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Democracy Dies in Darkness

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 • \$3

## Taliban laws start restricting men, too

Some Afghans express regret over allowing severe rules for women

BY RICK NOACK

As the Taliban starts enforcing draconian new rules for women in Afghanistan, it has also begun to target a group that didn't see tight restrictions on them coming: Afghan men.

Women have faced an onslaught of increasingly severe limits on their personal freedom and rules about their dress since the Taliban seized power three years ago. But men in urban areas could, for the most part, carry on freely.

The past four weeks, however, have brought significant changes for them, too. New laws promulgated in late August mandate that men wear a fist-long beard, bar them from imitating non-Muslims in appearance or behavior, widely interpreted as a prohibition against jeans, and ban haircuts that are against Islamic law, which essentially means short or Western styles. Men are now also prohibited from looking at women other than their wives or relatives.

As a result, more are growing beards, carrying prayer rugs and leaving their jeans at home.

These first serious restrictions  
SEE AFGHANISTAN ON A10

## The hidden costs

We quantify the environmental toll of AI chatbots. A7



SHELLY TAN/THE WASHINGTON POST



## Tehran-allied groups review devices after pager attack

BY CLAIRE PARKER, MUSTAFA SALIM AND HAZEM BALOUSHA

CAIRO — Iranian-backed militants across the Middle East have ordered sweeping inspections of electronic devices, as they rethink how to protect their communications following the devastating attack that caused pagers and walkie-talkies used by their ally, Hezbollah, to explode.

In Iraq and the West Bank, senior militants allied with Iran said they are examining equipment and issuing new rules on the use of personal devices by fighters. Analysts say that other groups' systems are more secure but that they will probably seek to better protect their supply chains as they take stock of the fallout.

"Extreme precautions will be taken, and we will keep devices away from us," said a senior commander in the Jenin Battalion, a coalition of West Bank fighters led by Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

The commander, who spoke on the condition of anonymity out of concern for his security, said his operatives already avoided cellphones and had recently ditched handheld radios they suspected Israel of hacking.

Israeli authorities rarely discuss operations in other countries and have declined to comment on whether Israel was responsible for the attack on devices in Lebanon. But U.S. officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive subject, acknowledged that Israel was behind the operation and said it informed Washington afterward through intelligence channels.

The attack was unlike any other in size and scope, turning everyday devices into weapons of war. It  
SEE IRAN ON A10



PHOTOS BY HEIDI LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

FROM TOP: Moti Fitch, 75, outside his damaged home in Moresheet in northern Israel following a rocket barrage fired from Lebanon that heavily damaged homes and cars on Sunday. Damaged homes from a rocket attack in Kiryat Bialik, seen Sunday. Hezbollah began launching attacks against Israel on Oct. 8 in solidarity with Hamas; violence along the border has displaced tens of thousands of people on both sides since then.

Al Jazeera: Israeli forces shut down news outlet's West Bank bureau. A9

Coal mine blast: An explosion in Iran killed at least 51 people. A10

## Israel issues blunt threats

VOWS MORE ACTION AGAINST HEZBOLLAH

Netanyahu intensifies rhetoric as clash widens

BY SUSANNAH GEORGE, ANNABELLE TIMSIT, MIRIAM BERGER AND LIOR SOROKA

Israeli officials issued blunt new warnings to Hezbollah on Sunday, threatening to pitch the long-simmering conflict along Lebanon's border into all-out war.

Despite calls to de-escalate, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed Sunday that his military will take "whatever action is necessary" to eliminate the threat on Israel's northern border, an echo of his own rhetoric in the lead-up to Israel's invasion of Gaza last year.

The heightened rhetoric comes amid a spike in cross-border strikes after a week of punishing Israeli attacks on the militant group based in Lebanon that Israeli officials said amounted to a "new phase" in the conflict. That has caused concern among Israel's Western allies, with top U.S. and European Union officials cautioning against escalation.

"No country can accept the wanton rocketing of its cities; we can't accept it either. We will take whatever action is necessary to restore security and to bring our people safely back to their homes," Netanyahu said in a video statement.

Hezbollah has launched dozens of rockets, missiles and drones across the border into Israel in recent days. The group announced Sunday that it had attacked an air base in northern Israel, in what appeared to be the  
SEE ISRAEL ON A9

## ELECTION 2024

## For some, cost of child care governs voting choice

Nevada is among the worst states for struggling parents. Their frustration might show up at the ballot.

BY ABHA BHATTARAI

RENO, NEV. — Kayla and Ryan Frost were desperate. Every local day care was full. Nannies were booked. Neither could quit their job. So they patched together a solution: paying their dog sitter to watch their 3-month-old daughter.

But the dog sitter, who was great with their German shepherd mix, wasn't the right fit for their infant. And because of her \$25 hourly rate, the Frosts could afford care for only a couple of days a week.

"A few weeks in, we realized, 'This is not working. We need more help than this,'" said Kayla Frost, 35. "We limped along for half a year. We stopped working as much. We were exhausted. It really took a toll."

The shortage of child care is a national problem, but in Nevada, it's approaching a crisis. The state ranks among the worst in the country with almost three-quarters of young children lacking access to licensed care, according to the governor's office. The shortfall spans every county in this swing state and is driving up day-care costs when parents are  
SEE CHILD CARE ON A5



EMILY NAJERA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Ryan and Kayla Frost at their home in Washoe Valley, Nev., on Thursday. The couple struggled to find affordable day care for their children. The couple are planning to vote for Donald Trump.

## Trump's agenda on LGBTQ issues alarms rights groups

BY HANNAH KNOWLES

Penny Nance slid a form across the table to Donald Trump at his golf club in Bedminster, N.J. Her Christian nonprofit, Concerned Women for America, wanted Trump to pledge in writing that a person's "gender identity" doesn't "overrule their sex," and that if he becomes president again, "all federal agencies will be directed to uphold this fact in every policy and program at home and abroad."

Such a promise would have wide-ranging implications, the form emphasized, affecting schools, prisons, shelters, health-care providers, the military and more. But it was an easy sell, Nance recalled of her June 2023 conversation, and Trump soon signed the pledge. On the trail a few days later, Trump marveled aloud at the crowd's standing ovation for his promise to crack down on "transgender insanity."

"It's amazing how strongly people feel about that. You see,  
SEE TRUMP ON A4

I'm talking about cutting taxes, people go like that," he said, mimicking a polite, reserved clap. "I talk about transgender, everyone goes crazy," he added. "Who would have thought?"

The former president, who has shifted his position over the years on LGBTQ issues, is planning to lead the GOP charge on gender identity if he returns to the White House, according to his campaign and interviews with allies, testing the legal limits of federal action as the Supreme Court also takes up the issue. He says he wants to kick providers out of Medicare and Medicaid for offering gender transition care to minors, such as hormone therapy and surgery; pull federal funding from schools if officials suggest a child "could be trapped in the wrong body"; and purge anything in the federal government deemed to promote transgender identity. The moves would go against the advice of leading medical groups.

## A new look for comics pages

The Style section's daily comics pages are now in color — and larger. (The lineup is the same.)



## IN THE NEWS

**Fallout in N.C.** Mark Robinson's porn-site scandal amid his run for governor is greeted with shrugs at a Donald Trump rally. A3

**Corporate donations** As the industry fights a ban on menthol cigarettes, Big Tobacco is putting its money behind Trump. A6

**THE NATION** What's ahead for Trump's criminal cases. A2

**Americans** increasingly soured on the Secret Service after the July shooting at a Trump rally, a poll finds. A4

**THE WORLD** In Russia, Vladimir Putin is searching for new ways to enforce his red lines. A8

**A socialist** was elected the next Sri Lankan president, a new era for the nation. A13

**THE ECONOMY** If you're thinking about upgrading your iPhone, here's the best time to get the biggest deals on the newest model. A11

**A Pennsylvania** health system will pay \$65 million after hackers leaked nude photos of its patients. A11

**THE REGION** Montgomery County Public Schools revised guidance over how to handle hateful acts involving students. B1

**What to know** about the Nov. 5 election in Virginia. B1

**The race** to replace Rep. Abigail Spanberger in Va. is heating up. B1

**STYLE** Ellie, the sashaying, hoops-wearing elephant mascot of the WNBA's New York Liberty, is redefining the role. C1

**In a partisan** town, a politics-themed bar on U Street aims to be right down the middle. C1

**A sibling** seeks advice about a sister's care. C2

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**THE TRUMP TRIALS**

# Huge immunity filing due from special counsel

BY **DEVLIN BARRETT AND PERRY STEIN**

Welcome back to the Trump Trials, where the former president's lawyers are — you guessed it — seeking further delays in the cases against him. We'll explain why Donald Trump easily got another delay this week, and why he is asking for more.

(Have questions on Trump's trials? Email us at [perry.stein@washpost.com](mailto:perry.stein@washpost.com) and [devlin.barrett@washpost.com](mailto:devlin.barrett@washpost.com) and check for answers in future newsletters.)

Okay, let's get started with a fast-paced article about slow-moving cases.

**What's ahead**

Special counsel Jack Smith is expected to deliver a major court motion on Thursday to lay out how he plans to rescue his case against Trump for alleged 2020 election obstruction. The filing will be a kind of legal road map to working within the fuzzy lines drawn by the Supreme Court on presidential immunity.

Smith notified the court that his mega-motion “will not exceed 180 pages” — and will have significant redactions where it discusses the evidence against the former president and 2024 Republican nominee.

Trump's team plans to file papers by Tuesday arguing why Smith should not be permitted to submit such a large motion.

This week was also supposed to produce a filing in the appeals court fight over the dismissal of the charges against Trump for allegedly mishandling classified documents at his Florida home — but as we'll explain below, that deadline was pushed back.

Now, a recap of last week's action.

**D.C.: Federal case on 2020 election**

**The details:** Four counts related to conspiring to obstruct the 2020 election results.

**Last week:** Trump's lawyers argued in new court papers that Smith should have to delay that big filing spelling out all the ways Trump can still be prosecuted despite a Supreme Court ruling this summer that he has broad immunity.

The defense lawyers said that filing should be pushed back because, they claimed, prosecutors must turn over more evidence to Trump to comply with the new immunity ruling.

Essentially, the defense is arguing that as long as immunity for official acts is such a key part of the case, prosecutors need to redo their internal evidence review to find anything that points to Trump's actions related to the results of the 2020 election being official, rather than unofficial, acts.

Trump's lawyers don't have a great track record persuading U.S. District Court Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on these types of issues, but the battles over immunity have, in a sense, just begun.



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump at the Israeli American Council National Summit on Sept. 19, in Washington.



Special counsel Jack Smith is expected to deliver a filing on his plan to revive the D.C. case this week.

**New York: State hush money case**

**The details:** 34 charges connected to a 2016 hush money payment. Trump was convicted of all counts on May 30.

**Last week:** All was quiet, as New York Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan has pushed off sentencing in the case — and his ruling on an immunity-related appeal — until after the presidential election.

**Florida: Federal classified documents case**

**The details:** U.S. District

Court Judge Aileen M. Cannon in July dismissed the 40 federal charges Trump faced for allegedly mishandling classified documents at Mar-a-Lago — his home and private club — and thwarting government demands to return them.

**Last week:** The federal appeals court in Atlanta that will consider whether to overrule Cannon last week granted Trump's lawyers an additional 30 days to file their legal arguments in the case — pushing back the deadline from late September to late October. The delay is in

keeping with the routine practice of that appeals court.

**Georgia: State case on 2020 election**

**The details:** Trump faces 8 state charges for allegedly trying to undo the election results in that state. Four of his 18 co-defendants have pleaded guilty.

**Where it stands:** The case remains on hold while the Georgia Court of Appeals prepares to hear December arguments about Trump's effort to disqualify Fulton County District Attorney Fani T. Willis, the top prosecutor.

Trump and some of the other defendants argue that Willis improperly spent taxpayer dollars while in a romantic relationship with an attorney she hired to work on the case. That attorney has resigned from his position.

**Question Time**

**Q.** Cannon ruled that the attorney general unlawfully appointed Smith and dismissed the Florida classified document case. Since Smith also oversees the prosecution of the D.C. case, why wouldn't Cannon's decision impact that case?

**A.** Cannon is a federal district judge and any decision she makes would typically only apply to her courtroom. That means that Smith can be considered unlawfully appointed in one courtroom in Florida but can still continue prosecuting a case as special counsel in another federal courtroom in D.C.

Smith has appealed Cannon's decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

If the appeals court upholds her opinion, the ruling would bind federal court districts in Alabama, Florida and Georgia. A Supreme Court decision would create the law on special counsel appointments for the entire nation.

The Florida ruling “certainly does not apply as binding precedent,” Daniel Richman, a professor at Columbia Law School, told The Washington Post in July. “Because it is just one district court, which does not even bind another district court sitting next door. And it certainly doesn't bind other district courts sitting in another circuit.”

**Nerd word of the week**

**Binding:** We see this word a lot after a judge issues a ruling. When a judge's decision is binding, it means it is legally enforceable. Cannon's decision saying that Smith was unlawfully appointed was binding in her courtroom — but it was not binding across the country. But the Supreme Court's decision on presidential immunity was binding nationwide.

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas issued a concurring opinion in the presidential immunity decision in which he questioned the legality of special counsel appointments. That concurring opinion has been cited by Cannon and by Trump's lawyers, but it was nonbinding — meaning it was just Thomas's opinion and not a legally enforceable ruling.

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## POLITICS & THE NATION

# Some Trump supporters shrug at Robinson's scandal

At North Carolina rally, Trump doesn't mention gubernatorial hopeful

BY HANNAH KNOWLES

WILMINGTON, N.C. — The scandal engulfing Mark Robinson's campaign for North Carolina governor seems career-ending to many in politics. At Donald Trump's rally here over the weekend, however, plenty of people weren't bothered.

So what if Robinson, the Republican nominee for governor, is linked to the account of a porn site user who once argued for the reinstatement of slavery, detailed an affair with his wife's sister, called himself a "black NAZI" and praised Adolf Hitler's book "Mein Kampf" as "a good read"?

"I didn't put much credence in it," Bob Judson, a 70-year-old unaffiliated voter, said of the allegations against Robinson. "We've all done things in our past that we're sorry for. Some of the things are crazy."

"I mean," he added, "if we just went on that, we wouldn't be here for Trump, would we?"

Robinson's contest has become a remarkable test case of voters and GOP leaders' tolerance for disturbing allegations against candidates in the Trump era — when news is deeply distrusted, scandals carry less weight and no offense seems to be enough to rattle Trump's base.

Still, the accusations about Robinson are damaging enough that Trump steered clear of the candidate at his Wilmington, N.C., rally on Saturday, making no mention of his longtime ally days after CNN reported that Robinson made shocking comments on a porn forum more than a decade ago. Some Republican officials, such as Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), have said the reporting raises serious concerns if true. Robinson's campaign announced Sunday evening that four senior staffers, including the campaign manager, had resigned.

The porn site user matches Robinson's username on public accounts, lists his name as "mark robinson," shares the candidate's biographical details and even uses some of the same distinctive phrases.

But Robinson, the lieutenant governor of North Carolina, has responded with Trump-like defiance, denying any involvement and railing against "salacious tabloid lies." The North Carolina GOP followed suit, issuing a statement of support and suggesting the political left is "trying to demonize [Robinson] via personal attacks." Trump has not denounced Robinson or the comments attributed to him, and the general strategy at Trump's rally seemed to be to ignore the issue.

On Saturday, Sen. JD Vance (R-Ohio), Trump's running mate, dodged questions from an NBC reporter on whether he believed



North Carolina Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson during a campaign event for former president Donald Trump in Asheville, N.C., on Aug. 14.

TOM BRENNER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Robinson's claim that the offensive posts weren't his.

"I don't not believe him, I don't believe him — I just think you have to let these things play out sometimes in the court of public opinion," Vance responded.

Dan Bishop, the Republican nominee for North Carolina attorney general, was the outlier. He spent much of his rally speech denouncing "white supremacist Democrats" from the 1890s before blaming Democrats for the Robinson drama and suggesting, inaccurately, that hacking was required to obtain the porn site posts.

"This week in North Carolina, Democrats suddenly abandoned their aversion to hack and dump, rolled out a meticulously timed and coordinated character assassination, and then moved immediately to smear by association," Bishop said. "Their aim, they say, is to disgrace not just one but all Republican candidates, in the name of decency, they say."

Republicans widely expect Robinson to lose in November. He trails his Democratic opponent Josh Stein significantly, and a long record of offensive comments and hard-line stances had already alienated moderate voters.

Trump rallygoer Connie Wittmer said she was willing to look past Robinson's past controversies — like his comment that women get abortions because they couldn't keep their "skirt down" — but hesitated when a reporter described the porn site posts. "That disturbs me," she said. She would have to think about her vote.

Yet the range of reactions to the past week's bombshells reflect the difficulty of piercing partisan loyalty — and echo years of dismissive responses to controversies around Trump, who won in 2016 despite a recording in which he bragged that he could grab women by their genitals.

Kirk Giles, 50, downplayed the allegations against Robinson as normal male behavior.

"There's not a man alive that's never looked at porn or did something stupid on porn because we're men," he said at the Wilmington rally. "That's what men do." Beside him, his friend Don Bussey said he was still voting for Robinson, too.

A reporter suggested that most men on porn sites don't praise "Mein Kampf."

"There's a lot of men that say some stupid stuff on those porn sites," Giles said. "The thing is, you say some stupid stuff just to

get attention. People strive for attention. There's attention-seekers out there."

Others cast doubt on the reporting about Robinson, bolstered by years of Trump and other Republicans decriing "fake news." Allen Cannon, 70, said he doesn't trust CNN and noted, "It was 10 years ago." His wife, 69-year-old Rose Cannon, thought of all the allegations against Trump they believed were unfair.

There was E. Jean Carroll's allegation that Trump sexually assaulted her in a department store in the 1990s; Trump was found liable for sexual abuse last year in civil court and ordered to pay more than \$80 million in damages. "And then all these charges," Rose Cannon said. "It's just, I don't believe all that. I think all that is wrong."

"When I hear him talk ... he's a very positive, strong man," she said of Robinson. "Now that this has happened, I don't know. We'll hear through it, and see what we think."

Many of Robinson's inflammatory comments have been in public view for a long time. Before last week's revelations, "Mark Robinson was unfit and unqualified to be the governor of North Carolina," argued Stein, his Democratic opponent and the state's attorney general, in an interview. The CNN report "simply underlined and put an exclamation point behind that sentence, which we already knew."

Some Republicans challenged Robinson in the primary, arguing that his baggage made him unelectable. They highlighted Robinson's comments at a church

that "we are called to be led by men" not women, and his screech that the movie "Black Panther" was "created by an agnostic Jew" to "pull the shekels" from Black people's pockets.

But many GOP voters loved what they called Robinson's brashness and brushed the criticisms aside. Trump signaled his support for Robinson early in the race, and ultimately endorsed him.

Now, Robinson's critics say there's reason to be cynical about the effect of even the most outrageous stories.

"In this day and age, you're kind of like, 'Oh, a terrible news story?'" said Rich Smith, a 34-year-old Democrat from Wilmington. "They'll just say it's fake news, and move on from there. And nothing will change."

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## Approval of Secret Service plummets

Poll conducted almost entirely before Sept. 15 golf course incident

BY DAVID OVALLE

Americans have increasingly soured on the Secret Service following the assassination attempt in July that wounded former president Donald Trump, according to a Gallup opinion poll released Monday.

The poll shows that Americans who rate the agency tasked with protecting presidential candidates and government officials as good or excellent tumbled 23 percentage points, while the share of those rating the Secret Service's performance as poor rose by the same margin.

The findings were published amid intense scrutiny by lawmakers and government investigators over the agency's failure to prevent a gunman who climbed atop a roof and fired at Trump during a campaign rally in Butler, Pa., grazing his ear, injuring two others and killing a rallygoer.

The polling was conducted almost entirely before the Secret Service thwarted a potential attempt on the former president's life on Sept. 15, this one at the Trump International Golf Club in Palm Beach County. In that case, a Secret Service agent spotted an armed man on the club's perimeter and opened fire. No one was injured and the suspect was taken into custody.

According to Gallup, the poll stands in sharp contrast with many previous ones during the past decade asking Americans to rate the performances of federal agencies. The Secret Service has typically enjoyed a broad positive rating from the public, although support slipped in 2014 after several security lapses, including an intruder breaching a White House fence.

It's the largest such decline for a federal agency in the reoccurring poll since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's favorability ratings dropped by 24 percentage points between 2019 and 2021 during the height of the coronavirus pandemic.

Only the U.S. Postal Service enjoys positive ratings among U.S. adults, according to Gallup. Support is equally dim for other agencies including the Justice Department, the Food and Drug Administration and the Internal Revenue Service: Less than 35 percent of Americans rate their performances as good or excellent.

The Gallup poll found that the Secret Service's positive ratings have dropped steeply among Republicans and independents who lean toward the GOP: 20 percentage points since last year, their lowest rating to date. Favorability ratings from Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents also fell by 18 percentage points from 2023.

Pollsters interviewed 1,007 randomly selected adults in all 50 states and the District of Columbia from Sept. 3 to Sept. 15; Gallup calculated the margin of error as plus or minus four percentage points.

A Secret Service internal review released last week found that the agency was to blame for a series of lapses leading up to the July 13 shooting, including the failure to direct local police snipers to cover the rooftop and detect the gunman flying a drone in the area hours before the shooting.

The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the agency, is negotiating with Congress to dramatically increase the agency's budget and expand personnel and upgrade equipment. Acting Secret Service director Ronald L. Rowe Jr. is urging elected leaders to boost funding so the agency can deal with its "new reality."

A bipartisan House task force investigating the Pennsylvania shooting is scheduled to hold its first hearing Thursday.

On Sunday, a task force leader, Rep. Jason Crow (D-Colo.), said the Secret Service is "no doubt stretched thin."

"We are in a threat environment where threats are at historic highs," Crow said on ABC's "This Week." "We're asking the Secret Service to protect a sitting president and then two presidential candidates and then former presidents and all their families in an environment where threats are three times, four times higher."

# Obama raises \$4 million for Harris campaign

L.A. fundraiser is part of increasingly visible role he is playing this cycle

BY MAEVE RESTON

Former president Barack Obama headlined his first solo fundraiser for Kamala Harris in Los Angeles on Friday night, bringing in \$4 million for her campaign as he framed the election as a struggle against radical forces in America that want to take the country backward.

The event was part of the increasingly active role that Obama is playing in Harris's effort as he wields his popularity within the Democratic Party to power grassroots fundraising and to galvanize younger voters to turn out in what could be a margin-of-error race.

The Harris campaign recently featured clips from his Democratic National Convention speech mocking Donald Trump's "weird obsession with crowd sizes" in one of its ads to needle the Republican nominee just before his debate with Harris.

So far this presidential campaign cycle, the events where Obama has been featured and the grassroots fundraising appeals that he has signed have generated at least \$76 million, according to his office.

In the short time that she has been in the presidential race, Harris has opened a wide cash advantage over Trump. Friday night, reports filed with the Federal Election Commission showed that she raised more than four times as



Former president Barack Obama speaks during the second day of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August.

much as Trump did in August.

The private event Friday night was held at the Los Angeles home of James Costos, who served as the U.S. ambassador to Spain and Andorra under Obama, and his partner, Michael S. Smith, who was White House decorator when Obama was president.

Before a gathering of more than 65 people, Obama argued that the nation and the world are at "a crossroads" where demographic changes, globalization and the information revolution have "disrupted the old order" and made "us vulnerable to the appeals of fear and anger and tribe," according to excerpts of his remarks provided by his office.

Obama described Harris's campaign as an effort to guard against those destructive forces and usher in a future that would create an economy "where everybody has

enough" and Americans don't see the changes occurring in society as a zero-sum game where "if somebody gains, somebody must lose."

"That's what my election was about back in 2008 ... and we've now gone through 16 years of continuing struggle to move in a direction in which it's not radical," Obama said.

He told attendees that Harris, who has been a friend for two decades, "can make us proud on the world stage about what America stands for, as opposed to embarrassing us."

"We're still going to have free markets and we're still going to have our liberties, and Americans are still going to be doing the weird things that we do. But we can make sure that it's a little bit gentler, a little bit kinder, a little bit more generous, a little bit less

unequal, a little bit more inclusive."

Obama and Harris met when he was running for Senate in Illinois. She became one of the earliest supporters of his 2008 bid for president — traveling to Iowa to knock doors for him at a moment when many of the Democratic Party's power brokers had lined up behind Hillary Clinton.

Obama served as a sounding board for Harris when she became vice president. He also actively raised money for President Joe Biden, his former vice president, when he was still in the race. That included a star-studded Los Angeles fundraiser with George Clooney and Julia Roberts in June and a New York fundraiser with Biden and former president Bill Clinton in March.

After Biden's faltering debate performance against Trump, Obama told allies that Biden's path to victory had diminished and that he needed to seriously consider the viability of his candidacy — creating some resentment among Biden loyalists.

Harris and Obama have been in especially close touch over the past two months as she was elevated to the top of the ticket after Biden withdrew from the race. The former president has offered to help with strategic advice, fundraising and get-out-the-vote efforts, including a major push with creators on social media this past week for National Voter Registration Day. Several of the top advisers on his presidential campaigns are now involved with Harris's campaign.

Both leaders have faced similar attacks from Trump and the conservative right on their mixed-

race heritage. For years, Trump falsely claimed that Obama wasn't born in the United States as he questioned the former president's qualifications for the office.

After Harris became Biden's running mate in 2020, Trump tried similar tactics by falsely claiming that there were questions about her eligibility as she was poised to become the first Black and Asian American vice president.

When Trump baselessly questioned the racial identity of Harris — the daughter of an Indian mother and Jamaican father — during a forum hosted by the National Association of Black Journalists, Harris rebuffed his assertion that she "happened to turn Black" by alluding to his many years perpetuating the "birther" movement's lies about Obama. "Same old tired playbook," she said during a CNN interview. "Next question, please."

Attendees of Obama's fundraiser for Harris in Los Angeles included Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos and his wife, Nicole Avant, a producer and author who served as the U.S. ambassador to the Bahamas during Obama's administration. Others who attended included actress Jennifer Coolidge and comedian Conan O'Brien.

The former president said Friday that he wished he had a four- or five-point plan to win the election, but "truthfully, the plan is we're going to push through it."

"If we win — when we win — it won't solve all the crazy that's out there," he said. "But each time we win, it's solidifying this new future. It is ushering in these new possibilities. Eventually, that will become the new normal and the new reality."

## Activists brace for challenges to LGBTQ rights if Trump wins

TRUMP FROM A1

He has said far less about gay rights, an issue where he is sometimes out of step with his most conservative Christian supporters. His wife, Melania Trump, has hosted fundraisers for an LGBTQ Republican group in recent months. And over the summer, Trump backed an overhaul of the Republican Party platform that removed long-standing opposition to the Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage.

But the first Trump administration fought efforts to extend anti-discrimination laws to cover sexual orientation, and social conservatives are eager for Trump to pick up where he left off. Trump is also expected to try to appoint more conservative judges on the federal bench who could influence future landmark decisions on LGBTQ issues.

Civil rights groups are already raising alarms and preparing to challenge Trump's agenda in court. A detailed memo the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) released in June argues many of Trump's proposals are illegal or unconstitutional. The group's lawyers see many opportunities to push back but also say it's hard to predict how courts might rule, especially after the former president's success pushing the federal judiciary to the right.

"I think a lot of folks feel if they live in a so-called blue state, they're safe from whatever impact a second Trump administration can have, and that's just not true," said Leslie Cooper, deputy director of the ACLU's LGBT & HIV Project. The Trump team, she said, is "saying what they would try to do." She added: "I think we should believe them that they mean it."

A second Trump term would be a sharp turn away from the Biden administration, which rolled back many Trump-era policies — including Trump's ban on transgender people serving openly in the military — and is battling in court to require federally funded schools to accommodate transgender students. Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee, has also promoted LBGTQ rights as Republican-led states pass laws restricting gender transition care and discussion of LGBTQ issues in schools.

The emerging plans for a second term underscore a shift in the politics of LGBTQ issues since 2016, when Trump suggested that North Carolina's restrictions on transgender people's restroom use were unnecessary and said the trans celebrity Caitlyn Jenner could use any toilet she wanted at Trump Tower. Republicans who were on the defensive for years on same-sex marriage have turned focus of their focus to gender transition and found public support for some restrictions.

Polls show Americans support same-sex marriage by big margins, and a Washington Post-KFF



Demonstrators pray together at a rally against gender-affirming care in Nashville in October 2022.

poll last year found that large majorities support laws prohibiting discrimination against transgender people in workplaces, education, the military and other settings.

At the same time, the polls found that about two-thirds of Americans said trans women and girls should not be allowed to play in women's sports, and solid majorities opposed allowing trans youth to use puberty blockers and hormonal treatments.

Asked how Trump's administration would approach LBGTQ issues if reelected, Trump campaign spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said in a statement that Trump's "second term agenda will create a safer and more prosperous America for ALL Americans, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, or creed!"

Trump regularly portrays transgender people as a threat to women in his campaign speeches, mocking their participation in women's sports before laughing crowds. Last month at a D.C. summit for the activist group Moms for Liberty, Trump misrepresented the process of gender transition for minors, falsely suggesting schools rather than parents consent to a child's medical "operation."

Asked what he could do as president to address the rising number of children identifying as transgender, Trump said: "Well, you can do everything. President has such power."

### Targeting gender transition care

Trump's plans, if successful, would have enormous impact. Pulling Medicare and Medicaid eligibility for health-care providers that offer gender transition care to youth could effectively halt most of that treatment across the country, experts said, building on laws restricting the procedures for minors in more than

*"I think a lot of folks feel if they live in a so-called blue state, they're safe from whatever impact a second Trump administration can have, and that's just not true."*

Leslie Cooper, deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union's LGBT & HIV Project

20 states.

The Supreme Court said in June that it would review one such law in Tennessee, which would mark the justices' first chance to weigh whether the restrictions are constitutional.

Ben Carson, who served as housing secretary under Trump, said in an interview that he and Trump have talked about what they see as the problem of gender transition care for minors.

"Asking them to make profound decisions that will affect the rest of their lives — those are not reasonable things to do," he said, referring to treatments that can include hormone therapy and surgery.

Advocates for LBGTQ rights say denying those options is cruel, and note that major medical organizations support the procedures. Some are urging state officials to set aside their own funding for gender-affirming care to blunt potential loss of access under a Trump administration.

"Politicians should prioritize getting the country back on track, not making life more difficult for trans Americans," said Ash Orr, a

spokesperson for the National Center for Transgender Equality. This election, Orr added, will be critical for the trans community.

Some of Trump's proposals on gender identity — such as a bill banning practices he refers to as "child sexual mutilation" — would require a supportive Congress. Many others would rely on executive action. For example, Trump has promised to reinstate his first administration's ban on transgender people serving openly in the military.

### A quieter fight over gay rights

Trump's "Agenda 47" videos, which promote his policy plans, dwell on trans issues at length without discussing sexual orientation. But civil rights groups say they anticipate a second Trump term would be consequential for gay rights, as well.

In Trump's first term, multiple federal agencies quietly removed references to sexual orientation from anti-discrimination guidelines, and the administration argued in court against interpreting discrimination law to cover sexual orientation.

In the summer of 2020, Trump appeared to publicly accept a 6-3 Supreme Court ruling in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, written by Trump appointee Neil M. Gorsuch, that concluded a federal ban on sex discrimination in employment extends to bias against gay and transgender people. "They've ruled, and we live with the decision," Trump said.

But Trump's Justice Department suggested a narrow interpretation of the high court's ruling, emphasizing potential exceptions for religious views and First Amendment rights and saying in a memo the justices' interpretation did not necessarily translate to areas besides employment.

Groups such as the ACLU argue that *Bostock's* reasoning should apply broadly, and some

courts have agreed. But there is pushback. "The debate between conservative constitutionalists and the Biden administration is how *Bostock* is applied, and the Biden administration has taken *Bostock* and applied it to everything they could get their hands on," said Roger Severino, who led the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Health and Human Services under Trump.

More recently, Severino wrote a chapter on health policy for a book published by Project 2025, a conservative effort outside the Trump campaign to recommend personnel and policies for the next administration. (Trump criticized Project 2025 over the summer as Democrats increasingly attacked it.) Severino argues for reversing the Biden administration's assertion that the Affordable Care Act bans federally supported health programs from discriminating based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Some prominent social conservative allies of Trump concede the tides have turned against them on same-sex marriage, which once dominated the political fight over LGBTQ rights. "I don't know that there's a policy opportunity on that issue, on marriage," said Nance of Concerned Women for America, which prominently states on its website that marriage is "between a man and a woman."

Trump criticized the Supreme Court's *Obergefell* ruling legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide during the GOP primary in 2016, then said shortly after winning the election that he was "fine" with it.

Still, the 2022 Supreme Court ruling striking down the long-standing right to abortion — and conservative Justice Clarence Thomas's suggestion at the same time that gay rights cases need reexamining — has made the LBGTQ community nervous that other precedents could fall, especially if Trump makes more judicial appointments.

Charles Moran, the president of the Log Cabin Republicans — a group for LGBTQ conservatives and their allies — said Trump has been supportive, praised his first administration's efforts to decriminalize homosexuality internationally and noted that Trump had the first Pride Coalition in GOP presidential campaign history.

But other Trump supporters have resisted the growing acceptance of same-sex marriage. Severino's chapter in the Project 2025 policy book encourages the next health secretary to endorse the idea that "married men and women are the ideal, natural family structure." Asked about that idea, Moran echoed Trump and his advisers' distancing from Project 2025.

"Kids sometimes write letters to Santa Claus with their wish list of things that they'd like," Moran said. Some adults "do exactly the same thing," he added.

ELECTION 2024

# 'Right now, it's about child care.' Nevada parents say vote will reflect struggles.

CHILD CARE FROM A1

already under financial strain because of inflation.

Along with housing prices, child-care costs are among the last remnants of inflation haunting Americans — a point that Biden administration economists have conceded. Although gas, cars and groceries, including bread, bacon and vegetables, have all become cheaper in the past year, day-care costs have risen 6.2 percent — more than double the rate of overall inflation.

Those high costs are increasingly factoring into how people plan to vote in the presidential election, just over six weeks away. More than one-third of mothers who are registered to vote said they worry “a lot” about affording child care, according to a recent KFF poll.

Vice President Kamala Harris has made the “care economy” a cornerstone of her platform, vowing to permanently increase the child tax credit, add a one-time \$6,000 credit for newborns and cap child-care costs at 7 percent of a working family’s income. Former president Donald Trump has also said he would consider expanding the child tax credit, though he has not offered further details. Meanwhile, his running mate, JD Vance, has argued that children would benefit from a stay-at-home parent, suggesting families should rely more on “grandma and grandpa” to save on child care.

“Child care is a huge piece of the puzzle that families, especially in Nevada, have to put together every day just to participate in the labor force,” said Caitlin Saladino, a director at Brookings Mountain West, a partnership between the D.C. think tank and the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. “This is a nonpartisan issue — parents are having a really hard time, and it’s becoming an even bigger focus as we approach the election.”

In interviews with about two dozen working parents in closely divided Washoe County, all cited finding and paying for child care as among their top concerns. More than half said inadequate child care had forced them to cut their hours at work, at hotels, hospitals, factories and in law enforcement. Some have quit.

“I’ve looked around for years and have not been able to find anything that’s affordable, at all,” said Meghan Archambault, an administrative assistant who pays their mother \$500 a month to watch their 6-year-old twins after school and is planning to vote for Harris. “We live paycheck to paycheck and go to food banks every week. The cost of raising a family is a major concern for us.”

Paying for child care is a particular struggle in Reno, a 24-hour casino town where child care needs spill over into nights and weekends. The area has among the least affordable child care in the country, with day care eating up almost 20 percent of a typical family’s income, Labor Department data shows.

And while the state has benefited from a burst of pandemic-era federal spending, including \$571 million in child-care funding alone, that money runs out this month. Child-care providers say it will be even tougher for them to operate, and for families to afford care, after that.

“The last few years have been a complete roller coaster, but government money has helped stabilize the system,” said Christine McNally, a child-care provider who recently expanded from one center to three. “But now it feels like we’re going back to wondering what happens next.”

More than two-thirds of families at McNally’s Reno facility rely on subsidies. Many also benefited from the Biden administration’s expanded child tax credit, which gave families as much as \$3,600 per child in 2021, up from \$2,000, and temporarily lifted millions of children out of poverty. Subsequent efforts by the White House to extend those credits have fizzled in Congress.

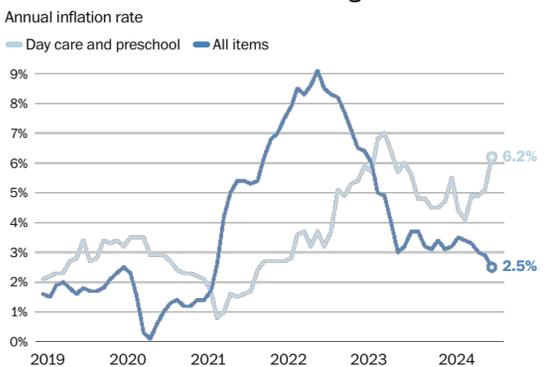
For families in Reno, strengthened tax credits would go a long way. Sonia and James Kretschmer spend much more on child care than they do on their mortgage. The couple, both high school teachers, pay \$2,700 a month for preschool for their 3-year-old twins and before- and after-school care for their 8-year-old son. They’ve borrowed against their home, taken on extra work coaching soccer and bartending, and racked up credit card debt to make ends meet.

“I’m not a Democrat or a Republican. I believe in looking at the issues,” said Sonia Kretschmer, 38, a social studies teacher who is leaning toward voting for Harris. “What is going to help my family? What is going

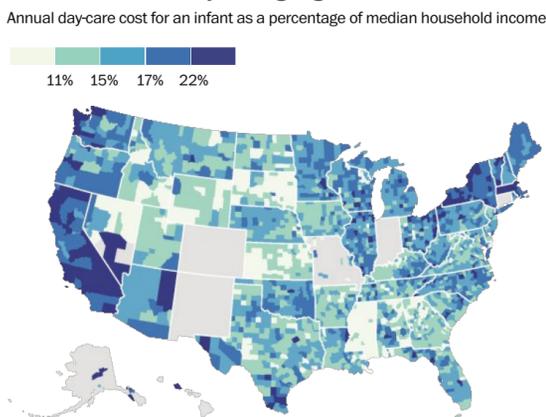


ABOVE: James and Sonia Kretschmer with their three children at their home in Reno, Nev. BELOW: Christine McNally, owner of Under the Magic Pine Tree, a Reggio-inspired learning center for infants to kindergarten age, in Reno, Nev., on Sept. 14.

## Child-care inflation is rising even as overall inflation is declining



## How much of a family's budget goes to child care?



Data was reported in 2018 and updated to 2023 dollar values. Source: Labor Department, Census Bureau. FEDERICA COCCO/THE WASHINGTON POST

to help my community? And right now, it's about child care.”

The Frosts, who briefly paid their dog sitter \$150 a day for help, finally found a long-term solution last month: an in-home day care that charges \$250 a week. Their daughter is happy, they said. And Kayla, an insurance agent, and Ryan, a power-sports mechanic, are more productive at work. The couple are planning to vote for Trump and are hoping tax cuts will help cover the cost of food, gas — and child care.

“We solved one problem when we found this day care,” Kayla Frost said. “But now we’re focused on how we’re going to pay for it. It’s a thousand-dollar expense we didn’t have before.”

Many parents in Reno said campaign promises from either party had been slow to break through. They were disheartened that child care wasn’t discussed in the recent debate between Harris and Trump. When the topic came up in the June debate between President Joe Biden and Trump, neither candidate offered much of a plan.

“That was really devastating to me, as a mom — to see [Biden and Trump] talk more about golf than they did about child care,” said Laura Mastin, 38, a tech worker with two young children. “For so many families, child care is the biggest day-to-day stressor.”

Mastin, a longtime Democrat, said she is more hopeful now that Harris and running mate Tim Walz, a former high school teacher, have secured the party’s nomination. Both have championed child-care affordability as a key part of their platform.

“We believe in a future where every person has ... affordable health care, affordable child care, paid leave,” Harris said in a speech this summer.

When asked this month how he would enact specific policies to help parents with child care, Trump said it was “a very important issue” before adding that it paled in comparison to the “trillions” he could add to the U.S. economy by levying new tariffs on imports. “As much as child care is talked about as being expensive, it’s relatively speaking not very expensive compared to the kind of numbers we’re taking in,” he said at an event hosted by the Economic Club of New York.

The Biden White House has acknowledged that child-care prices are one of “two areas of critical unfinished business,” as Jared Bernstein, chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, put it this summer. He placed the blame on Congress, saying it had nixed the administration’s plans to address the problem, including \$15 billion to boost child-care subsidies and fund new preschools.

“There is every reason for these to be bipartisan policies,” Bernstein said during a presentation at EPI Action in July. “I don’t care if you’re in a red, blue or purple state, you need a lot more affordable housing and child care.”

Although child care has been bubbling up on the political stage, some families say they haven’t spent much time following the candidates’ platforms. “Honestly, it’s a lot to keep up with,” said Alyssa Felix, 21, who hasn’t voted before and isn’t sure she will this year.



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# Facing bans, Big Tobacco puts its money on Trump

BY ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER,  
DAN DIAMOND  
AND JOSH DAWSEY

America's top tobacco regulator was on a work trip in the Netherlands in September 2019 when he got wind of President Donald Trump's plan to take abrupt action on vaping, the booming business offering a substitute for smokers but presenting hazards of its own.

"This was coming out of left field," said Mitch Zeller, at the time the director of the Food and Drug Administration's tobacco center.

Zeller supported the plan Trump put forward the next day in the Oval Office: removing mouthwatering flavors, such as mango and mint, that were making e-cigarettes so popular with teenagers. But he feared that Trump's hasty rollout would doom the effort, he said in a recent interview.

Indeed, Trump soon shelved the proposal amid pressure from lobbyists and political advisers who warned the move could endanger his 2020 reelection campaign because of the popularity of vaping, the heating of nicotine to make an inhaled aerosol.

Four years later, the tobacco industry is banking on Trump's chaotic approach to public health — and pliable views on policy — as it confronts a new challenge to its bottom line: efforts by regulators in the Biden administration to ban menthol cigarettes, which represent 36 percent of the cigarette market.

The top corporate donor to the main pro-Trump super PAC is a subsidiary of Reynolds American, the second-largest tobacco company in the United States and the maker of Newports, the No. 1 menthol brand in the country. The subsidiary, RAI Services Company, has given \$8.5 million to the super PAC, called Make America Great Again Inc., federal records show. The company does not appear to have contributed money to groups backing Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee.

Big Tobacco's bet on Trump shows how corporate interests believe the former president can be swayed by campaign donations — and brought into line even on issues where he has shown some independence from GOP orthodoxy, said former U.S. officials and industry lobbyists. The contributions represent a muscular move by the company into presidential politics. A Reynolds PAC funded by employee contributions donated just \$25,000 to a Trump campaign committee in 2016, and the company contributed \$1 million to Trump's inauguration in 2017. These entities do not appear to have made contributions in the presidential race in 2020. A Reynolds representative did not respond to detailed questions about the company's political giving or its interactions with Trump.

Over the past three decades, political contributions by the industry have declined, especially at the federal level, as companies focused their efforts on state and local controversies over higher cigarette taxes and smoking prevention. Reynolds's major pro-Trump move bucks that trend.

Brian Ballard, a prominent Trump-aligned lobbyist whose firm has represented Reynolds since 2017, suggested the company make the donations, according to a person familiar with the activity. Reynolds executives have met with Trump on multiple occasions in 2023 and 2024, including a lengthy meeting earlier this year in New York where they emphasized their concerns about a menthol ban, said the person, who, like some others interviewed for this story, spoke on the condition of anonymity to reveal sensitive details. The executives also raised other subjects with the former president, especially counterfeit vaping pens they said were flooding in from China through the Port of Los Angeles and cutting into their profits. Ballard did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Former company employees and lobbyists, as well as former Trump aides, said Reynolds sees Trump as its best hope of achieving a range of objectives, including fending off a proposed ban on menthol cigarettes, which is in limbo. The Biden administration has delayed a final decision after political advisers warned the president that it could cost him votes among Black smokers who studies show favor the products. The delay may give Trump authority over the ultimate policy if he returns to the White House.

The issue is now a thorny one for Harris. She has previously supported efforts to limit the products, though her campaign did not respond to questions about her current position. A



SAMUEL CORUM/GETTY IMAGES

**A woman wearing a Trump hat smokes. A subsidiary of Reynolds American tobacco has given \$8.5 million to a pro-Trump super PAC.**

Trump spokesman also did not respond to questions about his view. Conservatives believe the issue can be used to erode Black support for Harris: A Republican-aligned group is spearheading a \$10 million ad campaign tying her to the administration's proposed ban.

The advertising blitz is a further illustration of the political significance of Big Tobacco and its causes this November. The industry's influence could carry over into policymaking next year.

Stephanie Grisham, who witnessed the back-and-forth over tobacco regulation as an aide to both Trump and his wife, Melania, said the GOP standard-bearer will see the Reynolds donations as a sign of "loyalty" and look to return the favor if elected.

"It would absolutely weigh on his thinking," said Grisham, who has publicly disavowed Trump.

## 'Bully him'

Trump is no fan of smoking. "I tell people, 'No drugs, no drinking, no cigarettes,'" he said in a podcast interview last month.

For years, he has expressed revulsion for the habit. "I watch people smoke; it looks terrible to me," Trump said on the campaign trail in 2015. "It's terrible."

When he was elected, the teetotaling, cigarette-averse president seemed like a natural ally for antismoking advocates. In 2017, Trump's FDA commissioner, Scott Gottlieb, put forward a comprehensive tobacco strategy calling for reduced nicotine levels in cigarettes.

A year later, health officials received alarming new data that focused their attention on e-cigarettes. Vaping by minors was skyrocketing, driven by the popularity of products offered by Juul Labs that came with a range of flavors, such as mango and menthol. In 2018, Gottlieb labeled teen vaping an "epidemic" and proposed ways of curbing flavored e-cigarettes, saying he wanted to ban menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars as well.

The issue caught the attention of Kellyanne Conway, senior counselor to the president and Trump's onetime campaign manager, according to Grisham, Trump's press secretary at the time and also an aide to the first lady.

According to Grisham, Conway brought her concerns about flavored e-cigarettes to Melania Trump, knowing the first lady wanted to work on issues involving children.

"She knew Mrs. Trump would

be able to influence her husband," Grisham said.

Conway said she never favored banning flavors but "protecting kids," including a proposal to raise the age to 21 for e-cigarette sales and other tobacco products, which Trump signed into law in December 2019. Conway said she doesn't favor prohibiting products including vapes and menthol cigarettes, adding, "The Democrats are the party of bans."

But when Trump gathered his top health officials in the Oval Office in September 2019 to act on the issue of teenage vaping at the urging of his wife and Conway, senior officials framed their action as a sweeping ban. Alex Azar, the health secretary, said the aim was to "clear the market" of flavored e-cigarettes, including mint and menthol, allowing the products to be sold only once they gained formal approval from federal regulators.

Zeller, the top tobacco regulator, who was in the Netherlands when the hasty meeting was called back in Washington, said he believed right away that Trump's approach was a mistake. His staff hadn't drafted anything, Zeller said; they weren't prepared with regulations or policies to make good on the announcement.

"I knew there would be a vacuum in the aftermath of the announcement that would be filled by all those who oppose a flavor ban, creating a political nightmare for the White House," said Zeller, who is now retired from government and advising a pharmaceutical start-up developing technology to treat tobacco dependence.

Within two months, Zeller's prediction had come to pass. As health officials readied plans to take most flavors off the market, Trump's campaign advisers presented him with data showing that vaping was popular among his supporters. On Nov. 4, the day before a planned news conference to launch the decisive action, Trump balked, refusing to approve a one-page memo advancing the policy.

Conway was frustrated, as was the first lady, recalled Grisham, though she said Melania Trump understood how her husband would view the matter. "I think Mrs. Trump threw up her hands because she knew that if anything was going to impact a potential second term, he wasn't going to do it."

A Trump spokesman did not respond to questions about the former first lady.

Looking back, Grisham added, the policy was bound to fail because of the chaotic way it came about.

"We rarely did things through a process with agencies as you should," she said. "So this was more of, 'Let's get him in a room, let's convince him or bully him with his wife there, let's get him to say yes and say it publicly.'"

Early the following year, the Trump administration moved forward with a scaled-back plan to limit flavored e-cigarettes, notably exempting the popular menthol flavor from the regulation. Public health groups were incensed. The American Lung Association said the lack of more decisive action would "compromise the health of our nation's children."

## Alienating the base

Public health experts turned their hopes to Joe Biden, who had emerged as a major advocate for cancer prevention in the waning days of the Obama administration.

"If I could be anything, I would have wanted to have been the president that ended cancer, because it's possible," Biden said in October 2015, as he announced that he would not seek the presidency that cycle while grieving his son Beau's death from brain cancer.

Biden oversaw the Obama administration's cancer moonshot and, after leaving office, stood up his own cancer initiative in 2017, in which he repeatedly warned about the risks of smoking. Biden also signaled that fighting cancer would be a presidential priority, vowing on the 2020 campaign trail to renew his efforts to address the disease.

"Once we beat covid, we're going to do everything we can to end cancer as we know it," Biden said in February 2021, several weeks after taking office. Two months later, federal regulators announced their intention to ban menthol products, and, in April 2022, the FDA released its proposed rule.

The political sensitivities of banning menthol were immediately apparent, with some Black lawmakers and advocates saying it represented an unfair crackdown on products favored by the Black community. White House aides, meanwhile, stressed that Biden was deferring to public health experts, as the administration asserted that the planned ban could prevent as many as 654,000 deaths in the United States — including as many as

238,000 among African Americans — over the next 40 years.

Menthol, a chemical found in mint plants that can also be made in a lab, provides a cooling sensation when added to cigarettes, making smoking less harsh. A study based on Canada's experience outlawing menthol cigarettes in 2017 concluded that a similar ban in the United States would lead 1.3 million Americans to quit smoking and save hundreds of thousands of lives.

According to two current U.S. officials and one former senior official, Biden had support for his cancer efforts inside the White House from Harris, the daughter of a cancer researcher, who as a senator had signed a 2018 letter supporting a ban on menthol cigarettes. Fighting cancer "is an issue of personal significance to so many and for me," Harris said in February 2022 remarks, reflecting on her mother's death from breast cancer. "You see, after a lifetime working to end cancer, cancer ended my mother's life."

The vice president's office declined to address her position on the menthol ban. A Harris aide said that the issue "is being taken very seriously" but that no decision had been reached.

But as regulators worked to finalize the administration's menthol rule, warnings of the political blowback became more acute. Cornell Belcher, a Democratic pollster, issued a memo last year arguing that a ban risked alienating Biden's "base supporters" in the 2024 election, citing his own polling in battleground states. Belcher's poll and analysis were funded by Altria, a tobacco company. Neither Belcher nor Altria responded to requests for comment.

There has been effectively no progress on the menthol ban over the past year, officials said, with the White House repeatedly missing its self-imposed deadlines to finalize it. In April, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra released a terse, two-sentence announcement that the administration needed "significantly more time" to consider debate over the ban. Asked this month about the status of the ban, federal officials referred back to Becerra's statement.

Even if Biden belatedly moves to finalize the rule, it could now be blocked or rolled back by a newly elected Trump because it requires one year to be fully implemented.

Meanwhile, Harris is already facing well-funded attacks over the administration's proposed ban.

A memo circulated by a group called Building America's Future — which is staffed by veterans of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis's unsuccessful bid for the Republican presidential nomination — describes menthol as "The Niche Message That Can Reverse Harris' Consolidation of Black Voters." The nonprofit is part of an effort to spend \$10 million on ads linking her to the stalled rule and targeting Black voters in the battleground states of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

## Changing the debate

Black smokers have similarly been at the heart of a lobbying campaign undertaken by Reynolds, according to internal documents obtained by The Washington Post.

One document, marked "confidential," outlined the "objectives" of the company's influence efforts. Among them: "Change the debate on menthol in DC."

Advocates for prohibition say

banning menthol would reduce chronic disease and save lives, especially among Black Americans. Reynolds has sought to flip that argument on its head. In another memo circulated to company lobbyists, Reynolds argued that a ban would weaken relations between communities of color and law enforcement. The one-page memo bluntly warns of an "increased likelihood the police will use force on a person of color" if police were required to enforce a ban, which it calls "counter to progressive policing principles."

The memo includes statements from prominent civil rights activists, including the Rev. Al Sharpton, who is quoted in the memo arguing that any consideration of banning menthol cigarettes must "include a candid discussion about racial disparities and selective prosecution in communities of color." The National Action Network, which Sharpton founded, has received donations from Reynolds, as both the civil rights leader and the company have acknowledged. They have declined to detail the amount. Sharpton's organization did not respond to a request for comment.

The company has used a similar argument on Capitol Hill, telling lawmakers that a menthol ban would "create another Eric Garner situation," said a former Reynolds lobbyist, referring to the 43-year-old Black man killed in 2014 by police after he was stopped on suspicion of illegally selling single cigarettes.

Public health advocates and policymakers have dismissed those arguments as false and inflammatory, noting that the crackdown targets retailers, wholesalers, distributors and other businesses — not individual smokers.

Claims that a menthol ban would lead to abusive policing in Black communities are "unfounded," 21 attorneys general wrote to Biden in January. "The FDA plainly states that federal authorities will not enforce the proposed menthol ban against individual consumers."

At the same time, Reynolds has been eyeing what the former lobbyist said the company views as a more potent tool to prevent prohibition of menthol cigarettes: putting Trump back in the White House.

When he was first elected in 2016, Trump wasn't seen as friendly to the industry, said a former Reynolds executive. "We all knew his profile: doesn't drink, never smoked," the former executive said.

The company gave little to his campaign but donated to Trump's inauguration, which secured executives a spot at a dinner with the newly minted president, said a person who attended. In 2017, Reynolds also put \$1.5 million into the pro-Trump nonprofit America First Policies, according to a corporate disclosure.

Though the company has made bipartisan political donations, senior leaders appreciate that Republicans are more lenient with the industry than are Democrats, said a former longtime employee. "The mindset of the organization was, 'If we can get a conservative leader in place — at the local level, at the state level and at the federal level — it would benefit the industry,'" this person said.

That preference became more pronounced as the Biden administration pursued its menthol ban, said the former lobbyist. The issue is critical for Reynolds: A ban would spoil one of the company's most significant recent ventures — the acquisition in 2015 of the Lorillard Tobacco Company, which makes the Newport brand of menthol cigarettes.

"The whole reason they bought this company is about to be banned," said the former lobbyist.

Reynolds executives feel they narrowly escaped a ban under Biden and can't count on their good fortune should Harris win the presidency, said the former lobbyist and other former employees. They said the aim now is not just to help elect Trump but also to deepen the company's relationship with him.

Zeller, the former top tobacco regulator, said the company's plan could work. Trump's expressed disinterest in the fine points of public policy and the anti-regulatory agenda of the people likely to staff his potential second term would make him "susceptible to outside interests, financial or otherwise," he argued.

Regulators made modest but surprisingly significant gains in antismoking efforts when Trump was last in the White House, Zeller said. A second Trump term, he predicted, would be different.

"Those days are long gone," Zeller said.

Clara Ence Morse contributed to this report.



MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO/GETTY IMAGES

**A proposed ban on menthol cigarettes would hurt Newport, the top-selling menthol brand in the U.S.**

POWER GRAB

# A bottle of water per email: The energy cost of AI

BY PRANSHU VERMA AND SHELLY TAN

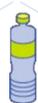
Roughly a quarter of Americans have used ChatGPT since the chatbot's 2022 release, according to the Pew Research Center — and every query exacts a cost. Chatbots use an immense amount of power to respond to user questions, and simply keeping the bot's servers cool enough to function in data centers takes a toll on the environment. While the exact burden is nearly impossible to quantify, The Washington Post worked with researchers at the University of California at Riverside to understand how much water and power OpenAI's ChatGPT, using the GPT-4 language model released in March 2023, consumes to write the average 100-word email.



A 100-word email generated by an AI chatbot using GPT-4...

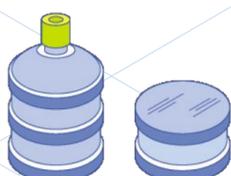
**Once**

Requires **519 milliliters** of water, a little more than **1 bottle**



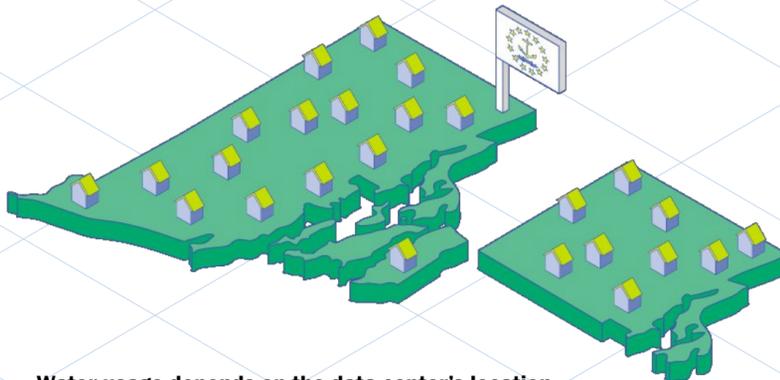
**Once weekly for a year**

Requires **27 liters**, about **1.43 water cooler jugs**



**Once weekly for a year by 1 out of 10 working Americans (roughly 16 million people)**

Requires **435,235,476 liters**, equal to the water consumed by **all Rhode Island households for 1.5 days**



**Let's look first at water.**

Each prompt on ChatGPT flows through a server that runs thousands of calculations to determine the best words to use in a response.

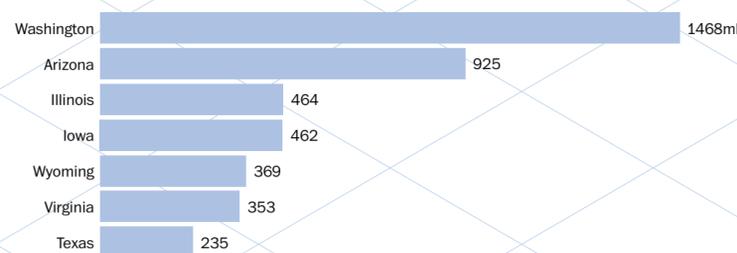
In completing those calculations, these servers, typically housed in data centers, generate heat. Often, water systems are used to cool the equipment and keep it functioning. Water transports the heat generated in the data centers into cooling towers to help it escape the building, similar to how the human body uses sweat to keep cool, according to Shaolei Ren, an associate professor at UC Riverside.

Where electricity is cheaper, or water comparatively scarce, electricity is often used to cool these warehouses with large units resembling air-conditioners, he said. That means the amount of water and electricity an individual query requires can depend on a data center's location and vary widely.

Even in ideal conditions, data centers are often among the heaviest users of water in the towns where they are located, environmental advocates said. But data centers with electrical cooling systems also are raising concerns by driving up residents' power bills and taxing the electric grid.

**Water usage depends on the data center's location**

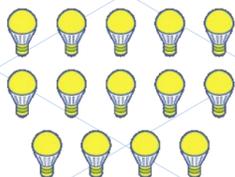
Milliliters of water required for AI chatbots using GPT-4 to generate a 100-word email by location of data center.



A 100-word email generated by an AI chatbot using GPT-4...

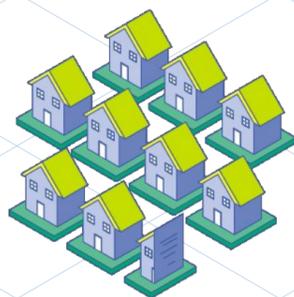
**Once**

Requires **0.14 kilowatt-hours (kWh)** of electricity, equal to powering **14 LED light bulbs for 1 hour**



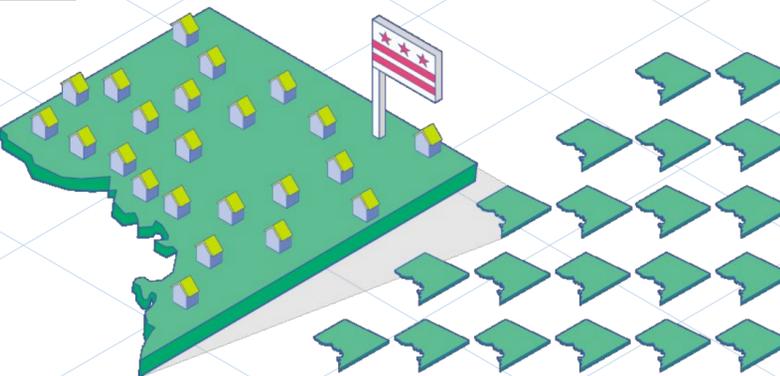
**Once weekly for a year**

Requires **7.5kWh**, equal to the electricity consumed by **9.3 D.C. households for 1 hour**



**Once weekly for a year by 1 out of 10 working Americans**

Requires **121,517 megawatt-hours (MWh)**, equal to the electricity consumed by **all D.C. households for 20 days**



**Here is how much a query draws in electrical power.**

Data centers also require massive amounts of energy to support other activities, such as cloud computing, and artificial intelligence has only increased that load, Ren said. If a data center is located in a hot region — and relies on air conditioning for cooling — it takes a lot of electricity to keep the servers at a low temperature. If data centers relying on water cooling are located in drought-prone areas, they risk depleting the area of a precious natural resource.

In Northern Virginia, home to the world's highest concentration of data centers, citizen groups have protested construction of these buildings, saying they are not only loud energy hogs that don't bring in enough long-term jobs, but also eyesores that kill home values. In West Des Moines, Iowa, an emerging hotbed of data centers, water department records showed that facilities run by companies like Microsoft used around 6 percent of all the district's water. After a lengthy court battle, the Oregonian newspaper forced Google to disclose how much its data centers were using in The Dalles, about 80 miles east of Portland; it turned out to be nearly a quarter of all the water available in the town, the documents revealed.

Before chatbots can even fulfill a request, a huge amount of energy is spent training them. The large language models that allow chatbots like ChatGPT to generate lifelike responses all require servers to analyze millions of pieces of data.

It can take months to train these advanced computer models, according to AI experts and research papers, and tech companies such as Google, Meta and Microsoft are scrambling to build data centers.

Each one continuously churns out heat.

Big tech companies have made numerous pledges to make their data centers greener by using new cooling methods. Those climate pledges are often not met.

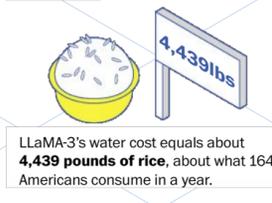
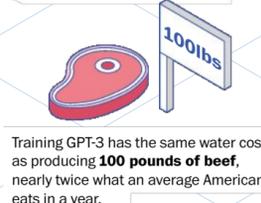
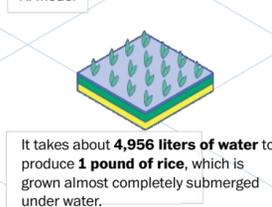
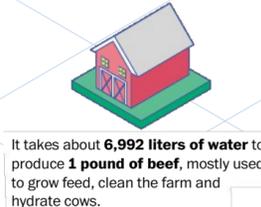
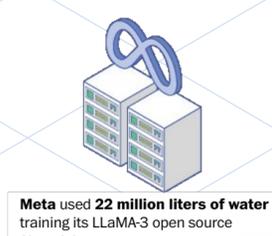
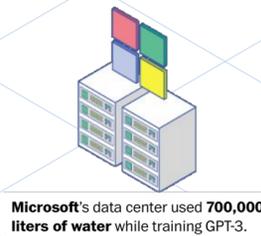
In July, Google released its most recent environmental

report, showing its carbon emission footprint rose by 48 percent, largely due to AI and data centers. It also replenished only 18 percent of the water it consumed — a far cry from the 120 percent it has set as a goal by 2030. "Google has a long-standing commitment to sustainability, guided by our ambitious goals — which includes achieving net-zero emissions by 2030," said Mara Harris, a spokesperson for Google.

"AI can be energy-intensive and that's why we are constantly working to improve efficiency," said Kayla Wood, an OpenAI spokesperson. Ashley Settle, a Meta spokesperson, said in a statement that the company prioritizes "operating our data centers sustainably and efficiently, while ensuring that people can depend on our services." Craig Cincotta, a general manager at Microsoft, said the company "remains committed to reducing the intensity with which we withdraw resources," and added that Microsoft is working toward installing data center cooling methods that "will eliminate water consumption completely."

Tech companies such as Nvidia will keep creating computer chips that generate more kilowatts of power per server to do more computations, experts said. AI is creating unprecedented demands on data centers that far outpace any in recent history, Ren said.

"The rapid rise of AI has dramatically changed this trajectory," Ren said, "and presented new challenges the industry has never met before."



**Methodology** Water and electricity costs were calculated by Ren for ChatGPT-4 at an average American data center. A full methodology can be found in their paper "Making AI Less 'Thirsty': Uncovering and Addressing the Secret Water Footprint of AI Models." D.C. electricity consumption figures calculated from the U.S. Energy Information Administration's 2023 state energy reports. Rhode Island daily water use from the National Environmental Education Foundation. Beef and rice per capita consumption numbers from U.S. Department of Agriculture food availability data and the OECD's agricultural outlook. Water footprint estimates sourced from: Livestock Science's "Assessing water resource use in livestock production: A review of methods" and Science's "Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers."

# THE WORLD

## Putin struggles to defend red lines as threats lose potency

There's a growing realization in the Kremlin that the West is not falling for its nuclear threats, and it's searching for new ways to respond

BY CATHERINE BELTON  
AND ROBYN DIXON

When Russian President Vladimir Putin warned earlier this month that Western approval for Ukraine to strike deep inside Russia would mean Moscow was at war with NATO, Russian propagandists rushed to rattle the nuclear saber.

Alexander Mikhailov, director of the Bureau of Military Political Analysis, called for bombing plywood mock-ups of London and Washington — complete with reproductions of Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and the White House — to simulate nuclear strikes, so that they would “burn so beautifully that it will horrify the world.”

The speaker of the lower house, Vyacheslav Volodin, warned that strikes on Russia would lead to war with nuclear weapons and reminded the European Parliament that its headquarters in Strasbourg was only a three-minute flight for a Russian ICBM.

But inside the Kremlin, there is a growing recognition that the repeated use of the nuclear threat is starting to lose its potency and Moscow's red lines are constantly being crossed. Analysts and officials close to senior Russian diplomats said instead that Putin is casting around for a more nuanced and limited response to the West allowing Ukraine to use longer range missiles to strike Russia.

“There has been an overflow of nuclear threats,” said a Russian official speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject. “There is already immunity to such statements, and they don't frighten anyone.”

A Russian academic with close ties to senior Russian diplomats agreed, calling the nuclear option “the least possible” of scenarios, “because it really would lead to dissatisfaction among Russia's partners in the Global South and also because clearly, from a military point of view, it is not very effective.”

“All this discussion of the nuclear threshold overexaggerates the threat of such a type of escalation and underestimates the possibility of alternative options,” the academic added. “Since the West has a global military infrastructure ... a lot of vulnerable points can be found.”

Putin is searching through a range of options to deter Western support for Ukraine and try to enforce his red lines, said Tatiana Stanovaya, the founder of France-based political consultancy R-Politik. “There are options he doesn't want to deploy, and there are options he is ready to review today,” she said, and he sees nuclear weapons as the “worst option for everyone including for himself.”



Russian S-400 missile air defense systems are paraded through Red Square during a rehearsal of the Victory Day military parade in 2022.



People talk with officials at a damaged multistory residential building outside Moscow on Sept. 10.

Nuclear measures or a direct attack on NATO territory would only be considered if “Putin feels there is a threat to the existence of Russia in its current form, when he considers there is no other way out,” she said. “For such a situa-

tion, the West should go a lot further than what it is discussing now.”

Russian officials already appeared to be placated to some degree by the United States' apparent hesitation so far to lifting

restrictions on Ukraine striking military targets deep inside Russia using Western missiles. The expectation was growing that if permission was granted it would be “very limited,” analysts and officials said.

Putin, however, is still under pressure to respond in some way and stop his red lines from being constantly crossed.

“There is an understanding that the red lines drawn by Moscow are being ignored by the West, and there should be weightier and more significant steps from Moscow to demonstrate the seriousness of its intentions,” said the academic.

Since the 2022 invasion, Russia has warned against the West supplying modern fighter jets like F-16s, main battle tanks and missiles to Ukraine, and each has eventually come to pass.

Putin is seeing a trend where Ukraine's western allies keep allowing Kyiv to expand its activities, said Stanovaya, and the trend is scaring him, especially if it leads to increased missile strikes inside Russia. “For Putin this is a qualitative shift which takes the situation to a new level and which could be followed by a further expansion.”

Moscow could opt to respond with sabotage operations against military targets or other infrastructure in the West where Russia's participation could be difficult to prove. It could also turn to proxy groups that are already battling Western interests, like the Houthi militia in Yemen that

has been attacking Red Sea shipping, said Lawrence Freedman, emeritus professor of War Studies at Kings College, London — highlighting a possibility also raised by the Russian academic.

“He doesn't want to turn into anything dramatic or drastic, in the sense of nuclear, or direct fighting between our troops and his troops, but [that] doesn't mean to say that there's not something serious going on,” Freedman said.

Sergei Markov, the hawkish Kremlin-connected political analyst, said there was a growing realization in the top ranks of the Russian military that “Russia has spoiled the West, and that we have spoken a lot about red lines but we haven't done anything. At some point we will have to escalate.”

Markov suggested possible responses could include the closure of the British Embassy in Moscow and strikes on air bases in Poland and Romania where F-16s being deployed by Ukraine are based. “Since Russia is sure that at some point strikes on Moscow will definitely happen, then we need to hit first,” he said.

While Stanovaya dismissed any such strikes on a NATO air bases as unlikely and only in case of desperation, the nuclear rhetoric does have its uses. Both she and Markov point out how members of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's campaign have amplified Moscow's threats as a campaign issue.

This week, Trump and former independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. wrote in an op-ed for the Hill that a decision to grant Ukraine permission to use Western long-range missiles “would put the world at greater risk of nuclear conflagration than at any time since the Cuban missile crisis” and called for direct negotiations with Moscow instead.

Putin could seek to increase the threat and play a “golden card” by escalating before the elections, Markov claimed. “If Putin escalates, then the U.S. will fear nuclear war and Trump will win.”

Freedman also noted that Putin's nuclear threats were deliberately ambiguous to increase their sense of danger. “It sounds menacing, but he never actually is very specific about what he's going to do. He allows us to make our own interpretations, and people interpret the worst.”

Ultimately, however, as the effectiveness of this approach wanes, Putin has not yet figured out what to replace it with, said Stanovaya, and uncertainty was growing since “no one understands” which responses Putin would eventually choose for every concrete action.

“I think Putin doesn't understand either,” she said.

### DIGEST

#### UNITED NATIONS Pact aims to save global cooperation

The U.N. General Assembly approved a blueprint Sunday to bring the world's increasingly divided nations together to tackle challenges from climate change and artificial intelligence to escalating conflicts and increasing inequality and poverty.

The 42-page “Pact for the Future” challenges leaders of the 193 U.N. member nations to turn promises into real actions that make a difference to the world's more than 8 billion people.

The pact was adopted at the opening of the two-day “Summit of the Future” called by U.N. Secretary General António Guterres, who challenged leaders: Implement the pact. Prioritize dialogue and negotiations. End “wars tearing our world apart” from the Middle East to Ukraine and Sudan. Reform the U.N. Security Council. Accelerate reforms of the international financial system. Ramp up a transition from fossil fuels. Listen to young people and include them in decision-making.

The pact's fate was in question until the last moment. There was so much suspense that Guterres had three prepared speeches: one for approval, one for rejection and one if things weren't clear, U.N. spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said.

The summit opened with

Russia's deputy foreign minister proposing amendments that would have significantly watered down the pact.

Speaking on behalf of Africa's 54 nations — which opposed Russia's amendments — the Republic of Congo countered with a motion not to vote on the amendments. That motion was approved to applause. Russia got support only from Iran, Belarus, North Korea, Nicaragua, Sudan and Syria.

— Associated Press

#### MARTINIQUE Amid unrest, France sends anti-riot police

France has sent a group of special anti-riot police that has been banned for 65 years to the French Caribbean island of Martinique, where protesters have gathered despite the government barring demonstrations in parts of the island.

The force arrived over the weekend after the local representative of France's central government in its overseas territory said protests were forbidden until Monday in four municipalities. The government also issued a curfew.

The restrictions came after violent protests broke out on the island last week over the high cost of living, with gunfire injuring at least six police officers and one civilian. But the bans were met by defiance by many on the island, and massive



A man attends the ninth annual Pilgrimage of the Blessing of Helmets on Sunday. The event draws tens of thousands of motorcyclists to the Roman Catholic holy shrine of Fatima in Portugal.

peaceful protests broke out Saturday night.

Martinique's leaders requested the French anti-riot police, in a historic shift for the island. Known as the Companies for Republican Security, the force was banned in the French territory following bloody riots in December 1959 that ended in the deaths of a number of young demonstrators.

— Associated Press

Russia launched strikes in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv that hit high-rise apartment buildings, leaving at least 21 wounded in a second consecutive nighttime attack, authorities said. The bombs fell Saturday night on the district of Shevchenkivsky, north of the center of Kharkiv, governor Oleh Synyehubov said. Kharkiv's city council said 18 buildings were damaged. The wounded included

an 8-year-old child, according to Synyehubov and Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov. Ukrainian officials said KAB-type aerial glide bombs — a retrofitted Soviet weapon that has for months laid waste to eastern Ukraine — were used in both attacks. President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the strike and urged Kyiv's Western allies to send more weapons to help it “protect lives and ensure safety.”

A roadside blast in Pakistan hit a convoy of foreign diplomats, killing a policeman and injuring four others, an official said Sunday. The diplomats were traveling to a tourist area in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which borders Afghanistan and is a base for militant groups, including the Pakistani Taliban. They were visiting at the invitation of the local chamber of commerce and industry, police officer Javed Khan said. There was no claim of responsibility for the attack. A statement from the Foreign Ministry said an advance scout police vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device. The blast occurred at the tourist spot and hill station of Malam Jabba, one of Pakistan's two ski resorts. The diplomats were from Indonesia, Portugal, Kazakhstan, Bosnia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Turkmenistan, Vietnam, Iran, Russia and Tajikistan.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD) managed to fend off the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) in a state election in Brandenburg on Sunday after trailing behind the party throughout the campaign, according to exit polls. The SPD, which has governed the state surrounding the capital Berlin since reunification in 1990, scored 32 percent of the vote, ahead of the AfD with 29 percent, in a last-minute comeback, according to an exit poll by broadcaster ZDF.

— From news services

# Israeli forces shut down Al Jazeera's West Bank bureau

BY LEO SANDS,  
NIHA MASIH  
AND RACHEL PANNETT

Israeli security forces shut down Al Jazeera's Ramallah bureau in the West Bank on Sunday, the country's latest action against one of the few news organizations providing nearly uninterrupted coverage of the war in Gaza and a surge in violence in the West Bank.

Footage broadcast on Al Jazeera's Arabic network showed heavily armed Israeli troops entering the bureau on Sunday morning. According to the network, soldiers arrived around 3 a.m. and ordered employees to evacuate within 10 minutes, leaving any equipment behind. Al Jazeera said a 45-day closure order was handed to the Ramallah bureau chief, Walid al-Omari.

None of the network's employees were harmed in the raid, but some journalists were threatened with laser-pointed weapons. Al Jazeera said — preventing them from covering the operation. On Sunday, it said the bureau was sealed off with two large metal plates welded over



Posters of slain Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh hang from the outlet's Ramallah office Sunday.

the entrance, making it inaccessible. In a subsequent statement, the Israel Defense Forces said it had confiscated the broadcaster's equipment.

Israeli Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi confirmed that security forces raided the news organization's main West Bank offices to "shut down the station" and enforce a closure order. In a statement on X, he accused the Qatari-government-backed network of being a "mouthpiece" for Israel's enemies and said Israel was acting to protect the safety of its soldiers.

In a statement Sunday, Al Jazeera condemned the raid as a "criminal act" and said it rejected the claims made by Israeli officials. "Israel's ongoing suppression of the free press is blatantly aimed at concealing its actions in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank," the network said.

Al Jazeera is one of the few international broadcasters providing largely uninterrupted coverage of Israel's war inside Gaza. International journalists have been unable to enter the Strip

outside of the occasional embed with Israeli forces.

In a statement, Israel's Foreign Press Association said it was "deeply troubled" by the move and urged Israeli authorities to reconsider. "Restricting foreign reporters and closing news channels, signals a shift away from democratic values," the association's board said.

Israel issued a similar closure order that shut down Al Jazeera's Jerusalem operations in May and banned its reporters from operating inside the country. At the time, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the closure followed a unanimous vote by Israel's war cabinet. He accused the network's correspondents of having "harmed the security of Israel" and said "the time has come to eject Hamas's mouthpiece from our country."

Dozens of Palestinian journalists have been killed during the conflict, according to press advocacy groups. Several Al Jazeera journalists have also been killed in Gaza.

Louisa Loveluck contributed to this report.

# Netanyahu heightens rhetoric as Hezbollah clash widens

ISRAEL FROM AI

deepest large barrage fired by the group since hostilities escalated last year. Hezbollah announced that it conducted a similarly deep attack in May, but it appeared to involve fewer munitions.

Israel said it had struck hundreds of Hezbollah targets in Lebanon since Saturday. Lebanon's Health Ministry announced that three people had been killed and four wounded in the strikes overnight. In Israel, sirens sounded across the north, and the Israel Defense Forces restricted gatherings in the area.

Israel also begun moving significant ground forces to its northern border, including the powerful 98th army division that participated in some of the heaviest fighting in Gaza, according to an official familiar with the matter, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

"The price Hezbollah is paying is increasing," Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi said Sunday. "Our strikes will intensify."

In a town outside Haifa, Israel's Iron Dome defense system failed to intercept a Hezbollah projectile on Sunday. The munition landed on a residential street and left three lightly injured.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Israeli operations "will continue until we reach a point where we may ensure the safe return of Israel's northern communities to their homes." He said Israel would "employ the means necessary" to achieve its goal.

Hezbollah began launching attacks against Israel on Oct. 8 in solidarity with Hamas; violence along the border has since displaced tens of thousands of people on both sides. For months, the White House has tried to broker a deal between Israel and Hezbollah, but it has failed to gain traction. Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, has said it refuses to negotiate as long as Israel is still striking Gaza.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby warned that a full-fledged war in the north may not be "the best thing for Israel" and that "escalating this conflict militarily" is not the best way to get Israeli hostages home.

In a separate interview Sunday, Kirby said the United States is trying to negotiate a diplomatic solution to avoid a regional conflagration, but conceded that U.S.-led efforts to secure a ceasefire and hostage release in Gaza have been stalled for weeks.

E.U. foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said "the European Union is extremely concerned by the escalation in Lebanon," pledging that finding a diplomatic solution to the conflict would be high on the agenda at the upcoming United National General Assembly.

"A cease-fire is urgent, across the Blue Line as in Gaza. Civilians on both sides are paying a high price. They will also be the ones suffering once again the most in a



HEIDI LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

full-blown war," he said.

In Lebanon, Hezbollah is still reeling from Israeli attacks that killed senior members of the group's leadership and dismantled key communications networks. Within a week, explosives placed inside pagers and radios maimed thousands, mostly Hezbollah fighters.

Hezbollah leader Hasan Nasrallah said the explosive attacks "crossed all red lines" and conceded that they dealt a "major security and military blow" to the militant group.

"It is an act of war against the people of Lebanon, Lebanon's sovereignty. It is a declaration of war," Nasrallah said in a video address Thursday.

The next day, an Israeli airstrike killed one of Hezbollah's top commanders, Ibrahim Aqil, in Beirut's southern suburbs. The attack leveled a nine-story apartment building on a residential street in the middle of the afternoon. Residents at the site said entire families were at home in their apartments at the time of the attack.

The death toll from the strike rose to 51 on Sunday, according to Lebanon's Civil Defense. Medical workers and children were among the casualties, according to the Health Ministry.

Emergency crews worked for



AMR ABDALLAH DALSH/REUTERS

days to clear the rubble and recover victims. Ten people remain unaccounted for, and in some cases the dead will only be identifiable through their DNA, according to health and emergency personnel.

The target of the strike, Aqil was head of Hezbollah's opera-

tions and wanted by the U.S. government for his alleged role in abducting Americans in Lebanon in the 1980s. The State Department identified Aqil as a "principal member" of the Islamic Jihad Organization, which claimed responsibility for two bombings in Lebanon in the 1980s that killed

258 Americans.

Following the attacks, the United States issued fresh warnings to its citizens in Lebanon. American citizens were urged to leave the country through available commercial options, "due to the unpredictable nature of ongoing conflict" between Hezbol-

lah and Israel "and recent explosions throughout Lebanon." In Israel, in the town outside Haifa hit by a Hezbollah projectile Sunday, emergency workers hurried to clear charcoaled wreckage from a residential block.

Glass and blown-out cars littered the street. By midmorning, a large Israeli flag had been hung over the outer wall of one of two homes that were hit. Residents were shocked, and some were angry.

"Our government doesn't care about us," said Moshe Bichman, 73. In his home, a block away from the strike, windows were blown out by the blast. He said all-out war with Hezbollah was on the horizon.

"People will be leaving the country because there is no security here," he said.

Timsit reported from London, Berger from Kiryat Bialik, Israel, and Soroka from Tel Aviv.



## Retropolis

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PHOTOS BY WAKIL KOHSAR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## Taliban laws find new target: Men

AFGHANISTAN FROM A1

on men have come as a surprise to many in Afghanistan, according to a range of Afghans, including Taliban opponents, wavering supporters and even members of the Taliban regime, who spoke in phone interviews over the past two weeks. In a society where a man's voice is often perceived as far more powerful than a woman's, some men now wonder whether they should have spoken up sooner to defend the freedoms of their wives and daughters.

"If men had raised their voices, we might also be in a different situation now," said a male resident of the capital, Kabul, who like others interviewed for this story spoke on the condition of anonymity or that only their first names be used because of fears of drawing unwanted scrutiny from the regime. "Now, everyone is growing a beard because we don't want to be questioned, humiliated," he said.

The Taliban's new rules governing men pale in comparison with restrictions the government has placed on girls and women, who remain banned from going to school above sixth grade, barred from universities and were recently prohibited from raising their voices in public, among many other rules.

But newly empowered religious morality officers, known for their white robes, have been knocking over the past four weeks on the doors of men in some parts of Kabul who haven't recently attended mosque, according to residents. Government employees said they fear they'll be let go for having failed to grow their beards, and some barbers now refuse to trim them. Increasingly, male taxi drivers are being stopped for violating gender segregation rules, by having unaccompanied female riders in their cars, or for playing music.

The new laws give the morality police authority to detain suspects for up to three days. In severe cases, such as repeated failure to pray in the mosque,



**TOP: Men ride motorcycles in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 28. While women have faced severe regulations for years, new Taliban laws have begun imposing restrictions on men. ABOVE: Mannequins with tinfoil covering their heads at a store in Kabul.**

suspects can be handed over to courts for trial and sentencing based on their interpretation of Islamic sharia law. Violations of the new rules are expected to be punished by fines or prison terms. But people found guilty of some infractions, for example adultery, could be sentenced to flogging or death by stoning.

Amir, a resident who lives in eastern Afghanistan, said he supported the Taliban up until the latest restrictions. But he now feels bullied into submission by their morality police.

"We all are practicing Muslims and know what is mandatory or not. But it's unacceptable to use force on us," he said. He added, "Even people who have supported the Taliban are now trying to leave the country."

Most men interviewed for this story live in Kabul, the country's most cosmopolitan city, or other urban areas. Residents of more conservative and traditional parts of Afghanistan said they have noticed barely any changes. A male resident of rural Helmand, in southern Afghanistan, said no one in his village has concerns and such rules have long been customary there. "No morality

police has showed up here so far. They focus on the cities," he said.

The new restrictions appear to reflect a broader shift in the balance of power inside the Taliban, with the most conservative elements either gaining influence or seeking to assert themselves more aggressively in urban areas, according to Western officials and Afghan critics of the Taliban.

The Ministry of Vice and Virtue, which directs the morality police, could not be reached for comment. A former senior official with the Ministry of Vice and Virtue denied that the ministry is increasingly turning into a shadow law enforcement agency, saying its primary responsibility remains preaching. He spoke on the condition of anonymity because he is no longer authorized to respond to journalists.

The new restrictions on women include a ban on them raising their voices, reciting the Quran in public and looking at men other than their husbands or relatives. Women must also cover the lower half of their faces in addition to donning a head covering they were already expected to wear.

The crackdown by morality police in urban areas, where some

religious rules had been rarely enforced, has heightened anxiety among women. For men, it has come as a shock.

A 36-year-old male driver in Kabul said the new restrictions feel "enormous" and pose a growing hardship for his work. His revenue has declined by 70 percent since late August, he said, partly because the Taliban has begun enforcing a rule that bans women from traveling alone in taxis.

Even in some government offices, a new sense of dread has set in. A former Taliban supporter recalled how a friend, who still works for the regime, recently had his salary withheld because his beard wasn't sufficiently long.

"We are hearing that some of the civil servants, whose beards were shorter than the required length, were barred from entering their departments," said a government employee, speaking on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to journalists.

For the past three years, Afghan women often felt alone in their anguish. Some grew exasperated by their husbands' silence or growing support for the Taliban, which tried to win public favor by building roads and repairing tunnels.

Several women said they hope their protests will soon be joined by Afghan men. "Men were silent from Day 1, which gave the Taliban the courage to keep imposing such rules," said a 24-year-old female resident in Kabul. "Now, the Taliban is finally losing men's support," she said.

Others are skeptical whether criticism of the rules can make a difference.

In interviews, several Kabul residents said they have begun in recent weeks to look more seriously into leaving the country.

"But if more young people flee this country," said a male Kabul resident, "there won't be any hope at all."

Haq Nawaz Khan and Lutfullah Qasimyar contributed to this report.

## Iranian coal mine blast from gas kills at least 51

BY SUSANNAH GEORGE

An explosion caused by a methane leak at a coal mine in eastern Iran killed at least 51 people and injured 20, according to Iranian state media broadcasts Sunday.

Images from the scene showed emergency personnel at the site, arriving in ambulances and helicopters. Teams on foot carried victims from the mine's entrance. One man on a stretcher was covered in thick blacksoot. Other victims were being pulled out in metal mining carts.

Mohammad-Ali Akhondi, head of the provincial crisis management department, said the death toll was expected to rise as rescuers struggled to operate underground. He said many of those trapped are in a location that is "700 meters diagonally" beneath the surface.

The mine is located in Tabas, a city in the country's east.

News of the blast first emerged

late Saturday, when state media reported that emergency personnel were being sent to the area. One report said around 70 people were working in the mine at the time of the explosion. Another report said those trapped could be in a tunnel as deep as 250 meters.

The Iranian Red Crescent said "gas accumulation in the mine" was also frustrating rescue efforts.

Iran's new reformist president, Masoud Pezeshkian, who will be addressing the U.N. General Assembly this week, issued a statement ordering an investigation into the "painful" incident. "I offer my heartfelt condolences to the compatriots who lost their loved ones in this incident and consider myself a partner in their grief," he said.

Local authorities announced three days of mourning in South Khorasan province, where the mine is located.

## Electronics attacks on Hezbollah lead Iranian-backed allies to rethink devices

IRAN FROM A1

began Tuesday, when thousands of pagers distributed by Hezbollah exploded simultaneously across Lebanon, causing fear and panic on busy streets and in supermarkets, as the injured overwhelmed hospitals. The assault continued Wednesday with the detonation of more devices, including two-way radios. Lebanon's Health Ministry said 37 people were killed over both days and about 3,000 wounded.

Israel and Hezbollah have fought a low-level conflict for nearly a year, with the militant group linking its attacks to the war in Gaza. But the complex pager and radio operation stunned Hezbollah, which wields significant military and political power in Lebanon and counts Iran as its key benefactor.

In a speech Thursday, Hezbollah leader Hasan Nasrallah said the attack dealt an "unprecedented blow" to the group, which began handing out the pagers in the spring. Hezbollah was worried that the intelligence behind Israel's targeted assassinations of key commanders was based on hacked cellphone data, and in July, Nasrallah ordered his forces to stop using cellphones altogether.

The group has long prided itself on being able to fight Israel's "tech sophistication with simplicity," said Amal Saad, a Hezbollah specialist and lecturer at Cardiff University's School of Law and Politics.

But Israel's apparent ability to infiltrate supply chains, perhaps years in advance, as well as penetrate the group's low-tech communications network, has also sent ripples of fear through Iran's web of armed groups in the region, including in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and the Palestinian territories. Like Hezbollah, some of these groups stepped up attacks on U.S. and Israeli targets to protest Israel's military campaign in the Gaza Strip.

In Iraq and Syria, militants were already spooked by the precision of recent strikes targeting senior members, including in Baghdad, and they feared that Israel or the United States had attached tracking devices to items the groups imported from abroad, according to Lahib Higel, senior analyst for Iraq at the International Crisis Group.

"Israel has used a key vulnerability in the way Iran and its proxies operate," said Michael Horowitz, head of intelligence at Le Beck International, a Middle East-based risk consultancy. "They tend to rely in part on dual-use commercially available products and parts," he said, which "makes their supply chains quite vulnerable to a potential intelligence operation of the likes I think we are seeing."

"This is a vulnerability that extends beyond Hezbollah to all of Iran's proxies and Iran itself," Horowitz added.

In Iraq, the sprawling network of militias loyal to Iran doesn't use pagers, and they are probably less vulnerable to a similar type of attack, Higel said.

A senior member of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, a network of Iranian-backed militant groups operating in Iraq and Syria, said the coalition was already "very cautious regarding the use of electronic devices, fully aware that they are eavesdropping tools."

The member, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive subject, said fighters are not allowed to have smartphones; instead, they use basic phones that they keep switched off and turn on only when necessary. Militant leaders also exchange messages through wired connections or hand-delivered paper notes.

Still, after the explosions in Lebanon, "orders were also issued for a comprehensive inspection of all other devices," the member said.

In Iraq and Yemen, which is partly controlled by the Iranian-

backed Houthis, the relative distance from Israel affords militant groups a small measure of protection. The Houthis essentially operate as a state in northern Yemen and control the country's telecommunications institutions from the capital, Sanaa, said Ahmed Nagi, the International Crisis Group's senior analyst for Yemen. They also don't have an extensive history of conflict with Israel, he said, so it's unlikely that Israeli intelligence would have been interested in laying the groundwork for a major covert operation there.

But the Lebanon attacks were a "game changer," and the Houthis are "going to reassess all their supplier networks, things related to their telecommunication devices hardware, because it's not something normal," Nagi said.

Nasruddin Amer, a Houthi spokesman, said the group was following the device explosions and "learns lessons" from events in Lebanon.

Hezbollah, however, was always one of Israel's primary targets. "The priority for Israel is always Hezbollah, given its superior capabilities and history of conflict with the Jewish state," said Bilal Saab, a former Pentagon official and head of the U.S.-Middle East practice of Trends Research and Advisory, a consulting firm.

"Hezbollah is more vulnerable because the Lebanese terrain is ideal for intelligence collection and operations: weak state capacity, political division and economic collapse," he said.

The other group in Israel's crosshairs is Hamas, which for years controlled the Gaza Strip. Before that, its fighters operated largely underground.

Israel killed chief Hamas bomb maker Yahya Ayyash in 1996 by rigging his cellphone with explosives. The bomb detonated when he answered the phone in Gaza.

Ibrahim al-Madhoun, a Turkey-based Palestinian political analyst who is close to Hamas, said the group detected other attempts to tamper with its communications networks in Gaza. In 2018, a botched undercover Israeli mission — reportedly to infiltrate Hamas's private communications system — ended in a firefight and Hamas's discovery of Israeli spying devices planted underground in central Gaza. Al Jazeera reported. After a brief war with Israel in 2021, Madhoun said, Hamas officials scanned and discovered commercial electronic devices being shipped into Gaza on numerous occasions.

Hamas has long been on guard against this type of sabotage, he said — since 2008, the group's military wing has used a wired telecommunications system in Gaza, though Israeli bombardment during the current war has damaged the network significantly.

Nonetheless, since October, Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar — Israel's most wanted man, who is believed to be hiding in the group's extensive tunnel network in the enclave — has managed to smuggle messages to Hamas officials abroad, including recent letters addressed to the leaders of Hezbollah and the Houthis in Yemen.

Basem Naim, a senior Hamas official, declined to comment on whether the group would take additional security measures in the wake of the Lebanon attacks.

But while Israel may have intended to instill fear among Hezbollah and its allies, analysts said, that doesn't necessarily mean Israeli intelligence agencies could carry out a covert attack of similar sophistication and scale elsewhere in the region anytime soon.

"We have to remember that this is quite a significant capability that the Israelis have that they have now revealed," said Higel, the Iraq analyst. "That takes a while to build up, and they probably are not going to be able to replicate it in the same way."



Taliban officials speak during a news conference in Kabul on Aug. 20. The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan three years ago.

# ECONOMY & BUSINESS

## TECH FRIEND

# Looking for an iPhone 16? Here's how and when to buy it.

Smaller carriers may be a better deal for you in the long run

BY SHIRA OVIDE

There's nothing so great about the iPhone 16 models that you need one. (For other options, visit [wapo.st/iphonealternatives](https://wapo.st/iphonealternatives).)

But if you plan to take the plunge, we dug into data to find the best time to get the biggest deals on a new iPhone.

If your top priority is spending the least to own a phone, though, you might do best ignoring those device discounts and switching to a smaller cellphone company. You could save more than \$800 over three years in one common scenario we analyzed.

Comparing your potential savings on cellphone plans will make your head hurt. I have some advice that can make it less awful.

### The best time to buy is ...

If you're among the majority of Americans who buy new phones from a large cellphone carrier, the best discounts on the iPhone 16 for most people are likely to be right about now. That's according to an analysis of iPhone discount trends by the price comparison site Navi.

Black Friday and the stretch around Christmas are also peak times for promotions on the latest iPhones, Navi data shows, but you often need to switch cellphone carriers to get the best device deal.

If you wait until after Christmas, discounts on new iPhone models tend to be more modest. But Navi says you are likely to find good deals from large phone companies on the still-great iPhone 15 models from 2023.

Navi's website has price trends for a bunch of phones to see if now is a good time to maximize discounts. The iPhone 16 data is not reliable yet. The price comparison pages do let you set alerts when phone prices drop from current levels.

### The caveats you need to know

Navi analyzed discounts if you're buying a new iPhone and are on a monthly unlimited plan



ILLUSTRATION BY ELENA LACEY/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

from one of the country's Big 3 cellphone carriers — AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon — or two cable-and-internet companies that also offer cellphone service, Xfinity and Spectrum.

If you buy an iPhone from a smaller phone company or from Apple or have a low-cost cellphone plan, you will not get the top-tier discounts.

The Big 3 companies offer promotions and no-interest loans — with many strings attached — to let you pay off a discounted iPhone over two or three years. If you quit early, you give up a lot of your device savings.

### Go the extra step: Consider switching phone carriers

It's not necessarily the cheapest option to take a "free" new phone.

Let's say you have one line on AT&T's Unlimited Starter SL cellphone plan that costs about \$73 a month including estimated taxes. AT&T is offering promotions for a free upgrade to an iPhone 16, if you trade in your current iPhone that's up to four years old.

Over the three years you're committed to AT&T's terms, your cellphone bills come to \$2,613, Navi says.

If you instead switched to Spectrum, Navi figures you'd pay near-

ly full price, or \$715, for an iPhone 16. But over three years, your costs — including the phone and an unlimited plan at \$30 a month for one line — work out to \$1,795.

You just saved more than \$800 over three years. (You can only buy Spectrum or Xfinity cellphone plans if you also have internet service from the company.)

In many but not all scenarios Navi examined, you'd save money ditching a Big 3 carrier for the typically lower-priced unlimited plans from Xfinity or Spectrum — even if you had to pay nearly full price for a phone.

If you have three or more mobile lines and especially if

you're buying new phones for them, Navi data suggests you might do better with a higher-cost Big 3 plan.

Your savings can be even bigger with a smaller cellphone company such as Consumer Cellular, Mint Mobile (owned by T-Mobile) or Google Fi.

The alternative cellphone carriers aren't right for everyone. They may not have stores you can walk into to get help. Their plans often lack frills such as a Netflix subscription included. Some don't give you unlimited data.

But if all you care about is having solid cellphone service at a low price, the cable companies

and smaller cellphone carriers might be right for you. They all use the same mobile networks as the Big 3, though in theory your phone surfing might be slower if many people are using their phones at once.

There's no easy way to find your ideal cellphone plan. Navi's price comparison tools and the cellphone guide from Consumer Reports can help. You will probably also need to type options you're considering into carriers' websites.

Shopping around for cellphone plans is complicated on purpose. The pain might be worth it.

# Health system to pay \$65 million after hackers leaked nude patient photos

It had refused to pay a ransom above \$5 million to recover the images

BY DANIEL GILBERT

In March 2023, a Pennsylvania woman received a phone call from a health-care executive that left her in disbelief: Hackers had obtained photos of her naked body while she underwent radiation treatments and posted them to a dark corner of the internet.

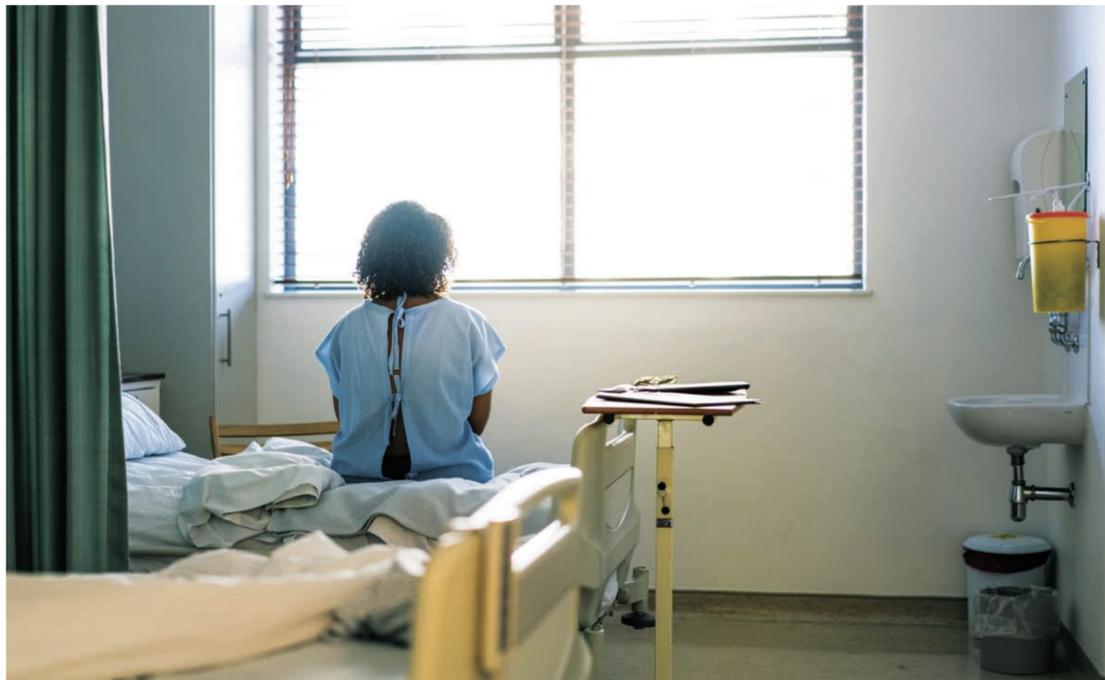
Lehigh Valley Health Network refused to pay a ransom "in excess" of \$5 million to recover the photos and other stolen patient information, but it couldn't sidestep financial damages from the breach.

The unidentified woman, who is in her 50s and known as Jane Doe, became the lead plaintiff in a class action suing Lehigh for failing to safeguard highly sensitive patient information, including nude photos of hundreds of cancer patients. On Sept. 12, a law firm announced that Lehigh had agreed to pay \$65 million to settle the case.

As hackers penetrate American health-care firms with alarming regularity, the episode reveals how cyberthieves are exploiting uniquely sensitive data — with devastating human and financial consequences.

Data breaches that compromise health information of hundreds of Americans happen on a near-daily basis, according to a Washington Post review of cases compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services going back to 2022. The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center received more reports of ransomware attacks on health-care industry targets last year than any other of the 16 sectors it tracks.

The Lehigh Valley case also highlights the legal predicaments for health-care organizations that are increasingly targeted by hackers, leaving them vulnerable to



GETTY IMAGES

Data breaches that compromise health records of Americans happen on a near-daily basis, according to a Washington Post review of cases.

both the cybercriminals and subsequent lawsuits brought by patients whose lives are upended by a breach.

That is especially the case for health systems that possess sensitive photos of patients taken for clinical reasons. Delivering radiation therapy to patients typically involves using X-ray and photographic images to develop a treatment plan, according to the American Society for Radiation Oncology.

"The type of data that was exposed, it's a game changer," said Carter Groome, CEO of First Health Advisory, a digital-risk firm. "This was so much more of a tangible, direct distress to those people who trusted the organization," he said.

Disclosing data breaches is

leading to lawsuits more often, according to law firm BakerHostetler, which found that more than 58 incidents disclosed last year prompted one or more lawsuits, a roughly 38 percent increase over the year before. The BakerHostetler tally is not limited to health care.

Some experts say health-care organizations have made significant headway in shoring up their cyber defenses, but they remain vulnerable in large part due to their complexity — with computer networks connecting physicians, insurers, pharmacies and all manner of vendors that supply equipment and services.

A Lehigh Valley Health spokesperson said the cyberattack was limited to a network supporting a single physician practice in Lack-

awanna County, in northeast Pennsylvania, and confirmed it did not pay a ransom. "Patient, physician and staff privacy is among our top priorities, and we continue to enhance our defenses to prevent incidents in the future," he said.

It isn't clear how common intimate patient photos are exposed in hacks. A plastic surgeon in Beverly Hills disclosed a cyber-attack last year that included "images taken in connection with the services rendered at our office," sparking litigation. A second plastic surgery clinic also disclosed a hack around the same time.

Meredith Schnur, a cyber practice leader at Marsh McLennan, said her team has seen hackers make off with patient photos, but not necessarily nude ones. The

Lehigh Valley case is "kind of an anomaly," she said. "That's a pretty large settlement."

Hackers have increasingly gone after critical cogs in supply chains such as UnitedHealth Group's Change Healthcare subsidiary, which routes claims from pharmacies and health-care providers to insurers and facilitates payment. The hack of Change in February crippled practices around the country and exposed the health information of a "substantial proportion of people in America," the company has said. UnitedHealth has spent \$1.4 billion responding to the attack through the first half of the year, it said in a securities filing last month.

The ransomware gang believed to be behind the Change hack, ALPHV, is also the same one ac-

cused of hacking Lehigh Valley. The FBI doesn't support paying a ransom in such attacks, pointing out that there's no guarantee that the hackers will return the data and that paying can encourage more attacks. But the CEO of UnitedHealth, which brought in nearly \$200 billion of revenue in the first half of 2024, said he directed the company to pay the \$22 million ransom, telling Congress it was "one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make."

Lehigh Valley Health, based in Allentown, Pa., did not pay the ransom. After discovering the breach in February 2023, an executive for the health system called patients to inform them that hackers had posted their personal information — including nude photos — to the dark web, which consists of hidden websites that aren't accessible through conventional search engines like Google.

The class-action lawsuit recounts how the executive offered an apology to the woman in her 50s and, "with a chuckle, two years of credit monitoring." The cancer patient had no idea that the health system had stored nude photos of her on its computer network, according to the lawsuit, and was in a state of "complete disbelief."

"The pictures are really difficult to look at," said Patrick Howard, an attorney representing the plaintiffs. His legal team hired a cybersecurity expert who located the images that hackers had posted on the dark web, enabling them to "establish each person's information that was actually online."

The proposed settlement, which still requires a judge's approval, would provide a payout to nearly 135,000 patients and health-system employees affected by the breach. But 80 percent of the \$65 million is earmarked for those whose nude photos were published to the dark web, according to the agreement. Howard said that category includes about 600 men and women, who stand to receive upward of \$75,000 each. As the lead plaintiff, Jane Doe could receive \$125,000.

# Musk blinks first, bows to pressure in Brazil to reopen X

Social network reassigns legal representative, blocks users as advised

BY **TERRENCE MCCOY**

RIO DE JANEIRO — For more than three weeks, a question has loomed over Brazil and much of the tech world: Who would back down first?

Would it be Elon Musk, whose refusal to comply with orders from a Brazilian judge had resulted in the suspension of the social network in one of its largest markets?

Or would it be Alexandre de Moraes, the taciturn jurist who issued the order?

This weekend appears to have brought an answer.

The social network X, formerly known as Twitter, said Friday that it had taken steps to comply with demands issued by the Brazilian Supreme Court to end the impasse that has severed the company from one of its most active markets. These included naming a representative in the country and blocking accounts that Moraes had accused of propagating misinformation and undermining Brazilian democracy. Much of the company's fines have also been paid.

Moraes responded on Saturday with a short judicial order that asked for additional documents. He gave the company five days to complete the paperwork to legalize its presence in Brazil and asked several agencies to inquire into X's legal standing in Brazil.

He did not provide a timeline for when X might resume operations in Brazil, or if it will.

The judicial compliance by X amounts to nothing short of capitulation by the billionaire tech mogul, who has sought to assume the global mantle of right-wing free speech champion since he took over the social network in 2022.

In Brazil, one of X's most active markets, Musk found not only a battleground to wage his ideological campaign but per-



Demonstrators in São Paulo take part in a protest Sept. 7, calling for the impeachment of Supreme Court jurist Alexandre de Moraes, who had imposed a nationwide block on X. On Friday, the social network said it had taken steps to comply with the judge's demands.

ETTORE CHIEREGUINI/AP

haps his most bitter political opponent in Moraes.

In many ways, the men are opposites. Musk is a glib billionaire who courts controversy and the spotlight. Moraes, an austere jurist, almost exclusively communicates with the world in the dense legalese of his judicial orders. In the global schism over the limits of free speech amid polarization and misinformation, they have come to represent opposite poles.

Musk has overseen the loosening of speech guardrails on X, pushed for a network where most everything is permissible

and cozier up to political figures accused of wielding misinformation to enhance their power.

Moraes, through his role as director of the Brazilian Supreme Court's investigation into fake news on social media, has transformed himself into one of the world's most aggressive prosecutors of misinformation. He frequently issues directives to tech companies to suspend accounts he accuses of spreading misinformation that could endanger Brazil's democracy.

The men have frequently clashed in recent months over such orders, often in personal

language. Musk has called Moraes a dictator and derided him as a Brazilian Lord Voldemort, the villain in the Harry Potter series. Moraes has named Musk a target in a criminal investigation and tied him to what he calls "digital militias" threatening to rupture Brazilian democracy.

#### August standoff

The mutual animosity deepened in August. Musk continued to refuse to suspend accounts targeted by Moraes's probe. Moraes upped the fines. X didn't pay. Then Moraes ordered the

arrest of attorney Rachel de Oliveira Villa Nova, who was acting as X's legal representative in Brazil.

In response, Musk removed Villa Nova from her post and pulled X's physical presence from Brazil, a legal requirement to operate as a business in the country.

Moraes told him to name a new representative — or else he would suspend the network. Musk refused. And on Aug. 30, Moraes ordered the suspension of a social media network that more than 20 million Brazilians had long used to debate politics,

sports and pop culture.

From the beginning of the impasse, it was clear which of the men had more leverage. Other justices lined up behind Moraes's decision. Right-wing figures in Brazil tried to mobilize around the issue of censorship, but their complaints didn't seem to resonate beyond their bubbles. In a country awash in social media platforms, many had already stopped using X by the time of its suspension. And those still on the network started flocking to other platforms.

It was clear Brazil could live without X.

But it wasn't clear X could live without Brazil.

Then, last week, Brazilian officials accused the network of trying to circumvent the suspension. The company rerouted its internet traffic using the third-party security firm Cloudflare, enabling a new path to its site by bypassing the virtual blockade. Brazilians swarmed back onto the site.

X said the misdirection had been unintentional, and the digital route was closed by Wednesday night. Brazilian officials accused the company of purposefully countervailing a judicial order.

"There is no doubt that the platform, X, once again, intends to disrespect the Brazilian judiciary," Moraes said. Accusing X of "willful, illicit and persistent recalcitrance," he fined the company nearly \$1 million.

Within days, the company had reassigned Villa Nova as its legal representative in the country.

The capitulation by Musk was met by relief by many in Brazil. The decision to suspend X was seen by many here as extreme. But in a country deeply protective of its sovereignty and sensitive to foreign meddling, many also felt Musk had gone too far in attacking Brazil's highest court.

"X didn't back down because of reason, but because it bowed to pressure," the editorial board of the newspaper O Globo said Saturday. "The suspension of the platform, while necessary to assure the sovereignty of the country, should not go on for too long."

The Washington Post | LIVE

## THE FUTURIST

### Training for the AI Age

Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 1:30 p.m.

Ng, Sadun and Beane explore the ways artificial intelligence could transform America's workforce, economy and classrooms.



**Andrew Ng**  
Founder, DeepLearning.AI  
and Co-Founder & Chair,  
Coursera



**Raffaella Sadun**  
Professor,  
Business Administration,  
Harvard Business School



**Matt Beane**  
Assistant Professor,  
Technology Management,  
UC Santa Barbara and  
Author, "The Skill Code"



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OPINION

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Let Ukraine fire long-range missiles

THE BIDEN administration is weighing whether to allow Ukraine to use Western-supplied long-range missiles to strike military targets deep inside Russian territory.

EDITORIAL

approval needs to come soon to allow Ukraine to take advantage of existing target opportunities across the border, before Russian President Vladimir Putin can further damage Ukraine's vital infrastructure.

Ukraine is asking for permission to use Britain's air-launched Storm Shadow missiles, which have a range of about 155 miles and are good for use against high value, stationary targets.

weapons it can get to continue to stave off Mr. Putin's aggression.

Mr. Biden's reluctance is rooted in his understandable caution about escalating conflict with Russia. The pattern started from the outset of Mr. Putin's unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, and the formation of the Western alliance to back Ukraine's fight for its sovereignty.

Mr. Putin has stoked the fear by issuing "red lines" and implicitly threatening nuclear war. But in each previous case — the delivery of tanks, then the transfer of F-16 fighter jets, then permission to attack on Russian soil — Mr. Putin has not followed through on his threats.

Since Ukrainian troops launched a bold incursion into Russia's Kursk region, seizing hundreds of square miles of Russian territory in an attempt to

open a new front and shift the battlefield dynamics, the Kremlin has responded with a series of often indiscriminate attacks on civilian targets in Ukraine. Schools, residential buildings, shelters and a nursing home have been hit.

The United States wants more 'clarification,' but Kyiv has shown what it can do, if it had the right weapons

second bitter winter. Stopping Russia's attacks on the power supply in these remaining few weeks before the cold weather arrives is urgent, and the long-range missiles can help.

This week, Ukraine used its own drones to launch a massive strike that obliterated a weapons depot in Toropets, some 300 miles inside Russia.

glide bombs effectively and ruthlessly to target Ukraine's civilian infrastructure, such as power stations. The depot also housed Russian-made missiles and launch systems, artillery shells and, according to the Ukrainians, North Korean KN-23 ballistic missiles.

The Ukrainians might have staged that strike for three related purposes: to remove a deadly arsenal that would have been aimed at Ukrainian cities; to demonstrate that there are vital targets to be hit within range; and to show their hesitant Western backers — including Mr. Biden — that strikes inside Russian territory will not necessarily provoke an escalation with the Kremlin.

There are serious questions for Mr. Biden to consider. The Ukrainians might need NATO training and assistance. The new systems might also need strict rules to make sure only legitimate military targets, not civilian infrastructure, are hit.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rebuilding Gaza will take money and mean dealing with Hamas

Regarding Mohammad Mustafa's Sept. 14 op-ed, "I'm the Palestinian prime minister and here's my plan for Gaza":

Palestinian Prime Minister Muhammad Mustafa laid out a compelling vision and a practical road map for Gaza's recovery and reconstruction, and for the eventual establishment of a Palestinian state.

If and when a cease-fire is agreed, the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Gaza will be a massive and complex task for which the prime minister has proposed a series of practical steps, beginning with hunger relief, medical assistance, temporary shelter and the reestablishment of essential services.

For the task of coordinating the longer-term Gaza economic recovery and reconstruction program, I would recommend my former employer, the World Bank, which was established in 1944 to coordinate the reconstruction of Western Europe after World War II.

The prime minister also proposes to fully integrate governance of Gaza and the West Bank, in recognition of the fact that this is an essential first step toward the creation of a Palestinian state.

Robin Broadfield, Washington

The corruption challenge

While I commend Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa's plan for Gaza, there is one crucial factor he must directly address: corruption. Those responsible for managing the relief and recovery efforts, as well as establishing security, rule of law and border control, will be vulnerable to infiltration by remnants of Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other militant groups if a solid plan to prevent corruption is not in place.

Without a strong anti-corruption strategy, funds and resources will be squandered or diverted from development, security will be difficult to achieve, and the prospect of moving toward an independent Palestinian state will remain out of reach.

I hope Mr. Mustafa can present a solution that ultimately leads to a Palestinian state that provides its people with what they rightfully deserve: security, stability and lasting peace, along with the right to self-determination.

James K. Campbell, Fairfax

Truth and reconciliation

Mohammad Mustafa's op-ed is encouraging in that the Palestinian Authority is pledging to take full responsibility for the governance and

EDITH PRITCHETT

Mr. Trump's latest scapegoat



EDITH

reconstruction of Gaza. It's vital that the people of Gaza have a viable replacement for the ultimately failed governance of Hamas.

What Mr. Mustafa left out of his proposal is the formation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, modeled on that of South Africa. Such a process would allow a full investigation of what went wrong in Gaza's institutions and in Hamas's decision-making.

Of course, it would be beneficial both for regional stability and for the future of Israel if Israel were to participate in this process, however unlikely that prospect is under its current government.

Mau VanDuren, Chevy Chase

What about Israel and Hamas?

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa presented a compelling review of the needs for Gaza and the West Bank and those citizens. They want and deserve a more optimistic path forward.

prosperity.

However, the prime minister's proposal did not take into account an important consideration: how to engage Israel as a critical partner in bringing this vision to fruition. There is no question that Israel could and should have protected itself and its citizens from the events of Oct. 7 last year and responded with force but also greater concern for basic humanitarian principals.

Then, in his five-point plan, the prime minister does not suggest anything about how he and his government would also contribute to the Israeli people being able to live in peace without the constant threat of violence from many parties in the area.

It has consistently hidden its military people and resources in areas surrounded by innocent Gazans, leaving them terribly vulnerable to the Israeli response. The group continues to hold hostages who could have been released months ago, with no conditions, for the good of everyone involved in this tragedy.

A two-state solution is the best answer for everyone concerned. However, contributing to the safety of Israel and its people and managing Hamas out of the dialogue must be not just the sixth and seventh pillars of his plan but also preconditions for everything else he envisions.

Edward Binder, Washington

Mohammad Mustafa's op-ed contained useful and thoughtful information and ideas about how to rebuild and restore Gaza after the war there comes to an end.

However, there was a shocking omission: Nowhere was the word "Hamas" mentioned in the entire column. I read it over several times, thinking I must have overlooked this.

But I had not made a mistake or an oversight. Mr. Mustafa nowhere mentioned that this horrific war began because of Hamas's barbaric attack on Israeli citizens. That the suffering of the Palestinian people has been increased and prolonged by Hamas's deliberate strategy of hiding among the Gazan population, under schools, hospitals, homes.

It is hard to take the other recommendations seriously with this glaring omission.

Michael Schwartz, Chevy Chase

Escalation in Lebanon

Regarding the Sept. 19 online article "Hezbollah chief calls pager, radio attacks an 'act of war' by Israel":

What does he call the rocket attacks his fighters have launched at northern Israel since Oct. 7 last year? Tens of thousands of Israeli citizens are living with family, friends or in shelters having abandoned their homes in the north because of rocket attacks by Hezbollah.

Charles H. Gessner, Marblehead, Mass.

If the pager and radio attacks don't get the attention of the United States and prompt it to discontinue support for Israel, then nothing will. This is the most outrageous thing I have ever heard — such a cowardly way to attack someone, strictly through technology, no risk involved. Can you imagine the outrage if Palestinians had done this? However, because it was the Israelis, the United States will no doubt make no objection.

Doris Rausch, Tullahoma, Tenn.

Regarding David Ignatius's Sept. 18 op-ed, "Pager attack against Hezbollah has ominous implications":

The Israeli pager attack also could provide an opportunity for Iran to rein in Hezbollah and its other proxies. This will be its last chance for Middle East peace. It would be in Iran's interest to recognize it is no match in a regional war with sophisticated technology determining the outcome.

Paul Schoenbaum, Richmond

Letter submissions

Letters can be sent to letters@washpost.com. Submissions must be exclusive to The Post and should include the writer's address and day and evening telephone numbers. Letters are subject to editing and abridgment. Please do not send letters as attachments. Because of the volume of material we receive, we are unable to acknowledge submissions; writers whose letters are under consideration for publication will be contacted.

## OPINION



A rally for eliminating lead from paints in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 2015.

ZAKIR HOSSAIN CHOWDHURY/NURPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

# Millions of kids are poisoned by lead every year. Here's a plan to save them.

BY SAMANTHA POWER  
AND ALEXANDER BERGER

Ten years ago, when residents of Flint, Mich., were exposed to toxic levels of lead in their drinking water, 1 in 20 children in the city had elevated blood lead levels that placed them at risk for heart disease, strokes, cognitive deficits and developmental delays — health effects that residents still grapple with to this day. It was only after activists rallied, organized and advocated relentlessly that national attention focused on Flint, and officials committed nearly half a billion dollars to clean up Flint's water.

Today, there is a lead poisoning crisis raging on a far greater scale — and hardly anyone is talking about it.

In low- and middle-income countries, home to more than 1.5 billion of the world's children, 1 in 2 children has elevated levels of lead in their blood. That's 10 times the rate of poisoning at the height of the crisis in Flint. The Center for Global Development estimates that the damage lead is causing to children's brains accounts for 20 percent of the education gap between high- and low-income countries. All told, every year, lead poisoning is estimated to cost the global economy more than \$1 trillion and claims at least 1.5 million lives — more than annual deaths from HIV and malaria combined.

Yet the yearly global funding for tackling lead poisoning in developing countries totals just \$15 million — the cost of a single 60-second ad at the Super Bowl, and a small fraction of what is spent on diseases with similar health burdens.

Today, USAID, UNICEF and Open Philanthropy are coming together to change that. Together, we are launching the Partnership for a Lead-Free Future, with more than 50 countries and organizations coming together to move toward a lead-free future for every child. We've mobilized more than \$150 million — more than 10 times the current global investment each year.

As the leader of the world's largest development agency and the head of one of the world's biggest philanthropies, never in our careers have we seen such a compelling, low-cost opportunity to make such a

massive impact on a major global killer.

One reason for the paucity of funding is the assumption that taking on lead poisoning requires mass investments in infrastructure repairs or costly environmental cleanup operations, like in the United States. President Joe Biden has dedicated \$15 billion to replacing toxic lead water service pipes, a significant source of exposure here.

But in many low- and middle-income countries, lead is not just a legacy issue: It is still being used in widely available consumer products such as house paint, spices and makeup. Addressing these sources doesn't require billions of dollars.

For example, from 2019 to 2021, Bangladesh eliminated lead in virtually all of its turmeric for a couple million dollars — in part by posting fliers outside bazaars that showed citizens what lead-tainted spices looked like, empowering them to demand better. Also in two years, and with just \$300,000 in donor funding, Malawi led a campaign to start enforcing a law against lead paint that spurred customers to contact the manufacturers and pressure them to end the practice. Half of the market with lead-based paint is now lead-free, and the rest of the companies have committed to phasing lead out by the end of the year. And in just the eight months since we began a concerted push to galvanize awareness and support for this global issue, six countries have committed to regulating lead in paint for the first time.

Another source of lead abroad is the result of unsafe industrial practices during battery recycling, mining and electronic waste disposal that leach lead into the environment.

These practices can be more expensive to address — but regardless of the source, our efforts can follow the same dependable strategy that was used in advanced economies to take on lead poisoning: measure, regulate, replace, enforce.

The most powerful example of that strategy is the campaign to get lead out of gasoline — which was long the largest source of lead poisoning in the world. After studies in the 1970s traced elevated blood lead levels back to leaded gasoline, governments in high-income

countries began introducing and enforcing regulations to outlaw it, pushing companies to find lead-free alternatives to products and practices.

In 2002, a U.N.-led campaign helped low- and middle-income countries do the same. This initiative, operating on a modest budget of \$6 million, played a crucial role in phasing out leaded gasoline in roughly 50 countries over the next decade. By 2021, every nation on the planet had banned leaded gasoline — a landmark public health victory that continues to save more than 1 million lives every year.

The partnership will work to scale up this effective playbook. Given that so many communities have no idea how much damage lead is doing every day, and many governments don't know the magnitude or source of the lead poisoning problem in their countries, we will first focus on running national blood surveys and testing consumer products to determine sources of lead poisoning. Next we'll work with governments that lack the regulations they need to begin taking on the problem — in 50 of the 81 countries where USAID has missions, governments lack regulations against lead paint. We will get these governments tools like model laws to help them pass regulations and laboratory infrastructure to help them detect violations so laws can be enforced. And given how many affordable alternatives have already been developed for lead-based products, we will support the private sector in transitioning to these alternatives by brokering connections with suppliers and experts.

In the face of so many intractable problems that dominate the headlines, it can sometimes feel futile to try to make a difference in 2024. But when it comes to lead, it shouldn't. In Flint and Bangladesh and Malawi, it was parents and neighbors and friends whose activism helped direct national attention and funding to lead mitigation efforts and pushed governments and companies to act. Each of us can contribute to building a global movement to do the same around the world.

Samantha Power is administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development. Alexander Berger is CEO of Open Philanthropy.

KATHLEEN PARKER

## Late-term abortions are not a myth. They're happening.

In the course of Kamala Harris's charge for reproductive freedom, we've heard a lot about the 14 states that have banned access to abortion and the 27 others that have restrictions based on gestational duration.

But we've heard little to nothing about the nine states and the District of Columbia that allow abortion no matter what the age of the fetus. This basically means up until the moment of birth.

Yet during Harris's debate with Donald Trump, the vice president implied that late-term abortions aren't a concern. She said, "Nowhere in America is a woman carrying a pregnancy to term and asking for an abortion. That is not an abortion. That is not happening." When Trump pressed her to say whether she would support abortions in the seventh or eighth month of pregnancy, Harris did not answer.

We don't like to hear about these procedures because they complicate a preferred understanding that late-term abortions never happen unless some genetic or other physical anomaly would condemn the child to a life of misery and/or early death.

Democrats bent on restoring abortion rights would have us believe that no state would allow a fully formed baby to be aborted, and it is rational to believe this. But such is not always the case. In fact, a doctor profiled in a 2023 Atlantic article, Warren Hern, performs abortions up to 32 weeks and sometimes later. Hern estimated that about half of his later-term abortions are of healthy babies.

Hern, 86, has been performing abortions in Boulder, Colo., for more than 50 years and is one of a handful of doctors willing to perform late-term abortions. He shows no reticence in saying he doesn't care about the fetus, only the living, breathing patient. It is easy to see why he is often described as a curmudgeon, who (proudly) lacks a bedside manner.

I tend to like curmudgeons; they are usually more interesting than grinning do-gooders who want to direct other people's lives. But a physician who would destroy a fully formed baby after first stopping its heart with a needle isn't my kind of dinner partner. This description, by the way, comes from Hern's own website.

Sometimes, in Hern's procedures, a fetus can be removed whole, but other times it has to be dismembered. All in another wretched day's work, I guess. At least I can appreciate his dislike of euphemisms. When he opened his practice in 1975, he named it the Boulder Abortion Clinic rather than something soothingly nebulous like "women's care." He said he wanted patients to be able to find him.

Hern and company perform a dozen second- and third-trimester abortions every week, Elaine Godfrey reported in the Atlantic article. It took a while for Hern to become comfortable with his work, which at first took an emotional toll on him. In his mind, he would see the tiny fetuses with still-beating hearts that he had removed from their mothers' wombs. He had bad dreams and sometimes wept, wondering what he was doing.

Hern felt that it was fair for him to suffer emotional distress as part of the job, and he says he knew deep down that he was helping, not hurting women. This is surely debatable.

Eventually, the dreams stopped and Hern no longer had to compose himself between procedures, wrote Godfrey. He does, however, have to operate with bulletproof glass windows and 24-hour surveillance.

To his credit, the man is honest to a fault. He has given speeches in which he reported that abortion is the destruction of a life. "We have reached a point in this particular technology where there is no possibility of denying an act of destruction," he told an audience. "It is before one's eyes."

On the other hand, in a Los Angeles Times article last month, he quoted a 17th-century French physician's description of pregnancy as a "disease of nine months."

During more than three decades of writing about abortion, honesty and truth are all I've ever hoped for. I'm on record encouraging education over judicial fiat as the best way of reducing abortion. Tell women (and men) exactly what abortion is without all the pretend language about "reproductive health," which doesn't always apply. The least doctors can do is to ensure that their patients are fully informed. Yet, when some states have wanted to require that abortion-seeking women be shown images of their fetuses in utero, the pro-choice brigade has fought back hard.

Most doctors wouldn't remove a gall bladder with as little information as many abortion providers are willing to offer their clients. Are they afraid a woman might change her mind based on a better understanding of what is about to be done?

In keeping with his sole consideration for his patients' wishes, Hern has aborted at least two later-term babies for sex selection. In one case, the woman wanted a girl, so Hern disposed of a male fetus. In the other, the woman didn't want the daughter she was carrying. Do we really want to codify this deadly game of baby roulette?

I'd like to think sex-selection abortion is beyond the comprehension of most people. But abortion culture has had the undesirable, if predictable, effect of making us less horrified by worse and worse. While 90 percent of abortions are performed in the first trimester, a majority of them by pills rather than surgery, even by the 13th and final week of the first trimester, a fetus has begun to look quite human. Although only as big as a pea pod, the fetus has fingerprints, veins and organs, which can be seen through the skin, and, if female, ovaries containing 2 million eggs.

If that's not a human life, what is it? Definitely not nothing.

At 27 weeks, the last week of the second trimester, the fetus's brain is active, sleeping and waking — eyes wide open — on a regular schedule. Lungs are incomplete, but he or she could survive outside the mother's body even earlier.

This is no matter to the nine states and the District of Columbia. At 32 weeks, when Hern is willing to terminate a nearly fully formed infant, the fetus is settling into the head-down position, preparing for birth. For the remaining seven to eight weeks, it gains a third to half its birth weight, which may be why Hern prefers a 32-week limit, although he'll operate even later. Fully formed babies are a lot more trouble to destroy.

So, yes, Madam Vice President, late-term abortions are happening and not just for anomalies or medical reasons. As we've learned, you're willing to change your positions based on new information. I hope this helps.

E.J. DIONNE JR.

## The perfect foil to the GOP's performative anti-elitism

Who is the elitist?

One person has a bachelor's degree from Chadron State College in Nebraska. His master's comes from Minnesota State University at Mankato, and he spent the next 17 years of his life as a teacher.

The other got his BA from Ohio State University and his JD from Yale Law School. After receiving his law degree, he clerked for a federal judge, practiced corporate law at the prestigious firm Sidley Austin and went to California to work in the tech industry as a venture capitalist.

Readers will already have figured out what I did here: The first bio is obviously that of Democratic vice-presidential candidate Tim Walz; the second, that of his Republican counterpart, JD Vance. When you compare them, it's hard to escape the conclusion that Vance is the one with the "elitist" pedigree.

I freely concede that I did not mention Vance's tough childhood described in his best-selling "Hillbilly Elegy." But this only underscores the point: Contemporary politics often looks like a fight over which side is more elitist and "out of touch" with "average" Americans, based on warring definitions of what makes one side more guilty of snobbery and condescension than the other.

The problem for Republicans this year is not just that Walz's biography makes it nearly impossible for them to cast him as elitist. It's also that the right has spent decades arguing that voters have less to fear from abuses of power by billionaires and corporations than they do from the pretensions and power grabs of a "new class" of highly educated professionals — who happen to match Vance's profile.

"The simple truth," neoconservative intellectual Irving Kristol wrote in an influential 1972 essay, "is that the professional classes of our modern bureaucratized societies are engaged in a class struggle with the business community for status and power."

Conservatives have since capitalized on this idea in election after election. They were countering the success liberals had enjoyed since the 1930s, when Democrats began casting American politics as a conflict between workers and those Franklin D. Roosevelt condemned as "economic royalists." The country club was the symbol of the moneyed elite's power. The university is the symbol of the new class's sway.

This history makes next week's debate between Walz and Vance a singularly important event both sociologically and philosophically, whatever impact it has on November's outcome. It is a fight over which brand of class politics will prevail.

A son of the Nebraska and Minnesota heartland, Walz presents not as some coastal progressive but as a Hubert Humphrey or Harry S. Truman liberal: a friend of labor and public education and an old-fashioned, small-town egalitarian. The formal name of his party in Minnesota, the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, captures whose interests Walz sees himself as championing. The debate will test how much Walz's persona and background can help Democrats recoup ground they have lost among less well-to-do voters, particularly in small towns and the countryside.

Vance is, well, complicated, and that complexity will likely require interviewers to ask a series of "Vance then, Vance now" questions. He seems to have changed a lot over the years, not least in his attitude toward former president Donald Trump, whom he once called an "idiot" and "reprehensible," among other disparaging things.

He has defended the hideous lies he and Trump have told about Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, that have roiled the once-peaceful town and threaten newcomers who arrived there legally. This embrace of anti-immigrant rhetoric contradicts his past, too. He once condemned such attitudes for being "openly hostile to non-whites." Of the mass deportation he and Trump now support, he previously said it "fails to pass the laugh test." (By the way, it's impossible to imagine Irving Kristol defending Trump-Vance nativism.)

Immigration is an issue that has split working-class voters in the past, and Trump and Vance are counting on many native-born Americans to vote that part of their identity. Walz's challenge is to condemn the mendacious Springfield vitriol, and then do more. While outlining his ticket's approach to immigration, he must also call voters back to the question of which party is really on their side when it comes to economics.

As for Vance's corporate lawyer/venture capitalist past, he has at times confounded business leaders with rhetoric straight out of the left's critique of neoliberalism — for example, criticizing "the postwar American order of globalization" that relies "more and more on cheaper labor." How much of that side of Vance will show up? Will he confine himself to defending Trump's inflationary tariffs?

So far, the contest pitting Chadron and Minnesota State at Mankato against Ohio State and Yale is going pretty well for the Chadron graduate. Gallup found that while Walz is viewed favorably by 41 percent of adults and unfavorably by 40 percent, Vance's ratings are 36 percent favorable, 47 percent unfavorable. In playing down his debate expectations, Walz said he expects "a Yale Law guy" to "come well prepared." You know he enjoyed saying that.

The Washington Post | LIVE

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**Jennifer Morgan**  
German State Secretary & Special Envoy for International Climate Action



**Bill Weir**  
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**Wanjira Mathai**  
Managing Director, Africa & Global Partnerships, World Resources Institute



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## A guide to the Nov. 5 election in Virginia

What to know about the most competitive races, early voting and more

BY WASHINGTON POST STAFF

Virginia voters are beginning to cast their ballots in a contentious presidential election year, with several competitive congressional races on the ballot. Here's what to know about the Nov. 5 election with early voting underway in the state.

### What races are on the ballot?

In addition to president, all 11 congressional seats in Virginia are up for election, as is the U.S. Senate seat held by Sen. Tim Kaine (D), who is running for reelection. There are also several local races on the ballot, along with a constitutional amendment related to tax exemptions for surviving spouses of soldiers.

### What congressional races are most tightly contested?

Only two of Virginia's congressional races are especially competitive: the 7th District race for the Fredericksburg-area seat currently held by Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D), who is running for governor next year and is not seeking reelection, and the 2nd District race anchored in Virginia Beach, which pits incumbent Jen Kiggans (R) against Democrat Missy Cotter Smasal.

### What should I know about the 7th District race?

The election for Virginia's battleground 7th District will feature two Army veterans turned lawyers: Derrick Anderson (R) and Yevgeny "Eugene" Vindman (D), who are both looking to win this crucial open seat centered on the Interstate 95 corridor around Fredericksburg.

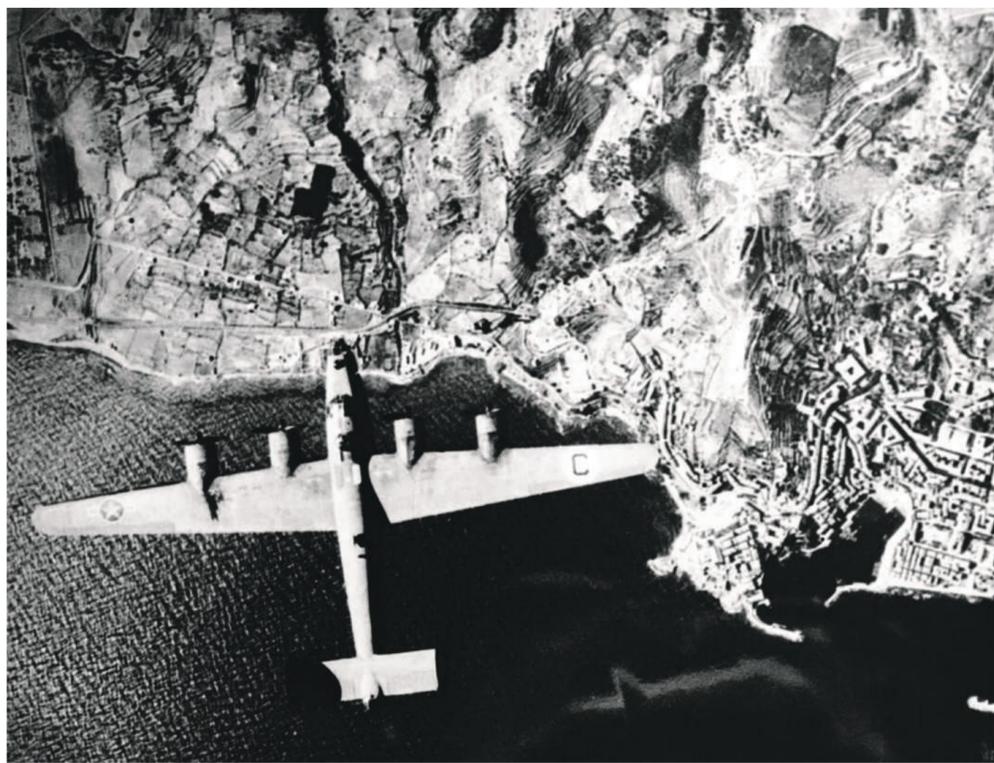
Vindman, a first-time candidate and former Army colonel, briefly entered the national spotlight when he helped his identical twin brother file an ethics report that led to President Donald Trump's first impeachment. Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman went on to testify during impeachment hearings, and both brothers were ousted from their White House jobs by Trump.

Anderson, a former Green Beret who did six tours overseas, lost in the GOP primary to challenge Spanberger two years ago and has stressed his status as a "home-grown guy" who grew up in Pennsylvania before undertaking two federal clerkships and a stint in the Trump White House.

Anderson has said Vindman is on a "revenge tour" against Trump and has tried to emphasize economic issues as well as drug

SEE VOTING ON B3

## RETROPOLIS



# Terror above Germany, and a lost father found

A Md. gunner is identified nearly 80 years after he died in World War II

BY MICHAEL E. RUANE

The crippled American bomber had lost both engines on its right wing. One of its tail rudders had been mostly shot off, and the rear gunner had been wounded.

As the nine men aboard the B-24, nicknamed Mairzy Doats, battled the swarms of German fighters that day, and the plane was hammered by anti-aircraft fire, one member of the crew seemed overcome and unable to fight.

Staff Sgt. John A. Tarbert, 24, of Port Deposit, Md., a waist gunner, was said to have been on his knees praying, instead of firing his gun, according to later accounts. Tarbert had a wife back home who was nine months pregnant. He had already flown 17 missions and was on his third mission in six days.

When the order came to bail out, all on board did so, except Tarbert, who apparently was still in the plane when it crashed in a potato field outside Koblenz, Germany, on Sept. 27, 1944. His body could not be identified, and he was declared missing in action.

This month, almost 80 years after Mairzy Doats went down and Tarbert was lost in one of the deadliest American air battles of World War II, the Defense Department announced that unknown remains recovered later have been found to be his.



JOHN ELLIOTT/DPA

Tarbert was one of the thousands of American fliers who struggled to cope with the terror of World War II aerial combat, sometimes even as their planes were torn apart.

His son, John Elliott, 79, of Schenectady, N.Y., said his father was killed 16 days before he was born and he never knew him. Still, he said, he rejoiced when he got the news earlier this year. Elliott was born Oct. 13, 1944, the same day his mother learned that

SEE RETROPOLIS ON B2

Staff Sgt. John A. Tarbert, above, of Port Deposit, Md., served in World War II as a waist gunner of a B-24, like the one at top. He was shot down over Germany, and his remains were identified this month.

## Policy on acts of hate revised

### REPORTS HAVE RISEN IN MONTGOMERY

School district seeks to limit calls to police

BY NICOLE ASBURY

Montgomery County Public Schools is providing new guidance over how administrators should respond to hateful acts involving its students, reserving contacting police for only the most serious incidents.

The school system — Maryland's largest, with over 160,000 students — will now have a "tiered" response system, with the most egregious or violent acts designated as a "level red," according to the district's website. The new method allows more "age appropriate" handling of situations, according to a presentation outlining talking points for school administrators about the changes.

School system officials declined an interview for this article, saying the district plans to share more details with parents in late September. But the new protocols are posted on the district's student welfare and compliance webpage, and the changes were part of a recent news release by the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

The Montgomery school system defines hate-bias incidents as any disruptive conduct that is intentionally discriminatory toward someone's personal characteristics, including race and religion. It previously instructed administrators to file a report with central office and call the police if any incident occurred. Police logs show the department was contacted for a broad range of incidents, such as name-calling among elementary students and vandalism. Families say the response would vary depending on the school.

Wylea Chase, a parent of two current Montgomery County students and two graduates, said that police have been called disproportionately on Black and Brown students.

Chase, who is a part of the district's hate advisory group, said that the district has been improving the way it addresses bias incidents and that the employees in charge of revising the protocols "are the right people."

Montgomery leaders publicly floated the idea of using a tiered reporting system during a March school board meeting. Greg Edmundson, director of the school welfare and compliance unit,

SEE SCHOOLS ON B3

## TODAY'S WEATHER



8 a.m. 67° Noon 71° 4 p.m. 71° 8 p.m. 69°

High today at approx. 2 p.m.: 73°  
 Precip: 25% Wind: SE 6-12 mph

For weather news, go to B6

## MARYLAND

A five-alarm fire rips through several buildings in downtown Baltimore. B4

## MARYLAND

A police officer fatally shoots a man in Montgomery County. B4

## OBITUARIES

Designer Mary McFadden drew on ancient themes for modern wear. B4



## Race to replace Spanberger in Congress is heating up in Va.

Anderson, Vindman exchange barbs about transparency, abortion

BY TEO ARMUS

Less than two months before the November election, the claws are coming out in the race for a crucial Virginia congressional seat.

Yevgeny "Eugene" Vindman (D) is sending out missives about his "MAGA extremist opponent." Derrick Anderson (R) is saying his opponent displays "cowardice and lack of leadership." And with early voting underway, the mudslinging between these two candidates is beginning to flood the airwaves and in-person political forums across the 7th District.

The incumbent, Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D), is running for Virginia governor next year instead of seeking reelection in this perennial battleground, which stretches from suburbs outside D.C. to the rural foothills of the Piedmont. The battle between Anderson and Vindman — both Army veterans turned lawyers —



SHEDRICK PELT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST; DERRICK ANDERSON CAMPAIGN

Yevgeny "Eugene" Vindman, left, and Derrick Anderson are both Army veterans turned lawyers.

is expected to be one of the most closely watched House races in the country.

After facing off at two town-hall-style events last week, both nominees are trying to paint themselves as the candidate most in touch with the district while claiming the other is dodging hard questions.

Vindman, best known for sparking President Donald Trump's first impeachment

alongside his twin brother, followed up on a Prince William County candidate forum Tuesday evening with a news release that Anderson was "dodging questions about abortion" and his stance on the issue.

"The contrast is clear: While Derrick Anderson is dodging questions about abortion, Eugene Vindman will fight to restore Roe as the law of the land," his campaign said.

Meanwhile, Anderson, a former Army Green Beret, last week pushed Vindman on a very different topic: a since-deleted social media post from his sister-in-law, the podcaster Rachel Vindman, after a man pointed a rifle through a fence around a golf course where Trump was playing. "No ears were harmed. Carry on with your Sunday," she wrote, later apologizing over the post.

"Despite his talk about civility, Vindman continues to fail the leadership test," Anderson said in a statement.

During the early-voting period, Vindman is likely to go hard on abortion rights and Trump's influence over the GOP, while Anderson is expected to emphasize the economy while painting himself as the most civil candidate.

"Because this is the closest congressional race in Virginia and one of the marquee national congressional races, neither side wants to leave anything unsaid," said Stephen Farnsworth, a political scientist at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg.

Vindman took to TV with the race's first ad of the fall campaign season on Sept. 12, saying that "on abortion rights, Derrick Ander-

son couldn't be more wrong."

"The MAGA Extremists backing Anderson have a plan to go further, to ban abortions nationwide, track pregnancies and limit access to birth control even in Virginia," a voice-over says in the ad, accompanied by a graphic that features Anderson's face next to that of far-right Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.).

Yet Anderson, a former Army Green Beret, denied supporting a national abortion ban in a newspaper op-ed just a day earlier. And he shot back with a separate attack he has made repeatedly against his opponent in recent weeks.

"This is why Yevgeny Vindman refuses to debate Derrick on TV," Anderson campaign spokesman Riley Ploch said in a statement. "Vindman is lying about Derrick's record and beliefs. ... And — as we've predicted — he's hiding behind false TV ads to do it."

Vindman's 30-second spot and Anderson's op-ed are just two of the ways in which the campaigns are looking to court voters in the 7th District, a politically and geographically diverse area that elected both Spanberger and Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) by about five

SEE 7TH DISTRICT ON B3

## INSPIRED LIFE

## Dog helps save owner's life by shielding her from flames

BY CATHY FREE

David Hoffman was running errands when he got a frantic phone call that his home was on fire. His disabled wife, Melissa Hoffman, and their pets were trapped inside.

The call was from his daughter-in-law, Ingrid Hoffman, who said she tried to get Melissa out of her bedroom, but the heat and smoke were so intense she had to flee. David, 69, rushed to his home in Citrus Heights, Calif., that morning, Aug. 15, and saw the duplex in flames. He started to run inside to Melissa.

"It was so smoky and hot, it blew me back," said David, explaining that Melissa, 64, had a stroke earlier this year and is unable to walk.

He didn't know then that Melissa had reached for her wheelchair and fell to the floor, and that their dog, Maya, was lying on top of her — which rescue workers said helped save her life.

"I broke open the back window and started spraying water inside from our garden hose," David said. "The whole time, I was shouting at Melissa to keep talking to me, that we were going to get her out."

Fire crews quickly arrived and rushed to the back of the house, searching in the dark smoke for Melissa.

"One of our rescue guys caught a glimpse of some fur on the floor, and they found the dog on top of the woman," said Capt. Ryan McMahon of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District. "They grabbed the lady and the dog and got them out to rescuers at the back window."

Rescue workers thought Maya, an 8-year-old pit bull mix, was no longer alive when she was pulled from the duplex.

"We all thought the dog didn't make it," said fire Capt. Josh Leonard. "She wasn't moving and didn't appear to be breathing."

Not only was the dog still alive, rescuers said that by lying on Melissa's chest and protecting her face, Maya was a hero.



Maya sports a sweater to cover her burn wounds while napping with Miracle, the kitten the Hoffman family got after the fire. A veterinarian treated the burns free of charge because of the family's losses.

"The dog was unconscious on her chest, protecting her airway, and ended up taking the brunt of the heat," Leonard said.

He added: "That dog absolutely saved her life and is a hero." Capt. Mark Nunez, spokesman for the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, said the way the dog positioned herself on Melissa is what saved her until firefighters could rescue her.

"Think of it as someone standing in front of you and blocking the wind that is pushing in your direction," Nunez said.

He added that he's seen this behavior before with dogs.

"Calls that we have seen that involve dogs, there's usually an instinctual bond that the dog has with their owner, and they feel the need to protect them," Nunez said.

Melissa, who suffered third-degree burns on 60 percent of her body, was taken by ambulance to a hospital. Leonard said it was then that he and his crew were shocked to see Maya struggling to

breathe on the lawn.

"We quickly got a mask on the dog to give her some oxygen, and we revived her," Leonard said. "We knew we'd gotten Maya and the lady out of the house just in the nick of time."

*"That dog has been a hero since we got her as a puppy. She's always been extremely devoted."*

David Hoffman, on his dog Maya, who helped save his wife's life

David said his wife is now recovering from her wounds at a burn center and will need numerous skin grafts and months of rehab therapy. Melissa had a stroke in February and was making good progress until the fire

broke out, he said.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, and firefighters were able to control the blaze before it destroyed the other side of the duplex, he added, although the unit sustained smoke damage.

"We lost everything, including one of our kittens, but I'm so thankful that [Melissa] was saved, and Maya was saved," David said. "That dog has been a hero since we got her as a puppy. She's always been extremely devoted."

He said he wasn't surprised to learn that Maya stayed by his wife's side in an emergency.

"She's extremely close to Maya and calls her 'Sweet Pea,'" he said. "Maya sleeps on the bed with her and is always by her side."

The Veterinary Specialty Hospital in Roseville, Calif., treated Maya's burns at no charge after learning about his family's losses, said David, who is now living in an Airbnb rental. Relatives started a GoFundMe account to help



The scene of the fire at the Hoffmans' duplex on Aug. 15. All humans survived, but one kitten died in the blaze.

pay for the portion of Melissa's medical bills not covered by insurance, he said. More than \$15,000 has been donated so far.

Hoffman said that a local cat lover recently gave him a new ragdoll kitten to replace the kitten that died in the fire.

"She's become best friends with Maya, and I decided to name her Miracle," he said.

As for Maya, she is now home and recovering from burns on her side and on her tongue from the hot smoke in the house, he said.

"She'd been licking Melissa while she laid on top of her," he said. "She took some of the burns that Melissa would have taken."

On Sept. 9, Hoffman returned

to the vet with Maya for a reunion with the firefighters who saved the dog's life. KCRA Television covered the event, which included lots of head pats and "good girl!" comments for Maya.

"Everyone wanted to thank Maya for her bravery, and we wanted to thank them," Hoffman said.

McMahon said it was rewarding for firefighters to see the dog happily rushing around from one person to the next.

"A lot of times in the fire service, you don't find out what happens to people and animals afterward," he said. "You don't always get to close that loop. It was really nice to close this one."

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## RETROPOLIS

## Decades later, slain gunner is identified

RETROPOLIS FROM B1

his father was missing, he said.

He said it was hard to see later crew accounts suggesting that his father was "a chicken, a fraidy-cat ... because he didn't even fire his gun."

"For me, they're not fun to read," he said in a recent telephone interview.

"I didn't understand," he said. "Was he afraid of what would happen when he landed, and he'd rather die in the crash than be captured as a German prisoner? Was he too much of a chicken to face that, and would rather die? Or what other emotions might be running through his mind that would result in him not trying to parachute out of the plane? He didn't even try to get his parachute on."

"I refuse to think that he 'didn't have the guts,'" he added in an email.

World War II bombing missions, conducted in unheated airplanes at frigid altitudes, were often harrowing. Men wore electrically heated suits and fleeced-lined boots and trousers, according to historian Eric Ratcliffe. Wounds froze immediately.

"There were shells, explosions and guns chattering," Frank Bertram, who was on another B-24 shot down on Tarbert's mission, wrote later. "Words just cannot describe your feeling. It's absolute sheer terror for a while, panic for a while, and then anger."

Historian Donald L. Miller, author of the book "Masters of the Air," about American bomber crews fighting in Europe, wrote that men would faint or have "shakes and tremors, temporary blindness and catatonia" on combat runs.

Other men had dreadful nightmares, or felt that they were going crazy. Many tried to suppress their reactions to combat, fearing that would be called "yellow."

In Miller's book, he said another airman recalled: "Twice our co-pilot went nuts and tried to crash us into the sea ... The crew fought him off the wheel and we aborted ... He wasn't a coward. He just couldn't go back."

Tarbert hailed from Port Deposit, a small town on the Susquehanna River about 45 miles northeast of Baltimore, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), which identified his remains.

His mother died when he was about 14 and he was raised by grandparents, Elliott said. He attended the Tome School in Port Deposit, now in North East, Md., and joined the Army in 1939.

In November 1943, then in the Army Air Force and based at Lowry Field, in Denver, he married Jenevieve Judd. She was 22. Six months later, he was shipped out to the war in Europe. She stayed behind in Denver.

Tarbert was assigned to the 703rd Bombardment Squadron, 445th Bombardment group, an outfit formerly commanded by the movie star James Stewart.

The unit's B-24 "Liberators" were ungainly looking aircraft. But they carried a large payload and were heavily armed with .50-caliber machine guns for defense.

The planes were frequently adorned with "nose art," often a racy pinup image, or a zany nickname, painted on the front of the aircraft. Tarbert's plane, Mairzy Doats, got its name from the title of a 1943 novelty song.

On Sept. 27, 1944, Tarbert's bomb group of more than 30 planes took off from its base in Tibenham, in southeastern England.

It was part of an armada of 300 planes headed to attack industrial facilities in Kassel, a town in central Germany that was to give its name to the ensuing disaster, Miller wrote.

As they approached Kassel, the lead plane in Tarbert's group veered off course, taking the formation away from the others and dropping its bombs near a town about 20 miles away.

Then, as the group prepared to head for home, it was attacked by dozens of German fighters.

The American bombers had little fighter protection of their own, and the enemy planes shot them down wholesale.

"I saw the ship in front of us go down with its rudder on fire," recalled Mairzy Doats's co-pilot Lt. Carroll G. Snidow, according to the Kassel Mission Historical Society. "The enemy fighters knocked out our tail gun and turret on their first pass. Waldron, our tail gunner, was injured in the leg."

In the end, 25 planes from Tarbert's bomb group were shot down and 117 airmen were killed. Several, after bailing out, were killed by enraged Germans on the ground, according to Ratcliffe's

book, "The Kassel Raid."

Tarbert and two others from his plane perished. Six survived.

The 445th that day "suffered more losses than any single combat unit sustained in the history of American aerial warfare," Miller wrote in his history. Stewart, who had been promoted, was called back to help calm the survivors who made it home.

A few months after the war, Mairzy Doats's navigator, 2nd Lt. Maynard L. Jones, wrote a letter to co-pilot Snidow, in reply to one Snidow had written him about the mission. The letter appears on the Kassel Mission Historical Society's website.

"What you told me about [Tarbert] didn't surprise me too much because he quite often quit everything to pray," Jones wrote. "He did on the St. Lo raid. I guess every one of us were praying with all our might during that [mission], but I couldn't see where crying would help any. Poor kid. I feel so sorry for his wife and his baby he's never seen."

In 1951, Snidow, responding to an Army request for information about Tarbert, wrote: "I was informed by one of our gunners that Sgt. Tarbert completely lost his nerve during the attack by enemy fighters and failed to fire any of his guns."

Elliott, Tarbert's son, said he resents those comments. "Disgust, even anger shows up in me," he said in an email. "Everyone is dead so I can't resolve it so I don't think about it very often."

He said his mother later remarried and he was raised by a beloved stepfather. The subject of his biological father, whom he knew as "Daddy Johnny," rarely came up.

The DPAA, which works to find and account for service members missing in action, said it identified Tarbert after studying remains recovered over the years from the crash site and its vicinity, and via DNA comparison with Elliott and another relative.

Tarbert will be buried with full military honors on Nov. 8 in the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, in Schuylerville, N.Y.

"No tears come to my eyes," Elliott said. "I don't choke up very easily about it at all."

"I guess I'm relieved that the thing is finally ended and he's laid to rest in the country of his birth," he said.

# Montgomery schools update protocols on hateful acts

SCHOOLS FROM B1

said during the meeting that a tiered system would allow for more flexibility in how to respond and would also consider variables such as the age of the people involved and the intent.

According to the updated protocols, a situation can be considered a “level yellow” incident if a person lacks context or an intent to be hurtful. The police wouldn’t be called in such an incident, though parents would still be contacted. School officials gave examples of name-calling

by a first-grader and an “unintentional act” as scenarios that would warrant a “level yellow” designation.

The district said examples of “level red” incidents included vandalism, physical assault or a “schoolwide disruption.”

The school system has been reckoning with a rise in reports of hate since in the past year, with incidents continuing to increase since the start of the Israel-Gaza War.

At the March school board meeting, officials said they were receiving three reports of hate

each day on average during the 2023-2024 school year, compared with one report every three days the previous year. About 60 percent of the reports involved people being targeted racially. Other reports involved religion, gender identity and sexuality, they said.

The district has faced questions about when and how police should be involved in responding to such reports.

In 2023, Montgomery County police said they saw a nearly 200 percent increase in bias reports throughout the county,

which they attributed to a change in procedures within the school system. Officials wrote that the school system reported “all bias/hate incidents whether a criminal offense was committed.”

Chase and other parents have also raised questions over the school system’s use of intent to determine whether an act is hateful.

Yeages Cowan, a parent of a recent graduate and another member of the district’s hate advisory group, said the group often talked about “intention

versus impact.”

“That intention, to me, is a very nuanced issue because in order for something to rise to the level of hate or bias, then it does need to have an element of intent to it,” Cowan said. “But if a student does something that is impactful to the community, regardless of the intention of the student, you have to deal with the impact.”

She added that “intent simply ratchets up what the consequences are; it doesn’t detract from the fact that something took place that caused harm to a

community or a person.”

Cowan gave credit to the school system for acknowledging its shortfalls in how it handles alleged hate incidents and improving the process. But she said district officials need to make sure students understand the expectations laid in the code of conduct.

The school system added an online module for students, but Cowan said that she has concerns students may not be paying attention to it. She said she wants to see data on how effective those online courses are.

# A guide to the Nov. 5 election in Virginia, including early and absentee voting

VOTING FROM B1

control and border security. Vindman, meanwhile, has emphasized his support of abortion rights while trying to tie Anderson to Trump and “Project 2025.” Both have also said the other has not been entirely honest about his record, including Vindman’s military rank and Anderson’s residency.

This congressional seat covers a vast, politically diverse swath of the state, stretching from the foothills of the Piedmont region into D.C. suburbs in eastern Prince William County. It also includes all of Caroline, Culpeper, Greene, King George, Madison, Orange, Spotsylvania and Stafford counties.

## What should I know about the 2nd District race?

This military-heavy Hampton Roads district, anchored in Virginia Beach, has been competitive for years. Kiggans was a state senator when she defeated Democratic Rep. Elaine Luria in a close race in 2022, and Luria had defeated a Republican incumbent four years before that.

Kiggans, a geriatric nurse practitioner and retired Navy helicopter pilot, is being challenged by Cotter Smasal, a former Navy surface warfare officer and small-business owner. Both candidates have attracted outside money as each party views the district as a key to control of the closely divided House of Representatives.

Cotter Smasal has worked to tie Kiggans to Trump and MAGA issues, suggesting Kiggans was complicit in the former president’s baseless efforts to undermine the 2020 election, and has put special emphasis on the issue of protecting abortion access. Kiggans has emphasized economic issues — blaming Democrats for high inflation — and has taken a hard-line stance on immigration

and closing the nation’s southern border.

The 2nd District includes all of Virginia Beach, Suffolk and Isle of Wight County, parts of Southampton County and Chesapeake, and all of Virginia’s Eastern Shore (Accomack and Northampton counties).

## What about the U.S. Senate race?

Kaine faces Republican Hung Cao in what has so far been a sleeper of a U.S. Senate campaign.

A former Richmond mayor and Virginia governor who was Hillary Clinton’s running mate in 2016, Kaine, 66, is seeking a third term in Washington. Cao, 53, a retired Navy captain who lives in Purcellville, made an unsuccessful bid to unseat Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-Va.) in the 10th District in 2022.

While Kaine has crisscrossed the commonwealth and dominated in fundraising, Cao has led a lower-profile campaign with few public appearances announced in advance and a tight budget that could keep him off TV in the home stretch.

Kaine raised about \$16 million and had almost \$8 million on hand heading into July, according to fundraising reports filed at that time. Cao raised just over \$3 million and, after a hard-fought five-way Republican primary, had \$415,000 on hand at that time.

Cao has not reserved time for any broadcast TV ads for the closing months of the campaign, while Kaine has about \$2.2 million booked, according to the Virginia Public Access Project, a nonpartisan tracker of money in politics.

Both men have compelling biographies that they lean into to express their (vastly different) approaches to public policy, including immigration.

Kaine grew up in Kansas City, helping in his father’s ironwork-



LUCY NALAND/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

*Voters can register up to and including Election Day, but those who are not registered 22 days before Nov. 5 will have to use a provisional ballot.*

ing shop and later teaching carpentry and welding at a Jesuit missionary school in Honduras. He launched his career as a civil rights lawyer in Richmond after earning a law degree from Harvard. He supports comprehensive immigration revisions, enhancing border security and creating a path to citizenship to undocumented immigrants already in the

country.

Cao, a refugee from Vietnam, arrived in the United States at age 4 and went on to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. He served 25 years in Navy Special Operations and was deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia. Endorsed in his primary by Trump, Cao takes a hard line on immigration, declaring on his website: “We will build the wall, we will secure the border through advanced technology, we will support the Border Patrol and border states, and we will repel this invasion.”

## What about local races?

There are elections for local government or school board posts — or both — in Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax City, Herndon, Manassas, Manassas Park and Dumfries.

Four candidates are running for one at-large seat on the Arlington County Board in the common-

wealth’s first ranked-choice general election, after Libby Garvey (D), the body’s longest-serving incumbent, declined to seek reelection. Julius D. “JD” Spain Sr. (D) faces Juan Carlos Fierro (R), independent Audrey Clement and Madison Granger of the Forward Party.

Also in Arlington, four candidates are vying for two open seats on the five-person school board. Two candidates, Kathleen A. Clark and Zuraya Tapia-Hadley, have been endorsed by the county Democratic Party. The other two candidates are physician and mental health professional James “Vell” Rives and former teacher Paul Weiss.

All seven spots on Alexandria City Council are on the ballot. The mayor’s race is uncontested, with City Council member Alyia Gaskins (D) expected to win.

She is joined on the Democratic ticket by four other incumbents —

Canek Aguirre, Sarah R. Bagley, John Taylor Chapman and R. Kirk McPike — as well as Alexandria School Board members Abdel S. Elmoubi and Jacinta Greene. They will face independents Roy Byrd and Mason Butler and Republican Celianna Gunderson for the other six seats on the body, all of which are elected at-large.

All seats on the nine-person Alexandria school board will be on the ballot in uncontested races. There are nine candidates, including five incumbents, running for the seats divided by each of the city’s three voting districts.

## Where and when can I vote?

You can cast an early ballot at your local registrar’s office or at a satellite polling station open in most localities most days through Nov. 2, the Saturday before the day of the election.

Check to make sure you are registered to vote. Voters can register up to and including Election Day (but those who are not registered 22 days before Nov. 5 will have to use a provisional ballot).

At the registrar’s office or satellite voting location, you must provide your name and address and show an acceptable form of identification or sign an ID confirmation statement.

You can also vote early via an absentee ballot after applying for one with your local registrar’s office. Those ballots can be mailed in to the registrar’s office or, in many localities, deposited in drop boxes at designated locations.

Voters have until 7 p.m. on Election Day to drop off absentee ballots. If they are mailed, they must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by noon on the Friday after the election.

Teo Armus and Karina Elwood in Washington and Laura Vozzella and Gregory S. Schneider in Richmond contributed to this report.

# Virginia’s 7th District nominees accuse each other of dodging tough questions

7TH DISTRICT FROM B1

points in their most recent elections.

Attacks so far have also focused on matters of transparency, such as Vindman’s military rank and Anderson’s residency. Farnsworth said those might have limited pull for Virginia voters.

“Most of the opposition research items are not going to matter to most voters — they already know who they’re voting for in these partisan times,” he added. “But even a relatively minor thing may matter to somebody.”

Nonpartisan political analysts, including those at the Cook Political Report, have generally characterized the political makeup of the 7th District as one that gives Democrats a slight advantage as they seek to win control of the House.

The GOP’s House campaign arm has listed the 7th as one of about three dozen Democratic-held targets it is looking to flip this year, and Inside Elections shifted the race in late August to a pure “toss-up.”

Vindman appears to have the fundraising edge so far. As of June

30, he had \$2.28 million in the bank, compared with about \$460,000 for Anderson, according to the nonpartisan Virginia Public Access Project, positioning him to better spread his message to voters.

The Democrat’s campaign has spent \$315,000 on television ads, with \$2.57 million in ads from the House Majority PAC, which has ties to the House Democratic leadership.

Anderson has also attracted \$1.8 million in advertising on his behalf from the Congressional Leadership Fund, a group affiliated with House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), and spent \$3,355 on the first television ad of the general election, VPAP reported.

That spot cast him as an “independent leader for Virginia” who is focused on “securing the border, fighting inflation, improving our schools and putting families first.”

But his restrained tone did not last long. Since June, the Anderson campaign and the National Republican Congressional Committee, the campaign arm for the House GOP, have leveraged claims of “stolen valor” after some social media posts from the

Vindman campaign referred to the candidate as a “retired Army colonel.”

*“In these partisan times, anything that your side does is forgivable.”*

**Stephen Farnsworth,**  
a political scientist at  
the University of Mary Washington

Trump fired Vindman from a post at the National Security Council after the ethics officer helped his identical twin brother, Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, make a report about Trump pressuring Ukrainian leaders to dig up U.S. political dirt. Vindman was promoted to colonel in 2021 but needed to serve three years to retire in that role rather than as a lieutenant colonel.

The Vindman campaign did not directly address the attacks but said in a statement: “Eugene Vindman was promoted to Colonel on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 2021 by Senator Tim Kaine, who he is proud to be on

the ballot with this year.”

Allegations have come from the Democratic side, too.

The Vindman abortion ad that aired this month features a social media post from Anderson saying that the Supreme Court “finally got it right” after it overturned the *Roe v. Wade* decision. He denied in the Daily Progress op-ed that he opposes limits on contraception or IVF.

That topic came up again at a Tuesday night forum in Manassas — an exchange that the Vindman campaign and its allies seized upon.

The event’s moderator, WUSA9’s Larry Miller, asked Anderson: “Do you support a woman’s right to choose, yes or no?”

“I support the states’ [ability] to be able to make those decisions that best fits those states,” the candidate replied. Pressed again, he said, “Look, I’ve answered the question twice now.”

The Vindman campaign was out with a news release about the exchange within hours. But Farnsworth, the political scientist, said he is still waiting to see if such messaging will actually change voters’ minds.

“In these partisan times, any-

thing that your side does is forgivable, and anything that the other side does is monstrous,” he said.

“Most people will view the charges and countercharges in that framework.”



Yevgeny “Eugene” Vindman, a Democrat running in Virginia’s 7th District, shakes hands with Lilian Tumalu in Stafford in June.



Derrick Anderson, a Republican seeking the 7th District seat, campaigns at a polling place in Spotsylvania Courthouse on June 18

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## MARYLAND

## Fire near Orioles stadium damages six buildings in downtown Baltimore



WESLEY LAPOINTE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Firefighters at the scene of a multi-building fire Sunday at West Lombard and South Eutaw streets in Baltimore. Officials said there were no known injuries, and the cause is under investigation.

BY EMILY DAVIES

A five-alarm fire ripped through six buildings and shut down swaths of downtown Baltimore on Sunday morning, according to a city fire department spokesman.

The fire, which began about 9:30 a.m., was extinguished by the late afternoon, said John

Marsh, the fire spokesman. It "completely affected" one residential building and five businesses, including an Ethiopian restaurant and a liquor store, Marsh said.

There were no known injuries. Fire officials were investigating what caused the blaze, Marsh said.

The fire occurred about two

blocks from Camden Yards, hours before the Baltimore Orioles were scheduled to take on the Detroit Tigers. City officials closed off a two-block radius between Eutaw and Lombard streets and suspended light-rail service in the downtown area.

By 3:30 p.m., the light rail was running, some streets had reopened and the game had begun.

## MARYLAND

## Montgomery officer fatally shoots man during confrontation, police say

BY DAN MORSE AND MARTIN WEIL

A Montgomery County police officer shot and killed a man during a confrontation Saturday in the Wheaton-Glenmont area, according to county and state officials.

The man was apparently holding a grill fork, state officials said. It was not clear whether the officer thought it was something else, but police had shouted "Drop the knife" before the shooting, according to a news release Sunday evening from the Independent Investigations Division of the Maryland Attorney General's Office. The division investigates fatal police shootings in the state.

The man, who was not identified, did not comply with the command, the attorney general's

office said.

The incident unfolded about 7:45 p.m. Saturday, when Montgomery officers were called to the 3400 block of Janet Road for a reported assault in progress.

Officers found a man in a yard holding an object in his right hand and yelled their commands, the attorney general's office said.

The man then began to cross a street and an officer fired his weapon, according to the news release. Officials did not say how close the two were when the officer fired.

Officers immediately gave first aid, according to officials, and called for medics. The man was pronounced dead at the scene. A grill fork was recovered near his body, the attorney general's office said.

The police officer who fired

was not identified. In such cases, the attorney general's office generally releases the names of the deceased person and the officers within two business days.

Officers at the scene were equipped with body-worn cameras. The attorney general's office expects to release that footage and often does so within 20 days of such incidents.

The nature of the alleged assault was not specified, and the number of alleged victims was not provided.

It was not clear whether the man knew the victim or victims, or what motivated the assault.

The site is a residential street between Connecticut and Georgia avenues. It is about six miles north of the Capital Beltway. The street includes mainly one- and two-story single-family houses with lawns and driveways.

## OBITUARIES

MARY MCFADDEN, 85

## A fixture of haute couture who looked to antiquity for inspiration

BY EMILY LANGER

Mary McFadden, a fashion designer who drew on ancient themes for modern wear, weaving the colors and motifs of Greek antiquity, Egyptian mythology and the Italian Renaissance into clothing that made her for years a fixture of haute couture, died Sept. 13 in Southampton, N.Y. She was 85.

The cause was myelodysplasia, a blood disorder, said her brother, John McFadden.

Ms. McFadden spent her career making what admirers considered wearable art, a line of clothing so original that any of her creations was immediately identifiable as hers. From season to season, she traversed centuries and continents in her themed collections, the products of her insatiable curiosity about the world and a jet-setting life that allowed her to see it.

The daughter of a prosperous cotton broker, Ms. McFadden lived during the early years of her life on a cotton plantation in Tennessee where, by her account, there was "no thought of clothes." She acquired her worldliness in part through her travels with her grandmother, who introduced Ms. McFadden to the Paris fashion scene when she was in her teens.

She began designing her own clothing in the 1960s when she accompanied her first of nearly a dozen husbands to South Africa, where he was a director of the De Beers diamond factory. Ms. McFadden became a journalist for Vogue South Africa and eventually moved to the magazine's office in New York, where her designs impressed her colleagues and made their way into the magazine.

With backing from fashion editor Diana Vreeland, Ms. McFadden launched her namesake label in 1976. She dressed women including Babe Paley, the trend-setting wife of CBS chairman William S. Paley, and former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

Ms. McFadden's calling card was a patented pleated synthetic fabric that she called Marii. (The term was her first name rendered with what she described as "a Japanese feeling to it.") She sourced the material in Australia, shipped it to Japan to be dyed and then brought it to the United States, where it underwent a heat-transfer treatment that set permanent tiny pleats.

The pleats gave the impression, as Ms. McFadden once described it to the New York Times, that the material fell "like liquid gold against the body." On a practical level, the process made the fabric virtually impossible to crease, a distinct advantage for Ms. McFadden's wealthy clientele who toted her clothing in suitcases around the world.

"They could get into a plane and never have to worry," she told an interviewer, Laura McLaws Helms, in 2013. "One time, in Florida one of the maids in the hotel picked up one of my Marii pleated dresses and she went downstairs to try to take the creases out and she came back to my client — she was apologizing as she was unable to take the pleats out. She tried all day!"

Ms. McFadden used her Marii fabric as well as opulent embroidery and beading in collections that seemed to know no geographic or historical bounds.

Her Greek collection featured pleated gowns that fell straight down in a manner that recalled the columns of Acropolis and other ruins. To evoke ancient Egypt, she incorporated striking gold macramé, said Rachel Sepielli, the assistant curator of the Mary McFadden archive at Drexel University's Fox Historic Costume Collection in Philadelphia.

Ms. McFadden devoted a year of study to "The Tale of Genji," an 11th-century novel by the Japanese noblewoman Murasaki Shikibu, before creating a collection that transferred the botanical imagery of the literary work to hand-painted clothing.

Perhaps her most acclaimed collection, according to Sepielli,



PHOTOS BY JACQUELINE LARMA/AP

Fashion designer Mary McFadden, seen in 2004 at the Allentown Art Museum in Pennsylvania, traversed centuries and continents from season to season in her themed collections.

was one inspired by the Medici family of Florence in Renaissance Italy. The designs, made from luxurious velvet, featured heraldic imagery and embroidery, along with puffed sleeves that updated a centuries-old style for the 1980s fashion world.

Ms. McFadden, whose designs were first sold at the luxury department store Henri Bendel and came to include jewelry, lingerie, linens and home furnishings, closed her business in 2002.

"People's lifestyles have changed. It's a much more relaxed way of living," she told the Wall Street Journal a few years later. "They wear blue jeans a lot of the time, and these very exaggerated, opulent clothes didn't have a place in the 21st century."

*The pleated fabric Marii gave the impression that the material fell like liquid gold against the body.*

Mary McFadden, describing her patented fabric to the New York Times

Ms. McFadden cultivated a personal image as arresting as many of her designs, with a jet-black bob hairstyle and a face that she powdered to a pale white. She was an irresistible subject for society-page scribes since her days as a debutante with an aura of privilege that belied the difficulties of her youth.

Mary Josephine McFadden was born on Oct. 1, 1938, in New York City. Her mother was a concert pianist and, like Ms. McFadden's father, came from a wealthy and socially prominent family.

Ms. McFadden spent roughly her first decade on the plantation near Memphis where her father's career had taken the family. She and her two brothers moved with their mother to Long Island after their father was killed in an avalanche while skiing in Colorado in 1948.

Ms. McFadden, who attended the Foxcroft boarding school in Middleburg, Va., recalled a distant relationship with her mother. "You were not invited to the table until you were twenty years old because it was felt you had nothing interesting to say," Ms. McFadden told New York maga-

zine in 1990.

Ms. McFadden studied at the Traphagen School of Fashion in New York City — her only formal training in fashion design — as well as at the Sorbonne in Paris and Columbia University.

She worked briefly in public relations at Dior before moving with her first husband, Philip Harari, to South Africa, where she had a daughter and ventured into journalism with a job at Vogue South Africa.

She was reporting from Rhodesia, modern-day Zimbabwe, when she met Frank McEwen, a leading art gallerist whom she married after divorcing Harari. Following her divorce from McEwen, Ms. McFadden returned to the United States with her daughter and began working as a special projects editor at Vogue.

Ms. McFadden described marriage as a "very dicey operation." She met one of her husbands, Armin Schmidt, at a nightclub in New York, saw him little after they wed and filed for divorce on the grounds of what she characterized as desertion.

Her marriage in 1989 to Kohle Yohannan, then a college student, and their subsequent divorce attracted tabloid news coverage. She was later married to theatrical director Vasiliios Calitis and was a longtime partner of Nobel Prize-winning physicist Murray Gell-Mann.

Ms. McFadden told Women's Wear Daily in May that she was happy she had married 11 times, because "each person was a different experience." When asked if she would consider a 12th union, she replied, "surely."

Ms. McFadden's daughter, Justine Harari, died in 2023. Besides her brother, John, survivors include two half-brothers.

Despite her travels, which took her to dozens of countries, and a lifestyle that made her a celebrity equal to many of the women who wore her clothes, Ms. McFadden harked back to her early days on a plantation to describe herself as a "country girl."

Only when she began to spend more time abroad, she said, did she begin to see "how fashion was really important in a woman's life."

"It hadn't become important to me until I saw and was old enough to see how these women spent all day trying to make themselves beautiful," she said, before adding: "You wouldn't think that picking out a dress would be really important, but it is."

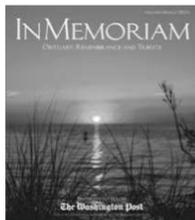


Ms. McFadden at her Allentown Art Museum exhibition in 2004. In her collections, she used her pleated synthetic fabric Marii and opulent embroidery and beading.

ATTENTION READERS OF THE

### In-Memorial Magazine

Starting with the July - September 2024 edition, The In-Memorial Magazine will no longer be printed. Instead, it will be available in digital format.



You can find the digital version on The Washington Post website on the Classifieds Page, or go directly to the page: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/classifieds/>

If you prefer a printed copy, you can purchase it at [wapo.st/memorial](http://wapo.st/memorial).

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The Guide to Offers  
The Washington Post

#### Enter for the chance to win a pair of tickets to The Psychedelic Furs & The Jesus and Mary Chain on October 6 at The Anthem

English alternative rock band The Psychedelic Furs dropped *Made of Rain* in 2020 following a 1990's multi-year break. "With a cohesive, warm and often melancholy rock drive, the album is blessed with great songs..." (*loudersound.com*). Scottish alternative rock band The Jesus and Mary Chain released record *Glasgow Eyes* in March. "It's a staggering, swaggering achievement more vital than anything they've done in the last 35 years" (*recordcollectormag.com*).

See details at [washingtonpost.com/entertainment/events/lists/388](https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/events/lists/388)



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**DEATH NOTICE**  
**ARONOFSKY**

**WAYNE ARONOFSKY**  
Wayne Aronofsky, aged 70, passed away on September 9, 2024 at his home in Silver Spring, Maryland. He was born on June 3, 1954 in Dallas, Texas to Molly and Julius Aronofsky. After moving to Connecticut and Pennsylvania, he returned to Dallas in time to graduate from Hillcrest High in 1972. He attended MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For the past twenty-five years, Wayne has worked with dedication for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission as a Public Service Representative at the Fairland Sports & Aquatics Complex in Laurel, Maryland. A music-lover, he also played chess and bridge. He was funny, caring, persevering, brave, and could cook up a delicious spaghetti. Preceded in death by his loving parents and his sister Barbara Aronofsky Latham, he is survived by his sisters Ellen Aronofsky Cole and Sharon Aronofsky Weltman; brothers-in-law Brian Cole and Jerry Weltman; nieces Becky Cole Stone, Laura Cole Riley, and Elizabeth Weltman; nephew Alex Weltman; their spouses Devin Stone, Adam Riley, and Miriam Kerler; many cousins, and very dear friends. The funeral will take place on Tuesday, September 24 at 10:30 a.m. at Temple Emanuel in Kensington, Maryland. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Cornerstone Montgomery or PLAN of Maryland-DC. We will miss him forever.



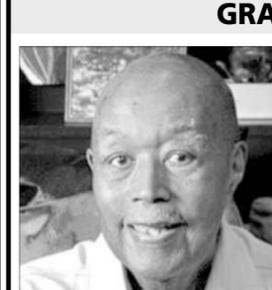
**DEATH NOTICE**  
**BATTLE**

**PHILLIP STEVEN BATTLE (Age 81)**  
On Tuesday, September 17, 2024 Phillip Battle of Temple Hills, Maryland entered into eternal rest. Loving husband of Delphine Battle. Devoted father of David (Russell) Gary. Also survived by one grandson Rhys Gary. Many other relatives and friends. Family will receive friends on Wednesday, September 25, from 10 a.m. until the time of funeral service at 11 a.m. at Hillcrest Baptist Church, 2200 Iverson St. Hillcrest Heights, MD 20748. Interment Haiti Cemetery, Trenton, North Carolina.  
[www.wisemanfuneralhome.net](http://www.wisemanfuneralhome.net)



**DEATH NOTICE**  
**PACHENKER**

**SYLVIA G. PACHENKER (Age 102)**  
On Saturday, September 21, 2024, Sylvia Pachenger, of Silver Spring, MD passed away. Beloved wife of the late Hyman Joseph Pachenger; devoted mother of Marlene (Thomas) Broskey; cherished grandmother of Rachel and Jonathan Broskey; great grandmother of Jack and Evelyn Broskey. Retired from the federal government after working 30 years, Sylvia was active in several clubs and organizations in Leisure World which included organizing and leading trips. Graveside service will be held Monday, September 23, 2024, 2 p.m. at Norbeck Memorial Park, 16225 Batchellors Forest Road, Olney, MD 20832. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org). Services entrusted to Sagel Bloomfield Danzansky Goldberg Funeral Care.  
[www.sagelbloomfield.com](http://www.sagelbloomfield.com)

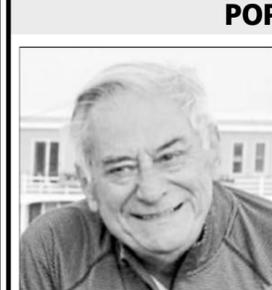


**DEATH NOTICE**  
**GRAHAM**

**OTTO C. GRAHAM JR. (Age 91)**  
Otto Chester Graham Jr. of Potomac, Maryland passed away peacefully surrounded by his adoring family on September 5, 2024. Otto was born on June 22, 1933 in Philadelphia, PA to Bertha Irene & Otto Chester Graham, Sr. He grew up in Yeadon, PA alongside his five loving sisters: Lillian, Frances, Barbara, Carolyn, and Virginia (Jennie). Otto served in the Air Force as a radio operator and cryptographer from 1953 - 1957, before completing his undergraduate degree at Howard University. Otto worked as a financial manager for the federal government for 33 years, retiring from the Federal Trade Commission in 1998. He met the love of his life, Andrea Diane Graham in 1965 and over 59 incredible years, went on to share many adventures, three children and four grandchildren. Otto loved spending time with his friends and family, especially his wonderful grandchildren. In his retirement, he learned piano, cruised the world with Diane and volunteered with his church and as a Court appointed Special Advocate working with children in the Maryland Court system. He was the life of every party and an exceptional storyteller, genealogist and mentor. He is missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Andrea Diane Graham; his children, Noelle Allen, Evan Graham and Valerie Graham; his son-in-law, Kevin Allen; his grandchildren Dorian Merritt, Brittany Allen, Andrew Allen, Isabella Allen; his sisters Carolyn Young and Virginia Graham and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Services will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at the People's Community Baptist Church: 31 Norbeck Road, Silver Spring, MD. 10 a.m. Viewing, 11 a.m. Service. Interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Arrangements by March Life Tribute Center: [www.march-lifetributecenters.com](http://www.march-lifetributecenters.com)



**DEATH NOTICE**  
**POPOLO**

New Jersey where he joined Interdata Corporation as SVP of Global Sales. In 1977 he founded Misco, Inc., a mini-computer supply company, which he sold to Gillette in 1985. He was a serial entrepreneur and launched many ventures over the rest of his long career while also finding the time to enjoy his lifelong loves of sailing and politics. Joe was a devoted son, father and grandfather. He will be greatly missed, always loved and never forgotten.

Joe was predeceased by his beloved parents, his only sister, Theresa Popolo Seamone and his cherished daughter, Beth Anne Bach. He is survived by the mother of his children, Mary Ellen Connelly, and his loving children, Christina M. Howard, and her husband, Gerald Howard, of McLean, Virginia, Joseph V. Popolo Jr. and his wife, Christine, of Dallas, Texas and Julie A. Daley of Rumson, New Jersey, along with his adored grandchildren Katherine (Kit), Edward, Joseph V. III (Buck), Abigail, Eirann, Connor, Meaghan, Hugo, Ellis, Sean and Hannah.

Arrangements were entrusted to Shore Point Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc. 3269 State Highway/Route 35 North, Hazlet, New Jersey, in respect of Joe's wishes he was privately cremated. A Funeral Mass will be offered on October 1, 2024, at 4 p.m., St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, 6900 River Road, Bethesda, Maryland. A re-pass will follow at the home of Christina and Kit Howard. In lieu of flowers, a memorial gift may be made to The Beth Anne Bach Scholarship Fund at The Catholic Foundation at [www.catholicfoundation.com](http://www.catholicfoundation.com). For more information, or to send condolences to the family, please visit, [www.shorepoint-fh.com](http://www.shorepoint-fh.com)

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*The Washington Post*

When the need arises, let families find you in the Funeral Services Directory.

To be seen in the Funeral Services Directory, please call paid Death Notices at 202-334-4122.

*The Washington Post*

**DEATH NOTICE**  
**HUNT**

**JOHN WILLIAM HUNT**  
The members of the Fairfax Co. Retired Police Association regret to announce the death of John William Hunt on September 12, 2024. He was a Patrol Officer assigned to the Annandale District Station at the time of his retirement in 1973.



**DEATH NOTICE**  
**LOVELAND**

**CATHERINE C. LOVELAND**  
On Monday, September 9, 2024 of Potomac, MD Beloved wife of the late Harry Loveland; devoted mother of Mark (wife, Pauline) and Glenn (wife, Sherry) Loveland; cherished grandmother of Andrew, Ryan, Connor, and Cara Loveland.

Family will receive friends at PUMPHREY'S COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME, 300 W. Montgomery Ave, Rockville, MD on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 from 6 to 9 p.m. Mass Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Raphael Catholic Church, 1513 Dunster Road, Rockville, MD on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. Interment to follow at All Souls Cemetery, Germantown, MD.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Facial Pain Association <https://www.facepain.org/>

Please view and sign the family guest book at [www.PumphreyFuneralHome.com](http://www.PumphreyFuneralHome.com)

**DEATH NOTICE**  
**BAEK**

**JUNE CHO BAEK**  
March 13, 1934 - September 18, 2024  
Passed away peacefully at the age of 90. Beloved wife of the late Ki Soo. Loving mother of the late Yong Soek, in Soek (Jackie), Eun Mi (Jong Sik) and Andrew (Laura). Daughter of Cho Won Gil and Lee in Pil. Sister of Yung Yong, Yung Sook, Yung Chul, Yung Kuk, Yung Nam, Ju Eun and Yung Man. Loving grandmother of Richard (Jennifer), James, Carolyn (Sharad), Douglas (Feng), Jean (Hank), Nina (John), Julia and David. Loving great-grandmother of Sean, Lucas, Rohan, Eli, Ezra, Edmund, Ava and Joshua. June loved spending time with her family, and she was a skilled painter. A Funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 46639 Algonkian Parkway, Potomac Falls, VA 20165. The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad at <https://sterlingrescue.org/donate> or Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church at <https://membership.faithdirect.net/VA79>.

**DEATH NOTICE**  
**DEOODES**

**JAMES PETER DEOODES**  
January 7, 1928 - September 16, 2024  
On September 16, 2024, James Peter Deoudes "Jimmie" lay down to rest for the last time. His journey of 96 years is now over. Our memories of him now begin. Born and raised in Washington, DC, Jimmie was the oldest son of Peter and Irene Deoudes. He grew up with his three younger brothers, Mitchell, Nicholas and George, working from a young age in the family produce business. In 1952, he married Demetria Kaloturos and the two of them enjoyed a loving relationship for 65 years. Jimmie and Dee had three children: Renee, Peter and Christopher.

In 1957, understanding that the time had come in his life to take a risk if he were to profit from opportunity, he traveled across country with his wife, mother-in-law, three-year-old daughter and little money, and eventually relocated to Salinas, California in 1958. Leaving family, friends, life as he knew it behind, and with no job lined up, in time he became a trusted, successful and independent produce broker supplying his clients with top-quality vegetables until he retired at the age of eighty-four. An important and treasured aspect of his success was his personal and business relationship with his brother Nick.

Jimmie was one of the richest men his family and friends knew. He was happy with who he was. He felt blessed to have a wonderful family and loyal friends. He thoroughly enjoyed his profession as a produce broker. He was a great heart who knew how much glory there is in being a magnificent husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. If things were going badly, how glad we were to see him come around the corner. He always had a word of encouragement when our confidence was flagging.

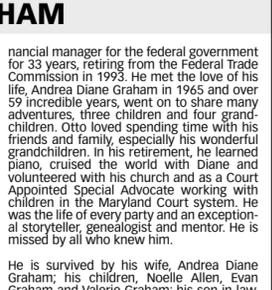
Jimmie was a reminder that giants come in all shapes and sizes. He had a clear-eyed view of human nature and the human predicament, and the emotional resiliency and ability to cope in the face of adversity. Perhaps these qualities were strengthened by his service in the United States Navy for two years at the end of World War II and the beginning of the Cold War. Then again, though men and women intellectually and emotionally ripen gradually through their lives, in Jimmie's case, his moral nature was born early and fully equipped. Jimmie's good manners and courtesy were not mere affectations. They were constant reminders to all who knew him to notice that it all matters—that the boorishness, indecency and vulgarity that pollutes so much of our culture could be effectively countered by decency and fairness. He demonstrated that enduring success in the world of business was linked inseparably to the cultivation of an ethical and emotional intelligence; a reasonable and civil tone; a suspicion of abstractions untested by experience; and a personal indifference to power and wealth if it trampled upon the rights of others. Simply put, he was magnanimous in every way.

Greek Orthodox in his beliefs, Jimmie thought that without religion or devotion of some kind, nothing great or good would ever be accomplished. And, because he represented the personal personality and generous instincts of the best in his faith, it was easy for him to build himself into the hearts of all who knew him—from the checkers in his favorite grocery stores, to salespeople at department stores, to the men and women in the businesses he represented in agriculture. Nothing delighted Jimmie more than his fond and loyal friendships. Jimmie prized a love of the earth and its abundance. For that reason, it was no surprise to his family that he enjoyed gardening, had the greenest of thumbs, with plants both inside and outside his home flourishing. Another great hobby of his was reading on a wide range of subjects. Jimmie was predeceased by his parents Peter and Irene Deoudes; his wife Demetria; and his brother George. He is survived by his brothers Nick and Mitchell; daughter Renee Kezirian (Richard), sons Pete (Ruthie) and Chris (Toni); four grandchildren, Adrienne Kezirian, Marisa (Kezirian) Rogoff, Zoe Deoudes and Allison Deoudes; and a great-grandson, Ryan Rogoff.

The family wishes to thank his exceptional caregivers at Carmelo Park who graciously and tirelessly offered comfort and compassion. Missions Mortuary in Monterey, California assisted with the burial arrangements. There will be a private family celebration of Jimmie's life. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations in his memory to the donor's favorite charity.

Our father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and best friend lived out his life with courage, determination, joy and purpose. It is now his family's turn to struggle, rise above our limitations and emulate Jimmie's great example.

Good night sweet prince/And flights of Angels/Sing thee to thy rest (Shakespeare)



**DEATH NOTICE**  
**GRIFFIN**

After leaving Capitol Hill, Brian joined Honeywell International as Vice President of Government Relations. He thereafter served at The Duberstein Group for more than 16 years, most recently as Managing Partner.

Known for his generosity, humor, Midwestern Charm, intelligence, determination, love of life and steadfast loyalty, Brian's innate ability to lift up those around him was a hallmark of his life. Whether it was helping someone find their footing, offering a guiding hand during difficult times, or simply being a source of light and support, Brian's passion for bettering the lives of others was exceeded only by his unwavering love and commitment to his family, which will be his greatest legacy and will be forever embedded in our hearts.

Brian is survived by his beloved wife, Anna, and their four children: Benjamin, Madeline, Charlie, and Teddy. He also leaves behind his mother, Rosemary Linstroth; father, Patrick J. Griffin; stepfather, John W. Linstroth; stepmother, Abby Griffin; and his siblings: Patricia Griffin, Kelly Linstroth, and Matt Linstroth. Brian's extended family includes numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and an immeasurable number of friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Prevent Cancer Foundation in Brian's honor. Please consider contributing to this cause at [preventcancer.org/donate](http://preventcancer.org/donate).

A Memorial Service was held on September 20, 2024, at Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, DC and a Celebration of life followed at the St. Regis Hotel, Washington, DC.



**DEATH NOTICE**  
**GRIFFIN**

**BRIAN JOSEPH GRIFFIN**  
Brian Joseph Griffin, born June 1, 1972, passed away September 16, 2024, at the age of 52 after a fiercely fought battle with cancer. A proud Wisconsin native, Brian was a longtime resident of Washington, DC.

Brian grew up in the Town of Raymond, Wisconsin where he enjoyed exploring the countryside with his dog Murphy and other "Raymond Roughnecks". He graduated from the University of Wisconsin (Bachelor of Arts Political Science) and was forever a zealous Badger fan.

Brian "ban" his career in Washington, DC as a United States Senate Page. He worked at the United States Capitol for over 10 years, dedicating many years to public service in the offices of former Senator Thomas A. Daschle (South Dakota) and former Senator Byron L. Dorgan (North Dakota). Brian made friends on both sides of the aisle and knew how to build a consensus. He amassed a widely influential, and deeply authentic network, forged lifelong friendships, and truly made a lasting impact.



**IN MEMORIAM**  
**O'LEARY**

**MYRA JANETTE O'LEARY**  
Happy Birthday to a woman who changed the lives of so many as a teacher, a colleague, a friend, an aunt, a cousin, a niece, a sister, a daughter, a granddaughter, a grandmother, a mother and a fabulous wife.  
We all miss you and love you



**DEATH NOTICE**  
**BAEK**

**JUNE CHO BAEK**  
March 13, 1934 - September 18, 2024  
Passed away peacefully at the age of 90. Beloved wife of the late Ki Soo. Loving mother of the late Yong Soek, in Soek (Jackie), Eun Mi (Jong Sik) and Andrew (Laura). Daughter of Cho Won Gil and Lee in Pil. Sister of Yung Yong, Yung Sook, Yung Chul, Yung Kuk, Yung Nam, Ju Eun and Yung Man. Loving grandmother of Richard (Jennifer), James, Carolyn (Sharad), Douglas (Feng), Jean (Hank), Nina (John), Julia and David. Loving great-grandmother of Sean, Lucas, Rohan, Eli, Ezra, Edmund, Ava and Joshua. June loved spending time with her family, and she was a skilled painter. A Funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 46639 Algonkian Parkway, Potomac Falls, VA 20165. The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad at <https://sterlingrescue.org/donate> or Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church at <https://membership.faithdirect.net/VA79>.

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**JAMES PETER DEOODES**  
January 7, 1928 - September 16, 2024  
On September 16, 2024, James Peter Deoudes "Jimmie" lay down to rest for the last time. His journey of 96 years is now over. Our memories of him now begin. Born and raised in Washington, DC, Jimmie was the oldest son of Peter and Irene Deoudes. He grew up with his three younger brothers, Mitchell, Nicholas and George, working from a young age in the family produce business. In 1952, he married Demetria Kaloturos and the two of them enjoyed a loving relationship for 65 years. Jimmie and Dee had three children: Renee, Peter and Christopher.

In 1957, understanding that the time had come in his life to take a risk if he were to profit from opportunity, he traveled across country with his wife, mother-in-law, three-year-old daughter and little money, and eventually relocated to Salinas, California in 1958. Leaving family, friends, life as he knew it behind, and with no job lined up, in time he became a trusted, successful and independent produce broker supplying his clients with top-quality vegetables until he retired at the age of eighty-four. An important and treasured aspect of his success was his personal and business relationship with his brother Nick.

Jimmie was one of the richest men his family and friends knew. He was happy with who he was. He felt blessed to have a wonderful family and loyal friends. He thoroughly enjoyed his profession as a produce broker. He was a great heart who knew how much glory there is in being a magnificent husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. If things were going badly, how glad we were to see him come around the corner. He always had a word of encouragement when our confidence was flagging.

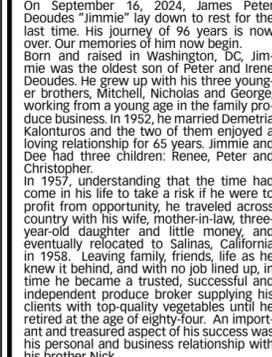
Jimmie was a reminder that giants come in all shapes and sizes. He had a clear-eyed view of human nature and the human predicament, and the emotional resiliency and ability to cope in the face of adversity. Perhaps these qualities were strengthened by his service in the United States Navy for two years at the end of World War II and the beginning of the Cold War. Then again, though men and women intellectually and emotionally ripen gradually through their lives, in Jimmie's case, his moral nature was born early and fully equipped. Jimmie's good manners and courtesy were not mere affectations. They were constant reminders to all who knew him to notice that it all matters—that the boorishness, indecency and vulgarity that pollutes so much of our culture could be effectively countered by decency and fairness. He demonstrated that enduring success in the world of business was linked inseparably to the cultivation of an ethical and emotional intelligence; a reasonable and civil tone; a suspicion of abstractions untested by experience; and a personal indifference to power and wealth if it trampled upon the rights of others. Simply put, he was magnanimous in every way.

Greek Orthodox in his beliefs, Jimmie thought that without religion or devotion of some kind, nothing great or good would ever be accomplished. And, because he represented the personal personality and generous instincts of the best in his faith, it was easy for him to build himself into the hearts of all who knew him—from the checkers in his favorite grocery stores, to salespeople at department stores, to the men and women in the businesses he represented in agriculture. Nothing delighted Jimmie more than his fond and loyal friendships. Jimmie prized a love of the earth and its abundance. For that reason, it was no surprise to his family that he enjoyed gardening, had the greenest of thumbs, with plants both inside and outside his home flourishing. Another great hobby of his was reading on a wide range of subjects. Jimmie was predeceased by his parents Peter and Irene Deoudes; his wife Demetria; and his brother George. He is survived by his brothers Nick and Mitchell; daughter Renee Kezirian (Richard), sons Pete (Ruthie) and Chris (Toni); four grandchildren, Adrienne Kezirian, Marisa (Kezirian) Rogoff, Zoe Deoudes and Allison Deoudes; and a great-grandson, Ryan Rogoff.

The family wishes to thank his exceptional caregivers at Carmelo Park who graciously and tirelessly offered comfort and compassion. Missions Mortuary in Monterey, California assisted with the burial arrangements. There will be a private family celebration of Jimmie's life. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations in his memory to the donor's favorite charity.

Our father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and best friend lived out his life with courage, determination, joy and purpose. It is now his family's turn to struggle, rise above our limitations and emulate Jimmie's great example.

Good night sweet prince/And flights of Angels/Sing thee to thy rest (Shakespeare)



**DEATH NOTICE**  
**GRIFFIN**

After leaving Capitol Hill, Brian joined Honeywell International as Vice President of Government Relations. He thereafter served at The Duberstein Group for more than 16 years, most recently as Managing Partner.

Known for his generosity, humor, Midwestern Charm, intelligence, determination, love of life and steadfast loyalty, Brian's innate ability to lift up those around him was a hallmark of his life. Whether it was helping someone find their footing, offering a guiding hand during difficult times, or simply being a source of light and support, Brian's passion for bettering the lives of others was exceeded only by his unwavering love and commitment to his family, which will be his greatest legacy and will be forever embedded in our hearts.

Brian is survived by his beloved wife, Anna, and their four children: Benjamin, Madeline, Charlie, and Teddy. He also leaves behind his mother, Rosemary Linstroth; father, Patrick J. Griffin; stepfather, John W. Linstroth; stepmother, Abby Griffin; and his siblings: Patricia Griffin, Kelly Linstroth, and Matt Linstroth. Brian's extended family includes numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and an immeasurable number of friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Prevent Cancer Foundation in Brian's honor. Please consider contributing to this cause at [preventcancer.org/donate](http://preventcancer.org/donate).

A Memorial Service was held on September 20, 2024, at Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, DC and a Celebration of life followed at the St. Regis Hotel, Washington, DC.



**DEATH NOTICE**  
**GRIFFIN**

**BRIAN JOSEPH GRIFFIN**  
Brian Joseph Griffin, born June 1, 1972, passed away September 16, 2024, at the age of 52 after a fiercely fought battle with cancer. A proud Wisconsin native, Brian was a longtime resident of Washington, DC.

Brian grew up in the Town of Raymond, Wisconsin where he enjoyed exploring the countryside with his dog Murphy and other "Raymond Roughnecks". He graduated from the University of Wisconsin (Bachelor of Arts Political Science) and was forever a zealous Badger fan.

Brian "ban" his career in Washington, DC as a United States Senate Page. He worked at the United States Capitol for over 10 years, dedicating many years to public service in the offices of former Senator Thomas A. Daschle (South Dakota) and former Senator Byron L. Dorgan (North Dakota). Brian made friends on both sides of the aisle and knew how to build a consensus. He amassed a widely influential, and deeply authentic network, forged lifelong friendships, and truly made a lasting impact.

**DEATH NOTICE**

**DEATH NOTICES**  
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
SATURDAY 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
SUNDAY SELF-SERVICE ONLY

To place a notice, call:  
202-334-4122  
800-627-1150 ext 4-4122  
EMAIL: [deathnotices@washpost.com](mailto:deathnotices@washpost.com)

Email and faxes MUST include name, home address & home phone # of the responsible billing party.  
Email deadline: 3 p.m. daily  
Phone-in deadline: 4 p.m. M-F  
3 p.m. Sa-Su

**CURRENT 2024 RATES:**  
(PER DAY)

**MONDAY-SATURDAY**  
Black & White  
1" - \$160 (text only)  
2" - \$370 (text only)  
4" - \$575  
5" - \$725

**SUNDAY**  
Black & White  
1" - \$191 (text only)  
2" - \$405 (text only)  
3" - \$580  
4" - \$610  
5" - \$790

6"+ for ALL Black & White notices \$160 each additional inch Mon - Sat \$191 each additional inch Sunday

**MONDAY-SATURDAY**  
Color  
3" - \$670  
4" - \$725  
5" - \$885

**SUNDAY**  
Color  
3" - \$710  
4" - \$810  
5" - \$985

6"+ for ALL color notices \$268 each additional inch Mon - Sat \$299 each additional inch Sunday

Notices with photos begin at 3" (All photos add 2" to your notice.)

**ALL NOTICES MUST BE PREPAID**

**MEMORIAL PLAQUES:**  
All notices over 2" include complimentary memorial plaque  
Additional plaques start at \$26 each and may be ordered.

All Paid Death Notices appear on our website through [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)  
Included in all death notices  
Optional for In Memoriams

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
Notices must be placed via phone or email. Photos must be emailed. You can no longer place notices, drop off photos and make payment in person. Payment must be made with debit/credit card.

**DEATH NOTICE**  
**BAEK**

**JUNE CHO BAEK**  
March 13, 1934 - September 18, 2024  
Passed away peacefully at the age of 90. Beloved wife of the late Ki Soo. Loving mother of the late Yong Soek, in Soek (Jackie), Eun Mi (Jong Sik) and Andrew (Laura). Daughter of Cho Won Gil and Lee in Pil. Sister of Yung Yong, Yung Sook, Yung Chul, Yung Kuk, Yung Nam, Ju Eun and Yung Man. Loving grandmother of Richard (Jennifer), James, Carolyn (Sharad), Douglas (Feng), Jean (Hank), Nina (John), Julia and David. Loving great-grandmother of Sean, Lucas, Rohan, Eli, Ezra, Edmund, Ava and Joshua. June loved spending time with her family, and she was a skilled painter. A Funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 46639 Algonkian Parkway, Potomac Falls, VA 20165. The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad at <https://sterlingrescue.org/donate> or Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church at <https://membership.faithdirect.net/VA79>.

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# THE WEATHER

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## Chances of rain return

Very few peeks of sun are expected in the mostly overcast skies. High temperatures should top out within a few degrees of 70, cooled a bit by moderate breezes. Showers may start spotty and very light during the early to midafternoon, but by sunset we may see moderate-intensity showers and even a couple of periods of steadier rain. Overnight, limited periods of showers and light, steady rain remain possible, but precipitation may taper slightly before sunrise Tuesday.

**Today**  
Mainly cloudy  
 **73°** 65°  
FEELS\*: 74°  
CHANCE PRECIP: 25%  
WIND: SE 6-12 mph  
HUMIDITY: High

**Tuesday**  
Mostly cloudy  
 **70°** 65°  
FEELS: 70°  
P: 25%  
W: ESE 6-12 mph  
H: High

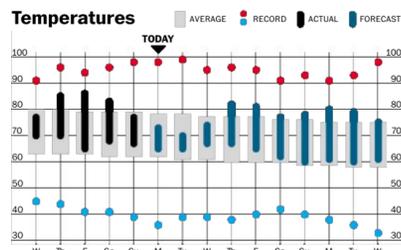
**Wednesday**  
Showers around; humid  
 **74°** 67°  
FEELS: 76°  
P: 90%  
W: ESE 4-8 mph  
H: High

**Thursday**  
Chance of a shower  
 **82°** 67°  
FEELS: 84°  
P: 30%  
W: ESE 4-8 mph  
H: Very High

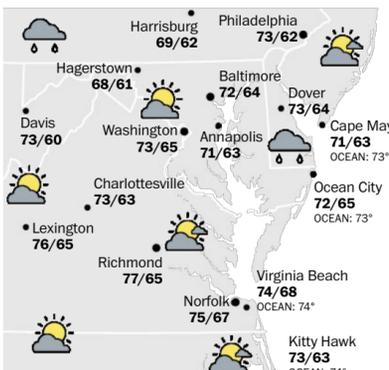
**Friday**  
Clouds and sunshine  
 **81°** 65°  
FEELS: 83°  
P: 25%  
W: ENE 6-12 mph  
H: High

**Saturday**  
A shower possible  
 **77°** 62°  
FEELS: 75°  
P: 30%  
W: E 6-12 mph  
H: High

## OFFICIAL RECORD



## REGION



- Pollen: High**  
Grass Moderate  
Trees Low  
Weeds High  
Mold High
- Air Quality: Good**  
Dominant cause: Ozone
- UV: Low**  
2 out of 11+

**Blue Ridge:** Today, mostly cloudy. A stray afternoon thunderstorm; however, a couple of afternoon showers in northern parts; not as warm in southern parts. High 62 to 70. Winds south-southwest 7-14 mph.

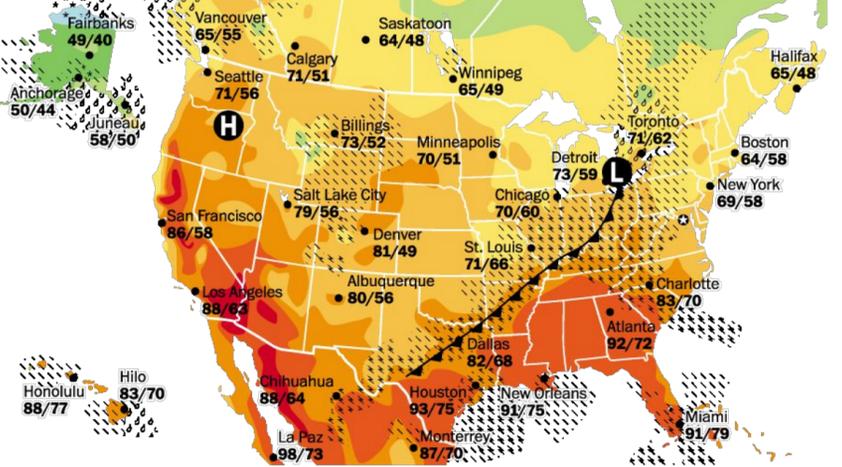
**Atlantic beaches:** Today, mostly cloudy. High 71 to 75. Winds northeast 8-16 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy; a shower in spots in the south. Low 63 to 67. Winds northeast 6-12 mph. Tuesday, a shower in spots in the south. High 69 to 76. Winds east 7-14 mph.

**Waterways:** *Upper Potomac River:* Today, partly sunny. Wind southeast 4-8 knots. Waves less than a foot. Visibility clear to the horizon. • *Lower Potomac and Chesapeake Bay:* Today, partly sunny. Wind east 6-12 knots. Waves 1-2 feet on the Lower Potomac and the Chesapeake Bay. • *River Stages:* The stage at Little Falls will be around 3.10 feet today, falling to 2.90 Tuesday. Flood stage at Little Falls is 10 feet.

**Today's tides** (High tides in **Bold**)

Location	High	Low
Washington	<b>12:19 a.m.</b>	7:52 a.m., <b>12:59 p.m.</b> , 7:42 p.m.
Annapolis	4:28 a.m., <b>9:27 a.m.</b>	3:57 p.m., <b>11:09 p.m.</b>
Ocean City	5:59 a.m., <b>12:26 p.m.</b>	7:07 p.m., <b>none</b>
Norfolk	<b>1:56 a.m.</b>	7:56 a.m., <b>2:30 p.m.</b> , 9:14 p.m.
Point Lookout	12:58 a.m., <b>5:42 a.m.</b>	11:43 a.m., <b>6:52 p.m.</b>

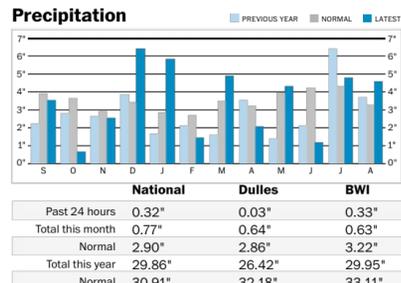
## NATION



**Yesterday's National**  
High: Palm Springs, CA 101°  
Low: Stanley, ID 24°  
for the 48 contiguous states

**World**  
High: Abadan, Iran 113°  
Low: Isachsen, Canada 13°  
excludes Antarctica

NATIONAL	Today	Tomorrow	Des Moines	70/55/c	70/51/s	Oklahoma City	74/56/s	82/59/pc
Albany, NY	68/49/pc	72/54/c	Detroit	73/59/c	70/61/t	Omaha	72/53/pc	76/49/sh
Albuquerque	80/56/pc	83/58/s	Fairbanks, AK	49/40/c	50/39/c	Philadelphia	73/62/pc	71/62/c
Anchorage	50/44/sh	50/43/sh	Fargo, ND	74/52/pc	73/50/pc	Phoenix	104/77/s	106/80/s
Atlanta	92/72/s	91/70/s	Hartford, CT	70/53/pc	68/54/c	Pittsburgh	80/65/t	74/66/t
Austin	95/72/pc	94/70/t	Honolulu	88/77/pc	89/77/pc	Portland, ME	64/48/pc	64/49/pc
Baltimore	72/64/pc	70/64/c	Houston	93/75/t	92/72/t	Portland, OR	81/60/pc	89/63/s
Billings, MT	73/52/sh	82/55/s	Indianapolis	73/64/t	74/59/t	Providence, RI	65/56/pc	66/56/c
Birmingham	94/72/s	90/69/s	Jackson, MS	92/70/s	91/67/t	Raleigh, NC	82/70/pc	80/68/t
Bismarck, ND	72/48/pc	75/46/pc	Jacksonville, FL	90/70/s	88/72/c	Reno, NV	84/53/pc	89/54/s
Boise	80/56/s	87/59/s	Kansas City, MO	64/54/c	73/52/pc	Richmond	77/65/pc	74/66/t
Boston	64/58/pc	64/57/c	Las Vegas	97/73/pc	99/72/s	Sacramento	98/62/s	99/60/s
Buffalo	72/64/pc	71/61/t	Little Rock	88/69/s	86/64/pc	St. Louis	71/66/t	75/58/c
Burlington, VT	70/49/pc	71/54/c	Los Angeles	88/63/s	88/61/s	St. Thomas, VI	90/80/pc	89/81/pc
Charleston, SC	90/72/t	90/70/t	Louisville	82/69/t	79/63/t	Salt Lake City	79/56/pc	80/59/s
Charleston, WV	84/64/t	81/63/t	Louisville	82/69/t	79/63/t	San Diego	81/65/s	80/65/s
Charlotte	83/70/t	82/69/t	Miami	91/79/t	90/81/t	San Francisco	86/58/s	78/55/s
Cheyenne, WY	77/45/c	74/43/pc	Milwaukee	68/59/c	66/55/sh	San Juan, PR	91/79/t	91/80/t
Chicago	70/60/c	67/56/sh	Minneapolis	70/51/pc	71/54/s	Seattle	71/56/c	75/58/s
Cincinnati	79/65/t	76/60/t	Nashville	89/71/t	83/67/t	Spokane, WA	78/54/s	85/58/t
Cleveland	73/64/t	76/64/t	New Orleans	91/75/pc	91/74/pc	Syracuse	67/58/sh	72/59/sh
Dallas	82/68/t	89/68/t	New York City	69/58/pc	67/59/c	Tampa	93/76/pc	93/75/s
Denver	81/49/pc	77/50/pc	Norfolk	75/67/c	76/69/c	Wichita	72/51/s	76/55/pc



**Moon Phases**

Sep 24 Last Quarter  
Oct 2 New  
Oct 10 First Quarter  
Oct 17 Full

**Solar system**

Planet	Rise	Set
Sun	6:57 a.m.	7:03 p.m.
Moon	10:40 a.m.	1:42 p.m.
Venus	9:26 a.m.	8:15 p.m.
Mars	12:19 a.m.	3:09 p.m.
Jupiter	10:56 p.m.	1:39 p.m.
Saturn	6:29 p.m.	5:42 a.m.

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**A NEW LOOK FOR COMICS AND GAMES**

Starting today, the Style section's daily comics will appear in color. The lineup stays the same, and we've made the comics larger. Games have relocated to a new, permanent page with the TV schedule and crossword.



There's also a QR code on the games page that will take you to The Post's online games. To make room for these improvements, we are reducing the frequency of the movie directory, which will run Fridays in the Weekend section and Sundays in Arts & Style. Feedback? Email [style@washpost.com](mailto:style@washpost.com).



PETER FISHER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## You can't forget this elephant

With a sashay and hoop earrings, New York Liberty's mascot is redefining the role

BY ANNE BRANIGIN

NEW YORK — At a regular basketball game, halftime is usually when the stands empty out: hundreds of fans shuffling behind one another, trying to get to the closest exit, to hit the bathroom or get that second tray of loaded nachos.

Not in Brooklyn. Not at a New York Liberty game. Not when Ellie's on the court.

The 5-foot-10 elephant — partial to big hoop earrings and tight minidresses — had changed outfits for the occasion: West Indian Night at Barclays Center.

Ellie trotted out in a flamingo-pink two-piece ensemble reminiscent of Carnival celebrations across the world: a shrug of pink plumes gath-

ered around her neck, some tucked into her green Liberty crown. As she vibrated, twerked and winded her hips to Sean Paul, the long, shimmering fringes of her pink skirt moved with her, and so did the women in the crowd.

Fans waved national flags — from Haiti, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica. Children bounced up and down, clapping their hands. Sure, the WNBA game had been great so far — a nail-biter between the Liberty and the Seattle Storm — but this? This was a party. The bathroom break could wait.

Ellie has been making headlines — and fans — aplenty over the past year. She's been featured in Vogue and Women's Health magazine. She has racked up skin-care and makeup

brand partnerships despite not having, you know, human skin. As of this year, she can even talk — though only on her Instagram and TikTok videos.

But Ellie is more than just a pretty pachyderm. She's redefined the look and behavior of a mascot.

The contrast between Ellie and her mascot forebears was on display in July at the WNBA All-Star Game in Phoenix. While other mascots dunked and lobbed behind-the-back passes to one another, Ellie preferred to drape herself across the black vinyl courtside seats, like an elephantine Cleopatra, and cheer from the sideline.

She's an undeniable success in the eyes of fans and a cash cow elephant for the Liberty — and she's done it by

SEE MASCOT ON C3

**Ellie, the mascot for the WNBA's New York Liberty, came out of a brand refresh that was tied to the team's sale and move to Brooklyn in 2019. A nonnegotiable: The mascot would be unabashedly feminine.**

## Reporters want access to Murdoch family case

BY WILL SOMMER

The fate of Fox News, the Wall Street Journal, and the rest of Rupert Murdoch's media empire was presumably being decided in a courtroom in Reno, Nev., last week, as the media mogul wages a legal battle against several of his children over their family trust.

It's the kind of high-stakes, "Succession"-esque drama that reporters dream of, with the potential to expose the workings of one of the world's most powerful news empires. But outside of the Murdoch family, their lawyers and some court employees, no one knows anything about what has been taking place inside since probate court took up the case last Monday — and media organizations are fighting to find out more.

Citing confidential information at the heart of the case, county probate commissioner Edmund J. Gorman Jr. has put under seal nearly all details of the dispute — from the names of the parties to almost all of the motions filed by lawyers. Reporters who had hoped for days of trial that could expose the financial and interpersonal guts of the Murdoch empire have instead had to make do with brief glimpses of the family passing from their black SUVs into the courthouse.

Until recently, the case wasn't even listed on the court's calendar, making it difficult to know it existed. A July report in the New York Times revealed the secret legal battle's existence, and the article remains one of the few public sources of information about it.

The fight pits Murdoch, 93, and his eldest son, Lachlan, against three of Murdoch's other children: onetime heir apparent James, and daughters Elisabeth and Prudence. Under the terms of a family

SEE TRIAL ON C5

## Yet another politics bar in D.C. takes a shot

BY MAURA JUDKIS

One thing that opening a bar and holding public office have in common is a certain type of self-confidence that borders on recklessness, which is what brought couple Sydney Bradford and Drew Benbow to the three-story bar they opened on U Street on Friday night.

When they decided to go into the hospitality business, the attorneys and self-professed political nerds felt that a politics-themed bar would be a safe bet. Such watering holes exist all over the city — Hawk 'n' Dove, the Dignitary, 51st State — and scores of bars host debate-watch parties and serve drink specials with names riffing off the news. So a bar called Political Pattie's (it's a pun on political parties; there is no Pattie) fits into a grand tradition of hangouts that highlight — with the eagerness of a George Washington University freshman poli-sci major — our city's professional center of gravity.

The walls are covered with political quotes, or at least quotes by politicians ("I carry hot sauce in my bag" — Hillary Clinton). There's a DJ booth on the second floor that looks like the presidential lectern. The tables all have gavels, a great prop for making goofy TikToks. There are framed portraits of numerous presidents: Kennedy, Obama, Bush (the son), Lincoln.

Bradford is a Democrat, and Benbow is a self-described moderate Republican. The native Washingtonians branded Political Pattie's (slogan: "Putting the 'lit' in politics") as a bipartisan bar — a place where people could toast Flibuster Fizzes and Electoral College Cosmos, \$17 each, across the aisle. They painted the

SEE BAR ON C2

## Women are doing it for themselves

At Milan Fashion Week, Miuccia Prada joins the wave of women making art out of their lives

BY RACHEL TASHJIAN

MILAN — For the love of doomscrolling, can we stop talking about the algorithm?

As I was digesting Thursday afternoon's Spring 2025 Prada show — a mashup of the ultra-conservative dresses and shiny futurism of the 1960s, plus ugly cowboy boots, oddball crumpled hems and collars, and nods to past Prada designs — I received the brand's official press release. "We exist in an era of extreme information, immersed in a constant stream of content," it read. "Our consumption of the infinite panorama offered by the internet is driven by algorithms, finite sequences of instructions that cir-

cumscribe the decidable through logic in a fundamentally illogical world." Miuccia Prada and Raf Simons, the brand's co-creative directors, wanted to contrast that with how random and unpredictable the output and visions of a human mind can be.

Eye roll. Every cultural commentator, whether they are a perennially online TikTok essayist or a highbrow magazine critic, is complaining about the way that "the algorithm" — the mysteriously assembled onslaught of video, images and music that is meant to personalize your online experience but often flattens it — is shaping our tastes and daily lives. Everything looks the same? Blame

the algorithm. Everyone likes the same stuff? Blame the algorithm. Nothing feels new? It's the algorithm! It's 2024's equally simplistic version of condemning "capitalism" for everything.

Backstage, Simons reiterated that he and Mrs. Prada (as the industry deferentially calls her) "wanted to make every individual their own individual," in opposition to the supposed flatness of algorithmic culture.

But it's far too late for a brand as forward-thinking as Prada to use the algorithm as source material for a fashion show, even if the collection's purpose was to react against it. The theme was all the more disap-

SEE PRADA ON C4



JONAS GUSTAVSSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**The Prada collection is more interesting if you ignore the designers' stated intentions.**

# In partisan town, Political Pattie's reaches across the aisle



SHERDRICK PELT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Attorneys and self-professed political nerds Drew Benbow and Sydney Bradford opened Political Pattie's on Friday.

## BAR FROM CI

building's formerly rainbow-covered exterior white — it used to be a gay bar called Dirty Goose — and added their logo, a Democratic donkey and a Republican elephant.

"It represented our partnership and what we were trying to do with the space," says Bradford, 40.

But these are deeply partisan times, in a strongly liberal city, in an aggressively progressive neighborhood. After Washingtonian Problems, a local meme account, posted about the bar's logo on Instagram, sarcastic comments rolled in: "I can see the khaki lords descending on this spot already," posted one commenter.

But there were also serious objections, many in reference to the elephant on the logo and the co-owner's political affiliation. "They're taking my bars like they're taking my rights," one person wrote.

The online grumbling took Benbow and Bradford by surprise.

"People are taking sides and they are entrenching themselves on either side," says Benbow, 41. "And they don't care about the other person's values. They don't care to get to know them. All they care about is, 'This is what I believe. And I don't want anything to do with you if I think you believe anything different.'"

The couple has tried to have a sense of humor about it — any publicity is good publicity, right? The intern jokes gave the couple the idea for their staff's uniform: khaki pants and a blue T-shirt with a red tie on it. It's meant to evoke the standard Hill "uniform," though red ties have, uh, become somewhat associated with Donald Trump.

After social media postings told them to "read the room," Bradford and Benbow installed a library of sorts in the bar, with political books that people can borrow or keep, or contribute to

the bar's collection. Some of the titles on opening weekend included Michelle Obama's "Becoming" and "My American Journey" by Colin Powell ("One of my heroes," says Benbow, who is an Army Reserve veteran) — right next to memoirs by Hunter Biden and Marion Barry Jr. There are also numerous copies of Benbow's 2022 novel, "The Devil's Politics," a thriller about a Black Republican Hill staffer and his twin brother, who is trying to evade a pair of hit men (the brothers also end up in a love triangle).

Benbow just hopes people will give Pattie's a chance.

"When you come into Pattie's," says Benbow, "No one is going to be asking you, 'Hey, what do you think about fracking?'" Politics may define his bar, he says, but it "doesn't define me. I don't walk around with an elephant on my forehead. As a matter of fact, I'm voting for Kamala Harris."

It's important to find out if the early patrons of Political Pattie's actually do fit the stereotype. To do that, one must ask a very D.C. question: *What do you do?*

"I work in politics," said Melissa Brown, 30, who sidled up to the bar shortly after it opened Friday for the first time. She was getting a drink with her friend Maria Sofia, also in politics, and they ordered two Capitol Mules in copper mugs.

Where do they work? "A non-profit" and "a think tank," said Brown and Sofia, respectively.

Which ones? "I'm not going to go there," said Sofia, 30, laughing.

They liked the vibe. "I think it'll be good for junior staffers," said Sofia.

Upstairs, on the spacious roof deck, a trio of colleagues gath-

ered for happy hour. Where did they work?

"The DNC," said one, who was happy to chat "as long as you don't use my name."

"We're claiming the space for Democrats," said his co-worker.

The following night, as the U Street crowds headed to nearby bars such as Whitlow's and Nellie's, some passersby stopped to peep at the bar that had gone viral.

"I can't believe it's actually open," said a bearded drag queen, on her way to Kiki, the gay bar next door.

"This place is going to go out of business so soon," said another guy, stopping to glance at the sign.

"A lot of these comments, we don't see them as an indictment on us," says Benbow. "We are a lightning rod for people to express their frustrations" — about, one surmises, a never-ending election that may or may not inspire political violence in an imperiled democracy with a pessimistic electorate, in a city that still lacks full representation in Congress.

Maybe we all need a drink. En route to a different bar with friends, one woman stopped and shrieked as she saw the Pattie's sign.

"I heard the owner was a Republican, and D.C. is a very liberal city," she said. "I'm not sure that people are that interested in bipartisan bar drinking. So my assumption is it will become a Republican hot spot."

Asked her name, the woman — Purva Goel, 28 — hesitated before she gave it. You see, she works in politics.

"Is this going to hurt my chances of getting a job in government?" she asked a friend.

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## Burned-out sibling frets about care for older sister



Carolyn Hax

Adapted from an online discussion.

**Dear Carolyn:** I feel awful even posing this question to anonymous strangers. The gist is that I don't

want to end up caring for my aging sister. She is single and 17 years older than I am. I love her and am pretty close to her, and I've just begun to see small signs that her physical and mental health are declining. I care for so many people, I just feel that if this falls on me, I will break.

I recently lived through my mom having Alzheimer's and my spouse having cancer, my dad is well into his 90s, my in-laws are in their late 80s, I have school-age children, one who is dealing with depression and self-harm. And those are just the people I have the most active role in helping.

My sister is retired and lives on her own with a roommate, and she could not afford to live alone. Her roommate owns their home, so my sister could be out at any time. I've wanted to ask if she has any plans for her old age, but I know she doesn't, and it seems incredibly cruel to say not to count on me.

Is there anything I can do here — any better or worse ways to handle this?

— Horrible?

**Horrible?:** Awful, no — posing questions to anonymous strangers is the height of honor and decency. Ahem.

It is actually (serious now, I swear) a kindness to communicate with people openly about such plans. Or as openly as they are willing. For people who haven't made plans — in other words, haven't saved enough money — their true ally is time. The farther in advance they prepare, the better. Even in a situation like yours where you're already starting to notice an increase in your sister's needs, doing something now is still better than putting decisions off

till later.

Because you are in the thick of So Much Caregiving (I am sorry for that) and you are close to your sister, I think you are an ideal messenger. You can say something like this: "You know I am in the thick of So Much Caregiving. Maybe the one thing I have learned from this is to get ahead of things — to act vs. react."

"So with that in mind, are you willing to talk to me about your plans if you ever can't live independently anymore? I would like to share my plans with you as well. Because I anticipate that each of our ability to help each other will be limited, preparation will spare us both a ton of stress."

Sharing your plans with her is key. Life doesn't always care who is older (or even sicker) than whom, and "Oh, I'll be fine" doesn't fly.

**Re: Sister:** I have been a caretaker for more than one relative and for my husband for 14 years. It can be more exhaustion than one even knows they are experiencing. I think your advice is excellent. The sibling might check out what state or local agencies help with housing and care, or get another relative to research this.

— Caretaker

**Caretaker:** The sister is the best one to start making these inquiries on her own behalf. But, yes, another relative can pitch in, too, thanks.

Another reader's thought: Rather than waiting for an abrupt end to the roommate situation, I would suggest the county or city government can help a person who meets financial limits with a studio or one-bedroom. A wait list is often the case, so she definitely needs to start planning.

Write to Carolyn Hax at [tellme@washpost.com](mailto:tellme@washpost.com). Get her column delivered to your inbox each morning at [wapo.st@ethax](mailto:wapo.st@ethax).

Join the discussion live at noon Fridays at [washingtonpost.com/live-chats](https://www.washingtonpost.com/live-chats).

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PHOTOS BY PETER FISHER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

When brainstorming a new mascot, the chief brand officer for the New York Liberty knew the character had to be able to dance to the music that defines Brooklyn: hip-hop.

## Mascot has resonated with Black, LGBTQ fans

MASCOT FROM C1

taking her cues from Black women and queer culture.

On Sunday, she cheered the Liberty on to victory in a first-round WNBA playoff game.

But how did she become queen of the court?

The sports mascot as we understand it — costumed and cartoonish — emerged in the 1960s, starting with the New York Mets' Mr. Met, a sort of adorable, baseball-headed fellow, and Ohio State University's Brutus Buckeye, a sort of adorable, nut-headed fellow.

Jim Henson's Muppets inspired the Philadelphia Phillies, which leaned into the Henson sensibility by hiring one of his designers, Bonnie Erickson, to help create a new mascot in 1978. The Philly Phanatic was an evolution in mascot appearance and behavior: less humanoid, more erratic, and silly as heck.

No longer tasked with just pumping up the crowd, today's mascot should also help expand a team's merchandising opportunities (i.e. make money) and embody the spirit of the organization — or, in the parlance of sports execs, the brand. After all, players and coaches come and go, but mascots stay unchanged for generations.

What does it say, then, that the vast majority of mascots are dudes or, at the very least, dude-coded?

Collectively, mascots imitate male jocks and their most fervent male fans (even in women's sports). They pump their fists and flex. They celebrate touchdowns with push-ups. They catapult off trampolines in dunk contests. And there's no small amount of celebratory thrusting.

There are, of course, a handful of female mascots. But the most well-known — Mrs. Met and Mrs. Wuf (of North Carolina State) — are mascot *wives*.

Ellie's vibes are undeniably femme, Black and — in the words of one fan, spoken with great affection — “so gay!”

This is by design.

In 2019, Shana Stephenson, chief brand officer for the New York Liberty, knew the organization needed a refresh. It was a transition year for the Liberty, which was then the city's sole professional women's sports team. New York Knicks owner James Dolan had sold the franchise to Joe and Clara Tsai for an undisclosed sum. The Liberty would no longer play at Madison Square Garden. They would play in Brooklyn, and needed an identity that reflected their new home. That meant their former mascot Maddie, a golden retriever named for the iconic arena, had to go.

When people think of New York City wildlife, they might think of pigeons and rats. Liberty CEO Keia Clarke proposed an elephant.

There was a historical connection: In 1884, P.T. Barnum once marched 21 elephants (and 17 camels) across the recently completed Brooklyn Bridge to help convince wary New Yorkers that it was safe for people.

She could be called “Ellie,” short for both elephant and Ellis Island, connecting her back to the team's Liberty namesake.



As for Ellie's personality, Stephenson, a New York native, had a nonnegotiable: Ellie would be unabashedly feminine.

“Our athletes wear long braids and lashes and makeup and nails,” Stephenson said, so why shouldn't the mascot who represents them? The right mascot didn't need to pull out showstopping athletic tricks. “Our players

don't even dunk. So why would we expect that of our mascot?”

What Ellie needed to do was perform. And Stephenson couldn't imagine a character representing Brooklyn without being able to dance. And she had to dance to the music that defines Brooklyn: hip-hop.

In Stephenson's mind, there's no reason a basketball game

shouldn't elicit the kind of elation you may feel listening to a Beyoncé album (“Renaissance,” specifically): “It should make you feel free and excited and cheer and sing and all of those things.”

But who is behind Ellie's mask?

The Liberty has kept a tight lid on the identity of the performer. Ellie is played by one person, a former mascot for another undisclosed team who auditioned for the role and stood out because the vibes were just right, Stephenson said. The performer *felt* like New York, *felt* like Brooklyn.

Ellie isn't just another mascot with eyelashes (though hers are lush, to be sure). She is, in the language of New York's trailblazing underground ballroom scene, a femme queen.

She doesn't walk up stairs; she slinks and sashays. She duck-walks and death drops, shimmies and cha-chas. When she's not dancing, a designer bag hangs on the crook of her arm.

She double-cheek kisses fans and pops her hip in photos. When she looks at you, it's with the conspiratorial head-tilt and finger-wave of a good girlfriend. If she wants to add a little drama to the occasion, she'll whip her signature braid — the one that hangs down to her tail.

Ellie's performances are high-energy, choreographed affairs that usually include splits and headstands. Her most memorable halftime segments have channeled Black female artists. She's paid tribute to Mary J. Blige and Lil' Kim and Beyoncé (twice) — performing their signature moves and wearing elaborate costumes and wigs inspired by them.

It's no wonder Ellie has resonated so strongly with two groups who have long been ignored by major sports franchises: Black women and LGBTQ fans, the very soul of the WNBA. A majority of WNBA players are Black and all but one of its 12 teams have out queer players.

Ellie's popularity comes at a pivotal moment for the WNBA, with stars such as Caitlin Clark, Angel Reese and A'ja Wilson driving up attendance and ratings across the league. And Ellie's success has put other teams on notice. Stephenson said she's been fielding calls from other franchises looking for advice on how to update their mascots.

At West Indian Night, Alcian Trought, a 33-year-old Black woman from Queens, admitted sheepishly that the first time she came to a Liberty game was “solely to see Ellie.” She'd been back three times since, she said, and was considering another game.

That night, when Ellie vibed to dancehall music, Trought stood and up and danced along with her; when Ellie backed it up, Trought backed it up.

“I just love the energy all the time,” she said about Liberty games.

In the fourth quarter, Ellie led the crowd in the “Ellie Wave,” a new late-game tradition in which the crowd raises one hand up and down like an elephant trunk, raucous and unified.

“See, Post?” a Crown Heights resident named Patricia Jones-Ellis yelled up at the media table behind her. “That's what New York do!”

## Widower has millions but seeks dear friends

Asking Eric

R. ERIC THOMAS

**Dear Eric:** I am a widower in my mid-70s. No family, no kids. Multimillionaire; drive a Maserati; am social; look (if

friends are truthful) 20 years younger; well-traveled. But I have no friends. Lots of acquaintances, bartenders, wait staff whose attention I enjoy, but no one I feel close to.

Don't suggest church, as I am a secular humanist. I am alone and, frequently, lonely, even though I am socially active. What's wrong?

— *Still Grieving*

**Still Grieving:** When I got to the end of your letter and read the name you chose, I felt two sensations: a lightbulb going off and a deep, compassionate bolt of pain. I suspect some of your social isolation is related to your grief.

Loss of a spouse or companion often makes us feel like we've lost a part of ourselves. The grief is complicated — even if it's been months or years — and it makes it hard to re-engage with life in a way that makes sense. This is not your fault. I know that you're eager to make connections, but the way you relate to the world is going to be different and produce a lot of stops and starts.

Ask yourself what you're looking for and try to be as specific as possible. What would it look like if you had the life you want right now? And are there small steps you can take to get there? Give yourself time.

You're not alone in this. Social connections are hard for so many people. I'm not going to suggest church, but I am going to suggest a grief support group, where you can find people who understand some of what you're going through and, perhaps, might be good candidates for friendship.

**Dear Eric:** I read Work Life Love Balance's letter, and thought I'd add the perspective of a senior (I'm 63). When I was this person's age, I had exactly two dates from a dating service when they were the “thing” in the '80s, and each one was an unmitigated disaster. I stopped looking.

Then I met this fella at, of all places, a “Doctor Who” party. He was listening to the Moody Blues; I stopped to remark about this and we struck up a friendship, first through letters. He became a good friend, then my best friend and, soon, we will have been married for 34 years.

My advice is this: A relationship may find you when you stop looking. Sometimes the strongest relationships that last the longest start out as friends.

— *Married to the One*

**Still Married:** I love your story and this advice so much! “Doctor Who” and the Moody Blues! What a combo. Congrats on 34 years!

**Dear Eric:** I am a male senior citizen living in suburban Maryland with no family. With personal ads a thing of the past and online dating very costly, I do not know where or how to meet quality singles or widows. I was never a bar hopper, and it would be nice just to have a companion. Any specific or general advice?

— *Wants a Connection*

**Connection:** As a big fan of rom-coms, I believe wholeheartedly in the enduring power of kismet. No matter how many apps, ads or websites we create to help us reach each other, it all comes down to two people being in the right place in life at the right time. So, put yourself in new places, not necessarily with the intention of finding a companion but rather with the desire to find things that bring you joy in life.

Try taking a class or picking up a hobby, volunteering or going on a group trip. Sometimes the easiest way to get to know someone, romantically or platonically, is by sharing a common interest, as in the letter above.

I'm also going to throw this question to the wider readership. Readers who are seniors: Have you found friendship or companionship at a later stage of life? I'd love for you to write in with your short tales of kismet. I'll share some of them in a few weeks.

Send questions to R. Eric Thomas at [eric@askingeric.com](mailto:eric@askingeric.com) or P.O. Box 22474, Philadelphia, PA 19110. Follow him on Instagram and sign up for his weekly newsletter at [rericthomas.com](http://rericthomas.com)

# Prada's persona at center of her brand

PRADA FROM C1

pointing because Mrs. Prada and Simons are the industry's foremost philosophers. Their ideas don't move you to buy things per se; no one is buying a 5600 euro gazar dress because that season's message about craft *really resonated, man*. Prada, which also owns Miu Miu and Church's, has been the bonkers luxury success story of the past four years because it creates compelling products, which is what fashion brands exist to do.

Fortunately, like runway hairstyles and hangtags featuring facts about sustainability, news releases in fashion are rarely to be trusted. And the Prada collection is much more interesting if you ignore the designers' stated intentions. Watching those references to the 1960s futurist-minimalists, such as Paco Rabanne's metallic hardware and André Courrèges's circular cutouts, I thought of Mrs. Prada's own wardrobe — an assortment of 1960s vintage and her own designs. She wore Yves Saint Laurent to distribute communist party leaflets, goes a possibly apocryphal story. (Though I once asked her about this, and she didn't deny it.)

This collection joins a larger cultural movement of women making art about their own lives: Miranda July's "All Fours" (she also scripted a recent campaign for Prada), Joanna Hogg's "The Souvenir" series, and, of course, books by Annie Ernaux, Rachel Cusk, Sheila Heti and all those recent divorce and sour marriage novels. This was fashion autofiction: Mrs. Prada tearing through her own closet and putting things together in maniac ways, like a windbreaker over a Cristóbal Balenciaga-ish feather dress with a bucketlike visor, or an Edie Sedgwick-style leopard coat over a bathing suit. There were a handful of pussy-bow blouses, that Kamala Harris signature, perhaps a comment on the way consumers just want what makes them feel connected to culture at large, even if it's ugly or dated.

A year after an industry reckoning on the paucity of female design talent, we see an important shift: women who put their persona at the center of their brands. This includes big names like Prada, Tory Burch, Hermes's Nadège Vanhée, and The Row's Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, plus medium and smaller ones such as Simone Rocha, Chloe's Chemena Kamali, Sacai's Chitose Abe and Batsheva Hay. Designers always get dinged for sending out outrageous designs and then taking their bow in understated clothes, sometimes even insisting they don't have time to think about what they wear. *That's for the customer, darling*. These women wear their designs. They



PHOTOS BY JONAS GUSTAVSSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



**This Prada collection, with Miuccia Prada seemingly tearing through her own closet, was filled with references to 1960s fantasies about what's to come: shield sunglasses, mirrored dresses and utilitarian details.**

live the life few businesswomen are able to: not only in charge, but expressing themselves, even declaring their personalities through clothes, while doing so. That is much more aspirational than any campaign imagery or celebrity in designer duds could conjure.

A funny thing happened when Simons, who was a cult figure in the menswear world before designing at Dior and Calvin Klein, joined Mrs. Prada in 2020: The brand became more about *her*. Miu Miu may be her personal playground, but the marquee line is just as biographical, with its decadent commitment to corrupting conservative clothes like opera coats, cocktail dresses, ladylike handbags and even the canon of fashion itself. Social media now fangirls over her wardrobe and jewelry collection. She was on the March cover of Vogue! And the more this brand becomes about Mrs. Prada, the better it gets.

The second question packed into this show, a more existential one, was the drama of wrestling with the future. This collection was filled with references to 1960s fantasies about what's to come: enormous shield sunglasses, like a fashion version of the kind of equipment you might wear to send a spaceship to orbit the sun; mirrored dresses and utilitarian details inspired by the use of new materials in art and technology during the mid-century. That's an optimism we can barely dream of now; that space race coolness looks quaint.

Other historical references emphasized the challenge of how we update old ideas to meet the needs of today. There were several old Prada pieces, especially shoes, with almost nonsensical tweaks: The famous flame heel from Spring 2012 looked muddied or abstracted, and the origami shoes from Fall 2023 had new folds and spikes in weird places. They looked as if they'd been sent through an AI machine or 3D printer and spit back out — almost it, but not quite.

One of the trompe l'oeil details was a fur print, sometimes shown with what appeared to be a real fur collar. Many brands have stopped using fur or struggled to find ethical workarounds even as consumer interest has returned. The gesture was very Elsa Schiaparelli, the Surrealist-adjacent couturier wit who is sometimes said to be a spiritual sister to Mrs. Prada (their symbiosis was the subject of the 2012 Costume Institute show). Those pieces also recalled perverse Surrealist fur artist Mèret Oppenheim; you have probably seen her gazelle fur-lined cup, saucer and spoon, "Object," from 1936. It was as if Prada was saying, you want fur? But we're not supposed to give it to you! So here is a drawing of it, ha ha ha! And it will be just as expensive!

Maybe this is what Prada and Simons's conjuring of the algorithm meant — that even these two originals, in trying to present something new, end up looking at their previous work. Maybe we live in a world of tributes, reboots, remakes and deepfakes that are really a faithful reproduction of a past that never happened.

We look again and again at the evidence from the past, seeing what inevitably seems to be coming, but too afraid to imagine it fully, and ask no one in particular, "Where did we go wrong? Was it here, here, here?"

## the **GUIDE** to the Lively Arts

SHOW NAME	DATES & TIMES	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS	PRICE	ADDITIONAL
<b>MUSIC - ORCHESTRAL</b>					
<p><b>Mendelssohn, Barber, and Beethoven</b> with guest conductor Nicholas Hersh and violinist Maria Ioudenitch</p>	<p>Sunday, September 29 · 4pm EDT</p>	<p>The Apollo Orchestra presents Mendelssohn, Barber, and Beethoven on September 29 at 4:00 PM. This free performance will feature Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture, Barber's Violin Concerto, and Beethoven's Symphony no. 7.</p>	<p>Cultural Arts Center, Montgomery College 7995 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910 <a href="https://www.apolloorchestra.com/events/september29/">https://www.apolloorchestra.com/events/september29/</a></p>	<p>Free</p>	<p>Free parking Walk-in tickets will be available at the door.</p>

The Guide to the Lively Arts appears: • Sunday in Arts & Style. deadline: Tues., 12 noon  
• Monday in Style. deadline: Friday, 12 noon • Tuesday in Style. deadline: Mon., 12 noon • Wednesday in Style. deadline: Tues., 12 noon  
• Thursday in Style. deadline: Wed., 12 noon • Friday in Weekend. deadline: Tues., 12 noon • Saturday in Style. deadline: Friday, 12 noon  
For information about advertising, call Jason Samuel at 202-334-4776.  
To reach a representative, call: 202-334-7006 | [guidetoarts@washpost.com](mailto:guidetoarts@washpost.com)

# Murdoch case remains sealed, frustrating media outlets

TRIAL FROM CI

trust Murdoch set up to avoid a messy dispute in his second divorce, the four siblings would share power in the event of his death. But, people familiar with the matter told The Washington Post in July, Murdoch is worried that his other children could dislodge Lachlan, his chosen successor who oversees his father's Fox Corporation and News Corporation, and who and is considered to be more politically aligned with the conservative patriarch than the others.

Because the trust allows for amendments that benefit all the heirs equally, Murdoch has argued that placing only Lachlan in charge would preserve the outlets' financial success in a way that would mean more money for all of the children, according to the New York Times.

A representative for James Murdoch's side of the legal case declined to comment. Lawyers for Rupert Murdoch didn't respond to a request for comment.

A group of major media outlets, including the New York Times, The Washington Post, the Associated Press, and CNN, have jointly filed motions seeking to open up access to the trial. In a Sept. 4 filing, the group argued that the "immense" stakes of the Murdoch trial mean the case should be opened up to the public.

"This proceeding does not pertain to some generic family trust matter which concerns few people, but one that will decide the future of the massive media empire which owns one of America's most influential news outlets, Fox News," the group argued in its filing.



Rupert Murdoch, center, and his wife, Elena Zhukova Murdoch, arrive at the 2nd Judicial District Court in Reno, Nev., on Sept. 16.

A district judge rejected most of their argument on Sept. 12, making a few details about the case's existence public but keeping everything else sealed. As signs of how much secrecy remains over the case, the Murdoch trust is still referenced in court records to as "Doe

Trust #1," and lawyers for the media have complained that they find it difficult to file motions around the case because they don't know the names of other parties or their lawyers.

The media group filed a petition to the Nevada Supreme Court on

Thursday, asking the justices to unseal more details and pause the probate court case until the proceedings could be opened to the public.

In its Nevada Supreme Court filing, the media coalition said the Reno court had sought to "shroud

every single piece of information about the case — even its existence and a prior order sealing the case — in perpetual secrecy." While the coalition asked the high court to respond quickly, it's unclear whether any decision will be made before the Murdoch dispute is fin-

ished.

Nevada courts often default to a "culture of secrecy" when families are involved, even in the case of a globe-spanning media business like the Murdoch empire, according to Alexander Falconi, who advocates for more judicial transparency on his website Our Nevada Judges.

"It's the exact same thing that the Nevada judges and lawyers have been doing since the beginning of Nevada," Falconi said.

Because of the sealing, it can be difficult to know who is arguing to keep the proceedings sealed. But a party described as "Doe #9" in filings has made at least one novel argument: that opening up the case and others like it could expose elderly Nevadans to identity theft by making personal information more accessible. In their Sept. 4 filing, the media coalition quipped that the elder Murdoch had enough resources to protect himself from would-be scammers.

"Rupert Murdoch may be elderly, but he is far from vulnerable and there are extensive legitimate interests in much of the information surrounding this dispute," the coalition's lawyers argued.

Falconi has pressed for more public access to the Murdoch case and won a Nevada Supreme Court case over public access to family-court hearings in February that has been cited by the media coalition in its filings. But even if journalists ultimately triumph in their fight to access more information about the case, Falconi fears it will only come after the Murdoch case is resolved, rendering it moot.

"I think this is a travesty, this is a once-in-a-lifetime thing," Falconi said.

## THEATER REVIEW



PHOTOS BY DJ COREY

# 'Primary Trust' is intimate exploration of loneliness

BY NAVEEN KUMAR

Being invited into the confidence of someone like Kenneth, the gentle narrator of "Primary Trust," is like joining a fragile bird in the nest. In Kenneth's case, that's a fictional speck of a suburb in Upstate New York, where he's lived for much of his 38 years but still feels adrift. Orphaned at a young age, he mostly keeps to himself and has built a home within his own mind.

Eboni Booth's subtly wrenching character study follows Kenneth as he charts a course out into the world. The play, which this year won the Pulitzer Prize for drama, is on a similar path: Productions are showing up around the country this fall, including in Pittsfield, Mass., Chicago and Seattle. The first among them, an intimate and sensitive staging by director Taylor Reynolds at Signature Theatre in Arlington, offers an immersive look at a wounded psyche on the verge of a breakthrough.

More so than the off-Broadway premiere I greatly admired last spring, Signature's production nestles the audience right up against the narrator's point of view. Very soon, there's reason to believe it's off-kilter.

Kenneth (Julius Thomas III) gives us a brief tour of his tiny town, sketched on a map at the

back of the stage (the storybook set is by Misha Kachman) and a soft glow reveals a skyline around the room's perimeter (lighting is by Venus Gulbranson). The most important landmark, aside from Primary Trust Bank where he'll soon apply for a job, is Wally's, the tiki bar he visits nightly to drink mai tais for two.

It's a ritual he shares with his friend Bert (Frank Britton), a casually buttoned-up guy who's

quick with encouragement. When Kenneth admits early on that Bert is imaginary, other aspects of his experience start to raise an eyebrow. Why, for example, is there an endless rotation of servers (each played by Yesenia Iglesias) employed by a bar in the middle of nowhere? One of them, a bubbly woman named Corrina, eventually helps draw Kenneth out of his head. On the way, he shares the awful childhood trauma that

forced him into survival mode and the ways he learned to cope.

The delicate layers of Booth's play accumulate with the hushed steadiness of a snowfall. It's an exploration of loneliness that also asks big questions about the social systems that are meant to provide care and stability. Come away with a handful of insights that live close to the surface and more may reveal themselves with time.

There's a quiet hopefulness to Thomas' performance that makes it clear Kenneth is speaking from the other side of the painful transformation he's recalling. It's a daunting double task that Thomas embodies with striking vulnerability. Watching his Kenneth is like rooting for a scrappy kid from the sidelines of a close game. As two of Thomas' barrel-voiced bosses, Craig Wallace makes for a memorably persuasive coach.

The air of overcoming in "Primary Trust" isn't one of unmitigated triumph. The pains and disappointments that shape a life never simply disappear. But it's only when we learn to loosen our grip and let other people in that change becomes possible.

**Primary Trust**, through Oct. 20 at Signature Theatre Company in Arlington. 1 hour, 35 minutes with no intermission. sigtheatre.org.



TOP: From left, Julius Thomas III, Frank Britton and Craig Wallace in Signature Theatre Company's production of "Primary Trust." ABOVE: Thomas serves as narrator of the play, by Eboni Booth, which won the Pulitzer Prize for drama this year.

## MUSIC REVIEW

# Katy Perry's latest feels trapped in a bygone era

BY CHRIS KELLY

One of Katy Perry's last Billboard Nos. 1 was "Roar," her eye-of-the-tiger empowerment anthem from 2013. The song found new life three years later, when Perry performed it at the Democratic National Convention and lent it to Hillary Clinton for a campaign-closing ad that aligned values like respect and courage with the song's mad-as-hell feminism: "Get ready 'cause I've had enough."

These days, "Roar" and other Perry hits play like artifacts of the era of hope-and-change politics and girl boss feminism — wide-eyed, blandly encouraging, innocuous. Maybe that's why "Woman's World," the first single off Perry's new album "143," landed earlier this year like a dispatch from a parallel universe. Over synthesized disco pop, Perry lays out a blueprint for the "feminine divine" while trying to tap the sexy confidence of a Maybelline ad. In her conception, women are flowers, mothers, superheroes, sisters, "confident," "heaven-sent," "so intelligent" — anything but complicated.

And still this inoffensive song managed to offend, because Perry made it in part with Dr. Luke, the megaproducer behind much of her earlier output, who has become anathema to many pop fans amid a recently-settled legal battle with pop star Kesha involving accusations of sexual abuse and defamation. The fans weren't pleased, and, when asked about the collaboration, Perry deflected with an invocation of motherhood in her non-answer self-defense.

That was the most obvious way in which Perry has struggled to connect with our pop moment — one that has a few more things to say than we tended to get from Peak Perry. In her imperial era, she was an avatar of pop's most reliable themes (mean boys, Friday nights, yearned-for loves) who somehow managed to make a song called "I Kissed a Girl" that reinforced gender stereotypes. "143" plays like an attempt to return Perry to those glory days. This is an album of anonymous electro-pop, very simple sentiments ("I'll love you for life") and hip-hop-inflected "bangers" that tend to be — as she sings in the cringey 21 Savage collaboration "Gimme Gimme" — "all bark with no bite."

You've mostly heard it before. "I'm His, He's Mine" revolves around a sample of the Crystal Waters' house music classic "Gypsy Woman." But instead of

describing the self-actualization of a woman experiencing homelessness, Perry's version is a codependence duet full of strained lyrics like, "You're creepin' in his DMs/I'm sleepin' in his sweatpants." (Go easy on Perry's partner on the song, the promising up-and-comer DoeChii. With luck, listeners will memory-hole this collab, like the time Kendrick Lamar rapped on a remix of Taylor Swift's "Bad Blood.")

There was a time when Katy Perry really did make this stuff look easy ("Hot n Cold"), when even her cheesiest material ("California Gurls," "Last Friday Night") possessed a campy effervescence. She'd belt out bops about youthful, girls-night-out indiscretions over productions as light as those cotton candy clouds on the cover of "Teenage Dream."

*It certainly doesn't pay to overthink pop music. But so many women are making music in 2024 that is fun, flirty, feminist and interesting, from Olivia Rodrigo to Sabrina Carpenter to Charli XCX and beyond.*

On "143," Perry tries to keep it simple, but the formula no longer works. The untz-untz EDM that populates about half of the 33-minute album belongs at a retro DJ night, not on a high-gloss comeback record. The lyrics oscillate between evergreen banalities ("Is it a crush? Makin' me blush") and moments that kill the magic ("Can't give me your password to your phone, not start a fight").

Of course, it certainly doesn't pay to overthink pop music. But so many women are making music in 2024 that is fun, flirty, feminist and interesting, from Olivia Rodrigo to Sabrina Carpenter to Charli XCX and beyond. In her heyday, Perry kissed a girl for the male gaze; today's biggest rising star, Chappell Roan, is singing about being knee-deep in the passenger seat with another woman. And so Katy Perry returns feeling smaller — back not with a "Roar" but a whimper.

## Retropolis

Stories of the past, rediscovered.  
washingtonpost.com/retropolis

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TELEVISION

Table of television programming for 9/23/24, listing channels, times, and program titles.

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

SCRABBLE GRAMS

SCRABBLE GRAMS game board and rack information.

PREVIOUS SUDOKU SOLUTION

9x9 grid showing the solution to the previous Sudoku puzzle.

PREVIOUS SCRABBLEGRAMS SOLUTION

Table showing solutions for previous Scrabble Grams puzzles.



Game Break

Get our gaming newsletter with daily reminders and other insights.

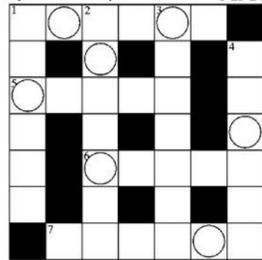
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JUMBLE CROSSWORDS

by David L. Hoyt 9-23-24



- CLUE ACROSS ANSWER
1. Left E T D E X I
5. Baseball L F D E I
6. song E E T M H
7. bread R S I N I A

- CLUE DOWN ANSWER
1. Wrap up N O E L D F
2. Lifelessness E A R I N I T
3. Infinite N E E S S L D
4. Anatomical organ L E N P E S

BONUS: A sequence of five circles.

How to play: Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers.

HOROSCOPE

BIRTHDAY | SEPTEMBER 23:

You have great personal integrity. You're also reliable, and you have a finely tuned appreciation of beauty.

MOON ALERT: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): This is a positive day for you, which is why your communications with others will be so successful!

Taurus (APRIL 20-MAY 20): This is a great day for financial interactions of any kind. You'll come out laughing all the way to the bank.

Gemini (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Today the Moon is in your sign lined up with lucky Jupiter, which makes you feel generous, confident and that you have nothing to fear.

Cancer (JUNE 21-JULY 22): This is a feel-good day for you! Many of you will be concerned about the deeper aspects of life and will seek out metaphysical and spiritual insights from others.

Leo (JULY 23-AUG. 22): This is a wonderful day to relate to friends as well as groups, clubs and organizations. This is because you will find it easy to build a strong rapport with a group.

Virgo (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): Today you look successful in the eyes of others. People see you as affluant, capable, confident and the right person for the job.

Libra (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): Marvelous opportunities to travel or do something to expand your horizons might drop in your lap today.

Scorpio (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Financial negotiations with others will go well today. This is also an excellent day to deal with banking matters and perhaps explore banking products.

Sagittarius (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): This is a warm and fuzzy day for close friendships and partnerships. People are upbeat and happy, which means they are loving and considerate to each other.

Capricorn (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Anything to do with your work or your job will go extremely well today. Co-workers will be helpful. You might be full of bright, clever ideas.

Aquarius (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Play hooky today if possible. Pleasure comes before work today. This feels like a vacation day for many of you.

Pisces (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Family relationships, especially with female relatives, will be warm and friendly today. It's a great day to entertain. Invite people, especially groups, to your home.

— Georgia Nicols © 2024, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC.

BRIDGE

N-S VULNERABLE NORTH ♠ A Q J 4 ♥ J 10 ♦ K 10 6 3 ♣ A 6 2

WEST EAST ♠ 9 6 ♠ K 8 7 3 ♥ A 9 8 5 4 ♥ Q 2 ♦ 7 5 4 ♦ Q J 2 ♣ J 8 3 ♣ 10 9 5 4

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

The bidding: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT All Pass Opening lead — ♥ 5

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.

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 fineses in spades. He has nine tricks even when the finesse loses.

This week: Do you hold up? DAILY QUESTION You hold: ♠ 10 5 2 ♥ K 7 6 3 ♦ A 9 8 ♣ K Q 7 Today's South opened one club as dealer with this hand.

ANSWER: With 12 points and two and a half "Quick Tricks," most players would open. Still, a case exists for passing. A good opening bid is based on some playing tricks, not just an assortment of high cards, and this hand has limited trick-taking potential.

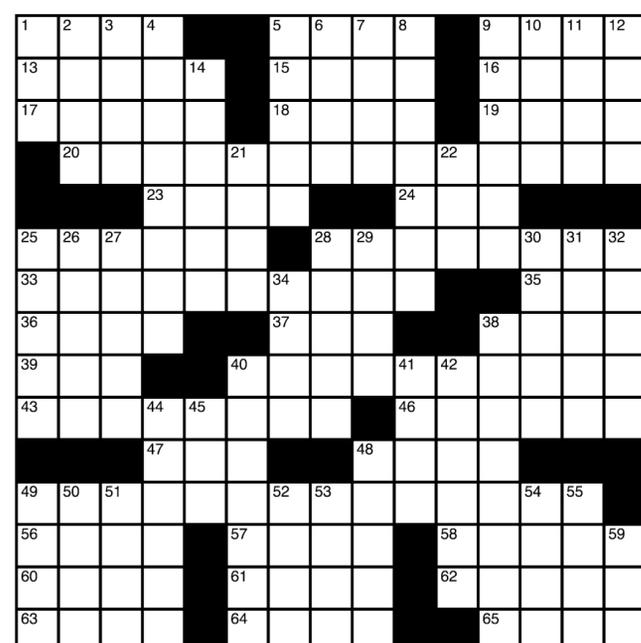
— Frank Stewart © 2024, TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, LLC.

LA TIMES CROSSWORD

By Stella Zawistowski

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 Pricy 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?



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- 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 Ktob 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
50 Wheels
51 Look over quickly
52 Spanx shade
53 Unoccupied
54 City that surrounds Vatican City
55 German three
59 Conclusion

SATURDAY'S LA TIMES SOLUTION

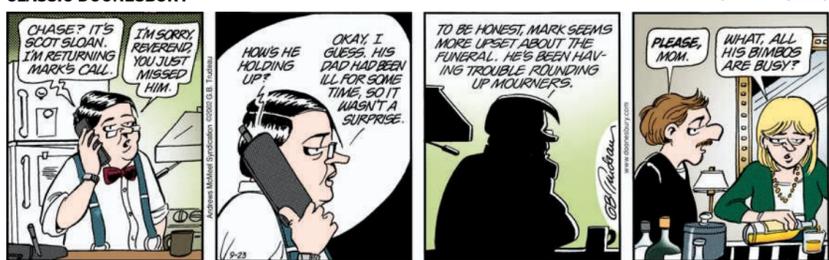
Grid showing the solution to the Saturday LA Times crossword puzzle.

DOWN

- 1 Impact sound

CLASSIC DOONESBURY

GARRY TRUDEAU



PICKLES

BRIAN CRANE



RED AND ROVER

BRIAN BASSET



AGNES

TONY COCHRAN



FRANK AND ERNEST

TOM THAVES



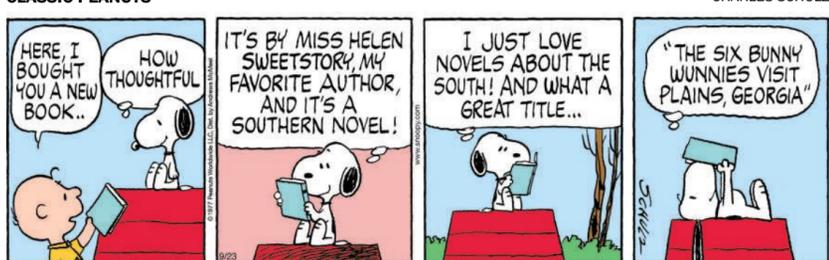
WUMO

MIKAEL WULFF & ANDERS MORGENTHAUER



CLASSIC PEANUTS

CHARLES SCHULZ



MIKE DU JOUR

MIKE LESTER



RHYMES WITH ORANGE

HILARY PRICE



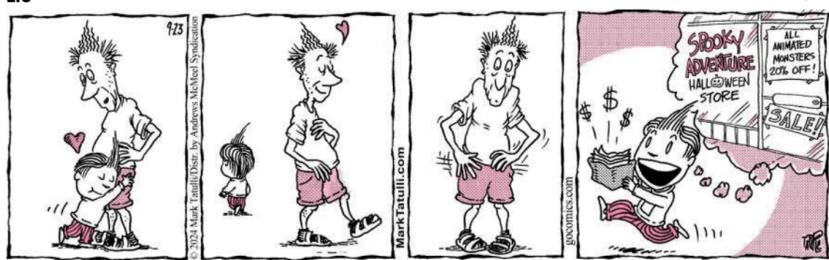
MARK TRAIL

JULES RIVERA



LIO

MARK TATULLI



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

MIKE PETERS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

CHRIS BROWNE



BALDO

HECTOR CANTU & CARLOS CASTELLANOS



BLONDIE

DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



SALLY FORTH

FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE



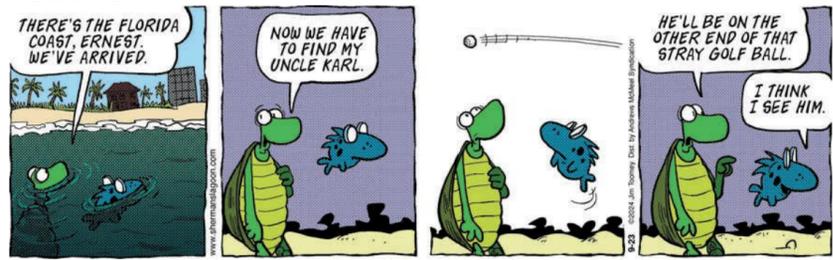
BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!

TIM RICKARD



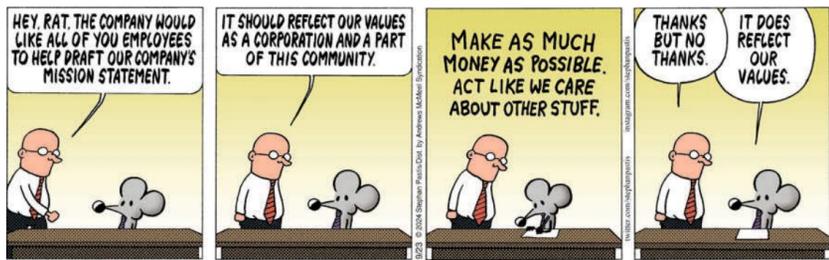
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

JIM TOOMEY



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

STEPHAN PASTIS



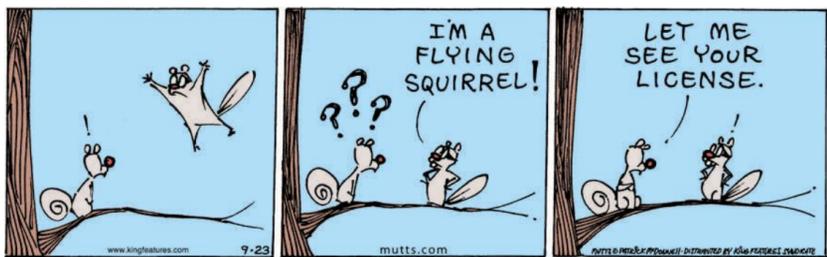
CURTIS

RAY BILLINGSLEY



MUTTS

PATRICK McDONNELL



ZITS

JERRY SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN



HEART OF THE CITY

STEENZ



JUDGE PARKER

FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & MIKE MANLEY



FRAZZ

JEFF MALLETT



CANDORVILLE

DARRIN BELL



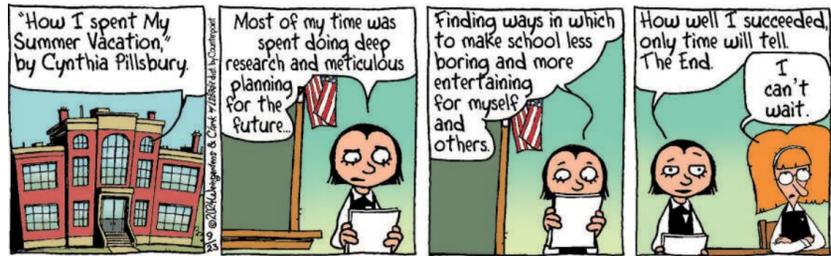
GARFIELD

JIM DAVIS



BARNEY AND CLYDE

WEINGARTENS & CLARK



DUSTIN

STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



FLASH GORDON

DAN SCHKADE



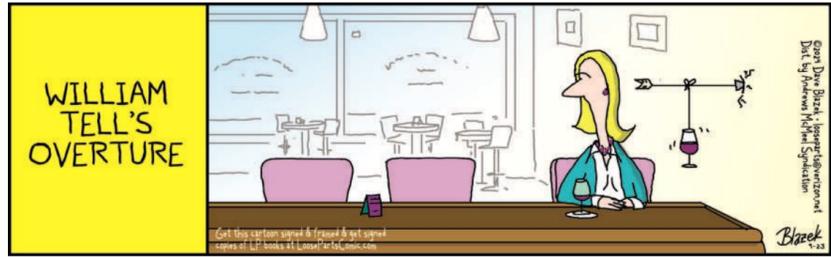
PRICKLY CITY

SCOTT STANTIS



LOOSE PARTS

DAVE BLAZEK



NON SEQUITUR

WILEY



BABY BLUES

RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



BIG NATE

LINCOLN PEIRCE



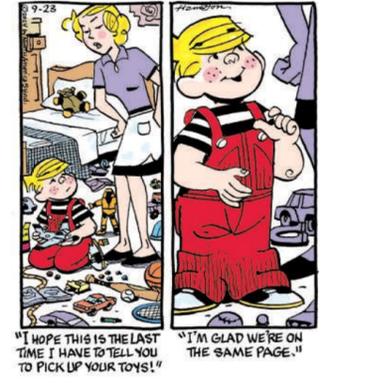
SPEED BUMP

DAVE COVERLY



DENNIS THE MENACE

H. KETCHAM



ON THE FASTTRACK

BILL HOLBROOK



FAMILY CIRCUS

BIL KEANE



REPLY ALL LITE

DONNA A. LEWIS



BEEBLE BAILEY

GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER



The Washington Post  
SPORTS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

SU

D

Giants 21	Bears 16	Texans 7	Eagles 15	Chargers 10	Broncos 26	Packers 30	Panthers 36	Dolphins 3	Lions 20	49ers 24	Chiefs 22	Jaguars 7:30	Commanders 8:15
Browns 15	Colts 21	Vikings 34	Saints 12	Steelers 20	Buccaneers 7	Titans 14	Raiders 22	Seahawks 24	Cardinals 13	Rams 27	Falcons 17	Bills ESPN	Bengals ABC

## Baltimore holds on, staves off a crisis

RAVENS 28, COWBOYS 25

BY CHUCK CULPEPPER

ARLINGTON, TEX. — A loud game of early-season crisis avoidance went to the Baltimore Ravens here Sunday after they whisked early, wriggled late and finally achieved their mission of not losing.

By a 28-25 final score, the Ravens (1-2) did not lose to Dallas and seemed to hurl whatever crisis this game would dispense upon the Cowboys (1-2), even though Dallas's fourth-quarter trip most of the way out of a 28-6 crypt might downsize this latest in their three-decade series of football crises here in Jerry Jones's Society of Hollow Hype. When Baltimore achieved not-losing with Lamar Jackson's 10-yard zip through the line to gain a first down and quell any silliness, its sideline looked festive and its ambitious team looked like any team might look if it had just steered clear of the mirthless swirl that comes with 0-3.

"You want to do that in that situation," Coach John Harbaugh said, and he meant the Ravens' two first downs to kill the clock after taking over with 2:53 left and the lead trimmed to three. He followed that sentence with, "Really didn't want to be in that situation, but ..."

"We got the finish, man, [even if] I didn't like how things were going," Jackson said after his budding collaboration with new running back Derrick Henry wrung 12-for-15 passing and 87 rushing yards from Jackson and 151 rushing yards from Henry, plus a grateful recital of the names of the offensive linemen.

"Hats off to the offensive line: Ronnie, Andrew, Tyler, Daniel and Pat," Henry said. That meant the lot of Ronnie Stanley, Andrew Vorhees, Tyler Linderbaum, Daniel Faalele and Patrick Mekari, who took some guff after the 0-2 start, of which Henry said: "We all see it. We can't miss much of anything nowadays. It's right in your face whether you want to see it or not."

Sunday's noise sounded so much better than 0-3 noise with all its drama, denunciations and other bad vibes, all just eight months after the kind of narrow SEE RAVENS ON D4



Austin Ekeler spent his NFL career with the Chargers before arriving in Washington. "A real pro's pro," Coach Dan Quinn says.

## Things are looking up with the ground game

Commanders' offense has turned a corner with the tandem of Ekeler and Robinson

BY NICKI JHABVALA

For much of the past year, Austin Ekeler heard how he was "washed." He was done, some analysts and fans said. He wasn't the same running back who could bounce off tackles and zigzag around defenders.

But Washington Commanders Coach Dan Quinn knew from a single step in Week 1 that Ekeler, at 29 and in his eighth NFL season, has plenty left.

In the first quarter of Washington's season-opening loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Ekeler slipped through the middle of the line for a check-down pass from Jayden Daniels. Before the catch, he took a drop step that was a signal to Quinn.

"The reason I bring that one up is he's got a specific way,"

Quinn explained. "... So, as somebody may be gaining confidence, [they might] drop-step while the ball's still in the air to gain some space."

Ekeler took the short pass from Daniels, flipped his hips and turned upfield, bouncing off one linebacker and spinning around another to gain 22 yards and help set up the Commanders' first touchdown. He finished the game with 52 receiving yards.

"He's very consistent," Quinn continued. "I know that's not a sexy word, but one of the things that you can count on from him, right space, right time. A real pro's pro."

An undrafted and once deemed undersized player out of Division II Western State (now Western Colorado), Ekeler became a household name with the Chargers, working in SEE COMMANDERS ON D7

Commanders at Bengals: 8:15 p.m., ABC | Inside: Everything you need to know about the Monday night matchup. D6

## Clark learns a bruising playoff lesson

SUN 93, FEVER 69

BY BEN GOLLIVER

UNCAVILLE, CONN. — Not two minutes into her playoff debut, Caitlin Clark was on the hardwood clutching her face thanks to an inadvertent poke in the eye. The Indiana Fever star's first taste of the WNBA postseason was bitter, nothing like her team's charmed run since the Olympic break, and the blow left her

bruised. By game's end, she was sporting a black eye.

Playoff dues must be paid by all; Clark, the most exceptional WNBA rookie in recent years, is no exception. The Connecticut Sun's stout defense stymied Clark as it pulled away in the second half for a 93-69 blowout victory in Game 1 of the first-round playoff series Sunday afternoon at Mohegan Sun Arena. The sixth-seeded Fever faces elimination in Game 2 on Wednesday night against the third-seeded Sun, needing a win to send the best-of-three series to Indianapolis.

Though Clark eventually picked herself up off the court after the early shot to the face, she never managed to get on track. The Sun opened with 6-foot-4 forward DeWanna Bonner covering Clark, a move aimed at using her size and length to frustrate the 6-foot rookie. Bonner's attentive defense enabled Connecticut to single-cover Clark for most of SEE WNBA ON D14

Game 2: Fever at Sun Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., ESPN Inside: Napheesa Collier racks up 38 points as the Lynx prevail. D14



Fever rookie Caitlin Clark (22), playing her first WNBA playoff game, suffered a black eye and struggled shooting in a Game 1 loss.

### SOCCER

More pain comes D.C. United's way in its latest matchup with the Union, a 4-0 loss on the road. D7

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

JMU's 70-point outburst during Saturday's win at North Carolina stretched the imagination. D7

### HOCKEY

Andrew Cristall impresses for the Capitals in their preseason opener, a loss to the visiting Flyers. D14



29 James Wood



3 Dylan Crews

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WEEKDAY SERIES

SEPT 24- SEPT 26

KANSAS CITY ROYALS

# THE DAY IN SPORTS

## GOLF

### Ko earns her third win in her past four events

**Lydia Ko** extended her amazing summer run when she turned a two-shot deficit into a rout by closing with a 9-under-par 63 to win the Queen City Championship in Maineville, Ohio, for her third LPGA Tour title of the season.

Ko won for the third time in her past four starts, including her Olympic gold medal that gave the 27-year-old from New Zealand enough points for the LPGA Hall of Fame. She also won the Women's Open at St. Andrews in Scotland.

"It's been pretty surreal," Ko said after her five-shot victory at TPC River's Bend over **Jeeno Thitikul**, who closed with a 70 and simply couldn't keep up.

Thitikul was two shots ahead after eight holes of the final round. Three holes later, the Thai was chasing the hottest player in women's golf.

Thitikul made bogey on the par-4 ninth. Ko made a 10-foot birdie putt on the 10th hole to tie for the lead, then pulled ahead by two shots with a 12-foot eagle putt on the par-5 11th.

Ko seized control for good with a pair of two-shot swings — she made birdie and Thitikul made bogey on the 13th and 15th holes.

Thitikul two-putted for birdie on the par-5 closing hole to finish alone in second, one shot ahead of **Haeran Ryu** (67).

"It's just insane — it's super insane. Her putter was on fire today," Thitikul said of playing alongside Ko. "I respect her as like my older sister, as a legend, and also as my role model. It was such a really good experience watching her in my eyes on the same tee box, on the same greens, just like [a] VIP seat."

**Nelly Korda**, the No. 1 player in women's golf who still has a comfortable lead in the Race to CME Globe with her six victories this year, had a 68 and tied for fifth, nine shots behind. ...

**Billy Horschel** became the first American golfer to win the BMW PGA Championship twice when he holed a brilliant eagle to beat four-time major winner **Rory McIlroy** in a playoff in Virginia Water, England.

Horschel showed no sign of nerves when he sank a long putt from near the edge of the green on the second playoff hole, then hugged McIlroy warmly.

"It's always one of my most special weeks of the year. I enjoy coming here. I feel a sense of ease. I feel a sense of calm," Horschel said. "I know I'm not from the U.K. or London or England, but I feel almost at home when I come here."

Horschel won in Virginia Water three years ago. Entering Sunday, he was locked in second place with McIlroy and both were three strokes behind leader **Matteo Manassero** of Italy.

While Manassero fell back, Horschel and McIlroy carded 5-under 67s to join South African **Thriston Lawrence** — who posted a clinical 65 on the day — at 20 under and force a three-way playoff.

After they went back to the 18th at the storied West Course, Lawrence dropped out of contention after bogeying, while McIlroy and Horschel had birdies. But McIlroy was beaten on the next hole. ...

**Paul Broadhurst** finished off his second PGA Tour Champions victory of the year with a few nervous moments, closing with an even-par 72 for a three-shot victory at the Pure Insurance Championship in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Broadhurst was staked to a five-shot lead going into the final round and expanded it to as many as six. But the lead shrunk to two when **Alex Cejka** shot a 64, and the Englishman held his nerve to the end.

He made birdie on the famous par-5 18th hole. It only mattered to the final margin, though it was important to Broadhurst for other reasons.

"I didn't want to shoot over par and win," Broadhurst said. "My kids would be giving me stick. I was pleased to hole the last one." ...

In Carrollton, Tex., **Cameron Smith** and **Lucas Herbert** delivered clutch putts late in the championship round to lead Australia-based Ripper to its first team title in LIV Golf.

Herbert, who looked as though he might have cost his team with a double bogey and a bogey on two of the par-5s at Maridoe Golf Club, responded with four birdies over his last five holes, the final putt a 12-footer for birdie for a 69.

Smith hit a 60-yard pitch to 12 feet and holed the birdie putt on the 17th to give Ripper the lead for good, then drilled his tee shot



JAN HETFLAUSCH/GETTY IMAGES

## Triple threat

Germany's Laura Philipp lifts the finish line banner after winning the Ironman World Championship triathlon in Nice, France.

## SPOTLIGHT: SOCCER

# City escapes with a draw against Gunners

BY JAMES ROBSON

On this evidence, Arsenal and Manchester City look ready to go the distance again in the English Premier League. Whether Mikel Arteta can finally get the better of Pep Guardiola is still unknown.

A 2-2 draw Sunday at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester showed Arsenal can go toe-to-toe with the four-time defending champion — but it also confirmed City's resilience after dominating English soccer for the past seven years.

"Still we have this passion, this fire inside ourselves," Guardiola said after John Stones rescued a point with an equalizer in the eighth minute of stoppage time.

Arsenal has been the runner-up to City

## MANCHESTER CITY 2, ARSENAL 2

### Stones's last-gasp equalizer denies 10-man visitors the win

each of the past two seasons. Arteta was Guardiola's former assistant at City and now stands as his biggest threat.

On Sunday, his team looked like snapping City's 47-game unbeaten home run, despite going down to 10 men for the entire second half after Leandro Trossard was sent off in first-half stoppage time. But Arsenal's resolve was finally broken by substitute Stones, who swept

in from close range in the final moments. "Obviously, it is already a miracle we played 56 minutes at the Etihad with 10 men," Arteta said. "It is unbelievable what we have done."

Erling Haaland netted his 100th goal in 105 appearances for the club when he put City ahead in the ninth minute.

Influential City midfielder Rodri left the field in the 20th after appearing to injure his right knee. His departure proved to be a turning point; Arsenal leveled two minutes later through Ricardo Calafiori's curling effort from distance.

Gabriel then headed the visitors in front from a corner in first-half stoppage time.

— Associated Press

## TELEVISION AND RADIO

NFL	
7:30 p.m.	<b>Jacksonville at Buffalo</b> » ESPN, WTEM (980 AM)
8:15 p.m.	<b>Washington at Cincinnati</b> » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2), WBIG (100.3 FM)
MLB	
6:30 p.m.	<b>Chicago Cubs at Philadelphia</b> » MLB Network
9:30 p.m.	<b>San Francisco at Arizona</b> » MLB Network
NHL PRESEASON	
9 p.m.	<b>Los Angeles at Utah</b> » NHL Network

SOCCER	
1 p.m.	<b>Turkish Super Lig: Trabzonspor at Gaziantep</b> » BeIn Sports
2:45 p.m.	<b>Italian Serie A: Como at Atalanta</b> » CBS Sports Network
10 p.m.	<b>NWSL: Portland at Angel City</b> » CBS Sports Network
TENNIS	
5:30 a.m.	<b>ATP: Hangzhou Open and Chengdu Open, semifinals</b> » Tennis Channel
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER	
9 p.m.	<b>Utah at BYU</b> » ESPN
WOMEN'S COLLEGE FIELD HOCKEY	
3 p.m.	<b>Michigan at Michigan State</b> » Big Ten Network

down the middle on the 18th that effectively sealed the win. He shot 68. **Matt Jones** birdied two of his last three holes following a double bogey. He had a 70, along with **Marc Leishman**.

Ripper finished at 11-under 277, three shots ahead of 4Aces and Iron Heads.

"To have those three other guys today trying to get the job done, something was telling me we were going to be all right," Smith said.

## TENNIS

### Alcaraz, Team Europe rally for Laver Cup title

**Carlos Alcaraz** overcame **Taylor Fritz**, 6-2, 7-5, as Team Europe rallied to beat Team World, 13-11, and win the Laver Cup in Berlin.

Alcaraz broke Fritz in the 11th game and then closed out victory on serve, sparking celebrations as the European team rejoiced

with captain **Björn Borg**. Team World was favored to win the Laver Cup for a third straight time after leading 8-4 on points heading into the last of the three days.

Europe began the comeback when Alcaraz and **Casper Ruud** won the doubles, 6-2, 7-6 (8-6), against American pair **Ben Shelton** and **Frances Tiafoe**. But Shelton then downed **Daniil Medvedev**, 6-7 (8-6), 7-5, 10-7, to move the World team into the pole position. Tiafoe could have sealed it, but he lost to **Alexander Zverev**, 6-7 (7-5), 7-5, 10-5, setting up the decider between Alcaraz and Fritz.

The Laver Cup is formatted like golf's Ryder Cup, with the first team to 13 points winning the contest. Each of the four matches Sunday was worth three points. ...

**Beatriz Haddad Maia** stormed back to beat top-seeded **Daria Kasatkina**, 1-6, 6-4, 6-1, in the Korea Open final in Seoul to

win her first WTA tour title of the season.

## AUTO RACING

### Victorious Norris cuts into Verstappen's lead

**Lando Norris** survived a couple of brushes with barriers as he won the Singapore Grand Prix with ease and cut into **Max Verstappen's** Formula One standings lead.

Norris started on the pole position ahead of Verstappen and steadily built a large lead for his third career win. All have come this year.

The title, however, is no longer entirely in Norris's hands. Even if he wins every remaining race, second place in each would be enough for Verstappen to retain the crown.

Norris started on the pole position for the sixth time in his career and, for a driver with a tendency to lose places off the

grid this season, had an unusually drama-free start. It was the first time Norris has won from the pole without losing a place on the first lap.

There were two brief moments of jeopardy when the McLaren driver first locked his brakes and touched the barriers, prompting concern he would damage the front wing, and later when a rear tire brushed another. But Norris seemed largely unaffected as he cruised to the win.

"It was an amazing race. A few too many close calls," Norris said. "It's not that you're necessarily over-pushing. Sometimes it can be that you're just chilling too much. Maybe it's a bit of both. I don't know what it is, but it's tricky."

## SOCCER

### Barca rolls but loses ter Stegen to injury

Barcelona extended its perfect

start to the Spanish league season but lost goalkeeper **Marc-André ter Stegen** to a serious knee injury.

Barcelona routed host Villarreal, 5-1, to pick up its sixth straight victory but saw ter Stegen leave the match on a stretcher just before halftime after his right knee buckled when he went for a ball crossed into the area.

It was the latest injury for Barcelona, which is already without **Dani Olmo**, **Frenkie de Jong**, **Gavi** and **Ronald Araujo**, among others.

**Robert Lewandowski** scored a pair of first-half goals and **Raphinha** added two after the interval, with **Pablo Torre** also scoring for the Catalan club in the second half. ...

**Victor Boniface's** stoppage-time goal lifted Bayer Leverkusen to a 4-3 comeback win over visiting Wolfsburg in the Bundesliga as the German champion produced another of its trademark late breakthroughs. ...

U.S. star **Christian Pulisic** opened the scoring in the 10th minute and **Matteo Gabbia** netted with one minute remaining as AC Milan won, 2-1, against Inter Milan in Serie A for its first derby victory since 2022. ...

American striker **Folarin Balogun** was among the scorers as Monaco followed up its Champions League win against Barcelona with a 3-1 victory over visiting Le Havre in the French league. ...

Brighton Manager **Fabian Hürzeler** and Nottingham Forest Manager **Nuno Espírito Santo** were ejected in a bad-tempered end to a 2-2 draw in the English Premier League. ...

**Owen Beck**, a defender for second-tier English club Blackburn, was apparently bitten in his team's derby with Preston, Manager **John Eustace** said.

Beck clashed with Preston's **Milutin Osmajic**, with replays appearing to show Osmajic's face in contact around the back of Beck's neck. ...

**Yazmeen Ryan** scored in the third minute to help defending NWSL champion Gotham FC defeat the Utah Royals, 1-0, in Harrison, N.J., and clinch a playoff spot.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

### Mississippi State QB sidelined for season

Mississippi State quarterback **Blake Shapen** will miss the rest of the season after suffering a shoulder injury that will require surgery.

The school announced Shapen's injury hours after the Bulldogs fell, 45-28, at home to Florida in their SEC opener. The Baylor transfer was injured in the fourth quarter and left the game after completing 13 of 21 passes for 140 yards and a touchdown; he also rushed 12 times for 32 yards and a score. ...

Tennessee moved up to No. 5 in the Associated Press poll as the Volunteers continued to surge up the rankings, and No. 25 Boise State returned to the AP top 25 for the first time in four years.

Texas was No. 1 for the second straight week, receiving 44 of 62 first-place votes as the top four teams remained the same. Georgia held at No. 2, receiving 13 first-place votes, and Ohio State was ranked No. 3 with five first-place votes. Alabama is No. 4.

## MISC.

### Swimmers suspended amid racism claims

At least two students at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania were suspended from the swim team after a report that a racial slur was scratched onto a student's body, officials said.

The school received "a deeply concerning report of a racial slur being scratched onto a student using a plastic or ceramic tool," officials at the 2,200-student private liberal arts school said in a statement last week.

"This is a serious report, which is being actively assessed through the student conduct process," the college said. "At this point, the students involved are not participating in swim team activities." The school declined to release further details, citing that process and privacy laws. ...

Olympic champions **Remco Evenepoel** and **Grace Brown** won the men's and women's time trials at the cycling world championships in Switzerland.

While 32-year-old Australian Brown won it for the first time after finishing runner-up in the past two years, Evenepoel successfully defended his title.

— From news services

# NFL WEEK 3

## Minnesota rolls to a surprise 3-0 start Barkley leads Philadelphia's rebound

VIKINGS 34,  
TEXANS 7

BY DAVE CAMPBELL

MINNEAPOLIS — With the Minnesota Vikings savoring the unfamiliar vibe of being in full control in the fourth quarter, Justin Jefferson climbed on the bench, repeatedly waving his arms to encourage the home crowd to roar even louder for a defense that had the Houston Texans on their heels all afternoon.

The ovations were well deserved.

Sam Darnold matched his career high with four touchdown passes, and undefeated Minnesota intercepted C.J. Stroud twice and sacked him four times in a 34-7 rout of Houston on Sunday.

"That's something I could get used to, for sure," Jefferson said. "We just dominated all around. Defense is definitely the number one reason."

Jonathan Greenard had three sacks of his former teammate Stroud, the 2023 Associated Press NFL offensive rookie of the year, as the Vikings (3-0) rattled the Texans (2-1) with their aggressive and unpredictable scheme — and some help from the fans at U.S.



BRUCE KLUCKHOHN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We just dominated all around," said Justin Jefferson, right, who caught one of four touchdown passes by quarterback Sam Darnold.

Bank Stadium.

"I couldn't hear myself talk out there, so imagine for the offense having to check their protections and do certain things like that up front," said Cam Bynum, who picked off Stroud in the fourth quarter.

Darnold connected with Jefferson and Aaron Jones for scores in the first quarter. In the second half, he delivered a touchdown pass to Jalen Nailor for the third

straight game and got Johnny Mundt one, too.

Jones ran the ball 19 times for 102 yards and caught five passes for 46 yards for Minnesota, which was a trendy pick for last place in the NFC North but has beaten back-to-back contenders San Francisco and Houston to start its home slate. This was Minnesota's largest winning margin in five years.

— Associated Press

EAGLES 15,  
SAINTS 12

BY BRETT MARTEL

NEW ORLEANS — Saquon Barkley and the Philadelphia Eagles emerged from a flood of 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 ran for fourth-quarter touchdowns of 65 and four yards, and Philadelphia rebounded from a maddening late-game collapse six days earlier to beat the previously surging New Orleans 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 the Atlanta Falcons last Monday. "You have to overcome those things. I'm so proud of those guys that they did."

Barkley's second 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. The tight end finished with a career-high 170 yards on 10 receptions.

The 147 yards rushing and clutch



GUS STARK/GETTY IMAGES

The Eagles' Saquon Barkley finished with 147 yards rushing Sunday, including a 65-yard romp for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

scores brought Barkley no small measure of redemption after he dropped what could have been a game-sealing catch vs. Atlanta.

"When things like that happen, everyone thinks the world's ending, but it really doesn't matter what the outside world thinks," he said.

Safety Reed Blankenship sealed the victory by picking off Derek Carr's pass over the middle, capping a banner performance by

Philadelphia vs. a New Orleans offense that had scored an NFL-high 91 points in its first two games under coordinator Klint Kubiak.

"You knew adversity would happen at some point," Carr said.

The Eagles (2-1) did not allow a touchdown until Carr found Chris Olave from 12 yards out with just over two minutes left. That gave the Saints (2-1) a 12-7 lead after a failed two-point try.

— Associated Press



MATT FREED/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justin Fields ran for one score and threw for one Sunday — just Pittsburgh's second and third touchdowns of the season. "He's doing an awesome job doing what we're asking him to do," Coach Mike Tomlin said.

## Behind Fields, Pittsburgh isn't pretty — but it is perfect

STEELERS 20,  
CHARGERS 10

Young QB moves to 3-0  
with Wilson sidelined

BY MARK MASKE

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers are off to a productive start to the season, even if they're doing it a bit differently from what they envisioned.

With Justin Fields continuing to thrive at quarterback in place of injured Russell Wilson, the Steelers beat the Los Angeles Chargers, 20-10, in their home opener Sunday afternoon at Acrisure Stadium. They improved to 3-0 for the first time in four years.

"Styles make fights," Steelers Coach Mike Tomlin said. "They were playing great defense. We were playing great defense. We had to challenge our defense to outperform theirs. I thought they did. ... Our offense had to

outrush theirs, and we did. And that's why the game unfolded the way that it did."

Fields ran for a five-yard touchdown in the first half and threw a 55-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Calvin Austin III in the fourth quarter. Kicker Chris Boswell provided two field goals. The rugged Pittsburgh defense took it from there as Chargers quarterback Justin Herbert, playing with an ankle injury, failed to finish the game.

"I think the offense did a great job responding," Fields said. "We knew what kind of game it was going to be."

This is not how Tomlin and the Steelers scripted things when the team overhauled its quarterback situation after reaching the playoffs last season with Kenny Pickett, Mitch Trubisky and Mason Rudolph making starts. The Steelers signed the 35-year-old Wilson as a low-budget free agent after the nine-time Pro Bowl pick and Super Bowl winner for the Seattle Seahawks had been released by the Denver Broncos. They

traded for the 25-year-old Fields as the Chicago Bears cleared the way to use the No. 1 selection in April's draft on quarterback Caleb Williams.

Tomlin signaled all along that he preferred to go with Wilson as the starter. He said in the offseason that Wilson was in the pole position, and he continued to list Wilson atop the depth chart even after the quarterback suffered a calf injury at the outset of training camp. He named Wilson the starter to open the regular season.

But Wilson's injury allowed Fields to work with the starting offense during training camp. When Wilson aggravated the injury before the season, Fields became the starter for the opener in Atlanta.

The Steelers have been winning since, though the offense has not exactly thrived. The Steelers managed just one touchdown over their first two games. But Fields avoided mistakes, and the Steelers relied on Boswell and their defense. They entered Sunday's game ranked

fifth in the NFL in total defense.

It's probably not enough for the Bears to second-guess their decision to part with Fields. But Fields could be on his way to changing the narrative about his NFL career after he provided glimpses of stardom during three seasons in Chicago but never consistency.

"I'm not really worried about that," said Fields, who threw an interception Sunday but completed 25 of 32 passes for 245 yards. "I'm more so into proving myself right. I know what kind of player I am."

There is little reason for Tomlin to contemplate a move back to Wilson. The Steelers can see whether this combination keeps them as the pacesetter in the AFC North and allows them to craft a run deep into the playoffs.

"He's doing an awesome job doing what we're asking him to do, playing and playing to win," Tomlin said. "And so that's appreciated."

The Chargers, in their third game with Jim Harbaugh as

their coach, failed to secure their first 3-0 start to a season since 2002. Herbert played but was replaced by Taylor Heinicke in the third quarter.

Herbert was in the starting lineup after he tested his high ankle sprain during pregame warmups. The Chargers had listed him as questionable on their injury report after he sat out practices Wednesday and Friday and participated on a limited basis Thursday. Herbert left the field after taking a third-quarter hit Sunday. He had a long stay in the medical tent on the Chargers' sideline, then emerged and remained on the bench while Heinicke led the offense.

The Chargers had been winning in Harbaugh's return to the NFL without asking too much of their franchise quarterback. They began the day second in the league in rushing offense and second in total defense, but they couldn't keep it going Sunday. Left tackle Rashawn Slater and rookie right tackle Joe Alt suffered injuries, and standout pass rusher Joey Bosa exited

with a hip injury.

Herbert threw a first-quarter touchdown pass to wide receiver Quentin Johnston. But the Chargers finished with just 168 yards, including minus-five in the second half.

"This week was two trains on the track — I mean, two top defenses coming in," Steelers pass rusher T.J. Watt said. "We know they love to run the ball. We love stopping the run. It seemed like we outperformed today."

Watt had one of the Steelers' five sacks, and second-year linebacker Nick Herbert had two more.

Fields, with all that help, has won three straight games for the first time in his NFL career.

"I'm thankful to be 3-0," Tomlin said. "It's good to be in good contests like this, man — good-on-good, five-star matchups, if you will, to come out on the other side. There's growth in it. And we'd better learn the lessons and keep stepping because we've got challenges that await us."

NFL WEEK 3

# The Ravens avert a crisis. The Cowboys may be facing one.

RAVENS FROM D1

AFC championship game loss that kills sleep and stokes hope. If either hopeful side would come out of this game with bad noise, it seemed right off the bat to be the Cowboys, whose string of macabre home first halves continued almost right after the ritual shouting of "O!" by Ravens fans during the national anthem notched a striking level of loudness.

By the time Jackson had directed Baltimore to touchdown drives of 71 yards in five plays and 70 in seven for a 14-3 lead in the first quarter, several things had happened. The Ravens had produced both beauty and wide running lanes, plus Nelson Agholor's move on the right sideline that got him past a hapless defender and sent him on a 56-yard joyride to the 2-yard line to set up the second score.

Brandon Aubrey, the Cowboys' remarkable kicker grabbed from the secondhand store after his past as a soccer player, had sent the second-longest field goal in NFL history, 65 yards, whirring a safe distance over the crossbar. And as if to occlude that, the Cowboys' defense might have made witnesses wonder about the caliber of the Ravens' opposition given that, dating from a playoff dud in January, the past three visitors to AT&T Stadium had run 11 first-half drives and produced 10 touchdowns. By the latest half-time, the past three halftime scores on the fancy-schmancy scoreboards here had gone 27-7 to Green Bay, 35-16 to New Orleans and now 21-6 to Baltimore.

"The first two weeks," Linderbaum said of losses to Kansas City and Las Vegas, "I don't think were a good representation of what we're doing. And I think today, there's a lot of good things and a lot of things to clean up." Count 274 rushing yards among the good, and Harbaugh said, "I think we blocked really well, and I think Derrick ran really well, and I think Lamar caused a problem for them, too." Harbaugh looked to his right, where Jackson and Henry waited for



JULIO CORTEZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lamar Jackson accounted for two touchdowns for the Ravens, who surged to a 28-6 third-quarter lead and then held on for a 28-25 victory to avoid an 0-3 start to the season.

their trips to the lectern, and said, "This combination here sitting in this room is tough to defend."

By the time the Ravens had bracketed halftime with Jackson's 13-yard touchdown pass to Rashod Bateman, who seemed so alone that the crowd seemed to groan with the familiarity of an opposing receiver so alone, and Henry's 26-yard shaking of the ground to the end zone, the score stood 28-6, the game drifted into snoozy, and many of the

original 93,566 fled if they hadn't already. Those fans had gotten things backward by failing to realize that, of late here, they're better served to tailgate through the first half and come in for the score-dressing of the second. Pretty soon after that score-dressing got going, it was easy to picture them out on the crowded freeways and toll roads, grimacing over missing their team's sudden trip to competence.

Dak Prescott led hasty touch-

down drives of 64, 56 and 91 yards to score with 8:53, 7:07 and 2:53 left, giving him the capacity to say later, "Just the way we finished on offense is vital to us to be able to build on." And somewhere in the sudden bursts of Dallas prowess, Baltimore wide receiver Zay Flowers had both dropped and caught outside kicks, and the great Justin Tucker had missed a 46-yard field goal wide left to deepen his recent woes and remind how the art of kicking is

merciless. With 2:53 left and the score 28-25, the remaining Cowboys-minded sorts waved towels and made as much noise as the visitors had been making, and Jackson and friends had to do something. They started at their 21-yard line, got a scary third and six solved with a zinging Jackson throw and a swell Flowers catch near the right sideline, and got to the two-minute warning facing second and nine from the 35.

Around came Flowers, and

when Jackson looked to pitch to him, the Cowboys flinched that way. When Jackson looked ahead, he could say later: "It was [a run-pass option]. Zay did what he was supposed to do. He carried out the fake well to keep the defense on him, and I just had to make a good read."

He read it, darted into it, got 10 yards upfield, heard the noise from Ravens fans and began taking final knees, with 0-3 averted and not-losing accomplished.

### STANDINGS

NFC											
EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	AFC	NFC	DIV
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	70	63	1-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	2-1-0	0-0-0
Washington	1	1	0	.500	41	55	1-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	1-0-0
Dallas	1	2	0	.333	77	89	0-2-0	1-0-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0	.333	45	64	0-1-0	1-1-0	1-0-0	0-2-0	0-1-0
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	AFC	NFC	DIV
New Orleans	2	1	0	.667	103	44	1-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	2-1-0	1-0-0
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	64	62	1-1-0	1-0-0	0-1-0	2-0-0	0-0-0
Atlanta	1	2	0	.333	49	61	0-2-0	1-0-0	0-2-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Carolina	1	2	0	.333	49	95	0-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0
NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	AFC	NFC	DIV
Minnesota	3	0	0	1.000	85	30	2-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0
Detroit	2	1	0	.667	62	53	1-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	2-1-0	0-0-0
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	75	58	1-0-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Chicago	1	2	0	.333	53	57	1-0-0	0-2-0	1-2-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	AFC	NFC	DIV
Seattle	3	0	0	1.000	73	43	2-0-0	1-0-0	3-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Arizona	1	2	0	.333	82	64	1-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	1-0-0
L.A. Rams	1	2	0	.333	57	91	1-0-0	0-2-0	0-0-0	1-2-0	1-1-0
San Francisco	1	2	0	.333	73	69	1-0-0	0-2-0	1-0-0	0-2-0	0-1-0
AFC											
EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	AFC	NFC	DIV
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	65	38	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
N.Y. Jets	2	1	0	.667	67	52	1-0-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	0-1-0	1-0-0
Miami	1	2	0	.333	33	72	1-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0
New England	1	2	0	.333	39	57	0-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	AFC	NFC	DIV
Houston	2	1	0	.667	55	74	1-0-0	1-1-0	1-0-0	1-1-0	1-0-0
Indianapolis	1	2	0	.333	58	61	1-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-1-0
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	30	38	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-2-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Tennessee	0	3	0	.000	48	78	0-2-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-2-0	0-0-0
NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	AFC	NFC	DIV
Pittsburgh	3	0	0	1.000	51	26	1-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Baltimore	1	2	0	.333	71	78	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Cleveland	1	2	0	.333	50	67	0-2-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	0-2-0	0-0-0
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	35	42	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-2-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	AFC	NFC	DIV
Kansas City	3	0	0	1.000	75	62	2-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
L.A. Chargers	2	1	0	.667	58	33	1-0-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Denver	1	2	0	.333	52	46	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0
Las Vegas	1	2	0	.333	58	81	0-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0

**Thursday's result**  
at N.Y. Jets 24, New England 3

**Sunday's results**

Baltimore 28, at Dallas 25  
Denver 26, at Tampa Bay 7  
Green Bay 30, at Tennessee 14  
at Indianapolis 21, Chicago 16  
at Minnesota 34, Houston 7  
N.Y. Giants 21, at Cleveland 15  
Philadelphia 15, at New Orleans 12  
at Pittsburgh 20, L.A. Chargers 10  
Carolina 36, at Las Vegas 22  
at Seattle 24, Miami 3  
Detroit 20, at Arizona 13  
at L.A. Rams 27, San Francisco 24  
Kansas City 22, at Atlanta 17

**Monday's games**  
Washington at Cincinnati, 8:15 p.m.  
Jacksonville at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday's game**  
Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 8:15 p.m.

**Sunday's games**

Washington at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.  
Buffalo at Baltimore, 8:20 p.m.  
Cincinnati at Carolina, 1 p.m.  
Denver at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.  
Jacksonville at Houston, 1 p.m.  
L.A. Rams at Chicago, 1 p.m.  
Minnesota at Green Bay, 1 p.m.  
New Orleans at Atlanta, 1 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.  
New England at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.  
Cleveland at Las Vegas, 4:25 p.m.  
Kansas City at L.A. Chargers, 4:25 p.m.

**Next Monday's games**  
Tennessee at Miami, 7:30 p.m.  
Seattle at Detroit, 8:15 p.m.

# Late stand keeps Kansas City perfect

CHIEFS 22, FALCONS 17

BY PAUL NEWBERRY

ATLANTA — Patrick Mahomes threw a pair of touchdown passes and the Kansas City defense made a couple of late stands to keep the Chiefs unbeaten with a 22-17 victory over the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday night.

The two-time reigning Super Bowl champions have been far from flawless — Mahomes threw another interception — but they won their first three games by a combined 13 points.

Thank the defense for this one. Coming off an upset victory at the Philadelphia Eagles, Atlanta (1-2) had a couple of shots at the go-ahead touchdown in the closing minutes.

Kirk Cousins threw a pair of incompletions in the end zone from the Kansas City 6 to end one chance, and the final drive ended with Bijan Robinson being thrown for a three-yard loss on fourth and one at the Kansas City 13 with less than a minute remaining.

Mahomes threw for 217 yards, including scoring throws to Rashee Rice and JuJu Smith-Schuster, and Harrison Butker booted three field goals for the Chiefs.

Cousins was 20-for-29 passing for 230 yards with a 13-yard touchdown pass to Drake London and a 50-yard completion to Kyle Pitts that set up Robinson's one-yard scoring run.

— Associated Press



TODD KIRKLAND/GETTY IMAGES

Patrick Mahomes, left, connected with JuJu Smith-Schuster, right, on one of his two scoring passes.

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# NFL WEEK 3

## ROUNDUP



KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

**Kyren Williams scored a game-tying touchdown with 1:50 left as the Rams erased a 14-point deficit.**

## Karty caps a late rally as Rams shock 49ers

The winless Los Angeles Rams were fresh off a 31-point loss and missing their top two wide receivers when they took the field in Inglewood, Calif., on Sunday against a rival that has dominated them for a half-decade.

They then fell behind the San Francisco 49ers by 14 points in the second half, and they still trailed by double digits midway through the fourth quarter.

Matthew Stafford has seen plenty of crazy stuff in his 16 years in pro football, but this thrilling 27-24 comeback win ranks way up there.

"I'm not into improbable, probable," Stafford said. "NFL is an improbable business, I'll tell you that much. You never know what's going to happen week in and week out."

Kyren Williams ran four yards to score his third touchdown of the day with 1:51 remaining, and Joshua Karty hit a 37-yard field goal with two seconds left to complete the dramatic rally by Los Angeles, which outscored San Francisco 20-3 in the final 19 minutes.

The Rams (1-2) matched their franchise's biggest second-half comeback victory since 2006 while earning their second straight win over the 49ers (1-2) after losing nine of the previous 10 meetings.

Williams caught a touchdown pass and rushed for two scores for Los Angeles, which avoided its first 0-3 start under Coach Sean McVay in remarkable fashion. Stafford threw for 221 yards, and Tutu Atwell had four catches for 93 yards.

Jauan Jennings set career highs with 11 catches, 175 yards and three touchdowns for San Francisco, which blew a lead of 14-plus points for the first time since 2018.

"Plenty of opportunities," defensive end Nick Bosa said. "I can only speak for myself, and it wasn't good enough."

## Lions hold on after Goff hits his first 14 passes

Jared Goff threw two touchdown passes, David Montgomery ran for 106 yards and a score, and the Detroit Lions held on late to beat the Arizona Cardinals, 20-13, in Glendale, Ariz.

Detroit (2-1) continued its recent dominance in the series, improving to 5-0-1 against Arizona (1-2) since 2017. The Lions' defense kept Kyler Murray and the Cardinals out of the end zone in the second half, giving up just one field goal.

Goff completed his first 14 passes before an incompleteness in the third quarter. It was his longest streak without an incompleteness to start a game in his nine-year career, and he finished 18 for 23 for 196 yards.

Matt Prater kicked a 45-yard field goal to cut Detroit's lead to 20-13 with 3:52 left, but the Lions were able to run out the clock on the ensuing drive.

## Packers get the win, and Willis gets revenge

A change of scenery and an injury gave Malik Willis a huge opportunity to show what he can do in the NFL.

Willis ran for a touchdown and threw for a score in his best

performance as a pro, leading the Green Bay Packers to a 30-14 rout of the Tennessee Titans in Nashville.

The third-year quarterback not only won his second straight start subbing for Jordan Love, he got a sweet measure of revenge against the team that traded him in August. Willis accounted for 134 of Green Bay's 137 yards in the first quarter. He finished with 202 yards passing and 73 rushing.

Cornerback Jaire Alexander made his first career pick-six late in the first quarter, helping the Packers (2-1) jump out to a 17-7 lead after 15 minutes. They led 0-3 Tennessee 20-7 at halftime and ultimately scored 20 straight points for a 27-7 advantage midway through the third, prompting a loud chant of "Go, Pack, Go!"

## Dolphins fall on road after another QB injury

Geno Smith threw for 289 yards and a 71-yard touchdown to DK Metcalf, Zach Charbonnet rushed for two scores, and the Seattle Seahawks cruised to a 24-3 home win as the Miami Dolphins lost another quarterback.

A week after Tua Tagovailoa suffered his third diagnosed concussion in the past two years, Miami watched Skylar Thompson suffer a chest injury in the second half, leaving Tim Boyle to try to lead the charge back from a 17-3 deficit.

Boyle was unable to rally the Dolphins (1-2), who were back in a place of uncertainty about their quarterback situation.

Smith was 26-for-34 passing, including the long toss to Metcalf. Seattle (3-0) is off to its best start since 2020.

## Nix improves, Broncos bully Mayfield's Bucs

Bo Nix's first NFL touchdown pass is still to come. For now, he and the Denver Broncos will settle for celebrating the rookie quarterback's first pro win.

The 12th overall pick in this year's draft shrugged off a pair of losses to begin his career, running for an early touchdown and avoiding costly mistakes to lead Denver to a 26-7 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Tampa.

Wil Lutz kicked field goals of 43, 38, 33 and 43 yards for the Broncos (1-2), who were facing the prospect of starting 0-3 for the second straight season under Coach Sean Payton.

The defense did its part, sacking Baker Mayfield seven times and intercepting him to set up a second-quarter touchdown. The unit also turned away Tampa Bay (2-1) in Denver territory twice in the fourth quarter, stopping one drive on downs and forcing a fumble on the other.

## With help from Nabers, Giants earn first victory

There's one play that works better than all the others for the New York Giants: Throw the ball anywhere in the vicinity of Malik Nabers.

The rookie wide receiver caught two touchdown passes from Daniel Jones, made a sensational grab over a defender down the sideline and even broke up a potential interception as New York held off the host Cleveland Browns, 21-15, for its first win.

Jones and Nabers connected twice in the first half as the Giants (1-2) built a 21-7 lead before holding on for dear life.

Despite losing three offensive linemen to injuries, Deshaun Watson rallied Cleveland (1-2), which had three chances to take the lead in the fourth quarter. But New York recovered a fumble and came up with two stops on fourth down.

## Running game, defense carry Colts past Bears

Jonathan Taylor used sheer strength and a nimble cut to give the Indianapolis Colts the jumpstart they needed. Quarterback Anthony Richardson provided a perfectly timed push, too.

Taylor scored twice and topped the 100-yard mark for the second straight week, and Richardson helped Trey Sermon get across the goal line as Indianapolis held on for a 21-16 victory over the visiting Chicago Bears.

The 2021 NFL rushing champ finished with 23 carries for 110 yards, giving the Colts (1-2) a 7-0 lead on his nifty 29-yard scoring run against a usually stingy defense before sealing it with a one-yard run with 5:21 left.

On a day Richardson again struggled passing, Indianapolis' much-maligned defense managed to limit Chicago (1-2) to just 63 yards rushing, forced three turnovers, sacked rookie Caleb Williams four times and made a crucial goal-line stand.

## Dalton turns around the Panthers' fortunes

Andy Dalton gave the Carolina Panthers the quarterback play they have been sorely lacking, throwing for 319 yards and three touchdowns to key a 36-22 win at the Las Vegas Raiders.

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 (1-2).

Dalton was sharp throughout, completing 26 of 37 passes and becoming the first quarterback this season to post a 300-yard, three-touchdown performance.

## Former Miami great Morris dies at 77

Eugene "Mercury" Morris, a three-time Pro Bowl selection who starred for the unbeaten 1972 Dolphins as part of a star-studded backfield and helped Miami win two Super Bowls, died, the team said. He was 77.

In a statement, Morris's family said his "talent and passion left an indelible mark on the sport."

Morris was the starting halfback and one of three go-to rushers that Coach Don Shula used in the back-to-back title seasons of 1972 and 1973, alongside Hall of Famer Larry Csonka and Jim Kiick. Morris led the Dolphins in rushing touchdowns in both seasons, finishing with an NFL-best 12 in 1972 and then 10 more in 1973. ... Browns defensive end Myles Garrett will undergo an MRI exam on his foot Monday after an injury that bothered him for long stretches against the Giants. ...

Already missing A.J. Brown, the Philadelphia Eagles lost fellow wideout Devonta Smith early in the fourth quarter of their win over the New Orleans Saints.

— From news services

## SCOREBOARD

### Ravens 28, Cowboys 25

BALTIMORE	14	7	7	0	-28
DALLAS	3	3	0	19	-25

**FIRST QUARTER**  
Baltimore: L.Jackson 9 run (Tucker kick), 9:35.  
Dallas: FG Aubrey 65, 6:33.  
Baltimore: Henry 1 run (Tucker kick), 2:50.

**SECOND QUARTER**  
Baltimore: Bateman 13 pass from L.Jackson (Tucker kick), 2:25.  
Dallas: FG Aubrey 51, :02.

**THIRD QUARTER**  
Baltimore: Henry 26 run (Tucker kick), 11:58.

**FOURTH QUARTER**  
Dallas: Prescott 1 run (pass failed), 8:54.  
Dallas: Tolbert 15 pass from Prescott (pass failed), 7:07.  
Dallas: Turpin 16 pass from Prescott (Aubrey kick), 2:53.  
Attendance: 93,566.

	BAL	DAL
First Downs	24	26
Total Net Yards	456	412
Rushes-Yards	45-274	16-51
Passing	182	361
Punt Returns	2-29	0-0
Kickoff Returns	2-51	2-98
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	12-15-0	28-51-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	3-18
Punts	4-42-25	4-52-25
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	13-105	6-44
Time Of Possession	34:45	25:15

**PASSING**  
Baltimore: L.Jackson 12-15-0-182.  
Dallas: Prescott 28-51-0-379.

**RUSHING**  
Baltimore: Henry 25-151, L.Jackson 14-87, Hill 5-33, Flowers 1-3.  
Dallas: Dowdle 8-32, Prescott 2-7, Elliott 3-6, Vaughn 2-5, Turpin 1-1.

**RECEIVING**  
Baltimore: Bateman 3-28, Flowers 3-20, Hill 2-21, Ag-holar 1-56, Kolar 1-30, Henry 1-23, Likely 1-4.  
Dallas: Ferguson 6-95, Lamb 4-67, Turpin 3-51, Tolbert 3-42, Dowdle 3-28, Luepke 2-41, Cooks 2-16, Brooks 1-24, Vaughn 1-8, Elliott 1-6, Schoonmaker 1-5, T.Smith 1-0.

**MISSED FIELD GOALS**  
Baltimore: Tucker 46.

### Giants 21, Browns 15

N.Y. GIANTS	7	14	0	0	-21
CLEVELAND	7	0	0	8	-15

**FIRST QUARTER**  
Cleveland: Cooper 24 pass from Watson (Hopkins kick), 3:42.  
N.Y. Giants: Singletary 1 run (Joseph kick), 2:07.

**SECOND QUARTER**  
N.Y. Giants: Nabers 3 pass from Dan.Jones (Joseph kick), 1:44.  
N.Y. Giants: Nabers 5 pass from Dan.Jones (Joseph kick), 1:11.

**FOURTH QUARTER**  
Cleveland: Cooper 6 pass from Watson (Jeudy pass from Watson), 11:33.  
Attendance: 68,016.

	NYG	CLE
First Downs	21	16
Total Net Yards	340	217
Rushes-Yards	32-112	18-69
Passing	228	148
Punt Returns	2-19	5-38
Kickoff Returns	2-52	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	24-35-0	21-37-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-8	8-48
Punts	7-51-571	6-51-0
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	2-2
Penalties-Yards	9-68	5-48
Time Of Possession	33:56	26:04

**PASSING**  
N.Y. Giants: Jones 24-34-0-236, Nabers 0-1-0-0.  
Cleveland: Watson 21-37-0-196.

**RUSHING**  
N.Y. Giants: Singletary 16-65, Tracy 5-23, Jones 8-20, Wilson 2-4, Gray 1-0.  
Cleveland: J.Ford 10-37, Watson 4-26, Foreman 2-5, Winston 2-1.

**RECEIVING**  
N.Y. 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, Alkins 4-29, Jeudy 4-27, J.Ford 3-33, Moore 2-17, Tillman 1-4.

**MISSED FIELD GOALS**  
N.Y. Giants: Joseph 48.  
Cleveland: Hopkins 53.

### Packers 30, Titans 14

GREEN BAY	17	3	7	3	-30
TENNESSEE	7	0	7	0	-14

**FIRST QUARTER**  
Green Bay: Willis 5 run (Narveson kick), 12:25.  
Tennessee: Vannett 1 pass from Lewis (Folk kick), 7:15.  
Green Bay: FG Narveson 21, 1:05.  
Green Bay: Alexander 35 interception return (Narveson kick), :51.

**SECOND QUARTER**  
Green Bay: FG Narveson 26, :00.

**THIRD QUARTER**  
Green Bay: Em.Wilson 30 pass from Willis (Narveson kick), 8:25.  
Tennessee: Hopkins 11 pass from Lewis (Folk kick), 4:55.

**FOURTH QUARTER**  
Green Bay: FG Narveson 47, 3:29.  
Attendance: 67,322.

	GB	TEN
First Downs	16	18
Total Net Yards	378	237
Rushes-Yards	37-188	11-33
Passing	190	204
Punt Returns	2-15	2-24
Kickoff Returns	0-0	3-84
Interceptions Ret.	2-35	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	13-19-0	26-34-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-8	8-56
Punts	5-48-8	4-46-75
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	10-75	2-15
Time Of Possession	32:28	27:32

**PASSING**  
Green Bay: Willis 13-19-0-202.  
Tennessee: Lewis 26-34-2-260.

**RUSHING**  
Green Bay: Willis 6-73, Em.Wilson 12-50, Jacobs 14-43, Reed 2-19, C.Brooks 3-3.  
Tennessee: Pollard 6-14, Lewis 3-12, Spears 2-7.

**RECEIVING**  
Green Bay: Reed 4-50, Watson 2-67, Em.Wilson 2-35, Kraft 2-24, Doubs 1-18, Jacobs 1-5, Musgrave 1-3.  
Tennessee: Hopkins 6-73, Spears 4-54, Whyte 4-43, Boyd 3-23, Pollard 3-15, Okonkwo 2-15, Vannett 2-9, Ridley 1-9.

**MISSED FIELD GOALS**  
Green Bay: Narveson 48.

### Colts 21, Bears 16

CHICAGO	0	0	3	13	-16
INDIANAPOLIS	0	7	7	7	-21

**SECOND QUARTER**  
Indianapolis: J.Taylor 29 run (Gay kick), 8:19.

**THIRD QUARTER**  
Chicago: FG Santos 53, 12:51.  
Indianapolis: Sermon 1 run (Gay kick), :21.

**FOURTH QUARTER**  
Chicago: Oduze 1 pass from Ca.Williams (pass failed), 8:21.  
Indianapolis: J.Taylor 1 run (Gay kick), 5:22.  
Chicago: Kmet 6 pass from Ca.Williams (Santos kick), 2:01.  
Attendance: 66,624.

	CHI	IND
First Downs	26	15
Total Net Yards	395	306
Rushes-Yards	28-63	33-150
Passing	332	156
Punt Returns	2-4	1-19
Kickoff Returns	1-26	1-30
Interceptions Ret.	2-2	2-5
Comp-Att-Int	33-52-2	10-20-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-31	1-11
Punts	3-42-333	5-49-0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-25	9-78
Time Of Possession	35:01	24:59

**PASSING**  
Chicago: Ca.Williams 33-52-2-363.  
Indianapolis: Richardson 10-20-2-167.

**RUSHING**  
Chicago: R.Johnson 8-30, Swift 13-20, Herbert 4-9, Ca.Williams 1-8, Oduze 1-2, D.Moore 1-(minus 6).  
Indianapolis: Taylor 29-110, Richardson 8-24, Sermon 2-16.

**RECEIVING**  
Chicago: Kmet 10-97, D.Moore 8-78, Oduze 6-112, R.Johnson 4-32, Carter 3-22, Swift 2-22.  
Indianapolis: Pittman 4-36, Downs 3-22, Dennis 1-44, Garrison 1-40, Taylor 1-25.

**MISSED FIELD GOALS**  
Chicago: Santos 56.

### Vikings 34, Texans 7

HOUSTON	0	0	7	0	-7
MINNESOTA	14	0	7	13	-34

**FIRST QUARTER**  
Minnesota: Jefferson 6 pass from Darnold (Reichard kick), 12:11.  
Minnesota: A.Jones 8 pass from Darnold (Reichard kick), 1:12.

**THIRD QUARTER**  
Minnesota: Nailor 4 pass from Darnold (Reichard kick), 10:26.  
Houston: Akers 8 pass from Stroud (Fairbairn kick), 4:00.

**FOURTH QUARTER**  
Minnesota: FG Reichard 35, 14:53.  
Minnesota: Mundt 2 pass from Darnold (Reichard kick), 10:16.  
Minnesota: FG Reichard 58, 4:43.  
Attendance: 66,843.

	HOU	MIN
First Downs	17	19
Total Net Yards	296	274
Rushes-Yards	14-38	28-118
Passing	256	156
Punt Returns	3-5	1-10
Kickoff Returns	1-27	1-19
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-8
Comp-Att-Int	28-44-2	17-28-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	5-49	4-25
Punts	4-44-25	4-48-25
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	11-88	5-30
Time Of Possession	30:42	29:18

**PASSING**  
Houston: Stroud 20-31-2-215, Mills 7-12-0-79, Diggs 1-10-13.  
Minnesota: Darnold 17-28-0-181.

**RUSHING**  
Houston: Akers 9-21, Stroud 3-12, Taylor 1-3, Brooks 1-2.  
Minnesota: A.Jones 19-102, Chandler 7-13, Nailor 1-3, Mullins 1-3.

**RECEIVING**  
Houston: Diggs 10-94, Dell 5-62, Collins 4-86, Ogunbowale 2-28, Woods 2-18, Schultz 2-11, Taylor 2-0, Akers 1-8.  
Minnesota: Jefferson 6-81, A.Jones 5-46, Nailor 3-31, Powell 1-13, Sherfield 1-8, Mundt 1-2.

**MISSED FIELD GOALS**  
Houston: Fairbairn 54.

### Eagles 15, Saints 12

PHILADELPHIA	0	0	0	15	-15
NEW ORLEANS	3	0	0	9	-12

**FIRST QUARTER**  
New Orleans: FG Grupe 34, 6:51.

**FOURTH QUARTER**  
Philadelphia: Barkley 65 run (Elliott kick), 13:17.  
New Orleans: FG Grupe 38, 9:49.  
New Orleans: Olave 13 pass from Carr (pass failed), 2:05.  
Philadelphia: Barkley 4 run (Barkley run), 1:01.

	PHI	NO
First Downs	20	12
Total Net Yards	460	219
Rushes-Yards	25-172	29-89

## NFL WEEK 3

## COMMANDERS' SCHEDULE

**Week 1**  
at Buccaneers 37, Commanders 20

**Week 2**  
at Commanders 21, Giants 18

**Week 3 at Cincinnati**  
Monday, 8:15 p.m. (ABC)

**Week 4 at Arizona**  
Sunday, 4:05 p.m. (Fox)

**Week 5 vs. Cleveland**  
Oct. 6, 1 p.m. (Fox)

**Week 6 at Baltimore**  
Oct. 13, 1 p.m. (CBS)

**Week 7 vs. Carolina**  
Oct. 20, 4:05 p.m. (CBS)

**Week 8 vs. Chicago**  
Oct. 27, 1 p.m. (CBS)

**Week 9 at N.Y. Giants**  
Nov. 3, 1 p.m. (Fox)

**Week 10 vs. Pittsburgh**  
Nov. 10, 1 p.m. (CBS)

**Week 11 at Philadelphia**  
Nov. 14 (Thursday), 8:15 p.m. (Prime Video)

**Week 12 vs. Dallas**  
Nov. 24, 1 p.m. (Fox)

**Week 13 vs. Tennessee**  
Dec. 1, 1 p.m. (CBS)

**Week 14**  
Bye

**Week 15 at New Orleans**  
Dec. 15, 1 p.m. (Fox)

**Week 16 vs. Philadelphia**  
Dec. 22, 1 p.m. (Fox)

**Week 17 vs. Atlanta**  
Dec. 28/29, TBD

**Week 18 at Dallas**  
Jan. 4/5 at Dallas, TBD

## On the air

Monday's game airs on ABC, with **Joe Buck**, **Troy Aikman** and **Lisa Salters** on the call. (Perhaps Commanders owner **Josh Harris** will visit the broadcast booth and get a do-over of his awkward handshake with Buck from the 2023 preseason.) This week is the first of five "Monday Night Football" doubleheaders. The Jaguars play the Bills in the other game, which kicks off at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN. **Bram Weinstein**, **London Fletcher** and **Logan Paulsen** will call the game on the Commanders Radio Network, including flagship station WBIG (100.3 FM).

## Betting lines

Cincinnati is favored by 7½ points. The over/under is 47½. Neil Greenberg's best bet is Cincinnati +7½.

## Forecast

The National Weather Service calls for chance of showers with a low around 65.

## Uniforms

The Commanders will wear white jerseys for the first time this season. Washington was 3-7 in white last year. The Bengals, who wore orange and white jerseys in their first two games, will break out their black tops. Cincinnati was 5-2 in black last season.

## Key matchup

**Washington CB Benjamin St-Juste vs. Cincinnati WR Ja'Marr Chase:** Chase has 10 catches for 97 yards in two games after he sat out the preseason while negotiating a long-term contract that never materialized. Giants rookie wide receiver **Malik Nabers** had 10 catches for 127 yards last week, so the situation is ripe for Chase to break out of his slump against the Commanders' generous secondary.

St-Juste struggled in coverage against Tampa Bay's No. 1 wide receiver, **Mike Evans**, in Week 1 but played better against the Giants, recording three passes defended and a forced fumble. St-Juste won't be solely responsible for trying to limit Chase's production Monday night, but he should have multiple opportunities to make plays in coverage as the Bengals look to get their top wide receiver more involved.

## Injury report

For Washington, defensive end **Clelin Ferrell** (knee) is out for Monday night and cornerback **Emmanuel Forbes Jr.** (thumb) was listed as questionable. Forbes and defensive tackle **Johnny Newton** (foot/rest) were limited in practice Saturday.

For Cincinnati, safety **Vonn Bell** (back) did not practice Saturday and was listed as questionable for Monday's game. Defensive tackle **B.J. Hill** (hamstring) did not practice and was listed as doubtful. Defensive tackle **Sheldon Rankins** (hamstring) did not practice Saturday and is out. Defensive tackle **Kris Jenkins** (thumb) was a full participant Saturday and was listed as questionable.

## About the Bengals

The Bengals are 0-2 for the third straight season and the fifth time in six years under

## Washington Commanders (1-1) at Cincinnati Bengals (0-2)

**Time:** 8:15 p.m. **TV:** ABC. **Radio:** WBIG (100.3 FM).

For in-game analysis and discussion, read our live updates at [postsports.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/nfl/).



JOHN MCDONNELL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## Accepting the challenge

Commanders cornerback Benjamin St-Juste gets the assignment of matching up with Bengals wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase.

Coach **Zac Taylor**. Cincinnati followed its 16-10 Week 1 loss to the Patriots at home with a more inspired performance at Kansas City but lost on a 51-yard field goal by **Harrison Butker** as time expired. Cincinnati quarterback **Joe Burrow**, who missed the final seven games of last season with a wrist injury, threw his first two touchdown passes of the year in Sunday's loss. In addition to Chase's slow start, Burrow has been without another key weapon in wide receiver **Tee Higgins**, who sat out the first two weeks with a hamstring injury.

Higgins was a full participant in Saturday's practice and earlier

last week told reporters, "I feel great."

After letting **Joe Mixon** walk in free agency, Cincinnati is relying on **Zack Moss** and **Chase Brown** to fill the void at running back. The duo has been mostly ineffective, combining for 120 rushing yards in two games.

Cincinnati's defense limited the Chiefs to 4.8 yards per play and one third-down conversion on eight attempts. Third-year cornerback **Cam Taylor-Britt**, who made a highlight reel-worthy one-handed interception of **Patrick Mahomes**, is an emerging star in the secondary, and defensive end **Trey Hendrickson** had two sacks

against the Chiefs. The Bengals have struggled against the run, which presents an opportunity for Washington to try to control the ball and keep Burrow off the field with a heavy dose of running back **Brian Robinson Jr.**

## Q&amp;A

**Charlie Goldsmith**, the Bengals reporter for the Cincinnati Enquirer, answered questions in advance of Monday's game:

**Q:** What's the panic level in Cincinnati? Despite the heartbreaking finish, were there encouraging signs in last week's

loss to the Chiefs?

**A:** The Bengals played championship-level football against Kansas City. Joe Burrow proved that his wrist is fine, and a secondary that struggled showed that it can limit Mahomes. Unlike in the previous two years, the Bengals enter Week 3 with real momentum, even despite an 0-2 record.

**Q:** Given the Bengals' early-season struggles against the run, how do you expect (coordinator) **Lou Anarumo's** defense to attack Washington?

**A:** Last week, the Bengals couldn't afford to sell out on stopping the run because of their fear of Patrick Mahomes. This

week, they will stack the box and use run blitzes that they didn't think would be worthwhile against Kansas City. The run defense is a real concern and a big weakness, and the Bengals will use every resource at their disposal.

**Q:** What's your bold prediction for Monday's game?

**A:** Ja'Marr Chase has 150 receiving yards. His season has been full of frustration. A prime-time matchup against a weak secondary plus the potential return of Tee Higgins creates a great chance for big plays from Chase.

## Trivia question

Washington is 5-5-1 all-time against the Bengals, including 1-3 in Cincinnati. The franchise's only win in the Queen City came in 1991, in the fourth game of its last Super Bowl season. Which player scored three touchdowns in the 34-27 victory to improve Washington to 4-0?

## Last meeting

Nov. 22, 2020: Washington 20, Cincinnati 9.

**Antonio Gibson** rushed for 94 yards and a touchdown as Washington earned its first win at home against Cincinnati since 1985. Burrow was carted off after tearing the ACL and medial collateral ligament in his left knee on a low hit early in the third quarter.

The scene occurred almost exactly two years after Washington quarterback **Alex Smith** was driven away in an ambulance after suffering a gruesome leg injury on the same half of the field.

## Game day grub

(Each week, we will recommend recipes related to the Commanders' opponent. Visit [postsports.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/nfl/) for the recipes.)

I have been a fan of Cincinnati chili since I first tried the regional favorite at Hard Times Cafe, and I have since had the pleasure of devouring Cincinnati-based chain Skyline Chili's more authentic version of the cinnamon-laced dish. The sweet and savory flavors don't seem like they should work together, but they do. A recipe from "The Joy of Cooking" is perfect for Monday night, whether you use it for Coney Island hot dogs or enjoy the chili three-, four- or five-way with hot sauce and oyster crackers. For dessert, consider the gooey goodness of a peanut butter and chocolate Buckeye bar.

Most Cincinnati breweries, including Rhinegeist and MadTree, don't distribute to the DMV, so grab the beer of your choice and make a Cincinnati cocktail instead. The Cincinnati cocktail, which dates from the 1880s, is half beer, half soda water. During Prohibition, the Associated Press reported the name was used for a new drink gaining favor in New York that consisted of "a wine glass full of sauerkraut juice with a bit of ice." Who's feeling adventurous?

## Trivia answer

On Sept. 22, 1991, running back **Gerald Riggs** scored the last of his three rushing touchdowns on a seven-yard run with 2:02 remaining to keep Washington undefeated. Riggs finished with 10 carries for 61 yards. Washington running back **Earnest Byner** added 75 yards on 18 attempts.

— Scott Allen

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The Washington Post



# JMU's 70-point absurdity stretched the imagination

**On Football**  
**CHUCK CULPEPPER**

Very occasionally on an American Saturday in the latter parts of the year, the radio will start telling of some college football unlikelyhood that begins to sound so fanciful, so much like somebody's hallucination, that one might begin to wonder if the radio has lost its mind. Along the southbound highways of Kansas on the Saturday just gone by, one of the many play-by-play accounts from the many, many stadiums relayed a gusher of lunacies that kept piling atop one another until the game in question seemed to have dislodged the parameters of football and barged into its very own zone of *no way*.

As this game in stately Chapel Hill, N.C., bubbled past its absurd 25-14 first quarter and gurgled beyond its absurder 53-21 halftime toward its absurdest 60-24 score with nine minutes left in the third, the team having the day too sublime to wish for happened to be James Madison. For those unaware that for 10 years the Dukes have won at football pretty close to all the times they've played it — 110 out of the past 133, with a Football Championship Subdivision national title in 2016 — James Madison might have sounded like some faraway place with castles and moats. In the realm of college teams from "lower" divisions upending the haughty ones from the top, an idea getting a good run this season, James Madison leading North Carolina by 32 points at halftime and winning, 70-50, found its way to the peak.

"I think 53 points is, you know, ridiculous to score in a first half," happy-talking first-year JMU coach Bob Chesney told reporters in Chapel Hill, and then he said something coach-like but also rather understated: "... but I thought we just kept executing." In fact, when the 47-year-old coach and his young-adult players reach their dotages, they surely will struggle to find in memory any Saturday with so many plays gone so swimmingly. They lived the pristine yet madcap first-half sequence in which they sprang from a 14-11 deficit late in the first quarter to that 53-21 lead. In the middle of that, after their successful trick two-point conversion, their successful blocked punt, their successful onside kick and their

## AP TOP 25

The top 25 teams in the Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	RECORD	PTS	PVS
1. Texas (44)	4-0	1527	1
2. Georgia (13)	3-0	1482	2
3. Ohio State (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 State	3-0	1051	10
10. Utah	4-0	1037	11
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 State	3-0	530	20
19. Illinois	4-0	458	24
20. Oklahoma State	3-1	388	14
21. Oklahoma	3-1	375	15
22. BYU	4-0	327	7
23. Kansas State	3-1	168	13
24. Texas A&M	3-1	77	25
25. Boise State	2-1	69	—

Others receiving votes: Washington State 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.

## COACHES POLL

The coaches poll top 25 with teams' records and first-place votes in parentheses, total points based on 25 for first place through one point for 25th and ranking in last week's poll.

	RECORD	PTS	PVS
1. Georgia (3-0) (35)	1,350	1	
2. Texas (4-0) (18)	1,324	2	
3. Ohio State (3-0) (2)	1,279	3	
4. Alabama (3-0)	1,185	4	
5. Mississippi (4-0)	1,145	5	
6. Tennessee (4-0)	1,094	7	
7. Oregon (3-0)	1,016	6	
8. Penn State (3-0)	967	8	
9. Miami (4-0)	912	11	
10. Utah (4-0)	904	10	
11. Missouri (4-0)	887	9	
12. Michigan (3-1)	692	17	
13. LSU (3-1)	632	16	
14. Notre Dame (3-1)	553	18	
15. Clemson (2-1)	542	19	
16. Southern California (2-1)	520	12	
17. Louisville (3-0)	509	20	
18. Oklahoma (3-1)	404	13	
19. Iowa State (3-0)	386	21	
20. Oklahoma State (3-1)	326	15	
21. Illinois (4-0)	307	—	
22. Brigham Young (4-0)	167	—	
23. UNLV (3-0)	124	25	
24. Texas A&M (3-1)	119	24	
25. Kansas State (3-1)	116	14	

Others receiving votes: Washington State (4-0) 94, Indiana (4-0) 67, Pittsburgh (4-0) 50, Boise State (2-1) 42, Central Florida (3-0) 35, Iowa (3-1) 34, Arizona (2-1) 16, Boston College (3-1) 15, Duke (4-0) 14, James Madison (3-0) 13, Nebraska (3-1) 7, Washington (3-1) 6, Colorado (3-1) 5, Rutgers (3-0) 5, SMU (3-1) 4, Arkansas (3-1) 2, Liberty (4-0) 2, Navy (3-0) 2, South Carolina (3-1) 2.

slew of successful passes and runs, they finally did fumble at the end of a 29-yard pass play with 5:26 left in the second quarter, and the madness seemed to fizzle at last with the score 46-21.

Soon North Carolina got the ball with 1:25 left and called a timeout with 1:08 left, and then quarterback Jacoby Criswell hurled a pass upfield and Terrence Spence intercepted it at the 33-yard line and then ... *No. ... No!* ... the radio described him starting through traffic, reaching the right sideline and roaming on into the end zone.

"I was kind of sitting on the entire day," Spence told reporters, "and once I was able to get one, I kind of knew it, I was a step ahead of it, and I saw the quarterback eyeing him down, I knew he was going to throw it, so I was able to jump in and go get it."

That provided your 53-21 halftime score, and that backdropped your halftime speech.

"I said the most meaningless statistic in all of sports is the score at halftime," Chesney said, even if this time that seemed inapt.

"That [score] really got me," said wide receiver Omarion Dollison, who caught a 69-yard touchdown pass earlier because why not, "and then the final score, against a top opponent, ACC opponent — we're in their house, too, that's what really got me."

He caught three passes for 125 yards, and fellow wide

receiver Cam Ross caught seven for 107, and Yamir Knight caught five for 81, and eight people caught passes from maestro quarterback Alonza Barnett III. Barnett accounted for 487 total yards and seven touchdowns — five passing and two rushing — and it fit right in that when North Carolina fumbled with seven minutes left in the first half, Barnett went ahead and scored from 27 yards on the next play. JMU rushed for 233 yards. It had plays covering 38, 69, 50, 42, 27 and 29 yards — before halftime. It gained 611 (to North Carolina's 616, actually).

But numbers such as those have appeared through the young century in places such as the Big 12 and Pac-12. What vaulted JMU-UNC atop the hill of outcomes in 2024 — and gave it a good chance at staying there — was how it unfolded and how, as Darren Rovell tweeted, "James Madison becomes the first team in the history of college football to get paid to play a game (\$500K) and hang 70 on their opponents." That numeral and the 53 at halftime inched it past Northern Illinois' great win over Notre Dame earlier this month, Memphis's victory at Florida State last weekend or all the happenings and near-happenings of Saturday: Vanderbilt's near-upset of No. 7 Missouri before a double-overtime loss; Bowling Green's challenge at Texas A&M in falling, 26-20; and Colorado's Hail Mary to get to overtime (and then win) against Baylor.

It's not that North Carolina, generally a good program, ranks among the football empires; it chooses another sport for that. It's how the game sounded and felt as it wafted out to the Kansas fields — and how JMU gave a primer on how to approach life, one game and one bye after nudging Gardner-Webb, 13-6.

"I don't think you want to leave a game saying: 'Man, we left some plays out there. We practiced them all week, and we were scared to call them,'" Chesney said. "I did not want to leave this game, going back home, trying to sleep at night, saying, 'I wish I was more aggressive.' I didn't want to do that. I've lived that life before, and you know, I don't want to live that life again." He said his players "knew" they could win rather than "believed" and saw "a big difference between 'believe' or 'know.'"

He has had an admirable climb himself. He played at Dickinson. He assisted at Norwich (in Georgia), Delaware Valley (in Pennsylvania), King's (in Pennsylvania) and Johns Hopkins. He began his time as a head coach by going 23-9 in three seasons at Salve Regina (in Newport, R.I.), continued by going 44-16 in five at Assumption (in Worcester, Mass.) and continued more by going 44-21 in six at Holy Cross (also in Worcester). "He's in every single meeting," special teams coach Drew Canan said. "I probably can count over the last 10 years how many meetings he's missed on my right hand."

Even the quarterback with the 487 yards and the seven touchdowns raved about the special teams and said, "I love to see them get rewarded for their hard work." Then he started raving about the offensive line but also the *backup* linemen, calling them out by names: Riley Robell, Josh Toner, Joe Simmons. Barnett doled out this grace on a day when he had "stood back there poised," Chesney said, "trusting his offensive line and the receivers to get open and then delivering very catchable, accurate footballs, on time, to places only they could catch them."

Yeah, this wowing moment from an entrenched football program sounded like a hallucination. It also sounded like a hallucination, right out there amid the Kansas fields. It also sounded like a triumph of the imagination.



Goalkeeper Alex Bono had a long night Sunday as Philadelphia punned United and dealt a blow to its postseason ambitions.

# D.C. meets familiar fate as Philadelphia cruises

## UNION 4, D.C. UNITED 0

BY STEVEN GOFF

CHESTER, PA. — D.C. United has undergone so much roster turnover in the past few years that few current players have experienced the doom and despair attached to games against the Philadelphia Union.

No matter who is in uniform, though, there has been almost no escaping the heavy defeats and fruitless encounters, especially at Subaru Park. Even with a brightening playoff outlook in recent weeks, United received familiar punishment Sunday night in a 4-0 wipeout that was decided shortly after intermission.

Daniel Gazdag posted two goals to pull within two of United's Christian Benteke, MLS's leading scorer with 19. Mikael Uhre and Tai Baribo had one apiece against a D.C. defense that tied Montreal for the second-most goals conceded (61).

Since 2017, United is 1-13-3 against the Union, and it is 0-10-1 with a 29-5 goal differential since 2014 at this riverside stadium.

"It's put-up-or-shut-up time," goalkeeper Alex Bono said. "Today, we shut up. They played like their playoff hopes were on the line, and we didn't."

Despite the loss, United (8-13-9) remains in the thick of the race but with a narrower pathway. With 36 points apiece, No. 8 Toronto and No. 9 Philadelphia (9-12-9) hold the final two playoff berths. Montreal has 34 points, followed by Atlanta, Nashville and D.C. with 33 each.

United will complete the campaign with home matches against teams above the playoff line (reigning champion Columbus on Saturday and Charlotte on Oct. 19) and away games against teams below the line (Nashville on Oct. 2 and New England on Oct. 5).

D.C. and Chicago are the only teams without a playoff appearance in the past four years. Even the five most recent expansion teams have qualified.

"It doesn't change the narrative for us about what we can still achieve and what's in front of us," Coach Troy Lesesne said, "but we have to do better than tonight." Lesesne noted glaring differences with Philadelphia, a perennial playoff team.

"We're working toward that type of mentality, and it doesn't just change overnight," said Lesesne, who is in his first year. "We've had it at periods throughout the season. Other times we haven't had it, and tonight was one of those examples."

United entered the match on a three-game winning streak on the road and a 4-1-1 run overall. But with a chance to jump into eighth place, D.C. settled for 13th.

"At this stage, we have to understand if that's the performance against any of the teams we're playing, we can't have an expectation we're going to achieve what

we want to achieve," Lesesne said. "We're going to have to perform better than that, and I know we're capable of that, but we have to also get our mindset right that we can go and bring the game next weekend in a better fashion."

Benteke did not receive much service from his typically reliable supporting cast and was held scoreless for just the third time in eight games.

"We were in a good dynamic" in recent weeks, he said. "So I didn't understand why we didn't perform. We can lose games but at least we perform, and I didn't feel like we performed tonight."

With fluid and confident interplay, United showed early promise. But in a span of 2:20, the Union took charge. In the 13th minute, Quinn Sullivan split Gabriel Pirani and Pedro Santos, beat Boris Enow on the dribble and crossed to an unmarked Uhre for a tap-in.

With the crowd still buzzing, Gazdag stepped up to intercept Christopher McVey's weak clearance from the box and beat Bono to the far corner in the 16th.

The deficit grew five minutes into the second half when Enow failed to prevent Sullivan's end-line cross to an unmarked Baribo on the back side for an easy header.

The way things were flowing, United performed as if it were playing down a man.

Philadelphia extended its lead in the 69th minute. Baribo collected Mateusz Klich's bad back pass and set up Gazdag for a clinical finish past the beleaguered Bono.

Benteke's best chance came in the 81st minute, saved by the diving Andre Blake.

"With the way we felt going in, we can all be disappointed in the way we started the game, the way the middle of the game went and the way we ended the game," Bono said. "It's one of those times where they bury the tape."

Here's what else to know about United's loss:

### Shorthanded again

For the fourth consecutive game, United had to deal with noninjury absences. Center back Lucas Bartlett, who has started 27 times, served a yellow-card suspension Sunday.

Last weekend, Klich sat out for the same reason. Two weeks ago, three players were away on international duty. Three weeks ago, Enow was unavailable after receiving a red card.

United leads the league in red cards (seven) and is tied for second in yellows (85).

### Teenager's time

With the match in Philadelphia's grips, 14-year-old Union midfielder Cavan Sullivan made his third regular season appearance. As he prepared to enter, the home supporters had fun with their prodigy by chanting, "It's a school night!"

### Crew at D.C. United

Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Apple TV Plus

# Commanders' ground game thrives with a tandem

COMMANDERS FROM D1

tandem with Melvin Gordon III before taking over as their starter. For the better part of six seasons, Ekeler was an elusive, dual-threat back whose play belied his 5-foot-9, 200-pound frame. But injuries hindered his season last year, and it was clear the Chargers were moving on.

So Ekeler headed east. "I'm not the biggest guy," he said. "I'm not small — well, depending on who you ask. But my thing is, for me, when I feel the best, when I feel great, I love that tandem backfield. That's what I was looking for."

Ekeler has found it, and he and third-year running back Brian Robinson Jr. are helping Washington discover its identity in Year 1 under Quinn.

Through Week 2, the duo have accounted for nearly 49 percent of the Commanders' 763 scrimmage yards, displaying versatility while keying their team's first victory, against the New York Giants on Sept. 15.

Through two weeks, Washington was one of two teams (with Detroit) to have two running backs with at least 145 scrimmage yards; it was the only team to have two backs with at least 50 receiving yards. Ekeler's 99 receiving yards were the second most by a running back in the first two games, trailing the 145 of Miami's De'Von Achane.

That ability to turn short catches into significant gains already has kept many drives alive for Washington and masked the shortcomings elsewhere in its offense. Ekeler's 15.6 yards after the catch and Robinson's 14.5 rank third and fourth in the NFL.

They do just as much damage on the ground. Robinson led the league with 5.24 yards after contact on rushes through Week 2. With Ekeler, the two averaged a league-leading 4.67 yards after contact in that span, while their 5.7 yards per carry ranked as the second most among NFL rushing corps.

Against the Giants, Robinson turned in a career-best 133 rushing yards, including a 40-yard run that initially appeared to be a no-gain play.



Last week vs. the Giants, Brian Robinson Jr. turned in a career-best 133 rushing yards for Washington.

On third and one in the third quarter, when the score was tied at 12, Robinson took the handoff and headed for the B gap, between center Tyler Biadasz and left guard Nick Allegretti. When his lane quickly closed, he rolled off right tackle Cornelius Lucas and spun Giants cornerback Cor'Dale Flott around to emerge from the scrum with an empty field ahead of him. Robinson picked up 40 yards before he was brought down.

"We want to be able to win it by any means necessary," offensive coordinator Kliff Kingsbury said Friday. "I think that's kind of [Quinn's] deal — anybody, anywhere, anytime — and whatever it takes to get it done."

The production is a welcome change from last season, when Robinson — among many other Commanders — grew visibly frustrated by Washington's almost nonexistent running game. The team averaged just 21.2 carries per game, which ranked as the second fewest in the league this century.

The Commanders have averaged 31.2 attempts per game through two weeks and could increase that total Monday night. The Bengals have allowed the

fourth-most rushing yards between the tackles this season (168), including four runs that resulted in gains of 10 or more yards. Robinson amassed 109 rushing yards on 10 carries between the tackles against the Giants.

Yet it has been Robinson's pass-catching that has been the surprise.

"I knew this guy was a rare competitor," Quinn said. "I just knew that. But what I didn't know was that he was complete in that way in terms of running and catching and being outside and doing that, too."

In college, Robinson was used sparingly in Alabama's passing offense, and then he played for two offensive coordinators in his first two NFL seasons. With Kingsbury pulling the strings, Robinson is emerging as a staple; in addition to his 173 rushing yards and rushing touchdowns, Robinson has four catches for 52 yards.

"I think he's very underrated as a pass receiver," Commanders run game coordinator and running backs coach Anthony Lynn said. "He's been working on his route running, adding more to his route tree. But he has shown some

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BASEBALL

National League

Table with columns: EAST, W, L, PCT, GB, L10 STR. Rows include Philadelphia, New York, Atlanta, Washington, Miami.

Table with columns: CENTRAL, W, L, PCT, GB, L10 STR. Rows include Milwaukee, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh.

Table with columns: WEST, W, L, PCT, GB, L10 STR. Rows include Los Angeles, San Diego, Arizona, San Francisco, Colorado.

y-Clinched playoff berth; z-Clinched division

American League

Table with columns: EAST, W, L, PCT, GB, L10 STR. Rows include New York, Baltimore, Boston, Tampa Bay, Toronto.

Table with columns: CENTRAL, W, L, PCT, GB, L10 STR. Rows include Cleveland, Detroit, Kansas City, Minnesota, Chicago.

Table with columns: WEST, W, L, PCT, GB, L10 STR. Rows include Houston, Seattle, Texas, Oakland, Los Angeles.

y-Clinched playoff berth; z-Clinched division

Cubs 5, Nationals 0

Table with columns: NATIONALS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Crawford, Wood, Yezzer, Gallo, Chaparro, Garcia, Ruiz, Tenaz, Lipscomb, Young, Nuñez.

Table with columns: CUBS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Tauchman, Swanson, Suzuki, Busch, Paredes, Wisdom, Armstrong, strong, Amaya, Mastrobrotti.

Table with columns: WASHINGTON, CHICAGO, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: NATIONALS, CUBS, CUBS FOURTH, NATIONALS, CUBS, CUBS FIRST, HOW THEY SCORED.

Table with columns: NATIONALS, CUBS, CUBS FOURTH, NATIONALS, CUBS, CUBS FIRST, HOW THEY SCORED.

NL Wild-Card Standings

Table with columns: TEAM, W, L, PCT, WCGB. Rows include San Diego, Arizona, New York, Atlanta.

AL Wild-Card Standings

Table with columns: TEAM, W, L, PCT, WCGB. Rows include Baltimore, Detroit, Kansas City, Minnesota, Seattle, Boston, Tampa Bay.

NATIONALS' LEADERS

Table with columns: BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Baker, Call, Gamba, Yezzer, Tenaz, Wood, Winker, Vargas, Young, Thomas, Abrams, Ramirez, Millias, Adames, Ruiz, Meneses, Nolasco, Chaparro, Shenzer, Crow, Lipscomb, Rosario, Gallo, Blankenhorn, Robles.

PITCHERS

Table with columns: W, L, ERA, ER, BB, SO. Rows include Williams, Salazar, Law, Finnegan, Ferrer, Gore, Harvey, Irvin, Herz, Garcia, Parker, J.Barnes, Vargas, Rutledge, Corbin, LaSorsa, Weems, B.Barnes, Adon, Ribaltoa, Gore, Bryzyc, Willingham.

NL leaders

Table with columns: BATTING, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Arreaz, Ohtani, Turner, Marte, Ramos, Ohtani, Ohtani, Turner, Marte.

HOME RUNS

Table with columns: Ohtani, Ohtani, Ohtani, Turner, Marte, Ramos, Ohtani, Ohtani, Turner, Marte.

ERA

Table with columns: Sale, Wheeler, Amagishi, King, Wisely.

STRIKEOUTS

Table with columns: Sale, Guerrero, Cease, Wheeler.

AL leaders

Table with columns: BATTING, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Witt, Guerrero, Alvarez, Hou, Judge, Soto, Rooker, Wheeler.

HOME RUNS

Table with columns: Judge, Soto, Rooker, Wheeler, ERA, Skubaj, Valdez, Blanco, Striebs, BURNES, STRIKEOUTS, Skubaj, Ragans, Gilbert.

Padres 4, White Sox 2

Chicago tied the post-1900 MLB record of 120 losses by the expansion 1962 Mets when San Diego rallied for three runs in the eighth inning, capped by Fernando Tatis Jr.'s towering home run.

Table with columns: WHITE SOX, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Vargas, Robert, Benintendi, Vaughn, Sheets, Sosna, Fletcher, Lee, Amaya.

Table with columns: PADRES, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Profar, Tatis, Cronenworth, Machado, Merrill, Bogarts, Peralta, Solano, Wade, Higashioka, Arreaz, Lockridge, Diaz.

Table with columns: CHICAGO, WHITE SOX, PADRES, WHITE SOX, PADRES, WHITE SOX, PADRES, WHITE SOX, PADRES.

Table with columns: CHICAGO, WHITE SOX, PADRES, WHITE SOX, PADRES, WHITE SOX, PADRES, WHITE SOX, PADRES.

Tigers 4, Orioles 3

Table with columns: TIGERS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Meadows, Carpenter, Vierling, Greene, Keith, Torkelson, Jung, Ibanez, Madden, McKinstry, Rogers, Suarez.

Table with columns: ORIOLES, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Henderson, Westburg, Santander, Cowner, Rutschman, O'Hearn, Rivera, Kjerstad, Urias, Mullins.

Table with columns: DETROIT, BALTIMORE, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: TIGERS, DETROIT, BALTIMORE, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

ORIOLES' LEADERS

Table with columns: BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Pacheco, McKenna, Stowers, Lopez, Henderson.

Giants 2, Royals 0

Blake Snell struck out nine in six strong innings, and San Francisco completed a three-game sweep of Kansas City, which lost its seventh straight game overall.

Table with columns: GIANTS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Yastrzemski, Garcia, Wade, Chapman, Peretz, Grossman, Melendez, Renfro, Gurriel, Encarnación, Massey, Hampson, Frazier, Wisely.

Table with columns: ROYALS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Pham, Witt, Perez, Grossman, Melendez, Renfro, Gurriel, Encarnación, Massey, Hampson, Frazier, Wisely.

Table with columns: SAN FRANCISCO, KANSAS CITY, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: GIANTS, ROYALS, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Pacheco, McKenna, Stowers, Lopez, Henderson.

GIANTS

Table with columns: BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Pacheco, McKenna, Stowers, Lopez, Henderson.



DENIS POROY/GETTY IMAGES

At a loss ... for the 120th time

White Sox players watch the game late in their 4-2 defeat to the Padres. Their 120th loss tied them with the expansion 1962 Mets for the most since 1900.

Pirates 2, Reds 0

Paul Skenes struck out nine and pitched two-hit ball through five innings, leading Pittsburgh to a win over Cincinnati.

Table with columns: PIRATES, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Gonzalez, Cruz, Bart, McCutchen, Tellez, Espinal, Triolo, Yorke, Cook.

Table with columns: REDS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include India, De La Cruz, Stephenson, Friedl, France, Fralry, Espinal, Benson.

Table with columns: PITTSBURGH, CINCINNATI, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: PIRATES, REDS, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Skenes, Holderman, Miodzinski, Santana, Chapman.

Cardinals 2, Guardians 1

Lars Nootbaar scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch and Andre Pallante allowed one hit in seven innings as St. Louis edged Cleveland.

Table with columns: GUARDIANS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Schaeemann, Ramirez, J.Naylor, Noel, Brennan, Straw, Sagesse, B.Naylor, Rocchio, Hedges, Thomas.

Table with columns: CARDINALS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Winn, Burleson, Sagesse, Goldschmidt, Arenado, Domonov, Siani, Nootbaar, Carpenter, Papi.

Table with columns: CLEVELAND, ST. LOUIS, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: GUARDIANS, CARDINALS, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO, ERA. Rows include Pallante, Walker, Gaddis.

Table with columns: BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Pacheco, McKenna, Stowers, Lopez, Henderson.

Braves 5, Marlins 4

Michael Harris III tripled, singled and scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning as Atlanta beat Miami.

Table with columns: BRAVES, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Harris, Ozuna, De La Cruz, Olson, Soler, Lopez, Urshela, Murphy, Arcia.

Table with columns: MARLINS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Edwards, Sanchez, Niny, Burger, Urshela, Murphy, Arcia.

Table with columns: ATLANTA, MIAMI, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: BRAVES, MARLINS, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Holmes, Johnson, Bummer, Hernandez, Arzoo.

Rangers 6, Mariners 5

Marcus Semien's line single into the left field corner in the ninth inning scored Leody Taveras with the game-winning, and Texas rallied from a five-run deficit to defeat Seattle.

Table with columns: RANGERS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Semien, Robles, Rodriguez, Raleigh, Arzoo, Turner, Polanco, Garver, Crawford, B.Naylor, Rocchio, Hedges, Thomas.

Table with columns: TEXAS, SEATTLE, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: RANGERS, MARINERS, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Semien, Robles, Rodriguez, Raleigh, Arzoo, Turner, Polanco, Garver, Crawford, B.Naylor, Rocchio, Hedges, Thomas.

Table with columns: RANGERS, MARINERS, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Semien, Robles, Rodriguez, Raleigh, Arzoo, Turner, Polanco, Garver, Crawford, B.Naylor, Rocchio, Hedges, Thomas.

Table with columns: RANGERS, MARINERS, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Semien, Robles, Rodriguez, Raleigh, Arzoo, Turner, Polanco, Garver, Crawford, B.Naylor, Rocchio, Hedges, Thomas.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 3

Jonathan Aranda homered in a third straight game as Tampa Bay completed a three-game sweep.

Table with columns: BLUE JAYS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Lukes, Clement, Guerrero, Horwitz, Borge, Delucena, Jimenez, Clase, Lopez, Urshela, Murphy, Heiman, Kirsh.

Table with columns: RAYS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Carlson, Lowe, Delucena, Cabrera, Jimenez, Clase, Lopez, Urshela, Murphy, Heiman, Kirsh.

Table with columns: TORONTO, TAMPA BAY, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: BLUE JAYS, RAYS, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Burr, Zerfoglio, Pop, Cabrera, Swanson.

Yankees 7, Athletics 4

Aaron Judge hit his MLB-leading 55th homer, Gleyber Torres and Jasson Dominguez also went deep, and New York capped a three-game sweep.

Table with columns: YANKEES, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Torres, Soto, Judge, Wells, Stanton, Chisholm, Dominguez, Verduzco, Volpe.

Table with columns: ATHLETICS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Butler, Edman, Roker, Bleyer, Langelliers, Otañez, Schuenmeyer, Nolasco, McCann, Nevin, Wilson.

Table with columns: NEW YORK, OAKLAND, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: YANKEES, ATHLETICS, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Gill, Hamilton, Erwin, Holmes, Weaver.

Table with columns: YANKEES, ATHLETICS, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Gill, Hamilton, Erwin, Holmes, Weaver.

GAME 1 Red Sox 8, Twins 1

Boston's Triston Casas homered in his first three at-bats and drove in seven runs in the opener of a split doubleheader against Minnesota.

Table with columns: TWINS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Buxton, Margot, Larnach, Correa, Lee, Santana, Lewis, Castro, Jeffers, Santana, Miranda, Farmer.

Table with columns: RED SOX, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Ja.Duran, Gonzalez, Yoshida, Story, Sanchez, Casas, Grissom, Abreu, D.Jansen, Rafaela.

Table with columns: MINNESOTA, BOSTON, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: RED SOX, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO, ERA. Rows include Pivetta, Garcia, Sims, Hoopes, K.Jansen, Pivetta, Lopez.

Angels 9, Astros 8

Zach Neto hit two homers and drove in six runs, and Los Angeles rallied twice to get past Houston.

Table with columns: ANGELS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Waller, Neto, Drury, Horwitz, Moniak, O'Hoppe, Thaiss, Pillar, Campero, Whitcomb, Schanuel.

Table with columns: ASTROS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Altuve, Alvarez, Dubon, Tucker, Bregman, Diaz, Thaiss, Pillar, Campero, Whitcomb, Meyers, Morel, Driscoll, Wells.

Table with columns: HOUSTON, ARIZONA, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: ANGELS, ASTROS, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Canning, Strickland, Edman, Burke, Quijada, Zuniga.

Dodgers 6, Rockies 5

Shohel Ohtani hit a game-tying home run in the ninth inning and Mookie Betts followed with a game-ending blast as Los Angeles rallied for a victory over Colorado.

Table with columns: ROCKIES, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Blackmon, Tovar, McMahon, Toiglia, Rodgers, Jones, Cave, Goodman, Stallings.

Table with columns: DODGERS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Ohtani, Betts, Freeman, Hernandez, Smith, Luv, Marte, Rojas, K.Hernandez.

Table with columns: COLORADO, NEW YORK, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: DODGERS, ROCKIES, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Ohtani, Betts, Freeman, Hernandez, Smith, Luv, Marte, Rojas, K.Hernandez.

Table with columns: DODGERS, ROCKIES, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Ohtani, Betts, Freeman, Hernandez, Smith, Luv, Marte, Rojas, K.Hernandez.

GAME 2 Red Sox 9, Twins 3

Romy Gonzalez hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs as Boston completed a doubleheader sweep of fading Minnesota.

Table with columns: TWINS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Buxton, Larnach, Correa, Wallner, Lewis, Castro, Santana, Farmer, Vazquez.

Table with columns: RED SOX, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Ja.Duran, Yoshida, Wong, Sanchez, Abreu, Valdez, D.Jansen, Rafaela.

Table with columns: MINNESOTA, BOSTON, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: RED SOX, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO, ERA. Rows include Crawford, Winkowski, Sims, Hoopes, K.Jansen, Pivetta, Lopez.

Brewers 10, Diamondbacks 9

Jake Bauers' pinch-hit RBI single in the eighth inning won it for Milwaukee, which trailed 8-0 early.

Table with columns: BREWERS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Chourio, Perkins, Trout, Gurriel, McCarthy, Bell, O'Hoppe, Suarez, Moreno, Herrera, Perdomo.

Table with columns: ARIZONA, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: BREWERS, ARIZONA, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Chourio, Perkins, Trout, Gurriel, McCarthy, Bell, O'Hoppe, Suarez, Moreno, Herrera, Perdomo.

Table with columns: ARIZONA, BREWERS, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Chourio, Perkins, Trout, Gurriel, McCarthy, Bell, O'Hoppe, Suarez, Moreno, Herrera, Perdomo.

Mets 2, Phillies 1

Brandon Nimmo hit a tiebreaking home run off Zack Wheeler that sailed just over the glove of leaping right fielder Nick Castellanos in the sixth inning, and New York prevented Philadelphia from clinching the National League East at Citi Field.

Table with columns: PHILLIES, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Schwarber, Turner, Harper, Bohm, Taylor, Stott, Realmuto, Marsh, Rojas, Clemens, Palfrey.

Table with columns: METS, AB, R, H, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Iglesias, Alonso, Winker, Martinez, Nimmo, Bader, Alvarez, Vientos, Taylor, Acuña, Treinen.

Table with columns: PHILA, NEW YORK, LOB, HR, RBI, RISP, SB, SW, WP, LP, PB, RUIZ.

Table with columns: PHILLIES, METS, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Schwarber, Turner, Harper, Bohm, Taylor, Stott, Realmuto, Marsh, Rojas, Clemens, Palfrey.

Table with columns: PHILLIES, METS, BATTERS, AVG, 2B, HR, RBI, BB, SO. Rows include Schwarber, Turner, Harper, Bohm, Taylor, Stott, Realmuto, Marsh, Rojas, Clemens, Palfrey.

NOTES

REDS DISMISS BELL AFTER SIX SEASONS

The Reds fired manager David Bell after six seasons, announcing the move hours after a loss to the Pirates. They named bench coach Freddie Benavides as interim manager for the final five games of the season. Bell had a 409-456 record with one postseason appearance.

PERSONNEL DEPT.

Astros: Of Yordan Alvarez exited Sunday's game in the third inning with a right knee contusion. The team said he was "pretty sore" and getting imaging done. ... OF Ben Gamel (fractured left fibula) probably is done for the season.

Mets: RHP Kodai Senga felt tightness in his right triceps during a minor league rehab outing and won't pitch again during the regular season.

Orioles: Reinstated IFS Jordan Westburg and Ramon Urias from the 10-day injured list and optioned OF Daniel Johnson and IF Livan Soto to Class AAA Norfolk.

Rangers: Three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer, placed on the injured list Saturday with a hamstring strain, said he would like to return to Texas after his contract expires next week.

QUOTE

"It never stopped hurting me, and I never felt like myself this year."

- Rafael Devers, Red Sox third baseman, who said he won't need surgery and expects to be ready for spring training, a day after he was placed on the 10-day injured list with left shoulder inflammation.

TODAY

Table with columns: NL games, W-L, ERA, TEAM. Rows include Steele, Nola, Birdsong, Rodriguez.

Table with columns: NL games, W-L, ERA, TEAM. Rows include Steele, Nola, Birdsong, Rodriguez.

Table with columns: NL games, W-L, ERA, TEAM. Rows include Steele, Nola, Birdsong, Rodriguez.

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# Surging Detroit holds off Baltimore

TIGERS 4, ORIOLES 3

BY IAN NICHOLAS QUILLEN

BALTIMORE — Kerry Carpenter homered twice, Parker Meadows made a home run-saving grab, and the surging Detroit Tigers gained ground in the American League wild-card race with a 4-3 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Sunday.

Carpenter's third multi-home run game of the season ensured the Tigers their first winning season since 2016 as Detroit (82-74) matched Kansas City (82-74). The Tigers and Royals are one game in front of Minnesota (81-75) for the final American League wild-card spot.

"We still have a long way to go, so we're going to stay grounded," Tigers Manager A.J. Hinch said. "But both things can happen — we can be proud of what we're doing, and we can stay grounded and look forward to the next series."

The Twins, who won the season series 7-6 with the Tigers, were swept in a doubleheader in Boston on Sunday. The Twins would finish ahead of the Tigers if they finish with the same record.

The Tigers have won 11 of their past 14 games.

Baltimore (86-70) lost its fifth consecutive series and fell 5½ games behind New York (91-64) in the AL East race with six to play but is still four games ahead of Kansas City and Detroit for the top wild-card spot.

"We had a great chance to win



SCOTT TAETSCH/GETTY IMAGES

**Kerry Carpenter belted two home runs in the Tigers' win over the Orioles on Sunday, his third multi-home run game of the season.**

last night, didn't get it done," Orioles Manager Brandon Hyde said. "We had a chance today also. I thought we just had some unfortunate breaks today."

Spencer Torkelson homered off Orioles right-hander Albert Suarez (8-7), and Trey Sweeney contributed an RBI double as the Tigers took a 2-0 lead.

Carpenter hit the first of his two homers in the third to make it 3-0.

Cedric Mullins connected with a two-run shot for Baltimore. Jordan Westburg added an RBI double in his first game since July 31 (right wrist fracture) to complete a three-run fifth and tie things up at 3.

The damage would have been greater without Meadows's leaping grab over the wall in right-

center to deny Colton Cowser a two-run homer off Sean Guenther (2-0) and end the inning.

"I was getting ready to jump at the wall," said Carpenter, who was in right field with Meadows in center. "And then I saw him. He was locked on that thing."

Carpenter led off the sixth with his second deep shot and 17th of the season, which cleared the front of the grounds crew shed in right by a few feet.

"It's huge," Carpenter said. "They could've taken a two-run lead, and then two minutes later I hit the homer and we're up by one. So it changes the entire game."

From there, Brennan Hanifee and Will Vest bridged the gap to Jason Foley, who worked a perfect ninth for his 26th save.

—Associated Press



QUINN HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES

**Starter Jake Irvin walked four and gave up three home runs, a flashback to issues he had last season.**

# Chicago pours on the power after rain

NATIONALS FROM D1

NATIONALS ON DECK	
<b>vs. Kansas City Royals</b>	
Tuesday	6:45 MASN2
Wednesday	6:45 MASN2
Thursday	1:05 MASN2
<b>vs. Philadelphia Phillies</b>	
Friday	6:45 MASN
Saturday	4:05 MASN
Sunday	3:05 MASN

Radio: WJFK (106.7 FM), WDCN (87.7 FM)

missed with fastballs up, which Manager Dave Martinez believes was a result of his mechanics being out of whack.

"He looked a little off," Martinez said. "He wasn't really getting behind the ball. He was kind of pushing the ball a little bit. It was a rough day for him."

Irvin didn't run into trouble again until the fourth inning, when he served up a leadoff solo homer to Michael Busch. He threw a well-located fastball in on Busch's hands, but it didn't matter. A walk followed, then a double play, then another walk before Amaya's two-run blast.

Irvin is in line for one more start — on the final day of the season against Philadelphia.

"The last one is one that you can go into the offseason with either a sour taste in your mouth or ride the high," said Irvin, who has a 4.22 ERA. "Looking forward to it. Really excited to throw against [the Phillies] and definitely happy there's one more."

The Nationals had traffic on the base paths much of the afternoon, outpitching the Cubs 8-7. But they couldn't turn those threats into

who grounded out to third base to end the inning. Crews has seen a heavy dose of breaking balls lately — and though he's hitting the ball hard, groundballs have been the result. His first two at-bats Sunday resulted in groundouts of 106.7 and 106.1 mph.

Following his fifth-inning grounder, Crews was 0 for his past 19, a skid he snapped by singling off a cutter in the eighth. Wood singled to put runners at the corners with one out. It seemed Washington might finally break through when pinch hitter Joey Gallo hit the ball down the right field line.

First base umpire Tripp Gibson called the ball foul, then ruled it fair, leading to confusion for both teams. The hit was initially scored an RBI double — until the Cubs challenged and the call was overturned. Gallo struck out two pitches later, then Luis Garcia Jr. grounded out.

"We had some innings going where we could've gotten some runs — we just couldn't drive in any runs," Martinez said. "We just start chasing in those moments. Like I say, let the pitcher be the guy that feels like he's got to struggle. We're going to get better."

In the fifth, Washington had two runners on for Dylan Crews,

## PRO FOOTBALL

**Chiefs 22, Falcons 17**

KANSAS CITY ..... 0 13 9 0 — 22  
ATLANTA ..... 7 7 0 3 — 17

**FIRST QUARTER**  
Atlanta: D.London 14 pass from Cousins (Koo kick), 11:07.

**SECOND QUARTER**  
Kansas City: P.Rice 13 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 8:45.  
Atlanta: Robinson 1 run (Koo kick), 6:37.  
Kansas City: FG Butker 53, 2:43.  
Kansas City: FG Butker 44, 0:06.

**THIRD QUARTER**  
Kansas City: FG Butker 21, 9:40.  
Kansas City: Smith-Schuster 13 pass from Mahomes (Kick failed), 1:16.

**FOURTH QUARTER**  
Atlanta: FG Koo 54, 12:52.  
Attendance: 72,441.

	KC	ATL
First Downs	22	19
Total Net Yards	345	311
Rushes-Yards	33-128	25-82
Passing	217	229
Punt Returns	1-12	1-12
Kickoff Returns	1-11	2-56
Interceptions Ret.	1-15	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	26-39-1	20-29-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	2-21
Punts	3-48-333	3-54-0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-0
Penalties-Yards	6-61	6-44
Time Of Possession	34:57	25:03

**PASSING**  
Kansas City: Mahomes 26-39-1-21.7.  
Atlanta: Cousins 20-29-1-23.0.

**RUSHING**  
Kansas City: Steele 17-72, Perine 6-25, Mahomes 6-17, Worthy 3-13, Rice 1-1.  
Atlanta: Allgeier 7-32, Robinson 16-31, McCcloud 1-20, Cousins 1-(minus 1).

**RECEIVING**  
Kansas City: Rice 12-110, Kelce 4-30, Perine 3-15, Smith-Schuster 2-17, Worthy 2-17, Gray 1-13, Ju-Watson 1-5, Steele 1-2.  
Atlanta: Mooney 9-66, D.London 6-67, Pitts 2-59, Robinson 2-21, McCcloud 2-17.

**MISSED FIELD GOALS**  
None.

## SOCCER

**MLS**

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	19	4	7	64	68	44
Cincinnati	17	8	5	56	52	39
Columbus	16	5	8	50	58	50
Los Angeles FC	14	8	7	49	47	39
Orlando City	12	11	7	43	50	45
Charlotte FC	11	11	8	41	36	33
New York City FC	11	11	8	41	43	43
Toronto FC	11	17	3	36	38	55
Philadelphia	9	12	9	36	57	47
CF Montreal	8	12	10	34	41	61
Atlanta	8	13	9	33	40	41
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	7	17	4	28	32	60

Team	W	L	T	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
San Jose	14	8	7	49	52	40
Houston	13	8	9	48	43	33
Seattle	13	9	8	47	45	34
Vancouver	13	9	7	46	49	40
Portland	12	10	8	44	63	53
Minnesota United	12	12	6	42	50	48
FC Dallas	10	13	7	37	49	49
Austin FC	9	13	8	35	32	42
Sporting KC	8	16	7	31	49	58
St. Louis City SC	8	11	13	31	43	57
San Jose	5	22	3	18	37	69

**SATURDAY'S RESULTS**  
Miami 1, at New York City FC 1  
at Charlotte FC 4, New England 0  
at Columbus 4, Orlando City 3  
at CF Montreal 2, Chicago 0  
Atlanta 2, at New York 2  
Portland 1, at Austin FC 0  
at FC Dallas 3, Los Angeles FC 1  
Minnesota 2, at Sporting KC 0  
Cincinnati 2, at Nashville 2  
at Colorado 2, Toronto FC 0  
Portland 3, at Real Salt Lake 3  
at LA Galaxy 4, Vancouver 2  
St. Louis City SC 2, at San Jose 1

**SUNDAY'S MATCH**  
at Philadelphia 4, D.C. United 0

**SATURDAY'S MATCHES**  
Columbus at D.C. United, 7:30  
Los Angeles FC at Cincinnati, 7:30  
Charlotte FC at Miami, 7:30  
San Jose at CF Montreal, 7:30  
Nashville at New England, 7:30  
New York City FC at New York, 7:30  
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7:30  
Real Salt Lake at Austin FC, 8:30  
Toronto FC at Chicago, 8:30  
Orlando City at FC Dallas, 8:30  
Colorado at Minnesota, 8:30  
Sporting KC at St. Louis City SC, 8:30  
Portland at Vancouver, 10:30  
Houston at Seattle, 10:30

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
D.C. UNITED	0	0	0	0	0	0
PHILADELPHIA	2	2	4	8	10	10

**First Half:** 1, Philadelphia, Uhre, 10 (Sullivan), 13th minute; 2, Philadelphia, Gazdag, 16 (Gazdag), 16th.  
**Second Half:** 3, Philadelphia, Barbo, 9 (Sullivan), 51st; 4, Philadelphia, Gazdag, 17 (Barbo), 69th.  
**Goalies:** D.C. United, Alex Bono, Luis Zamudio; Philadelphia, Andre Blake, Andrew Rick.  
**Yellow Cards:** Herrera, D.C. United, 25th; Dajome, D.C. United, 90th+2.  
D.C. United, Alex Bono; Aaron Herrera, Christopher McVey, Matti Peltola, Pedro Santos (Theodore Ku-DiPietro, 65th), Garrison Isiah Santos (Cristian Dalmeida, 66th); Boris Enow (Martin Rodriguez, 72nd), Mateusz Kluch, Gabriel Pirani (Dominique Badji, 46th), Jared Stroud (Jacob Murrell, 82nd); Christian Benteke.  
Philadelphia, Andre Blake; Jack Elliott, Jakob Glesnes (Jeremy Rafanello, 71st), Nathan Harriel, Kai Wagner (Olivier Mbazozi, 71st); Leon Maximilian Flach, Daniel Gazdag (Quinn Sullivan, 86th), Jack McGlynn (Danley Jean-Jacques, 65th), Quinn Sullivan; Thai Barbo (Samuel Adeniran, 86th), Micael Uhre (Alejandro Bedoya, 65th).

## NWSL

Team	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	44	24
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	11	5	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	14	5	17	14	32
Utah	4	12	3	15	14	34

**SATURDAY'S RESULTS**  
at Louisville 2, North Carolina 1  
at Houston 1, Seattle 0  
at Chicago 1, San Diego 0

**SUNDAY'S RESULT**  
at Gotham FC 1, Utah 0

**MONDAY'S MATCH**  
Portland at Angel City, 10

## AUTO RACING

**Formula One**  
**SINGAPORE GRAND PRIX**  
At Marina Bay Street Circuit; in Singapore City, Singapore  
Lap length: 4.00 kilometers  
(Start position in parentheses)

- (1) Lando Norris, Great Britain, McLaren, 62 laps, 1:40:52.571.
- (2) Max Verstappen, Netherlands, Red Bull Racing, 62.
- (3) Oscar Piastri, Australia, McLaren, 62, +41.823.
- (4) George Russell, Great Britain, Mercedes, 62, +61.040.
- (5) Charles Leclerc, Monaco, Ferrari, 62, +62.430.
- (6) Daniel Ricciardo, Australia, Racing Bulls, 61, +11.29.
- (7) Carlos Sainz Jr., Spain, Ferrari, 62, +96.039.
- (8) Fernando Alonso, Spain, Aston Martin, 61, +1 lap.
- (9) Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, Haas, 61, +1 lap.
- (10) Sergio Perez, Mexico, Red Bull Racing, 61, +1 lap.
- (11) Franco Colapinto, Argentina, Williams, 61, +1 lap.
- (12) Yuki Tsunoda, Japan, Racing Bulls, 61, +1 lap.
- (13) Esteban Ocon, France, Alpine, 61, +1 lap.
- (14) Lance Stroll, Canada, Aston Martin, 61, +1 lap.
- (15) Guanyu Zhou, China, Kick Sauber, 61, +1 lap.
- (16) Valtteri Bottas, Finland, Kick Sauber, 61, +1 lap.
- (17) Pierre Gasly, France, Alpine, 61, +1 lap.
- (18) Kevin Magnussen, Denmark, Haas, did not finish, 57.
- (19) Alexander Albon, Thailand, Williams, did not finish, 15.

## SCOREBOARD

### PRO BASKETBALL

**WNBA playoffs**

Best of three; x-If necessary  
**FIRST ROUND**  
**LIBERTY LEADS DREAM, 1-0**  
Game 1: at New York 63, Atlanta 69  
Tuesday's game: Atlanta at New York, 7:30  
x-Wednesday's game: New York at Atlanta, TBD

**LYNX LEADS MERCURY, 1-0**  
Game 1: at Minnesota 102, Phoenix 95  
Wednesday's game: Phoenix at Minnesota, 9:30  
x-Thursday's game: Minnesota at Phoenix, TBD

**SUN LEADS FEVER, 1-0**  
Game 1: at Connecticut 93, Indiana 69  
Wednesday's game: Indiana at Connecticut, 7:30  
x-Thursday's game: Connecticut at Indiana, TBD

**ACES VS. STORM**  
Game 1: Seattle at Las Vegas, late  
Tuesday's game: Seattle at Las Vegas, 9:30  
x-Wednesday's game: Las Vegas at Seattle, TBD

**SEMIFINALS**  
**SEPT. 29-OCT. 8**  
Best of five  
New York/Atlanta winner vs. Las Vegas/Seattle winner  
Minnesota/Phoenix winner vs. Connecticut/Indiana winner

**FINALS**  
**NOV. 10-OCT. 20**  
Best of five  
Semifinal winners

**Liberty 83, Dream 69**

ATLANTA ..... 16 14 19 20 — 69  
NEW YORK ..... 29 19 21 14 — 83

**ATLANTA:** Hillmon 4-6 1-1 9, Howard 5-14 2-4 14, Charles 12-21 12, Canada 1-4 0-2 5, Gray 3-9 3-4 9, Amihree 3-5 2-4 8, Coffey 0-4 0-0 0, Cubaj 1-2 0-0 2, H.Jones 2-5 2-6, Caldwell 1-3 0-0 2, Kalu 4-2 2-3 4.  
**Totals 27-68 12-19 69.**

**NEW YORK:** Laney-Hamilton 5-10 0-0 10, Stewart 7-16 5-6 20, Jones 3-5 3-5, Fiebig 7-8 3-2 21, Ionescu 5-11 4-4 17, Thornton 0-2 0-0 0, Burke 0-2 0-0 0, Sabally 1-5 0-0 2, Dojki 0-1 0-0 0, Sherrod 0-2 0-0 0, Vanderloot 5-1 2-2 4. **Totals 29-67 17-18 83.**

**Three-point Goals:** Atlanta 3-16 (Howard 2-7, Canada 1-2, Caldwell 0-1, Kalu 0-1, Coffey 0-2, Gray 0-3), New York 8-23 (Fiebig 4-4, Ionescu 3-7, Stewart 1-4, Vanderloot 1, Burke 0-2, Thornton 1-1, Laney-Hamilton 0-3). **Fouled Out:** Atlanta 36 (Charles 7), New York 37 (Stewart 11), Assistants: Atlanta 16 (Canada, Howard 4), New York 22 (Ionescu, Laney-Hamilton 5). **Total Fouls:** Atlanta 14, New York 18. A: 12,115 (17,732)

**Sun 93, Fever 69**

INDIANA ..... 20 18 19 12 — 69  
CONNECTICUT ..... 23 22 25 — 93

**INDIANA:** Hull 1-4 3-5, Smith 0-1 0-0, Boston 8-14 1-2, Clark 4-17 1-2 11, K.Mitchell 9-20 1-21, Dantas 4-7 2-2 12, Samuelson 0-1 0-0 0, Saxton 1-0 0-2, Fagbule 0-1 0-0 0, Berger 0-0 0-0 0, Wallace 0-1 0-0 0, Wheeler 0-0 1-1. **Totals 27-67 9-12 69.**

**CONNECTICUT:** Bonner 7-11 6-6 22, Thomas 6-15 0-12, Jones 2-7 0-2, Carrington 6-12 1-2 14, Harris 0-1 0-0 0, Bickle 0-0 0-0 0, Ndour-Fall 0-0 0-0 0, Nelson-Odda 3-3 0-6, Burton 3-4 1-1 8, Mabrey 9-20 4-4 27. **Totals 36-73 12-15 93.**

**Three-point Goals:** Indiana 6-28 (Dantas 2-3, K.Mitchell 2-10, Clark 2-7, Hull 0-2), Connecticut 10-18 (Mabrey 5-12, Bonner 2-3, Carrington 1-1, Burton 1-2). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Indiana 29 (Boston 11), Connecticut 36 (Thomas 10). **Assists:** Indiana 23 (Clark 8), Connecticut 27 (Thornton 13). **Total Fouls:** Indiana 15, Connecticut 11. A: 8,910 (9,223)

**Lynx 102, Mercury 95**

PHOENIX ..... 19 23 27 26 — 95  
SEATTLE ..... 32 24 21 25 — 102

**PHOENIX:** Copper 6-15 2-3 16, Cunningham 3-5 0-8, Griner 2-10 4-6 10, Cloud 14-23 1-2 33, Taurasi 8-16 0-1 11, Silberman 1-1 0-0 0, Herbert-Harrison 0-0 0-0 0, Mick 1-2 0-2, Taylor 1-1 0-0 3. **Totals 37-74 11-95.**

**MINNESOTA:** Carleton 4-8 2-12, Collier 11-19 13-13, Smith 3-5 0-0 7,

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850 Montgomery County IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

22-600722 Sep 9, 16, 23, 2024 NOTICE ORDERED, this 4th day of September 2024...

851 Prince Georges County IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

22-0011985 NOTICE Notice is hereby given this 19 day of September, 2024...

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

23-0124156 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

23-0124155 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

10 Power Boats NAIQUE SEMI-CUSTOM 1990 42 foot sport fish twin cat...

840 Trustees Sale - DC 1800 28TH PL SE, UNIT 205, WASHINGTON, DC 20020

In execution of the Superior Court for the District of Columbia's Decree of Sale in Case: 2023-CA 005995 the undersigned Trustee(s) will offer for sale the property known as 1800 28TH PL SE, UNIT 205, WASHINGTON, DC 20020...

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of the lesser of \$25,000.00 or 10% of the sale price will be required at time of sale in cash or certified funds.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. If purchaser fails to settle within the aforesaid thirty (30) days of the ratification, the purchaser agrees to pay the Trustee's reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the Court...

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

840 Trustees Sale - DC 1800 28TH PL SE, UNIT 205, WASHINGTON, DC 20020

By virtue of Deed of Trust recorded in the land records of the District of Columbia recorded on February 2, 2016, as Instrument Number 2016009842...

October 22, 2024 at 1:00 PM

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

840 Trustees Sale - DC Samuel I. White, P.C. 6100 EXECUTIVE BLVD. SUITE 100 ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852

By virtue of Deed of Trust recorded in the land records of the District of Columbia recorded on August 28, 2016, as Instrument Number 2016009842...

October 1, 2024 at 10:30 AM

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

840 Trustees Sale - DC Samuel I. White, P.C. 6100 EXECUTIVE BLVD. SUITE 100 ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852

By virtue of Deed of Trust recorded in the land records of the District of Columbia recorded on August 28, 2016, as Instrument Number 2016009842...

October 1, 2024 at 10:30 AM

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

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October 1, 2024 at 10:30 AM

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

840 Trustees Sale - DC Law Office of Allan P. Feigelson PA 3812 Thoroughbred Lane Owings Mills, Maryland 21117 410-504-3608

By virtue of Deed of Trust recorded in the land records of the District of Columbia recorded on August 28, 2016, as Instrument Number 2016009842...

October 1, 2024 at 10:30 AM

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840 Trustees Sale - DC Samuel I. White, P.C. 6100 EXECUTIVE BLVD. SUITE 100 ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852

By virtue of Deed of Trust recorded in the land records of the District of Columbia recorded on August 28, 2016, as Instrument Number 2016009842...

October 8, 2024 at 1:00 PM

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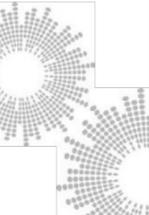
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BARNES & THORNBURG LLP

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED 20-UNIT APARTMENT BUILDING WITH A FIRST FLOOR COMMERCIAL UNIT

By virtue of a certain Construction Deed of Trust, Security Agreement, Assignment of Rents and Fixture Filing executed by GA Views Management, LLC...

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024 AT 11:00 AM

All that certain lot or parcel of land located and being in the City of Washington in the District of Columbia and being more particularly described as follows:

Lot numbered Eighty-nine (0089) in Square numbered Three Thousand Thirty-Three (3033) in the subdivision made by Miriam E. Ochoa and Rafael Rodriguez, Jr. as per plat recorded in the Office of the Surveyor for the District of Columbia in Book 196 at page 107.

Property description: The property is improved by a newly-constructed 6-story corner building containing 10 one-bedroom and 19 two-bedroom units. The first floor has a commercial unit. There is storage in the lower level.

TOGETHER WITH any and all buildings, structures, improvements or appurtenances now erected on the above-described land, including, without limitation, all equipment, apparatus, machinery and fixtures of any kind or character forming a part of said buildings, structures, improvements or appurtenances, and any furniture, furnishings, equipment, machinery and other personal property owned and located in, upon or about the above-described land and any buildings thereon all as more particularly described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust (collectively, the "Property").

TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY

Pursuant to the Deed of Trust as evidenced by UCC Financing Statement duly recorded February 27, 2020 as U.C.C. Initial Filing No. 2020 1421132, Service Request No. 20201609227 among the Delaware Department of State, and upon occurrence of a default thereunder, the Noteholder, PV Georgia Views LLC, as the holder of a security interest and lien on all of the tangible and intangible assets of the Debtor, will sell at public auction on the same date and at the same time and place, ALL OF THE FIXTURES and TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE PROPERTY, ETC. of the Debtor located on or about the Real Estate (that is SUBJECT to the security interest and lien of PV Georgia Views LLC and not owned by any third party).

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. The Property will be offered as an entirety only. The bid which yields the highest price for the Property will be accepted by the Substitute Trustee (unless the sale is postponed or cancelled) and all bids will be provisional until acceptance. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Substitute Trustee absolutely reserves the right to postpone the sale and/or cancel the sale at any time until the auctioneer announces that the Property is "sold" and the deposit in the required amount and form is received by the Substitute Trustee. A deposit in the amount of \$100,000 in the form of a cashier's check or certified check will be required as a condition to bidding. The deposit must be increased to 10% of the purchase price within two (2) business days after the sale, which increased deposit must be in the form of a cashier's check or certified check and delivered to the office of the Substitute Trustee. The Noteholder secured by the Deed of Trust (or any related party) shall be exempted by the Substitute Trustee from submitting any bidding deposit. The Substitute Trustee will, as a condition of the sale, require all potential bidders except the Noteholder to show their deposit before any bidding begins. The retained deposit of the successful purchaser shall be applied, without interest, to the successful purchaser's credit at settlement; provided, however, that in the event the successful purchaser fails to consummate the purchase in accordance with the terms of sale as herein provided, such deposit, at the option of the Substitute Trustee, will be forfeited. The terms of sale must be complied with and settlement consummated thereon within 45 days from day of sale unless extended at the sole discretion of the Substitute Trustee. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. The balance of the purchase price over and above the retained deposit, with interest thereon at the note rate then being charged from the date of sale through the date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, will be due at settlement in certified funds; and if not so paid, the Substitute Trustee reserves the right to retain the deposit and resell the Property at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser, after such advertisement and on such terms as the Substitute Trustee may deem proper, and to avail themselves and the Noteholder of any legal or equitable rights against the defaulting purchaser.

The Property is sold subject to the rights, if any, of parties in possession, if such rights have priority over the Deed of Trust, and to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, rights of way, and limitations of record. The Property will be sold "WHERE IS" and in "AS IS" condition without any warranty, express or implied, and without any representation or warranty as to the accuracy of the information furnished to prospective bidders by the Substitute Trustee or any other party and without any other representations or warranty of any nature. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Property will be sold without representation or warranty as to (i) title to the Property, (ii) the nature, condition, structural integrity, or fitness for a particular use of any improvements, fixtures or personal property included within the Property, (iii) the environmental condition of the Property or the compliance of the Property with federal, state and local laws and regulations concerning the presence or disposal of hazardous substances, (iv) compliance of the Property with the Americans with Disabilities Act or any similar law, or (v) compliance of the Property with any zoning laws or ordinances and any and all applicable safety codes, and acceptance of the deed to the Property by the successful purchaser shall constitute a waiver of any claims against the Substitute Trustee or the Noteholder concerning any of the foregoing matters. The successful purchaser recognizes that any investigation, examination or inspection of the Property is within the control of the owner or other parties in possession of the Property and not within the control of the Substitute Trustee or the Noteholder.

Conveyance shall be by Substitute Trustee's Deed, without covenant or warranty, express or implied. The risk of loss or damage by fire or other casualty to the Property from and after the date of sale will be upon the successful purchaser. Sold subject to all taxes, ground rents, public charges, assessments, sewer, water, drainage and other public improvements whether assessments have been levied or not. The Noteholder and Substitute Trustee assume no liability for fuel, gas, electricity, utilities and other operating charges accrued before or after the sale and all such charges shall be the sole responsibility of the purchaser from the date of sale. All costs incident to the settlement and conveyancing including, without limitation, examination of title, conveyancing, all recordation taxes and charges, all transfer taxes and charges, title insurance premiums, notary fees, settlement fees and all other costs incident to settlement shall be at the cost of the successful purchaser. If the Substitute Trustee cannot convey title, the purchaser's sole remedy is a return of deposit. Further particulars may be announced at the time of sale. For further information, please contact James E. Van Horn at 202-371-6351.

James E. Van Horn Substitute Trustee

ALEX COOPER REALTORS

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Axelton, Willamowsky, Bender & Fishman, P.C. Attorneys and Counselors at Law

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE of valuable improved real estate improved by premises known as 4006 Sampson Road, Silver Spring, MD 20906-4789

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust from RODOLFO GALDOS HUANCA and DINO A. GALDOS GALDOS, dated September 3, 2019 and recorded in Liber 26388 at Folio 330 among the land records of MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Maryland, upon default and request for sale, the undersigned Trustees have agreed to sell at public auction at the Courthouse, October 9, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. all that property described in said Deed of Trust as follows:

Being known and designated as Lot 7, Block A, as shown on plat entitled "VIERS MILL VILLAGE" as recorded among the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland in Plat Book 32, Page 2029.

Said property is improved by A Dwelling and is SOLD IN "AS IS CONDITION"

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$15,000.00 in the form of cash, certified check, or in any other form suitable to the substitute Trustee in their sole discretion, shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 5.125% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within ten days after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

Front Foot Benefit charges are to be adjusted for the current year to date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the property will be resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. The purchaser agrees to pay the Substitute Trustee's fees, plus all costs incurred if the Substitute Trustee have filed the appropriate pleadings with the court to resell the property. The purchaser waives personal service of any paper filed with the court in connection with such motion and any Show Cause Order issued by the Court and expressly agrees to accept service of any such paper or Order by certified mail and regular mail sent to the address provided by the purchaser and recorded on the documents executed by purchaser at the time of the sale. Service shall be deemed effective upon the purchaser 3 days after postmarked by the United States Post Office. It is expressly agreed by the purchaser that actual receipt of the certified mail is not required for service to be effective. If the purchaser fails to respond to the deposit, the purchaser shall be deemed to have accepted the terms of sale and the property shall be sold to the Substitute Trustee and all expenses of this sale (including attorney fees or full commission on the gross sales price of the sale) shall be paid from the forfeited deposit. In the event of resale the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property regardless of any improvements made to the real property.

In the event this property is sold and for any reason the sale is not ratified the liability of the Substitute Trustee shall be limited to a refund of the deposit. Upon return of the deposit the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustee either at law or in equity.

JEREMY K. FISHMAN and ERICA T. DAVIS, SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES

Sep 23,30,Oct 7 2024

0012468699

851 Prince Georges County

ORLANS PC

1602 VILLAGE MARKET BLVD. SE, SUITE 310 LEESBURG, VA 20175 703-777-7101

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY 3142 Brinkley Station Drive Temple Hills, MD 20748

Under a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from PHILLIP C. LIONEL, dated May 1, 2015 and recorded in Liber 37248, folio 210 among the Land Records of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No.C-16-CV-24-002430; Tax ID No.12-1360494) the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COURTHOUSE, located at FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772, on

OCTOBER 2, 2024 at 2:30 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit \$20,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK. CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustee. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee(s) are unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the aforementioned deposit without interest. In the event the sale is not ratified for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 23-008996)

JAMES E. CLARKE, MARY L. HURLEY, PAUL J. MORAN, SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES

HARVEY K. WELLS AUCTIONEERS, LLC

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

855 Charles County 855 Charles County

ORLANS PC 1602 VILLAGE MARKET BLVD. SE, SUITE 310 LEESBURG, VA 20175 703-777-7101

Under a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from BARNEY MCCABE, dated March 2, 2012 and recorded in Liber 7739, folio 30 among the Land Records of CHARLES COUNTY, MD, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No.C-08-CV-23-000951; Tax ID No.06-004911) the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the CHARLES COUNTY COURTHOUSE, located at 200 CHARLES STREET ( IN THE BREEZEWAY BETWEEN CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS ), LA PLATA, MD 20646, on

OCTOBER 2, 2024 at 12:30 PM ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in CHARLES COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit \$10,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for CHARLES COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee(s) are unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the aforementioned deposit without interest. In the event the sale is not ratified for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 23-011359)

JAMES E. CLARKE, SUBSTITUTION TRUSTEES HARVEY W. HURLEY, AUCTIIONERS, LLC 300 E. Joppa Road, Hangtown Plaza, Suite 1103, Baltimore, MD 21286 410-769-9797

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855 Charles County 855 Charles County

ORLANS PC 1602 VILLAGE MARKET BLVD. SE, SUITE 310 LEESBURG, VA 20175 703-777-7101

Under a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from RONALD L. JENKINS AND CHRISTY L. MUNDINGER AND JENNIFER JENKINS SURVIVING JOINT TENANTS OF SHIRLEY R. RIVENBACH DECEASED, dated October 28, 2003 and recorded in Liber 4434, folio 315 MODIFIED ON JUNE 20, 2014 IN LIBER 08586 FOLIO 0411 AND MODIFIED ON MARCH 27, 2017 IN LIBER 9774 FOLIO 254; among the Land Records of CHARLES COUNTY, MD, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No.C-08-CV-23-000578; Tax ID No.06-257461) the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the CHARLES COUNTY COURTHOUSE, located at 200 CHARLES STREET ( IN THE BREEZEWAY BETWEEN CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS ), LA PLATA, MD 20646, on

OCTOBER 2, 2024 at 12:30 PM ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in CHARLES COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit \$15,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for CHARLES COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee(s) are unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the aforementioned deposit without interest. In the event the sale is not ratified for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 23-000303)

JAMES E. CLARKE, SUBSTITUTION TRUSTEE HARVEY W. HURLEY, AUCTIIONERS, LLC 300 E. Joppa Road, Hangtown Plaza, Suite 1103, Baltimore, MD 21286 410-769-9797

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ORLANS PC 1602 VILLAGE MARKET BLVD. SE, SUITE 310 LEESBURG, VA 20175 703-777-7101

Under a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from JAMES RANDEL FITZPATRICK, dated May 15, 2015 and recorded in Liber 08946, folio 0072 MODIFIED ON APRIL 3, 2023 IN LIBER 12895 FOLIO 49; among the Land Records of CHARLES COUNTY, MD, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No.C-08-CV-24-000279; Tax ID No.02-000083) the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the CHARLES COUNTY COURTHOUSE, located at 200 CHARLES STREET ( IN THE BREEZEWAY BETWEEN CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS ), LA PLATA, MD 20646, on

OCTOBER 2, 2024 at 12:30 PM ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in CHARLES COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit \$15,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for CHARLES COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee(s) are unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the aforementioned deposit without interest. In the event the sale is not ratified for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 23-013739)

JAMES E. CLARKE, MARY L. HURLEY, PAUL MORAN, SUBSTITUTION TRUSTEES HARVEY W. HURLEY, AUCTIIONERS, LLC 300 E. Joppa Road, Hangtown Plaza, Suite 1103, Baltimore, MD 21286 410-769-9797

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857 Howard County 857 Howard County

Brock and Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington NC, 28403

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to RICHARD HARVEY, Trustee(s), dated November 14, 2020, and recorded among the Land Records of HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 19978, folio 278, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the HOWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 9250 JUDICIAL WAY, ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21043 ON,

OCTOBER 9, 2024 at 12:30 PM ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in HOWARD COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS UNIT NO. 14-4, PHASE 2A, IN THE HORIZONTAL PROPERTY REGIME KNOWN AS "SIERRA VILLAS CONDOMINIUM", AND BEING PART OF ALL THE PROPERTY MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN DECLARATION DATED OCTOBER 16, 1974, AND RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND IN LIBER CMP NO. 700, FOLIO 61, AS AMENDED BY THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO DECLARATION DATED APRIL 30, 1975 AND RECORDED AMONG THE AFORESAID LAND RECORDS IN LIBER NO. 722 FOLIO 423; AND AMENDED BY THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO DECLARATION DATED OCTOBER 13, 1975, AND RECORDED AMONG THE AFORESAID LAND RECORDS IN LIBER CMP NO. 749, FOLIO 730; AND ALSO AS SHOWN ON THE RECORD PLATS RECORDED AS AFORESAID IN PLAT BOOK NO. 29, FOLIOS 65 THRU 75, INCLUSIVE, AND AMENDED RECORD PLATS RECORDED AS AFORESAID IN PLAT BOOK NO. 30, FOLIOS 53 THRU 62, INCLUSIVE; AND AMENDED RECORD PLATS ENTITLED "PHASE 2, SIERRA VILLAS CONDOMINIUM", RECORDED AS AFORESAID IN PLATS 30, FOLIOS 53 THRU 62 INCLUSIVE.

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$18,000.00 payable in certified check or by a cashier's check will be required from purchaser at time of sale, balance in immediately available funds upon final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court of HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND interest to be paid at the rate of 3.125% on unpaid purchase money from date of sale to date of settlement. The secured party herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. Third party purchaser (excluding the secured party) will be required to complete full settlement of the purchase of the property within TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS of the ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court otherwise the purchaser's deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be resold at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser. All other public charges and private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, ground rent, taxes if any, to be adjusted to date of sale. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes and all other costs incident to the settlement shall be borne by the purchaser. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments will be adjusted to date of sale. If the sale is rescinded or not ratified for any reason, including post sale lender audit, or the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey insurable title or a resale is to take place for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit. The purchaser waives all rights and claims against the Substitute Trustees whether known or unknown. These provisions shall survive settlement Upon refund of the deposit, this sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. The sale is subject to post-sale review of the status of the loan and that if any agreement to cancel the sale was entered into by the lender and borrower prior to the sale then the sale is void and the purchaser's deposit shall be refunded without interest. Additional terms and conditions, if applicable, maybe announced at the time and date of sale. Sale is subject to the attestation by the Borrower in accordance with Section 5.A of the Governor's order of 10.16.2020. File No. (23-07351)

BRENNAN FERGUSON, JOHN C. HANRAHAN, JEREMY B. WILKINS, AMANDA DRISCOLE, ROBERT OLIVERI, PAUL HEINMULLER, Substitute Trustees

HARVEY W. HURLEY, AUCTIIONERS, LLC 300 E. Joppa Road, Hangtown Plaza, Suite 1103, Baltimore, MD 21286 410-769-9797

Sep 23,30,Oct 7 2024 0012469549

872 Fairfax County 872 Fairfax County

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 3141 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church (Fairfax County), Virginia 22042

Under a power of sale contained in that certain Credit Line Deed of Trust, Security Agreement, Assignment of Leases and Rents and Fixture Filing (the "Deed of Trust") dated November 9, 2021 and recorded on November 16, 2021 in Book 27442 at Page 1411 as instrument No. 2021167606,002 in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, from 3141 FAIRVIEW PROPERTY OWNER, LLC ("Borrower"), a Delaware limited liability company, as grantor, to CHRISTOPHER M. GILL ("Original Trustee"), as trustee, for the benefit of CITY NATIONAL BANK OF FLORIDA ("Lender"), a national banking association, as beneficiary, securing an indebtedness evidenced by, inter alia, that certain Promissory Note (the "Note") dated November 9, 2021 in the principal amount of \$55,361,000.00 made by Borrower, as maker, payable to the order of Lender, as payee, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and pursuant to that certain Deed of Appointment of Substitute Trustee dated August 19, 2024 and recorded on August 21, 2024 in Book 28207 at Page 1797 as instrument No. 2024039543,001 in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County Virginia removing Original Trustee as trustee under the Deed of Trust and appointing PARDO DRAZIN AUCTIIONERS LLC ("Substitute Trustee"), a Virginia limited liability company, as substitute trustee under the Deed of Trust, at the request of the current noteholder, Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction by the front entrance of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, on

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 at 12:00 PM ALL IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY as well as ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY encumbered by the Deed of Trust (collectively, the "Property").

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of ten per centum (10%) of the sale price will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The deposit must be paid by certified check. The balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash or certified funds within twenty (20) days of the date of sale. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate then applicable to the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust from the date of sale to the date of settlement. The current noteholder, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit or to pay interest. Purchaser shall settle within twenty (20) days of the date of sale. TIME SHALL BE OF THE ESSENCE WITH RESPECT TO SETTLEMENT. In the event that the purchaser fails to settle as required for any reason, the purchaser shall be in default. The defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the Property, and the deposit shall be forfeited to Substitute Trustee and all of the expenses of this sale including attorneys' fees and full commission on the gross sale price shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit, with any remaining balance of the forfeited deposit applied to the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust. In the event settlement is delayed for any reason, including, but not limited to, exceptions to the sale, bankruptcy filings by interested parties, court administration of the foreclosure, or unknown title defects, there shall be no abatement of interest. Real estate taxes are to be adjusted for the current year up to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Cost of all documentary stamps, recordation taxes, transfer taxes and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser.

The Property will be sold in an "AS IS" and a "WHERE IS" physical condition and subject to recorded covenants, conditions, restrictions, agreements, and senior liens, if any, and with no warranties or covenants of any kind.

In the event that Substitute Trustee is unable to convey title as aforesaid, the purchaser's sole remedy at law and in equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit and the sale shall be considered null and void and of no effect.

Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the Property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the Property from the date of sale forward.

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# Capitals open preseason with a loss and a look at youth

FLYERS 6,  
CAPITALS 2

BY BAILEY JOHNSON

The Washington Capitals opened the preseason with a 6-2 loss to the Philadelphia Flyers on Sunday afternoon at Capital One Arena. Wingers Andrew Cristall and Ivan Miroshnichenko scored Washington's goals. Bobby Brink and Morgan Frost each scored twice for Philadelphia; Olle Lycksell and Joel Farabee had the other goals.

Hunter Shepard started in net and made 11 saves on 14 shots for the Capitals. Clay Stevenson entered just over halfway through, a planned change, and produced the same stat line.

Washington's lineup was heavy on youth and inexperience ahead of an expected round of cuts before Tuesday's game at Boston. Coach Spencer Carbery, who was joined on the bench by Hershey Bears assistants Patrick Wellar and Nick Bootland, was hoping to see some elements of what the Capitals taught over the first three days of training camp — with the knowledge that few of the players on the ice have a deep knowledge of Washington's system yet.

"For a lot of these young guys, it's their first NHL exhibition game," he said. "You have to expect there's going to be nerves there. Now they're starting the process of knocking that out."

Given the youthful lineup, lack of practice time and the fact that it was the first of six preseason games, the useful takeaways from Sunday's matchup are focused on individual players.

## Cristall flashes offensive gifts

Cristall, who is in his second training camp with the Capitals, is a long shot to make the team. Despite putting up 111 points in 62 games with the Western Hockey League's Kelowna Rock-



JOHN MCDONNELL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clay Stevenson was the second goaltender the Capitals used Sunday against Morgan Frost and the Flyers; he made 11 saves on 14 shots.

ets last season, the 19-year-old isn't old enough to play in the American Hockey League, so his options are to make the Capitals or return to junior hockey.

A year after playing one preseason game for the experience more than because he was competing for a job, Cristall stood out Sunday. His skating was the main reason such a highly skilled player slipped to the second round of the 2023 draft, but he has worked to improve his strength and his speed — and the results are evident.

Early in the first period, he kicked a loose puck in the neutral zone onto his stick and skated in for a breakaway. His five-hole attempt was stopped by Philadelphia goaltender Ivan Fedotov, but Fedotov couldn't deny Cristall's one-timer from just inside the blue line later in the period.

"It feels good," Cristall said. "Feels like I should've had a couple more, but a really great feeling. Really good pass [from defenseman Alex Alexeyev]."

Cristall continued to be im-

pactful the rest of the way. His mobility added a layer of deception to Washington's power play, and his offensive instincts led him to three shots on goal in 17:44 of ice time, the most among Washington's forwards.

"Probably our biggest bright spot on the night," Carbery said. "Around the puck all night — [it] sort of seems to follow him around. ... A breakaway, had a bunch of good opportunities that he was able to create, scores the goal. I thought he was very noticeable tonight."

## Youth movement begins

Most of the players in Sunday's lineup are at least a year away from being serious contenders to be full-time NHL players. But as the Capitals manage the dual mandate of remaining competitive in the twilight of captain Alex Ovechkin's career and setting themselves up for the future, the pieces that eventually will be the core of the team are starting to take shape.

There were plenty of nerves on display, but 18-year-olds Terik Parascak and Leon Muggli —

Preseason: Capitals at Bruins  
Tuesday, 7 p.m., Monumental

Washington's first- and second-round picks in June's draft — had moments when their promise stood out. The power-play unit for Miroshnichenko's goal also featured Cristall, Parascak, Muggli and Alex Limoges — the old man of the group at 27. Miroshnichenko is 20, and the other three are teenagers, but they turned in a stronger performance than the other, more experienced, unit.

"It just kind of shows the kind of guys and prospects we have here," Cristall said. "Pretty young unit, but I thought we were snapping it around pretty well. Obviously we got a Miro bomb, so it worked out pretty well. I thought we played pretty good."

## Competition at wing

Miroshnichenko, Cristall, Ethen Frank and Jakub Vrana are in the mix for what could be the final roster spot on the wing. With the caveat that it's a one-game sample, Miroshnichenko and Cristall raised their stock Sunday afternoon, while Vrana is close and Frank is a bit further behind.

Neither Vrana nor Frank played poorly — and Vrana in particular raised his game in the third period — but when the players you're competing with score, a quieter game can affect your standing.

Vrana was greeted with a large cheer when he was announced as part of the starting lineup more than three years after he last played for the Capitals. His standout moments came late in the third with several dangerous shots on the power play; he finished with six shots on goal.

In camp on a professional tryout agreement, Vrana will need to make a significant impact to earn a contract; expect him to play several more times before the preseason ends.

# Sun's playoff experience is difference vs. Clark, Fever

WNBA FROM D1

the first half, limiting her driving opportunities and forcing Indiana to look elsewhere for offense.

With nothing coming easily and her outside shot rimming off, a frustrated Clark chased her losses to finish with 11 points on 4-for-17 shooting. Named the rookie of the year earlier in the day by the Associated Press, Clark missed her first eight three-pointers and finished 2 for 13 from beyond the arc. Kelsey Mitchell led Indiana with 21 points on 9-for-20 shooting, but Clark's struggles kept the Fever from keeping pace when the Sun closed the first half with a 10-2 run and blew open the contest with a 25-12 fourth quarter.

"[Connecticut's DiJonai Carrington] got me pretty good in the eye," Clark said. "I don't think it affected me, honestly. I felt like I got good shots; they just didn't go down. A tough time for that to happen. I had three pretty wide-open threes in the first half that you usually make, so that's tough. I felt like I battled and tried my best and took care of the ball better than I usually do. ... I felt like we just played a crappy game."

The Sun, which has reached the WNBA Finals four times in the past 20 years, seemed to relish its role hazing the Fever newcomers. Before tip-off, the video board displayed a "bandwagon cam" that mocked "loyal Fever fans since 2024," and the public-address announcer dismissively raced through Indiana's starting lineup.

Thousands of Clark fans, donning Fever and University of Iowa gear, made the trip, but they were drowned out by the orange-clad Connecticut contingent. The home crowd delighted in the Sun's Marina Mabrey stealing the show with 27 points and five three-pointers off the bench.

The 37-year-old Bonner, who had 22 points, six rebounds and five assists, made her 81st playoff appearance Sunday. When the two-time WNBA champion made her postseason debut in 2009, Clark was 7 years old. Former Maryland star Alyssa Thomas, 32, put together a triple-double (12 points, 10 rebounds, 13 assists) in her 41st playoff game. Mabrey, 28, uncorked her breakthrough performance to start her fifth playoff run. None of the Fever's starters had appeared in the playoffs before Sunday.

"[The Sun is] a really good team with a lot of experience," Fever Coach Christie Sides said. "They know what it takes to step



SARAH GORDON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alyssa Thomas, left, had a triple-double and Marina Mabrey, right, scored 27 points for Connecticut.



JOE BUGLEWICZ/GETTY IMAGES

Caitlin Clark, who missed 13 of 17 shots on the day she was named the AP's WNBA rookie of the year, gets helped up by teammates.

up to that next level, that playoff level. That's what we're going to be. That's who we're going to become. They made it really difficult. We've got to close that gap."

There was a clunkiness to Clark's highly anticipated opener, which was broadcast on ABC opposite NFL games on Fox and CBS, that the Fever never escaped. During Clark's pregame warmups, she cast aside a black

pair of her preferred Kobe Bryant signature Nike sneakers that seemed to be bothering her in favor of a light blue pair.

Once the game started, the Fever almost immediately had to burn a challenge to overturn a mistaken foul call on Aliyah Boston, then Clark hit the deck moments later. The action was interrupted again midway through the first quarter when Sun guard

Tyasha Harris suffered a gnarly ankle injury that knocked her out of the game and left her on crutches. Shot-clock malfunctions further delayed the proceedings.

Clark's shoulders slumped when she missed a three-pointer at the halftime buzzer, and she raised her arms in frustration when she couldn't get going early in the third quarter. She grabbed her head with both hands in disbelief when she was called for a foul after delivering a light push.

But Clark made no excuses after a game that recalled Bryant's struggles as a rookie, when the Los Angeles Lakers legend tossed up a series of air balls against the Utah Jazz in the 1997 playoffs. Bryant, who went on to win five NBA championships, often referenced his postseason growing pains as fuel for his physical and mental development.

"A lot of people in life want instant satisfaction," Clark presciently said before the game. "As a competitor, you want that, too. ... I think it's a good learning opportunity, not only for basketball but in life. You're not going to get everything you want right away. You've got to work for it. You're going to go through some hard moments."

## WNBA PLAYOFFS ROUNDUP

# Collier helps Minnesota stave off Game 1 upset

LYNX 102,  
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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, 102-95, on Sunday in Minneapolis in Game 1 of a best-of-three series.

Minnesota, the Western Conference champion and postseason 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.

Kahleah Copper scored five points in a 10-2 run, and her three-pointer followed by two Brittney Griner free throws gave seventh-seeded Phoenix its first lead since it scored the first four points of the game. Natasha Cloud's layup put the Mercury on top 92-91 with 2:06 left to play, but Myisha Hines-Allen answered with a layup and Bridget Carleton hit a three-pointer in a 9-0 spurt to pull out the victory.

Collier sank 11 of 19 shots from the field, including three three-pointers, and 13 of 14 free throws for Minnesota. She added six rebounds and four assists. Kayla McBride hit three three-pointers and all seven of her foul shots, scoring 20. Carleton had 12 points, six boards and four assists, and Hines-Allen added 10 points, five rebounds and three assists off the bench.

Cloud had 33 points, matching her postseason high, and 10 assists to lead Phoenix. Diana Taurasi made half of her 10 three-point attempts and scored 21. Copper added 16 points, and Griner finished with 10 points and six rebounds.

The Lynx will host Game 2 at the Target Center on Wednesday. Phoenix will host Game 3 on Thursday, if necessary.

• **LIBERTY 83, DREAM 69:** Leonie Fiebich hit four three-pointers and scored a career-high 21 points on 7-for-8 shooting. Breanna Stewart added 20 points and 11 rebounds, and New York never trailed in its victory over visiting Atlanta in Game 1.

New York can sweep the best-of-three series with a win Tuesday

in New York. Game 3, if necessary, would be Thursday in Atlanta.

The Liberty — which made its first six field goal attempts, including four three-pointers — jumped to a 13-4 lead.

Allisha Gray was fouled on a jumper and hit the and-one free throw to cut the Dream's deficit to four with 5:33 left in the first quarter, but the Liberty scored the next 14 points — the final seven by Sabrina Ionescu — to take an 18-point lead. The Dream went scoreless for more than four minutes before Tina Charles hit a fadeaway jumper to spark a 7-2 spurt that trimmed the deficit to 29-16 going into the second quarter.

New York made 8 of 11 from the field, 5 of 6 from the three-point range and 8 of 8 from the free throw line while outrebounding the Dream 11-3 in the first period. Atlanta, which shot 35.3 percent (6 for 17) and went 0 for 6 from behind the arc, trailed by double figures for the final 33-plus minutes.

## Wilson is unanimous MVP

Las Vegas Aces star A'ja Wilson was the unanimous choice as the WNBA MVP, the league announced.

The Aces' versatile forward averaged 26.9 points and 11.8 rebounds. She's only the second player to win the award unanimously, joining Cynthia Cooper of the Houston Comets, who did it in the league's inaugural 1997 season.

Wilson received all 67 first-place votes from a national media panel, making her a three-time winner after her victories in 2020 and 2022. She's the fourth player in WNBA history to reach that milestone, joining Sheryl Swoopes, Lisa Leslie and Lauren Jackson.

The Lynx's Collier (467 points) finished in second place, followed by the Liberty's Stewart (295 points), Indiana Fever rookie guard Caitlin Clark (130 points) and Connecticut Sun forward Alyssa Thomas (83 points).

Wilson finished third in the MVP voting last year, receiving one fourth-place vote that she said fueled her after the Aces won their second straight WNBA title.

"It propelled me a little bit as I started my offseason workouts, but around February I was over it," she said. "I didn't want to give that person that energy. That's when I started to lock in."



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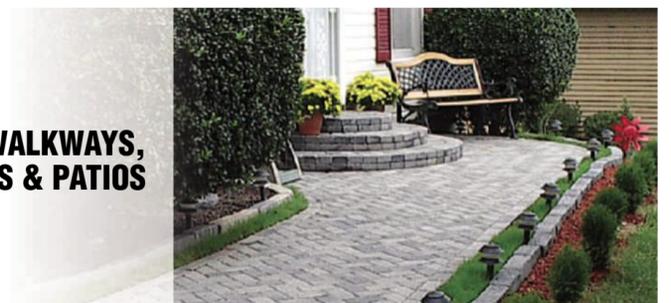
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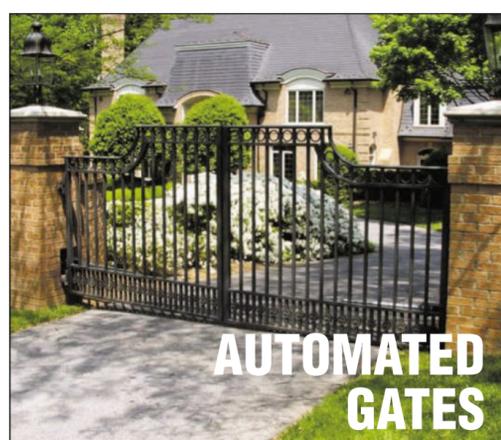
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