA arena and drew 20,711, the most for a game in WNBA history. The Mys-



RICH LOWRY

tics usually play in an arena with a capacity of 4,200.

The Indiana Fever averaged 17,000 attendees per home game and 15,000 on the road; both are more than any other team by a healthy margin. When the team shows up in an opposing arena, often a lion's share of the fans are rooting for Clark, not the home team.

The Ion network, which broadcasts WNBA games, saw its ratings increase 133% from a year ago, to 670,000 per game. It benefited from broadcasting seven games with more than a million viewers, all involving the Indiana Fever. Notably, viewership among men aged 25 to 54 increased 181%.

Clark finished the season tied for seventh most points per game and led the league in assists per game.

She set rookie records for total points in a season, assists per game, and three-pointers made.

She's the only rookie ever with a triple-double — and she did it twice. She scored the second-most three-pointers ever in a season, falling just short of the all-time record.

WNBA legend Sheryl Swoopes, who has never sounded overly enamored with Clark, recently said that the Fever star wasn't yet "dominating" the league. Perhaps, but Clark's numbers match or eclipse those that Swoopes amassed in her MVP seasons.

Swoopes, for instance, averaged 18.5 points, 3.3 assists, and 4.9 rebounds per game in 2002. Clark averaged 19.5 points, 8.4 assists, and 5.7 rebounds per game this year — and, again, she's a rookie.

Clark is a fierce competitor on the court and a modest voice off it, constantly expressing — and showing — deep gratitude for her rock-star-like following. She's a role model in every way for her young fans, and her older ones can marvel at her skills while appreciating her class.

The Fever are making their first playoff appearance since 2016, after starting the season a woeful 1-8. They might be bounced quickly, but after an incredible post-Olympic-break surge, who knows?

Regardless, for sports fans along for the thrilling ride and WNBA players and executives benefiting from the boost to their business, the universal sentiment should be, "Thank you, Caitlin Clark."

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE® G R A M S

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A1I1U1S1H4C3F4

E1O1O1U1G2N1D2

A1E1E1R1V4H4B3

A1E1Y4L1D2P3N1

Double Word Score

RACK 1

E1O1O1U1G2N1D2

A1E1E1R1V4H4B3

A1E1Y4L1D2P3N1

3rd Letter Triple

RACK 2

A1E1E1R1V4H4B3

A1E1Y4L1D2P3N1

RACK 3

A1E1Y4L1D2P3N1

RACK 4

SOLUTION	80	8	73	63	224
RACK 1 =	A1	I1	U1	S1	H4
RACK 2 =	E1	O1	O1	U1	G2
RACK 3 =	A1	E1	E1	R1	V4
RACK 4 =	A1	E1	Y4	L1	D2
TOTAL	80	8	73	63	224

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE G R A M S

PAR SCORE 155-165

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

PAR SCORE 155-165
BEST SCORE 224
FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

Bridge

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A Q J 4
♥ J 10
♦ K 10 6 3
♣ A 6 2

WEST
♠ 9 6
♥ A 9 8 5 4
♦ 7 5 4
♣ J 8 3

EAST
♠ K 8 7 3
♥ Q 2
♦ Q J 2
♣ 10 9 5 4

SOUTH
♠ 10 5 2
♥ K 7 6 3
♦ A 9 8
♣ K Q 7

South 1 ♣
West 1 NT
East 3 NT
All Pass

Opening lead — ♥ 5

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It's hard to get anything past my friend the English professor. In the club lounge, someone asked him what word becomes shorter when two letters are added. His answer, of course, was "short."

The play at today's 3NT was short -- and sour. West led the five of hearts. East covered dummy's jack with the queen, and declarer took the king and led the deuce of spades for a finesse with dummy's jack.

If West had held the king, South could have returned to his hand and led a second spade to the queen for at least nine tricks. But when East won and led his last heart, West cashed four hearts for down one.

No prizes are awarded for making a contract shortly. If South lets East's queen of hearts win, South still has a stopper and can break up the defenders' communication.

West can win the heart return with the ace and lead the nine, but then South wins and safely finesses in spades. He has nine tricks even when the finesse loses.

This week: Do you hold up?

Word Force

POLITICAL

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 10** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST
Saturday's word:
WARRANTED

arena
award
aware
drawn
radar

rated
reran
trade
tread
trend

wader
waned
water

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PLAYING FUTSAL	Solution: 7 letters
O P P O N E N T I T E G R A T	
F H E A D I N G N I N I A R	
F O M S L L I R D R A C A S	
E L O O K C I K O R E C O H	
N L V T T I L A O G T C F I	
S A E O W I L L R I C E Y N N	
I B M O E O O L O E E N G P O	
V A E H R O R N R C L T E A I	
E L N S H H O K O O O E T D S	
T A T C R I C R R I S R A R S	
E N S U P E N T O D T E R A E	
P C L M N E N E I L L I T W S	
M E A I R O S S A P E E S R S	
O H L E C N A R U D N E I O O	
C O U R T E C H N I C A L F P	

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Balance, Ball, Card, Center, Champion, Compete, Control, Corner, Court, Drills, Endurance, Field, Footwork, Forward, Goal, Heading, Indoor, Kick, Line, Motion, Movement, Offensive, Opponent, Pass, Pitch, Position, Possession, Role, Rule, School, Shin Pad, Shoot, Skill, Soccer, Sole, Strategy, Target, Team, Technical, Traction, Training

Last Saturday's Answer: Shops

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit [Wonderword.com](#), or call 1-855-232-2367.

POST SUDOKU

To solve a 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.

Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at www.SudokuWiki.org

PLAY MORE GAMES!

NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 36

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Very Easy #6,680

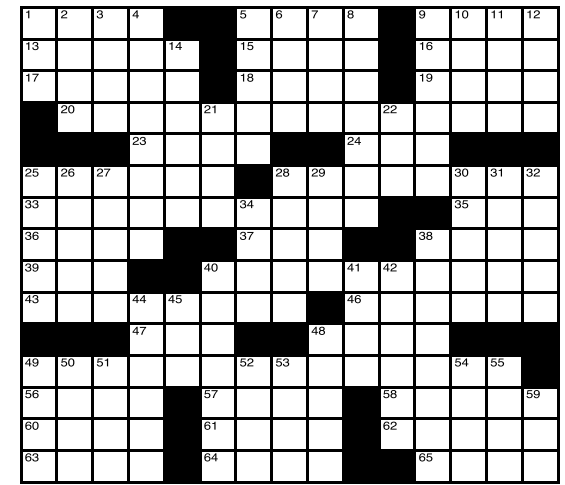
4			9	3	6			
		6	2		4	7		
2		1				6		
6					8	9		2
			7		3			
9		8	6					7
		4				8		5
		2	4		9	1		
		3	7	5				6

Difficult #6,470

		6				7		5
	4		8	2	1			
6	3			9			2	7
			2		8			
1	2			5			4	6
			7	1	5		9	
5		2				3		

Quick Crossword

- Across**
- 1 Covertly included on an email
 - 5 Female pigs
 - 9 Enjoy a novel
 - 13 Bedside clock feature
 - 15 Declare with assurance
 - 16 ___ of Wight
 - 17 "Aquaman" star Jason
 - 18 Mighty wind
 - 19 Fill until full
 - 20 Pricey booze at a bar
 - 23 Chimney buildup
 - 24 Greek letter after sigma
 - 25 Climb
 - 28 Periodic table components
 - 33 Power tool for smoothing wood
 - 35 Horror filmmaker Aster
 - 36 Vietnam neighbor
 - 37 Ore-___ Tater Tots
 - 38 "Frozen" character with antlers
 - 39 Shade tree
 - 40 Beef often used for carne asada
 - 43 Witty banter
 - 46 Pops, as a bubble
 - 47 Nat ___ Wild
 - 48 Naive one
 - 49 On the cutting edge of style, or what 20-, 33-, and 40-Across can be said to be?
 - 56 Pixar film set on the Italian Riviera
 - 57 Buddhist teacher
 - 58 Love, in Italian
 - 60 Flight sked nos.
 - 61 Perfect place
 - 62 Oman neighbor
 - 63 "___ count on it!"
 - 64 Tournament rank
 - 65 Andy who coaches the Chiefs
- Down**
- 1 Impact sound
 - 2 Coagulate
 - 3 Inconspicuous gear, for short
 - 4 Bodybuilding sequences that reduce weights incrementally
 - 5 Bob of "Full House"
 - 6 Shape of some platters
 - 7 "The Three Little Pigs" canine
 - 8 Suffer in the heat
 - 9 NSFW, perhaps
 - 10 Biblical twin of Jacob
 - 11 The "A" of the choir shorthand



SATB
12 Forest dweller
14 Stoneworkers
21 Koth of "Today"
22 Possible answer to "Who's ready?"
25 Better trained
26 Bobby of the Black Panthers
27 Apt rhyme for "stomp"
28 Oscar winner Redmayne
29 King who banished Cordelia
30 Places for pews
31 Good dog's reward
32 Goes below the surface
34 Maker of Vomero and Air Max sneakers
38 Gamer going live on Twitch, say
40 Classic slapstick trio
41 Chairlift predecessor, at some ski resorts
42 Rapid transit option
44 Shocked and appalled
45 Outdoor gear giant
48 ___ for greatness
49 Skipped town

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER
(C) 2024 Tribune Media Services
50 Wheels
51 Look over quickly
52 Spanx shade
53 Unoccupied
54 City that surrounds Vatican City
55 German three
59 Conclusion

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Intel interest

US-based asset-management company Apollo Global Management has offered to make an investment of as much as \$5 billion in Intel, Bloomberg News reported on Sunday.

Netflix drama

India is investigating the business practices of streaming giant Netflix's local operations, including allegations of visa violations and racial discrimination, according to a government email sent to a former executive.

Chipping in

Two of the world's largest chipmakers, TSMC and Samsung Electronics, have discussed building potential chip projects in the United Arab Emirates in coming years that could be worth more than \$100 billion, The Wall Street Journal reported Sunday.

Mars treks

SpaceX plans to launch about five uncrewed Starships to Mars in two years, CEO Elon Musk said Sunday in a post on his social media platform X.

Motel \$525M

The budget motel chain Motel 6 is being acquired by the parent company of Oyo, an India-based hotel operator, in an all-cash transaction worth \$525 million, the company said.

Sources: Reuters, AP, Bloomberg

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\$IMPLY DON'T MIX

Cap preservation, growth not short-term partners

KEN FISHER



WORLD peace. Calorie-free cheesecake. Sensible politicians with your interests at heart.

Like all these pipe dreams, investment strategies promising both growth and capital preservation are phony baloney. Fiction. Yet so many vendors in varied forms — especially in rocky times like this summer's — claim otherwise, peddling poor products destined to disappoint.

Rational expectations are key to successful investing. Growth and true capital preservation can't coexist in the short run. However, achieving growth likely means accomplishing both in the long term. Confused? Let me explain.

"Capital preservation" sounds appealing and even prudent given the recent chop and fearful election headlines. But a true capital-preservation strategy is wise for far fewer investors than almost anyone imagines.

Volatility isn't negative

Why? True capital preservation means your portfolio's value shouldn't fall — the eradication of potential volatility. Sounds nice, get rid of those stomach-churning ups and downs! Yet volatility and negativity aren't synonymous. A 1% rise is similarly volatile to a 1% dip.

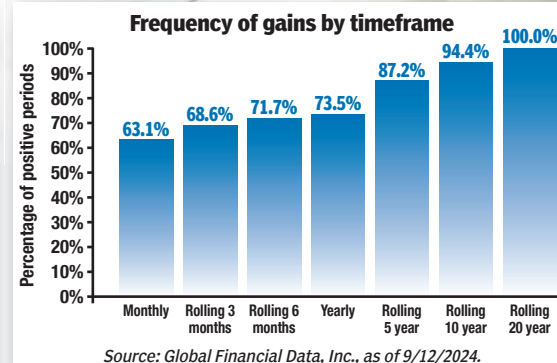
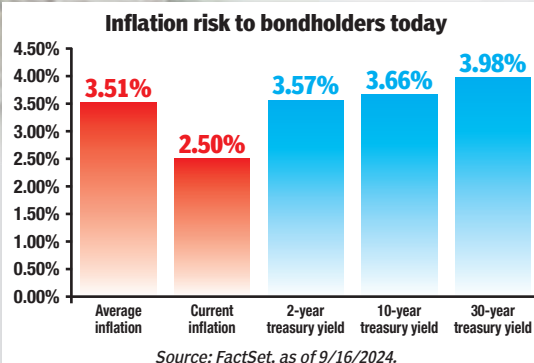
Here's what's crucial — and especially tough for market-addled investors to digest: Volatility is your friend. With stocks, volatility is much more often up than down. Eliminate the "down," and the "up" also disappears.

Nixing volatility would mean, for example, that you miss out on the 63.1% of calendar months US stocks rose (and 73.5% of all calendar years from 1925–2023). Indeed, true capital preservation is limited to ultra-low-returning cash or cashlike vehicles. Growth? No.

Treasury bonds offer better-than-cash long-term returns, but they don't eliminate volatility, as 2022's stock-like bond price plummet proved. Bond prices and

Starting a pile

While it soared recently, America's long-term annual inflation average is about 3.5% and about 2.5% now. If you lock up funds for 10 or 30 years in Treasury bonds, you might outpace inflation. But if it rises? Savers can be losers. Because even mild growth needs volatility.



yields move inversely, mechanically so. Hence, rising long-term rates slaughter bond returns.

Enter inflation. While it soared recently, America's long-term annual average is about 3.5%, running about 2.5% now. The 10- and 30-year Treasury bonds yield about 3.7% and 4%, respectively. Lock up your funds for 10 or 30 years now, and maybe you outpace inflation. But what if inflation averages its historic average or higher? Savers can be losers.

Even mild growth requires volatility. It is the opposite of capital preservation. Don't forget: Without downside volatility, there is no upside. Ever.

Hence, as unified investing goals, capital preservation and growth can't coexist. If someone says otherwise, they're wrong. Maybe they foolishly believe it. Worse, maybe they hawk awful products — insurancelike, "buff-

ered" funds or others. Worst, maybe they're crooks touting "upside with no downside," a la Bernie Madoff.

For real growth you need short-term volatility. Full stop. Can't stomach it? Expect low returns, which may require reconsidering your goals, savings and future spending rates.

Look at the long term

But there is good news. While capital preservation and growth don't work as a combined goal, a result of pursuing long-term growth is likely to preserve capital in time.

Consider that the S&P 500 rose in 82 of 94 rolling five-year periods from 1925–2023. And 84 of 89 10-year periods. It has never been negative over any rolling 20-year span, averaging 806%.

The past never guarantees the future, but it does help set reason-

able expectations. So long as profits motivate people and we have a quasi-capitalistic world, stocks should deliver significant long-term returns.

Hence, a well-diversified equity portfolio is very likely to grow over coming decades — maybe a lot — despite bouts of sharp negativity en route. Hence, if you consider that very realistic investing-time horizon, it may look like you achieved big growth while preserving initial capital. But it all stemmed from pursuing growth.

Those peddling growth with capital preservation sell a siren's song. Don't let it shipwreck your financial future. And from your profits, have some calorie-rich cheesecake on me.

Ken Fisher is the founder and executive chairman of Fisher Investments, a four-time New York Times bestselling author and regular columnist in 21 countries globally.

Hitting China's brakes

US eyes 'spy cars'

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

The US Commerce Department is expected on Monday to propose prohibiting Chinese software and hardware in connected and autonomous vehicles on American roads due to national security concerns, two sources told Reuters.

The Biden administration has raised serious concerns about the collection of data by Chinese companies on US drivers and infrastructure, as well as the potential foreign manipulation of vehicles connected to the internet and navigation systems.

The proposed regulation would ban the import and sale of vehicles from China with key communications or automated driving-system software or hardware, said the two sources, who declined to be identified because the decision had not been publicly disclosed.

The move is a significant escalation in the United States' ongoing restrictions on Chinese vehicles, software and components. Last week, the Biden administration locked in steep tariff hikes on Chinese imports, including a 100% duty on electric vehicles, as well as new hikes on EV batteries and key minerals.

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said in May the risks of Chinese software or hardware in connected US vehicles were significant.

"You can imagine the most catastrophic outcome theoretically if you had a couple million cars on the road and the software were disabled," she said.

President Biden in February ordered an investigation

into whether Chinese vehicle imports pose national security risks over connected-car technology — and if that software and hardware should be banned in all vehicles on US roads.

"China's policies could flood our market with its vehicles, posing risks to our national security," Biden said earlier. "I'm not going to let that happen on my watch."

Public comment

The Commerce Department plans to give the public 30 days to comment before any finalization of the rules, the sources said. Nearly all newer vehicles on US roads are considered "connected" — meaning they have on-board network hardware that allows Internet access, share data with devices both inside and outside the vehicle.

The department also plans to propose making the prohibitions on software effective in the 2027 model year and the ban on hardware would take effect in January 2029 or the 2030 model year. The prohibitions in question would include vehicles with certain Bluetooth, satellite and wireless features and highly autonomous vehicles that could operate without a driver behind the wheel.

A bipartisan group of US lawmakers in November raised alarm about Chinese auto and tech companies collecting and handling sensitive data while testing autonomous vehicles in the US.

With Wires

Steve Cuozzo is on vacation.

Meat facility is cooked



Boar's Head is retaining some workers to do a thorough cleansing of its Jarratt, Va., meat processing facility (top & above), although it is unlikely it will ever be used again. Nine deaths were caused by a listeria outbreak linked to the plant.

AP: Boar's Head

Listeria plant is Boar's dead

By LISA FICKENSCHER

Boar's Head has tapped dozens of workers for a deep clean of the Virginia plant whose listeria outbreak has led to multiple customer deaths, but the company has no plans to reopen it, The Post has learned.

The giant cold cuts distributor said last week it is closing the Jarratt facility "indefinitely" and said it has offered its 500 employees severance packages.

In an email to The Post last week, a Boar's Head spokesperson said, "We do not currently have any plans to reopen this plant."

That's despite the fact that Boar's Head plans to retain some 85 maintenance and sanitation workers at the 170,000-square-foot facility for several more months, according to Jonathan Williams, a spokesman for the United

Food and Commercial Workers Local 400.

The Jarratt plant stopped packaging meats and cheeses in late July when the listeria outbreak, which has killed nine people and hospitalized at least 57, came to light.

But most employees continued to work there through Sept. 13 to clean the facility, Williams said.

While the skeleton crew of 85 is slated to work at the plant at least through the end of the year, others have been offered jobs at a Boar's Head plant 30 minutes away in Petersburg, and given commuter stipends, according to Williams.

Still others were paid to take food safety and manufacturing classes to earn professional certifications, he said.

Food safety attorney Bill Marler, who is representing some of the victims in the

listeria outbreak, said he's skeptical the Jarratt plant will ever reopen.

"Once you have listeria in a facility it's really hard to eradicate, and the inspection reports we've seen showed the condition of the plant as a perfect place for listeria to grow," Marler told The Post.

As for Boar's Head, "I have serious doubts that they are cleaning it to reopen it," given the "nine or more deaths," Marler added.

One likely reason is that listeria is stubbornly hard to get rid of once it is established, food safety experts told The Post.

"The pathogen lives in the building and in areas that are difficult to access like drains, cracks and crevices and walls," said Lee-Ann Jaykus, a professor of food, bioprocessing, and nutrition sciences at North Carolina State University.



ELON MUSK
Seeks reinstatement.

Brazil demands X docs

The Brazilian Supreme Court asked Elon Musk-owned social platform X to present documents validating its new legal representative in the country, as the firm's lawyers now say it will comply with court demands to be allowed to resume operations in Brazil.

X was shut down in Brazil in late August after it did not comply with orders from the top court related to hate-speech moderation.

But in the past few days, X representatives have started to publicly vocalize intentions to address the court demands, although the firm had previously said it would not meet them.

X lawyers said late Friday that the platform had named a legal representative in Brazil, addressing a key demand imposed by the court.

On Saturday, Supreme Court Judge Alexandre de Moraes gave X five days to provide commercial registries and other documents proving that it has formally signed Rachel de Oliveira Conceicao as its Brazil legal representative. *Reuters*

GM workers to get shaft

General Motors will lay off 1,695 workers at its Fairfax Assembly plant in Kansas, the company said in a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification notice last week.

A GM spokesperson, confirming the layoffs initially reported by Automotive News, said the first of two rounds will begin Nov. 18, affecting 686 full-time workers temporarily and terminating 250 temporary employees. *Reuters*



I was offered a job with amazing benefits — health, dental, flexible schedule, the works — but the pay is terrible. It's about half the industry standard. Do I try talking them into more money, or just walk away?

Why would you walk away without trying? If you won't take the job at the salary offered then you have nothing to lose by trying to negotiate more compensation. Regardless, negotiating a job offer is a common practice and no one would begrudge you that. I'm certain that this company is well aware how their pay rates compare within the market, so they probably won't be surprised. Now, how much flexibility they have is hard to say. When comparing offers, don't underestimate the value of those benefits they mentioned, because they count toward the total value of your compensation. Also, you can't quantify the value of a company's culture and one job over another. At the end of the day, though, there is the practical matter of how much net pay you need to run your life and be happy.

I've been working at a fintech company for 16 years and now I'm looking to make a move. Will it hurt or help me that I stayed with the company so long? I've heard you're now considered "on the shelf" after a tenure of five years or more.

I love corporate speak. "On the shelf," "on the beach," "on the bench" — all of these refer to varying degrees of not currently working, but none of them have anything to do with tenure at a company. Depending on your profession and the company, a lengthy tenure could be an asset or a detriment to one's career. If you are hiring an engineer who has been at Google for 15 years working on the latest and greatest technology, their long tenure would be an asset. If you worked at Blockbuster for 15 years and were applying for a job at Netflix, maybe not so much. However, as a rule, as long as your skills and experience stay current to the needs of the market and you come from a company with a reputation of success, you will remain marketable.

Gregory Giangrande has over 25 years of experience as a chief human resources executive. Hear Greg Wed. at 9:35 a.m. on iHeartRadio 710 WOR with Len Berman and Michael Riedel. Email: GoToGreg@NYPPost.com. Follow: GoToGreg.com and on Twitter: @GregGiangrande

You need a friend

Work remotely or hybrid? You still need a work bestie

By **PERRI ORMONT BLUMBERG**

IT'S time to bond outside the Zoom room with your co-workers. No, really. Slack is great and all, but a best friendship it does not make.

"On a professional level, work friends can be trusted people to whom we can turn for professional advice and feedback, whether it's how to tackle a specific challenge we are having or to support us in our professional development," said Shira Schuster, Ph.D., a licensed clinical psychologist of Williamsburg Therapy Group in Brooklyn.

"Work friends are essential because they can be real-time sounding boards," echoed Prerika Agarwal, MBA, a certified career coach and the founder of Inspiration Careers in Washington, DC. "They give practical advice, not just theoretical, because they've been in the same meetings and know the same people."

As Schuster highlighted, our work friends might also be connected to others in the industry and thus help with networking. And on a personal level, work friends can provide social and emotional support, making work more enjoyable.

By contrast, Schuster said working from home can contribute to a feeling of loneliness, so having that proverbial "work wife" can help employees feel more connected and "plugged in" to the workplace.

Ahead, easy strategies to lock down a work BFF, regardless of where you work.

Join the club

"Participate in your company's online social groups or interest clubs," said Agarwal. "Whether it's a book club or other interest, being active in these groups helps you meet colleagues with similar interests. Engage in conversations, contribute to discussions and show genuine interest in what others share."

Whether in the flesh or via video chat, these community builders are important in establishing meaningful connections.

Help out however you can

It may seem obvious, but lending a helping hand to colleagues is an often-overlooked fast track to friendship. Agarwal stressed the importance of offering to help co-workers whenever you can, whether it's project assistance, sharing helpful resources or lending a listening ear. This can create a strong foundation for friendship, she said, plus people appreciate those who are helpful so they're more likely to reciprocate.

These concepts apply even if you have a virtual workplace. In her own career, Agarwal worked with her now-friend Charlie for over three years without ever meeting in person.

"We shared best practices, networking tips and supported each other through work challenges," she recalled. "It made my day so much better to have someone who understood the company culture and the people we worked with. Charlie was both an adviser and a friend, which made a huge difference."

Set a virtual coffee date . . .

Agarwal is a proponent of the virtual coffee chat with colleagues. A mainstay during the pandemic, they've now fallen to the wayside, but can actually be beneficial in career- and friendship-building.

"Just send a casual message to someone you want to know better and suggest a quick video call. Talk about work, but also share personal interests to build rapport," said Agarwal. "Doing this regularly helps establish a genuine connection."

For a thoughtful gesture, you can send someone a Starbucks or Instacart gift card in the same way that you might treat a colleague to a beverage in the flesh.

For those who are fully remote, Schuster is also a fan of virtual lunch breaks so you can chat over video while you take a break from work.

. . . Or an in-person coffee date

If you're working in the office or on a hybrid schedule, Schuster said you could suggest to a co-worker to go to lunch or coffee together once or twice a month, when you are both in the office.

"If you're not sure what to talk about, the

conversation can always be focused on work initially, and will likely veer to more personal topics (family, hobbies) as you keep talking," suggested Schuster.

Be kind, always

Make an effort to get to know people's names and try to be friendly and open in your demeanor, said Schuster.

"Ask questions that show a genuine interest and ask follow-up questions," like what they plan to do on the weekend, then ask them how it went the next time you see them. Schuster also recommends sharing some things about yourself that others can respond to.

Say, "I'm going to get a coffee at [name a place]. I can't live without coffee! What about you? Are you a coffee person?" Colleagues usually respond positively to others if they show a genuine interest and care," said Schuster.

Plan a fun event

"If you work as part of a team, you can organize or participate in team building/social events (either in person or remotely) where you can get to know your co-workers a bit more," said Schuster. "If there is someone you are interested in becoming friends with, you can learn a bit more about them in these types of events, and then strike up a related conversation."

For example, if some of your colleagues are tennis buffs, plan a round-robin tournament. If you discover other co-workers love cooking, hire a chef to teach a virtual or in-person class. If you aren't a head honcho who can book these kinds of gatherings on a company card, reach out to your HR department to see if your company has a budget designated for these kinds of team-bonding affairs.

Whichever method you implement, don't be shy about seeking out camaraderie with your co-workers.

"Building friendships at work, especially remotely, takes effort but is definitely worth it," said Agarwal. "Having someone who truly understands your work environment can make a huge difference in both your professional success and personal happiness."

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Inter Miami CF	19	4	7	64	68	44
Cincinnati	17	8	5	56	52	39
Columbus	16	5	8	56	58	31
Red Bulls	10	6	14	44	47	39
Orlando City	12	11	7	43	50	45
Charlotte FC	11	11	8	41	36	33
NYCFC	11	11	8	41	43	43
Toronto FC	11	17	3	36	38	55
Philadelphia	9	12	9	36	57	47
CF Montréal	8	12	10	34	41	61
Atlanta	8	13	9	33	40	44
Nashville	8	13	9	33	31	46
D.C. United	8	13	9	33	44	61
Chicago	7	16	8	29	36	54
New England	8	17	4	28	32	60

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
LA Galaxy	17	7	7	58	63	46
Real Salt Lake	14	7	9	51	60	45
Colorado	15	10	5	50	58	50
Los Angeles FC	14	8	7	49	52	40
Houston	13	8	9	48	43	33
Seattle FC	13	9	8	47	45	34
Vancouver	13	9	7	46	49	40
Portland	12	10	8	44	63	53
Minn. United	12	12	6	42	50	48
FC Dallas	10	13	7	37	49	49
Austin FC	9	13	8	35	32	42
Sporting K.C.	8	16	7	31	49	58
St Louis City	6	11	13	31	43	57
San Jose	5	22	3	18	37	69

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie
Sunday
Philadelphia 4, D.C. United 0
Saturday
NYCFC at Red Bulls, 7:30pm
Los Angeles FC at Cincinnati, 7:30pm
Columbus at D.C. United, 7:30pm
Charlotte FC at Miami, 7:30pm
San Jose at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Nashville at New England, 7:30pm
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Salt Lake at Austin FC, 8:30pm
Toronto FC at Chicago, 8:30pm
Orlando City at FC Dallas, 8:30pm
Colorado at Minnesota, 8:30pm
Sporting K.C. at St Louis City, 8:30pm
Portland at Vancouver, 10:30pm
Houston at Seattle FC, 10:30pm

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Orlando	15	0	6	51	37	12
Washington	14	5	2	44	42	24
Gotham FC	13	4	4	43	26	16
Kansas City	12	3	6	42	46	28
North Carolina	10	9	2	32	28	23
Chicago	9	10	2	29	27	28
Portland	8	9	3	27	29	28
Louisville	6	8	7	25	30	29
Bay FC	8	12	1	25	25	33
Angel City	6	11	3	21	23	33
Seattle	5	11	5	20	23	35
San Diego	4	10	7	19	17	26
Houston	4	12	5	17	14	32
Utah Royals FC	4	14	3	15	14	34

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Sunday
Gotham FC 1, Utah Royals FC 0
Monday
Portland at Angel City, 10pm
Friday
Washington at Angel City, 10pm
Saturday
Gotham FC at Kansas City, 1pm
Louisville at Utah Royals FC, 7pm
Houston at Orlando, 7:30pm
Portland at San Diego, 10pm
Sunday, September 29
Bay FC at Seattle, 6pm
North Carolina at Chicago, 6pm

WNBA Playoffs

1st Round: Best-of-three-playoff series
Atlanta Dream vs. New York Liberty
Liberty leads series, 1-0
Game 1: **Liberty** 83, Atlanta 69
Tue.: at **Liberty**, 7:30pm
Thu.: at Atlanta, TBD
Indiana Fever vs. Connecticut Sun
Sun leads series 1-0
Game 1: Connecticut 93, Indiana 69
Wed.: at Connecticut, 7:30pm
Fri.: at Indiana, TBD
Phoenix Mercury vs. Minnesota Lynx
Minnesota leads series, 1-0
Game 1: Minnesota 102, Phoenix 95
Wed.: at Minnesota, 9:30pm
Fri.: at Phoenix, TBD
Seattle Storm vs. Las Vegas Aces
Las Vegas leads series, 1-0
Game 1: Las Vegas 78, Seattle 67
Tue.: at Las Vegas, 10pm
Thur.: at Seattle, TBD

NHL Preseason

Sunday
Rangers 3, Boston 2
Islanders 4, **Devils** 3
Florida 3, Nashville 2
Philadelphia 6, Washington 2
Florida 6, Nashville 2
Edmonton 3, Winnipeg 2, OT
Ottawa 6, Toronto 5, OT
Utah 5, St. Louis 3
Vegas 4, San Jose 2
Calgary 6, Seattle 1
Monday
Columbus at Buffalo, 7pm
Philadelphia at Montreal, 7pm
Calgary at Edmonton, 9pm
Dallas at Colorado, 9pm
Edmonton at Calgary, 9pm
Los Angeles at Utah, 9pm

The AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sep. 21, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Reco	Pts	Prv
	rd		
1. Texas (44)	4-0	1527	1
2. Georgia (13)	3-0	1482	2
3. Ohio St. (5)	3-0	1432	3
4. Alabama	3-0	1328	4
5. Tennessee	4-0	1283	6
6. Mississippi	4-0	1269	5
7. Miami	4-0	1139	8
8. Oregon	3-0	1073	9
9. Penn St.	3-0	1051	10
10. Utah	4-0	1037	12
11. Missouri	4-0	1009	7
12. Michigan	3-1	805	18
13. Southern Cal	2-1	690	11
14. LSU	3-1	637	16
15. Louisville	3-0	553	19
16. Notre Dame	3-1	546	17
17. Clemson	2-1	540	21
18. Iowa St.	3-0	530	20
19. Illinois	4-0	458	24
20. Oklahoma St.	3-1	388	14
21. Oklahoma	3-1	375	15
22. BYU	4-0	327	-
23. Kansas St.	3-1	168	13
24. Texas A&M	3-1	77	25
25. Boise St.	2-1	69	-

Others receiving votes: Washington St. 67, Indiana 63, Boston College 55, UNLV 53, Pittsburgh 37, Nebraska 25, Iowa 24, James Madison 11, South Carolina 7, Liberty 4, Arkansas 3, UCF 3, Arizona 2, SMU 2, Navy 1.

Soccer

English Premier League
Manchester City 2, Arsenal 2
Nottingham Forest 2, Brighton & Hove Albion 2
Spanish LaLiga
Getafe 1, Leganes 1
Athletic Bilbao 3, Celta Vigo 1
Barcelona 5, Villarreal 1
Atletico Madrid 1, Rayo Vallecano 1
German Bundesliga
Bayer Leverkusen 4, VfL Wolfsburg 3
VfB Stuttgart 5, Borussia Dortmund 1
St. Pauli 0, RB Leipzig 0
Italian Serie A
Fiorentina 2, Lazio 1
Bologna 2, Monza 1
AS Roma 3, Udinese 0
AC Milan 2, Inter Milan 1
French Ligue 1
AS Monaco 3, Le Havre AC 1
Angers 1, Nantes 1
Brest 2, Toulouse 0
Montpellier 3, AJ Auxerre 2
Marseille 3, Lyon 2

Yonkers Entries for Monday

FIRST: 1 Mile \$24,000 NW2130115; PACE
1 Sporty M Three (GBrennan) 2-1-5 3-1
2 Kingsville (JMarohn) 2-3-2 5-2
3 Son Of A Tiger N (BHolland) 3-2-4 15-1
4 Adam Twelve (JBartlett) 5-5-5 8-5
5 Masons Delight N (DDube) 7-1-7 20-1
6 Ultimaroqa (Jstratton) 7-6-5 20-1
7 TwinBrisenshine (JBongiorno) 2-2-3 12-1
8 SonnyWeaverN (ASiegelman) 6-2-4 12-1
SECOND: 1 Mile \$21,000 NW1500015; PACE
1 FrancoNandorN (ASiegelmn) 4-4-2 12-1
2 MyCarbonCopyN (Plachnce) 5-2-4 12-1
3 Endofstory (MKakaley) 3-2-1 8-5
4 Pound For Pound (BHolland) 4-6-6 5-1
5 Great Somewhere (DDube) 2-3-4 10-1
6 Pointomygranson (Jstratton) 4-1-7 12-1
7 Big Gulp (JBartlett) 5-6-1 5-2
8 OddsOnCapitalism (GBrennn) 2-2-7 10-1
THIRD: 1 Mile \$15,000 NW750015; PACE
1 MyUltimateStarA (GBrennn) 5-5-5 4-1
2 Cyrus N (ASiegelman) 5-6-5 9-2
3 Muscle Bart A (Jstratton) 6-6-1 7-2
4 Maximus Red A (JBongiorno) 1-4-4 9-5
5 Quality Bud (BHolland) 6-3-8 20-1
6 Ike's Dream (JBartlett) 2-5-8 5-1
7 Cerulean Hanover (JMarohn) 4-2-2 15-1
FOURTH: 1 Mile \$20,000 40000CLM; PACE
1 Two Faced (JBongiorno) 1-2-7 3-1
2 FinalCheeserrecipe (JMarohn) 6-3-2 5-1
3 Twig (DDube) 2-2-5 12-1
4 Mind Hunter (ASiegelman) 1-3-1 7-2
5 Tuffenotfowearpink (MKkley) 6-5-4 9-2
6 San Domino A (GBrennan) 3-1-1 4-1
7 Marlbank Road (BHolland) 7-1-2 20-1
8 Fulsome (JBartlett) 3-2-7 15-1
FIFTH: 1 Mile \$21,000 NW1500015; PACE
1 Optical Illusion N (MKakaley) 1-6-5 5-2
2 Deetzy (BHolland) 4-1-7 8-1
3 The Ideal Dancer A (DDube) 7-2-3 20-1
4 TicketateHanover (Jstrattn) 1-4-4 9-5
5 Chantee (PLachance) 3-2-2 12-1
6 Blue Lou (JBartlett) 6-3-6 3-1
7 Sinbad N (GBrennan) 8-1-8 20-1
8 Benhope Rulz N (JBongiorno) 7-6-3 20-1
SIXTH: 1 Mile \$18,000 30000CLM; PACE
1 Ys Do It Right (JMarohn) 2-2-8 7-2
2 TakeACloserLook (JBongjorn) 1-4-4 7-2

Belmont at Aqueduct results

FIRST-7 fur; \$125,000; stk; 2YO F
1 With th Angels (Ortz) 2.20 2.10 2.10
3 Valtellina (Davis) 3.30 2.10
4 Carmen's Candy Jar (Ortiz,Jr.) 2.10
● \$1 Exacta (1-3) \$2.65 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (1-3-4-2) \$1.27 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (1-3-4) \$1.87 ● \$1 Exacta (1-3) \$2.65 ● \$0.1 Show (1-3-4-2) \$1.27 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (1-3-4) \$1.87
SECOND-1 mile; \$92,000; alc opt cl(\$50,000); 3up (f&m)
2 Smkn' Ht Ktty (Crmch) 7.80 4.00 2.80
5 I'm Buzzy (Franco) 6.10 3.70
3 Sedona (Prat) 2.10
Scr: Just Music
● \$1 Daily Double (1-2) \$5.60 ● \$1 Exacta (2-5) \$18.10 ● \$1 Quinella (2-5) \$16.60 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (2-5-3-6) \$7.32 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (2-5-3) \$16.37 ● \$1 Daily Double (1-2) \$5.60 ● \$1 Exacta (2-5) \$18.10 ● \$1 Quinella (2-5) \$16.60 ● \$0.1 Show (2-5-3-6) \$7.32 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (2-5-3) \$16.37
THIRD-7 fur; \$125,000; stk; 2YO
1 Sacrosnct (Frnco) 4.50 2.90 2.50
6 Buttah (Luzzi) 6.10 4.60
3 Pay the Juice (Prat) 3.80
● \$1 Pick 3 (1-2-1) \$9.10 ● \$1 Daily Double (2-1) \$10.60 ● \$1 Exacta (1-6) \$27.00 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (1-6-3-5) \$42.15 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (1-6-3) \$64.75 ● \$1 Pick 3 (1-2-1) \$9.10 ● \$1 Daily Double (2-1) \$10.60 ● \$1 Exacta (1-6) \$27.00 ● \$0.1 Show (1-6-3-5) \$42.15 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (1-6-3) \$64.75
FOURTH-1 mile; \$38,000; wmc(\$30,000); 3up
3 Wr Chrm (Crmch) 8.70 4.80 3.40
10 Janssen (Davis) 5.00 3.10
8 Big Ego (Ortiz,Jr.) 2.80
● \$1 Pick 3 (2-1-3) \$66.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (1-3) \$17.10 ● \$1 Exacta (3-10) \$22.80 ● \$1 Quinella (3-10) \$13.40 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (3-10-8-7) \$33.70 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (3-10-8) \$50.12 ● \$1 Pick 3 (2-1-3) \$66.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (1-3) \$17.10 ● \$1 Exacta (3-10) \$22.80 ● \$1 Quinella (3-10) \$13.40 ● \$0.1 Show (3-10-8-7) \$33.70 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (3-10-8) \$50.12
FIFTH-1 1/16 mile; \$45,000; clm(\$40,000); 3up (f&m)
4 Bertrille (Rivera,Jr.) 138.50 56.00 24.00
5 Denttown Chnnl (Sntnr,Jr.) 7.90 4.90
9 Gram (Davis) 5.10
Scr: Belle Voce, Pam Pam, Waridi Candy, Mytown Myrules, Union Suit, Diamond Status
● \$1 Pick 3 (1-3-4) \$1280.00 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (2-1-3-4) \$1653.50 ● \$0.5 Pick 5 (1-2-1-3-4) \$3321.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (3-4) \$565.50 ● \$1 Exacta (4-5) \$710.50 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (4-5-9-7) \$6834.55 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (4-5-9) \$2859.00 ● \$1 Pick 3 (1-3-4) \$1280.00 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (2-1-3-4) \$1653.50 ● \$0.5 Pick 5 (1-2-1-3-4) \$3321.50



NOT TODAY: Marcus Hogberg turns a shot away in Sunday night's Islanders preseason win. Getty Images

Hogberg solid in net as insurance

By ETHAN SEARS

ISLANDERS NOTES

Like most people who buy insurance, the Islanders hoped they wouldn't need it.
But as Marcus Hogberg, the likely No. 3 goalie for the organization this season, made his preseason debut for the club Sunday, the stakes were a little higher than anyone would have liked — a function of Ilya Sorokin's offseason back surgery that has so far kept him out of training camp.
While general manager Lou Lamoriello has said Sorokin isn't expected to miss time at the start of the season, question marks around the star net-minder's health will be there until they are answered via his presence on the ice.
Ergo, Hogberg's solid 15 of 17 performance through the first half of Sunday's 4-2 win over the Devils was a bit more noteworthy than anyone would have figured a few months ago.
"Overall pretty good game and of course I can do better," Hogberg said. "I wasn't square enough to make the save on [Jesper] Bratt, the second goal there. Five-hole."
Still, through a few hairy stretches early in the game as the Islanders struggled in the defensive zone, Hogberg stood up to pressure well. Jakob Skarek, who replaced him for the game's second half, stopped all eight shots he saw.
"They were both very good," coach Patrick Roy said. "We had a couple moments in the first, I thought we gave up too many scoring chances, so

Hogberg played really well, kept the game at 1-0 [after New Jersey scored first]. He was good on those rebounds, kept the puck close to him."
Hogberg, a 29-year-old Swede, spent the last three seasons with Linkoping HC in the Swedish League and compiled a .914 save percentage in 2023-24. That came after spending 2017-21 with Ottawa, where he often shuttled between the NHL squad and AHL Belleville, never putting up a better save percentage than .904 with the Senators, which he did in 2019-20.
For the Islanders, who have avoided playing their No. 3 netminders to the point of overworking others when an injury has happened over the past couple seasons, the introduction of a trustworthy third goaltender was high on the offseason to-do list.
The importance of that was only amplified by the news around Sorokin.
Hogberg still needs to beat out a group that includes Skarek, Henrik Tikkanen and PTO signee Keith Kinkaid in camp.

► The Islanders rolled out a squad composed largely of NHLers.
Brock Nelson centered a top line with **Simon Holmstrom** and **Kyle Palmieri** on either side. **Jean-Gabriel Pageau** skated between **Anders Lee** and **Oliver Wahlstrom** while **Kyle MacLean** was with **Maxim Tsyplov** and **Julien Gauthier**.

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
z-Yankees	92	64	.590	—	—	8-2	W-3	42-33	50-31
Baltimore	86	70	.551	6	+4	3-7	L-2	44-37	42-33
Boston	78	78	.500	14	4	4-6	W-2	37-41	41-37
Tampa Bay	78	78	.500	14	4	7-3	W-4	42-39	36-39
Toronto	73	83	.468	19	9	4-6	L-3	38-37	35-46

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
x-Cleveland	90	67	.573	—	—	6-4	L-2	48-28	42-39
Detroit	82	74	.526	7½	—	7-3	W-2	39-36	43-38
Kansas City	82	74	.526	7½	—	2-8	L-7	45-36	37-38
Minnesota	81	75	.519	8½	1	3-7	L-2	42-33	39-42
Chicago	36	120	.231	53½	46	3-7	L-5	20-58	16-62

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Houston	85	71	.545	—	—	7-3	L-1	45-33	40-38
Seattle	80	76	.513	5	2	6-4	L-1	46-32	34-44
Texas	74	82	.474	11	8	4-6	W-1	44-37	30-45
Oakland	67	89	.429	18	15	3-7	L-3	36-42	31-47
Los Angeles	63	93	.404	22	19	3-7	W-1	32-46	31-47

*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race
x-clinched division; z-clinched playoff berth

Sunday

Yankees 7, Oakland 4
Boston 8, Minnesota 1, 1st game
Detroit 4, Baltimore 3
San Francisco 2, Kansas City 0
Tampa Bay 4, Toronto 3
St. Louis 2, Cleveland 1
Texas 6, Seattle 5
L.A. Angels 9, Houston 8
San Diego 4, White Sox 2
Boston 9, Minnesota 3, 2nd game

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
z-Philadelphia	92	64	.590	—	—	4-6	L-2	52-26	40-38
Mets	87	69	.558	5	—	7-3	W-2	46-35	41-34
Atlanta	85	71	.545	7	2	6-4	W-2	42-33	43-38
Washington	69	87	.442	23	18	4-6	L-1	36-39	33-48
Miami	57	99	.365	35	30	3-7	L-2	30-51	27-48

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
x-Milwaukee	89	67	.571	—	—	5-5	W-1	45-33	44-34
Chicago	80	76	.513	9	7	5-5	W-1	42-36	38-40
St. Louis	79	77	.506	10	8	5-5	W-2	44-37	35-40
Cincinnati	76	81	.484	13½	11½	5-5	L-1	39-42	37-39
Pittsburgh	73	83	.468	16	14	3-7	W-1	38-40	35-43

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
z-Los Angeles	93	63	.596	—	—	6-4	W-1	50-28	43-35
San Diego	90	66	.577	3	+3	8-2	W-4	45-36	45-30
Arizona	87	69	.558	6	—	5-5	L-1	42-33	45-36
San Francisco	77	79	.494	16	10	5-5	W-3	41-37	36-42
Colorado	60	96	.385	33	27	6-4	L-1	36-39	24-57

*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race
x-clinched division; z-clinched playoff berth

Sunday

Mets 2, Philadelphia 1
Pittsburgh 2, Cincinnati 0
San Francisco 2, Kansas City 0
Atlanta 5, Miami 4
St. Louis 2, Cleveland 1
Cubs 5, Washington 0
Milwaukee 10, Arizona 9
San Diego 4, White Sox 2
L.A. Dodgers 6, Colorado 5
Monday
Cubs at Philadelphia, 6:40

San Francisco at Arizona, 9:40
Tuesday
Mets at Atlanta, 7:20
Cubs at Philadelphia, 6:40
Cincinnati at Cleveland, 6:40
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 6:40
Kansas City at Washington, 6:45
Miami at Minnesota, 7:40
St. Louis at Colorado, 8:40
San Francisco at Arizona, 9:40
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

Yankees 7, Athletics 4

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Torres 2b	5	1	2	1	0	1	.254
Soto rf	3	2	0	0	0	1	.287
Judge cf	3	2	2	1	2	0	.323
Wells c	5	0	1	1	0	0	.239
Stanton dh	3	0	1	1	2	1	.235
Berti pr-dh	0	0	0	0	0	0	.283
Chisholm 3b	3	1	1	1	1	1	.276
Dominguez lf	4	1	1	2	0	0	.200
Verdugo lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.233
Rizzo 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.218
Volpe ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.248
Totals	35	7	9	7	6	4	

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Butler rf	5	0	0	0	0	2	.265
Rooker dh	5	0	0	0	0	1	.296
Bleday cf	3	1	1	0	1	0	.245
Langeliers c	3	1	1	0	1	1	.224
Soderstrom 1b	2	1	2	2	2	0	.229
Cameron pr-lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.201
Gelof 2b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.213
Brown lf-1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.233
Schuemann 3b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.217
Noda ph	1	0	1	2	0	0	.137
Allen pr-3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.172
McCann ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.239
Nevin 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.199
Wilson ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.227
Totals	34	4	7	4	4	10	

Yankees	021	020	101	—	7	9	1
Oakland	200	002	000	—	4	7	0

E: Volpe (15). **LOB:** New York 10, Oakland 7. **2B:** Judge (36), Stanton (19), Wells (18), Soderstrom (7), Noda (4). **HR:** Dominguez (2), off Estes; Judge (55), off Estes; Torres (15), off Estes. **RBIs:** Dominguez (24), Judge (138), Torres (62), Chisholm (19), Stanton (68), Wells (54), Soderstrom 2 (24), Noda 2 (4). **SB:** Chisholm (16). **SF:** Chisholm. **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 4 (Chisholm, Rizzo 2, Dominguez); Oakland 4 (Gelof 2, McCann, Wilson). **RISP:** New York 2 for 10; Oakland 2 for 9.

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gil, W, 15-6	5.1	5	4	4	3	5	92	3.27
Hamilton, H, 11	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	12	3.89
Hill, H, 3	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	5	1.93
Holmes, H, 2	0.1	1	0	0	1	1	12	3.28
Weaver, S, 4-4	1.2	0	0	0	0	3	18	2.93

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Estes, L, 7-9	4.0	7	5	5	1	1	85	4.99
Muller	2.1	0	0	0	1	0	25	14.8
Otanez	0.1	1	1	1	0	1	11	3.51
McFarland	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	8	3.95
Holman	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	8	4.61
Alexander	1.0	1	1	1	3	2	29	24.8

T: 2:55. **A:** 24,663 (46,847).

Giants 2, Royals 0

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yastrzemski rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Ramos lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.265
Wade 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.263
Chapman 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.247
Bailey c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.232
Encarnación dh	3	1	1	0	0	1	.260
McCray cf	3	1	1	1	0	1	.212
Fitzgerald ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.288
Wisely 2b	3	0	1	1	0	0	.227
Totals	31	2	3	2	1	8	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pham lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.241
Witt ss	3	0	1	0	1	0	.334
Perez c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.271
Grossman dh	1	0	0	0	1	0	.136
Melendez ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.212
Renfro rf	4	0	0	0	0	4	.229
Gurriel 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.297
Garcia 3b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.237
Massey ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.252
Hampson 2b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.227
Frazier ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.202
Isbel cf	3	0	1	0	0	2	.233
Totals	30	0	3	0	2	13	

San Francisco	020	000	000	—	2	3	0
Kansas City	000	000	000	—	0	3	1

E: Garcia (13). **LOB:** San Francisco 3, Kansas City 7. **3B:** McCray (2). **RBIs:** McCray (10), Wisely (27). **Runners left in scoring position:** San Francisco 0; Kansas City 2 (Perez 2). **RISP:** San Francisco 1 for 3; Kansas City 0 for 2.

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Snell, W, 5-3	6.0	2	0	0	1	9	88	3.12
Hjelle, H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	17	3.79
Ty.Rogers, H,								
32	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	19	2.86
Walker, S, 9-13	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	14	1.96

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lugo, L, 16-9	7.0	3	2	2	0	5	89	3.03
Bubic	2.0	0	0	0	1	3	31	2.96

T: 2:08. **A:** 24,189 (38,427).

Mets 2, Phillies 1

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Schwarber dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.249
Turner ss	4	1	2	0	0	0	.298
Harper 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.283
Bohm 3b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.288
Castellanos rf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.247
Stott 2b	2	0	0	0	2	1	.244
Realmuto c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.264
Marsh lf-cf	2	0	0	0	2	1	.253
Rojas cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.240
Clemens ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.219
Totals	32	1	5	1	4	12	

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Iglesias 2b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.237
Nimmo lf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.228
Alonso 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.244
Winker dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	.257
Martinez ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.234
Marte rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.270
Bader cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.241
F.Alvarez c	2	0	0	0	1	1	.236
Vientos 3b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.268
Taylor cf-rf	3	0	2	1	0	0	.253
Acuña ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.379
Totals	30	2	7	2	1	10	

Philadelphia	100	000	000	—	1	5	0
Mets	010	001	000x	—	2	7	0

LOB: Philadelphia 8, New York 5. **2B:** Vientos (22). **HR:** Nimmo (22), off Wheeler. **RBIs:** Bohm (95), Taylor (35), Nimmo (87). **SB:** Turner 2 (19), Stott 2 (31), Marsh (18). **CS:** Acuña (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** Philadelphia 6 (Rojas, Bohm, Clemens 2, Realmuto 2); New York 1 (Iglesias). **RISP:** Philadelphia 1 for 9; New York 2 for 3. **DP:** Philadelphia 1 (Realmuto, Stott, Realmuto).

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wheeler, L,	7.0	7	2	2	1	8	94	2.56
Strahm	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	1.96

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Megill	4.0	4	1	1	2	6	83	3.98
Maton, W, 2-1	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	22	2.10
Buttó, H, 4	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	2.60
Díaz, S, 20-26	2.0	1	0	0	2	4	30	3.35

T: 2:30. **A:** 43,139 (42,136).

Braves 5, Marlins 4

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Harris cf	5	2	2	1	0	1	.261
Albies 2b	5	1	1	1	0	1	.253
Ozuna dh	5	0	1	0	0	2	.309
Olson 1b	3	0	2	1	1	0	.246
Soler rf	3	0	1	1	0	0	.235
White pr-rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.382
Laureano lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.206
Urshela 3b	4	1	3	1	0	1	.270
Murphy c	3	0	0	0	1	2	.196
Arcia ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.217
Totals	36	5	11	5	2	9	

Dodgers 6, Rockies 5

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Blackmon dh	3	0	0	0	2	1	.249
Tovar ss	5	1	2	0	0	3	.267
McMahon 3b	5	1	2	0	0	2	.246
Toglia 1b	4	1	0	0	1	4	.214
Rodgers 2b	4	1	2	2	0	1	.267
Hilliard cf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.254
Jones If	4	0	1	2	0	2	.209
Cave rf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.253
Goodman c	4	0	1	1	0	1	.190
Stallings c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.261
Totals	35	5	9	5	5	17	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	5	2	4	1	0	0	.301
Betts rf	4	1	2	1	1	1	.295
Freeman 1b	4	0	2	1	0	0	.283
T.Hernández lf	3	1	1	1	1	2	.267
Smith c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.245
Lux 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.244
Edman cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.265
Rojas ss	2	1	0	0	2	1	.287
K.Hernández 3b	4	1	2	2	0	0	.219
Totals	32	6	11	6	6	5	

Colorado	301 001 000 — 5 9 0
Los Angeles	000 100 302 — 6 11 0

LOB: Colorado 8, Los Angeles 8. **2B:** Rodgers (28), McMahon (26), Goodman (9). **HR:** T.Hernández (31), off Senzateila; K.Hernández (11), off Hill; Ohtani (53), off Halvorsen; Betts (19), off Halvorsen. **RBIs:** Rodgers 2 (54), Jones 2 (25), Goodman (36), T.Hernández (93), K.Hernández 2 (38), Freeman (89), Ohtani (123), Betts (73). **SB:** Ohtani 2 (55). **Runners left in scoring position:** Colorado 5 (Toglia 2, Hilliard, Cave 2); Los Angeles 4 (T.Hernández 2, K.Hernández, Lux). **RISP:** Colorado 3 for 11; Los Angeles 3 for 9.

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Senzateila	5.0	5	1	1	2	2	73	3.38
Criswell	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	21	2.16
Hill	0.2	2	3	3	1	1	18	8.10
Peralta, H, 1	0.1	1	0	0	0	1	8	0.00
Chivilli, H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	2	0	22	3.18
Halvorsen, L, 2-1, BS, 1-2	0.0	2	2	2	0	0	7	1.86

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Yamamoto	3.0	5	4	4	3	4	79	2.96
Kelly	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	9	4.99
Brasier	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	19	3.33
Casparius	3.0	3	1	1	2	5	59	2.25
Treinen, W, 7-3 1.0	0	0	0	0	0	3	14	2.01

T: 2:53. A: 50,730 (56,000).

Rangers 6, Mariners 5

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Robles rf	5	1	1	2	0	1	.333
Rodríguez cf	5	0	1	0	0	2	.272
Raleigh dh	3	1	1	1	0	1	.214
Arozarena lf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.235
Turner 1b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.262
Polanco 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.206
Garver c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.169
Crawford ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.203
Moore 3b	3	1	2	1	0	1	.208
Raley ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Rojas 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.228
Totals	35	5	8	4	1	7	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Semien 2b	4	1	2	1	1	0	.234
Smith ss	4	1	1	1	0	1	.261
Langford lf	4	1	1	3	0	1	.253
García rf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.219
Lowe 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.261
Heim c	4	0	2	0	0	2	.218
Duran 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.253
Jankowski dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.209
Taveras cf	4	3	3	1	0	0	.231
Totals	35	6	10	6	2	8	

Seattle	011 003 000 — 5 8 0
Texas	000 004 101 — 6 10 2

E: Semien (6), Smith (8). **LOB:** Seattle 6, Texas 5. **2B:** Moore (23). **HR:** Raleigh (31), off Heaney; Langford (13), off Woo; Taveras (12), off Chargois. **RBIs:** Moore (42), Raleigh (95), Robles 2 (23), Smith (60), Langford 3 (69), Taveras (44), Semien (73). **SB:** Robles (28), Taveras (21). **RISP:** Seattle 2 for 5; Texas 3 for 4.

Seattle **IP** **H** **R** **ER** **BB** **SO** **NP** **ERA**
Woo 6.0 7 4 4 1 4 82 3.02
Chargois, BS, 0-2 1.0 1 1 1 1 1 17 2.95
Thornton 1.0 0 0 0 0 2 18 3.71
Muñoz, L, 3-7 0.2 2 1 1 0 1 11 2.16

Texas **IP** **H** **R** **ER** **BB** **SO** **NP** **ERA**
Heaney 5.2 7 4 4 1 4 94 3.98
Festa 1.1 1 1 0 0 1 22 4.66
Robertson 1.0 0 0 0 0 1 9 3.13
Yates, W, 7-2 1.0 0 0 0 0 1 17 1.21

T: 2:28. A: 39,882 (40,000).

Padres 4, White Sox 2

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Vargas 3b	4	1	2	1	0	2	.122
Robert cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.223
Benintenti lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.224
Vaughn dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.246
Sheets 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.236
Sosa 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.245
Fletcher rf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.205
Lee c	3	1	1	0	1	1	.207
Amaya ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.204
Totals	32	2	5	2	0	15	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Profar lf	3	1	2	2	0	0	.285
Tatis dh	4	1	1	1	0	1	.282
Cronenworth 2b-1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.243
Machado 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.276
Merrill cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.292
Bogaerts ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.259
D.Peralta rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.268
Solano 1b	3	0	1	0	0	2	.287
Waide pr-2b	0	1	0	0	0	0	.229
Higashioka c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.217
Arraez ph	1	0	1	1	0	0	.323
Lackridge pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	.200
Díaz c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.188
Totals	28	4	5	4	2	8	

Chicago	001 001 000 — 2 5 0
San Diego	001 000 03x — 4 5 0

LOB: Chicago 3, San Diego 3. **2B:** Solano (13), Arraez (21). **HR:** Lee (11), off Darvish; Vargas (2), off Darvish; Profar (24), off Burke; Tatis (20), off Ellard. **RBIs:** Lee (33), Vargas (7), Profar 2 (85), Arraez (39), Tatis (48). **SB:** Profar (10), Vargas (2), Sheets (2). **SF:** Profar. **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 3 (Robert, Fletcher, Sheets); San Diego 1 (Merrill). **RISP:** Chicago 0 for 3; San Diego 1 for 3.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Burke	6.0	2	1	1	1	8	87	1.93
Berroa, H, 3	1.0	1	1	1	1	0	18	2.76
Ellard, L, 2-3, BS, 1-2	0.2	2	2	2	0	0	20	3.38
Varland	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.78

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Darvish	6.1	3	2	2	0	9	87	3.18
Morejon	0.2	1	0	0	0	2	13	2.90
Estrada, W, 6-2	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	16	2.88
Suarez, S, 34-40	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	13	2.71

T: 2:24. A: 45,197 (40,222).

Pirates 2, Reds 0

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Gonzales ss	4	0	0	0	1	2	.269
O.Cruz cf	3	1	1	1	2	0	.268
Bart c	3	0	1	0	1	1	.262
McCutchen dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.238
Tellez 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.243
B.De La Cruz rf	4	0	2	0	0	2	.200
Triolo 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.215
Yorke 2b	3	1	1	1	1	1	.273
Cook lf	4	0	1	0	0	3	.229
Totals	33	2	7	2	5	14	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
India 2b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.247
E.De La Cruz ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.261
Stephenson c	4	0	0	0	0	3	.262
Steer dh	2	0	0	0	1	2	.229
Friedl cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.225
France 1b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.276
Fraley rf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.276
Espinal 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.252
Benson lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.188
Totals	28	0	3	0	1	13	

Pittsburgh	100 010 000 — 2 7 0
Cincinnati	000 000 000 — 0 3 0

LOB: Pittsburgh 9, Cincinnati 3. **HR:** O.Cruz (21), off Greene; Yorke (1), off F.Cruz. **RBIs:** O.Cruz (76), Yorke (2). **SB:** Cook (1). **CS:** India (2), B.De La Cruz (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** Pittsburgh 3 (Tellez, O.Cruz 2); Cincinnati 0. **RISP:** Pittsburgh 0 for 3; Cincinnati 0 for 0.

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skenes, W, 11-3	5.0	2	0	0	0	9	73	1.99
Holderman, H, 21	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	10	3.14
Mlodzinski, H, 5	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	16	3.35
Santana, H, 8	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	16	2.61
Chapman, S, 11-16	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	3.97

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Greene, L, 9-5	3.0	2	1	1	1	4	45	2.83
F.Cruz	2.0	2	1	1	0	4	31	4.98
Santillan	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	3.33
Farmer	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	16	3.04
Díaz	1.0	0	0	0	2	1	27	4.07
Suter	1.0	2	0	0	1	1	31	3.22

T: 2:25. A: 34,750 (43,891).

Red Sox 8, Twins 1, 1st Game

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Buxton cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.274
Margot lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.239
Larnach dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.249
Correa ss	2	0	0	0	1	0	.311
Shees ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.213
Waller rf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.259
Lewis 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.249
Castro lf-cf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.250
Jeffers c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.225
Santana 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.237
Miranda 1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.286
Farmer 2b	2	0	1	0	1	0	.228
Totals	31	1	4	0	4	7	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ja.Duran lf	4	1	1	0	1	1	.285
González 3b	5	1	2	1	0	1	.273
Yoshida dh	4	2	2	0	0	0	.287
Story ss	4	1	1	0	0	3	.260
Sogard ss	0	0	0	0	0	0	.259
Casas 1b	4	3	3	7	0	0	.245
Grissom 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.151
Abreu rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.258
D.Jansen c	2	0	0	0	2	1	.178
Rafaela cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.245
Totals	35	8	11	8	3	8	

Minnesota	000 100 000 — 1 4 0
Boston	303 110 00x — 8 11 2

E: Grissom (2), González (5). **LOB:** Minnesota 7, Boston 6. **2B:** Abreu (32). **HR:** Casas 2 (11), off López; Casas (12), off Headrick. **RBIs:** Casas 7 (29), González (25). **SB:** Grissom (1), González (11). **Runners left in scoring position:** Minnesota 2 (Castro 2); Boston 4 (González 2, D.Jansen, Story). **RISP:** Minnesota 0 for 4; Boston 3 for 10.

The *POST* Line

MLB		
Monday		
Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
BLUE JAYS	-108-108	Red Sox
ASTROS	\$136-162	Mariners
D'BACKS	\$152-180	Giants
PHILLIES	OFF	Cubs
Home teams in CAPS		

NFL		
Monday- Week 3		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
BILLS	5.5 (45.5)	Jaguars
BENGALS	7 (46.5)	Commanders

Thursday- Week 4		
Cowboys	5.5 (44)	GIANTS

Sunday		
JETS	8.5 (37.5)	Broncos
FALCONS	1.5 (45.5)	Saints
Bengals	6 (45)	PANTHERS
PACKERS	2 (44)	Vikings
Steelers	1 (40)	COLTS
Eagles	2.5 (46.5)	BUCCANEERS
BEARS	1 (41)	Rams
TEXANS	4.5 (45.5)	Jaguars
CARDINALS	5 (49.5)	Commanders
49ERS	10 (40.5)	Patriots
Browns	1 (38.5)	RAIDERS
Chiefs	8.5 (38.5)	CHARGERS
RAVENS	2.5 (45.5)	Bills

Monday, Sept. 30		
Titans	1 (38)	DOLPHINS
LIONS	4.5 (48.5)	Seahawks

WNBA		
Tuesday- 1st Round		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
LIBERTY	12.5 (156.5)	Dream

Wednesday		
SUN	7 (163.5)	Fever
LYNX	8.5 (161)	Mercury

NHL		
Friday, Oct. 4		
Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
*Sabres	-105-115	Devils

Tuesday, Oct. 8		
KRAKEN	\$105-125	Blues
Bruins	\$100-120	PANTHERS
Blackhawks	\$100-120	UTAH

Wednesday, Oct. 9		
Rangers	-105-115	PENGUINS
CANADIENS	-100-110	Maple Leafs
GOLDEN KNIGHTS	-105-115	Avalanche
Flames	-105-115	CANUCKS
OILERS	-105-115	Jets
*Prague		

College Football		
Thursday		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Army	13 (45.5)	TEMPLE
Friday		
RUTGERS	2.5 (45.5)	Washington

Saturday		
*Texas a&m	5.5 (52)	Arkansas
MICHIGAN ST.	24 (49.5)	Ohio State
OLE MISS	17.5 (51.5)	Kentucky
KANSAS STATE	4.5 (52.5)	Oklahoma St.
BOISE STATE	7 (64.5)	Washington St.
USC	13.5 (50.5)	Wisconsin
UCLA	24 (55.5)	Oregon
NC STATE	7.5 (47.5)	N. Illinois
INDIANA	7 (55.5)	Maryland
UCONN	4 (45.5)	Buffalo
Nebraska	9 (49.5)	PURDUE
Navy	2 (56)	UAB
TULANE	6.5 (63)	South Florida
BOSTON COLL.	11 (56)	W. Kentucky
BAYLOR	2.5 (45)	Byu
TEXAS	38 (61.5)	Mississippi St.
KANSAS	2 (59.5)	Tcu
MICHIGAN	10 (39.5)	Minnesota
Texas State	8 (56)	SAM HOUSTON
Oklahoma	3 (47.5)	AUBURN
NOTRE DAME	5 (48)	Louisville
UNLV	4 (52)	Fresno State
UCF	12 (63.5)	Colorado
MIAMI (OH)	17 (47.5)	UMass
WAKE FOREST	2.5 (59.5)	Louisiana
E. Michigan	14 (47.5)	KENT STATE
W. Michigan	5.5 (54)	MARSHALL
C. MICHIGAN	1 (55)	San Diego St.
Ga. Southern	1 (57.5)	GEORGIA ST.
OHIO	12 (46)	Akron
DUKE	3 (55.5)	N. Carolina
E. CAROLINA	3.5 (54)	Utsa
Louisiana Tech	2 (51.5)	FIU
TROY	8.5 (46)	La.-Monroe
NORTH TEXAS	7 (69)	Tulsa
RICE	6 (46.5)	Charlotte
CLEMSON	22.5 (57)	Stanford
Iowa State	12.5 (43.5)	HOUSTON
Georgia	2.5 (49.5)	ALABAMA
PENN STATE	17.5 (47.5)	Illinois
MEMPHIS	25 (61.5)	Mid Tenn
LSU	20.5 (65.5)	S. Alabama
SMU	4.5 (47)	Florida State
New Mexico	7 (58.5)	N. MEXICO ST.
TEXAS TECH	4 (58.5)	Cincinnati
Air Force	2.5 (36.5)	WYOMING
UTAH	12.5 (51.5)	Arizona
Oregon	24 (56.5)	UCLA

*Arlington, Texas		
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TOP PLAY

Underdog Como shall have its day vs. Atalanta

By MICHAEL LEBOFF

The story of Como 1907 is as romantic as the scenery of the shores that it calls home.

The club was sent into bankruptcy twice in the past 20 years and was put up for auction back in 2017, but new investment brought the club back from the brink and completely changed its fortunes. Now worth around €1 billion, Como is back in Serie A for the first time since 2003 and boasts some star power on its roster and in manager Cesc Fabregas.

And while there's still a ways to go before Como establishes itself as one of the powers in Serie A, there are some encouraging signs in the club's first four matches of the 2024-25 campaign. Their 0-2-2 (W-D-L) record may look uninspiring, but the only lopsided result came on the road at Juventus in their season opener. Como posted a +1.3 expected goal difference in their other three matches this season.

Another Champions League outfit, Atalanta, will host Como on Monday in the day's lone Serie A contest. Atalanta is a robust -235 favorite to win the match.

There's no question that Atalanta is in a different tier compared to Como, but this is a tricky schedule spot for La Dea.

They drew Arsenal, 0-0, in the Champions League last Thursday and have struggled to find their footing in the new campaign with two wins and two losses in their first four matches.

Como's underlying metrics paint them as an underrated team, while Atalanta's statistical profile and schedule spot make them a good fade candidate in the short term.

THE PLAY: Como +500



CESC FABREGAS
Coach of Como 1907.

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2024		*REC	'24 vs OPP		CAREER vs OPP	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA		W-L	ERA		W-L	IP	ERA
Red Sox	Houck (R)		8-10	3.21	15-14	0-0	2.92	0-1	0-1	15.0	3.00
Blue Jays	Francis (R)	(7:07pm)	8-5	3.47	6-6	1-0	0.00	1-0	0-2	20.0	2.70
Mariners	Miller (R)		11-8	3.06	16-14	1-0	4.50	3-1	1-0	18.0	1.00
Astros	Brown (R)	(8:10pm)	11-8	3.57	14-15	1-0	1.65	1-2	0-1	17.0	3.71
Cubs	Steele (L)		5-5	3.03	10-13	0-0	0.00	1-0	2-0	14.2	2.45
Phillies	Nola (R)	(6:40pm)	12-8	3.54	19-12	1-0	7.20	6-2	0-2	16.0	6.19
Giants	Birdsong (R)		4-5	4.74	5-9	0-1	6.00	0-1	1-1	13.2	3.29
D'Backs	Rodriguez (L)	(9:40pm)	3-3	5.09	5-3	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-2	15.1	4.70

* REC: Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Bassitt hounds Red Sox

Does Mayor Eric Adams know anyone who is NOT under investigation? This just in: Lenny Dykstra could be the new interim NYPD Commissioner by the end of the week. ... Springfield, Ohio, update. No dogs were reported missing this week and no cats were eaten, but some stale Brownies were devoured in Cleveland.

The Red Sox visit the Blue Jays and I haven't been this excited since Eintracht Frankfurt played Monchenglabbach. Toronto's Chris Bassitt has allowed two runs in his last 10 innings. Boston's Tan-

ner Houck hasn't won a game since July 11. Play \$50 on the Bluebirds.

-
Groovin' on a Sunday afternoon. The Nats' Jake Irvin was as effective as a "Biden for President" bumper sticker. Mike Tauchman, Michael Busch and Miguel Amaya took Irvin deep and the Cubs blanked the Nats, 5-0. Shota Imanaga stretched his winning streak to six. We're streaking as well. Down -428 stevebartmans.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups HOME AWAY								
	TODAY September 23	TUE Sept. 24	WED Sept. 25	THU Sept. 26	FRI Sept. 27	SAT Sept. 28	SUN Sept. 29	
	NO GAME	Balt. 7:05 YES WFAN	Balt. 7:05 YES WFAN	Balt. 7:05 YES WFAN	Pitts. 7:05 YES WFAN	Pitts. 1:05 YES WFAN	Pitts. 3:05 YES WFAN	
	NO GAME	Atl. 7:20 SNY WHSQ	Atl. 7:20 SNY WHSQ	Atl. 7:20 SNY WHSQ	Milw. 8:10 SNY WHSQ	Milw. 7:15 Fox WHSQ	Milw. 3:10 SNY WHSQ	
	NO GAME	(Exh.) NYI 7:00 MSG	NO GAME	(Exh.) Bost. 7:00 MSG	NO GAME	NO GAME	NO GAME	
	NO GAME	(Exh.) NYR 7:00 MSGSN	NO GAME	(Exh.) Phila. 7:00	(Exh.) NJD 7:00 MSGSN	NO GAME	NO GAME	
	NO GAME	(Exh.) Mtl. 7:00	(Exh.) Wash. 7:00 NHLN	NO GAME	(Exh.) NYI 7:00 MSG	NO GAME	NO GAME	
	NO GAME	1st Rd. Atl. 7:30 ESPN	NO GAME	1st. Rd. Atl. TBD ESPN2	NO GAME	TBD	TBD	
Saturday			Saturday			Sunday		
	NYCFC 7:30 Apple TV+		Red Bulls 7:30 Apple TV+			Kansas City Current 1:00 CBS		
Thursday			Sunday, Sept. 29					
	Dallas 8:15 TV - Ch. 5, Prime Video Radio- WFAN 101.9 FM				Denver 1:00 TV - CBS Radio- WAXQ 104.3 FM			

Today's Sports on the Air			
NFL	7:30 p.m.	Jaguars at Bills	ESPN
	8:15 p.m.	Commanders at Bengals	ABC, WFAN (660 AM/101.9 FM)
MLB	6:30 p.m.	Cubs at Phillies	MLBN
	9:30 p.m.	Giants at Diamondbacks	MLBN
NHL	9 p.m.	Kings at Utah	NHLN
Tennis	6 a.m.	ATP Hangzhou, Semifinals	Tennis
Soccer	2:45 p.m.	Serie A: Como at Atalanta	CBSN
	9 p.m.	Women: Utah at BYU	ESPNU
	10 p.m.	NWSL: Portland Thorns at Angel City	CBSN
Field Hockey	3 p.m.	Michigan at Michigan State	BTN

SPORTS SHORTS

NFL: Fins great Morris dead at 77

Eugene “Mercury” Morris, who starred for the unbeaten 1972 Dolphins as part of a star-studded backfield and helped the team win two Super Bowl titles, has died, the team said Sunday. Morris, a three-time Pro Bowl selection, was 77.

MLB: Chisox match Mets’ futility

The White Sox (36-120) tied the post-1900 MLB record of 120 losses by the 1962 expansion Mets when the Padres won 4-2 in San Diego by rallying for three runs in the eighth inning, capped by **Fernando Tatis Jr.’s** towering home run.

● In Los Angeles, **Shohei Ohtani** hit a tying home run — his 53rd of the season — in the ninth inning and **Mookie Betts** followed with a game-ending drive as the Dodgers rallied for a 6-5 victory over the Rockies. Ohtani also stole his 54th and 55th bases of the season.

● Struggling Minnesota was swept in a split doubleheader against Boston, 8-1, and 9-3 in the nightcap at Fenway Park. Losing for the 13th time in 19 games, the Twins fell a game behind both Detroit and Kansas City for the AL’s final two wild cards. They own the tiebreaker over both.

ETC.: Horschel holds off McIlroy

Billy Horschel became the first American to win the BMW PGA Championship in Virginia Water, England, twice when he holed an eagle to beat four-time major winner **Rory McIlroy** in a playoff.

● In Maineville, Ohio, **Lydia Ko** turned a two-shot deficit into a five-shot victory with a 9-under 63 to win the Kroger Queen City Championship for her third LPGA Tour title of the season.

● In Berlin, Four-time Grand Slam champion **Carlos Alcaraz** overcame **Taylor Fritz** 6-2, 7-5 as Team Europe rallied to beat Team World 13-11 and win the Laver Cup.

ODDS & ENDS

NFL Monday Jaguars at Bills odds and props

FULL-GAME MONEYLINE ODDS

Jaguars	+200
Bills	-250

PASSING YARDS O/U

Josh Allen	231.5
Trevor Lawrence	221.5

RUSHING YARDS O/U

James Cook	62.5
Travis Etienne	50.5

Josh Allen	29.5
Trevor Lawrence	17.5

RECEIVING YARDS O/U

Khalil Shakir	43.5
Christian Kirk	41.5

Brian Thomas Jr.	41.5
Gabe Davis	39.5

Dalton Kincaid	37.5
Keon Coleman	36.5

Commanders at Bengals odds and props

FULL-GAME MONEYLINE ODDS

Commanders	+280
Bengals	-350

PASSING YARDS O/U

Joe Burrow	265.5
Jayden Daniels	198.5

RUSHING YARDS O/U

Brian Robinson Jr.	54.5
Zack Moss	51.5

Jayden Daniels	48.5
Chase Brown	25.5

Austin Ekeler	22.5
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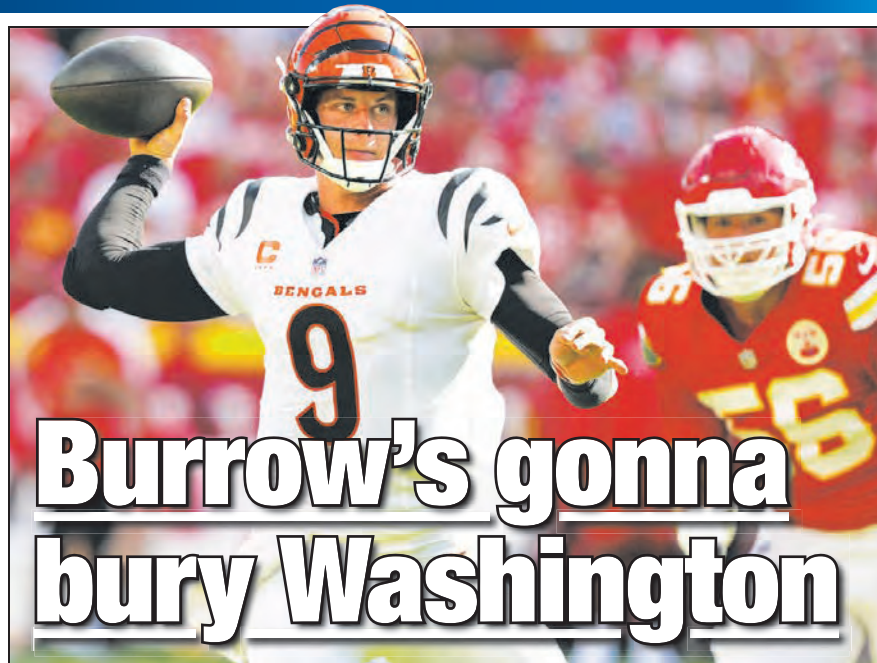
RECEIVING YARDS O/U

Ja’Marr Chase	79.5
Terry McLaurin	47.5

Tee Higgins	45.5
Mike Gesicki	27.5

Zach Ertz	26.5
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BET SMART



Burrow’s gonna bury Washington

LICKING HIS CHOPS: Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow — who had 258 yards and two touchdowns vs. the Chiefs last week — should have a big night against a Commanders team that has the second-worst defensive grade in 2024, per PFF.

AP

By ANDREW NORTON

Monday’s slate for Week 3 of the NFL season features not one, but two matchups — Washington at Cincinnati, and Jacksonville at Buffalo.

Which players from these four teams will step up in the spotlight? Here is my favorite “Monday Night Football” player prop bet from each game:

Commanders at Bengals

Last year, the Giants ranked 30th in offensive DVOA, 30th in points per game, and 29th in yards per game, and it did not improve much, if at all, on that side of the ball in the offseason.

Yet, the Commanders allowed Daniel Jones to throw for 178 passing yards, two touchdowns, and zero interceptions in Week 2.

Washington also allowed Baker Mayfield to toss four touchdowns in its first game of the 2024 season.

So, what do you think Joe Burrow will do to Washington?

Burrow and the Bengals may have had a slow start to the season, losing at home to New England, but they quickly returned to form against Kansas City, nearly beating the defending champions on the road.

Burrow threw for 258 passing yards and two touchdowns against the Chiefs in Week 2.

Now, he faces a Washington team that has received the second-worst defensive grade in the 2024 season, per Pro Football Focus, despite playing against two mediocre offenses (Giants and Tampa Bay).

Additionally, star wide receiver Tee Higgins returned to practice late this week, suggesting he will be available on Monday night. Higgins’ return will give Burrow yet another receiving weapon to target against this Commanders secondary, arguably the worst unit in the league.

Burrow should carve the Commanders en route to at least a two-touchdown performance in the air.

Recommendation: Joe Burrow Over 1.5 Passing Touchdowns (-136, BetRivers).

Jaguars at Bills

Despite having Josh Allen — one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL — under center, Buffalo has been hesitant to air the ball out; Allen has actually averaged just 21 passing attempts through his first two games.

A portion of Allen’s low passing volume can be attributed to the fantastic play of running back James Cook, who has logged two rushing touchdowns through the first two weeks.

However, most of Buffalo’s hesitancy to throw as much as it has in the past few seasons is undoubtedly due to losing its top two receivers (Gabe Davis and Stefon Diggs) in the offseason.

A team’s passing volume also might decrease if an offensive line can’t protect a quarterback in the pocket, but that is not the case with Buffalo.

Per PFF, the Bills have the eighth-highest pass block grade so far this season; they have allowed the fewest pressures (6) and second-lowest pressure percentage (12.2 percent) in the NFL.

Simply put, this Buffalo offense will look different than in past years. Allen’s passing volume will likely be lower, and the offense will have less consistent success.

Regarding this matchup, the Jaguars secondary has not been great, but it has not performed like a bottom-five unit, which many projected it would be this season. Jacksonville is desperate for a win after starting 0-2, so expect a sense of urgency, particularly on the defensive side of the ball.

Recommendation: Josh Allen Under 21.5 passing completions (-135, FanDuel).

WARD TO THE WISE

THE OFFSEASON has become a dangerous hype machine that relies too heavily on numbers. That doesn't take into account chemistry, fit and continuity. We get crazy about transfers and automatically believe however they have performed at a former school will translate immediately.

It frequently doesn't work that way. Oftentimes, patience is needed.

But in the case of Miami and quarterback Cam Ward, the opposite has been true. There hasn't been a more valuable player in the country, the senior quarterback leading the Hurricanes to their second 4-0 start since 2018. In a soft conference that has seen

preseason contenders like Clemson, Florida State and N.C. State struggle, Miami has been dominant. Ward, the former Washington State star, has thrown for 1,439 yards, 14 touchdowns and completed 72.4 percent of his passes as Miami has outscored the opposition 209-41. Miami's transfer class, which also includes running back Damien Martinez (Oregon State) and defensive linemen Tyler Baron (Tennessee) and Elijah Alston (Marshall), has produced immediately.

Think about this: Miami is already just four wins shy of its most victories in a single season since 2017, the last time it reached double figures. The schedule is littered with winnable games, the biggest remaining test is a visit to undefeated Louisville on Oct. 19. Miami will likely be favored the rest of the way otherwise.

Look no further than Ward for how a program that was a combined 12-13 the previous two seasons under Mario Cristobal, and closed last year by losing six of its last nine games, has seemingly flipped its fortunes overnight. Ward

Transfer QB makes Miami a smart choice to rule ACC

arrived with extensive experience — he has now played in 48 college games — and the desire to make a name for himself at a big-name program. He has quickly made his mark, becoming the first quarterback to start his career at the school with four consecutive 300-yard passing games. In a rout of South Florida on Saturday, Ward became the 13th college football player to throw for 15,000 yards in a career. Coaches and teammates have raved about his maturity, calling him an “alpha leader.” He's raised the bar for the Hurricanes. After a dominant Week 1 rout of in-state rival Florida, he

pointed to ways Miami could get better. He has deferred credit to the team's linemen who have controlled the line of scrimmage.

“He continues to prove he's dynamic and a game-changer for us,” Cristobal said after the latest win.

In hindsight, the wrong PAC-12 quarterback and the wrong ACC school were lauded in the offseason, viewed as the favorite in the conference. It turns out, we should've been paying more attention to Ward and Miami rather than DJ Uiagalelei and Florida State. Ward is a Heisman Trophy front-runner and Miami is the team to beat in the ACC. Neither could've scripted a better first month to this one-year marriage.

Knight and day

It took Greg Schiano six years in his first go-around at Rutgers for that breakout 11-win season in which the Scarlet Knight rose to the seventh-

ranked team in the country at one point. It may be happening faster in his second time in Piscataway, N.J.

In his fifth year, Schiano has Rutgers off to a 3-0 start after its 26-23 win at Virginia Tech, a victory that was one-sided for most of the afternoon. The Scarlet Knights have a star running back in Kyle Monangai, just got back standout linebacker Tyreem Powell from injury and have a relatively soft schedule that doesn't include the Big Ten big three of Ohio State, Penn State and Michigan. It's not crazy to see Rutgers remaining undefeated into late October, with Washington, Wisconsin and UCLA at home sandwiched around a trip to Nebraska. The program is absolutely in play to win as many as nine games, which hasn't happened since 2012.

League of its own

Saturday in Tuscaloosa, Ala., is only the start — the first major showdown in the SEC. The powerhouse conference boasts six of the top seven teams in the country, according to the AP poll. Two of those teams will meet Saturday when No. 4 Alabama hosts No. 2 Georgia in an SEC championship game rematch. Georgia follows that up by visiting No. 1 Texas on Oct. 19. That same Saturday, Alabama meets No. 6 Tennessee, which got past Oklahoma on Saturday, and a week later takes on No. 7 Missouri. In November, No. 5 Ole Miss hosts Georgia and Tennessee visits Georgia. What a beast of a league.

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Zach Braziller

Zach to School



Cam Ward

Getty Images

■ 1. Georgia (3-0) (Last week:1)

Saturday at Alabama is the first major test in what is a minefield the rest of the way for the Bulldogs. Trips to Texas (Oct. 19) and Ole Miss (Nov. 9), along with a visit from Tennessee (Nov. 16) loom.

■ 2. Texas (4-0) (2)

Arch Manning delivered an uneven performance in his first start, throwing for 258 yards and two touchdowns, but also was intercepted twice in a 51-3 waxing of UL Monroe. Quinn Ewers isn't getting Wally Pipp-ed.

■ 3. Ohio State (3-0) (3)

It took until the final week of September for Ohio State to play a non-cupcake. Michigan State is far from a contender, but compared to the Buckeyes' first three opponents — Akron, Western Michigan and Marshall — the Spartans are a juggernaut.

THE POST'S TOP TEN

■ 4. Alabama (3-0) (4)

The Crimson Tide are a 1.5-point underdog Saturday against Georgia. That would mark the first time Alabama has been a home underdog since 2007 against LSU. New coach Kalen DeBoer is sure to play the no-respect card this week.

■ 5. Tennessee (4-0) (7)

The Volunteers committed two turnovers on the road against a top-15 opponent and still won by double figures. They looked like a legit title contender in their 10-point win over Oklahoma and should be undefeated when Alabama comes to Knoxville on Oct. 19.

■ 6. Ole Miss (4-0) (5)

Finally, we will get a real read on the Rebels, after four blowouts over made-to-order patsies. The SEC schedule begins for Ole Miss against Kentucky on Saturday.

■ 7. Oregon (3-0) (6)

It's all about being ready for Ohio State on Oct. 12. Oregon's next two opponents, UCLA and Michigan State, are nothing more than tune-ups.

■ 8. Utah (4-0) (NR)

Our preseason pick in the Big 12 looks like the class of the conference. It won at Oklahoma State despite missing starting QB Cam Rising (right hand) thanks to a stingy defense and running game that amassed 249 yards on the ground.

■ 9. Penn State (3-0) (8)

I'll admit it: I have no idea what to make of Penn State. A Charmin-soft early schedule hasn't revealed much. Surprising Illinois by far will be the Nittany Lions' toughest opponent.

■ 10. Missouri (4-0) (10)

Missouri celebrated like it won the SEC when it survived Vanderbilt at home in overtime. The Tigers, an incredibly soft 4-0, are pretenders.

Dropped out: USC (2-1)

in alphabetical order

■ QB Jaxson Dart, Ole Miss

Another big Saturday for Dart in what amounted to a pseudo-scrimmage: 382 yards passing and four touchdowns against Georgia Southern.

■ WR/CB Travis Hunter, Colorado

Again, Hunter did it all for Colorado on Saturday, catching seven passes for 130 yards and forcing the game-sealing fumble at the goal line in overtime.

■ RB Kaleb Johnson, Iowa

The nation's leading rusher is on pace to set a single-season high in his next game. He already has run for 685 yards and nine

touchdowns, keying Iowa's 4-0 start. Up next: A trip to Columbus in two weeks.

■ QB Jalen Milroe, Alabama

Yes, it's early. It's still September. It doesn't matter. Saturday against Georgia is one of those games that Milroe can make an early Heisman statement.

■ QB Cam Ward, Miami

Miami's “alpha leader,” as coach Mario Cristobal calls him, continued his dominance in a blowout of South Florida, 404 yards through the air and three scores. There hasn't been a more impactful transfer.

HEISMAN WATCH

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	65	38
Jets	2	1	0	.667	67	52
Miami	1	2	0	.333	33	72
New England	1	2	0	.333	39	57
South	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Houston	2	1	0	.667	55	74
Indianapolis	1	2	0	.333	58	61
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	30	38
Tennessee	0	3	0	.000	48	78
North	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	3	0	0	1.000	51	26
Baltimore	1	2	0	.333	71	78
Cleveland	1	2	0	.333	50	67
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	35	42
West	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Kansas City	3	0	0	1.000	75	62
L.A. Chargers	2	1	0	.667	58	33
Denver	1	2	0	.333	52	46
Las Vegas	1	2	0	.333	58	81

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	70	63
Washington	1	1	0	.500	41	55
Dallas	1	2	0	.333	77	89
Giants	1	2	0	.333	45	64
South	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
New Orleans	2	1	0	.667	103	44
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	64	62
Atlanta	1	2	0	.333	49	61
Carolina	1	2	0	.333	49	95
North	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Minnesota	3	0	0	1.000	85	30
Detroit	2	1	0	.667	62	53
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	75	58
Chicago	1	2	0	.333	53	57
West	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Seattle	3	0	0	1.000	73	43
Arizona	1	2	0	.333	82	64
L.A. Rams	1	2	0	.333	57	91
San Francisco	1	2	0	.333	73	69

Week 3- Thursday						
Jets 24, New England 3						
Sunday						
Giants 21, Cleveland 15						
Denver 26, Tampa Bay 7						
Green Bay 30, Tennessee 14						
Indianapolis 21, Chicago 16						
Minnesota 34, Houston 7						
Philadelphia 15, New Orleans 12						
Pittsburgh 20, L.A. Chargers 10						
Carolina 36, Las Vegas 22						
Seattle 24, Miami 3						
Baltimore 28, Dallas 25						
Detroit 20, Arizona 13						
L.A. Rams 27, San Francisco 24						
Kansas City 22, Atlanta 17						

Monday						
Jacksonville at Buffalo, 7:30pm						
Washington at Cincinnati, 8:15pm						
Week 4- Thursday, Sept. 26						
Dallas at Giants , 8:15pm						
Sunday, Sept. 29						
Denver at Jets , 1pm						
Cincinnati at Carolina, 1pm						
Jacksonville at Houston, 1pm						
L.A. Rams at Chicago, 1pm						
Minnesota at Green Bay, 1pm						
New Orleans at Atlanta, 1pm						
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 1pm						
Pittsburgh at Indianapolis, 1pm						
New England at San Francisco, 4:05pm						
Washington at Arizona, 4:05pm						
Cleveland at Las Vegas, 4:25pm						
Kansas City at L.A. Chargers, 4:25pm						
Buffalo at Baltimore, 8:20pm						

Monday, Sept. 30						
Tennessee at Miami, 7:30pm						
Seattle at Detroit, 8:15pm						

More NFL sums, Page 37

Eagles 15, Saints 12

Philadelphia	0	0	0	15	—	15
New Orleans	3	0	0	9	—	12
First Quarter						
No: FG Grupe 34, 6:51.						
Fourth Quarter						
Phi: Barkley 65 run (Elliott kick), 13:17.						
No: FG Grupe 38, 9:49.						
No: Olave 13 pass from Carr (pass failed), 2:03.						
Phi: Barkley 4 run (Barkley run), 1:01.						
A: 70,006.						
First downs 20 12						
Total Net Yards 460 219						
Rushes-yards 25-172 29-89						
Passing 288 130						
Punt Returns 1-6 1-0						
Kickoff Returns 3-77 0-0						
Interceptions Ret. 1-0 1-23						
Comp-Att-Int 29-38-1 14-25-1						
Sacked-Yards Lost 4-23 1-12						
Punts 2-21.5 4-40.5						
Fumbles-Lost 1-1 0-0						
Penalties-Yards 7-45 3-25						
Time of Possession 32:15 27:45						
Individual Statistics						
Rushing: Philadelphia, Barkley 17-147, Hurts 8-25. New Orleans, Kamara 26-87, Carr 2-3, Williams 1-(minus 1).						
Passing: Philadelphia, Hurts 29-38-1-311. New Orleans, Carr 14-25-1-142.						
Receiving: Philadelphia, Goedert 10-170, D.Smith 7-79, Barkley 4-9, Campbell 2-13, Gainwell 2-12, Dotson 2-8, Covey 1-11, Wilson 1-9. New Orleans, Olave 6-86, Kamara 3-40, Tipton 2-11, Wilson 1-3, Moreau 1-2, Williams 1-0.						
Missed Field Goals: Philadelphia, Elliott 60.						

Panthers 36, Raiders 22

Carolina	7	14	6	9	—	36
Las Vegas	7	0	0	15	—	22
First Quarter						
Car: Hubbard 6 pass from Dalton (Pineiro kick), 10:13.						
Las: Mattison 2 run (Carlson kick), :24.						
Second Quarter						
Car: Dio.Johnson 5 pass from Dalton (Pineiro kick), 9:28.						
Car: Thielen 31 pass from Dalton (Pineiro kick), :28.						
Third Quarter						
Car: FG Pineiro 43, 9:59.						
Car: FG Pineiro 35, 4:46.						
Fourth Quarter						
Car: M.Sanders 1 run (pass failed), 13:33.						
Las: Meyers 13 pass from Minshew (Meyers pass from Minshew), 10:56.						
Car: FG Pineiro 26, 4:47.						
Las: Tucker 8 pass from O'Connell (Carlson kick), :56.						

	Car	Las
First downs 24 20		
Total Net Yards 437 331		
Rushes-yards 31-131 16-55		
Passing 306 276		
Punt Returns 3-33 1-0		
Kickoff Returns 2-55 2-53		
Interceptions Ret. 1-1 0-0		
Comp-Att-Int 26-37-0 27-40-1		
Sacked-Yards Lost 2-13 3-20		
Punts 4-44.25 5-52.2		
Fumbles-Lost 0-0 0-0		
Penalties-Yards 7-51 6-54		
Time of Possession 36:02 23:58		

Individual Statistics						
Rushing: Carolina, Hubbard 21-114, M.Sanders 7-17, Mingo 1-2, Dalton 2-(minus 2). Las Vegas, White 10-34, Minshew 3-14, Mattison 3-7.						
Passing: Carolina, Dalton 26-37-0-319. Las Vegas, Minshew 18-28-1-214, O'Connell 9-12-0-82.						
Receiving: Carolina, Dio.Johnson 8-122, Hubbard 5-55, Thielen 3-40, Tremble 3-29, Mingo 3-18, Legette 2-42, M.Sanders 2-13. Las Vegas, Tucker 7-96, Meyers 7-62, Adams 4-40, Bowers 3-41, Mattison 3-37, Abdullah 2-13, Mayer 1-7.						
Missed Field Goals: Las Vegas, Carlson 57.						

Broncos 26, Buccaneers 7

Denver

14 6 0 6 - 26

Tampa Bay

0 7 0 0 - 7

First Quarter

Den: Nix 3 run (Lutz kick), 11:05.

Den: J.McLaughlin 1 run (Lutz kick), 2:56.

Second Quarter

Den: FG Lutz 43, 9:25.

Tb: Godwin 5 pass from Mayfield (C.McLaughlin kick), 1:50.

Den: FG Lutz 38, :02.

Fourth Quarter

Den: FG Lutz 33, 14:52.

Den: FG Lutz 43, 7:30.

A: 62,738.

	Den	TB
First downs	18	17
Total Net Yards	352	223
Rushes-yards	28-136	16-91
Passing	216	132
Punt Returns	1-27	0-0
Kickoff Returns	0-0	2-54
Interceptions Ret.	1-37	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	25-36-0	25-33-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	7-31
Punts	2-48.0	4-47.25
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	5-51	5-19
Time of Possession	32:08	27:52

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Denver, Badie 9-70, Nix 9-47, Williams 5-12, McLaughlin 5-7. Tampa Bay, Irving 9-70, White 6-17, Tucker 1-4.

Passing: Denver, Nix 25-36-0-216. Tampa Bay, Mayfield 25-33-1-163.

Receiving: Denver, Sutton 7-68, Humphrey 6-37, Williams 4-29, Reynolds 2-36, Franklin 2-11, Trautman 1-13, Mims 1-9, McLaughlin 1-7, Adkins 1-6. Tampa Bay, Otton 7-47, Godwin 6-53, White 5-18, Irving 3-14, Evans 2-17, Durham 1-8, McMillan 1-6.

Missed Field Goals: None.

Packers 30, Titans 14						
Green Bay	17	3	7	3	—	30

THE 5TH QUARTER

HIGHLIGHTING THE BEST OF SUNDAY'S ACTION

THREE STARS



1 DERRICK HENRY Ravens RB

Henry finally looked like his old self in his new uniform, rumbling for 151 yards and two TDs in a win over the Cowboys.



2 SAQUON BARKLEY Eagles RB

Speaking of new uniforms, Barkley had another big day for the Eagles, running for 147 yards and two TDs to beat the Saints.



3 SAM DARNOLD Vikings QB

Still speaking of new uniforms, Sam Darnold matched a career high with four TD passes as the Vikings remained undefeated.

INJURY REPORT

■ The Dolphins suffered another quarterback injury when **Skylar Thompson (below)** had to be helped off the field in the third quarter. Thompson was quickly ruled out because of a chest injury as doctors and athletic trainers appeared to be examining his ribs after he was shoved down following a pass midway through the quarter.

He was replaced by Tim Boyle at quarterback. Thompson finished 13 of 19 for 107 yards. The injury to Thompson came a little over a week after Tua Tagovailoa suffered his third concussion in the past two years in a loss to Buffalo. Tagovailoa was placed on injured reserve earlier this week.

■ Justin Herbert spent two-

plus quarters trying to grit his teeth through the pain of an ankle injury that doesn't seem to be going away anytime soon. For a while, it worked. But it all ended midway through the third quarter when Herbert dropped back to pass and Steelers linebacker Elandon Roberts crashed into him for a sack. Herbert hobbled to the sideline one play later and watched backup Taylor Heinicke muster little the rest of the way. Coach Jim Harbaugh declined to speculate whether Herbert will be available next week when Los Angeles hosts AFC West rival Kansas City, saying only the team will take the same "wait and see" approach it used after Herbert initially injured the ankle on Sept. 15 in Carolina.



REVERSAL OF FORTUNE

Barkley, Birds close out big win after blowing one six days earlier

By BRETT MARTEL

**EAGLES
SAINTS**

**15
12** **Game of the week**

NEW ORLEANS — Saquon Barkley and the Eagles emerged from a flood of Philadelphia-style scrutiny and delivered a master class on grinding out — and closing out — a physical, defensive struggle in which a lot went wrong before it ended just right.

Barkley rushed for fourth-quarter touchdowns of 65 and 4 yards, and the Eagles rebounded from a maddening late-game collapse six days earlier to beat the previously surging Saints, 15-12, on Sunday.

"Last week was rough. Our guys had to pick ourselves off the mat, and every one of them did," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said, alluding to a 22-21 home loss to Atlanta on Monday night. "You have to overcome those things. I'm so proud of those guys that they did."

Barkley's shorter scoring run came with 1:01 left, one play after Dallas Goedert got free across the middle on third-and-16 for a 61-yard catch and run that gave him a career-high 170 yards on 10 receptions.

Barkley's 147 yards rushing

and clutch scoring runs brought him no small measure of redemption after his failure to make what could have been a game-sealing catch against the Falcons.

"When things like that happen, everyone thinks the world's ending, but it really doesn't matter what the outside world thinks," Barkley said. "Today, we kept trusting each other and kept having each other's back."

Eagles safety Reed Blankenship sealed the victory by intercepting Derek Carr's pass over the middle with 48 seconds left, capping a banner performance by Philadelphia's defense against an offense that had scored an NFL-high 91 points during the regular season's first two weeks under new coordinator Klint Kubiak.

"You knew adversity would happen at some point. It's not going to be that easy all the time," Carr said, adding that he regretted not throwing away the second-down pass that Blankenship intercepted. "At

the very end, they made one more play than we did and that's how this game goes sometimes."

The Eagles (2-1) did not allow a touchdown until Carr found Chris Olave for a 12-yard, go-ahead score with just more than two minutes left. That gave the Saints a 12-7 lead after a failed 2-point try.

The Eagles looked the better team on both sides of the ball, outgaining New Orleans (2-1) in total net yards, 460 to 219. But a number of curious decisions by Sirianni, along with some clutch plays by the Saints defense, kept the Eagles off the board for three quarters.

Hurts finished 29 of 38 for 311 yards passing and scrambled for 25 yards. But he also turned the ball over twice in the first half, intercepted by Tyrann Mathieu in the end zone and losing a fumble on a sack by Carl Granderson.

The Eagles again threatened to score late in the second quarter, only to come away empty when they eschewed a field goal on fourth-and-1 from the New Orleans 15 with just 14 seconds left.

— AP

Henry and Ravens run all over

By SCHULER DIXON

ARLINGTON, Texas — Lamar Jackson and the Ravens had an early, emphatic answer for the first 0-2 start since before he was their franchise quarterback.

The two-time MVP added a couple of clutch plays late when the Ravens were at risk of letting a big fourth-quarter lead get away.

Derrick Henry ran for 151 yards and two touchdowns, Jackson accounted for two scores and the

Ravens held on for a 28-25 victory over the Cowboys on Sunday.

The Ravens (1-2) scored touchdowns on their first two drives and led 28-6 before Dak Prescott and the Cowboys rallied big late with some help from a rare inside kick recovery.

Baltimore was a play away from having to give the ball back to the Cowboys (1-2) leading by just three when Jackson had a clutch completion to Zay Flowers.

Jackson put the game away with

a nifty fake to start a 10-yard run as the Ravens finished with 274 yards rushing. It's the most Dallas has allowed since twice giving up at least 294 with one of the worst defenses in franchise history in 2020.

The Ravens, coming off a trip to the AFC championship game in which they lost to Super Bowl champion Kansas City, were 0-2 for the first time since 2015.

"Every game is a big game for us because we're trying to get somewhere," Jackson said. "We've got to win these games to

**RAVENS
COWBOYS**

**28
25**



BIRD CAN FLY: Saquon Barkley leaps up to celebrate one of his two touchdowns with Eagles fans who made the trip to New Orleans.

AP

Cowboys for first win of season

get to the playoffs, and we need to get to the Super Bowl. But it starts with the game that's in front of us."

The Cowboys have allowed 120 points in their past three home games, including a 48-32 wild-card loss to Green Bay in January that ended Dallas' 16-game winning streak at AT&T Stadium.

Brandon Aubrey kicked a 65-yard field goal for the Cowboys, 1 yard shy of the NFL record from 2021 held by the kicker on the other sideline, Justin Tucker.

Just as in last week's 44-19 loss to New Orleans, the Cowboys needed more than field goals because of their porous defense. The touchdowns eventually came for Dallas. They were just a little late.

Prescott scored on a 1-yard quarterback sneak midway through the fourth, C.J. Griffin recovered the onside kick and Jalen Tolbert had a 15-yard TD catch to make it 28-18 before the Cowboys missed on a second consecutive 2-point conversion try.

Flowers recovered Dallas' sec-

ond onside kick after whiffing on the first, but the Ravens went three-and-out.

The Cowboys kicked deep after KaVontae Turpin's 16-yard scoring catch cut the deficit to three before Jackson's 9-yard completion to Flowers on third-and-6, then the keeper that finished off the final 2:53.

"Lamar was just phenomenal," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "Didn't really want to get to that situation, but we did, and we came through."

AROUND THE NFL

CHIEFS 22, FALCONS 17

In Atlanta, Patrick Mahomes threw a pair of touchdown passes and Kansas City's defense made a couple of late stands to keep the Chiefs unbeaten. The two-time reigning Super Bowl champion Chiefs have been far from perfect — Mahomes threw another interception — but they won their first three games by a combined 13 points. Coming off an upset victory at Philadelphia, the Falcons (1-2) had a couple of shots at the go-ahead touchdown in the closing minutes, but couldn't find the end zone.

VIKINGS 34, TEXANS 7

Sam Darnold matched his career high with four touchdown passes, and the undefeated Vikings used another dominant performance on defense to trounce C.J. Stroud and the Texans in Minneapolis. Jonathan Greenard had three of the four sacks of Stroud, his former teammate, as the Vikings (3-0) intercepted the 2023 AP NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year twice while rattling the Texans (2-1) with their aggressive and unpredictable scheme.

STEELERS 20, CHARGERS 10

In Pittsburgh, Justin Fields threw for a touchdown and ran for another and the Steelers improved to 3-0 for the first time since 2020. Fields completed 25 of 32 passes for 245 yards, including a 55-yard touchdown pass to Calvin Austin III midway through the fourth quarter that broke it open.

PACKERS 30, TITANS 14

In Nashville, Tenn., Malik Willis ran for a touchdown and threw for a score in his best performance in the NFL, leading Green Bay to a rout over his former team. Willis not only won his second straight start subbing for Jordan Love, he got a sweet measure of revenge against the team that traded him to Green Bay (2-1) in August.

BRONCOS 26, BUCCANEERS 7

In Tampa, Fla., rookie Bo Nix ran for an early touchdown and Will Lutz kicked four field goals to help Denver avoid starting 0-3 for the second straight season with a victory over Tampa Bay. Nix completed 25 of 36 passes for 216 yards without an interception, though he still hasn't thrown for a TD through three games.

COLTS 21, BEARS 16

In Indianapolis, Jonathan Taylor had two touchdown runs and Trey Sermon added another as Indianapolis held on for a victory over Chicago. Taylor ran 23 times for 110 yards as the Colts (1-2) avoided their first 0-3 start since 2021.

PANTHERS 36, RAIDERS 22

In Las Vegas, Andy Dalton gave the Panthers the quarterback play they've been sorely lacking, throwing for 319 yards and three touchdowns to lead Carolina to the win. Promoted to the starting job in place of the ineffective Bryce Young, Dalton guided the Panthers (1-2) to their first win and moved to 4-0 lifetime against the Raiders.

SEAHAWKS 24, DOLPHINS 3

In Seattle, Geno Smith threw for 289 yards and a 71-yard touchdown to DK Metcalf, Zach Charbonnet rushed for two TDs, and Seattle beat Miami where the attention turned to another injury suffered by a Dolphins quarterback.

LIONS 20, CARDINALS 13

Jared Goff threw two touchdown passes, David Montgomery ran for 106 yards and a score and Detroit held on late to beat the Cardinals in Glendale, Ariz. The Lions continued their recent dominance in the series, improving to 5-0-1 against the Cardinals since 2017.

RAMS 27, 49ERS 24

In Inglewood, Calif., rookie Joshua Karty hit a 37-yard field goal with 2 seconds to play, and Los Angeles staged a spectacular late rally for a victory over San Francisco. Kyren Williams rushed 4 yards for his third touchdown of the day with 1:50 left for the Rams (1-2), who came back from a 14-point deficit in the second half for their second straight win over San Francisco (1-2).

STAT LEADERS

PASSING	Yds	TD	RUSHING	Yds	TD	RECEIVING	Yds	TD
D. Prescott	379	2	D. Henry	131	2	J. Jennings	175	3
C. Williams	363	2	S. Barkley	147	2	D. Goedert	170	0
A. Dalton	319	3	C. Hubbard	114	0	D. Johnson	122	1
J. Hurts	311	0	J. Taylor	110	2	R. Odunze	112	1
B. Purdy	292	3	D. Montgomery	105	1	DK Metcalf	104	1

SURE AS SHOOTIN'

Locked-in Liberty cruise to playoff-opening victory

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Sandy Brondello's 10-minute pregame news conference was dominated by questions about the Liberty's postseason readiness.

If their somewhat shaky close to the regular season — in which the top seed in the WNBA playoffs dropped two of its last three games, including an 11-point setback to its opening-round opponent — was an ominous sign.

The Liberty coach didn't make any guarantees, but she didn't seem worried at all.

"We're lucky we've had players who have been here before," Brondello said. "So we talked about that mentality, how difficult it is. We've had the communication, but we rely on those players who have been there."

They certainly were ready, performing up to their league-best regular-season record. The Liberty scored eight of the first 10 points of Game 1, led by double figures just 6:21 after the opening tip and cruised to an 83-69 victory over the Dream at Barclays Center on Sunday afternoon. Their first missed field goal attempt didn't come until there was 2:33 remaining in the first quarter.

The result was never really in doubt, as the Liberty led by as many as 19 in a one-sided opening half. Their offense was crisp, with 22 assists. Their defense was suffocating, limiting the Dream to 39.1 percent shooting and forcing them into 14 turnovers. Most of all, they played with the intensity that was missing in the regular season finale loss to the Dream. They looked

like a team that fully intends to keep playing for a while, and return to the WNBA Finals. The Dream never got closer than 14 points in the second half.

"Our intensity was incredible. To have the crowd that we had here definitely made that a lot easier," Breanna Stewart said. "But holding ourselves accountable, knowing that especially last game, we didn't play the way we wanted to. Obviously, Atlanta is trying to steal a game here, and we don't want to let that happen. Really, what we said is there's no more time to talk about it. This is it. The time is now and we have to be ready to go and put an entire game together."

Sabrina Ionescu, who struggled against the Dream during the regular season, had 17 points and five assists. Stewart added 20 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks. Perhaps the biggest surprise was Leonie Fiebich. A part-time starter due to injuries, she made her first full-strength start in place of Courtney Vandersloot. The sharpshooting forward rewarded Brondello with a game-high 21 points and four 3-pointers in as many attempts.

It was one of many positives for the Liberty on Sunday afternoon. One win down, four to go to get back to the finals.

"The first game of the playoffs, it's home court. If you lose a game here, you lose home court," Brondello said. "That's our focus, and we've got big goals. We worked hard to get the No. 1 seed, so we didn't want to let it go down the drain. It's just coming out with the [right] focus."

zbraziller@nypost.com



WNBA PLAYOFFS FIRST ROUND

Sun.: Liberty 83, Dream 69
Liberty lead series, 1-0

Tue.: at Liberty, 7:30 p.m., ESPN

Thu.: at Dream, TBD, ESPN2

* if necessary



ONE DOWN: Sabrina Ionescu finished with 17 points and five assists Sunday in the Liberty's 83-69 Game 1 win over the Dream to open the WNBA playoffs.

Michelle Farsi

Fiebich unfazed by shift to starting role

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Breanna Stewart didn't feel the need to give Leonie Fiebich a pep talk.

The rookie may have been making her playoff debut in a starting role, but she had plenty of experience in pressurized situations overseas.

"I didn't say anything to Leo because I didn't think she needed it," the Liberty star Stewart said.

She was right.

Fiebich shined in her new role.

The 24-year-old German forward scored a game-high 21 points and sank four 3-pointers, helping the Liberty to an 83-69 Game 1 rout of the Dream in the opening-round playoff series at Barclays Center.

The 6-foot-4 Fiebich started 15 games during the regular season but only when the Liberty were short-handed due to injuries. Coach Sandy Brondello made the change Sunday, moving guard Courtney Vandersloot to the bench to give the Liberty more size in their starting lineup.

"Leo had a great game. We've bragged about her contributions all season long," Brondello said. "It's a no-brainer, but she always stays ready. Regardless of starting or coming off the bench, she's always locked in."

Fiebich got the news Saturday during practice. She took it in stride and did her best not to change anything. She didn't seem nervous. Fiebich hit her first five shots, helping the Liberty build a big early lead.

"It just helped that I was in that

role a couple of weeks ago," she said. "I started for this team already. So I didn't feel super nervous because of that. That helped for sure."

"I kind of try to live in the moment, and I was just happy we moved the ball and my teammates found me. They're leaving me open a little bit. They have to guard everybody else on my team — we have great players. I can take advantage of that. Obviously, it helps if you see your first ones go in."



LEO' STORM: Leonie Fiebich scored 21 points in the Liberty's 83-69 win over the Dream on Sunday. Getty Images

Wilson snares 3rd MVP

Las Vegas Aces star A'ja Wilson was the unanimous choice as the WNBA MVP the league announced Sunday, before the star led her team to a 78-67 win over the visiting Seattle Storm to take a 1-0 series lead in their first-round playoff matchup.

The versatile forward — who had 21 points, eight rebounds and five blocks against the Storm — averaged 26.9 points and 11.8 rebounds this season. She's only the second player to win the award unanimously, joining Cynthia Cooper of the Houston Comets in 1997.

Wilson received all 67 first-place votes from a national media panel, making her a three-time award winner (2020 and 2022).

Minnesota Lynx forward Napheesa Collier (467 points) finished in second place, followed by Liberty forward Breanna Stewart (295 points), Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark (130 points) and Connecticut Sun forward Alyssa Thomas (83 points) in fifth. — AP

Associated Press

Caitlin Clark had a rough playoff debut, sporting a black eye after accidentally getting poked in it early on.

The Indiana Fever's star rookie missed 10 of her first 11 shots before finishing with 11 points and eight assists in the team's 93-69 loss to the Connecticut Sun on Sunday in Uncasville, Conn.

WNBA ROUNDUP

The AP's Rookie of the Year refused to use the early first quarter eye-poke as an excuse for her off-night.

"Got me pretty good in the eye; I don't think it affected me," she said. "I felt like I got good shots, they just didn't go down. Tough time for that to happen. I thought I got some really good looks. Three pretty wide open 3s in the first half, you usually make."

Clark's shooting struggles continued early into the third quarter before the Fever called a timeout. The young star smacked a chair on the bench in frustration. That seemed to get her going a little bit as she came out and hit her next three shots. Unfortunately for Indiana, Connecticut guard Marina Mabrey got hot, scoring 11 of her 27 points in the third quarter and the Fever could never recover.

"My shot felt like it was right there," said Clark, who finished

Black-eye Sun

Clark, Fever poked in opener



OUCH! Indiana Fever star Caitlin Clark lies on the floor after getting poked in her left eye during the early part of Sunday's WNBA playoff-opening loss to the Connecticut Sun. *Imagn Images*

the game 4 of 17 from the field, including missing 11 of her 13 3-point attempts. "It's so frustrating as a shooter when it won't go down for you. That's what (stinks) about it. ... We were right there, I think we cut it to eight but then they came back down and hit a 3 on us."

Clark will get another chance

Wednesday in Game 2, hoping to send the series back to Indiana for a decisive third game Friday.

Lynx 102, Mercury 95

In Minneapolis, Napheesa Collier scored a playoff career-high 38 points and the Minnesota Lynx blew a 23-point lead before rallying late to beat the Phoenix Mercury in

Game 1 of a best-of-three series.

Minnesota, the Western Conference champions and No. 2 seed, turned a 32-19 first-quarter lead into a 50-27 advantage with 5:35 left before halftime. Phoenix whittled nine points off its deficit, trailing 56-42 at intermission, and closed within 77-69 heading to the fourth quarter.



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By ETHAN SEARS

Some 10 minutes after the Islanders wrapped up their preseason opener Sunday, the area around Maxim Tsyplakov's stall in the visiting locker room at the Prudential Center looked like a bedroom that needed cleaning.

Gear and equipment on the floor. Hockey bag open, but everything around it — not in it. Nearly all of the other Islanders had quickly packed up. Tsyplakov, an equipment manager jokingly chided, had to get a move on.

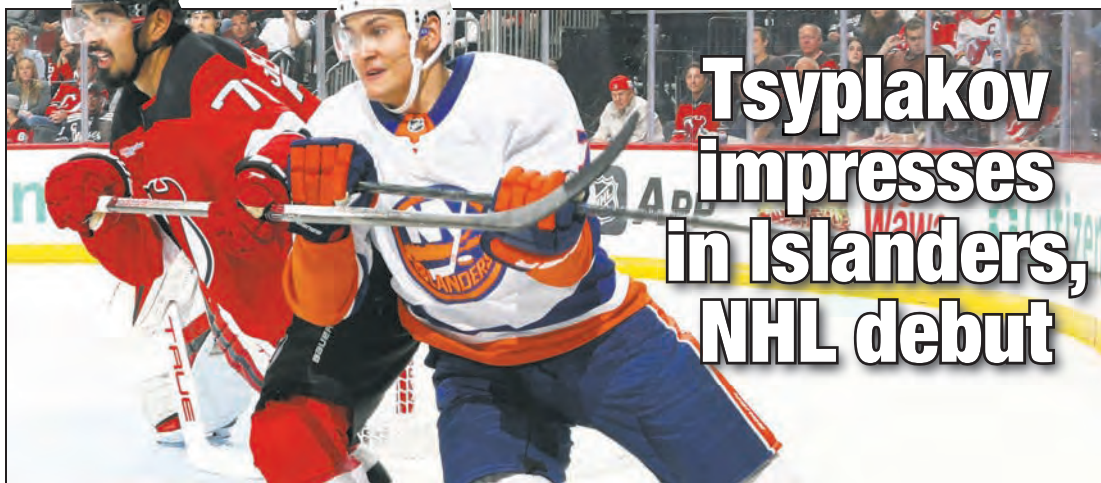
But then again, everyone could afford him some grace. This was his first game in North America, after all.

A winger who's played his career up until now in the KHL, Tsyplakov came into camp as perhaps the biggest unknown on the roster. A preseason game is just one data point, and not an especially strong one, but the picture is a little clearer after the Russian skated 12:21 in the Isles' 4-2 victory over the Devils.

"Little bit harder first shift. First and second shift, I think, I didn't like because the puck is loose," Tsyplakov said. "After is much better. [I] understand how to play, I'm good."

The night had indeed threatened to turn sour on Tsyplakov's first shift — where he turned the puck over on the penalty kill leading directly to a Nico Hischier goal. But he made up for that as the game

MAX' EFFORT



Tsyplakov impresses in Islanders, NHL debut

POINT TO PROVE: Maxim Tsyplakov skates with the Devils' Jonas Siegenthaler during the third period of Sunday night's preseason game.

Getty Images

went on by showing some skill as a power forward, protecting the puck well and dishing a smooth no-look assist on Julien Gauthier's second-period goal.

"I know my plan," Tsyplakov said of the assist, which came via a three-on-one rush. "I need to look like shoot and the D believed me. I can pass."

The way-too-early book on Tsyplakov — based on training camp practices as well as Sunday night — is that he'll add some net-front presence and physicality to the lineup. But exactly how much and exactly where in the lineup it makes sense to slot him is still up in the air.

During camp, however, his team-

mates have been impressed with how Tsyplakov operates down low. "He's got a big body, it's pretty hard to move him," Alexander Romanov said earlier this week. "He's got speed and power."

"Really strong," Noah Dobson said. "He's like an ox out there. He's thick, he's big, he knows how to protect his body well. He's gonna

be tough to handle. Similar load to [Anders Lee] — down low, in front of the net, he's a big load. Hard to handle."

"I spend the summers here, but [he] was kind of advertised," Kyle Palmieri said. "You knew he was gonna be a big, strong player the way he plays the game. I really enjoy watching him play. Obviously, first couple days of camp we haven't done a ton of line rushes and things like that. I think for him, I've watched his game over the last couple weeks and there's a lot to like about it."

Tsyplakov also saw both power play and penalty kill minutes Sunday, though the PK obviously did not go as planned. Roy blamed himself for that, since Tsyplakov hadn't gotten four-on-five reps in camp.

All in all, call it an encouraging — if imperfect — debut.

That is just fine for the Islanders, who are hoping they've added an effective, goal-scoring, middle-six winger in Tsyplakov at just \$950,000 on a one-year deal for this season before becoming a restricted free agent.

Don't be fooled by the contract length, either. Tsyplakov worked in Moscow this summer with an English teacher to hone his skill with the language. This is where he wants to be.

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Isles notes / Page 35

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Blue Advantage

By MOLLIE WALKER

Rangers training camp is well underway, with the first exhibition game scheduled for Sunday night and a new face on the right wing of Chris Kreider and Mika Zibanejad.

Like clockwork, Reilly Smith was acquired from the Penguins on July 1 to fill a void that has been occupied by several other faces — new and old — over eight years. There's no need to count them anymore, or list their names. Everybody knows it's an extensive list of players of all different skills and backgrounds.

Is that at all intimidating to Smith as he prepares to make his Blueshirts debut?

"I don't think so," he told The Post after an intrasquad scrimmage with the non-game group Sunday. "They're obviously tremendously skilled players and there's players who have had success [with them], but success kind of rides in waves in the NHL. Sometimes, it's hard to keep that for a full season.

"My job here is just to play it game by game and do what I can. If I'm playing with them, or anyone else, my goal is to try and help the team win."

In all likelihood, Smith will open the 2024-25 season as RW1. The challenge that comes with joining two players who have been skating on a line together for years, he said, is reading off them quickly.

Chemistry isn't going to develop overnight, but Smith said he's trying to be diligent about being aware of what Kreider and Zibanejad are doing, what they're trying to do and what they're thinking out on the ice. So far, Smith said he thinks the two are reading well off him.

"They're two unbelievable players," Smith said. "I think their body of work over their career speaks for itself. Anyone in this locker room is a joy to be able to play with them. Whether it's those two guys or anyone else, I'm going to do my best to complement their game."

Smith had a long summer after the Penguins didn't make the play-



Crash course

Smith latest in line to try to mesh with Kreider, Zibanejad

NEXT! Over the past eight years, the Rangers have tried a number of players on the first line to complement Chris Kreider and Mika Zibanejad. Reilly Smith is the latest, accepting the challenge after being acquired by the Blueshirts via trade in July.

Robert Sabo

offs last season, during which the 33-year-old posted 13 goals and 27 assists in 76 games. Just one season prior, Smith was hoisting the Stanley Cup with the Vegas Golden Knights as one of the organization's first members.

On the first day of training camp, he expressed excitement to join a competitive team like the Rangers.

"I think my role is contingent on how I play, and it can be ever expanding with what I can bring to the table," Smith said. "You try to put your best product on the ice and try to mesh with guys as quickly as possible. There's a lot of

new people, and we're trying to add a lot of structure in."

The expectation is for Smith to join the Rangers' No. 3-ranked penalty kill from last season, which is a key part of the Ontario native's game.

Like a few Rangers PKers, Smith has spent a lot of time on the power play in his career and credits that for his shorthanded success. Over the course of 13 seasons, he's collected 13 shorthanded goals. The Rangers had eight as a team last season.

"I love playing the extra minutes on the penalty kill," he said. "I think

it helps me, for sure. I like being able to create offense on the penalty kill, as well. Last year was tough not getting the amount of minutes that I was used to. Hopefully I get that opportunity here and I can run with it. Playing against the Rangers last year, they created — at least against us — as much offense as we did on the power play. It's exciting to be able to join that group and a penalty kill that's also offensive minded."

The 13-year NHL veteran is also not the first in his family to walk the MSG Training Center halls.

His brother, Brendan Smith,

spent parts of five seasons in New York. He's now entering his first season with the Dallas Stars. Naturally, the two conversed about the elder brother's time with the Rangers, and Reilly actually got to know Kreider through Brendan.

"He always mentioned the Rangers being a world-class organization and looking after not only yourself, but also your family and just the day-to-day lifestyle," Smith said. "Things that can be a little tricky by being a professional athlete. He always had great things to say about this organization."

mwalker1@nypost.com

Mancini loudly answers Laviolette's challenge

By MOLLIE WALKER

RANGERS NOTES

There aren't many spots in the Rangers lineup up for grabs, but Peter Laviolette has issued a challenge to the expanded group to make noise and force the head coach to take notice.

Among a prospect-heavy lineup Sunday night in Boston, it was Victor Mancini who made an impression. In addition to scoring the team's first goal of the game and assisting on Filip Chytil's go-ahead score at the end of the first period, Mancini was involved in several different aspects of the game and made some strong defensive

plays in the 3-2 win over the Bruins.

Mancini, the Rangers' 159th-overall pick in 2022, got his first taste of professional hockey last season in Hartford. After three seasons at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, where he totaled four goals and 19 assists over 110 games, the right-handed defenseman posted three assists in seven games for the Wolf Pack in 2023-24.

The 22-year-old Mancini, who is projected to receive

top-four minutes in Hartford this upcoming season, also contributed three assists in 10 AHL playoff games.

Evaluating eyes were also sure to be on Brennan Othmann, who is certainly someone Laviolette's message is targeted at. Othmann threw some big hits Sunday night, in addition to tussling with the Bruins' Parker Wotherpoon.

"Had a good year last year," Laviolette said of Othmann, who had 49 points in 67 AHL games with the Hartford Wolf Pack last season. "Put up some points. Comes into camp this year and he'll get an opportunity to make

noise, as well."

With the skill set of a top-six player, Othmann's path to a lineup spot is obstructed due to a pretty set-in-stone first two Rangers lines. Mancini is also further down the defensive depth chart, but his development has picked up in the last year.

➤ Chytil posted a goal, an assist and six shots on goal in the preseason-opener.

The game-winning goal belonged to **Alex Belzile**, who has yet to play in a game for the Rangers despite signing a two-year deal in July 2023.

➤ Back in Tarrytown, another prospect was trying to create his own buzz. The Rangers' 134th-overall pick in 2020, **Brett Berard**, was positively noticeable in the Blueshirts intrasquad scrimmage Sunday.

"He's a worker," Laviolette said of Berard, who has yet to make his NHL debut. "He's competitive. He competes in battles and plays with a lot of juice. He did have a really good year offensively last year. He became somebody that they were counting on. Even last year, I thought he had a good year coming into training camp. This year, I think he's

looking to make an impression.

"When he does get [into an exhibition game] he's going to have the opportunity to show what he can do, so we'll put him in the right situations to do that."

Berard put up 25 goals and 23 assists for 48 points in 71 games last season with the Wolf Pack. It was his first full pro season after three at Providence College.

➤ Only six NHL regulars were in the Rangers lineup Sunday: Chytil, **Kaapo Kakko**, **Will Cuylle**, **Jimmy Vesey**, **Braden Schneider** and **Jonny Brodzinski**.

Senga will not pitch in regular season

By MIKE PUMA

Kodai Senga won't return to the Mets during the regular season following his abbreviated rehab start Saturday for Triple-A Syracuse.

The right-hander threw only 15 pitches in the start because of triceps tightness, according to manager Carlos Mendoza, ending any possibility he would rejoin the Mets in a limited capacity this week. The Mets were hopeful Senga might pitch in Milwaukee, either as an opener or reliever, during the final series of the regular season.

METS NOTES

Senga will continue throwing, but it's unclear what kind of timeline he is facing for a return and whether the Mets would consider him an option for October (provided the team reaches the postseason) at some point.

"Hopefully we're making those decisions, right?" Mendoza said before the Mets beat the Phillies, 2-1, on Sunday. "But I think it's safe to say that for the regular season he's not going to be a player for us ... we're not going to put him in a major league game until he clears all the steps."

Senga has spent the last two months rehabbing from a left calf strain that he sustained during his season debut on July 26. Senga was diagnosed with a shoulder strain early in spring training that placed him on the injured list to begin the season. During his buildup, the right-hander also had triceps tightness that delayed his schedule — he didn't begin pitching in minor league rehab games until late June.

► The **Francisco Lindor** watch reached a full week on Sunday with the shortstop's exclusion from the Mets starting lineup for a seventh straight game.

Lindor, who is dealing with lower back soreness, took grounders and swings in the batting cage before the game. Lindor said he was pleased with his workout and remains "optimistic" he will return this season.

Lindor said he still has to run bases and ideally would like to face live pitching before he can return to the lineup.

► **Luis Severino, David Peterson** and **Sean Manaea** will be the Mets starting pitchers for the three games in Atlanta, according to Mendoza. **Jose Quintana** will start Friday's series opener in Milwaukee.

THE JETS had just defeated — no, *dominated* — the Patriots, 24-3, in their home opener Thursday night.

And about 20 minutes after the game in the bowels of MetLife Stadium, there was a buzz around the entrance to the Jets locker room. Celebrities, such as Ice Spice and her entourage, milled in and out of the room to glad-hand the winners.



Mark Cannizzaro

Then Christopher Johnson, the co-owner and vice chairman of the Jets, emerged from the room to head home. He had a relieved, not celebratory, look on his face.

When I congratulated him, he indicated with a weary smile that he still had "some PTSD" from all the years of losing to the Patriots.

Surely, there are many scarred Jets fans who feel the same way — unsure of whether to rejoice in having a team that may actually compete not only for a first playoff berth since 2010, but for more.

It is, of course, early.

And the Patriots, with Tom Brady and Bill Belichick distant memories, are a young, rebuilding team that will likely finish in the bottom fifth of the league by year's end.

But there should be no apologies for winning, regardless of the strength of the opponent.

"It was good to win a game like that," coach Robert Saleh said after the win over New England. "Obviously, we know we've all been on the other side of it too, right?"

Right.

The story at the moment as the Jets were off over the weekend before returning to work Monday to prepare for their Week 4 game against the Broncos on Sunday, is how they deftly navigated their way through the first three games in 11 days and won two of them.

Two is what the Jets were supposed to win among those three. They were not expected to go to San Francisco and knock off the defending NFC champion 49ers.

They were, however, expected to take care of business against the Titans, with shaky second-year quarterback Will Levis a liability, and against the talent-challenged Patriots.

And they did. That's what good teams do. They take care of the games they're supposed to win.

"The schedulers made it difficult for us first three weeks — three games in 11 days — and although we'd love to be 3-0, I think if you said 2-1 going into the mini bye, we would be feeling pretty good about things," Aaron Rodgers said.

The Jets are far from great, but they have potential to get there with Rodgers at quarterback and a



WHAT A DIFFERENCE: So far this season with Aaron Rodgers at quarterback, the Jets have scored three offensive touchdowns in each of their first three games. They only scored three offensive TDs in three of their 17 games last year.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

'0' WHAT A FEELING

Vibe around Jets changing quickly with newfound ability to score points

strong roster around him.

The Jets have scored three offensive touchdowns in each of their first three games. In 17 games last season, they did that only three times. In 2022, they did it five times.

They're averaging 22.3 points per game this season, which ranks a modest 14th in the league. This is a twisting of statistics, but had they scored 22 points in four of their 10 losses last season, they'd have won those games and been 11-6 instead of 7-10.

One thing you feel from this Jets team — largely because of the presence of Rodgers — is that they have not been satisfied after their two wins.

For example, receiver Garrett Wilson, the perhaps the team's most dynamic player, has yet to break out. He has a modest 15 receptions for 150 yards and a TD

and is still building chemistry with Rodgers.

The Jets haven't ever had a two-headed running back tandem as diverse and dangerous as the elusive Breece Hall and rookie bulldozer Braelon Allen. They've proven to be a formidable duo, combining for 266 rushing yards and three TDs in the first three games.

And for as immeasurable an upgrade as he's been behind center for the Jets in memory, Rodgers hasn't come close to touching the peak of his powers through the first three games. He's still getting acclimated with the players around him after having missed all of 2023 with the Achilles tear.

And that's something to be noted considering that his numbers have been excellent — 58 of 86 for a 67.4-percent completion rate with five TDs and one INT and a 103.1 rating.

"This was kind of the first step ... playing like I know I'm capable of playing," Rodgers said of the Thursday game. "It felt like I was myself [from] quite a few years ago."

Coming from a four-time league MVP, that's saying something.

There should be better to come for the Jets. And there needs to be, because after playing Denver on Sunday, the degree of difficulty in the schedule rises.

"If the expectation is winning, then we're going to celebrate it, but we should expect a win," Rodgers said. "The next step is expecting to dominate."

If it ever comes to that for the Jets — consistent domination — then that "PTSD" suffered by the likes of Christopher Johnson will gradually disappear and morph into a very different emotion.

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CLEVELAND — The team that does not specialize in applying pressure via the blitz changed things up and that made all the difference.

"I mean, they switched up the game plan," Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson said Sunday, after he finally picked himself up off the turf after a hard day's work at Huntington Bank Field.

GIANTS NOTES

The Giants sacked Watson eight times and hit him 17 times, severe punishment that had Browns fans booing and jeering as the Giants went on the road and notched their first victory of the season, 21-15.

Defensive coordinator Shane Bowen is not known for heavy blitz packages, preferring to rely on establishing pressure up front with his four defensive linemen. The Browns started out double-teaming both edge players, Brian Burns and Kayvon Thibodeaux, and Bowen adjusted by sending pressure up the middle, where Dexter Lawrence was dominating anyway.

"We knew there would be opportunities to get home

Giants' adjustments on 'D' wallop Watson



BRING THE PAIN: Giants rookie Elijah Chatman recovers a fumble by Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson on Sunday, caused by a strip-sack by Brian Burns. USA TODAY Sports

because he's a dynamic player, he looks for the big play, he likes to extend play," Burns said. "We just kept in our minds to stay relentless and stay in the rush and

that's kind of what we did."

Lawrence led the charge with two sacks and nine different players had their hands on the eight sacks. Watson did not help himself

by holding onto the ball far too long, at times seemingly unaware where the rush was coming from. Burns blew by left tackle Dawand Jones on a strip-sack late in the sec-

ond quarter, recovered by rookie Elijah Chatman, leading to a Giants touchdown with 11 seconds remaining in the first half. Chatman, an undrafted rookie from SMU, notched his first NFL sack in the first quarter.

"It's kinda just instinct when you're coming around the edge," Burns said of his strip-sack. "I felt like he was getting ready to wind up and I just waited a little bit and aimed for his arm, got the ball out."

Burns was listed as questionable going into the game, added to the injury report late last week with a groin issue. He went through a thorough workout prior to the game.

"I kind of always felt like I was going to play," Burns said. "I'm not going to play until I really just can't play."

► Rookie WR **Malik Nabers** (8-78, 2 TDs) became the first player in NFL history with 20 receptions and three touchdown receptions in his first three games.

"Just hard work," Nabers said. "Dabes [coach **Brian Daboll**] cooking up a lot of plays for me, the offense trusting me to get that done. It shows how much we want to be an explosive offense and I'm a key factor in that offense."

► Rookie CB **Dru Phillips** has been one of the top players on defense but he went out in the first quarter with a calf injury. A calf injury also sidelined CB **Adoree' Jackson** in the second half. The Giants got beat up a bit, with LB **Micah McFadden** (back) and WR **Darius Slayton** (thumb) both forced out in the second half. McFadden was able to return.

Starting CB **Nick McCloud** (knee) was unavailable for the second consecutive game. The other inactive were S **Anthony Johnson**, CB **Tre Hawkins**, OLB **Benton Whitley**, OLB **Boogie Basham** and G **Jake Kubas**.

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MAGIC MAN

Number to clinch falls to 1 with Judge-powered win

By GREG JOYCE

OAKLAND, Calif. — In his final game at the Coliseum, Aaron Judge played emperor, with the Yankees takeover of the East nearly complete.

Taking the field for the last time at a stadium that holds special meaning for him, before the A's bolt for Sacramento and eventually Las Vegas, the Northern California native added another chapter to his special season.

Judge crushed a home run for the second straight day

YANKEES 7
ATHLETICS 4

Boxscore
Page 36

— extending his major league lead to 55 — added a double that keyed a rally and scored another run to send the Yankees to a sweep of the A's with a 7-4 win in front of 24,663 on Sunday afternoon.

“Ending it with a sweep is my favorite thing,” Judge said after going 2-for-3 with a pair of walks.

Jasson Dominguez and Gleyber Torres also homered as the Yankees (92-64) flew home on the verge of winning the division.

After an off day Monday, they will need just one win over the Orioles during their three-game series that begins Tuesday in The Bronx to clinch the AL East. The Yankees will enter the series leading the Orioles by a season-high six games with six games to play, their magic number to win the division down to one.

“We’re focused,” manager Aaron Boone said. “Everyone in that room knows what’s at stake and what the mission is and where we’re at in the calendar and the opportunity in front of us. I think guys are ready to do what we got to do to win ballgames and give ourselves a chance come October.”

The Yankees also have a magic number of three (with a 2½-game lead over the Guardians) to secure the best record in the American League, which would give them home-field advantage through the ALCS.

Sunday’s win capped a 5-1 road trip, which included clinching a postseason berth Wednesday in Seattle, as the Yankees went 12-3 across their two West Coast swings this season.

“We play well on the road,” Judge said after the Yankees finished the regular

season 50-31 on the road — their most road wins since 2003. “Coming out of here 5-1 is big, especially going into the last homestand. Magic number is down to one. Let’s just go take care of business now.”

Things got interesting late Sunday as Clay Holmes entered in the eighth inning to protect a 6-4 lead and put the first two runners on before recording an out.

Boone then called on Luke Weaver, who struck out a pair to get out of the jam and finished off the five-out save in the ninth — his fourth of the season.

Luis Gil was not his sharpest, giving up four runs on five hits and three walks across 5⅓ innings. He left with a pair of runners on in the sixth inning and a 5-2 lead, but both runs came around to score when Ian Hamilton gave up a double to pinch hitter Ryan Noda.

But the Yankees gave Gil enough run support to record his 15th win after entering the rotation late in spring training as an injury replacement for Gerrit Cole.

“I’m extremely happy and satisfied about that,” Gil said through an interpreter. “When you think about it, to win 15 games, I wanted to come into camp and help this team as much as possible. So it’s a great feeling, great experience.”

It was a 2-2 game in the third inning, when Judge, a native of Linden (roughly 80 miles from the Coliseum), belted a solo shot to dead-center field off right-hander Joey Estes for the 3-2 lead.

Judge had taken batting practice with the Yankees here back in 2013, shortly after they drafted him with their first-round pick, and now he was closing out his Coliseum career in style.

“It’s definitely sad,” said Judge, who has belted four home runs in nine games since going a career-high 16 games without one. “I have a lot of great memories here as a player. Came here a couple times as a kid, so I’ll reminisce on that a little bit. But there’s a lot of history in this building.”

“A lot of special players played here, and just getting a chance to be on that same field and do some things, it’s definitely something I won’t forget.”

gjoyce@nypost.com



**UP NEXT**

vs. Orioles

TUESDAY: 7:05 p.m., YES

WEDNESDAY: 7:05 p.m., YES

THURSDAY: 7:05 p.m., YES

WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

HOMETOWN HERO: Aaron Judge doubled and homered Sunday in the Yankees’ 7-4 win over the A’s in what was the captain’s final appearance at the Coliseum in Oakland, Calif. The A’s will play in Sacramento next season before eventually moving to Las Vegas.

Cary Edmondson/Imagn

Montefiore Einstein

Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

Pec issue lands key righty on IL

By GREG JOYCE

OAKLAND, Calif. — Jake Cousins' pec issue went from being a "couple-day thing" to being a 15-day injured list stint.

On Sunday, the Yankees placed Cousins on the IL with a right pec strain and called up Clayton Beeter to fill his spot in the bullpen.

Cousins had emerged as an important high-leverage arm in the Yankees' late-inning mix and match, but he will now be out for at least the rest of the regular season. The hope is he can return for the playoffs, though that will likely depend on his visit Monday with team physician Dr. Chris Ahmad.

"We're hoping it's a minor enough that a couple days down and then start ramping up next week to be in line for the playoffs," manager Aaron Boone said Sunday morning before the Yankees finished off a sweep of the A's at the Coliseum. "We didn't want to get in a situation to where ... say he comes into a game Tuesday and he isn't quite right, then we got to IL him and then we're up against it from a time situation. So we'll see what we have."

Boone is hoping Cousins can get back on a mound as early as next week.

The IL stint is retroactive to Friday, meaning the right-hander will be eligible to be activated Oct. 5 — the day the ALDS begins — at the earliest.

Cousins last pitched Thursday in Seattle but only threw six pitches before he walked off the mound with a trainer. He said he had been dealing with pec tightness for a few days but had felt enough improvement to give it a go.

In 37 appearances this season, Cousins posted a 2.37 ERA with some much needed swing-and-miss —



MISSIN' COUSINS: Yankees reliever Jake Cousins landed on the 15-day IL with a right pec strain, which will keep him out of action until at least the end of the regular season.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

53 strikeouts in 38 innings.

Lou Trivino would have been an option to replace Cousins, but he was recently shut down with a shoulder issue while finishing out his rehab assignment coming back from UCL surgery.

Boone said he did not have the specifics of what exactly is wrong with Trivino's shoulder.

Beeter, meanwhile, missed nearly four months with a shoulder injury (that once looked like it might require surgery) but

returned two weeks ago as a reliever with strong results. In five appearances between Double-A and Triple-A, the right-hander threw seven shut-out innings with 12 strikeouts and no walks.

"It's been kind of exciting," Boone said. "His last few

outings at Triple-A have been kind of lights out. Excited to get him here and see what he can do in these final games. He's got really good stuff. He could be a factor."

AL EAST			
Team	W-L	GB	
1. Yankees [*]	92-64	—	
2. Orioles	86-70	6.0	

^{*} Clinched playoff spot



THE KID IS ALL RIGHT: Jasson Dominguez hit a game-tying two-run home run Sunday as part of a 7-4 win over the A's that dropped the Yankees' magic number to clinch the AL East to one game.

Cary Edmondson/Imagn

Dominguez: Everything matters in playoff race

By GREG JOYCE

OAKLAND, Calif. — When Jasson Dominguez starred in his eight-game cameo last September, the Yankees were playing for next to nothing.

This time around, the stakes are elevated, and after a quiet start, the 21-year-old outfielder may be starting to find his sea legs.

Dominguez drilled a game-tying two-run home run Sunday, his second homer of the road trip, to help the Yankees capture a 7-4 win over the A's that finished off a sweep at the Coliseum.

"Last year, we weren't even close to the playoffs," Dominguez said before the Yankees flew back to New York for their final homestand of the regular season. "But this year, everything matters. Everything that you do matters. For sure it's different. The preparation is different."

Dominguez now has reached base safely in nine of his 11 games since being called up from Tri-

YANKEES NOTES

ple-A. He had a rough road trip defensively, allowing a pair of balls he should have caught to drop during the series against the Mariners. But he bookended the trip with his first two home runs of the season.

The one Sunday came in the second inning after the A's had taken a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first.

"It means a lot [to contribute]," Dominguez said. "That's what you're trying to do — you're trying to contribute to the team in one way or another. So it means a lot to be able to help the team in any way."

► For the second straight start, **Luis Gil** struggled with his command in the first inning before settling in. He issued a pair of walks that both came around to score on a double by **Tyler Soderstrom** to put the Yankees in an early hole, though he was able to get through 5 1/3 innings while giving

up four runs.

"I felt like he never got in a great rhythm necessarily, but like always, he's difficult to hit if he can limit the walks and be in the strike zone enough," manager **Aaron Boone** said. "That first inning, the last few, it's been a bugaboo for him."

► **Gleyber Torres** roped the first pitch of the game up the middle for a single and later homered in the fifth inning. He now has reached base safely in 21 of his past 22 games and 43 of his past 45 games. Over his past 45 games (since Aug. 2), he is batting .301 with five doubles and six home runs.

Torres led off all three games of the A's series with a single.

► **Tim Hill** continued to be a weapon from the left side, retiring the side on five pitches in the seventh inning. ... **Alex Verdugo** entered the game in the eighth inning as a defensive replacement for Dominguez in left field.

SENSE OF RELIEF

By MIKE PUMA

The idea of arriving to Atlanta for the penultimate series of the regular season with just a mathematical chance for the playoffs likely would have been palatable to the Mets when they last departed that city in April.

METS	2	Boxscore Page 36
PHILLIES	1	

Now the Mets get the bonus package.

They are in the driver's seat.

The last piece of business before the much-anticipated series was handled Sunday night, when the Mets got a shutdown bullpen performance in a 2-1 victory over the Phillies before a sellout crowd of 43,139 at Citi Field in the regular-season home finale.

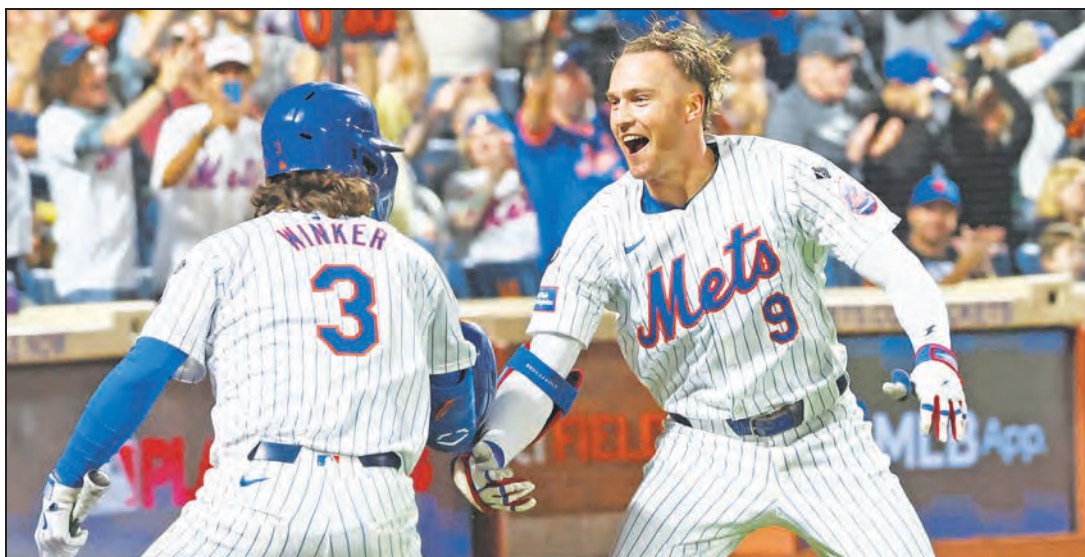
Next stop is Atlanta, with a National League wild card berth there for the taking.

As Edwin Diaz completed the final out of his two-inning save, the Mets' two-game lead over the Braves for the NL's third wild card was secure. Two victories in three games at Truist Park (since the Mets would hold the tiebreaker based on head-to-head with the Braves) will guarantee the Mets their second postseason appearance in three years.

"It's a beautiful thing," Brandon Nimmo said. "But we've worked really hard to get into this position [and] the job is not done. There's just as much pressure on the next game as there was in this one. ... You just have to enjoy the moment. It's going to be a lot of fun in Atlanta."

Still in play for the Mets is the NL's second wild card (for which they are tied with Arizona). And if winning three of four against the Phillies wasn't big enough, there was the

Nimmo, bullpen lift Mets to series win over Phils ahead of Braves showdown



HAVING A BLAST! Brandon Nimmo celebrates with Jesse Winker after his 351-foot solo home run in the sixth inning of the Mets' 2-1 win over the Phillies on Sunday. Edwin Diaz (right), reacts after striking out Kody Clemens for the final out

Robert Sabo (2)

satisfaction of letting a hated rival take its NL East-title celebration elsewhere (Philadelphia needs one victory or a Mets loss to clinch).

Phil Maton, Jose Butto and Diaz combined for five scoreless innings of relief on this night and Nimmo launched a go-ahead homer against Zack Wheeler in the sixth as the Mets completed a 6-1 homestand.

"We just have to go [to Atlanta] and win the series," Diaz said. "If we win the series we will be fine."

Manager Carlos Mendoza said

he was unsure if he would use Diaz for the ninth until after the star closer had gotten three outs in only 11 pitches in the eighth. Diaz also pitched 1 1/3 innings on Saturday.

"We've been protecting him the whole year, but now it's big boy time and he's our guy," Mendoza said.

Mendoza was asked how it felt to know if the Mets win the next series they will be in the playoffs.

"I don't want to get too far ahead," Mendoza said. "We have to enjoy the fact we won this series against a really good team. Enjoy the [off]

day and then we'll be ready."

Pete Alonso, in potentially his final home game with the Mets — he is set to hit free agency after the season — received a standing ovation upon coming to the plate in the first inning. The Mets slugger raised his helmet to acknowledge the crowd before taking a called third strike. Alonso went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts.

Taylor Megill ran into pitch-count trouble and was removed after only four innings in which he allowed one run on four hits and two

walks with six strikeouts. It was the second time in his last four starts that Megill (who threw 83 pitches) lasted only four innings.

Megill needed 35 pitches through a first inning in which he allowed one run and left the bases loaded. Alec Bohm delivered an RBI single to give the Phillies a 1-0 lead after Trea Turner had singled and reached second on a wild pitch. Nick Castellanos singled following Bohm's hit and Bryson Stott walked to load the bases before J.T. Realmuto was retired.

Tyrone Taylor stroked an RBI single in the second to tie it 1-1. Mark Vientos stroked a two-out double against Wheeler before Taylor delivered. Luisangel Acuna's swinging bunt put runners on the corners with two outs but Wheeler rallied to strike out Jose Iglesias (whose single in the first inning extended his hitting streak to 16 games).

Megill escaped trouble in the fourth by retiring Johan Rojas after surrendering a two-out single to Castellanos and walking Brandon Marsh with two outs.

Nimmo jumped on Wheeler's first pitch in the sixth inning and cleared the right-field fence to give the Mets a 2-1 lead. The homer was Nimmo's 22nd of the season and third in his last six games.

"We are having a lot of fun," Megill said. "We're hungry, and keep going."

mpuma@nypost.com

More Mets / Page 48

Diaz rises to occasion — with a little help from 3B bag

By DAN MARTIN

The Mets have been careful with Edwin Diaz for much of the season after the closer missed all of last season following knee surgery.

Those days are over now that the team needs every win it can get.

And against the Phillies, the closer delivered two games in a row.

After getting the final four outs in Saturday's win, Diaz was tested even more in Sunday's 2-1 victory, as he

was tasked with getting his first six-out save of the season.

Diaz pitched a scoreless eighth against the top of the Phillies lineup and then pitched around a pair of walks in the ninth, as the Mets held on.

The closer said he didn't necessarily expect to get both innings when he came in to start the eighth, but after an 11-pitch inning, in which he struck out Kyle Schwarber and Bryce Harper, Carlos Mendoza

asked Diaz to get the ninth.

"I made the decision to go to him in the eighth," Mendoza said. "I wanted my best guy against their best hitters and let it play out."

Afterwards, he checked with Diaz and told him, "It's your game."

Diaz walked Bryson Stott with one out and Stott stole second. As J.T. Realmuto struck out for the second out, Stott took off for third and Francisco Alvarez's throw hit the bag and bounced away.

Luckily for the Mets, it didn't go far and Stott remained at third.

Alvarez's throw could just have easily bounced into left field, which would have allowed Stott to score and tie the game.

Instead, after Brandon Marsh walked and stole second, Diaz got Kody Clemens swinging to end the game.

The Mets are off Monday and Mendoza said he would have to see if Diaz would be available for the series opener against the Braves in

Atlanta on Tuesday.

Diaz, though, said he felt good.

"I'll be ready for Tuesday," Diaz said. "We [have been] playing playoff games since early September and I've been feeling really good."

The only other time Diaz pitched two innings this season — also scoreless — he struggled and gave up nine earned runs and three homers in his next eight appearances.

"You look back, you protect him the whole year and

early on stayed away from back-to-back [appearances] because of situations like this," Mendoza said. "He's coming off a major injury and struggled at the beginning of the season. But he's an elite closer, one of the best in the game."

And he's pitching like it now.

"What we're seeing lately with him is his 2022 form," Mendoza said. "And here we are, needing everything out of everybody and he's giving it to us."

Polar Bear taken aback by unexpected ovation from Citi faithful

POSTSEASON 2024			
NL WILD CARD			
Team	W-L	GB	
1. Padres	90-66	+3.0	
2. Mets	87-69	—	
2. D'backs	87-69	—	
4. Braves	85-71	2.0	

SAYING THANKS: In what may have been his last regular season game as a Met at Citi Field, Pete Alonso tips his cap to the fans before his first at-bat in the first inning. Alonso went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts.

Jason Szenes

By DAN MARTIN

Pete Alonso came to the plate to a standing ovation from much of the sold-out Citi Field crowd in the bottom of the first in what could have been his final game there as a Met.

The first baseman said the reaction caught him off guard, so much so that he didn't know what to do.

Alonso said home plate umpire John Libka had a message for him when he got into the box.

"John said, 'Are you gonna tip your cap or something? I can give you time,'" Alonso said after the Mets' 2-1 win over Philadelphia. "I said, 'What?' I was worried about my at-bat, but [thought] 'Yeah, I should.' I'm happy John reminded me."

It was the first of four loud ovations for Alonso, who is headed to free agency for the first time.

If things go well for the Mets over the next couple of weeks, though, he could be back again.

And Sunday's win over the Phillies helped their cause, since Alonso said he had a similar mentality as Carlos Mendoza: He's wasn't looking at Sunday's game as anything final in Queens.

The Mets are two games ahead of the Braves for the final NL wild card with the series between the two set to begin

in Atlanta on Tuesday and asked about Sunday potentially being his final game at Citi Field, Alonso said beforehand, "In my mind, it isn't."

In order for the Mets to play at Citi Field again, they would likely have to make it to the NLDS, since all the wild card series games are at the higher seed.

"I'm really excited for this opportunity that we worked so hard for this year," Alonso said. "Today is not about me. This about us and who we are. This is about the 2024 Mets. From where we've come as a group, we've come so far. We just need to finish."

It's something they didn't do in 2022 when a three-game sweep at the hands of the Braves in Atlanta in the middle of September helped cost the Mets a division title.

Alonso is confident they will close strong on the road this time around to secure a wild card spot.

Following Monday's off day, the Mets will see how the '24 season will end up.

"I'm excited," Alonso said. "We're playing meaningful baseball. This is what we prepared for all year and now it's here. Now we've got to go do it."

Since the end of May, the Mets still have the best record in the majors, which also has Alonso and the Mets feeling good with a week left.

"We've played excellent baseball for a really long time now," Alonso said. "And I think people are gonna think of the 2024 Mets with 'Oh my God' or Grimeace, but the one word that for me comes to mind is 'resilient.' We've earned the right to be in this position and to be a part of this group has been really, really special."

Sunday was another example, even if Alonso went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts.

"It was incredible, storybook stuff right there," Alonso said of the fan reaction. "It's remarkable to see and feel that appreciation from a packed house like that."

And it was better that it came in another victory.

"That was a gritty team win," Alonso said. "This is what our identity is. A game like this shows who the 2024 Mets are."

They've put themselves in a good spot heading into the last week.

"We've done a really good job this series [against the Phillies] of playing quality baseball so far," the first baseman said. "We just need to take it day by day. We've really built ourselves a wonderful opportunity. It's an honor to play with this team. It's sick putting on the orange and blue every day. I love it."

dan.martin@nypost.com



at Braves

TUESDAY: 7:20 p.m., SNY

WEDNESDAY: 7:20 p.m., SNY

THURSDAY: 7:20 p.m., SNY

WHSQ (880 AM)

ny REPORT CARD

OFFENSE

Can we split this up into two grades — first and second half? There were touchdowns on three of four possessions in the first half and **Daniel Jones** (24 of 34, 236 yards, 2 TDs, passer rating of 109.4) was making like a point guard and distributing the rock. Looking for **Malik Nabers** (8-78, 2 TDs) is always a smart move. Things really got bottled up after halftime. Another bad fumble by **Devin Singletary** (16-65). LT **Andrew Thomas** did not let Myles Garrett (one tackle, three QB hits) wreck the game, which is not easy to do. **B**

DEFENSE

This was a big-boy performance and Deshaun Watson never knew what hit him. There were eight sacks and nine different players had a hand in them. Dominant **Dexter Lawrence** had an early sack and then got his second chasing Watson in the second quarter, forcing an intentional grounding penalty. First impact play with his new team for **Brian Burns** on a strip-sack. Browns ground game (69 yards) went nowhere. Kudos to rookie **Elijah Chatman** for his first NFL sack. **Azeez Ojulari** had a huge fumble recovery midway through the fourth quarter and added one sack and two QB hits. **A**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Eric Gray fumbled away the opening kickoff, which is an inexcusable way to start a game. **Bryce Ford-Wheaton** had a lunging tackle on James Proche on **Jamie Gillan's** 57-yard punt to limit the return to a mere three yards. Gillan's net average was 51.6 yards but he over-hit a 67-yarder that bounced into the end zone in the fourth quarter. New kicker **Greg Joseph** could have iced the game but he missed a 48-yard field goal in the fourth quarter. **B-**

COACHING

Incredibly gutsy move by **Brian Daboll** to go for it on his own 43-yard line, down 7-0, midway through the first quarter and his boldness was rewarded. Daboll's play-calling was expertly diverse in the first half and you could tell he was feeling it. Defensive coordinator **Shane Bowen** ratcheted up the pressure on Watson and it rattled the veteran quarterback. **A-**

— **Paul Schwartz**

WON GIANT

More victories will come with complete

THE GIANTS were dead, and you hadn't even cracked open your first game-day beverage yet. The bean dip was still wrapped, the Frito bag still sealed. It wasn't even a quarter after one yet, and you might've thought about scouring the other games on TV, maybe checked out the Liberty-Dream playoff game, or Braves-Marlins on MLB Network.

On the opening kickoff, the Giants' Eric Gray had fumbled the ball away. On the Browns' first play from scrimmage, Deshaun Watson had connected with Amari Cooper for a 24-yard touchdown. On the Giants' fifth play from scrimmage Daniel Jones threw the ball right to Cleveland's Ronnie Hickman, again at the Giants 24.

"Oh look! A 'Matrix' marathon on AMC! I'm in!"

And that's when a funny thing happened.

There was a flag on the field. The crowd of 68,616, who'd done nothing but scream themselves silly so far at Cleveland's Huntington Bank Field, went silent. Greg Newsome's hand had connected with Daniel Jones' helmet. In 1964, that might've only amped the din to preposterous levels.

In 2024, it's 15 yards.

And in the moment — in that instant — it wasn't just the football game that flipped upside down, but also the way we might have to look at these Giants. They scored a touchdown 7 ½ minutes later, Devin Singletary bullying over from the 1. Jones hooked up with rookie wonderkind Malik Nabers twice before halftime for a 21-7 lead.

They hung on to win 21-15. There were some terrifying moments along the way. None of them mattered as they walked off the field.

"We showed a lot of resiliency," Giants coach Brian Daboll said. "Particularly how it



BURNS NOTICE: Brian Burns forces Deshaun Watson to fumble the ball, which the Giants recovered, during the first half of Big Blue's 21-15 win over the Browns. **AP**

started. But the guys competed, kept competing, and I'm proud of them."

Suddenly, they weren't a social media punching bag anymore (even if they gave most of their fans acid indigestion until the very last minutes of the fourth quarter).

If the first few minutes inspired any #LOLGiants memes, they were quickly deleted. What followed across the final 54 minutes and 51 seconds was as sound as you can administer on a football field, especially on the road. Forget the score. Remember what you saw. Remember what you watched.

"Once you get hot, stay hot," said Dexter Lawrence, ferocious all day, responsible for two of the Giants' eight sacks and one of their five tackles for a loss. "Don't lose focus. Just got to keep stacking them now."

He meant wins. This was the first. There will be others if they throw more complete games like the one they did Sunday — certainly more than seemed logical after the way they lost their first two.

They made Watson more than grossly ineffective, they made him look frightened, unsure of where the next battering was coming from.



Jones 'locked in' after solid game versus

By STEVE SERBY

CLEVELAND — Now get off Daniel Jones' back.

Because Jones has found something.

Mostly, he has found Malik Nabers.

"He's made a lot of big plays for us and I have a lot of trust in him going up and getting the ball," Jones said after Giants 21, Browns 15. "We need to continue to take advantage of his ability to make plays."

Behind an experienced offensive line (two sacks) that is

keeping him upright, Jones has been able to deliver the ball decisively to his playmakers, mainly Nabers, but Wan'Dale Robinson (7-61) and Devin Singletary (4-43) as well.

"We have lots of guys who are dangerous with the ball in their hands and making guys miss catch and run," Jones said. "I just try to give it to them and let them go."

The vul-

tures should no longer be circling Jones. He resembles a different quarterback than the disoriented opening day Jones (44.3 quarterback rating) against the Vikings. His QB rating against the Commanders was 100. It was 109.4 against the Browns.

"Had another good week," Brian Daboll said. "He's had two good weeks in a row. Handled the noise well. Good job not

turning the football over.

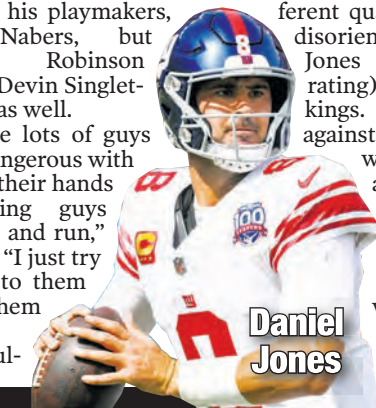
"He's locked in. And he's been that way."

Jones (24-36, 236 yards, 2 TDs, 20 rushing yards) lost some rhythm in the second half but left encouraged.

"We fought and played resilient football," Jones said.

Daboll and Jones kept the aggressive Browns defense on its heels with screens and misdirection and personnel creativity.

"We get a lot of screens, we get a lot of different plays because of our style, and we un-



STEP

efforts like this

Jones? Well, he was spared that early pick. He was saved another when Nabers made a ridiculous catch later on, which set up his first touchdown. But he was also terrific for a second straight game: 24-for-34, two touchdowns, no picks, a rating of 109.4.

And of course there was Nabers, shaking off his big drop from last week, making eight catches (off 12 targets), and on each one of them he threw off an Odell-ian vibe that he just might be able to do something a little extra, too.

"When you have a guy like that," Daboll said, "it doesn't matter about matchups. Throw the ball up to him and he's going to get it."

So far what we know is this: Daboll isn't wrong about any of that.

"We kept them on their heels," Jones said. "I thought we executed awfully well today."

Daboll: "Our guys already have internal confidence. But it's good to get results."

They would get them on this sunny afternoon a pooch punt away from Lake Erie, turning all those hopeful voices of 1:15 into endless cascades of boos by 4, and for the rest of the game in between. Watson was already on a hot seat; it's now crackling at about 212 degrees Fahrenheit. The Giants owned the line of scrimmage, both sides of the ball.

If you weren't able to fully exhale until Cedric Tillman dropped one of the few accurate strikes Watson threw all day, one that hit him between the "I" and the "9" on his jersey before bouncing harmlessly away ... well, that's just life in the NFL every week.

Believe what you saw. Believe what you watched. Most of all, believe that there's still plenty of football season left for a team for which that suddenly seems a blessing and not a sentence.

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Browns

derstand that," Browns head coach Kevin Stefanski said.

Jones never looked this confident last season. Credit to him for blocking out the outside noise.

"I think it always feels good to get a win, however it comes," Jones said. "First one is important, so we have to look at what we did well and build on it and clean up the things didn't do well."

He says that every week, win or lose. He absolutely needed to say it after a win.

TAKE THAT! Azeez Ojulari stands over Deshaun Watson after sacking the quarterback during the second half of the Giants' 21-15 victory over the Browns on Sunday. Ojulari recorded one of Big Blue's eight sacks of Watson. AP

Giants 21, Browns 15

Giants	7	14	0	0	—	21
Browns	7	0	0	8	—	15

First Quarter

Cle: Cooper 24 pass from Watson (Hopkins kick), 14:49. Drive: 1 play, 24 yards, 00:06.

Giants: Singletary 1 run (Joseph kick), 2:07. Drive: 13 plays, 81 yards, 7:44. Key Plays: Hickman 0 interception return to Giants 34; Dan.Jones 5 pass to Robinson on 3rd-and-6; Nabers 2 run on 4th-and-1; Dan.Jones 20 pass to Robinson; Dan.Jones 12 pass to Tracy; Dan.Jones 7 pass to Slayton on 3rd-and-3; Dan.Jones 23 pass to Singletary.

Second Quarter

Giants: Nabers 3 pass from Dan.Jones (Joseph kick), 1:44. Drive: 14 plays, 93 yards, 6:51. Key Plays: Dan.Jones 10 pass to Robinson on 3rd-and-2; Dan.Jones 14 pass to Nabers on 3rd-and-5; Dan.Jones 28 pass to Nabers; Dan.Jones 10 pass to Robinson.

Giants: Nabers 5 pass from Dan.Jones (Joseph kick), :11. Drive: 4 plays, 30 yards, 00:21. Key Play: Dan.Jones 12 pass to Nabers.

Fourth Quarter

Cle: Cooper 6 pass from Watson (Jeddy pass from Watson), 11:33. Drive: 5 plays, 49 yards, 2:07. Key Plays: J.Ford 12 run; Watson 14 run; Watson 12 pass to Jeddy.

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Giants, Singletary 16-65, Tracy 5-23, Jones 8-20, Nabers 2-4, Gray 1-0. Cleveland, J.Ford 10-37, Watson 4-26, Foreman 2-5, Winston 2-1.

Passing: Giants, Jones 24-34-0-236, Nabers 0-1-0-0. Cleveland, Watson 21-37-0-196.

Receiving: Giants, Nabers 8-78, Robinson 7-61, Singletary 4-43, Tracy 2-17, Bellinger 1-17, T.Johnson 1-13, Slayton 1-7. Cleveland, Cooper 7-86, Akins 4-29, Jeddy 4-27, J.Ford 3-33, Moore 2-17, Tillman 1-4.

Punt Returns: Giants, Smith-Marsette 2-19. Cleveland, Proche 5-38.

Kickoff Returns: Giants, Gray 2-52. Cleveland, None.

Tackles-Assists-Sacks: Giants, Flott 7-2-0, McFadden 5-1-.5, Banks 5-0-0, Simmons 3-1-0, Pinnock 2-5-1, Lawrence 2-1-2, Burns 2-1-1, Chatman 2-1-1, Thibodeaux 2-1-.5, Okereke 1-7-.5, Nubin 1-1-0, Belton 1-0-0, Nunez-Roches 0-5-.5, Ojulari 0-2-1, Davidson 0-1-0, Phillips 0-1-0. Cleveland, Delpit 5-5-0, Hicks 5-3-0, Emerson 5-2-0, Ward 5-1-0, Hickman 5-0-0, Owusu-Koramoah 4-5-0, Smith 3-1-1, Newsome 3-0-0, S.Harris 2-4-0, Okoronkwo 2-1-1, McLeod 1-2-0, Wright 1-1-0, Bush 1-0-0, Garrett 1-0-0, Jefferson 0-1-0, Kamara 0-1-0.

Interceptions: Giants, None. Cleveland, None.

Missed Field Goals: Giants, Joseph 48. Cleveland, Hopkins 53.

Officials: Referee Craig Wrolstad, Ump Steve Woods, HL Danny Short, LJ Brett Bergman, FJ Jeff Shears, SJ Frank Steratore, BJ Rich Martinez, Replay Gavin Anderson.

NYG	TEAM STATS	Cle	NYG	TEAM STATS	Cle
21	FIRST DOWNS	16	24-35	Completed-Att.	21-37
7	Rushing	7	0	Had Intercepted	0
13	Passing	7	6.162	Yards-Pass Play	3.289
1	Penalty	2	4-4-4	KICKOFFS-EZ-TB3	3-1
4-14	THIRD DOWN EFF	4-14	7-51.571	PUNTS-Avg.	6-51.0
1-1	FOURTH DOWN EFF	1-3	0	Punts blocked	0
340	TOTAL NET YARDS	217	0-0	FGs-PATs blocked	0-0
69	Total Plays	63	71	TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	38
4.9	Avg Gain	3.4	2-19	Punt Returns	5-38
112	NET YARDS RUSHING	69	2-52	Kickoff Returns	0-0
32	Rushes	18	0-0	Interceptions	0-0
3.5	Avg per rush	3.833	9-68	PENALTIES-Yds	5-48
228	NET YARDS PASS	148	3-2	FUMBLES-Lost	2-2
2-8	Sacked-Yds lost	8-48	33:56	TIME OF POSS.	26:04
236	Gross-Yds passing	196			

UNEASY DOES IT

Giants earn first win, but with more tension than necessary

By PAUL SCHWARTZ

CLEVELAND — First play: Fumble on the kickoff.

First play from scrimmage: Deshaun Watson to Amari Cooper for a 24-yard touchdown connection.

Eleven seconds into the game and the Giants were down by a touchdown.

Brian Daboll was looking up to the heavens.

It was the third anniversary of the death of his grandmother, the woman who raised him.

"I was kind of giving her the business after the first two plays," Daboll said. "Like 'What do you have in store for me?'"

There was plenty in store for Daboll and the Giants on a Sunday afternoon filled with lows and highs, exhilaration and tension, more exploits from rookie sensation Malik Nabers, chances to put things away, then chances to blow it. In the end, there was a first for the Giants with their 21-15 victory over the Browns at Huntington Field.

"It feels good to get out on the board, get off that donut," defensive end Brian Burns said.

The donut — a zero in the win column — is no more, as the Giants tried every which way to do what seemed impossible — turn a rousing and rare triumph into a devastating defeat. The Giants after building a comfortable lead got all sorts of uncomfortable. A 21-7 lead was trimmed and threatened but it never went away.

"Showed a lot of resiliency on the road," Daboll said.

After an 0-2 start, the Giants could not absorb another loss. They swarmed and made Browns quarterback Watson look dreadful, sacking him eight times.

After the instant deficit — it was Eric Gray who lost the fumble on the opening kickoff — Daniel Jones and Nabers got cooking and the Giants actually looked as if



SACK PARTY: Elijah Chatman is congratulated by Dexter Lawrence and Brian Burns after one of eight Giants sacks. The defense came through late after Malik Nabers (right) did his part with two touchdown receptions.

AP (2); USA TODAY Sports

GIANTS	21	Summary Page 55
BROWNS	15	

they might make things easy on themselves. The offense took a nosedive in the second half, though, coming up with no points and allowing the Browns (1-2) to make a game of it.

Jones finished 24 of 34 for 236 yards. Nabers had eight catches for 78 yards. The duo combined for two touchdown hookups 93 seconds apart in the second quarter.

Down 7-0, Daboll in the first quarter rolled the dice by going for it on 4th-and-1 on his own 43-yard line (Nabers ran for 2 yards on a jet sweep to pick up the first down). That kept alive an 81-yard drive capped by Devin Singletary ramming it in from a yard out to make it 7-7.

That was the start of the most impressive stretch of play from the Giants this season.

Jones, who completed 20 of his first 22 passes, looked like a point guard, directing the ball where it needed to go as Daboll kept things moving with all sorts of screens and short stuff to thwart the

Browns defensive aggression. Nabers made the biggest splash by taking the ball away from cornerback Martin Emerson on what could have been an interception and ended up as a 28-yard reception — a classic 50-50 ball that Jones entrusted the rookie to get.

"DJ told me if he throws it up there it's me or nobody," Nabers said. "I tried my best to put my hands in front of his hands, did a great job of snatching it away."

Nabers finished what he started by losing Emerson and then coming up with a leaping grab in the left corner of the end zone to make it 14-7 with 1:44 remaining in the first half.

"I have a lot of trust in him going up and getting the ball," Jones said.

The Giants got the ball back when Burns made his first impact play for his new team, abusing right tackle Dawand Jones for a

strip-sack of Watson, with Elijah Chatman pouncing on the ball on the Browns 30 with 32 seconds left before halftime. Jones found Nabers in the back of the end zone, there was another leap and the Giants soared in at the break, ahead 21-7.

Singletary lost a fumble to ruin the first series of the third quarter and the offense dried up. Watson hit Cooper for a 6-yard scoring pass to make it 21-13 with 11:33 remaining. The Browns went for two and got it when Watson found Jerry Jeudy.

Three times, the Giants needed to make a stand on defense. They got a break when Jerome Ford fumbled and Azeez Ojulari recovered with 7:40 to go. The Giants offense, still stymied, could not take advantage and had to punt the ball away with 5:19 to go.

Next, Kayvon Thibodeaux and Jason Pinnock stopped Jameis Winston's quarterback sneak on third-and-1 and Dexter Lawrence's leg tackle on Watson dropped him short of the first down with 3:36 left.

The Giants had a chance to put the game away but newly signed kicker Greg Joseph missed wide right on a 48-yard field goal try with three minutes to go.

Time for another last stand. Banks was closest to Cedric Tillman — Cooper was off the field with an injury — on a key fourth down and Tillman could not hold on to the ball with 2:33 left to seal the deal for the Giants as they head into a short week before facing the Cowboys on Thursday night.

"It feels like a relief," Nabers said. "We get to go rolling into the game next week with that win on our backs instead of going into the next week with a loss. It's way better."

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Up Next
COWBOYS AT GIANTS
Thursday, 8:15 p.m.
Prime Video, Ch. 5
WFAN
(101.9 FM)
Line: Giants +4.5 • O/U: 44

Nabers turns game — and season — around

CLEVELAND — Within 11 seconds, Eric Gray had fumbled away the opening kickoff, and Deshaun Watson had thrown a 24-yard TD pass to Amari Cooper against Deonte Banks. And the beleaguered Giants fan began thinking aloud:

Game over.

Season over.

And then Brian Daboll went for it on fourth-and-1 at the Giants 43 and asked Malik Nabers to get the first down on a jet sweep and Malik Nabers got 2 yards.

"I feel good that my team expects me to have the ball in my hands on fourth down and third-and-long," Nabers said.

And the Giants never looked back, improving to 1-2.

Because Malik Nabers would not let the Giants look back.

He imposed his will on this gameday the way Lawrence Taylor always did.

Malik Nabers (eight receptions, 78 yards, two TDs) is an unstoppable force of nature with the ball in his hands and a beautiful football mind the likes of which few rookies have ever possessed.

He is The Natural, a game-breaking, difference-making phenom who makes Daniel Jones better and Brian Daboll better and gives the Giants the kind of hope usually reserved for franchise quarterbacks.

In the first half of Giants 21, Browns 15, he helped transform Jones into a wildly efficient quarterback.

In the first half of Giants 21, Browns 15, he helped remind everyone what a play-calling whiz Daboll can be.

No job security questions for Daboll.

No cries for Drew Lock.

It wasn't even the two wondrous catches Nabers made on his way to becoming the first rookie with 20-plus catches (23), 250-plus receiving yards (271) and three TDs in his first three games.

It was having the presence of mind to play defensive back on what loomed dangerously as an interception after Jones got his arm hit at the Giants 10 targeting rookie TE Theo Johnson. Daboll and Giants players couldn't stop telling him how crucial it was at a time when the offense had lost its rhythm and the Browns, soon to make it 21-15, were hanging in.

"I seen the ball going up in the air, the way it was going I was like, 'Oh, I

might be able to catch it,'" Nabers said. Until he realized even he could not.

"I was like, 'Oh, let me just try my best to knock it down,'" Nabers said.

He takes your breath away the way Odell Beckham Jr. did for too short a period. Like the great ones in any sport, you do not want to take your eyes off him.

To wit:

His 28-yard catch on a deep throw down the left sideline that appeared earmarked for a Martin Emerson Jr. interception with Nabers seemingly boxed out.

"If I throw it up like that," Jones told him, "it's you or nobody."

It was him.

The kid seemed to take it off his victim's helmet.

MY BALL! Not your ball. MY BALL!

"We both had our hand on the ball," Nabers said. "I tried to snatch it at the last minute and hopefully keep my foot in, and I did just that, yeah."

Then came his leaping, spinning catch with both feet somehow inbounds in the left corner of the end zone against poor Emerson, the 3-yard TD catch making it Giants 14, Browns 7.

"I seen where it was going, I was like, 'ehh,'" Nabers said. In other words, he wasn't sure he could climb for it. He climbed for it, all right. "I just did a good job of just trying to get it at its highest point," Nabers said.

Air Nabers indeed.

At one point, early in the third quarter, Jones was 20-for-22 for 212 yards with a second TD — a 5-yarder over the middle to Nabers — before finishing 24-for-34 for 236 yards and a 109.4 QB rating.

These may not be the 2022 Giants, so they found a way to keep Deshaun Watson and the Browns alive until Shane Bowen's surprise pressure defense (eight sacks) held the fort in crunch time.

Nabers beat himself up for letting the veterans down by dropping a fourth-down pass late against the Commanders, and when he was asked how long it took him to get over it, he said: "I'm still not over it. It's still bothering me. It's something that I just gotta put in my past. I'm never gonna not think about it. It still goes through my mind every day I talk to [ex-LSU teammate and Commanders quarterback] Jayden [Daniels]."

The Cowboys, up next on Thursday night, have CeeDee Lamb. The Giants have Malik Nabers.

"It doesn't really matter about the matchup," Daboll said. "Throw the ball up to him and trust that he's gonna get it."

Season saved.

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Steve Serby

GIANTS BLITZ

by Steve Serby

HERO

It's **Malik Nabers'** world (8 rec., 78 yards, 2 TDs; 2 carries, 4 yards, key first down) and we're all living in it. Throw it anywhere near him, he catches it. He more than redeemed himself for his fourth-down drop against the Commanders.



ImaginImages

ZERO

Following a 24-yard TD pass to Amari Cooper on his first play from scrimmage, **Deshaun Watson** gave the Browns no chance to win until the fourth quarter. When he wasn't frustrated and flustered by the pass rush (eight sacks), his accuracy was a problem. He also fumbled a handoff that Dexter Lawrence recovered.

UNSUNG HERO

Azeez Ojulari had a sack and a critical fumble recovery in the fourth quarter at the NYG 44.

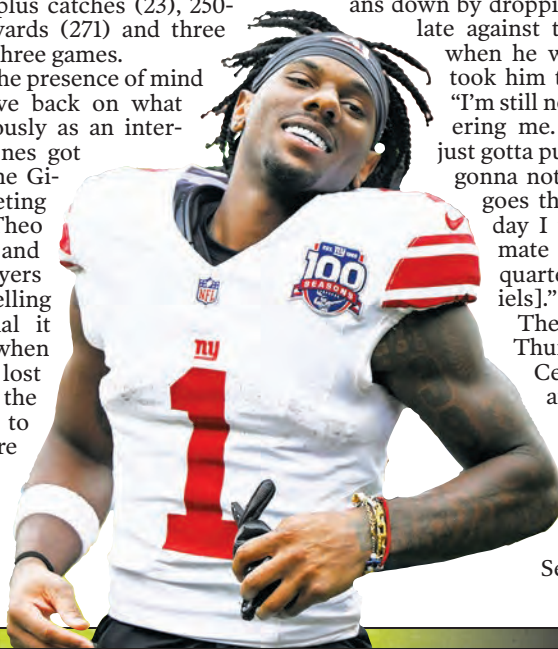
KEY STAT

8 Sacks by the Giants — two for Lawrence, one for Brian Burns, one for Elijah Chatman, one for Ojulari, one for Jason Pinnock, and a half for Bobby Okereke, Micah McFadden, Rakeem Nunez-Roches and Kayvon Thibodeaux.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Us getting killed, and that's not a good feeling, man. I'm gonna stay pissed, and keep feeding that into the team.

— **Dexter Lawrence** on his feelings after losing last season's home opener to the Cowboys, 40-0, and facing them again Thursday





Varity via Getty

HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTESS Gayle King (left) has signed a new contract to continue her work on CBS Mornings. Terms of the deal were not announced, but the anchor and Oprah bestie has been a fixture on the show since its launch in 2012.

MURDER MYSTERY Margo Martindale (right) was cast in the upcoming Paramount+ limited series, **"JonBenét Ramsey."** The show, also starring Melissa McCarthy, dives into the tragic, unsolved murder of the titular six-year-old pageant queen.



FilmMagic

TV Monday

PASSING THE TORCH

Rossif Sutherland on how his new show continues his late father Donald's legacy



Getty

By LAUREN SARNER

ROSSIF SUTHERLAND's new show **"Murder in a Small Town"** was an unexpected chance to carry on his late father Donald's legacy.

The show, which premieres Tuesday, Sept. 24 on Fox (8 p.m. ET), is based on the Karl Alberg series of novels by L.R. Wright, first published in the '80s. Years before Rossif got the starring role in the new procedural, Donald tried to get a film adaptation of the books off the ground.

"This was news to me,"

Rossif, 45, told The Post. "I had no idea that this was one amongst many projects that my father had been attached to."

He added, "I only found out when I called my dad to tell him that I had gotten this job for an American network, and they did the absurd thing of giving me the lead role."

Hollywood legend Donald Sutherland died in June at 88. He left behind five kids, including Rossif and his half-brother, fellow actor Kiefer Sutherland.

"It did seem serendipitous, or maybe it was nepotism," Rossif said about landing the role, adding that for the people



Rossif Sutherland (above left) stars with Kristin Kreuk (above right) in the new Fox series

who "wanted to bring the show to life, maybe they were enchanted by this idea that the son would get to play him."

Rossif, also featured in **"The Handmaid's Tale,"** added, "Here I am, my father's now gone, and I'm in this show that he could have been a part of had it been done at a different time. It's all a little surreal. I feel him all over this project."

"Murder in a Small Town" follows Karl Alberg (Sutherland), who moves to a quaint coastal town as the new police chief to escape the big city. As he investigates crimes, he also makes a romantic connection with local librarian Cassandra Lee (Kristin Kreuk, **"Smallville"**).

"This show is a murder mystery, sure. It follows the formula of somebody

committing a crime, and we have to figure out who did it, and why," Rossif told the Post.

"But at the heart of it is a love story between two people halfway through their lives, who have suffered their own pains, and life has

made them afraid of a lot of things...They've found each other. And now, it will be their journey to make this love survive the cruelties of life."

He said he liked his character because "his superpower is his humanity. I was quite intrigued by playing a good man."

Sutherland shared that although his father and brother Kiefer are actors, and his mother Francine Racette was also an actress, he didn't grow up planning to get into the business.

But, he added, "I was in the presence of this great man, this great artist," referring to Donald.

"It was always a gift, going to see his films. It was an absurd thing because I was his son, and there he was up on that screen. I rarely ever thought it was my dad. I've seen my dad die so many times onscreen before he passed [away] for real."

Rossif said he became an actor "very much because of my father...In many ways, it's what brought me close to my dad. And in many ways, it's the thing that will keep him in my company now that he's gone."

Rossif added that he hasn't worked since Donald passed away, "but I do look forward to being on a set. Because it's the place that he called home, and I miss him."



Hooray for Hogwarts

The upcoming **"Harry Potter"** TV series on HBO has started its casting process for the three leading characters. The casting notice requires that applicants are "between the ages of 9 and 11 in April 2025" when production commences.

AN ODE TO AMANDA **"Bad Sisters"** co-creator and star Sharon Hogan (right) will join the cast of Hulu's **"Amanda,"** an upcoming limited series focusing on the true crime saga of Amanda Knox. Horgan will play the mother of Knox, the American coed that was wrongfully convicted of murder in Italy.



BAFTA via Getty

What's on Tonight



ACTION

Avengers: Infinity War: 4:15 p.m. on TNT. Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth. Superheroes all over the world join forces to stop an intergalactic tyrant.



SATIRE

Barbie: 5:55 p.m. on HBO. Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling. A young woman and her boyfriend visit the real world and experience life among humanity .



MYSTERY

Murder on the Orient Express: 8 p.m. on TCM. Albert Finney, Martin Balsam. A clever detective works to find a murderer aboard a Paris-bound train.

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS News Norah	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	The Price Is Right at Night: Dream Trips	NCIS: Judgment Day, Part 1 (R)		NCIS: Judgment Day, Part 2 (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Late Show	
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	News 4 New York at 7	Access Hollywood	The Voice: The Blind Auditions Season Premiere			Brilliant Minds: Pilot		News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show	
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Extra (R)	TMZ (R)	9-1-1: Lone Star: Both Sides, Now	(9:02) Rescue: HI-Surf: Mauka to Makai		The 10 O'Clock News		Good Night New York	Battleground	
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	(8:15) Monday Night Football: Paycor Stadium. Live.			Washington Commanders at Cincinnati Bengals from		(11:15) News	(11:50) Kimmel Live	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	True Crime News	Family Feud	Family Feud	The News on My 9		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	PIX11 Evening News	Sports Nightly	The Big Bang Theory	All American: Homecoming: I Stand Alone		The Wranglers: Sneak Preview: Welcome to		PIX11 News at Ten		Seinfeld: Strongbox	Seinfeld: The Nap
13 WNET	13	13	13	BBC News America	The PBS News Hour		Antiques Roadshow: Vintage Atlantic City Hour 1		Crossroads: A Conversation with America		POV: Who's Afraid of Nathan Law?		Amanpour	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News	Ridley: A Sleeping (R)		Moonflower Murders (R)		Van Der Valk: Safe in (R)		Masterpiece		Show Me	BBC News
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Report	To Be Announced		TBA	Her B Idea	Day's Work	Crains NY	Start Up	To Be Announced		In Context
31 WPXN	31	3	531	Minds	FBI: Fostered		FBI: Grief		FBI: Under Pressure		FBI: Pride and Prejudice		FBI: Ambition	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	Noticiero	La rosa de Guadalupe		Fugitivas		Marea de pasiones		Pedro el escamoso		Noticias	Noticiero
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	La Isla Desafío Extremo		(7:58) La Isla Desafío Extremo: Part 2		El Conde: Amor y honor		Noticiero		Noticias	
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Conners	Man	Man	News 8pm		48 Hours: Mary Day		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	First 48 (R)	The First 48: Murder on		The First 48 (R)		The First 48 (R)		The First 48: Devil in Me		(11:04) The First 48 (R)	
AMC	54	43	231	Casino (1995, Crime)	Robert De Niro. R		GoodFellas (1990, Crime) Robert De Niro. R ★★★					Con Air (1997) R ★★★		
BET	37	54	270	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	About Last Night (2014, Comedy) Kevin Hart. R ★★½					Martin	Martin	Martin
BBCAM	71	101	189	Law & Ordr	Law & Order: Showtime		Law & Order: Mad Dog		Law & Order		Law & Order		Law & Order: Passion	
BRAVO	18	44	185	Below (R)	Below Deck (R)		Below Deck		Below Deck Mediterranean			Below Deck (R)		Below (R)
CNBC	15	24	102	Money	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	78	25	100	Situation	Erin Burnett OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source with Kaitlan		CNN NewsNight		Laura Coates Live	
COM	45	50	190	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Daily Show	
DIS	49	31	250	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Primos (R)	Primos (R)	Miraculous	Miraculous	Kiff (R)	Kiff (R)	Jessie	Jessie
DSC	66	27	120	Contraband	Contraband: Sea (R)		Contraband		Contraband: Sea		(10:01) Contraband (R)		Contraband: Marshall (R)	
E!	24	51	196	50 First ★★★	The Waterboy (1998, Comedy) Adam Sandler. ★★½			The Waterboy (1998, Comedy) Adam Sandler. ★★½			E! News		Sex & City	
ESPN	28	36	70	Countdown	Kickoff	Monday Football: Jacksonville Jaguars at Buffalo Bills. Live.						SC Live.	Monday	SC Live.
ESPN2	29	35	74	Sports Live.	SportsCenter Live.		ESPN Films				ESPN Films		Top ESPN	
FBN	43	106	117	Bottom	Kudlow (R)		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced	
FNC	44	26	118	Spc. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night	
FOOD	50	97	164	Pumpkins	Halloween Baking Championship: Laboratory (R)			Halloween Baking Championship: Beetlejuice			Kids Baking: Trick or Eat			
FREFRM	38	49	199	(5:00) Rio 2	Toy Story (1995, Comedy) Tom Hanks. G ★★½			(8:55) Toy Story 2 (1999, Comedy) Tom Hanks. G ★★★			The 700 Club (R)			
FS1	400	99	83	Speak Live.	NHRA Drag Racing: Charlotte: from zMax Dragway. Replay.					Flat Track Replay.		Flat Track Replay.		
FX	10	40	53	(5:00) Baywatch (2017) R	Guardians of the Galaxy (2014, Action) Chris Pratt. PG-13 ★★½			Teacher		Teacher (R)	Teacher (R)	Guardians		
HALL		191	240	Hidden G	Sand Dollar Cove (2021) Chad Michael Murray.			Matching Hearts (2020, Romance) Taylor Cole. ★★½			Golden	Golden		
HGTV	64	98	165	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	House Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	
HIST	40	47	128	History's	Great Mysteries (R)		Great Mysteries (R)		Gangland	Gangland	Prison	Prison	(11:01) Great Mysteries	
ID	23	171	123	Monster (R)	American Monster (R)		Signs of a Psychopath		Real Murders Elm Street		Cabin in the Woods		Get Rid of Body (R)	
LIFE	62	45	140	Rizzoli	Rizzoli & Isles: Good Girl		Rizzoli & Isles		Rizzoli & Isles		(10:03) Rizzoli & Isles		(11:03) Rizzoli & Isles	
MeTV	33	33	3	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Hillbillies	Acres	Hogan	Hogan	Burnett	P. Mason
MSG	27	87	78	NY Giants	ML Pickleball Replay.			ML Pickleball Replay.			Brockmire		Brockmire	
MSG Plus	48	88	80	No Gamble	No Gamble No Future		Athletes Unlimited Women			Replay.		Athletes Unlimited Women		
MSNBC	14	23	103	Ari Melber	The ReidOut		Inside With Jen Psaki		Rachel Maddow		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour	
MTV	20	53	210	Catfish	Catfish: The TV Show		Catfish: The TV Show		Catfish: The TV Show		Catfish: The TV Show		Ridiculous	Ridiculous
NATGEO	65	162	121	Smuggler	To Catch a Smuggler (R)		Catch Smuggler (R)		Catch Smuggler (R)		Catch Smuggler (R)		Catch Smuggler (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	Knuckles	Knuckles	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
OWN	173	180	145	(6:00) 20/20	20/20 on OWN: Switched		20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)	
PARMT	36	56	54	Men	Men	Men	Independence Day (1996, Science Fiction) Will Smith. PG-13 ★★★					World War Z (2013) ★★★		
SNY	26	60	77	Mets Classics:	Alonso Walk-Off vs. the Yankees Replay.					Mets Specials		Yeah ...	Sports Live.	Sports Live.
SYFY	17	48	180	Fast (2006)	Fast & Furious (2009, Action) Vin Diesel. PG-13 ★★★			Fast Five (2011, Action) Vin Diesel. PG-13 ★★★						
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Dad	Dad	Dad	Dad
TCM	82	41	230	(6:00) The Human Comedy (1943) ★★½	Murder on the Orient Express (1974) Albert Finney.			(10:15) The Shootist (1976, Western) John Wayne. PG						
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day (R)	90 Day Fiance (R)		90 Day Fiance		(9:01) I Love a Mama's		(10:01) 90 Day Fiance		(11:01) 90 Day Fiancé (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	Avengers: Infinity War	Avengers: Endgame (2019, Action) Robert Downey Jr. PG-13 ★★★★						Ant-Man			
TVLAND	85	34	241	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) 9-1-1	9-1-1: Merry Ex-Mas		WWE Monday Night Raw Live.			The Anonymous				
VH1	19	52	217	Single	Basketball Wives (R)		Basketball Wives		Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Basketball Wives (R)		I Love New York	
WE	59	42	149	Bones	Bones: Nazi Honeymoon		Bones: Dude in the Dam		Bones: Fury in Jury		Bones: Mystery in Meat		Bones: Spark in Park	
YES	53	89	76	Yankees Classics: Juan Soto 3 HRs Taped.				MLS Soccer: Inter Miami CF at New York City FC.			My Number			Yankees
HBO	511	301	400	(5:55) Barbie (2023) ★★★	(7:50) The Penguin (R)		My Brilliant Friend			(9:55) The Penguin (R)		(11:04) My Brilliant Friend		
MAX	531	371	420	(5:38) Clear and Present Danger (1994)	The Blackcoat's Daughter (2017) R ★★½			(9:35) Aliens (1986, Science Fiction) Sigourney Weaver. R ★★½						
MGM Plus	595	395	A	A House on the Bayou (2021) NR ★★	From: Shatter (R)		Billy Kid (R)		(9:45) Billy the Kid (R)		1408 (2007, Horror) John Cusack. ★★★			
PARSHO	551	321	365	(5:30) Transformers (2007, Action) ★★★	The Equalizer (2014, Action) Denzel Washington. ★★★			Full Metal Jacket (1987, Drama) Matthew Modine. R						

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

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Malik Nabers celebrates one of his two second-quarter touchdowns during the Giants' huge 21-15 nail-biter of a win in Cleveland. Nabers helped Daniel Jones and the offense overcome a disastrous start and the defense tallied eight sacks and forced Deshaun Watson into a brutal game.

LIKE A GOOD NABERS ...

Rook is there — along with Jones & D — to get Giants much-needed first win

PAGES 57-54, 49



EAST IN SIGHT AFTER WEST TRIP

YANKS BEAT A'S TO DROP MAGIC NO. TO 1 / P. 50-51



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