

Van Der Beek reveals what cancer taught him

Actor opens up about how illness has changed his perspective on life and his career. **In Life**

Experts: No manipulation of data in jobs downgrade

Economists explain why revisions that led Trump to fire labor data chief were so huge. **In Money**

Shedeur Sanders shakes up QB room

Column: Cleveland rookie dazzles in preseason game against Panthers, adding intrigue to the Browns' quarterback situation. **In Sports**

USA TODAY

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SCOTT KINSER/USA TODAY NETWORK



President Donald Trump has called for a mid-decade census that would exclude undocumented immigrants. **EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/REUTERS**

New census may have impact on '26 election

Trump's plan could curb blue wave in House race

Erin Mansfield
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump announced his intention to "immediately begin work on a new" census, raising questions about whether the plan would be constitutional and how it would affect the partisan makeup of Congress.

His announcement came amidst Texas Republicans' efforts to perform an unusual mid-decade redrawing of congressional maps, which are normally drawn after the census determines the number of seats in each state's delegation at the beginning of each new decade.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and the GOP-led state legislature hope to add up to five new seats for their party by redistricting, prompting proposals for Democratic states to redraw their congressional maps in retaliation.

"The Republicans are so desperate at this point to forestall what's likely going to happen in 2026."

Michael P. McDonald
Political science professor at the University of Florida

Trump's Aug. 7 social media post said a new survey should be taken "based on modern day facts and figures and, importantly, using the results and information gained from the Presidential Election of 2024," and that people "who are in our Country illegally WILL NOT BE COUNTED IN THE CENSUS."

USA TODAY has reached out to the White House for comment. Neither the U.S. Census Bureau nor the Commerce Department responded to requests for comment.

"I think you would have to see, at some point, do things start moving?" said Shawn Donahue, a political science professor at the University at Buffalo. "Is it something that is more of just a press release, or is there something that the Commerce Department is going to start doing?"

The U.S. Constitution calls for the census to be conducted every 10 years, and in years that end in zero, most

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A \$2B NHL team seized control of youth hockey

Texas parents confront ice bully

Kenny Jacoby
USA TODAY

Lisa Bry expected a standard meet-and-greet when she visited the manager of the local ice rink. Instead, she says that a front-office executive for a \$2 billion National Hockey League team threatened her. Bry had just been elected president of Frisco Ice Hockey Association, a nonprofit hockey club for middle and high school students in Frisco, Texas. One of its board's first actions under her leadership was to cancel the contracts of two coaches who had received dismal reviews from parent feedback surveys.

But at the April 2023 meeting, Bry said Dallas Stars executive Keith Andresen told her that the Stars, which ran the rink where the club practices, wanted those coaches to stay.

His next words were seared in her memory:

"Let me remind you where you get your ice from."

Andresen later said he did not use those words. To Bry, though, the implication was clear: Unless the club gave the coaches their jobs back, the Stars could stop letting its six teams practice in their rinks. She couldn't understand why an NHL team would strong-arm a youth hockey club over a personnel matter and hold its kids' ability to play hostage.

The Stars, she soon learned, had operated that way for years.



Lisa Bry is the former president of the Frisco Ice Hockey Association, a nonprofit hockey club for middle and high

school students in the Dallas area. MICHAEL MULVEY FOR USA TODAY

ABOUT THIS SERIES

This is part of a USA TODAY investigative series about the Dallas Stars and their influence over youth hockey in Texas.

Coming Aug. 12

Part 2 examines how the Stars' monopoly on ice rinks allows them to threaten parents who speak out and to dominate the nonprofit that makes decisions for youth hockey in Texas.

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ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREA BRUNTY/
USA TODAY; GETTY IMAGES

Dems see pressures of exodus unfolding

Texas lawmakers juggle lives to fight redrawing

Phillip M. Bailey
USA TODAY

A child starting kindergarten is a milestone most American families wouldn't dare miss, but it's one John Bucy will be absent from this month when one of his daughters takes a first step in her education.

The 41-year-old Texas state legislator, whose district includes parts of northern Austin, is among the more than 50 Democratic lawmakers who've fled the Lone Star State to thwart President Donald Trump's effort to protect his razor-thin Republican majority in Congress. He packed his suitcase to be gone for 30 days – maybe longer.

"It makes me scared. It makes me sad," Bucy said in an interview about his self-imposed exodus from his family. "I want to be a part of their lives every chance that I can. But what scares me more is if I'm not here, if they grow up and things are worse off in this country because we didn't stop this gerrymandering."

Bucy is staying at an undisclosed hotel in Illinois while he and his fellow

See EXODUS, Page 3A

State representative: 'Try to talk to everybody'

Why this Democrat stayed in Texas to battle the GOP redistricting plan. **3A**



Julien Robert Post-Melbye holds a wooden object found among the melting glaciers in Norway. PROVIDED BY SECRETS OF THE ICE

Climate change is unearthing history hidden in seas, glaciers

Karissa Waddick
USA TODAY

When a violent winter storm pummeled a small Scottish island in February 2024, it unearthed buried treasure – a strange wooden beam found near the ocean's edge.

It belonged to an 18th-century London whaling ship called the Earl of Chatham, which crashed during an expedition to the Arctic in 1788.

If it weren't for climate change, the wreckage might never have been recovered. Those who worked for more than a year to identify the Earl of Chatham credited an increase in stormy weather and new, unusual wind patterns for its discovery. The accelerating transformation of the coastline, known as the "cradle of shipwrecks," could lead to similar finds, they say.

Such discoveries are happening in

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Hockey

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The Dallas Stars’ monopoly

Unlike the NFL, NBA and MLB, a handful of NHL teams are intimately involved in running the youth levels of sports in their regions – perhaps none more than the Stars. In Dallas, the Stars spent decades turning what was once seen as a community good into a lucrative arm of their for-profit enterprise. Stars executives addressed some of USA TODAY’s questions in a 35-minute interview and emailed statements, but left other questions unanswered.

“We’re really proud of everything we built here, and we’re committed to continuing to grow hockey in the community and across the state,” said Dan Stuchal, the Stars’ chief operating officer. “We’ve become the model for all non-traditional NHL markets that both the NHL and USA Hockey continually point to in terms of how to grow the game because that’s the focus for everybody.”

At a time of increasing commercialization of youth sports nationally, hockey is particularly vulnerable to capture by corporate interests. Whereas baseball and soccer fields, tennis and basketball courts are ubiquitous in parks and schools, fewer than 3,000 ice hockey rinks exist across the United States, largely because running them is so expensive.

The Stars capitalized on that dynamic by building an ice empire. They convinced seven local municipalities to spend tens of millions of taxpayer dollars building rinks that the Stars run and profit from. Their ownership group bought up three more. Along the way, at least eight other independent ice hockey rinks went out of business. Now, every level of amateur hockey in North Texas, from preschoolers to adults, runs through the state’s NHL team.

By monopolizing the ice, the Stars effectively control the pathways by which young players advance to the sport’s highest stages. Knowing most local hockey families have nowhere else to go, the Stars impose their will by reminding parents that they can block the pathway for any kid.

The Stars regularly raise prices on their services while diminishing their quality. They repeatedly retaliate against people they perceive as threats, from coaches who defect to other rinks to parents who criticize them on Facebook. By stacking the regional USA Hockey governing body that regulates the sport with their own executives, the Stars all but ensured no one would stand in their way.

USA TODAY spoke to more than 100 hockey parents, coaches, players, business owners and current and former Stars employees and reviewed hundreds of pages of property records, business filings, contracts, tax returns, court records, emails and internal documents. Together, they reveal how the Stars bullied a community on their path to profiting off a youth sport.

“I had no clue what I was getting into,” Bry told USA TODAY. “If I have an issue or grievance, there is no process for me because they control everything.”

Delivering on their threat

In the face of Andresen’s threat, Bry stood her ground. The club did not renew the two coaches’ contracts. Emails, meeting audio, internal documents and dozens of interviews detail what happened next.

That summer, the Stars informed all two-dozen local high school hockey clubs that the NHL team would be taking over their operations. No longer would the clubs set and collect their own fees, negotiate their own practice ice time, hire and pay their own coaches, or sign sponsors without the Stars’ approval. All players would now pay the Stars directly. All coaches would now be Stars hires and employees.

Immediately, the Stars imposed a new fee structure that raised registration fees for many players while reducing the number of ice hours teams got. All teams would now get two preseason games – one fewer than in years past – and no more than one hour of practice ice a week. The Stars later reduced the regular-season schedule from 18 games to 16. That’s less than half the number of weekly ice hours that USA Hockey’s

Starcenter and Multisport Rates 2025-26					
STARCENTERS					
Description	2024-25 Hourly Rate	2025-26 Hourly Rate	Increase	Notes	
Rack Rate	\$ 550.00	\$ 600.00	9.09%		
External Events					
TAHA/DSTHL Events	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	0.00%		
Travel Clubs	\$ 475.00	\$ 500.00	5.26%		
Dallas Stars Tournaments	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	0.00%		
External Tournaments	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	0.00%		
College Teams - Game	\$ 475.00	\$ 500.00	5.26%		
College Teams - Practice	\$ 425.00	\$ 450.00	5.88%		
High School Teams	\$ 475.00	\$ 500.00	5.26%		
Pro Time	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00	0%		
Open Hockey	\$ 20.00	\$ 22.00	10.00%		
Curling - Bonspiel	\$ 400.00	\$ 425.00	6.25%	Single event per year	
Curling - Corporate	\$ 350.00	\$ 375.00	7.14%	Weekdays only around noon	
Curling	\$ 450.00	\$ 475.00	5.56%		
Figure Skating - Competition	\$ 475.00	\$ 500.00	5.26%		
Figure Skating - Test Session	\$ 475.00	\$ 500.00	5.26%		
Public Skating	\$ 15.00	\$ 17.00	13.33%		
Skate Rental	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	0.00%		
Public Skating Annual Pass	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	0.00%		
Public Skating Monthly Pass	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	0.00%		
Public Skating Group Rates					
	10-25	\$ 18.00	\$ 20.00	11.11%	
	26-49	\$ 16.00	\$ 18.00	12.50%	
	50+	\$ 14.00	\$ 16.00	14.29%	
Birthday Parties Party Zone	\$ 299.00	\$ 349.00	16.72%		
Birthday Parties Room Rental	\$ 349.00	\$ 399.00	14.33%		
Birthday Parties Additional Guest	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00	33.33%		
Adult Rookies Bag	\$ 299.00	\$ 349.00	16.72%	Includes 2 Free Classes	
Junior Rookies Bag	\$ 275.00	\$ 299.00	8.73%	Includes 2 Free Classes	
Little Rookies Bag	\$ 225.00	\$ 249.00	10.67%	Includes 2 Free Classes	
Figure Skating - Freestyle Walk On 1HR	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00	0.00%		
Figure Skating - Freestyle Walk On 1/2 HR	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	0.00%		
Figure Skating - Freestyle Punch 1/2 HR	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	0.00%		
Figure Skating - Coach Staff 1 HR	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	0.00%		
Figure Skating - Coach Staff 1/2 HR	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00	0.00%		
Figure Skating - Coach Non - Staff 1 HR	\$ 24.00	\$ 24.00	0.00%		
Figure Skating - Coach Non -Staff 1/2 HR	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	0.00%		
PREP League	\$ 149.00	\$ 179.00	20.13%		
PREP To DSMHL	\$ 399.00	\$ 499.00	25.06%	Price could change based on season length	
DSMHL 6U	\$ 1,299.00	\$ 999.00	-23.09%	1 less practice per week, cross ice games	
DSMHL 8U	\$ 1,299.00	\$ 1,399.00	7.70%	Half ice games	
DSMHL 10U-14U	\$ 1,299.00	\$ 1,399.00	7.70%		

An internal document shared by a Dallas Stars employee, who spoke to USA TODAY on the condition of anonymity because the person is not authorized to speak publicly and fears retribution, shows how the Stars raised prices on many of their rinks' services this year. PROVIDED TO USA TODAY



The Stars partnered with the City of Mansfield in 2016 to build an ice rink and event space. PROVIDED BY PARENTS OF YOUTH HOCKEY PLAYERS IN TEXAS AND OKLAHOMA

American Development Model recommends for teens to improve.

Bry and the other club leaders were stunned. The Stars stripped the clubs of their agency, practically overnight. The Stars reinstated the two coaches. And there was nothing Bry or the club leaders could do – because the Stars controlled the ice.

Andresen told USA TODAY that the Stars made the changes to level the playing field for high school teams across the region, charge each player the same price, pay each coach the same amount, and protect coaches from club leaders with axes to grind. Under the new structure, he said, most coaches got pay bumps, and most players ended up paying less in the first year. As for the two coaches, he said the Stars felt they deserved to stay because they had strong track records and had not violated any rules.

Of all the clubs, the changes hurt the Frisco Ice Hockey Association the most. The Stars’ contract with the City of Frisco to manage the city-owned rink requires them to give the club a minimum of 104 ice hours each year free of charge. After the takeover, however, the Stars stopped honoring that agreement.

For the next two years, families in the association were collectively billed tens of thousands of dollars for ice they were supposed to get free, Bry said. She and other club leaders reported the apparent breach of contract to City of Frisco leaders, whose emails show they met with the Stars in March to discuss it.

As of July, the Stars agreed to give overbilled families a discount toward future seasons, city officials confirmed. Families like Bry’s, whose kids no longer play, will get refunds of \$312 for each season overcharged – a figure she believes falls well short of what they lost.

A taxpayer-subsidized empire

In the business of amateur hockey, ice is power. In the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, the Stars amassed almost all of it.

The Stars inked a deal to buy their first rink in Texas in 1993, the year the

franchise relocated to Dallas from Minnesota. The team needed a place to practice, so they bought the only full-sized rink in the state. They renamed it “StarCenter.”

Hockey wasn’t big in Texas at the time. But playoff runs in five of the Stars’ first six seasons there spawned a wave of interest. Kids and adults signed up in droves for the StarCenter’s recreational leagues and competitive teams.

By 1999, the Stars had competition. At least nine other privately owned rinks in the metroplex were running their own hockey programs to accommodate the growing demand. The Stars looked to grow their footprint.

Over the next decade, the NHL team cut deals with five cities to build new StarCenters using public money.

City contracts lay out the details. The cities each put up around \$10 million or more up front to build the rinks. Once built, they leased the rinks exclusively to the Stars, who agreed to repay the cities in rent payments over 20 to 30 years. In theory, the cities would eventually get their up-front costs back, while the Stars would keep the profits.

The Stars continued expanding when Tom Gaglardi, a Canadian hotel and restaurant magnate, bought the Stars franchise in 2011 for \$240 million.

His company, Northland Developments, bought two privately owned rinks months apart in 2014. The Stars partnered with the City of Mansfield in 2016 to build a 78,000-square-foot ice rink and event space that cost residents more than \$20 million, city invoices show, after the Stars blew through the original budget.

Today, the Stars run eight of the 11 full-sized ice-rink facilities within 150 miles of downtown Dallas – and are still growing. In 2024, they partnered with the Town of Northlake to build another taxpayer-funded StarCenter, which is under construction. They are in discussions with the City of Forney to build what could be their 10th rink.

The use of public money to bring ice to Dallas helped roughly triple the number of people registered with USA Hockey to play in Texas. At the same time, it crushed the competition and concentrated almost all the market power in a region of 8 million people into the hands of one for-profit company.

“We have the expertise, we have the staff, we have the resources to bring the best-quality hockey facilities and programming to the entire marketplace,” said Stuchal, the Stars’ chief operating officer. “I can’t speak to other businesses that have come into play here, but without our investment in growing the sport here locally, there just wouldn’t be the hockey landscape that exists today.”

The Stars, valued by Forbes at \$2 billion, have shown their competitors little mercy.

“We have to live within their world,” said Frank Trazzera, who since 2007 has run a rink in Fort Worth called NY-TEX Sports Centre. “They do a lot of

great things for hockey. Not all of them have been inclusive of us.”

On multiple occasions, the Stars have excluded teams that play at non-Stars-run rinks from their leagues, fracturing what had long been community-wide activities. Last year, the Stars kicked NYTEX’s “house” teams – the lowest level of youth competition – out of their league after 15 years, forcing the rink to form its own league with far fewer players and teams.

The Stars readmitted NYTEX’s teams to its house leagues for the upcoming season. Trazzera said he believes the Stars kicked out NYTEX’s teams because his rink ran spring programs that competed with the Stars’ programs.

“They ended the relationship in a text message,” Trazzera said. “We were out with no discussion.”

More money, less ice

Instead of using their influence to make a notoriously expensive sport more accessible, the Stars used their monopoly power to jack up prices.

Kat Pierce’s son played the 2024 season for his local high school team and a competitive travel club, the McKinney North Stars. She said she and her husband spent about \$30,000 on hockey expenses last year alone.

Club and league fees – which cover teams’ ice rental – cost about \$9,000. Another \$8,000 went toward airfare, hotels, rental cars, gas, and meals for out-of-town games and tournaments. The rest covered private camps, lessons, training, equipment and team apparel.

Travel clubs that rent Stars ice have steadily paid more money for the same or fewer ice hours, tax returns and financial disclosures show. In six years, the Stars increased the price they charge travel clubs for ice from \$375 to \$500 an hour.

Ice costs for the McKinney North Stars’ nine teams increased from \$350,000 to \$425,000 from 2017 to 2022, tax returns show. Its average team now receives 79 practice ice hours per year, down from 97 eight years ago.

Registration fees for Stars tournaments have similarly ballooned. In five years, the team price for the Stars’ annual Labor Day tournament increased from \$1,695 to \$2,295. That doesn’t include mandatory hotel bookings, from which the Stars get kickbacks.

Even private lessons – all but required for young players who want to advance in the sport – have exceeded some families’ reach.

A one-hour private lesson with a coach and four kids used to cost each family around \$55, multiple parents told USA TODAY. That jumped to between \$75 and \$100 per kid after the Stars more than doubled their minimum cut per lesson. Under the new fee structure, one-on-one lessons can run upward of \$200.

As ice goes, Dallas isn’t necessarily more expensive than other parts of the country where one company controls much of the ice. Ice is cheaper in states like Minnesota and Michigan, where the competition is robust and many rinks are community-owned and run.

Rising energy costs explain part of the Stars’ regular price increases, said Grant Juengling, treasurer of the Dallas Penguins travel club – but families bear the brunt of it.

“We go through various levels of frustration, acceptance and frustration again with the Stars,” he said. “We are very mindful of reminding them that there’s only so much that we can do. It’s very much a tenant-landlord relationship.”

Stuchal acknowledged the hardships that price hikes cause families. He said the Stars are not immune to rising costs, either, and that the organization’s leaders came to each decision to raise prices “very cautiously and thoughtfully.”

“Everything has gotten more expensive; it’s just the economy we live in right now,” Stuchal said. “We’re really just trying to keep this thing afloat and keep things moving in a positive direction.”

Pierce and her husband struggle to make ends meet. Medical ailments have prevented her from working consistently, she said. Her husband works a full-time job and makes side income from refereeing and donating plasma.

“We live hand-to-mouth,” Pierce said. “It’s a huge struggle just to keep your kid’s dreams alive.”

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GANNETT.

Texas Democrat goes it alone – again

Raymond stays behind to fight redistricting effort

Rick Jervis
USA TODAY

AUSTIN – State Rep. Richard Peña Raymond, a South Texas Democrat, has spent the past week prowling near-empty halls in the Texas state Capitol, talking to any Republican lawmaker who would listen and trying to avert a U.S. Supreme Court showdown.

On the nearby House floor, Republican lawmakers maneuvered to try to launch a rare mid-decade redistricting effort. They’ve drawn up a new map of U.S. House districts that could give the GOP five more seats and help the party maintain control of the narrowly divided chamber.

Most of Raymond’s Democratic colleagues left Texas in an attempt to bust the quorums needed for the legislature to pass the measure. But he stayed behind, trying to cajole, convince, pressure, or plead his way out of the crisis.

For Raymond, it’s déjà vu all over again.

In 2003, when Texas Republican lawmakers again tried to redraw districts outside the norms of the once-a-decade process that follows each new Census, Raymond was on the redistricting committee and became an ardent voice of the opposition. When the measure passed, he was named as a plaintiff in a lawsuit that ultimately ended in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

This time, he said, the stakes are even higher.

“2003 was a big deal. We went through a lot,” Raymond, 64, told USA TODAY from his first-floor office at the Capitol. “I could see that that was history-making, and what’s going on right now will be history-making.”

Midterm battle prompts Texas showdown

The current showdown began when President Donald Trump and White House officials urged Texas Republican leaders to redraw voting maps to add five new Republican-friendly seats to the U.S. House of Representatives. State Democrats traveled to Illinois – some



Texas Rep. Richard Peña Raymond, a Democrat from Laredo, stayed behind while many of his colleagues fled to break up a quorum. RICK JERVIS/USA TODAY

even to New York and Massachusetts – to prevent Republicans from reaching the two-thirds quorum in the 150-member legislature needed to conduct business.

If Texas Republicans succeed in adding five GOP seats to the U.S. House, the Trump-friendly chamber could allow the president to continue one of the most aggressive and disruptive agendas in modern presidential history. A Democratic majority in January 2027 opens the door to congressional investigations, legislative paralysis – even a third impeachment.

Gov. Greg Abbott has threatened to arrest the absent lawmakers and the Justice Department of Justice has said it will also try to track down the AWOL representatives. And on Aug. 8, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton asked the state Supreme Court to oust 13 Democratic lawmakers from office over their absence from the Capitol, arguing they abandoned their seats when they fled the state.

The GOP’s Texas power play has set off a redistricting arms race as blue state leaders move to create more Democratic-leaning House seats to counter Texas, and lawmakers in other red states, including Indiana and Missouri, consider joining the fray. Vice President JD Vance met with Indiana lawmakers on Aug. 7, reportedly to urge them to redraw maps and Florida Republican leaders have said they, too, will form a

committee to begin redrawing districts. In 2003, Texas Republicans also tried to redraw maps three years after Census data was released, prompting state Democrats to retreat to a Holiday Inn in Oklahoma, just over the state line from Texas and out of reach of troopers who could force them to return.

Raymond fought the bill in committee, then joined his colleagues in Oklahoma. During committee hearings, he was at times the lone Democrat, objecting to Republican motions and grilling witnesses about the legality and fairness of gerrymandering maps for partisan gain. His goal was to get his comments and questions – and their replies – on the official record.

“Just really putting them through the ringer to build the court record,” he remembered. “I was very, very involved in it, from the beginning to the end.”

Lawmakers ultimately approved the new maps. But lawsuits were filed and the case wound up in the U.S. Supreme Court. A 5-4 decision upheld the Texas redistricting plan but ruled part of it violated the Voting Rights Act by diluting the voting power of Latino voters. A proposal to split Laredo, Raymond’s hometown, in half was removed.

“It was a 50-50 victory, but a victory nonetheless,” he said.

‘Try to talk to everybody’

On Aug. 8, Raymond walked the short distance from his first-floor office to the second-floor House chamber. He wound his way around desks, chatting with fellow lawmakers, both Democrat and Republican, patting others on the back, joking with others.

There’s a saying, he said, that’s popular in the Spanish-speaking border city where he’s from: *Hablando se entiende*, or “Speaking to each other, you’re able to understand each other.”

“I have always tried my whole career to try to talk to everybody, get to know everybody, all 149 other members,” he said. “That hasn’t changed.”

Raymond, a state lawmaker since 2001, is one of the more tenured Democrats in the legislature. Known as a moderate, he represents a heavily Latino district that fans out for several square miles from Laredo along the U.S.-Mexico border and is home to

about 183,000 residents.

Last year, Trump managed a near sweep of Texas border counties, traditionally a Democratic stronghold, winning 14 of the 18 counties on or near the border, including Webb County, which includes Laredo.

Trump’s wins along the border were the biggest for a presidential candidate in three decades, outpacing those by native Texan George W. Bush when he won the governorship in 2004.

The border’s shifting allegiances make it politically risky for representatives of those districts to align too closely with national Democratic figures, such as Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, who is essentially harboring the Texas Democrats, said Mark Jones, a Rice University political scientist.

It’s no coincidence, Jones said, that five of the six Democrats who stayed behind last week were from border districts in South Texas. Raymond, who is up for reelection next year, also likely prefers to keep his distance, he said.

Republicans in Texas appear to be focused on keeping the new redistricting maps unchanged, Jones said, despite the efforts of Raymond or anyone else.

“The idea you can stay behind and get maps drawn to be less impactful on Democratic representation is very unlikely,” he said.

Raymond acknowledged he’s faced with a herculean task. His deepest fear, he said, is that the issue will again end up before the Supreme Court – this time with a court much more malleable to the GOP agenda.

Still, he’ll keep trying. When it gets to feel overwhelming, he said, he tries to remind himself that other members equally love their country and state – and are trying to make it better.

“I recognize that we won’t always agree on how we get there, but I don’t ever doubt that,” Raymond said. “I always start from that common place.”

The session on Aug. 8 was brief: Eight minutes gavel to gavel. House Speaker Dustin Burrows, a Republican, recognized there still wasn’t a quorum, chastised the missing members and adjourned until Aug. 11.

Moments after Burrows gaveled the meeting to a close, Raymond began talking to other lawmakers.

Contributing: Zac Anderson

Exodus

Continued from Page 1A

Democrats continue to block their Republican colleagues from conducting official business back in Austin, such as the rare mid-decade redrawing of their state’s maps that define congressional district boundaries. He said he’s still in touch with his legislative staff, who are keeping up with constituents and connecting them to state agencies.

Texas is a part-time legislature with a \$7,200 annual salary, so like many members, Bucy has a regular job running a statewide organization that provides athletic, academic and arts competitions for charter school students.

Other Texas colleagues who aren’t able to work remotely say they are juggling their personal lives, too, amid a partisan firestorm that is spilling over into other Republican and Democratic-controlled states ahead of the November 2026 midterm election campaign.

Texas state Rep. Donna Howard said she had to take her grandson along when she left town. Baker, 4, has one parent in recovery and another who isn’t in the picture. He’s since become a “mascot” for the Democratic legislators at the hotel who have volunteered to help watch him when she speaks with constituents, conducts media interviews or when she needs time alone.

“It is a village and my village is stepping up to support me with my grandchild,” said Howard, 73, whose district includes parts of southern Austin. “I can’t tell you how many people I don’t even normally work with on things who have come up and said, ‘Can I take him for a little bit and go throw the ball?’ So he’s kind of like ‘King of the Hill’ in a lot of ways.”

Texas Dems resist ‘headache factor’ but for how long?

USA TODAY spoke with more than a dozen Texas Democrats at the center of the national tug-of-war who are facing \$500-per-day fines, plus sharp rebukes from Trump and his allies.

They have made arrangements to secure extended child care. They have requested longer-than-expected work absences and found new locations for aging loved ones who require 24-hour caretakers. But they also said living in close quarters has an upside: their rela-

tionships and team-building have improved with activities such as daily exercise groups.

“Pack a toothbrush. Pack hair spray because hey, this could go on for a while and you got to be ready for it,” said Democratic Rep. Ann Johnson, an attorney who represents parts of Houston.

Johnson, 50, participated in the last Texas quorum break orchestrated by Democrats in 2021, when they fled to Washington, DC, to resist the GOP tightening the state’s election rules. She said she was more prepared this time, but added that this fight is a more stressful and significant situation given the Trump administration’s pressure.

“They’ll continue to try to break us, but I actually feel, unlike 2021, there’s a really strong coalition here,” Johnson said. “There’s a drastic difference ... now the threats are so much harsher, they’re so much more significant, and the risk of what we lose if we are not successful is really large.”

Republicans are also doing their part to stymie the Democrats’ political efforts, not to mention making their personal lives uncomfortable.

Three-term Texas GOP Gov. Greg Abbott has threatened to arrest and expel the missing Democrats from the legislature. The state’s Republican attorney general, Ken Paxton, filed an Aug. 8 lawsuit seeking to get 13 of them removed from office. The FBI is also helping with the search for the lawmakers, according to U.S. Sen. Jon Cornyn, a Texas Republican facing his own 2026 primary challenge from Paxton and who made the request for help.

“A lot of people are demanding they come back,” Trump told reporters on Aug. 5. “You can’t just sit it out. You have to go back.”

In suburban Chicago, an Aug. 6 bomb threat at the hotel where some of the Texas Democratic legislators have been staying woke them from sleep with a blaring siren echoing through the halls every 30 seconds. It forced an evacuation of the building and took about two hours before guests were allowed back inside, several lawmakers told USA TODAY.

Many of the Democrats said the bomb threat marks a turning point, and made them think of officials being targeted in other states, such as in Minnesota, where an alleged gunman shot two state lawmakers and their spouses at their homes in June, killing one of the couples.

“We have people who are threatening our lives, threatening our families’ lives by exposing us,” said state Rep. Christian Manuel, 38, whose district covers an eastern portion of the state that includes Beaumont, Texas.

Manuel, who is Black, helps take care of his 95-year-old grandmother and remains in contact with family members. Living an hour outside of Jasper, Texas, where a Black man named James Byrd was dragged to death by confirmed white supremacists in 1998, he said the bomb threat at the Illinois hotel reminded him of the potential danger.

“My family is aware,” Manuel said. “We are all on alert.”

For many of the absconding Democrats, these incidents have hardened their resolve to resist what progressive critics say are Trump and Abbott’s attempts to change the math in their favor for the upcoming 2026 midterms.

Texas state Rep. Jolanda Jones, who represents parts of Houston, went viral this week after she slammed Abbott’s attempt to have the legislators return. She was also embroiled in controversy for comparing the redistricting plan to the Holocaust in an Aug. 5 interview on “The Don Lemon Show,” for which she later apologized.

Jones said she serves as her mother’s primary caregiver and that other relatives and neighbors back home have stepped up to help, but that she remains worried about her mother’s well-being, given Jones’ high visibility.

“My mother can’t live by herself – that’s the bottom line. So me deciding to quorum break was a big deal,” Jones, 59, who is running for a Houston-based seat in Congress, told USA TODAY. “I don’t know what would happen to my mom if she opened the door and, would they barge in, what would they do? I’m absolutely concerned.”

Dems hope to frame Texas battle as flood victims vs. Trump’s whims

Experts warn the endgame of the quorum break looks bleak for Democrats, even as the national party and liberal activists say they believe the fight could be an inflection point against the Trump administration.

“They walked out to stop Republicans from hijacking our democracy,” said Christina Harvey, executive director of Stand Up America, a left-leaning voting rights group that has been running ads on social media and TV to mo-

bilize its members against the redistricting efforts.

The Texas special session is scheduled to end Aug. 19, and Democratic legislators say they’re committed to staying away from Austin for the long haul. But Abbott can also keep convening legislators, over and over, legal and political experts say, while applying legal and law enforcement pressure until the Republican-controlled legislature gets what it wants.

The governor is adding a “headache factor” for lawmakers, Mark Jones, a professor of political science at Rice University, told USA TODAY. Even if none of Abbott’s efforts bear fruit, they could lead to the need for the runaway legislators to at least respond to a lawsuit and incur costs, lost time and extra effort, he said.

Quorum breaks have been a tool used by the minority party in Texas since 1870. Often, the move is more of a messaging effort with little success in blocking the specific proposal, experts point out. Texas rules say the House must have two-thirds of its members, or 100 people, present to move forward. Of the 62 House Democrats, a few have remained behind in Austin, meaning only a handful need to be arm-twisted into returning to the state for a quorum to be restored and votes to proceed.

Jones, the Rice University professor, said the roughly 50 legislators would have to stay out of the state through the end-of-year holidays and into the spring of 2026 for their long-term strategy to prevail.

Asked how long they can stay out of Texas, many of the Democratic legislators pivot in their responses to hammer the argument that Abbott is putting the two-term Republican president’s desires over a needed aid package for the deadly flooding that submerged central parts of the state in July.

For now, it’s unclear how the public is coming down on the Democrats’ framing of the fight.

A poll conducted by Texas-based Z to A Research, a Democratic-aligned firm, found that 63% of likely voters – including 41% of Republican voters – believe it’s unnecessary to be redrawing the congressional district lines several years before it typically happens. An overwhelming majority of 94% said they support funding flood warning systems and relief efforts, according to a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee memo.

Mexican president rejects cartel plan

Josh Meyer
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has ruled out any U.S. military “invasion” into Mexico following the Trump administration’s reported plans to use military force against Latin American drug cartels.

“The United States is not going to come to Mexico with the military,” Sheinbaum said on Aug. 8 at her regular morning news conference. “We co-operate, we collaborate, but there is not going to be an invasion. That is ruled out, absolutely ruled out.”

Sheinbaum’s comments are in response to a New York Times report on Aug. 8 that President Donald Trump has ordered the U.S. military to target transnational fentanyl traffickers who use Mexico as a base of operations.

The Times said Trump had secretly signed a directive to begin using military force on foreign soil against cartels. In February, the United States designated the Sinaloa Cartel and other Mexican drug cartels as global terrorist organizations, which some analysts have warned could be a stepping stone to such military action.

A U.S. official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, confirmed the new directive to Reuters but said military action against the designated groups did not appear imminent and it was unclear exactly what type of operations they would carry out.

Trump has long said publicly that the United States would take unilateral military action if Mexico failed to dismantle drug cartels. Sheinbaum, in return, has pushed Trump to do more to stop the flow of American-made guns from the U.S. into Mexico.

Sheinbaum has made similar comments before, including after a May 2 Wall Street Journal report that said Trump was pressuring Mexico to allow deeper U.S. military involvement against drug cartels.

“In one of the calls, (Trump) said, ‘How can we help you fight drug trafficking? I propose that the U.S. Army come in to help you,’” said Sheinbaum, who was speaking at a university event near Mexico City on May 2.

“And you know what I told him? No, President Trump, the territory is sacrosanct, sovereignty is sacrosanct, sovereignty is not for sale, sovereignty is loved and defended,” Sheinbaum said. While the two countries can collaborate, she said, “we will never accept the presence of the United States military in our territory.”

“We can collaborate, we can work together, but you can do it in your territory, we can do it in ours,” she said.

Trump reportedly considered military action in Mexico during his first term. His former defense secretary, Mark Esper, wrote in his memoir that Trump asked at least twice in 2020 if the military could “shoot missiles into Mexico to destroy drug labs.”

Esper wrote that he replied that it would be illegal and an act of war.

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Blood clots inspire fear, yet they are necessary

Timing and location can prompt concern

Daryl Austin
USA TODAY

Blood clots are among the most feared medical emergencies, and for good reason. They can lead to heart attacks, strokes and death. But not all clots are dangerous. In fact, clotting is a natural and often lifesaving bodily function that helps stop bleeding when we’re injured. It’s how a scraped knee stops oozing and why a minor cut doesn’t require a trip to the emergency room.

The danger arises when clots form in the wrong place or at the wrong time. Here’s more about blood clots, how they’re typically treated and how it feels when you have one, so you can know when it’s time to worry.



Clotting of our blood is a natural and often lifesaving bodily function that helps stop bleeding when we’re injured. GETTY IMAGES

What is a blood clot?

A blood clot is a gel-like clump of blood components primarily made up of platelets and fibrin that forms to stop bleeding. “Fibrin is a protein that forms a meshlike structure to trap blood cells, and platelets are small cell fragments that clump together and adhere to the mesh,” explains Fadi Shamoun, a cardiologist and vascular medicine specialist at Mayo Clinic.

Clots are meant to form when the body signals for clotting in response to an injury and then dissolve once healing begins. But if a clot develops inside a blood vessel without external trauma, or if one forms appropriately but doesn’t dissolve, it can pose serious health risks.

Clots can form in either arteries (arterial thrombosis) or veins (venous thromboembolism, or VTE). “When clots form in the veins of the body’s circulatory system, they often develop in the legs and can travel to the lungs, causing what’s known as a pulmonary embolism,” says Shaline Rao, a cardiologist at NYU Langone Hospital, Long Island. Clots that form in arteries, she adds, can cut off blood flow to the heart or brain, leading to a heart attack or stroke.

“Low movement of blood can trigger clotting,” Rao explains. This can happen due to prolonged immobility, recent surgery, smoking, cancer, hormone therapy, pregnancy or inherited clotting disorders. Underlying medical conditions such as atrial fibrillation also increase the risk, and age can be another factor. This is because our blood tends to clot more

easily as we get older and blood vessel walls become more prone to damage.

How it feels

What a blood clot feels or looks like depends on where it forms. For example, deep vein thrombosis which occurs in the legs, may cause a heavy or cramping sensation – typically in just one leg – as well as localized swelling (especially below the knee), tenderness that worsens when walking or standing, a visible lump or cord under the skin and warmth or redness in the area.

If a clot travels to the lungs or heart, it can produce symptoms similar to a heart attack.

These include sudden shortness of breath, nausea, sweating, sharp chest pain, a rapid heartbeat and “difficulty breathing, painful coughing and sometimes feeling lightheaded or faint,” says Shamoun.

Clots that form in the brain cause stroke-like symptoms, including “vision changes, slurring of speech, sudden weakness on one side of the body or even confusion,” says Doris Chan, a cardiologist at NYU Langone Hospital in Brooklyn.

While some clots produce dramatic symptoms, others are subtle.

That’s why unexplained swelling, pain, chest discomfort or shortness of breath should always prompt immediate medical attention.

Treating blood clots

When a blood clot is suspected, imaging tools such as ultrasounds or CT scans typically are used to confirm the diagnosis and start treatment.

The most common treatment for vein-related clots is anticoagulation, which often is referred to as blood thinning. This type of treatment “prevents the clot from growing and reduces the risk of new clots,” Shamoun says. Common blood thinners include warfarin, heparin, apixaban, rivaroxaban and dabigatran.

Clots in arteries are usually treated with antiplatelet agents such as aspirin or clopidogrel, says Chan.

In more serious or high-risk cases such as with strokes or pulmonary embolisms, patients may require more intensive clot-busting medications or minimally-invasive procedures to remove the clot directly. “And some hospitals are equipped with devices that can suction out clots or use tools to reopen blocked arteries or veins,” Chan adds.

Supportive therapies like compression stockings are often also recommended, especially for patients with ongoing risk factors such as cancer or heart disease.

Regardless of what treatment plan is recommended, identifying the root cause of the clot is key. Early detection and proper care can prevent nearly every blood clot from becoming an emergency. “The best advice is if something feels off about your body, it’s best to be seen by a doctor quickly to have all treatment options considered,” Rao says.

Zelenskyy rejects concessions after Trump floats land swap

Zac Anderson
and Francesca Chambers
USA TODAY

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy rejected territorial concessions to Russia as part of a peace deal, speaking out after President Donald Trump said in advance of a planned meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin that “swapping of territories” could be part of an agreement to end the war.

“Ukrainians will not gift their land to the occupier,” Zelenskyy said in a video released on Aug. 9.

Trump and Putin are set to meet in Alaska on Aug. 15 to discuss ending the three-year conflict. The Trump administration has struggled to broker a peace deal, with Trump increasingly lashing out at Putin and threatening financial repercussions if he doesn’t come to the table.

Trump said on Aug. 8 during a White House event that both Russia and Ukraine would have to give up territory to reach a deal.

“You are looking at territory that has been fought over for 3.5 years,” Trump said.

“We’re looking at that. But we’re looking at swapping.

“We’re going to get some back,” referring to Ukrainian territory occupied by Russia. “We’re going to get some switched. There’ll be some swapping of territories.”

Yet Zelenskyy is strongly opposing ceding land to Russia and added in a series of social media posts on Aug. 9 that the war “can’t be ended without us, without Ukraine” and that any decisions made “without Ukraine, are at the same time decisions against peace.”

“They will not achieve anything,” Zelenskyy added. “These are stillborn decisions. They are unworkable decisions.”

European leaders put out a statement on Aug. 9 reiterating their support for Ukraine ahead of Trump’s meeting with Putin.

“The path to peace in Ukraine cannot be decided without Ukraine,” reads the statement from the leaders of France, Italy, Germany, Poland, Finland, the United Kingdom and the European Union. “We remain committed to the principle that international borders must not be changed by force.”

Talks have been floated for months and were initially supposed to include Zelenskyy, with Trump facilitating the negotiations. When that didn’t make

progress, Trump said on Aug. 7 that he was willing to meet Putin without Zelenskyy attending.

A White House official said Trump still is open to a summit that includes Zelenskyy, but the administration is focused on the meeting with Putin.

Then-President Joe Biden is the last U.S. leader to meet with Putin, during a 2021 summit in Switzerland.

Trump and Putin met in Finland in 2018. Both meetings took place before Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Putin claims four Ukrainian regions – Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson – as well as the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea, which he annexed in 2014. His forces do not fully control all the territory in the four regions.

Trump’s meeting with Putin could be a pivotal moment in his push for an end to the Ukraine war.

He frequently has berated the Russian leader in recent months and is threatening to impose new sanctions and tariffs against Moscow and countries that buy its exports unless Putin agrees to end the conflict, the deadliest in Europe since World War Two.

But with the Putin-Trump summit approaching, it is unclear whether those

sanctions will take effect, be delayed, or canceled.

The administration took a step toward punishing Moscow’s oil customers on Aug. 6, imposing an additional 25% tariff on goods from India over its imports of Russian oil, marking the first financial penalty aimed at Russia in Trump’s second term.

Vice President JD Vance met with U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy, Ukrainian officials and national security advisers from Europe on Aug. 9 at Chevening, the foreign secretary’s official country house in Kent, England.

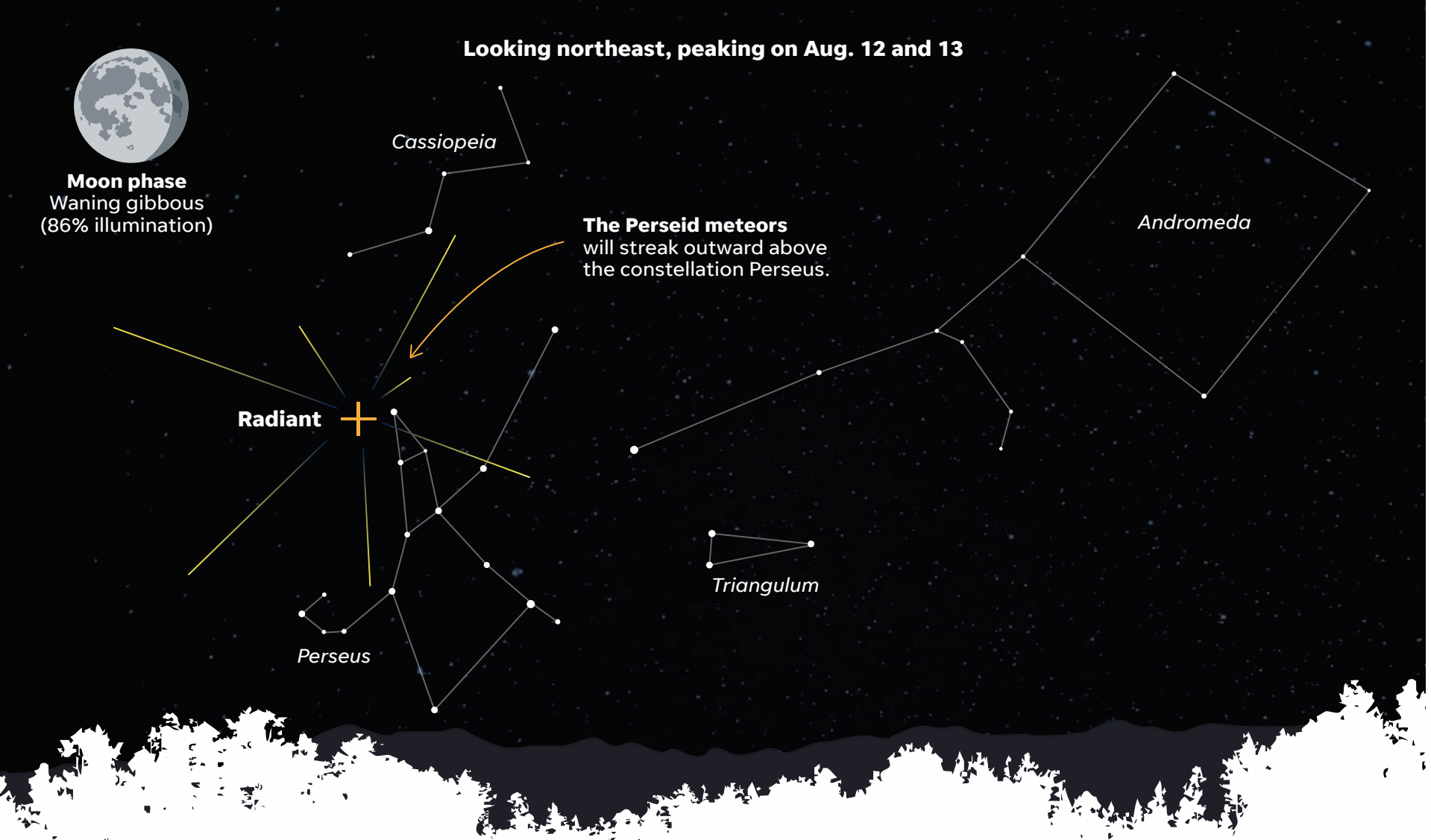
They discussed “a route to peace in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine,” Vance said on social media.

Andriy Yermak, the head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, thanked Vance for participating in the discussions and “respecting all points of view.”

“Our positions were clear: a reliable, lasting peace is only possible with Ukraine at the negotiating table, with full respect for our sovereignty and without recognizing the occupation,” Yermak said on social media.

“A ceasefire is necessary – but the front line is not a border.”

Contributing: Lauren Villagran, Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy



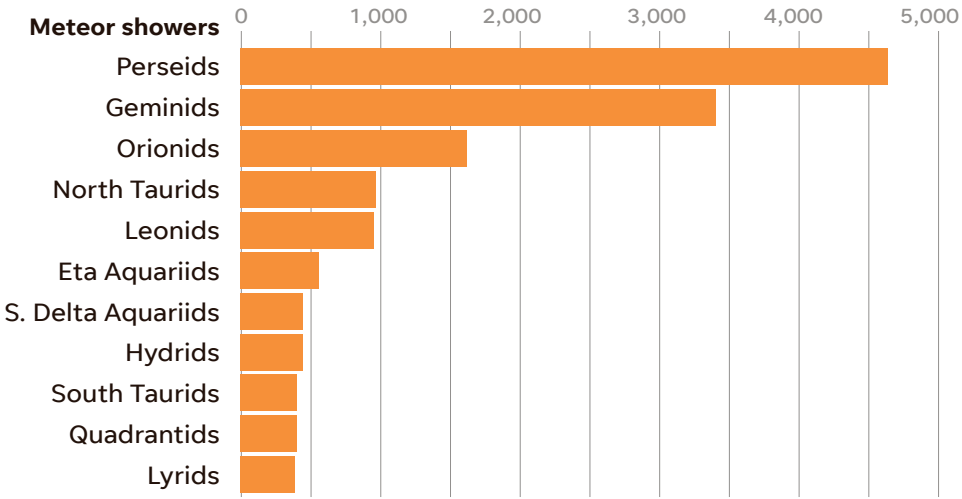
Perseid meteor shower peaks soon

Here’s where, when you can get the best views

Janet Loehrke
USA TODAY

The Perseid meteor shower – one of the best of the year, according to NASA – treats stargazers to plentiful bright meteors streaking swiftly through the atmosphere and colorful exploding fireballs. But the celestial event will be competing with the moon this year. A waning gibbous moon will reduce what we can see by at least 75% and only the brightest meteors will be visible, according to the American Meteor Shower Society. People counting these

Number of meteors brighter than Jupiter detected from 2009-21



SOURCE: NASA Meteoroid Environment Office, Space.com;

“shooting stars” might see about 10 to 20 per hour instead of the typical 50 to 100. The Perseid meteor shower, among the most beautiful in the Northern Hemisphere, is expected to peak on the evenings of Aug. 12 and 13 and will be visible through Aug. 23. The best viewing times may be after midnight and just before dawn, although experts at Weather Channel suggest going outside as early as 10 p.m. ET. The Perseid meteor shower is formed when space debris from the Swift-Tuttle comet – discovered by American astronomers Lewis Swift and Horace Tuttle in 1862 – interacts with our atmosphere.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Popular CoQ10 Pills Leave Millions Wanting

Could this newly-discovered brain fuel solve America’s worsening memory crisis?

Millions of Americans take the supplement known as CoQ10. It’s the coenzyme that supercharges the “energy factories” in your cells known as *mitochondria*. But there’s a serious flaw that’s leaving millions unsatisfied. As you age, your mitochondria break down and fail to produce energy. In a revealing study, a team of researchers showed that 95 percent of the mitochondria in a 90-year-old man were damaged, compared to almost no damage in the mitochondria of a 5-year-old. Taking CoQ10 alone is not enough to solve this problem. Because as powerful as CoQ10 is, there’s one critical thing it fails to do: it can’t create new mitochondria to replace the ones you lost. And that’s bad news for Americans all over the country. The loss of cellular energy is a problem for the memory concerns people face as they get older. “We had no way of replacing lost mitochondria until a recent discovery changed everything,” says Dr. Al Sears, founder and medical director of the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Palm Beach, Florida. “Researchers discovered the only nutrient known to modern science that has the power to trigger the growth of new mitochondria.”

Why Taking CoQ10 is Not Enough

Dr. Sears explains, “This new discovery is so powerful, it can multiply your mitochondria by 55 percent in just a few weeks. That’s the equivalent of restoring decades of lost brain power.” This exciting nutrient — called PQQ (*pyrroloquinoline quinone*) — is the driving force behind a revolution in aging. When paired with CoQ10, this dynamic duo has the power to reverse the age-related memory losses you may have thought were beyond your control. Dr. Sears pioneered a new formula — called **Ultra Accel Q** — that combines both CoQ10 and PQQ to support maximum cellular energy and the

normal growth of new mitochondria. **Ultra Accel Q** is the first of its kind to address both problems and is already creating huge demand. In fact, demand has been so overwhelming that inventories repeatedly sell out. But a closer look at **Ultra Accel Q** reveals there are good reasons why sales are booming.

Science Confirms the Many Benefits of PQQ

The medical journal *Biochemical Pharmacology* reports that PQQ is up to 5,000 times more efficient in sustaining energy production than common antioxidants. With the ability to keep every cell in your body operating at full strength, **Ultra Accel Q** delivers more than just added brain power and a faster memory. People feel more energetic, more alert, and don’t need naps in the afternoon. The boost in cellular energy generates more power to your heart, lungs, muscles, and more. “With the PQQ in Ultra Accel, I have energy I never thought possible at my age,” says Colleen R., one of Dr. Sears’s patients. “I’m in my 70s but feel 40 again. I think clearly, move with real energy and sleep like a baby.” The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and Dr. Sears receives countless emails from his patients and readers. “My patients tell me they feel better than they have in years. This is ideal for people who are feeling old and run down, or for those who feel more forgetful. It surprises many that you can add healthy and productive years to your life simply by taking **Ultra Accel Q** every day.” You may have seen Dr. Sears on television or read one of his 12 best-selling books. Or you may have seen him speak at the 2016 WPBF 25 Health and Wellness Festival in South Florida, featuring Dr. Oz and special guest Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people attended Dr. Sears’s lecture on anti-aging breakthroughs and waited in line for hours during his book signing at the event.



MEMORY-BUILDING SENSATION: Top doctors are now recommending new Ultra Accel Q because it restores decades of lost brain power without a doctor’s visit.

Will Ultra Accel Q Multiply Your Energy?

Ultra Accel Q is turning everything we thought we knew about youthful energy on its head. Especially for people over age 50. In less than 30 seconds every morning, you can harness the power of this breakthrough discovery to restore peak energy and your “spark for life.” So, if you’ve noticed less energy as you’ve gotten older, and you want an easy way to reclaim your youthful edge, this new opportunity will feel like blessed relief. The secret is the “energy multiplying” molecule that activates a dormant gene in your body that declines with age, which then instructs your cells to pump out fresh energy from the inside-out. This growth of new “energy factories” in your cells is called mitochondrial biogenesis. Instead of falling victim to that afternoon slump, you enjoy sharp-as-a-tack focus, memory, and concentration from sunup to sundown. And you get more done in a day than most do in a week. Regardless of how exhausting the world is now. Dr. Sears reports, “The most rewarding aspect of practicing medicine is watching my patients get the joy back in their lives. **Ultra Accel Q** sends a wake-up call to every cell in their bodies... And they

actually feel young again.” And his patients agree. “I noticed a difference within a few days,” says Jerry from Ft. Pierce, Florida. “My endurance has almost doubled, and I feel it mentally, too. There’s a clarity and sense of well-being in my life that I’ve never experienced before.”

How To Get Ultra Accel Q

This is the official nationwide release of **Ultra Accel Q** in the United States. And so, the company is offering a special discount supply to anyone who calls during the official launch. An Order Hotline has been set up for local readers to call. This gives everyone an equal chance to try **Ultra Accel Q**. And your order is backed up by a no-hassle, 90-day money back guarantee. No questions asked. Starting at 7:00 AM today, the discount offer will be available for a limited time only. All you have to do is call TOLL FREE **1-888-241-7704** right now and use promo code **USAUAQ53** to secure your own supply. **Important:** Due to **Ultra Accel Q** recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back.

Archaeology

Continued from Page 1A

many other places, too.

As the planet warms, causing glaciers to melt and sea levels to rise, scientists say discoveries like the one on the Scottish island are becoming increasingly common across the globe.

“It’s a double-edged sword,” said James Delgado, a maritime archaeologist who has studied shipwrecks for 40-plus years. “There are more discoveries happening, climate change being a factor in that, but we’re also seeing things ... that we discovered in the past that are now disappearing.”

Shipwrecks galore

Coastal erosion has long led to the surfacing of old shipwrecks, but the number of vessels turning up has “intensified” as global temperatures have increased, said Delgado, who wrote the book “The Great Museum of the Sea: A Human History of Shipwrecks.”

Since 1992, the global sea level has risen nearly 4 inches, according to NASA data. Scientists estimate every inch of sea rise equates to about 8½ feet of beachfront loss across coasts.

Higher sea levels also mean stronger storm surges.

“We’re seeing more dramatic churn on beaches during storms, and that is causing the stripping away of the sand and other things that have been covering up these shipwrecks for decades,” Delgado said.

The same year the Earl of Chatham was discovered in Scotland, a storm in Massachusetts exposed a wrecked schooner from 1909. Another on North Carolina’s Outer Banks’s revealed the remains of a boat from 1919.

Hurricanes Matthew and Irma eroded Crescent Beach in St. Augustine, Florida, helping lead to the discovery of a Civil War ship in 2020.

Treasures hidden in the ice

Melting glaciers have also begun to reveal artifacts from thousands of years ago.

Dramatic melting of ice in Norway’s high mountains in 2006 led to a boom in findings. Archaeologists have collected more than 3,000 items spanning 6,000 years from the nation’s glaciers and ice patches as part of an initiative called Secrets of the Ice.

Humans have hunted reindeer and traveled along the Norwegian mountain ranges since the Stone Age. Julian Robert Post-Melbye, who has worked on the program since 2011, said items found in the ice have given historians a more vivid understanding of what life was like back then.

The artifacts are literally frozen in time. “They look like they’ve been lost for 10 days, but they’ve been there for 4,000 years,” Post-Melbye said.

Archaeologists have found birch bark containers with wax candles still inside them. They’ve analyzed horse manure from 800 years ago to discover what the animals ate and the pollen count at the time, Post-Melbye said.

“All these ice artifacts are just traces of a very rich and diverse communities and society stretching thousands of years that we had no or virtually no possibility of studying 20 years ago.”

Artifacts are deteriorating

For Post-Melbye, any excitement about the archaeological finds – and what they mean for understanding the past – gives way to a feeling of despair.

It’s hard to ignore what the artifacts mean: “6,000 years of ice has been melting away during the last 20 years in Norway,” he said.

While changing climate is leading to more discoveries, it’s also destroying some existing archaeological sites and presenting challenges for researchers.

Post-Melbye said a team of archaeologists in Norway is running against the clock each year to collect newly unfrozen artifacts from 70 sites before they dry up, crack or blow away.

In other areas of the world, more rain and rougher seas are wearing down preserved historical sites.

The Bouldnor Cliff, a submerged prehistoric settlement from the Stone Age off England’s southern coast, has experienced just over 13 feet of erosion in 10 years, according the Maritime Archaeology Trust in the United Kingdom. Researchers are racing to rescue perfectly kept artifacts, from flint tools to hazelnuts, found at the site.

Delgado sees the onslaught of archaeological finds and the increasing preservation challenges as “canaries in the coal mine.”

“Maybe them also being victims to climate change is yet another reminder that we need to do something to try to slow the progression of what’s happening.”

Agencies are ordered to scrub COVID-19 vaccine records

Move made to reverse ‘harmful’ Biden policies

Josh Meyer
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The Trump administration has ordered all federal agencies to scrub any records related to workers’ COVID-19 vaccination status and other compliance with pandemic mandates.

The order rescinding vaccine record retention requirements was announced in an Aug. 8 memorandum by Scott Kupor, the director of the Office of Personnel Management, in a memo to all federal department and agency heads. They have until Sept. 8 “to report their compliance,” Kupor wrote.

“Effective immediately, federal agencies may not use an individual’s COVID-19 vaccine status, history of noncompliance with prior COVID-19 vaccine mandates, or requests for exemptions from such mandates in any employment-related decisions, including but not limited to hiring, promotion, discipline, or termination,” Kupor wrote in the official memorandum to all heads and acting heads of federal departments and agencies.

Kupor said the move was part of the Trump administration’s broader effort to reverse “many harmful policies” of



In this photo illustration, Ruth Jones, Immunization Nurse, holds a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at Borinquen Health Care Center on May 29 in Miami.
JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

former President Joe Biden’s administration.

“Things got out of hand during the pandemic, and federal workers were fired, punished, or sidelined for simply making a personal medical decision. That should never have happened,” Kupor said in a post on X. “Thanks to @POTUS’s leadership, we’re making sure the excesses of that era do not have lingering effects on federal workers.”

Also, due to document preservation requirements related to recent litiga-

Census

Continued from Page 1A

recently in 2020. The U.S. Census Bureau, part of the Commerce Department, carries out these resource-intensive surveys and hires temporary staff to conduct outreach to count as many people as possible.

The survey results are used to decide how seats in the U.S. House of Representatives are distributed to each state based on its population, a process called apportionment. Those processes usually take place in the first two years of a decade.

The survey results are also used to determine how much federal funding is distributed to states, and researchers widely cite the demographic research to understand the country.

Who supports a new census?

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Georgia, announced a bill in July that would require a new census to be performed, counting only U.S. citizens, and then direct states to redraw their congressional districts based on the new numbers. “Americans don’t feel like they’re represented in Washington,” she said.

Hans Von Spakovsky, a senior legal fellow for the conservative Heritage Foundation, said he thinks states should redraw congressional districts every five years, as long as data is available, but it usually isn’t. He said the United States has a mobile and increasing population that a survey every 10 years doesn’t capture.

He also pointed to a 2022 report from the U.S. Census Bureau that found 14 states had statistically significant differences between the bureau’s count and the actual population. Six states – Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas – had undercounts.

He said better data might have led to more congressional seats in Texas and Florida.

Who opposes a new census?

John Bisognano, president of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, criticized Trump’s proposal as “a comprehensive campaign to flout the U.S. Constitution in order to predetermine election outcomes so he can consolidate his power and avoid accountability to the American people.”

Sophia Lin Lakin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union’s Voting Rights Project, told National Public Radio that following through “would defy the Constitution, federal law, and settled precedent,” and her organization “won’t hesitate to go back to court to protect representation for all communities.”

Why would Trump want to conduct a new census?

“The Republicans are so desperate at this point to forestall what’s likely going to happen in 2026,” said Michael

P. McDonald, a political science professor at the University of Florida.

Democrats are widely expected to win seats in the House of Representatives in next year’s congressional elections because the party that occupies the White House usually does poorly. Trump also has low approval ratings. That blue wave could flip control of the House, in which Republicans hold a 219 to 212 majority.

McDonald said if Republicans draw new congressional districts, they might be able to mitigate the number of seats they lose.

For example, the Republican stronghold of Texas saw such rapid population growth when the 2020 survey came out that it gained two additional congressional seats. Republican-leaning states of Florida and Montana, Democrat-leaning Oregon and Colorado, and tightly contested North Carolina each gained one seat.

“It seems pretty unlikely that you could do this for 2026 just because it takes so long.”

Shawn Donahue
Political science professor at the University at Buffalo on the possibility of a mid-decade census

The Democratic population centers of California, Illinois, and New York each lost one seat; so did Republican-leaning Ohio and West Virginia, and the swing states of Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Are immigrants counted?

Yes. The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution says Representatives shall be apportioned according to the “whole number of persons in each State.” This ended the longstanding practice of counting three-fifths of enslaved people for purposes of representation. There is no language in the 14th Amendment that restricts these counts to citizens or people with legal presence in the country.

During his first term, Trump attempted to add a question to the 2020 census asking if the person completing the survey was a citizen. The Supreme Court struck that down in 2019.

The following year, Trump issued a memorandum saying undocumented immigrants should not be included in counts that determine congressional representation.

Could Republicans gain more seats if a new census were conducted?

Von Spakovsky said a mid-decade census could result in more congressional seats for Texas and Florida. Both are red states with rapidly increasing populations, and both were undercounted in the 2020 census. Texas, for example, was undercounted by almost 550,000 in 2020 and added another 2 million people by 2024. By comparison, an average of 760,000 people live in each congressional district.

tion, Kupor said, “all information related to an employee’s COVID-19 vaccine status, noncompliance with prior vaccine mandates, or exemption requests must be expunged” from all employees’ official personnel folders unless, within 90 days, any individual “affirmatively opts out of this removal.”

The White House did not respond immediately to a USA TODAY request for comment.

Kupor’s memo cited a Sept. 9, 2021, executive order from Biden directing federal agencies to require COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of federal employment. While Biden subsequently repealed that order, his Office of Personnel Management soon after issued a new policy reminding agencies that the executive order could no longer be enforced.

A federal judge in December 2021 issued a nationwide injunction against a vaccine mandate for federal contractors, ruling that Biden likely exceeded his authority by imposing the requirement.

In May, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said the COVID-19 vaccine is no longer recommended for healthy children and pregnant women. But the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it was still recommending COVID-19 vaccines for healthy children, according to its published immunization schedule.

Within hours of Trump’s statement, Florida House Speaker Daniel Perez, a Republican, said he’s setting up a new redistricting committee.

McDonald said the congressional maps are the fairest they’ve been in about 40 years because of redistricting reform efforts across the country to prevent unfairly drawn districts. He said that the congressional maps are already drawn in a way that there are more Republican-leaning districts than Democratic-leaning ones, despite the practice of including undocumented immigrants in the count.

McDonald pointed to South Florida, where he said the lines place right-leaning Cuban Americans with high voter turnout rates in the same districts as lower-propensity, Democratic-leaning Hispanic voters.

If the maps were redrawn to not include undocumented immigrants, as Trump has suggested, he said there would likely be only two congressional seats in the area. “Who’s going to be on that game of musical chairs?” he asked.

How would a new census affect 2026 or 2028 elections?

Reapportioning congressional seats affects two things: How many congressional seats each state has and how many electoral votes each state has because electoral votes are equal to each state’s total number of Senate and House seats.

House terms last two years, and the elections take place in even years, with the next one coming in 2026. The next presidential election happens in 2028. But this doesn’t mean that a new census will take place or that maps will be rejiggered by then.

“It seems pretty unlikely that you could do this for 2026 just because it takes so long,” Donahue said. The government also isn’t allowed to speed up the process by basing its count on statistical sampling, he said, pointing to a 1999 Supreme Court decision that said people must be counted. “It’s not something where you can snap your fingers and it’s going to happen.”

Von Spakovsky suggested the Census Bureau update a form it already sends out regularly and use it to perform a mid-decade census survey.

“You couldn’t get it done this year, but I don’t see any reason why you couldn’t get it done next year,” he said.

Would Trump’s order to do a mid-decade census go to court?

“Absolutely,” Donahue said. “The Constitution calls for a decennial census. It doesn’t say that you can’t (have more). But, I mean, it pretty much implies that you’re only going to do one every 10 years.”

Donahue predicted that Democratic-leaning states would be most likely to challenge a mid-decade census in court. But the administration could argue that the requirement to do it every 10 years isn’t a prohibition on doing it more often.

“There’s no legal bar in place that says you can’t redistrict more than once every 10 years,” Von Spakovsky said.

Contributing: Francesca Chambers



Israeli soldiers walk near the border with the Gaza Strip on Aug. 6, on the Israeli side of the border. AMIR LEVY/GETTY IMAGES

Cloud of uncertainty



Palestinians receive lentil soup at a food distribution point in Gaza City on Aug. 2. OMAR AL-QATTAA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A military plane parachutes aid packages on Aug. 6 into the central Gaza Strip. EYAD BABA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A demonstrator in Jerusalem holds an Israeli flag bearing pictures of Israeli hostages on Aug. 7. HMAD GHARABLI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

I’ve seen Israelis and Palestinians coexist. It’s the only thing that gives me hope.

I am pro-peace. I lived in Israel for many years, and I saw coexistence every single day. I lived it. It might be the only reason I have any hope left.

On any public bus, you might see a soldier standing next to a woman in a hijab next to a Hasidic man next to a guy with a mohawk next to a Druze family. And thousands of Israelis have been protesting the government for years, before Oct. 7, 2023.

The difference is that they have the freedom to do so without fear or repercussion. Gazans do not have that same luxury. Openly protesting Hamas means death *or worse*. And yet many of them have, because they have nothing more to lose. Which is why it’s disgusting and sad that news coverage of Gazans protesting Hamas has been minuscule, and that people in the West call Hamas “resistance fighters” and advocate for the destruction of a country they can’t even find on a map.

What about the hostages, who are also starving? What about how Hamas has weaponized starvation and does not care for its people? What about how Hamas has looted aid and funneled donations to line the pockets of their own leaders? The United States should do more to help dismantle Hamas, in addition to criticizing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and actively trying to end this war.

The United States should focus on supporting peace-building coalitions, accountability and support for Israel’s population (which includes Israeli Arabs, who make up about 20% of the population) – but also help the Palestinians find a path forward without Hamas or Islamic jihad. There is not enough focus on the day after the war, especially when it comes to dismantling Hamas, reeducation and supporting efforts to pivot Netanyahu’s right-wing government, which is adding fuel to the fire.

The United States should do more to combat antisemitism, which has risen globally by 340% since the start of this war. We need help combating false narratives that restrict empathy. This is a national concern as well as a global one that does not help either Israelis or Palestinians, or Jews across the world.

I think there should be a Palestinian state at some point, but it should not be created as a knee-jerk reaction to this terrible war. If anything, this should give everyone pause. It will take years of peace-building coalitions and mapping out a sustainable plan to actually make this work.

Celebrities are nothing but armchair activists who are also responsible for spreading misinformation and false narratives. They add fuel to the fire, and their commentary actually leads to violence and sows division.

There is blatant skewing of the narrative, including reporting Hamas figures as facts when many of the numbers of the dead include combatants. Ev-

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everyone blames Israel and seems to cast Hamas in the light of “resistance” and “freedom fighters” even when they are the ones responsible for the violence, sexual assault, torture and kidnapping that have defined this war.

Why has no one highlighted where Hamas leaders have been – safe in Qatar and other countries?

— Elle Brooke, West Bloomfield, Michigan

Our tax dollars are funding a genocide. Every American should care about that.

The United States is aiding Israel in committing genocide. Through the U.S. support, Israel is starving hundreds of thousands of families.

Cracking down on public criticism of Israel and support of Gaza under the false guise of addressing antisemitism has made a mockery of actual antisemitism. President Donald Trump is using it as a false way to challenge universities and shut down free speech in the name of addressing antisemitism, but truthfully, he is just engaging in fascism.

The United States must recognize a Palestinian state – and with recognition there needs to be an end to the occupation, the right to return and justice for the people of Palestine and the thousands of Palestinians harmed, killed and starved.

Every person should care about genocide. Because, as U.S. taxpayers, our dollars go to supporting Israel, we should get a say in how those dollars are used.

— Ella Mendonsa, Washington, DC

I feel for innocent Palestinians. But as a Jew, I know we can’t have a two-state solution.

I’m not a Trump supporter at all, but at least he has taken steps to show that, as a democracy, we

support democracy. Israel is the only country in the Middle East that is a democracy.

What can anyone do when Iranian-backed, Hamas-linked organizations fill the news with grotesque lies and omissions of the truth? This is not about the innocent Palestinians, many of whom are afraid of Hamas. This is about Hamas using its own population for propaganda.

I care and feel for the Palestinians suffering. But as a Jew, I have to care about the fact that the entire *raison d’être* and mantra of Hamas is to kill all Jews and destroy the land of Israel. There is no longer a chance for a two-state solution. We cannot offer this in the face of a Hamas-led government that specifically and openly states that its members would like to see Israel wiped off the map.

It’s fair to say innocent people are suffering, but the news media is biased toward the Palestinian plight as opposed to showing that Israel has tried to make peace, only to have its own people suffer. Would you tear down a barrier in your backyard if you knew your neighbors would do anything to break in to your house and try to kill you? Honestly.

Israel has always been on the defensive, and in the end, it’s always blamed. But let’s not forget that the Jewish people have endured thousands of years of antisemitism from every corner of the earth, and we’re still standing.

— Deena Thomas, Memphis, Tennessee

Support Israelis protesting against Netanyahu’s disastrous policies

We give billions in military aid to Israel every year, some of which was used for good purposes against Iran, but also at least some of which was used to cause this starvation crisis. It seems like the least we could do would be to help save the lives of civilians there.

The Biden administration launched the first national strategy to combat antisemitism. But now Trump is just using antisemitism as an excuse to go after his political enemies on issues like immigration and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Many people on both sides complain about the media attention, but the fact is that billions of American taxpayer dollars are involved here, so it’s fully legitimate for the media to be focusing on this.

The two-state solution is the least impossible of all the impossible options to end this conflict. And we could be doing much more to support the Israelis, especially the hostage families, protesting against Netanyahu’s disastrous policies.

Just a week ago, an organization of retired Israeli generals called for an end to the war.

We also should applaud France and Saudi Arabia for seeking to advance the two-state solution and for persuading the entire Arab League to condemn Hamas as it recently did.

— Matthew Weinstein, Baltimore

Letters and comments may be edited for space constraints and clarity.

Fossil reveals ‘Jurassic sea monster’ species

Newly classified marine reptile had longest neck

Mike Snider
USA TODAY

Paleontology researchers in Europe have identified a new species of ancient marine reptile – often referred to as a “Jurassic sea monster” or “sea dragon” – that existed nearly 183 million years ago.

The newly classified species of plesiosaur (*Plesionectes longicollum*, which means “early swimmer with long neck”), likely had the distinction of having the longest neck of other plesiosaurs during the Early Jurassic period (from about 174.7 to 201.4 million years ago), said Sven Sachs of the Naturkunde-Museum Bielefeld, the study’s lead author.

The bones of the reptile – not a dinosaur – were found in 1978 by Gotthilf Fischer, owner of a quarry and a small museum in Holzmaden, Germany, wrote Sachs and co-author Daniel Madzia from the Polish Academy of Sciences in the journal *PeerJ Life & Environment* on Aug. 4.

The Holzmaden region in southwest Germany historically has been a hotbed for Jurassic period discoveries, including other species of plesiosaurs, which were piscivorous reptiles (they fed on fish), thalattosuchians (marine crocodiles), and dolphin-like marine reptiles known as ichthyosaurs, which have been found to be as long as 65 feet.

Other researchers had noted the distinguishing characteristics of the plesiosaur’s skeleton, which is in the Stuttgart State Museum of Natural History. “This specimen has been in collections for decades, but previous studies never fully explored its distinctive anatomy,” Sachs said in a news release about the research. “Our detailed examination revealed an unusual combination of skeletal features that clearly distinguish it from all previously known plesiosaurs.”

The new species had at least 43 vertebrae and perhaps as many as 45 – the remains of the plesiosaur’s skull are smashed and not as well-preserved – “the long neck is special for a plesiosaur from the Lower Jurassic,” Sachs told USA TODAY.

In addition to a very long neck, *Plesionectes longicollum* had “a rather



Above: Holotype skeleton of *Plesionectes longicollum* from the Lower Jurassic of Holzmaden, Germany. Left: An illustrated reconstruction of the new species. PHOTOS BY STUTTGART STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY; PETER NICKOLAUS

small head,” Sachs said. But it “was an agile swimmer with paddle-like limbs.”

The reptile also had more back vertebrae than most other plesiosaurs of the period and had V-shaped joints between vertebrae in the neck and chest, he said.

What did the newly discovered Jurassic sea monster eat?

This newly identified plesiosaur measured about 10.5 feet and is the oldest known plesiosaur found in the re-

gion, where the Tethys Sea covered much of Europe into the Cenozoic era, which began 66 million years ago.

Fossils of plesiosaurs have been dated to the Triassic period, about 250 million years ago, into the Cretaceous period, before dinosaurs vanished about 65 million years ago, according to *Britannica*. Plesiosaurs were known to have lived in North America, Asia and Australia, and in the Pacific Ocean and European seas.

Plesiosaurs devoured all manner of marine life, including squid and other

plesiosaurs. But those with a long neck, such as *Plesionectes longicollum*, “mainly ate fish,” Sachs said.

Some of the bones suggest the fossil represents “not an adult but more an older juvenile or young subadult,” he said. “But it is possible ... that it was an adult that retained anatomical features one would expect in a juvenile.”

Regardless, the identification reveals another form of prehistoric life in a region already fertile for fossil finds. “This discovery adds another piece to the puzzle of marine ecosystem evolution during a critical time in Earth’s history,” Madzia said in a statement. “The early Toarcian period, when this animal lived, was marked by significant environmental changes, including a major oceanic anoxic event that affected marine life worldwide.”

That period of global warming in the Jurassic period, scientists say, led to the loss of oxygen in water and the extinction of many species.

The identification of a new plesiosaur in the Holzmaden region – this brings the findings up to six different kinds – “shows that the fauna there was quite diverse,” Sachs said.



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People visit the City of Sunrise booth at the Mega JobNewsUSA South Florida Job Fair at the Amerant Bank Arena on April 30 in Sunrise, Florida. More than 150 local hiring managers and recruiters were at the job fair to recruit workers for thousands of positions in Miami and Broward and Palm Beach counties. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Experts: Jobs revisions due to economy

Slowing growth led to BLS changes

Paul Davidson
 USA TODAY

The massive downward revisions to U.S. job growth that led President Donald Trump to fire the head of the agency that reported the numbers can be explained by a rapidly slowing economy and job market amid Trump’s trade and immigration policies – not data manipulation, forecasters say.

Trump on Aug. 1 fired Erika McEntarfer, the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, hours after the agency reported a disappointing 73,000 job gains for July, and more significantly, revised down payroll growth for May and June by an outsize 258,000.

That marked the largest two-month revision ever outside of recessions, Goldman Sachs said. It left monthly job gains averaging an anemic 35,000 from May through July.

“Important numbers like this must be fair and accurate, they can’t be manipulated for political purposes,” Trump said on Truth Social. He added that “today’s jobs Numbers were RIGGED in order to make the Republicans, and ME, look bad.”

But forecasters said the revisions actually clear up a disparity between surprisingly resilient job gains and other economic indicators, such as gross domestic product, that have been feeble this year.

“I think the revisions have really resolved a discrepancy between GDP data and payrolls,” said Samuel Tombs, chief economist of Pantheon Macroeconomics. “I don’t see any reason to suspect manipulation here.”

“Taken together, the economic data confirm our view that the U.S. economy is growing at a below-potential pace,” Goldman Sachs wrote in a note to clients.

What is the state of the economy?

Trump’s tariffs hammered activity in the first quarter by pumping up imports (which are subtracted from growth) as retailers and manufacturers stocked up on foreign goods to avoid the imminent levies. That led to a second-quarter reversal that juiced GDP. After the tariff effects canceled each other out, the economy grew at a meager annual rate of 1.2% the first half of the year.

There are two ways to grow the economy – by adding workers and by increasing productivity, or output per worker. Since the 1.2% average rise in GDP can be entirely explained by strong productivity gains, the economy’s sluggish performance is consistent with virtually no net job gains from May through July, Tombs said.

There are other signs that the economy and job market are losing steam. Just 42% of CEOs of small and midsize com-



U.S. Labor Department’s Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner Erika McEntarfer was fired by President Donald Trump on Aug. 1.
 U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS VIA REUTERS

panies plan to add to their staffs in the next year, the lowest on record dating to 2003, according to a June survey by Vistage, a CEO networking group.

How does the jobs report work?

Each month, the BLS provides an initial reading of job gains for the previous month and revises figures from the prior two months twice based on follow-up surveys. The downgrade of 133,000 jobs for June marked the first revision for that month, and May’s 125,000 drop was its second and final revision.

To come up with its monthly job growth estimates, the agency surveys 631,000 job sites operated by 121,000 businesses and government agencies across the country. The bureau revises the data twice because many employers don’t respond to the first survey or because officials modify the factors it uses to seasonally adjust the figures, Goldman said. For example, since hiring is traditionally weak in the summer,

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Millions to get health savings accounts

Tax bill opens pathway to HSAs for more people

Medora Lee
 USA TODAY

More people than ever will have access beginning next year to almost every financial adviser’s favorite way to save.

Thanks to new provisions in the President Donald Trump’s recently signed tax and spending law, more people will be able to benefit from the triple tax-advantaged health savings account, or HSA, experts say.

The law, dubbed the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” by Trump, opens up HSAs to tens of millions more Americans by allowing more Affordable Care Act insurance plans, Direct Primary Care arrangements, and plans with telehealth coverage.

HSA plans are a favorite savings vehicle among financial advisers because contributions are tax-free, money grows tax-free and if used for a qualifying expense, withdrawals are tax-free.

“Together, the benefits of pre-tax contributions, tax-free earnings, and tax-free withdrawals for qualified medical expenses can add up to significant savings over the course of a family’s life if they are healthy and let the funds accumulate,” said Richard Pon, certified public accountant in San Francisco. “So, think of the HSA as a piggy bank for medical expenses that can grow similar to an Individual Retirement Account.”

The HSA changes made in the law “represent the most significant HSA expansion in nearly two decades,” according to health and benefits platform Lively.

“Individuals, employers, and brokers should start planning during the 2025 open enrollment period to take full advantage of the new rules.”

What ACA plans will be HSA eligible?

Bronze and catastrophic plans will be HSA eligible, starting in 2026. These lower-premium, higher-deductible plans currently are excluded because they don’t meet the requirements for an HSA.

Many Bronze plans don’t qualify as a high-deductible health plan because they cover non-preventive services such as prescription drugs and office visits before meeting a deductible.

Catastrophic plans also don’t qualify for the same reason and because their maximum out-of-pocket limits are typically higher than what’s permitted.

During the open enrollment period for 2025 coverage, about 30% of all ACA enrollees selected Bronze plans, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

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Tariff on computer chips could hurt consumers

Companies could pull back on production

Bailey Schulz
 USA TODAY

President Donald Trump plans to impose a 100% tariff on imported computer chips, a move experts warn could compel companies to pull back on production or hike prices.

Details remain murky, and the inflationary pressures likely won’t be as dramatic as those from other tariffs.

Still, a new tariff on chips could hit a wide range of products, from smartphones and laptops to cars and video game consoles.

“If you look at the industries that need chips, it’s almost everything. You probably have at least 100 chips involved in the things you’ve done today,” said Zac Rogers, an associate professor of operations and supply chain management at Colorado State University.

How will Trump’s computer chip tariff work?

Trump unveiled the new tariff during an Aug. 6 Oval Office event, noting there would be an exception for companies that have committed to building chips within the U.S.

Additional details on the new tariff remain scarce. It’s not yet clear when it will go into effect, for instance, or how it will impact products that contain chips, like laptops.

“There are a lot of caveats,” said Jason Miller, a professor of supply chain management at Michigan State University. “Until we see the exact details of what harmonized system codes are covered, we can’t fully understand the implications.”

The U.S. produces a fair amount of semiconductors already, exporting roughly \$58 billion worth each year, according to Census Bureau data. But Miller noted that the U.S. is best at producing higher-end chips. Lower-end, more

mundane chips tend to be imported from countries like Malaysia, he said, while “super high-end” chips are imported from Taiwan.

In total, the country imports roughly \$60 billion worth of semiconductors annually, according to the Census Bureau.

“The U.S. is not as cost-competitive at producing the lower-end, generic semiconductors,” like those found in household appliances like refrigerators, Miller said. “It doesn’t make sense for us to produce as many of those in the U.S. versus import them. Rather, let our resources specialize in where we have a competitive advantage, which is going to be higher-end products.”

Rogers said it makes sense for the U.S. to expand chip production, noting the country has made strides in recent years, especially under the CHIPS and Science Act signed by then-President Joe Biden in 2022. But he warned that growing chip manufacturing with fresh facilities and an improved talent pipeline will take time, and agreed that the

U.S. is better off focusing on higher-end chip production.

“We’re on the right track. The problem is, it’s a really long track. ... We can’t scale up fast enough to totally fulfill our own demand,” Rogers said. “If we just slap all of these costs onto firms, it might actually slow down the progress that we’re making.”

What does this mean for prices?

Experts who spoke to USA TODAY said more costly chip imports won’t hit manufacturers as hard as other tariffs, such as the 50% tariff on steel and aluminum imports or 25% auto tariffs. Still, the new tariff could add pressure on companies that are already struggling to adjust to higher import costs.

“It’s not deflationary, by any means,” Miller said. But “quite frankly, it is truly impossible to say consumer inflationary impacts until details are spelled out.”

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Revisions

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the seasonal adjustment would boost the employment tally to account for that dip. Even before Aug. 1’s stunning revisions to May and June, job growth for January through April was revised down each month by an average of 52,000 – based on changes from the first to the third estimates. Last year saw an average downward revision as well, but it was just 20,000. Since 1979, the median two-month combined estimate change was an upward revision of 10,000.

Here’s why economists believe the payroll revisions for May and June were so large:

Falling response rates, slowing economy

A declining share of employers have been responding to the BLS’s job surveys. In July, 58% responded, similar to July 2024 but down from 68% in the same period in 2022 and 2023 and an average 74% in the 2010s, according to

Tombs and BLS figures.

Small businesses, in particular, have struggled to cope with Trump’s tariffs, which must be passed along to consumers through higher prices or absorbed by the companies, squeezing their profits, Tombs said.

Amid those troubles, “Responding to BLS is not a high priority” for small- and midsize firms, said Jonathan Millar, senior U.S. economist at Barclays.

Some firms also may be hesitant to acknowledge they’ve pared back hiring, even though the surveys are anonymous, Tombs said.

When they ultimately do report their staffing numbers – the response rate for the third payroll estimates has topped 90% – they likely have decreased from the previous month. Companies increasingly have been holding off on hiring due to the uncertainty generated by the tariffs, Millar and Tombs said.

That likely has sparked sharp downward revisions to job gains throughout 2025, but the hiring pullback may have reached “an inflection point” in May and June that more dramatically dimmed the jobs picture, Millar said.

“I don’t think we’ve faced a situation

where we had such a profound supply shock,” Millar said, referring to the constraint on foreign parts and products caused by tariffs.

How the government interprets slowing job gains

When job growth slows, BLS in its first estimate mistakenly attributes the downshift to changes in seasonal trends, Goldman Sachs said. But as subsequent readings also come in softer, the agency’s model learns it’s not the result of a seasonal adjustment quirk but rather a genuine pullback in hiring and revises down the jobs totals, the research firm said.

The immigration crackdown

Former President Joe Biden began restricting crossings at the Southern border in June 2024 and Trump stepped up enforcement and launched massive deportations in 2025, Millar said. Since it takes six to nine months for migrants to settle into jobs, the crackdown started to show up more prominently in the jobs numbers in May and June, he said.

Little hiring, few layoffs

For many months, employers haven’t hired lots of workers, but also haven’t laid off many after grappling with dire worker shortages during the pandemic. That unusual dynamic could be throwing off seasonal adjustment factors that expect ramped-up hiring and layoffs at certain times of the year, causing officials to revise down job gains more sharply, Goldman suggested.

State and local government jobs

About 20% of the big downward revision in May and June was due to the challenges of making seasonal adjustments to state and local education employment figures at the end of the school year, when many teachers and other employees come off the payroll, Goldman said. Initially, BLS overestimated total job numbers in that sector after seasonal adjustments and then revised down the figure by 51,000 for the two months, Goldman said.

Contributing: Joey Garrison, USA TODAY; Reuters

Accounts

Continued from Page 1B

Fewer than 100,000 selected a catastrophic plan because the plans are only available to those under 30 and those with certain hardship exemptions.

Other new plans meet HSA eligibility, too

- Americans who participate in Direct Primary Care arrangements, defined as arrangements costing up to \$150 monthly for individuals and \$300 for families, can fund an HSA next year.

Patients in DPC arrangements pay a recurring, fixed fee directly to their primary care provider for a defined set of services instead of paying the per service fee of traditional insurance.

Additionally, DPC fees will be considered qualified medical expenses that can be covered by HSA funds.

- HDHPs that offer cover telehealth without meeting deductibles or copays will no longer be disqualified from HSAs, retroactive to plans from Jan. 1, 2025. In 2022, 30% of adults in the U.S. had used telemedicine in the past year, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

Why is HSA access important?

The primary benefit of an HSA is its triple tax advantage:

- Contributions are either pre-tax through a payroll deduction or tax-deductible, which lowers federal taxable income. Lower taxable income not only can cut your tax bill, but it can also put you into a bracket that can open you up to more deductions, credits or benefit programs, analysts say.
- Any interest or investment earnings within an HSA grow tax-free.
- Withdrawals are tax-free when used for qualified medical expenses.

Other advantages include:

- Unlike a Flexible Spending Account, HSAs aren’t “use it or lose it.” The money is rolled over year after year and never expires.



President Donald Trump, center, shows his signature on the "Big Beautiful Bill Act" at the White House in Washington, D.C., on July 4. Trump signed his flagship tax and spending bill in a pomp-laden Independence Day ceremony featuring fireworks. BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

- HSA funds can be invested. Potentially, those savings can grow substantially to help pay future healthcare costs, including those in retirement.
- After age 65, funds can be withdrawn for any reason without penalty, although non-medical withdrawals

would be subject to income tax.

- There’s potential for employer match. “Many employers want you to join a high-deductible insurance plan so they save on premiums,” Pon said. “To entice you, many employers will make a tax-free contribution to your HSA.”

Medora Lee is a money, markets, and personal finance reporter at USA TODAY. You can reach her at mjlee@usatoday.com and subscribe to our free Daily Money newsletter for personal finance tips and business news every Monday through Friday morning.

Chips

Continued from Page 1B

John Mitchell, president and CEO of the Global Electronics Association, a trade association for the global electronics industry, said he expects tariffs to drive up prices for goods like laptops, appliances, vehicles and medical devices.

“More than 60% of our member companies report that past tariffs have raised their costs and delayed production,” he wrote in an emailed statement.

For certain products – including cars – chips make up a small portion of the total production costs. But Ivan Drury, director of insights at automotive research site Edmunds, described the tariff as “yet another cut” to automakers, which also face a 25% auto tariff.

Automakers already say they are taking a hit from tariffs. General Motors in July said tariffs cost the company more than \$1 billion in the second quarter, and Stellantis said it expects tariffs to cost it roughly \$1.7 billion this year.

“It’s a thousand cuts to die kind of thing,” Drury said of tariffs.

Drury added that automakers so far have avoided passing along tariff costs to their customers. He’s not sure how long that will last.

So far, “we’re not seeing it reflected in the price,” he said. But “their sharehold-

While a semiconductor tariff isn’t expected to create widespread shortages to that degree, Rogers warned some companies may pull back on production if import costs go up. Already, automaker Stellantis has paused production at select plants to avoid paying tariffs, contributing to a 6% year-over-year decline in car shipments as of the second quarter.

ers aren’t going to be happy with this forever.”

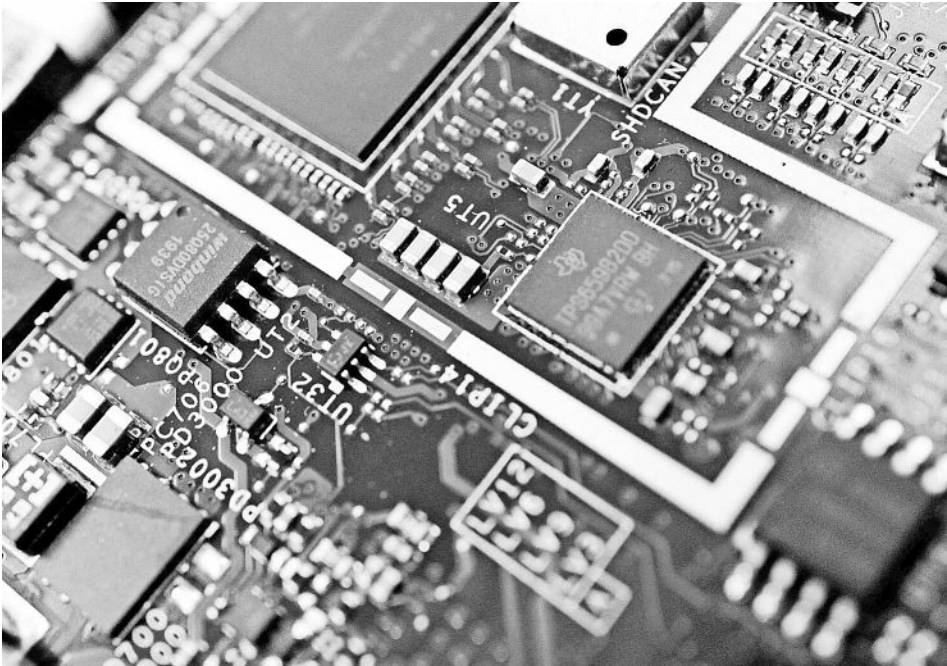
Used car owners could get hit especially hard by a computer chip tariff through higher repair costs, he said, as repair shops may be more likely to pass those higher costs directly to customers. More costly repairs could also impact insurance costs, since insurers would have to pay more to cover damaged vehicles.

It could be “this snowball effect,” Drury said. “It hasn’t happened yet, but we know at some point something’s going to break.”

Potential for shortages?

Another potential concern for consumers? Chip tariffs could make certain products more difficult to find.

The U.S. already saw this play out



For certain products – including cars – computer chips make up a small portion of the total production costs. FLORENCE LO/REUTERS

during the COVID-19-era semiconductor chip shortage, which impacted consumers’ ability to buy new cars, laptops and video game consoles.

While a semiconductor tariff isn’t expected to create widespread shortages to that degree, Rogers warned some companies may pull back on production if import costs go up. Already, automaker Stellantis has paused production at

select plants to avoid paying tariffs, contributing to a 6% year-over-year decline in car shipments as of the second quarter.

“I think we can see shortages all over the place,” Rogers said. “It may not be as bad as 2021, because then, we couldn’t get the chips. This, we’ll just have to pay more for them. But if we pay more, we buy less.”

Data chief’s firing raises concerns over jobs stats

Economists worry move may undermine integrity

Paul Davidson
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump’s abrupt dismissal of the U.S. Commissioner of Labor Statistics after a disappointing employment report has raised concerns about the future accuracy and integrity of the nation’s vital jobs numbers.

Some economists and former government officials are responding to the mounting worries with a simple message: Chill out.

These experts cite three reasons Trump administration officials are not likely to manipulate the statistics for political reasons: There’s too much data underlying the most publicized jobs figures; broadly comparable numbers are published in other reports; and there are disincentives for chicanery.

“I think it would be pretty hard to revise any statistics” based on politics “or try to fudge the numbers somehow,” said Sara Estep, an economist at the left-leaning Center for American Progress.

Still, Estep and other experts say the trustworthiness of the data is being called into question – a development that itself could have a negative impact on the economy and markets – and outright attempts to massage the numbers aren’t out of the realm of possibility.

“The concern is that this could mark the start of a slippery slope toward greater White House influence over economic statistics, which in a worst-case scenario might involve censoring, reengineering, or suspending official releases like payrolls or CPI (inflation) to serve the Trump administration’s agenda,” Capital Economics wrote in a note to clients.

A White House spokesperson didn’t immediately return an email message seeking comment. But on “Meet the Press” on Aug. 3, Kevin Hassett, director of the National Economic Council, told moderator Kristin Welker that Trump simply wants to make the jobs report more transparent.

“If there are big changes and big revisions – we expect more big revisions for the jobs data in September, for example – then we want to know why. We want people to explain it to us,” Hassett said.

What was the jobs report for July?

On Aug. 1, Trump fired Erika McEntarfer, the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, after the agency reported a disappointing 73,000 job gains in July and, more significantly, revised down payroll additions for May and June by a historically massive 258,000 positions.

Economists said the large revisions can be explained by small businesses’

unusually low response rates to BLS’ initial surveys as they grapple with cost increases from Trump’s double-digit tariffs on imports and the effects of the duties on business confidence and hiring.

But on Truth Social, Trump said without providing evidence that “today’s Jobs Numbers were RIGGED in order to make the Republicans, and ME, look bad,” noting McEntarfer was appointed by former Democratic President Joe Biden. After firing McEntarfer, he appointed William Wiatrowski as interim BLS head and said he would name a permanent replacement within days.

William Beach, McEntarfer’s predecessor as BLS chief and a Trump appointee, said it’s “impossible” for a BLS commissioner to manipulate the jobs data. He added that the person doesn’t see the report until the numbers are loaded and readied for distribution on the Wednesday before its release on the first Friday of the month.

Keith Hall, who was appointed BLS commissioner by former President George W. Bush and served from 2008 to 2011, told USA TODAY that too many career, nonpartisan civil servants have a hand in drafting the report for the data to be distorted. About 40 people, both Republicans and Democrats, see the final jobs number shortly before publication, Beach previously said.

Is Trump trying to control independent federal agencies?

Yet, economists worry Trump could test that presumption. His removal of McEntarfer marks his latest challenge to federal agencies whose independence is critical for a smoothly functioning economy. For months, Trump has tried to badger Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell into lowering interest rates and has threatened to fire him, though experts say Powell can’t be removed without cause.

Economists say the jobs report is considered the global gold standard for accurate and unbiased economic data, providing the best broad snapshot of the U.S. economy in close-to-real time and helping guide the actions of investors, corporations, governments and consumers.

Trump’s removal of McEntarfer “presents risks to the conduct of monetary policy, to financial stability, and to the economic outlook,” JPMorgan Chase economist Michael Feroli wrote in a note to clients. He added, “The risk of politicizing the data collection process should not be overlooked.”

Here’s why some experts say they’re not worried about the reliability of the jobs numbers:

Other federal job measures

If a BLS commissioner or other key employees finagled the jobs numbers,

“discrepancies would quickly emerge in other metrics like jobless claims, which are reported at the state level and [are] less prone to federal influence,” Capital Economics said in its research note.

Initial unemployment insurance applications provide a reliable gauge of layoffs. And the jobs report represents the net total of all layoffs, hiring, quits, retirements and job switches across the economy.

Private jobs reports

Even if the administration “brought all major statistical agencies under tight control, economists and investors could still infer the true state of the economy from private sources,” Capital Economics said. Those include the ADP employment report and job postings from Indeed, the leading job search site.

“Any tampering with official data would likely be exposed sooner or later and would be politically damaging once uncovered,” Capital Economics said.

Markets are watching – and reacting

If evidence emerged that the administration was fiddling with the jobs data, investors likely would demand a higher return for holding assets such as U.S. Treasuries, pushing up interest rates, Capital Economics said. Trump has fervently advocated for lower rates.

The research firm added that “the administration has some inclination to avoid upsetting markets – especially when it leads to higher bond yields and increased debt-servicing costs.”

Trump tends to push the envelope but not rip it up

Trump has shown a propensity to push the boundaries in his efforts to achieve his goals “without clearly crossing” the line, Capital Economics said. For example, he has stopped short of firing the Fed’s Powell. “This fits a broader pattern of the administration applying maximum pressure to get its way on issues from deportations to federal layoffs, without openly defying the courts,” Capital Economics wrote.

Lots of people compile the jobs report

The jobs report is like a massive puzzle put together by hundreds of employees and the pieces need to fit. If the final numbers were fudged, employees who worked on inputs to those numbers would realize that and speak up, Hall said. “All of the data, detail and all of the industry statistics need to add up,” he said.

The underlying jobs data

BLS is famously transparent and pro-



People queue to receive advice about their job resumes at a career fair in Los Angeles. LUCY NICHOLSON/REUTERS

vides the underlying data behind all its jobs numbers, Estep said. For example, the unemployment rate is based on a survey of 60,000 households, and the agency has its individual responses, she said.

At the same time, here’s why some experts are still worried:

Private jobs data relies on federal numbers

Although ADP and other private firms provide jobs data, they’re typically “benchmarked to the federal data, as private sector data are very rarely nationally representative,” Feroli said. ADP, for instance, relies on the federal jobs report from two months earlier to estimate last month’s numbers.

The risk of political meddling

In the “Meet the Press interview,” Hassett told Welker, “The president wants his own people there (at BLS) so that when we see the numbers, they’re more transparent and more reliable.”

Said Estep: “I would keep an eye out” for the potential replacement of some long-term public servants with political appointees at BLS and other agencies.

“Are they somehow installing more plans for the politicization of these statistical agencies?” Estep asked.

The data may be accurate, but is it trustworthy?

Even if it’s unlikely the data will be manipulated, “it may be less trusted,” Estep said, noting that could affect markets and the behavior of companies and consumers. “The trust component, that’s really scary.”

In an opinion piece posted on MSNBC.com, David Madland, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, wrote: “Government data analysts will do their best to produce credible reports, and much of what they publish will be accurate, but these workers will be increasingly subject to political pressures, or outright meddling.

“Reputational damage has already been done – and the decline in trust carries real consequences.”

5 mistakes to avoid when talking to your team about AI

Sharon Wu
Special to USA TODAY

Artificial intelligence may be transforming the workplace, but for many employees, it’s fueling uncertainty instead of excitement. According to a 2025 Pew Research Center study, 52% of U.S. workers worry AI could disrupt or replace their jobs.

And an August 2024 SHRM survey found that nearly half feel unprepared for automation, while 95% say they don’t trust their organization to manage the shift in a way that benefits everyone.

How managers address these concerns can make or break team morale and productivity.

Experts say clear, honest communication is critical, but the wrong message can backfire, fueling fear instead of trust.

Whether you’re rolling out new tools or just starting the conversation, it’s important to engage your team with transparency, context and empathy.

Below, two human resources experts break down five common mistakes to avoid when discussing AI with your team and provide guidance on navigating the discussion more effectively.

1. Acting like it’s no big deal

According to the World Economic Forum, when managers dismiss or avoid discussing AI concerns, they often create bigger problems down the road.

“Business leaders can’t bury their heads in the sand and hope for the best,” says Eric Mochnacz, director of operations at Red Clover HR in New Jersey. “They must have up-front discussions about the benefits of AI in their business, the drawbacks, the potential im-

pacts and the areas where they’ll not allow AI usage.”

Chad V. Sorenson, president of Florida-based Adaptive HR Solutions, agrees that direct communication is key.

“Employees may feel AI threatens their jobs and may question leaders’ motives for introducing AI tools,” he explains. So, “address the fear and explore how AI can augment workflows and streamline repetitive tasks rather than replace workers.”

Takeaway: Don’t downplay concerns about AI. Acknowledge employee fears openly and explain how AI will support, not replace, their work.

2. Throwing around ‘AI’ without defining it

AI isn’t just one thing. Mochnacz explains that there’s a significant difference between using generative AI to enhance email communications and utilizing AI chatbots to manage all customer interactions. Without these distinctions, employees don’t understand what to expect from their workplace changes or how they can remain relevant.

“AI is such a buzzword, and leaders haven’t taken the time to define it and understand the differences,” Mochnacz says. “I’ve been in meetings where people ask, ‘Can you do this with AI?’ or ‘Everyone’s talking about AI, so we have to do something with it.’”

He emphasizes the importance of clarifying the fundamentals:

- What types of AI are we using and why?
- What tasks will it/they replace or help with?
- How much do we trust the tools to

handle those tasks?

Takeaway: Don’t use “AI” as a vague catchall. Clearly define what types of AI you’re using, what they do and why they matter to your team.

3. Failing to explain the why

“Any time leaders announce a new program or procedure without employee buy-in, there could be fear, skepticism, or anger,” Sorenson cautions.

Instead of simply telling employees what’s changing, explain why the company needs AI. How does it fit into broader business goals? This context helps employees understand their role in the transition rather than viewing it as a threat.

“Ongoing two-way feedback is critical for continued refinement of how teams use AI to improve workflows, processes and results,” notes Sorenson.

Takeaway: Don’t skip the context. Explain why AI is being adopted and how it supports your team’s goals to build trust and buy-in.

4. Overhyping what AI can do

“Leaders promising that AI will handle everything don’t have a clear understanding of its possibilities and limitations,” Sorenson says. For instance, AI can help employees understand benefit plans.

But it can’t handle nuanced harassment complaints or mental health concerns. “AI systems must be trained to understand when a human must intervene,” he adds.

Mochnacz says the problem gets worse when leaders promise capabilities that may never materialize. “We have no idea what AI is going to be able

to do in a month, three months, or a year,” he emphasizes. So, it’s better to focus on specific, tested use cases rather than grand predictions about AI replacing everything.

Takeaway: Avoid making big promises. Focus on what AI can realistically do today, not speculative future capabilities.

5. Leaving people out of the process

“Whenever there’s a business, industry, or technology shift, involve those it may impact,” Mochnacz stresses. “Have up-front, direct conversations with your people about their roles and how they see AI helping them be more effective.”

A recent MIT Sloan working paper finds that the most successful generative AI deployments consistently involve frontline workers from the earliest stages through rollout.

Drawing on over 50 in-depth interviews, MIT researchers demonstrate that when employees help define the problem, co-design workflows, experiment with tools, and shape fair transition policies, not only does adoption improve, but worker productivity and job quality also rise.

The key here is framing AI as a collaboration partner rather than a threat. Mochnacz explains that when leaders present AI as a *good* reality for everyone, employees will engage with the technology.

But when the message becomes “prove AI can’t replace you,” workers resist because it feels like an ultimatum.

Takeaway: Don’t make AI decisions in a vacuum. Engage employees early and frame AI as a tool to support their work, rather than compete with it.

50★States

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Montgomery: A new WalletHub study ranking the states with the best and worst school systems has the state’s school systems among the 10 worst in the country. Alabama ranked No. 43 overall in WalletHub’s study, placing ninth from the bottom with a total score of 42.92 out of 100.

ALASKA Juneau: President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin are scheduled to meet on Aug. 15 in Alaska to discuss an end to the three-year Russian war on Ukraine in the first in-person session between the two world leaders since Trump returned to the White House.

ARIZONA Tucson: Raytheon’s Tucson operation has landed a multiyear contract worth up to \$3.5 billion to produce medium-range air-to-air missiles for allied nations. The Arizona division of Raytheon Technologies Corp. of Arlington, Virginia, will produce missiles, a telemetry system and other parts and provide engineering support.

ARKANSAS Pine Bluff: The Pine Bluff Police Department announced it has welcomed 18 recruits, setting a new record, KARK reported.

CALIFORNIA El Monte: Two Chinese nationals in California were arrested and charged with illegally shipping tens of millions of dollars’ worth of AI chips to China, the U.S. Justice Department said.

COLORADO Denver: A 10th wolf in Colorado’s wolf reintroduction program has been found dead in Wyoming.

CONNECTICUT Plainfield: Plainfield First Selectman Kevin Cunningham is alleging that his office has received grievances regarding payroll issues in the town’s police department and that the police chief has failed to deal with them directly.

DELAWARE Newark: A Delaware judge has dismissed a COVID-19-era whistleblower and discrimination lawsuit filed by a former University of Delaware police officer.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington: President Donald Trump issued an order Aug. 7 for an increased federal law enforcement presence across the streets of Washington, D.C., as he railed against the city’s crime rate and continued to float a federal takeover of the nation’s capital.

FLORIDA New Smyrna Beach: A new recreational and learning center is coming soon to the Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve in New Smyrna Beach as part of an effort to expand and upgrade the Volusia County-maintained area. Construction is underway for the Reid Hughes Environmental Learning Center, which will be the “the focal point” for the “extensive recreational and educational enhancements” the county is bringing to the preserve, according to Nick Dunnam, the county’s resource stewardship director.

GEORGIA Athens: Site preparation for a nearly \$120 million retirement complex in the vast Oconee Connector retail and commercial center will begin in August on a 62-acre lot.

HAWAII Lanai City: The state Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity confirmed that coconut rhinoceros beetles have been detected on Lanai for the first time, Hawaii News Now reported.

IDAHO Caldwell: Farmway Village, a nearly century-old affordable housing community, was recently annexed into the city of Caldwell, KTVB reported.

ILLINOIS Springfield: A Springfield attorney has been fined for citing eight non-existent cases in briefs that he created with artificial intelligence. William Panichi admitted to using AI to write a draft of the briefs and said he was “extremely busy” at the time he filed them, according to a opinion filed in the Appellate Court of Illinois’ Fourth District.

INDIANA Indianapolis: An Indiana law requiring a 25-foot buffer zone between on-duty police officers and bystanders is “unconstitutionally vague,” the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit ruled.

IOWA Cedar Rapids: Gov. Kim Reynolds and city officials joined In-gredion executives at a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate a \$50 million expansion effort Aug. 6. In-gredion officials said the project is expected to increase the capacity of the plant – which uses corn to make starches for the packaging and papermaking industries – by 50%.

HIGHLIGHT: RHODE ISLAND



Research at Roger Williams University focuses on Rhode Island’s native coral.
DAVID DELPOIO/USA TODAY NETWORK

Bristol: You may not think that a coral can be a fierce hunter. But Rhode Island’s own Northern star coral isn’t like others of its kind. In the decade since Koty Sharp founded the Coral Microbial Ecology Research Lab at Roger Williams University, she and her scientific collaborators have proven that there’s a lot more to Northern star coral than meets the eye. Sharp was part of a team that successfully manipulated *Astrangia*’s genes. In doing so, they became the first scientists to add a new gene into the genome of any type of hard coral. With nearly half of all coral species facing extinction from climate change, the findings could shed light on genetic function and help researchers understand how to protect reefs that occur in just 1% of the world’s oceans but are home to a quarter of all marine life.

KANSAS Topeka: Gov. Laura Kelly selected Larkin Walsh as the new Kansas Supreme Court justice to replace outgoing Justice Evelyn Wilson.

KENTUCKY Louisville: Tim Swenson has stepped down as president of Sullivan University. The announcement comes after Swenson, the institution’s president since September 2022, was placed on administrative leave.

LOUISIANA Lafayette: Lafayette Consolidated Government announced a proposed renovation of City Hall aimed at modernizing the building to meet today’s standards for public service delivery and accessibility.

MAINE Montville: A new fundraiser has been set up and an investigation is underway after nearly 50 headstones were destroyed at Hall-dale Cemetery in Montville, WABI reported.

MARYLAND Baltimore: Six people, including a 5-year-old girl, were injured in a Baltimore shooting on Aug. 9.

MASSACHUSETTS Chilmark: The Martha’s Vineyard home where former President Barack Obama and his family used to spend their summers has been sold for \$37 million, according to reports. Known as Blue Heron Farm, the family rented the home for three summers starting in 2009, according to Realtor.com. It was then sold to new owners and taken off the rental market.

MICHIGAN Port Huron: A historical cannon stolen from Port Huron’s Lakeside Cemetery more than half a century ago has been recovered after it was spotted for sale on Facebook.

MINNESOTA St. Paul: The suspect in the June assassination of Minnesota’s house speaker and her husband, and the attempted murder of a state senator and his wife, pleaded not guilty to numerous charges in federal court, court papers say.

MISSISSIPPI McHenry: Anduril Rocket Motor Systems has officially opened its full-rate solid rocket motor facility in McHenry, the company announced. The new site is expected to reach annual production of around 6,000 tactical SRMs by the end of 2026, Anduril said.

MISSOURI Jefferson City: The Missouri attorney general’s office is asking a Cole County judge to dismiss a lawsuit alleging a state agency violated competitive bidding laws to steer lucrative technology contracts to a well-connected company, Missouri Independent reported.

MONTANA Anaconda: The 45-year-old man accused in the fatal shooting of a bartender and three patrons at a Montana bar was captured by police on Aug. 8 after a weeklong manhunt, state officials announced.

NEBRASKA Omaha: A new report from the Office of the Inspector General of Child Welfare of Nebraska showed that the total number of reported child deaths in the state has significantly decreased since 2025 and is overall lower than in recent years, WOWT reported.

NEVADA Carson City: Parents or guardians of about 175,000 Nevada children are already ineligible for the federal child tax credit, and an additional 35,000 children will lose eligibility under President Donald Trump’s tax and spending bill, according to a new analysis. That’s a 17% reduction in the number of families who will be able to claim the credit, Nevada Current reported.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Portsmouth: Great Bay Community College will welcome a new group of students in September into its innovative Culinary Arts and Sustainable Foodways short-term certificate program.

NEW JERSEY Hackensack: The City Council has suspended a nearly \$12 million contract for the construction of a sports complex in Johnson Park that had been approved by the previous council.

NEW MEXICO Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico Hospital said its Critical Care Tower, which is one of the biggest construction projects in the state, is almost ready to open as construction on one of New Mexico’s most advanced hospital facilities is nearly complete, KRQE reported.

NEW YORK New York: New York City property developer The Durst Organization sealed one of 2025’s largest Manhattan office loans for a landmark Times Square skyscraper, according to Rosenberg + Estis, the law firm that represented the developer.

NORTH CAROLINA Fayetteville: A tall spire that would rise from among the trees and be visible from a great distance has been part of a vision for Fayetteville’s Martin Luther King Jr. Park since 2018. The park’s development goes back much longer – it was first proposed in the mid-1990s. The 120-foot spire is to be built in the park that already features a statue of the great Civil Rights leader; it would light up – a beacon for justice and equality. It is still not clear when any of that will happen, even though the park has received millions in funding from the city, county and state.

NORTH DAKOTA Bismarck: A federal judge in North Dakota has vacated the Federal Reserve’s “swipe fees” regulation that capped the amount banks charge merchants for processing debit transactions, in a ruling favoring retailers that have long complained about paying inflated amounts.

OHIO Columbus: While Ohio will likely get at least \$500 million from President Donald Trump’s Big Beautiful Bill, officials agree that’s not enough to correct long-term funding problems in rural health care or Medicaid cuts in the same bill. The 28 rural and independent Ohio hospitals formed a task force on Aug. 1, the first of its kind in the state, to advocate for the funding Ohio is promised.

OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City: Republican Attorney General Gentner Drummond and the U.S. Department of Justice are asking a judge to declare unconstitutional a state law that allows undocumented students to pay in-state tuition at Oklahoma colleges and universities.

OREGON Salem: A two-alarm fire that destroyed an office building in northeast Salem in July was most likely caused by an electrical failure, a fire investigator determined.

PENNSYLVANIA Erie: For the first time in the history of Tall Ships Erie, the Brig Niagara won’t be leading the way into Presque Isle Bay. Instead, the ship leading the Parade of Sail, scheduled Aug. 21, will be the Lettie G. Howard – the historic schooner now captained by Erie native Griffin Hayes.

SOUTH CAROLINA Columbia: South Carolina drivers who grip the steering wheel tightly when navigating I-95 have good reason to. According to Insurance Comparison, the highway is the most dangerous in the state, with an average of 30 fatalities per year.

SOUTH DAKOTA Brookings: South Dakota State University lost an \$86 million livestock research grant as part of recent federal spending cuts, making South Dakota the state with the highest per-student loss of research grants, the Center for American Progress reported, according to South Dakota News Watch. However, without that grant, the overall impacts of the Trump administration’s cuts to higher education in South Dakota are relatively minimal, the news outlet reported.

TENNESSEE Hohenwald: The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee has been selected as the 2025 Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Award winner for Sustainable Performance. The award is one of nine in different categories by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, according to a news release.

TEXAS Austin: President Donald Trump’s administration is aiming to construct the largest federal migrant detention facility in the United States on a military base in Texas, the Pentagon said, the latest move to use military resources to make good on his immigration agenda.

UTAH Sevier County: Human remains connected to a man who mysteriously disappeared in 1997 were recovered near Fish Lake in Utah, local authorities revealed. According to a news release from the Sevier County Sheriff’s Office, a foot was discovered inside a hiking boot along the shore of the lake in May. They learned that it belonged to a missing man identified as David White of Washington, who went missing in September 1997.

VERMONT Johnson: A 12-acre parcel known as the Deer Camp property in Johnson is now permanently protected as part of the Long Trail State Forest, securing public access to a 300-foot stretch of the Long Trail and enhancing recreational opportunities in the region.

VIRGINIA Fairfax County: The body of a 4-year-old boy has been identified more than five decades after he went missing in Northern Virginia in 1972. The missing child was revealed as Carl Matthew Bryant, the Fairfax County Police Department said.

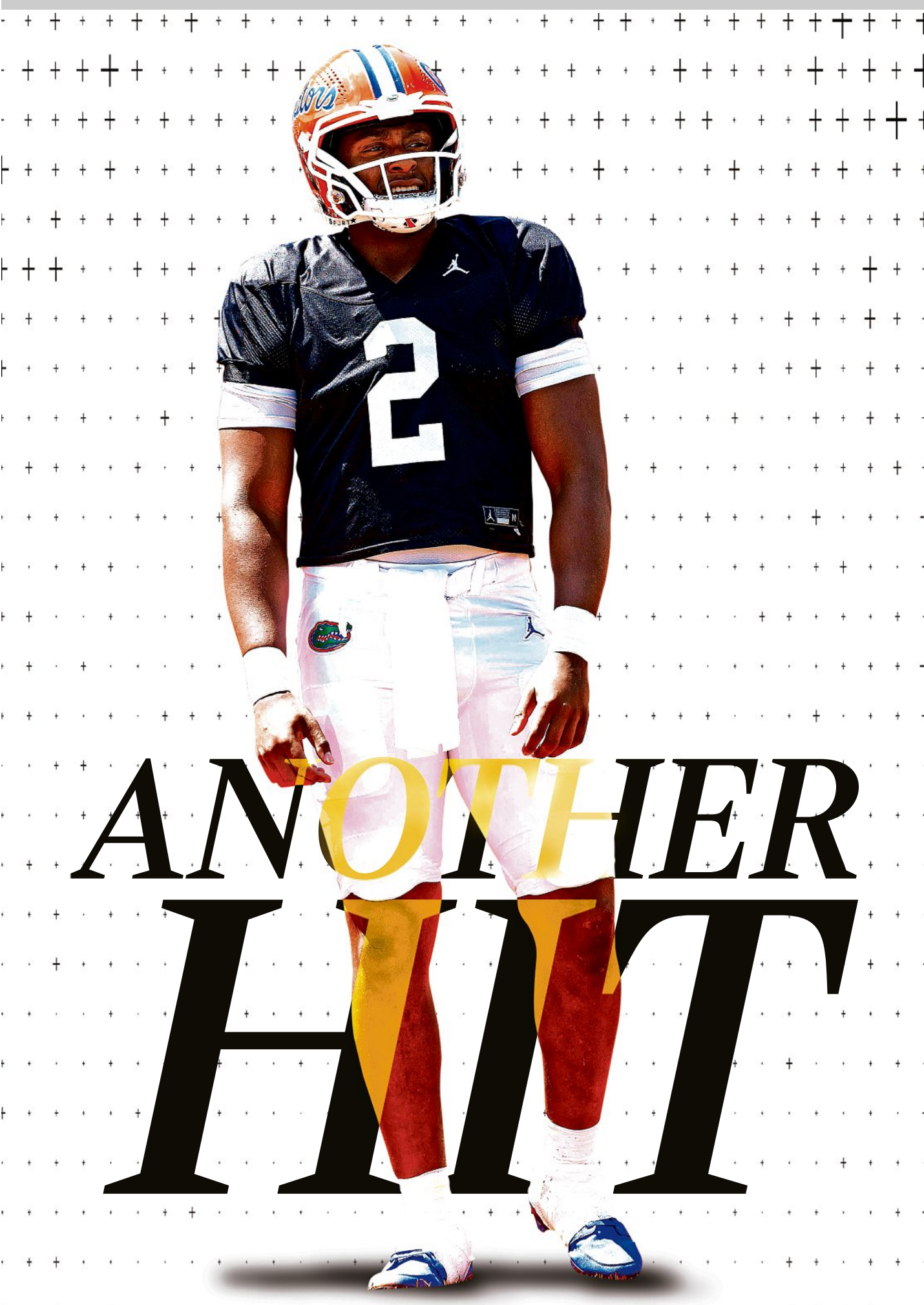
WASHINGTON Olympia: Violent crime in Washington dropped significantly last year but remains well above pre-pandemic levels. And Washington remains dead last in police staffing per capita compared to other states. These findings come from a report released by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs that shows some encouraging signs after years of rising crime, Washington State Standard reported.

WEST VIRGINIA Charleston: The West Virginia Department of Tourism said that more than 125,000 visitors have checked in along the West Virginia Waterfall Trail, WV News reported.

WISCONSIN Madison: The Wisconsin Elections Commission has deactivated over 192,000 voter registrations through the legally required four-year maintenance process, according to an Aug. 1 news release. The 192,369 individuals deactivated had not voted in the past four years and did not respond to mailing regarding their registration status, said Meagan Wolfe, WEC’s administrator.

WYOMING Cheyenne: Eight Wyoming newspapers abruptly shuttered after parent company News Media Corporation suddenly closed, citing financial challenges, Wyoming Tribune Eagle reported.

From USA TODAY Network and wire reports



DJ Lagway fires up Florida’s Playoff hopes but health of quarterback a big concern

Matt Hayes
USA TODAY NETWORK

It doesn’t matter how it happened, only that it did. And that the long- and short-term future for one of college football’s top young players is now in question.

Florida quarterback DJ Lagway is quickly becoming Mr. Glass.

Shoulder, hamstring and core injuries in his first year in Gainesville, and now a calf injury in fall camp.

“I’m not an injury-prone guy,” Lagway said last month during SEC Media Days.

Then a left calf strain arrived before the start of fall camp, and now the inevitable is here: When and how could the glass crack again?

Lagway missed time or didn’t participate full-go throughout the entire offseason, multiple injuries not only stalling his development but also leaving the Gators’ 2025 resurgence in question. In one short year, Lagway’s injury timeline has moved from unlucky to unnerving.

Whether it’s increased level of competition, intensity of training or just plain bad luck, four injuries (two relatively serious) before the start of Lagway’s second season is cause for concern. More problematic: It’s not a long or difficult a jump from calf strain to a much bigger problem.

Especially since we’ve seen it of late among the greatest athletes in sports.

Aaron Rodgers and Tyrese Halliburton dealt

See LAGWAY, Page 2C

Top: Florida quarterback DJ Lagway. Bottom: The Gators were 6-1 last season in games he started.
PHOTOS BY IMAGN IMAGES; ILLUSTRATION BY IAN YOUNG/USA TODAY NETWORK



Jarrett Bell
Columnist
USA TODAY

Shedeur shines, rewrites Browns’ QB script

CHARLOTTE, NC – So much for the narrative that Shedeur Sanders was set up to fail.

No, there’s another way to look at this after the fifth-round rookie quarterback essentially aced his test for the Cleveland Browns in their preseason opener on Aug. 8.

Sanders was hardly perfect while handling a heavy workload in the 30-10 exhibition win against the Carolina Panthers.

But boy was he good. Sanders, 23, threw two touchdown passes to Kaden Davis that looked as if they were guided by laser. He had a few Harry Houdini moments, escaping at least four would-be sacks. He flowed off-script, like on a 30-yard completion that fellow rookie Luke Floriea hauled in with one hand. And he never committed a turnover.

Yet afterward, Sanders (14 of 23, 138 yards, 106.8 passer rating) be-moaned missing on a couple of throws that got away.

“Did I play up to par?” he said. “No, I don’t think I did.”

Well, he’s entitled to his opinion, too.

So, just imagine what Sanders, listed as fourth-string on the depth chart, might have done if he had worked practice reps with the starters or second team. He has yet to have a rep with the first team during training camp and has had only a handful with the 2’s. He’s the guy seen during practices working alone on an adjacent field.

With Kenny Pickett and rookie Dillon Gabriel, listed behind Joe Flacco, nursing hamstring injuries, Sanders got his chance to start and shine.

Some suggested he was set up to fail because of his limited practice reps. Sanders, though, has a totally different view.

“I think overall in life, I don’t want anybody to make excuses,” said Sanders, who led college football in completion percentage in his final year playing for his Hall of Fame father, Deion, at Colorado in 2024 – then dominated the news cycle during the three-day NFL draft as his stock tumbled from a projected first-round pick to a third day selection.

Set up to fail?

“You ask God for something. It’s there,” he said. “And you’re going to complain about it? So, it’s two ways you can look at it. You can look at it and be thankful and take full advantage of the opportunity. Or you can look at it like, ‘Dang. This is what I’ve been asking for, but I’m not prepared.’ I’ve been able to sleep at night, knowing I was going to be playing. And then I just prepared as normal. Then that switch kicked in. When you’re out there on the field, it feels different. Ball’s ball. Ball has never been a problem for me.”

See BELL, Page 2C



Cleveland Browns quarterback Shedeur Sanders (12) looks downfield during the second quarter in the exhibition game against the Carolina Panthers.
SCOTT KINSER/USA TODAY NETWORK

COMMENTARY

Hunter embarks on two-way pro journey

Jarrett Bell
USA TODAY

JACKSONVILLE, FL – Time was a bit tight, as usual, for Travis Hunter. “I’m going to eat, take a shower, and go back to work,” he told USA TODAY Sports, pausing for a few minutes during his lunch break on Aug. 5.

Talk about time management. After taking snaps on both offense and defense during the Jacksonville Jaguars training camp practice – the first session this summer that he went both ways – Hunter joined the wide receivers group for an autograph session with dozens of fans on hand at Miller Electric Center.

And the rest of the day? “I’ll have 45 minutes with the defense,” he said of a pending meeting. “Back to offense from 2:05 to 4:35. Then walk-throughs.”

He caught himself and recalibrated. “Actually, I’ve got defensive walk-through today from 4:35 to 5:50. Then we’re out. Then tomorrow, I’ll be on defense.”

As he recited his schedule, Hunter, 22, was full of youthful exuberance and charisma – as advertised. Hunter, who won the Heisman Trophy last year as college football’s best player, is so driven to prove that he can excel while playing receiver *and* cornerback on the NFL level. And the desire seems palatable as he flashes a huge grin.

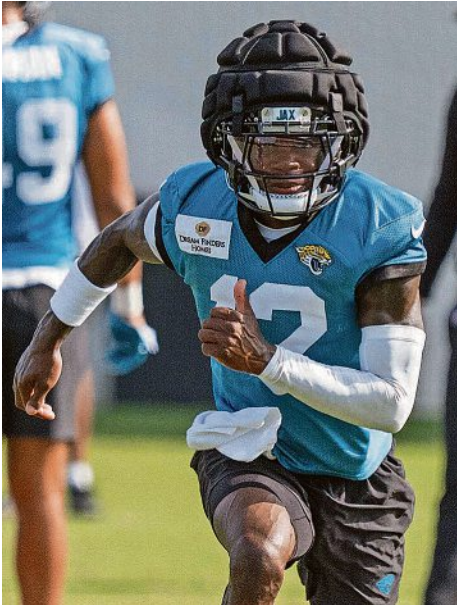
Then again, for all of his accomplishments, there’s some down-to-earth humility.

“I’ve had a lot of progress,” Hunter said. “But now I’ve got to continue to prove myself and prove that I’m supposed to be here.”

No, this two-way duty hasn’t been done in the NFL in decades. But when Hunter joined forces with Deion Sanders – first at Jackson State, then Colorado – the conventional wisdom was that he couldn’t hold up going both ways on the college level. Coach Prime was the only coach who pledged to let him try.

And look at Hunter now. The Jaguars sent a bundle of draft picks to the Cleveland Browns to select the best athlete in the NFL draft with the second pick overall and made the “organizational decision,” as coach Liam Coen put it, to use Hunter both ways.

Sure, there’s a huge challenge for Hunter – who made his NFL preseason debut against the Pittsburgh Steelers on



Travis Hunter sprints while running a wide receiver route during camp. How he fared in preseason opener, 4C
DOUG ENGLE/THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

Aug. 9 to hold up physically against better athletes for a longer season in the NFL. Yet Hunter is quick to emphasize the mental game, which will enable him to absorb nuances of sophisticated NFL game plans.

“We’ve got a schedule set up and I’ll get it before the week even starts,” he said. “By the end of the week, I’ll have another schedule for next week.”

Is this how it worked at Colorado? “In Colorado, I met with both (units) every day, so I was good,” he replied.

Coen, the Jaguars rookie head coach, is adjusting to this flow in his own right. He said there’s been trial and error – “more reps here, less reps there,” Coen said – to balance the workload.

“It’s what he’s been doing, whereas for us coaches and staff, it’s new and different,” Coen told USA TODAY Sports. “To find that sweet spot of how much is too much and what’s not enough, it’s a revolving door.

Coen texted Hunter the night of Aug. 4 and told him of the plan to give him snaps on both sides of the ball the next day for the first time during a practice. “He’s like, ‘All right, finally, dude,’ ” Coen said of the response.

During one series in practice, Hunter, wearing a teal No. 12 jersey, zipped inside on a skinny post route and snagged a tight spiral. The next series, Hunter wore a white, No. 12 pinnie over his jer-

sey for a shift on defense where he blanketed his assigned receiver with tight man-to-man coverage.

Near the end of practice, Coen kept Hunter out of the final 11-on-11 drill, but it was surely a full load. According to The Florida Times-Union, he went 19 plays (10 on offense, nine on defense) in the team drills, testing the high level of conditioning that is his calling card.

“The last time I got tired, tired?” Hunter said, repeating the question. “Probably today. It was a lot on me, but I got through the day and did what I was supposed to do. For the most part, I was good.”

From this point, Coen expects the double-duty during practices will become the norm rather than the exception. Since the offseason workouts, Coen has been particularly impressed with Hunter’s learning curve in absorbing the nuances of the offense.

“Corner is probably a lot more natural for him to just go and play,” Coen said. “It’s probably where he’s had the most development in his college experiences. Well, he’s worked his tail off this summer, working on the receiver fundamentals and techniques, and it’s showed up.”

When the Jaguars released their first official depth chart last week, Hunter was listed as a starting receiver alongside Brian Thomas Jr. and Dyami Brown and as the backup left cornerback behind Jarrian Jones. Of course, that’s subject to change. Yet Coen projects that when the games count Hunter could play 80% of the snaps – on both offense and defense, which would be in the range of the 111 snaps he averaged last season at Colorado.

“But we’ve got to train him,” Coen added. “It’s a long season.”

Coen, inheriting a team that finished 4-13 in 2024, also hasn’t been shy about his expectations of excellence. Earlier last week, Coen said he thinks that Hunter could win honors as NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year *and* NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year.

“I didn’t hear that, but I’m happy he said that because I know I can be,” Hunter said. “I’ve just got to continue to prove myself.”

The debates could go on and on. Cornerback or receiver?

“Selfishly, I definitely want him on offense more,” Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence told The NFL Network. “And I told him, ‘Do you want to catch

touchdowns or do you want to maybe break up a pass or two? That’s a decision you have to make.’

“He’ll make plays wherever he is, but obviously as a quarterback, I hope he plays more on offense. Wherever he plays ... he will make us better.”

Just don’t think Hunter is feeling any pressure. Sure, he’s a marquee attraction infusing much hope for a franchise that has posted double-digit losses in five seasons since 2018. On many levels the Jaguars need his premium talent on offense and defense, which explains why there’s been healthy lobbying from coaches on both units for Hunter’s services.

“Nah, there ain’t no pressure,” Hunter insists. “It don’t faze me at all. I’ve been doing this for a minute. I’m not worried about what people say. I’m just out here playing football, doing what I’ve got to do to help my team win.”

Listen to Tony Boselli rave about Hunter. Boselli, the Hall of Fame left tackle, is the only player in Jaguars history with his jersey retired. During the offseason, he became the franchise’s executive vice president for football operations, which put him in the mix with Coen and new general manager James Gladstone in assessing Hunter’s stock.

Of course, Hunter was the top-rated player on the Jaguars’ draft board – and one they figured they had no shot to get when originally holding the fifth pick in the first round.

Boselli admits that initially he had reservations that Hunter could play both ways.

“I had my questions, maybe some doubts, because I had never met him,” Boselli told USA TODAY Sports. “But then you get an idea of the personality and intelligence that he had, and you watch the tape, and it’s like, ‘If anybody can do it, this guy can.’ ”

Boselli said he quickly became of the opinion that Hunter doesn’t like football – he loves it.

“That’s what we need – guys who love the game,” Boselli said.

Coen sees it similarly. “He’s all ball,” Coen said. “The guy fishes and does football.”

Especially when he comes to work. “He’s here all day, and his day is maximized,” Coen said. “Every single moment he’s in the building, he has something to do. And he wouldn’t have it any other way.”

So we’ve heard.

Bell

Continued from Page 1C

Sanders may have just played himself into a serious contender for the Browns’ starting job. After all, coach Kevin Stefanski has maintained that it’s an “open” competition. And if that’s the case, Sanders, who played 45 snaps on nine series (excluding a kneel-down at the end of the first half), has at least earned the chance to get reps with the 1’s and 2’s.

Stefanski evaded that question when I asked during his postgame news conference and also wouldn’t touch the topic of the competition. The rookie wouldn’t light a match, either.

Sanders: “I just think about when I got out there, doing what I’ve got to do. Everything else is not in my hand, so why worry about it? I just don’t think that deep into everything because it’s nothing you’re going to be able to control. Why put energy into something that you can’t control? The most you can

do is hey, man, if you get your opportunity and your number’s called, perform it. At least to the bare minimum to win the game.”

There’s fresh videotape out there now, however, showing Sanders making splash plays like he did at Colorado and demonstrating keen instincts during his big audition. It’s a starting point. Never mind that the Browns didn’t play starters and Carolina played first-teamers for only a couple of series.

As LeBron James so eloquently put it in a post on X, Sanders’ performance shouldn’t be discounted because he didn’t play with or much against starters.

Ah, social media. Sanders was such a trending topic the night of Aug. 8, just as he was during the NFL draft.

His famous father, aka Coach Prime, didn’t hesitate to put out a post amid the buzz.

“What now?” Deion asked on X.

Stefanski and his staff – including Bill Musgrave, the Browns quarterbacks coach who was a teammate of Deion’s on the San Francisco 49ers squad that

won Super Bowl 29 – can assess so many layers of Sanders’ performance.

If you wanted to script a test to cover all of the bases, the Browns couldn’t have done much better than compiling the “situational football” scenarios from the game. Sanders operated in a nine-play drive and a two-play drive. On another possession, he faced back-to-back third-and-long plays, converting the first one after he rolled out and bolted from the pocket for a 9-yard run. Another time he powered under the pile to convert a quarterback sneak. Both of his TD passes came while positioned in the red zone. Another series had him backed up deep in his own end, then throwing from the end zone. At the end of the half, a hurry-up drill.

Said Stefanski, “The situations were invaluable for Shedeur, for all of our offense.”

Then there’s this other situation, reflecting uncharted territory for Sanders. Someone asked about his patience, given the scant opportunities while buried on the depth chart.

“It’s different things and different life

lessons you’ve got to go through,” he said. “And I haven’t gone through this situation that I’m in, ever. So, it’s really just a test from God. I was just thankful that I was able to see the light of day and get out there and play.”

Still, it’s so striking that he produced so much from so few practice reps.

“I’m comfortable with being uncomfortable,” he declared. “That’s what it is. I’ve got pockets of finding my rhythm. I’ve got to get into that quicker, regardless of anything. But overall, I felt like me out there.

“I couldn’t do it without the time, I couldn’t do it without the play-calling,” he added. “So, I’m just thankful to have the joy of just being on the field overall. And carrying the responsibility to do the right thing. So, that’s two badges under my belt already.”

And with that, Sanders rewrote the narrative.

“My vow is to definitely make change,” he said. “And change was made.”

Which adds some major intrigue to the Browns’ quarterback situation.

Lagway

Continued from Page 1C

with calf strains in the last two years, and both strains preceded season-ending Achilles injuries. Kevin Durant’s Achilles injury in 2019 started with a calf strain, too.

But before we go down that rabbit hole and scuttle the season for a rising star quarterback and a team with College Football Playoff hopes, before we make too much of Lagway wearing a compression wrap on his left calf in practice, maybe he’s not Mr. Glass at all.

Maybe he just got dinged more times than most.

“The whole injury thing, for the most part, is relatively new for me,” Lagway said last month, and he hasn’t spoke to the media since. “I feel better than I ever have right now.”

It was last month when Lagway admitted to USA TODAY Sports that the throwing shoulder injury didn’t occur

during his breakout freshman season as most believed, but that it was something he dealt with the entire season.

A season in which he won every game he started and finished.

His 6-1 record overall as a starter included a loss to Georgia, where he left late in the second quarter with a hamstring injury, with the Gators leading 10-3. Other than that, Lagway’s freshman season (even with modest numbers) was high-level production in the nation’s most difficult conference.

He has had soreness in the shoulder since high school and has typically used rehabilitation instead of surgery to overcome pain and stiffness. The shoulder injury (and the core injury) forced him to miss throwing in spring practice.

Then the calf injury showed up before fall camp, and despite the soreness, Lagway has been throwing and looks sharper than ever. The only question now: Will the calf hold up?

“The guy’s been working hard all summer,” Florida coach Billy Napier said last week. “Certainly, hopefully, he’ll be

able to do more and more as we go day-to-day.”

That’s not exactly a ringing endorsement, but it’s also all Napier and Florida have to hold. Because with Lagway, Florida is a legitimate threat to reach the College Football Playoff.

Without him – and with sixth-year nomad Harrison Bailey or former walk-on Aidan Warner playing quarterback – the Gators may have problems reaching bowl eligibility.

Last week, former Alabama coach Nick Saban – speaking during his Nick’s Kid’s Foundation event – said five teams could win the SEC this season. One of those teams was Florida.

Even with the uncertainty of Lagway’s health, or the nation’s toughest schedule. Which, frankly, Napier and the team are getting tired of talking about.

Spot the ball, they all say now. Doesn’t matter that the schedule includes games away from Gainesville against Georgia, LSU, Miami, Texas A&M and Ole Miss and home games

against Texas and Tennessee, Florida played the same schedule last year.

And by the end of the regular season (and with a healthy Lagway), the Gators were playing as well as anyone in the SEC.

There’s a lot to like about this Florida team, one that Napier has patiently and organically built through high school recruiting instead of relying on the crash-shoot that is the transfer portal. An experienced and deep offensive line, some of the SEC’s best young skill players and a defense that developed last year with Lagway.

In the six games Lagway started and completed, the Florida defense gave up an average of 13.1 points per game. In the other seven games, the Gators gave up an average of 31.5.

“He makes everyone better,” Napier said. “That’s what rare players do.”

If they can stay on the field.

Matt Hayes is the senior national college football writer for USA TODAY Sports Network. Follow him on X at @MattHayesCFB.

Jaxson Dart poised under pressure

Jack McKessy
USA TODAY

New York Giants fans got their first look at rookie quarterback Jaxson Dart in a professional game on Aug. 9. The early returns on New York’s investment are promising.

Dart made his professional debut in the Giants’ preseason clash with the Buffalo Bills, about 3 ½ months after the G-Men drafted him with the 25th overall pick.

He was the second Giants quarterback of the game, taking over from starter Russell Wilson after New York’s first possession and playing until the end of the first half.

The rookie out of Mississippi finished his day 12 of 19 on pass attempts for 154 yards and a touchdown pass.

The Giants scored on three of their four possessions with Dart in the game. In order, his drives ended: punt, touchdown, 50-yard field goal, 51-yard field goal.

Here’s how USA TODAY Sports grades Dart’s debut performance:

Giants rookie QB shines vs. Bills

There was plenty to like about Dart’s performance in his first career game as a pro, even if it was just an exhibition clash in the preseason.

One of the biggest takeaways from the overall performance was Dart’s poise in the pocket, particularly when he was under pressure. The rookie’s first possession under center saw him evade pass rushers and make a couple of nice throws, even if it ended with a punt.

There were other throws later on that showcased the same kind of pocket awareness. There was a nice slip-screen pass Dart made over the outstretched arms of a defender, executed with perfect touch to avoid getting swatted while still giving his running back the chance



Rookie Jaxson Dart throws in the first quarter for the Giants against the Bills. BRYAN M. BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

to make a play.

On a following possession, Dart showcased the other side of the spectrum of his arm talent and ball placement. After a false start and rush for no gain backed the Giants up to a second-and-15 play on their own 31, Dart made one of his best throws of the day to pick up a first down.

He took the snap, allowed himself time to read through his progressions, kept his eyes downfield while avoiding pressure from edge rushers on both sides, stepped up in the pocket and rocketed a pass to Montrell Washington. The throw was perfectly executed on Washington’s drag route, placed between a couple of linebackers reading

his eyes and finding the open space in the zone coverage.

Dart’s best play of the day was easily his lone touchdown pass: a 28-yard beauty of a throw to Lil’Jordan Humphrey.

On a third-and-5 play on Dart’s second possession under center, the rookie took the shotgun snap, dropped back and floated a touch pass down the sideline that found Humphrey’s hands despite solid coverage from the defending cornerback. The throw was even more impressive given the incoming pressure Dart faced.

Running back Dante Miller didn’t help out up front when the Giants left guard missed his block, allowing a free

rusher up the middle to get in Dart’s face as he wound up to make the throw. Regardless, the rookie kept his composure and delivered a perfect ball to Humphrey then took a direct hit after his release.

On top of the plays Dart made as a passer, he also gave Giants fans a glimpse of his playmaking ability with his legs, avoiding a couple of would-be tacklers as his pocket collapsed and scrambling up the middle for a 19-yard gain.

Dart’s debut wasn’t all sunshine and rainbows.

While his success under duress was notable and impressive, there were a few throws he missed in much easier circumstances.

A third-down pass attempt on his first possession ended up out of reach for tight end Greg Dulcich despite the separation Dulcich had from his defender. A first-down attempt to a wide open Humphrey on Dart’s penultimate drive sailed high and incomplete. A couple of plays later, the rookie underthrew a short pass that, while potentially catchable for Washington, ended in a failed third-down conversion attempt.

Dart’s final pass attempt of the day also fell incomplete when he took a split second too long to get the throw out on third down and placed the ball a hair too far inside on the “out” route. Bills defensive back Te’Cory Couch was able to get his hand in and break up the throw, though the pass was still a catchable one for Washington.

There were also a couple of balls batted down at the line of scrimmage as well, one of which almost resulted in an interception.

Overall, Giants fans should be excited with what they saw from their rookie quarterback in his first game as a pro, even if it has the caveat of only being in a preseason exhibition game.

Grade: B

Titans rookie Cam Ward earns solid grade

Jack McKessy
USA TODAY

Cam Ward, the Tennessee Titans’ No. 1 overall pick in the 2025 NFL draft, finally made his pro debut. Results were mixed, but mostly solid.

Ward played the first two offensive drives in the Titans’ preseason opener against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Aug. 9 in Tampa and completed five of his eight pass attempts in the game for 67 yards. He threw no touchdowns, no interceptions and did not take a sack.

In such a limited sample size against a Bucs team that kept most of its starters on the bench, it was hard to get a good read on how Ward’s skills will translate to the pro level.

USA TODAY Sports made an evaluation anyway, grading out Ward’s first couple of offensive possessions as a pro.

Here’s how it went:

Top overall pick solid in debut

Ward’s pro career got off to an unimpressive start after he took the field for the Titans’ first offensive possession.

Tennessee went three-and-out in a drive that lasted less than one minute of game clock time.

Ward’s first snap was a handoff to running back Tony Pollard for 5 yards. His second was an incomplete pass to receiver Van Jefferson. And in Ward’s fi-

nal play of his first drive as a pro, he drifted backward out of a clean pocket then had to throw the ball away when pressure eventually came.

The Titans went on to punt.

Ward’s second drive went far better than the first. His first throw when he returned to the field was also his first NFL completion: a 27-yarder to lead wide receiver Calvin Ridley.

The rookie took advantage of his good protection on the play before delivering the strike to Ridley, who had found an open hole in the Buccaneers’ zone coverage. The wideout turned upfield for about 10 more yards and into Bucs territory before defenders swarmed him for the tackle.

Ward completed his next three pass attempts, though the first was nixed by an offensive pass interference penalty. The two that counted were both to Ridley again, including one well-thrown ball to beat double coverage as the wideout bolted toward the sideline.

The placement on the throw hit Ridley in motion and prevented him from getting lit up by the safety charging in on a pursuit angle. Though Ward didn’t technically give his wideout a chance to turn upfield, he did avoid a dangerous, “hospital ball” play with the throw.

The rest of the drive featured three more attempts and two more completions by the Titans’ rookie.

The lone incompletion was Ward’s



Tennessee Titans quarterback Cam Ward warms up before the preseason game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Raymond James Stadium. NATHAN RAY SEEBECK/IMAGN IMAGES

worst throw of the game. He tried to slot a back-shoulder throw in to Elic Ayomakor near the left boundary, but he underthrew it. Buccaneers’ cornerback

Josh Hayes had his eyes on the quarterback and undercut the route, nearly coming away with an interception.

Ward did not appear fazed by his near-pick.

He went on to convert both third-down opportunities for his team as Tennessee neared and entered the red zone.

Ward’s first conversion was a strong pass to tight end Chig Okonkwo over the middle on a stick route to get 10 yards on third-and-9.

His second was a short dump-off to newcomer Tyler Lockett, who picked up some yards after the catch to get his team to the Buccaneers’ 3-yard line. Pollard took care of the rest, rushing for a touchdown two plays later.

In such a small sample size – two drives, eight pass attempts – it’s hard to come away with any significant takeaways from Ward’s pro debut. It wasn’t horrible, but it also wasn’t mind-blowing.

A three-and-out to start wasn’t great, but leading a 67-yard touchdown drive was.

Drifting out of the pocket was a bad habit Ward needs to break, but making well-placed throws to Ridley was a good “habit” to keep building on.

The near-interception wasn’t awesome, but Ward’s ability to flush it and make some successful throws for the rest of the drive was impressive.

Grade: B-

Vikings’ J.J. McCarthy back a year after knee injury

Jack McKessy
USA TODAY

When Minnesota Vikings quarterback J.J. McCarthy took the field Aug. 9, it marked the end of a 364-day hiatus from in-game action for the second-year gunslinger.

The Vikings’ preseason opener against the Houston Texans was McCarthy’s first game back healthy since Aug. 10, 2024, when he tore his meniscus in Minnesota’s preseason opener against the Las Vegas Raiders. The injury robbed McCarthy of his rookie season before it even began.

The Michigan product started in his return to action and played a solid first drive.

McCarthy’s knee looked plenty healthy as he moved around inside and out of the pocket. That fact was most apparent when he took off for an 8-yard rush on fourth-and-4 to pick up a first down.

Vikings backup Sam Howell took



Vikings quarterback J.J. McCarthy (9) warms up before the game Aug. 9. BRAD REMPEL/IMAGN IMAGES

over for McCarthy after the team’s first offensive possession, which ended in a 48-yard field goal from Will Reichard.

Preseason game stats

Here’s how McCarthy’s performance looked in the box score after his one-

drive return to game action:

- Completion rate: 4 of 7 (57%)
- Passing yards: 30
- Touchdowns: 0
- Interceptions: 0
- Rush attempts: 1
- Rushing yards: 8

In his limited time back on the field in his return, McCarthy did plenty to show why the Vikings are placing their trust in him after passing on signing veteran free agents and letting Sam Darnold walk in free agency.

On his first pass attempt, McCarthy faked a handoff then rolled out to his left before hitting Jordan Addison with a strike for a short gain. He converted his first chance on third down with a quick pass to Addison.

A couple of plays later, he made his best throw of the game with a deeper pass, again to Addison, to pick up 18 yards. It was a well-placed throw between the trailing defender and the sideline, one made more impressive by the execution with pressure in his face

and bit of lower body contact after the play.

In case there were still any concerns about McCarthy’s knee health, his aforementioned 8-yard scramble to pick up a first down should put most doubts to bed.

Once again facing pressure up the middle on a fourth-down play in Texans territory, McCarthy sprinted out to his right to avoid the pass rush before he cruised ahead for the first down.

The two worst plays by McCarthy were small miscues: a batted pass on an apparent RPO to his back side and an overthrow to an open receiver on third down to close out his lone drive.

Overall, a strong showing for McCarthy without lead receiver Justin Jefferson active for the game, showing a strong connection with Addison, his No. 2 receiver. That could come into play by Week 4 of the regular season, when Addison returns from his three-game suspension for violating the league’s substances of abuse policy.

Shelton threat to end men’s Grand Slam drought



Dan Wolken
Columnist
USA TODAY

The incomprehensible 22-year Grand Slam drought in American men’s tennis will end soon. Maybe not this year, maybe not even next. But it’s going to happen, and we’re not going to have to wait too much longer.

Ben Shelton is going to do it. The 22-year old from Atlanta via the University of Florida won his first Masters 1000-level title on Aug. 7 at the Canadian Open, beating Karen Khachanov 6-7, 6-4, 7-6 in a terrific final.

Sure, you can put some asterisks on the significance of this tournament – namely, that No. 1 Jannik Sinner and No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz opted to take an extra week off after meeting in both the French Open and Wimbledon finals. Those two have dominated the Grand Slams for the last two years, and Shelton – to this point – has yet to prove he belongs in their company.

But what Shelton *has* proved this summer will serve him extremely well in the chase to remove Andy Roddick’s 2003 US Open title from the genre of frustrating tennis trivia. At this moment, Shelton has a very good argument as the third-best player in the world.

If not him, then who? It’s not Alexander Zverev, who is technically No. 3 in the rankings but hasn’t felt like a threat to win anything important since Sinner embarrassed him in the Australian Open final back in January.

It’s hard to make an argument for Taylor Fritz, the highest-ranked American at No. 4, especially after Shelton dismantled him 6-4, 6-3 in the Toronto semifinals and showed that he simply has a higher gear of athleticism and shot-making when he’s playing well.

Jack Draper? The British lad is 29-9 on the year with his own Masters 1000 title this year at Indian Wells. But his record in the Slams doesn’t measure up to Shelton’s and he hasn’t shown the same level of physical durability, particularly in a best-of-five setting.

Some would argue it’s still Novak Djokovic, and they may have a point. Despite slipping to No. 7 in the world, one spot behind Shelton, he’s made the semifinals in all three Slams this year and he’s still Novak freaking Djokovic. But at a physically diminished 38 and barely playing a real schedule anymore (he’s skipping both big North American hard court tournaments leading into the US Open), it would take everything



Ben Shelton reacts after winning a game against Karen Khachanov during the singles final at Sobeys Stadium in Toronto.
DAN HAMILTON/IMAGN IMAGES

breaking his way to win his 25th Grand Slam.

At the moment, nobody else is really a factor.

So here’s the overall takeaway: Yes, Sinner and Alcaraz are going to win most of the big titles over the next few years as long as they stay healthy, much like Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal in the mid-2000s. But they’re not going to meet in *every* Slam final. Injuries happen, bad days happen. Especially at the US Open, we often see players who have had long, grueling years struggle to find the energy it takes to deal with the heat and all the other unique elements of playing in New York.

And when it’s inevitably someone besides Alcaraz or Sinner hoisting a big trophy at some point, who’s most likely to pick up the pieces?

It’s Shelton – and on a hard court, it’s not particularly close.

Though Canada was just his third title, and by far his biggest since turning pro three years ago, we are seeing some signs now that he’s headed for a potentially special career.

This win wasn’t a fluke. Rather, it was the culmination of a summer in which

Shelton’s game is breaking through in ways we haven’t really seen before.

He’s always had the elements to be a top player: huge lefty serve, dynamic athleticism, weaponry with the forehand and better-than-average net skills. He’s also shown a flair for stepping up at the Grand Slams with two semifinals and two quarterfinals in just 12 appearances. By any measure, a 30-12 record at the Slams is exceptional for a young player.

But Shelton’s father and coach, Bryan Shelton, has stressed repeatedly that Ben isn’t a finished product. And their approach to addressing his weaknesses has been targeted and methodical.

The eye test, particularly since Shelton made his run to the Wimbledon quarterfinals (where Sinner stopped him in three close sets), says that it’s starting to pay off in areas like decision-making, consistency from the baseline and deployment of his backhand slice to change the rhythm of points.

Even on return, where the advanced stats show that Shelton is one of the three worst players in the Top 50, there were some interesting numbers in Toronto. Across his five matches, Shelton

won 36.2% of return points. While that’s basically average for a top-50 player, it’s significantly better than the 32% he’s posted this year. It’s also worth noting that he broke Fritz and Brandon Nakashima – two of the seven hardest guys on tour to break – three times each.

It was much the same story the week before in Washington. Despite throwing in a semifinal stinker against Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, Shelton won 38.3% of return points across four matches.

If that’s real improvement and not just statistical noise, Shelton is a threat to win the US Open *this year*. And if he can merely become an above-average returner on a regular basis, a Grand Slam title is probably going to happen at some point.

Shelton’s first Masters title was a major breakthrough in his career and at 22 made him the youngest American to do so since Roddick at the very same tournament in 2003.

Guess what happened next? A few weeks later, he lit up New York and became a US Open champion.

The way Shelton played this past week, don’t be surprised if he follows the same path to a Grand Slam title.

Travis Hunter plays both ways in Jaguars’ loss

Demetrius Harvey
The Florida Times-Union | USA TODAY NETWORK

The long-awaited debut of Jacksonville Jaguars rookie two-way player Travis Hunter went off without a hitch.

Meanwhile, the team lost its preseason opener at home 31-25 to the Pittsburgh Steelers on Aug. 9 at EverBank Stadium.

Still, no one will remember the loss after witnessing Hunter’s ability and an unlikely field goal by the team’s second-year kicker.

Hunter began his career with Jacksonville on offense, playing with the starters alongside quarterback Trevor Lawrence and receivers Dyami Brown and Brian Thomas Jr.

Hunter and the first-team offense played just one series. Lawrence finished the game completing 6 of 7 pass attempts for 43 yards, leading the team to a 41-yard field goal made by kicker Cam Little.

Jacksonville’s backups played the remainder of the game with Hunter taking a seat, at least on offense.

Jacksonville finished with 339 total yards, including 273 passing yards and 66 rushing yards.

Jacksonville played all four quarterbacks, with rookie Seth Henigan getting the final few minutes of game action.

Jaguars backup quarterback Nick Mullens completed 11 of 18 passes for 89 yards and a TD. Third-stringer John Wolford finished 3 of 5 for 63 yards, while Henigan completed 11 of 14 passes for 78 yards.

Hunter gets time on both sides

Hunter’s night ended with about 4:21 remaining in the first half as the team got set for the fourth possession on defense. Hunter played two possessions on defense while starting the game on offense, playing 10 snaps (including a play called back due to a penalty).



Jaguars wide receiver Travis Hunter runs a route before the preseason game Aug. 9 at EverBank Stadium in Jacksonville. COREY PERRINE/THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

Hunter finished the game with two catches for 9 yards. He would have had three catches for 16 yards had his catch not been called back due to a penalty.

On Hunter’s first defensive drive, he appeared to make his presence known right away. Hunter was covering the left side of the field when Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph looked his way twice but had to move on. He was ultimately sacked by defensive end Dawuane Smoot.

The Jaguars will hope Hunter can continue to provide lock-down defense.

Little makes longest field goal in NFL history

As the game clock was winding down to head into halftime, Mullens threw a 3-yard pass to Bhayshul Tuten to conserve just one second left in the first half for coach Liam Coen to call a timeout. With the ball spotted at Jacksonville’s



Cam Little celebrates his 70-year field goal just before halftime Aug. 9 against the Steelers. COREY PERRINE/THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

48-yard line, it felt unlikely but somehow possible that Coen would trot out the field goal unit.

Immediately following, kicker Cam Little could be seen motioning to go for the field goal. Long snapper Ross Maticik and punter Logan Cooke trotted out with what would be an NFL-record 70-yard field goal attempt.

Little lined up and hit a line drive through the uprights that could have been good from maybe 75 yards with a bit of wind.

Little’s kick is the NFL record that, unfortunately, for the second-year kicker won’t ultimately count. Still, it will remain the longest field goal ever made in an NFL preseason game.

Little made all four of his field goals and converted his lone extra point. Little was drafted in the sixth round of last year’s draft and missed just two field goals as one of the team’s most consistent players.



Connor Zilisch celebrates after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Mission 200 at The Glen at Watkins Glen International. SEAN GARDNER/GETTY IMAGES

Celebrating driver falls hard, breaks collarbone

Jace Evans
USA TODAY

Connor Zilisch took the checkered flag in the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Watkins Glen, but his celebration was short-lived after he took a nasty fall that landed him in an ambulance.

Zilisch had climbed out of his car and had his right foot on the roof and the left on the window when he appeared to slip, his feet getting caught in the netting and sending him headfirst hurtling toward the ground. He hit the pavement hard and did not immediately move.

He was placed on a backboard and eventually loaded into an ambulance. The CW broadcast said Zilisch was speaking with medical personnel. NBC Sports' Dustin Long said Zilisch sat up in the ambulance, which was taking him to the infield care center.

NASCAR said Zilisch was "transported to a local hospital for further evalua-

tion" and added that he was "awake and alert."

JR Motorsports provided another update later in the evening Aug. 9, saying Zilisch had been released from the hospital.

Zilisch, 19, took to social media himself a few minutes after JR Motorsports' announcement. He said he has a broken collarbone.

"Thank you everybody for reaching out today," Zilisch wrote on X. "I'm out of the hospital and getting better already. Thankfully, CT scans for my head are clear, I just have a broken collarbone. Thankful for all the medics for quick attention and grateful it wasn't any worse."

Zilisch was slated to take part in the Cup Series race Aug. 10 at Watkins Glen, but Trackhouse Racing said the No. 87 would be withdrawn. "We wish Connor a speedy recovery," Trackhouse said in its statement.

Mariano Rivera tears Achilles during Old-Timers' game

James H. Williams
USA TODAY

Former New York Yankees closer Mariano Rivera returned to Yankee Stadium in a pinstripe uniform as a competitor in the franchise's Old-Timers' Day game.

Aug. 9 was the first time the Yankees held the actual game since 2019.

The 55-year-old Hall of Famer's time in the game was cut short, however, due to injury. Rivera's agent, Fern Cuza, told reporters the baseball legend tore his



Rivera

Achilles tendon during the game.

He is set to have surgery this week. Rivera missed most of the 2012 MLB season, his second-to-last, due to an ACL tear.

Rivera took to the plate during the game, hitting a single against Andy Pettitte.

Rivera had four plate appearances in his MLB career and didn't have a hit. He had an RBI, a walk and a strikeout.

FOR THE RECORD

All times ET

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	68	50	.576	—
Boston	65	53	.551	3
N.Y. Yankees	62	55	.530	5½
Tampa Bay	57	61	.483	11
Baltimore	53	64	.453	14½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	67	51	.568	—
Cleveland	61	55	.526	5
Kansas City	58	59	.496	8½
Minnesota	55	61	.474	11
Chi. White Sox	42	75	.359	24½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	65	52	.556	—
Seattle	65	53	.551	½
Texas	60	58	.508	5½
L.A. Angels	56	61	.479	9
Athletics	52	67	.437	14

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	67	49	.578	—
N.Y. Mets	63	54	.538	4½
Miami	57	60	.487	10½
Atlanta	50	67	.427	17½
Washington	46	70	.397	21

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	72	44	.621	—
Chicago Cubs	67	49	.578	5
Cincinnati	61	57	.517	12
St. Louis	59	59	.500	14
Pittsburgh	51	67	.432	22

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	68	49	.581	—
San Diego	65	52	.556	3
San Francisco	59	58	.504	9
Arizona	56	61	.479	12
Colorado	30	86	.259	37½

Saturday's Scores

Atlanta 7, Miami 6
N.Y. Yankees 5, Houston 4
Washington 4, San Francisco 2
L.A. Angels 7, Detroit 4
Cincinnati 2, Pittsburgh 1
Athletics 11, Baltimore 3
Cleveland 3, Chi. White Sox 1
Kansas City 2, Minnesota 0
Milwaukee 7, N.Y. Mets 4
Atlanta 8, Miami 6
Philadelphia 3, Texas 2
Chicago Cubs 9, St. Louis 1
Arizona 6, Colorado 5
San Diego 5, Boston 4, 10 innings
L.A. Dodgers 9, Toronto 1
Seattle 7, Tampa Bay 4

Sunday's Games

Kansas City at Minnesota
Miami at Atlanta
Athletics at Baltimore
Houston at N.Y. Yankees
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
L.A. Angels at Cleveland
Cleveland at Chi. White Sox
N.Y. Mets at Milwaukee
Philadelphia at Texas
Washington at San Francisco
Colorado at Arizona
Boston at San Diego
Tampa Bay at Seattle
Toronto at L.A. Dodgers
Chicago Cubs at St. Louis
Monday's Games
Philadelphia at Cincinnati, 6:10 p.m.
Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Detroit at Chi. White Sox, 7:40 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee, 7:40 p.m.
Washington at Kansas City, 7:40 p.m.
Colorado at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m.
Arizona at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
Boston at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.
San Diego at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Athletics, 10:05 p.m.
Tuesday's Games
Seattle at Baltimore, 6:35 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cincinnati, 6:40 p.m.
Miami at Cleveland, 6:40 p.m.
Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
Detroit at Chi. White Sox, 7:40 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee, 7:40 p.m.
Washington at Kansas City, 7:40 p.m.
Colorado at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m.
Arizona at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
Boston at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.
San Diego at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Athletics, 10:05 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Detroit at Chi. White Sox, 2:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee, 2:10 p.m.
Washington at Kansas City, 2:10 p.m.
Colorado at St. Louis, 2:15 p.m.
Arizona at Texas, 2:35 p.m.
San Diego at San Francisco, 3:45 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cincinnati, 5:10 p.m.
Seattle at Baltimore, 5:10 p.m.
Miami at Cleveland, 6:40 p.m.
Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
Boston at Houston, 7:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Athletics, 10:05 p.m.

SOCCER

English Premier League

	GP	W	D	L	GD	P
Arsenal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aston Villa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bournemouth	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brentford	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brighton	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burnley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chelsea	14	7	5	47	23	19
Crystal Palace	0	0	0	0	0	0
Everton	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fulham	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leeds United	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liverpool	0	0	0	0	0	0
Man City	10	0	0	0	0	0
Man United	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newcastle	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nott'm Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sunderland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tottenham	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Ham	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wolverhampton	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Three points for win, one point for tie.

Friday's Game

Liverpool vs. AFC Bournemouth, 3 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Aston Villa vs. Newcastle, 7:30 a.m.
Brighton vs. Fulham, 10 a.m.
Sunderland vs. West Ham, 10 a.m.
Tottenham vs. Burnley, 10 a.m.
Wolverhampton vs. Man. City, 12:30 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 17
Chelsea vs. Crystal Palace, 9 a.m.
Nottingham Forest vs. Brentford, 9 a.m.
Manchester United vs. Arsenal, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, Aug. 18

Leeds United vs. Everton, 3 p.m.

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	15	5	6	51	44	25
Cincinnati	15	6	4	49	39	31
Nashville	14	7	5	47	42	29
Columbus	12	5	8	44	41	36
Inter Miami CF	12	4	6	42	49	34
Orlando City	11	6	8	41	46	33
Charlotte FC	12	11	2	38	43	39
NY City FC	11	8	5	38	34	29
Chicago	10	6	6	36	47	42
NY Red Bulls	9	10	6	33	39	36
New England	7	11	7	28	33	35
Toronto FC	5	13	7	22	26	33
Atlanta	4	11	10	22	30	46
CF Montreal	4	15	7	19	24	47
D.C. United	4	15	7	19	22	51

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego FC	15	7	4	49	50	32
Vancouver	13	6	4	45	43	28
Minnesota	12	5	8	44	42	28
Seattle	10	6	8	38	39	35
Los Angeles FC	10	6	7	37	41	30
Portland	10	8	7	37	33	34
Austin FC	9	8	7	34	23	28
San Jose	8	10	8	32	49	45
Real Salt Lake	9	11	4	31	26	30
Colorado	8	11	6	30	31	39
FC Dallas	7	11	7	28	37	41
Houston	7	11	7	28	32	41
Sporting KC	6	13	6	24	36	47
Saint Louis	5	14	6	21	27	41
LA Galaxy	3	14	7	16	28	48

Note: Three points for win, one point for tie.

Saturday's Scores

New England 2, D.C. United 0
CF Montreal 1, Atlanta 1
Philadelphia 1, Toronto FC 1
FC Dallas 2, Portland 0
Chicago 2, Los Angeles FC 2
Austin FC 2, Houston 2
Saint Louis 3, Nashville 1
Sporting KC 0, San Diego FC 2
San Jose 2, Vancouver 1

Sunday's Games

Real Salt Lake at NY Red Bulls
Colorado at Minnesota
Charlotte FC at Cincinnati
Inter Miami CF at Orlando City
Seattle at LA Galaxy
Saturday's Games
CF Montreal vs. D.C. United, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte FC vs. Real Salt Lake, 7:30 p.m.
Inter Miami CF vs. LA Galaxy, 7:30 p.m.
New England vs. LAFC, 7:30 p.m.
New York Red Bulls vs. Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando City vs. Sporting KC, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto FC vs. Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
Austin FC vs. FC Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Chicago vs. St. Louis, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota vs. Seattle, 8:30 p.m.
Colorado vs. Atlanta, 9:30 p.m.
Portland vs. FC Cincinnati, 19:30 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 17
New York City FC vs. Nashville, 5 p.m.
San Jose vs. San Diego FC, 7 p.m.
Vancouver vs. Houston, 9 p.m.

NWSL

	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	13	2	0	39	32	10
Orlando	8	4	3	27	22	12
Washington	8	4	3	27	23	20
San Diego	7	3	5	26	27	17
Seattle	7	4	3	24	19	13
Portland	6	4	4	22	20	14
Louisville	6	6	3	21	20	25
Gotham	5	5	5	20	19	14
North Carolina	5	6	4	19	19	22
Bay	4	6	4	16	16	19
Angel City	4	7	4	16	21	27
Houston	4	8	3	15	17	25
Chicago	1	9	4	7	11	28
Utah	1	11	3	6	12	31

Note: Three points for win, one point for tie.

Friday's Scores

Houston 2, North Carolina 1
Kansas City 1, Utah 0

Saturday's Scores

Gotham 0, Washington 0
Orlando 1, Louisville 1
San Diego 1, Angel City 1

Sunday's Games

Bay at Chicago
Seattle at Portland

Friday's Games

Louisville at Washington, 8 p.m.
Angel City at Utah, 10 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Orlando at Kansas City, 4 p.m.
Portland at North Carolina, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 17

Houston at Gotham, 4 p.m.

NFL

Preseason

Week 2 of 4

Thursday's Scores

Baltimore 24, Indianapolis 16
Philadelphia 34, Cincinnati 27

Friday's Scores

Detroit 17, Atlanta 10
Cleveland 30, Carolina 10

New England 48, Washington 18

Saturday's Scores

N.Y. Giants 34, Buffalo 25
Minnesota 20, Houston 10

Pittsburgh 31, Jacksonville 25
L.A. Rams 31, Dallas 21

Tampa Bay 29, Tennessee 7
N.Y. Jets 30, Green Bay 10

Arizona 20, Kansas City 17
Denver 30, San Francisco 9

Sunday's Games

Miami at Chicago
New Orleans at L.A. Chargers

Week 3 of 4

Friday's Games

Tennessee at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Kansas City at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Cleveland at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
New England at Minnesota, 1 p.m.

Green Bay at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Houston, 1 p.m.

Miami at Detroit, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Las Vegas, 4 p.m.

Baltimore at Dallas, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.

N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants, 7 p.m.
L.A. Chargers at L.A. Rams, 7 p.m.

Arizona at Denver, 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 17

Jacksonville at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 18

Cincinnati at Washington, 8 p.m.

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Liberty	20	10	.667	—
Atlanta	19	11	.633	1
Indiana	18	14	.563	3
Washington	13	17	.433	7
Chicago	8	23	.258	12½
Connecticut	5	24	.172	14½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	26	5	.839	—
Phoenix	19	11	.633	6½
Las Vegas	17	14	.548	9
Seattle	16	15	.516	10
Golden State	15	15	.500	10½
L.A. Sparks	14	16	.467	11½
Dallas	8	23	.258	18

Friday's Scores

N.Y. Liberty 88, Dallas 77
Minnesota 80, Washington 76

Saturday's Scores

Indiana 92, Chicago 70
Golden State 72, L.A. Sparks 59

Sunday's Games

Minnesota at N.Y. Liberty, 12:30 p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 4 p.m.

Atlanta at Phoenix, 6 p.m.
Seattle at L.A. Sparks, 8 p.m.

Connecticut at Las Vegas,

Crypto bros too immature to see harm



Nancy Armour
Columnist
USA TODAY

The crypto bros behind the rash of sex toys being thrown at WNBA games are not funny, creative, rebellious or any of the other glowing narratives they’ve imagined for themselves.

They’re misogynists, showcasing their immaturity and insecurity in the oldest way possible. The WNBA and its players have reached a level of popularity usually reserved for male athletes and leagues, a level of popularity these man-babies can only dream of.

Whatever message they’re claiming to be wanting to send about the toxicity of the crypto industry is negated by the callout to the long history of slapping down women who dare invade the male sanctuary of sports. And doing so with the kind of “humor” that has the demeaning of women at its very core.

These aren’t pranks. This is a coordinated campaign of harassment designed to remind WNBA players and their fans that, for all of the progress women’s sports have made in the last few years, the playing field will never be level if they have anything to say about it.

“It’s a sobering reminder of the power of misogyny and the pervasiveness of misogyny and homophobia in our culture,” said Cheryl Cooky, a professor at Purdue University who studies the intersection of gender, sport and culture.

“It’s a really important reminder for those of us advocating for equality, advocating for women’s sports and trying to increase their visibility, that the work isn’t done,” Cooky added. “Just because women are filling stadiums, the work is still not done. The struggle is still not over.”

Since July 29, sex toys have been thrown at seven WNBA games in five cities. That’s more than a third of the league, for those who’d try to downplay it.

Had a player slipped on one of the objects, it could have resulted in a torn ACL or a broken wrist or a concussion. But it shouldn’t take a career-altering injury to see how malicious this is.



The Aug. 5 game in Phoenix was one of seven WNBA games in which a sex toy object was thrown. Mercury guard Kahleah Copper plays the ball in past Sun guard Leila Lacan (47) during the first quarter.
MICHAEL CHOW/
THE REPUBLIC

Creators of a cryptocurrency meme coin, Green Dildo Coin, have claimed credit for this inanity, with a spokesman telling USA TODAY that it wasn’t meant to be a takedown of the WNBA. Rather, he said, these crypto bros are trying to perpetuate a culture cultivated around jokes, pranks and stunts.

Which, aside from not making sense, is contradicted by the acknowledgment that the group’s next foolishness will be “a lot lighter. They’re a lot more tasteful.” Sure. Save the “tasteful” and funny stunts for the general public while subjecting the WNBA, its players and its fans to this NSFW nonsense. Not demeaning or hateful at all!

I’m just surprised the crypto bros didn’t tell WNBA players to smile more while they were at it.

The crypto group’s spokesman also pointed out that objects, including sex toys, are thrown at other sporting events. But a sex toy being thrown – repeatedly! – at women’s games when most of that league’s players are queer and women of color hits differently than the one-off tossing of an octopus or a hat or even a sex toy at a men’s game, and it begs credulity that these “bros” don’t get that.

Especially when you listen to one of their social media livestreams and hear their vulgar comments about W players. Or see their “Paid You What We Owed You” merchandise, mocking

the T-shirts W players wore at the All-Star Game to call attention to their demand for higher salaries and more equitable revenue sharing.

“The showing of sex objects is trying to show male dominance. (Because) women’s sports is the ethos of women’s power in our country,” said Ajhanai Keaton, an assistant professor of sports management at UMass who specializes in the intersection of organizational behavior, race, gender, media and politics.

It should not be lost on anyone that the crypto bros launched their campaign of misogyny two weeks after the All-Star Game. The WNBA had been front and center in casual conversation, and the StudBudz, two Black, masculine-presenting players, went viral.

Of course there was going to be repercussions.

The history of women’s sports – hell, women in general – is littered with stories of backlash any time there’s progress. Women’s soccer was banned in England for a half-century because its popularity was considered a threat to the men’s game. An increase in the number of women athletes resulted in gender tests and insane claims that physical activity would damage their reproductive systems.

And this country might never recover from the audacity of two women running for president.

“As much as there’s a cultural narra-

WNBA issues statement about safety, incidents

James H. Williams USA TODAY

The WNBA issued a statement Aug. 8 about the sex toys that have been thrown in arenas and onto the court at games over the past two weeks.

“The safety of everyone in our arenas remains a top priority,” a WNBA spokesperson said in a statement. “We are working closely with local and federal law enforcement to pursue all appropriate actions – including arrest and prosecution with felony charges where applicable – against anyone engaged in this conduct or otherwise involved in sponsoring this reckless and unacceptable behavior.”

Most of the toys thrown on the court have been green and a cryptocurrency meme coin creator took responsibility for the trend.

Seven known incidents of sex toys being thrown at WNBA games, with four reaching the court during live game action, have taken place since July 29. The latest incident came Aug. 7 when the Chicago Sky played host to the Atlanta Dream.

The Crypto group spokesperson stated that two individuals who have been arrested in regard to separate incidents were not part of the group.

tive of the rise of women’s sports, there’s also a really powerful backlash that corresponds to that celebration and explosion in interest and explosion in popularity,” said Cooky, the Purdue professor. “Those two things are happening hand in hand, and that’s not by accident.”

Unfortunately, the crypto bros have gotten the attention they wanted. But they’ll soon discover what other trolls have: Only weak men demean women, and anyone insecure enough to pull stunts like this is desperately trying to compensate for something.

WEATHER WEATHER ONLINE USA TODAY.COM

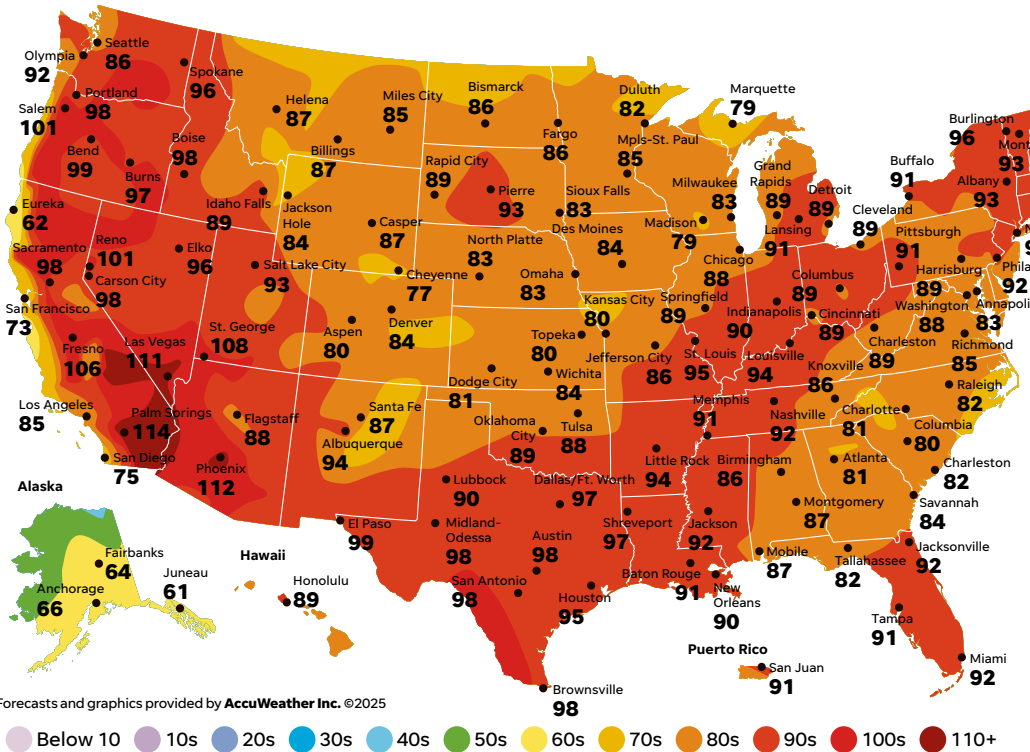
TODAY’S FORECAST

Thunderstorms from Mexico to northern **Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri**, eastern **Iowa**, southern **Wisconsin** and northwestern **Illinois** today can produce flash flooding, hail and locally damaging winds. The heat wave in the **Northeast** will continue.

Some record-high temperatures may be challenged since temperatures should be 10-20 degrees Fahrenheit above historical averages. Rounds of heavy thunderstorms are forecast for the **Southeast** that may cause ponding on roads. Some gusty showers are also forecast for **North Dakota** and northern **Minnesota**.

In the afternoon, there can be some thunderstorms in the higher elevations of the **Southwest**. Haze from Canadian wildfires lingers in the **Plains** while advancing into the **Midwest** and **Great Lakes**.

TODAY’S HIGH TEMPERATURES

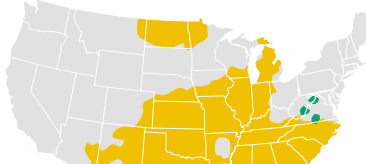


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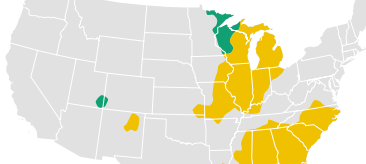
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PRECIPITATION FORECAST

● T-storms ● Rain ● Snow ● Ice/mix



TODAY



TUESDAY

EXTREMES

Note: For contiguous 48 states through Saturday

HOTTEST: 118° Death Valley, Calif. **COLDEST: 30°** Lake Yellowstone, Wyo.

TOP TRAVEL CITIES Air quality index (AQI)

ATLANTA	BALTIMORE	BOSTON	CHARLOTTE	CHICAGO	DALLAS/FT. WORTH	DENVER	DETROIT	HONOLULU	HOUSTON	LAS VEGAS	LOS ANGELES
MON ☁ Heavy t-storms 81/73	MON ☀ Plenty of sun 86/68	MON ☀ Sunny, hot 91/72	MON ☁ Heavy t-storms 81/71	MON ☁ T-storm 88/73	MON ☁ Stray t-storm 97/78	MON ☀ Pleasant 84/60	MON ☁ Partly sunny 89/71	MON ☁ Showers 89/77	MON ☁ Stray t-storm 95/76	MON ☁ Hazy, hot 111/85	MON ☁ Clearing 85/65
TUE ☁ T-storms 83/72	TUE ☀ Hot 91/71	TUE ☀ Sunny, hot 93/72	TUE ☁ T-storm 85/71	TUE ☁ T-storms 84/69	TUE ☁ Stray t-storm 97/78	TUE ☁ Partly sunny 89/62	TUE ☁ T-storms 88/71	TUE ☁ Shower 90/77	TUE ☀ Sunny, hot 111/86	TUE ☀ Sunny, hot 109/82	TUE ☁ Mostly sunny 81/65
WED ☁ Stray t-storm 85/72	WED ☁ Stray sun 96/74	WED ☀ Hot 96/74	WED ☁ Stray t-storm 86/72	WED ☀ A stray shower 84/68	WED ☁ Stray t-storm 96/78	WED ☀ Very warm 95/68	WED ☁ Stray t-storm 86/69	WED ☁ An A.M. shower 91/73	WED ☀ Stray t-storm 97/79	WED ☀ Hot 109/82	WED ☁ Mostly sunny 81/65
AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Moderate	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Moderate
MIAMI	MPLS-ST. PAUL	NEW ORLEANS	NEW YORK	ORLANDO	PHILADELPHIA	PHOENIX	SALT LAKE CITY	SAN DIEGO	SAN FRANCISCO	SEATTLE	WASHINGTON
MON ☁ T-storms 92/81	MON ☁ Hazy 85/69	MON ☁ T-storm 90/78	MON ☀ Hot 91/71	MON ☁ T-storms 91/76	MON ☀ Hot 92/68	MON ☀ Sunny, hot 112/90	MON ☀ Sunny 93/69	MON ☁ Clearing 75/66	MON ☁ Partly sunny 73/58	MON ☀ Sunny, warm 89/60	MON ☀ Sunny 88/73
TUE ☁ T-storms 92/80	TUE ☁ Some sun 83/63	TUE ☁ T-storms 86/75	TUE ☀ Sunny, hot 92/75	TUE ☁ T-storms 93/77	TUE ☀ Hot 93/73	TUE ☀ Hot 112/89	TUE ☀ Sunny 97/73	TUE ☁ Clearing 74/66	TUE ☁ Partly sunny 72/59	TUE ☀ Sunny, warm 89/60	TUE ☀ Hot 92/75
WED ☁ T-storms 92/79	WED ☀ Mostly sunny 85/68	WED ☁ T-storms 88/77	WED ☁ Stray t-storm 92/75	WED ☁ T-storms 94/76	WED ☁ Stray t-storm 94/76	WED ☀ Hot 110/88	WED ☀ Very warm 100/74	WED ☁ Turning sunny 74/65	WED ☁ Low clouds 70/58	WED ☀ Pleasant 74/58	WED ☁ Stray t-storm 94/76
AQI Good	AQI Unhealthy	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Moderate	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good

c Cloudy f Fog i Ice r Rain sf Snowflurries sn Snow w Windy dr Drizzle h Haze pc Partly cloudy s Sunny sh Showers t Thunderstorms

U.S. CITIES

	TODAY	TUE
Akron, Ohio	88/68s	88/69pc
Albany, N.Y.	93/66s	95/67s
Allentown, Pa.	94/67s	98/68pc
Amarillo, Texas	86/62s	90/66s
Anaheim, Calif.	85/64t	87/64t
Anchorage, Alaska	84/66h	83/64h
Aspen, Colo.	66/51s	66/54s
Atlanta, Ga.	80/46c	83/49pc
Atlantic City, N.J.	81/64s	83/70s
Austin, Texas	81/72t	86/71t
Bakersfield, Calif.	98/75s	98/76s
Baton Rouge, La.	104/75s	102/73s
Billings, Mont.	87/59pc	82/64s
Birmingham, Ala.	88/76t	87/74t
Bismarck, N.D.	86/57t	83/57s
Boise, Idaho	98/69s	103/70h
Burlington, Vt.	91/71s	90/72s
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	96/68s	96/73s
Charleston, S.C.	82/67t	82/64t
Charleston, W.Va.	82/75t	85/75t
Chester, Pa.	89/69s	89/70s
Cheyenne, Wyo.	77/54s	81/55pc

	TODAY	TUE
Cincinnati	89/72s	90/72t
Cleveland	89/70s	91/73pc
Colorado Springs	76/54pc	80/54t
Columbia, S.C.	80/72t	86/72t
Columbus, Ohio	89/72s	91/72t
Corpus Christi, Texas	96/76s	98/75t
Dayton, Ohio	88/72s	89/71t
Daytona Beach, Fla.	91/77t	92/76t
Des Moines, Iowa	84/67t	87/66pc
Duluth, Minn.	82/64h	76/56pc
Durham, N.C.	81/71t	86/71t
El Paso, Texas	99/76pc	98/74s
Fairbanks, Alaska	64/43pc	71/48pc
Flagstaff, Ariz.	88/52s	86/59pc
Fargo, N.D.	86/61t	81/57pc
Fort Myers, Fla.	91/77t	91/76t
Fort Smith, Ark.	97/75t	95/73t
Fort Wayne, Ind.	90/69pc	98/69t
Fresno, Calif.	106/73s	104/70s
Grand Rapids, Mich.	89/71t	81/69t
Green Bay, Wis.	82/65c	83/60t
Greensboro, N.C.	80/69t	84/69t
Greenville, S.C.	80/71t	84/69t
Harrisburg, Pa.	89/68s	93/71s

	TODAY	TUE
Hartford, Conn.	94/65s	96/67s
Indianapolis	90/72s	90/71t
Islip, N.Y.	89/68s	88/70s
Jackson, Miss.	92/76t	87/75t
Jacksonville, Fla.	92/76t	92/76t
Jefferson City, Mo.	86/73t	87/70t
Kansas City	90/68t	83/68t
Key West, Fla.	90/83t	92/83t
Knoxville, Tenn.	86/72t	85/71t
Laredo, Texas	103/79pc	103/78s
Lexington, Ky.	91/73s	90/73t
Lincoln, Neb.	82/64t	88/66c
Little Rock, Ark.	94/76s	95/75t
Long Beach, Calif.	81/66pc	80/67pc
Louisville, Ky.	94/76s	93/75t
Lubbock, Texas	90/66t	87/68t
Madison, Wis.	79/66t	83/63t
Manchester, N.H.	98/69pc	99/69s
Memphis, Tenn.	91/77pc	90/74t
Milwaukee	83/71t	85/69t
Mobile, Ala.	87/75t	84/73t
Modesto, Calif.	101/67s	98/63s
Montgomery, Ala.	87/75t	88/73t
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	81/75t	84/74t

	TODAY	TUE
Nags Head, N.C.	79/71t	81/72t
Nashville, Tenn.	92/76t	90/74t
Newark, N.J.	92/71s	94/73s
New Haven, Conn.	90/68s	89/68s
Norfolk, Va.	81/77pc	84/74t
Oakland, Calif.	72/59pc	72/61c
Oklahoma City	89/71t	88/69t
Omaha, Neb.	83/67t	88/65h
Palm Springs, Calif.	114/85s	113/82s
Pensacola, Fla.	86/77t	85/76t
Pierre, S.D.	93/61s	87/63s
Pittsburgh	91/70s	91/73pc
Portland, Maine	88/67pc	87/66s
Portland, Ore.	98/69s	100/65s
Providence, R.I.	90/66s	92/68s
Raleigh, N.C.	82/72t	87/71t
Rapid City, S.D.	89/58s	88/62pc
Reno, Nev.	101/69s	100/65s
Richmond, Va.	85/71s	90/72t
Richmond, N.Y.	92/68s	92/70s
Sacramento, Calif.	98/60s	93/58s
San Antonio	98/78s	98/77t
San Jose, Calif.	86/59s	84/61s
Santa Fe, N.M.	87/57s	82/56pc

	TODAY	TUE
Sarasota, Fla.	89/76t	92/76t
Savannah, Ga.	84/75t	89/75t
Scottsdale, Ariz.	110/87s	109/85s
Shreveport, La.	97/77t	96/76t
Sioux Falls, S.D.	83/65h	83/59s
South Bend, Ind.	88/72t	86/70t
Spokane, Wash.	96/67s	98/68s
Springfield, Mo.	89/71t	87/68t
Springfield, Ill.	89/69t	85/67t
St. Louis	95/76t	89/74t
St. Petersburg, Fla.	92/77t	94/78t
Syracuse, N.Y.	94/69s	94/72s
Tallahassee, Fla.	82/75t	91/75s
Tampa, Fla.	91/78t	92/79t
Toledo, Ohio	90/70pc	93/71t
Topeka, Kan.	80/68t	87/68t
Tucson, Ariz.	103/81c	104/79s
Tupelo, Miss.	91/76t	88/74t
Tulsa, Okla.	88/72t	90/73t
Virginia Beach, Va.	80/72pc	83/74t
Wichita, Kan.	84/67t	89/69t
Wilmington, Del.	86/65s	89/70s
Winston-Salem, N.C.	82/70t	84/71t
Worcester, Mass.	91/70s	92/70s

WORLD CITIES

	TODAY	TUE
Beijing	92/73h	91/72t
Buenos Aires	64/50h	67/51pc
Cancun, Mexico	87/75s	92/77t
Dubai, UAE	106/92s	106/90s
Frankfurt	87/63h	93/66h
Hong Kong	90/82t	91/82t
Istanbul	90/75w	90/74w
Jerusalem	97/78s	98/77s
Johannesburg	68/41s	66/42s
London	87/64pc	93/64s
Mexico City	75/57sh	74/57sh
Montreal	95/70s	95/73s
Moscow	66/57sh	66/54sh
Mumbai, India	86/78sh	87/78r
Paris	92/65s	100/70s
Rio de Janeiro	70/63pc	70/63s
Rome	93/73h	95/70h
Seoul	89/71pc	92/77pc
Singapore	87/76t	87/78r
Sydney	60/47sh	63/46pc
Toronto	91/71s	92/73t
Tokyo	86/81w	89/79w

Chiles’ medal saga still hangs in balance

Nancy Armour and Tom Schad
USA TODAY

One year later, the fate of Jordan Chiles’ bronze medal at the Paris Olympics remains in limbo.

Aug. 10 marked the one-year anniversary of the controversial ruling handed down by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which effectively lowered Chiles’ score in the floor exercise final and bumped her off the medal podium. The ruling drew swift backlash from Team USA, prompted the international gymnastics federation to revise its rules and has sparked an ongoing legal battle at one of the highest levels of the international justice system.

Chiles’ multipronged appeal to the Swiss Federal Tribunal remains pending, and it is unclear when the court, which is the top judicial authority in Switzerland, will render a decision.

But as Chiles waits, here’s an update on the state of the case, the key players involved and what could happen next.

All this started at Paris Olympics

Jordan Chiles was forced into this protracted fight for her medal through no fault of her own.

Chiles initially finished fifth in the floor exercise final, her score of 13.666 putting her behind Romanians Ana Barbosu and Sabrina Maneca-Voineau. (Barbosu and Maneca-Voineau had identical scores of 13.7, but Barbosu’s higher execution score gave her the tie-break.) Chiles’ coach Cecile Landi appealed, arguing Chiles had not been given full credit for a tour jete, a leap.

A review panel agreed, and the 0.100 that was added to her score put the American on the podium ahead of the Romanians.

The Romanians appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), finally settling on the timing of Chiles’ inquiry as their reason. CAS ruled in their favor, finding Chiles’ inquiry had been filed four seconds after the 60-second deadline.

But there appear to be multiple flaws with CAS’ decision.

First, Chiles didn’t even learn she was a party to the case until less than 24 hours before the hearing because CAS was sending emails to the wrong addresses. That left her almost no time to mount a defense or find evidence to back her claim, a significant detail.

Chiles also did not know that the head of the CAS panel had a potential conflict of interest because he’d done work for the Romanian government.

“CAS argued that Ms. Chiles should have submitted additional evidence regarding the timeliness of the inquiry and objected to (the head of the CAS panel) before the hearing,” Chiles’ attorneys said in a March statement after filing additional information to rebut CAS’ arguments.

“But these arguments do not take in to account the fact that CAS itself failed to provide sufficient notice to Ms. Chiles ... And further, once Ms. Chiles was finally notified, she had only a matter of hours to find representation to put forward her case. Even then, Ms. Chiles was only provided an incomplete record of the proceedings to that point.”

Perhaps most important, CAS’ decision was based on the incorrect assumption that making an inquiry and logging it occurred simultaneously. Sure enough, video discovered after the CAS ruling clearly showed Landi making the inquiry within the allotted time. Three times, in fact.

Chiles asked CAS to reconsider its decision after that video was found, but it refused. She then appealed to the Swiss Federal Tribunal, arguing CAS’ decision was “procedurally deficient.”

“Jordan will not give up her effort to make clear to the world that the procedures governing her case were one-sided and to fight so that truth will prevail,” Maurice M. Suh, one of Chiles’ attorneys, said in March.

Where does appeal stand?

Very little has changed since Chiles filed her appeal with the Swiss Federal Tribunal last September. Publicly, at least.

“It’s still playing out overseas,” USA Gymnastics President Li Li Leung said last week. “It has taken longer than we expected for the Swiss Tribunal to come out with a decision, but we’re still waiting for that decision. Just like everyone else is.”

The last public update came in March, when Chiles’ attorneys released a copy of their filing rebutting claims by CAS and the Romanians.

“The way in which (they) safeguard their interests in the comments of February 19, 2025, unfortunately require (Chiles) to comment on this very briefly within the framework of its constitu-



Jordan Chiles celebrates her bronze medal on the floor exercise during the Paris Olympic Games. JACK GRUBER/IMAGN IMAGES

tionally guaranteed right of reply,” Chiles’ attorneys wrote in their brief.

In the brief, Chiles’ attorneys said both CAS and the Romanians tried to introduce defenses that were either outdated or irrelevant. This included CAS’ claim that everyone at the hearing agreed to use a report by Omega to resolve the question of when the inquiry was filed.

Landi and Chiles’ attorney at the hearing had disputed the report, Chiles’ attorneys wrote. Also, the FIG said Omega did not record when a verbal inquiry was made, only when it was logged.

“Even the CAS Panel came to the conclusion that the Omega Report as evidence was ‘not fully responsive to the information the Panel had sought,’” Chiles’ attorneys wrote in the brief. “The CAS Panel obviously felt compelled to rely on the Omega Report (wrongly and without any reason) solely because of the lack of evidence, even though the Omega Report did not address the question posed to the arbitral tribunal.”

Chiles’ attorneys also criticized CAS and the Romanians’ assertion that Chiles should somehow have known about the head of the CAS panel’s potential conflict of interest.

“This ... argument is not only belated and should therefore be dismissed out of hand, but is simply untenable,” her attorneys wrote. “According to (CAS and the Romanians), Olympic athletes always before the start of the Olympic Games would have to carry out comprehensive investigations into the vested interests of all arbitrators on the CAS list – prophylactically, abstractly and without the existence of a concrete dispute.”

What has she been up to since?

Jordan Chiles has been busy since the Paris Olympics. She was part of Simone Biles’ G.O.A.T. tour. She published her memoir, “I’m That Girl.” She got her own Barbie. She walked the red carpet and was in Sports Illustrated’s swimsuit edition. She appeared in Nike’s powerful Super Bowl ad. She traveled. She competed for UCLA.

But the saga surrounding her medal weighed heavily, Chiles acknowledged. In an Instagram post last week, she said, “This year had its highs, but the lows hit different.

“Every setback and every disappointment made me dig deeper and showed me what I’m truly made of. It also showed me who’s really in my corner,” Chiles wrote. “Even when something’s taken from you- your truth and your worth is...Untouchable.

“To everyone who held me down this past year, who sent prayers, messages, and love when I needed it most- you reminded me I’m never on this journey alone. I love y’all for real. You kept me standing when I didn’t even know how to take the next step,” she added.

“Still here. Still fighting. Still that girl.”

Jordan Chiles still competing

Yes. Jordan Chiles took the season off from elite competition and has not decided whether to continue through the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028. She has, however, already said she plans to return to UCLA for her senior year.



26-year-old gold medalist Nathan Chen has won three world championships and six U.S. figure skating titles. ROBERT DEUTSCH/IMAGN IMAGES

Chen won’t defend men’s figure skating gold in ’26

Scooby Axson
USA TODAY

Olympic gold medalist figure skater Nathan Chen says he won’t defend his title at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan and Cortina d’Ampezzo, Italy.

Chen won two golds at the 2022 Beijing Games, one in the men’s singles and the other in the team event for the USA.

Chen told the Los Angeles Times that he has not officially retired from skating but it’s time to move on to other things.

“I just want to open doors to kind of see what’s the best sort of approach for me,” Chen told the Times. “And

frankly, at this point in time in my life, I’ve already accomplished enough in skating that I’m quite satisfied with my career.”

The 26-year-old has won three world championships and six U.S. titles.

Chen, nicknamed the “Quad King” for his quadruple jumps, said he plans to attend medical school, pursue a career in cardiology or oncology and explore their relationship to genetics.

“The basis of being a doctor, I think, is to help people,” Chen said. “I think that’s something that I didn’t necessarily feel as an athlete, that I felt was a little bit lacking, and I get a little bit of that sense doing YTS.”

“I’m ready. I’m definitely ready to go into next season,” Chiles told the Big Ten Network in April. “Yes, I’m coming back. I’m not leaving the Bruins. I definitely can’t wait to see how my senior year turns out and, you know, bring back that natty for real for real this time.”

After doing Biles’ G.O.A.T. tour last fall, Chiles competed for UCLA in the spring. She helped lead the Bruins to the Final Four, where they finished second to Oklahoma at the NCAA championships. She also won the uneven bars title, her third individual NCAA title overall, and was fifth in the all-around.

Romanian duo still competing

Yes, both Ana Barbosu and Sabrina Maneca-Voinea are still competing. Both were part of the Romanian team that just missed a medal at the European championships in May, finishing 0.497 behind bronze medalist France.

Barbosu also won four individual medals at Europeans: a gold on floor exercise; silver on balance beam; and bronzes in the all-around and on uneven bars.

Barbosu announced in January that she will compete for Stanford, beginning this season.

How has governing body reacted?

The only good thing to come out of this debacle is that it forced the International Gymnastics Federation to change its rules to ensure it never happens again.

According to rules issued in June, decisions on inquiries are final and cannot be challenged “including appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which has no jurisdiction over any challenge.”

The new rules also state that inquiries are to be made electronically or, if no electronic device is available, through an official inquiry form. The inquiry officer is required to note the time the inquiry was submitted, verifying that it was made within the deadline.

What could happen next?

If the Swiss Federal Tribunal rules in Chiles’ favor, the case will be sent back to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

If it rejects her appeal, Chiles will technically be required to return her medal.

But good luck with that.

Follow columnist Nancy Armour on social media @nrarmour.



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GETTY IMAGES FOR EMIRATES

THEY SAID WHAT?
CHRIS APPLETON

“Moving fast doesn’t always mean you’re reckless. I think sometimes it means you’re hopeful. I think any relationship I’ve ever been in, I’ve gone into with an open heart, and I have no regrets about that.” – Celebrity hairstylist Chris Appleton opening up about his high-profile marriage to “White Lotus” star Lukas Gage on the “Jay Shetty Podcast.” Appleton, 42, and Gage, 30, married in April 2023 in a star-studded ceremony, but Appleton filed for divorce six-and-a-half months later. Gage previously described the marriage as a six-month “manic episode” on “Watch What Happens Live” in 2024, adding, “What happened to me? I don’t know literally what went through my head, but we live and we learn.”



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY

Alyson Stoner is 32. Chris Hemsworth is 42. Viola Davis is 60.

HOROSCOPE | SANCTUARY
More: www.sanctuaryworld.co

Aries (March 21-April 19). Mercury is direct! You finally have your voice back! But is that thing you’ve been struggling to say still relevant?

Taurus (April 20-May 20). You’ve had to put out so many domestic fires lately! Fortunately, you’re in the clear!

Gemini (May 21-June 21). It’s safe to come out of hiding now! People will finally stop picking fights with you!

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Hesitant to check your bank balance? Assess the damage of the past few weeks.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Back on track? About time! Get down to the business of enjoying your birthday season!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Reaching a breakthrough? You’ve been running in mental circles the past few weeks. Today, Mercury direct offers closure!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Trial and error gave you clarity after all! Figured out your next steps? Mercury goes direct today, endorsing your decision.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The past few weeks were full of false career starts. Today, Mercury goes direct, offering a course correction.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Holding on to your convictions? Renewing confidence in your beliefs while making you more tolerant of others.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The worst is over! Mercury retrograde puts you through a dark night of the soul.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Clearing the air? Over the past few weeks, most of the drama you’ve dealt with hasn’t even been your own!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Making improvements? Mercury retrograde botched all your routines. Now that Mercury is direct, it’s time to create new ones.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



James Van Der Beek arrives at the 71st Emmy Awards in 2019. The actor is opening up about his colorectal cancer diagnosis. DAN MACMEDAN/USA TODAY

Van Der Beek’s cancer motivates him to speak, act

Charles Trepany USA TODAY

James Van Der Beek has just woken up from a nap as he hops on a Microsoft Teams call.

About nine months after sharing his colorectal cancer diagnosis with the world, the 48-year-old actor’s face looks thinner. He isn’t shy talking about the toll his illness has taken on him. He acknowledges he doesn’t have as much energy as he used to. He has good days and bad days.

But, while he wouldn’t wish his illness on anyone, the actor adds it also has given him something else, something he didn’t expect: a deeper sense of self-love.

“Cancer’s a wild thing,” he says. “It really does force you to look at your own mortality and decide what’s important and decide really what you want to live the rest of your life without. And so, one of the big things for me was recognizing how negative my self-talk was.”

He continues: “When I was getting treatment and away from the beautiful cacophony of six kids and 36 acres and five dogs and a bearded dragon and the beautiful chaos that is my life, in the quiet, I realized how negatively I was talking to myself. And so, that started a whole journey of just recognizing how important self-love is and how necessary and how simple it is.”

Van Der Beek and how cancer has changed him

Van Der Beek first revealed he had colorectal cancer in a November interview with People, sharing he was diagnosed in August 2023. He says his cancer was detected via colonoscopy. Now, he’s partnering with Guardant Health to encourage people to get screened for cancer regardless of whether they have symptoms or not. Together, Van Der Beek and Guardant Health also are raising awareness about the Shield blood test, approved by the Food and Drug Administration last year, which can also detect colon cancer, though a colonoscopy remains the gold standard for diagnosis.

Getting diagnosed early, Van Der

Beek says, often is life-saving. It was for him.

“To me, the biggest misunderstanding is that you need to have symptoms to get screened,” he says. “I was very healthy, in amazing cardiovascular shape, and had full-blown stage three cancer, and I didn’t know it.”

The actor says cancer has forced him to take a good, hard look at his life. It’s made him rethink what matters and let go of what doesn’t. It also has made him reexamine who he really is, versus what he’s come to identify himself as.

“I was forced to look at myself and say, ‘Well, what am I, if I’m just a too skinny guy alone in a room with cancer?’ And the conclusion that I came to, after some meditation, was I’m still worthy of love. I’m still worthy of God’s love, but I’m still worthy of self-love, just for existing,” he says. “My conclusion is that I do believe we’re here to experience love – to connect to and to give and to receive love. But, in order to receive love, I think you have to have it for yourself first.”

Why he wants to work now more than ever

Van Der Beek has refused to let cancer stop him from acting. He says, it has fueled him to act – and do other things he loves – even more. Van Der Beek recently appeared in Amazon’s “Overcompensating” and is set to also appear in the upcoming “Legally Blonde” spin-off series “Elle.”

Before cancer, Van Der Beek says, he was on the verge of taking a step back from acting. Since his diagnosis, however, he’s recommitted himself to it.

“For a minute, I thought, ‘You know what? I don’t need acting. I don’t need it in the way that I did before,’” he says. “I’m very, very happy just doing this here with my family. And then, when I got cancer, I realized I love to tell stories. Acting is actually a real passion. Writing is a real passion, and I need to feed that. So, I joke that I’m the only guy I know who got cancer and realized I need to work more.”

See VAN DER BEEK, Page 2D

BOOKS

After the Big One, Mott feels free to take big leaps in ‘People’

Clare Mulroy USA TODAY

Jason Mott may have found the cure for male loneliness: a cage match.

No, we’re not talking about MMA or pro wrestling. Twice a year, Mott, the National Book Award-winning author, has about a dozen friends over to his house in North Carolina to watch back-to-back Nicolas Cage movies.

That’s his kind of “Cage match.” In a culture lacking male friendship amid the ballooning manosphere, these regular marathons are a healthy way for the group of college friends to make time for each other (and nerd out over “Lord of War”).

If you’ve read Mott’s “Hell of a Book,” which won the National Book Award in 2021, you know where this is going, because Cage has a presence in that book (though Mott has never met him, he’s just a massive fan). The actor also is mentioned in Mott’s new book, a quasi-sequel called “People Like Us.”

Cage is an apt metaphor for “People Like Us” (out now from Dutton), which often blends the real Jason Mott with a fictionalized version of himself. He’s open about some of the real bits in the novel, such as speaking at a university where a shooting has just occurred and signing autographs after being mistaken for Ta-Nehisi Coates and Colson Whitehead, two award-winning authors who also are Black. He’s coy about others, as when characters mingle with an unnamed French benefactor and an author named “Not Toni Morrison.”

And this book should be Mott’s most meta. “People Like Us” started out as a memoir; a tongue-in-cheek note to readers is signed by “The Author (with legal breathing down his neck).”



Jason Mott won the National Book Award for “Hell of a Book.”

PROVIDED BY MALLORY CASH

What happens after you win a National Book Award?

In 2021, Mott was sitting alone in an office when he found out over Zoom that he had won the National Book Award.

His “Hell of a Book” is a commentary on racism and gun violence in America, telling the story of a Black author on a cross-country book tour and a Black boy living in a rural town in the past. He was up against bestsellers including “Cloud Cuckoo Land” by Anthony Doerr and “Matrix” by Lauren Groff. When his girlfriend asked if he wanted company during the ceremony, he said no.

“No, when I lose, I want to cry by myself,” he recalls saying. He laughs as he recounts the aftermath. “I wound up sitting alone in an office by myself as I won the National Book Award, which sounds very sad when I say it out loud like that.”

See MOTT, Page 2D

MUSIC

Recording remotely seems to work out well for Def Leppard’s new album

Melissa Ruggieri USA TODAY

Even nearly 50 years into their career, Def Leppard still has something to say. The band recently announced Def Leppard: Live at Caesars Palace The Las Vegas Residency, and will play a dozen shows in February at The Colosseum. But in the midst of planning that hits-filled spectacle, the quintet of singer Joe Elliott, drummer Rick Allen, bassist Rick Savage and guitarists Vivian Campbell and Phil Collen also are tinkering with a new album for release next year. It will be the band’s first new material since 2022’s “Diamond Star Halos,” which paid tribute to the glam rock that inspired Def Leppard’s sound and returned them to the charts with the soaring rocker, “Kick.” That album marked first time the fivesome recorded remotely from around the world, primarily because of the pandemic-era timing. But the arrangement worked so well that they returned to an individual recording format. “We’re blessed that technology has allowed us to do this,” Elliott tells USA TODAY. “We get together metaphorically rather than physically and do Zoom meetings all the time. This way five people can work on the same song at the same time and it adds excitement to the flavors of what you’re doing. Laptops have become Abbey Road.” Elliott said Def Leppard already has “plenty of stuff” ready to go, with the next steps finalizing which tracks make the final cut and determining the title and running order of songs. The new album is the 13th of the band’s career, which began with 1980’s “On Through the Night.”



Def Leppard – (from left) Vivian Campbell, Phil Collen, Joe Elliott, Rick Savage and Rick Allen – will launch their third Las Vegas residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace in February 2026. PROVIDED BY ROSS HALFIN FOR DEF LEPPARD

Elliott is proud that this current incarnation of Def Leppard has been solid for 33 years (he and Savage are the longest tenured at 48 years, while Campbell joined a year after the 1991 death of Steve Clark).

“That’s a remarkable feat in itself,” Elliott says. “Back in 1977, if someone said, you’re going to be together 50 years, we’d look at them like they had two heads.” Def Leppard is now on tour with

dates through August and a couple of shows in September and October before they break to prepare for their residency. Now, Elliott says, the goal is simple: “Health allowing, we’ll keep going until we feel we can’t anymore.”

Van Der Beek

Continued from Page 1D

One of the best parts about acting, he says, is that, when the camera’s rolling, nothing else matters. You’re in the moment, not thinking about anything else – including cancer. As for family life, Van Der Beek says his kids have all processed his illness differently. The actor and his wife, Kimberly Brook, share six children, whose ages span from 3 to 14. When it comes to parenting with an illness, Van Der Beek has made honesty his policy. Being transparent, he says, has “really allowed for some lovely moments of connection” with his kids. “We made the choice to just be as honest as we can with them,” he says. “They all handle it differently. Their concern manifests differently in each of them. But again, telling them what I’m going through, it actually allows them to show up for me in a way that’s just been so beautiful. ‘Dad, can I get you tea?’ ‘No, Dad, I’ll get that for you.’ ‘How are you feeling today?’ They know when I’m having a bad day. I mean, kids, they pick up on everything.” Though he’s grateful for the new perspective cancer’s given him, he obviously wishes we lived in a world where no one had to go through it. That’s why he’s “shouting from the rooftops: Get screened. Talk to your doctor.” “I’m feeling good,” he says. “I’ve learned a lot. But if I could save people from having to go through this journey, I definitely will. I would still give colorectal cancer zero stars.”

MUSIC

Latin rocker Fito Páez’s latest album took decades to make

Edward Segarra USA TODAY

Don’t give Fito Páez his flowers yet. He’s still planting new seeds. The Argentina-born singer-songwriter and film director, whose landmark 1992 album “El Amor Después del Amor” celebrated its 33rd anniversary earlier this summer, continues his tradition of avant-Latin rock on his latest album “Novela.” Páez, 62, became “The Troubadour of Argentine Rock” by waxing poetic with his heady, romantic lyrics and free-spirit flamboyance. On “Novela,” an ambitious 25-track record Páez had been working on since 1988, the Grammy-winning rocker explores the inner workings of true love through the tale of Maldivina and Turbialuz, a pair of young witches tasked with creating the “perfect romance.” “I don’t compose music for albums. My connection to music, to writing, or to film is permanent. I’m not thinking, ‘Now I’m going to do this or that,’ ” Páez tells USA TODAY in Spanish. “It’s almost like breathing.” Something that comes just as naturally to Páez is writing about the primal magic of human connection. “There’s nothing more important than love,” he says.

Páez preaches the importance of artistic independence

For Páez, there’s nothing more vital than marching to the beat of your own drum.

The acclaimed rocker, who’s released nearly 30 albums since his 1984 debut “Del 63,” shares his concern about today’s music landscape, which he views as valuing conformity over originality. “The world has changed so much,” he reflects. “In the last century, to be different (as an artist) was a virtue. Today, virtue is being like everybody else.” Despite his lower middle-class upbringing in Rosario, Argentina, Páez was fed a rich musical diet, consisting of the sounds of Frank Sinatra, Burt Bacharach and The Beatles. He says these trailblazers informed the experimental rock style he’s now known for. So, Páez’s advice for younger artists? Embrace the uncertainty of carving out their own path. “Music is like the sea. It’s deep and warm and at the same time, full of storms,” Páez says. “This is much more fun than repeating a beat and four lyrics for five minutes.” Páez’s proudest achievement may surprise you Over the years, Páez has been lauded for his artistic contributions, including 11 Latin Grammy Awards. In 2021, the Latin Recording Academy recognized Páez with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. Páez’s music has been equally championed by *la gente*. His beloved eighth album, “El Amor Después del Amor,” re-



Fito Páez performs at the Zocalo square in Mexico City on Jan. 18. ALFREDO ESTRELLA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

portedly is the bestselling album in the history of Argentine rock. “I don’t want a legacy yet. I still have many things left to do,” Páez says with a laugh. “In the end, that’s the beauty of the spread of music, that it’s not the process of one era, of one song, of your vanity or of your brand, but it’s a journey through time. And when it happens for real, it’s very beautiful.” The greatest accolade for Páez lies in his continued ability to create. “I really love that 12-year-old boy who listened to music with his parents, and something was awoken there that is still alive, and that boy never said never,” Páez says. “So, I’m really proud of that little boy.”

Mott

Continued from Page 1D

Suddenly, Mott’s quiet year turned into a global tour, “overpopulated with events.” He became part of a small number of people who can say they’ve won the esteemed prize. In “People Like Us,” Mott’s character “the Author” embarks on a similar tour abroad (called only “The Continent”) after winning what’s referred to as “The Big One.” On the cover, a tiny character is crushed by a faux gold award emblem. In the book and in real life, the book tour tone shifts after the award. Mott had been used to talking about grief, inspiration and writing process on the road for his resurrection novel “The Returned.” “Hell of a Book” came out just a year after George Floyd was killed. Readers wanted to ask him about race and identity. European readers, he recalled, were curious about what it was like to live as a Black man in America.

“The thing I found that was most intriguing was, more than anything, they wanted me to answer for America’s sins,” Mott says. “They would ask questions about why this certain legislature came through, and how I feel about this legislature, and why do I choose to stay in America with all the gun violence? And what does it feel like being a Black person in America, knowing the history of America?” Mott started writing a memoir. It became his new novel. After the tour, he needed to reflect and process. He wanted to write about how it felt to come back to a country riddled with gun violence. He wanted to write about how minority authors sometimes feel “interchangeable” to the book world. He wanted to write about the surreal aftermath of winning the National Book Award. He started journaling. He had enough to write a memoir – so he did. But when he was a few rounds into revisions, he realized the characters from “Hell of a

Book” were weaseling their way into his story. “I struggle with a lot of privacy; I struggle with being in the spotlight too much,” Mott says. “The more I made a memoir, the more difficult it actually became for me as a writer to actually explore the story and explore the ideas.” He has never been a “sequel guy,” but knew he had more to say with these characters. What would happen if he brought them back and put them into situations he had experienced? He wasn’t sure if it would land with a publisher. Would anyone want to read that? Luckily, he had the “Big One” under his belt. In ‘People Like Us,’ Jason Mott leans into a meta story “People Like Us” is a dizzying fever dream of a novel – captivating with wit, satire and heartbreak. It’s often hard to tell what’s real and not real, but that makes it all the more thrilling to read. Mott, even as a reader, loves “those books that are just on the edge of real-

ism.” Writing this book was “liberating” to Mott, and he took more risks with time jumps, speculative themes and new characters. He could also poke fun at the literary world, which he does heavily. And he’s prepared for questions on tour about what’s real and what’s made up. After all, there are a lot of shocking, often violent moments in this novel. But he’s playing it cool. He says it’s more fun to let people guess and decide for themselves what he means. “People oftentimes wonder if there’s any pressure that I feel having won the National Book Award, and for me, I think it was exactly the opposite, where any sense of pressure that I might have had about myself as a writer just kind of dissolved into nothing,” Mott says. “For me, I did the biggest thing that I ever had dreamed of doing in writing in winning the National Book Award. And so after I climb Everest, I don’t look for Everest Part 2 ... that is enough. From here on out, I just get to have fun with my writing, do what I want to do, experiment, be weird.”

USA TODAY CROSSWORD

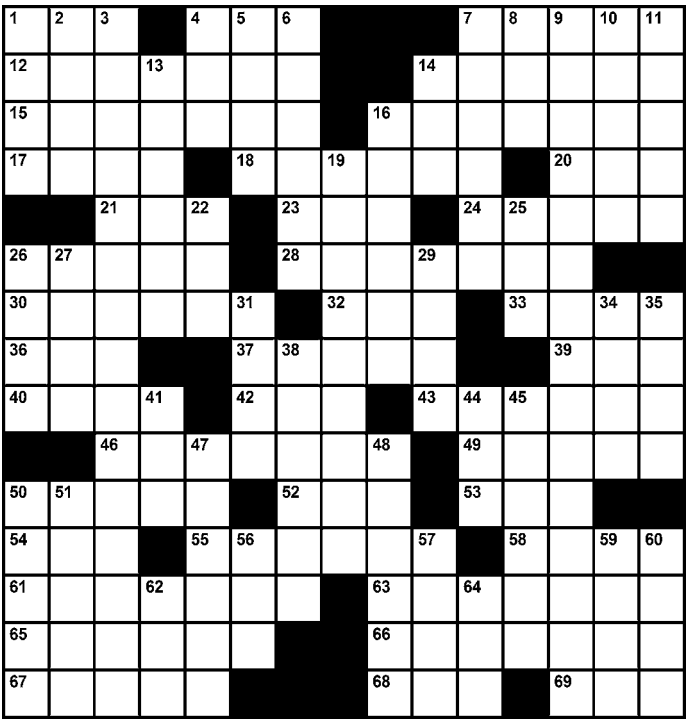
EDITED Amie Walker
BY Sally Hoelscher & Olivia Mitra Framke

LOW CEILING

ACROSS

1 \$\$\$ dispenser
4 "Abbott Elementary" network
7 Inspiring goddesses
12 Morning brew often enjoyed with pathongko
14 "Hear me out"
15 Tackle together
16 Music-streaming service whose name is inspired by a Greek myth
17 "Scrappy Little Nobody" memoirist Kendrick
18 Parsons School of ____
20 ____ pass (credential with special perks)
21 Kind
23 World Cup cheer
24 Slushy frozen drinks
26 "The Big ____ and Annie Rose Storybook" (collection of children's stories by Shirley Hughes)

28 Snake
30 Epic journey
32 Friendly intro?
33 Pet part that might get booped
36 ____-Wan Kenobi
37 Become juicy, say
39 School org.
40 Traveled
42 You ____ me
43 Seat cover?
46 Makes a move in Mastermind
49 Performer with a red nose
50 Bet
52 Payment card letters
53 "Uh-huh"
54 Knee part (Abbr.)
55 Word before "circle" or "fox"
58 Exam for a future doc
61 "You're getting the idea!"



© Andrews McMeel

8/11

63 Oat-based breakfast mixture
65 Threw out
66 Colorful meringue-based treat
67 "Aww, boohoo!"
68 Homer's dad
69 "Contra" console, for short

DOWN

1 Roti flour
2 Larger ____ life
3 Tool on some "Where's Waldo?" book covers
4 Had a snack
5 Drop of sweat
6 Stars' brief film appearances
7 Mouse with a polka-dot bow
8 Currency in NJ and IA
9 Kernels cooked in a pan
10 Spine-tingling
11 Some onesie fasteners
13 Roma's country

14 Online gamer's woe
16 Puncture
19 "Deficit" that may result from restless nights
22 Beer barrel
25 "The Amanpour Hour" channel
26 Profess
27 Place for an earring
29 Small body of water
31 Time spans
34 Ghormeh sabzi or lamb tagine, for example
35 Work for
38 Ant or bee
41 It comes before Wed.
44 Like a frigid reception
45 Meryl Streep, for Vassar College, e.g.
47 Rubbed out
48 Negative social association
50 Lightbulb units

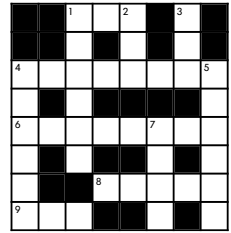
Friday's Answer

L I M O S W A S P C L A P
E R U P T A R E A H A L O
F A S T S L E E P E R I N
T N T I L L D A M A G E D
P R I S M O P E N S
I N F E S T O H S T O P
D O O R D R A K E R O E
L O O K W H O S T A L K I N G
E N D H O M E S I N C A
C H A P E L H A S T I E N
S C R A M S P I N S
P O I S O N S E L K L Y E
A C T S I T S A L L G O O D
S O I L L E E K E A G L E
M A C E E W E S S P O O N

8/8

CROSSWORDS
ON YOUR PHONE
get our crossword app

TXTPERT



Across
1. 748
4. 72622537
6. 246452666
8. 72572
9. 344

Down
1. 726464
2. 832
3. 793
4. 742553
5. 786323
7. 6653

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Today's theme
Food



Use the phone keypad to decode the clues.
For example:
2 could be A, B or C... and 56/78 could be LOST



Friday's solution

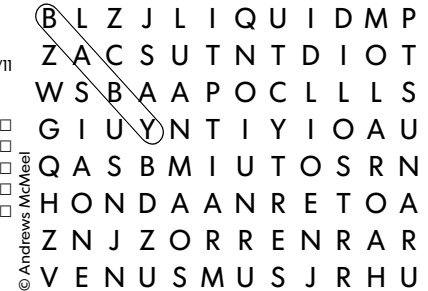
Words

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle:
Five types of teeth
Five planets
Three Japanese car companies
Two forms of matter
Largest continent

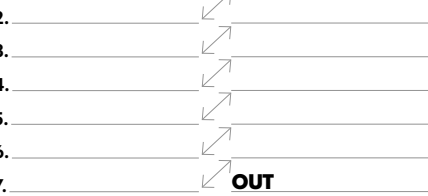
Friday's answer: DENMARK FINLAND MALTA NEPAL TOGO / BARGE CANOE YACHT KAYAK / DAISY TULIP LILAC / MEOW WOOF OINK / PARAKEET



UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt

1. DIRTY



Clues:

1. Disapproving glare
2. Watch over
3. Nevertheless
4. Tot's "I'm OK now"
5. Thriving, by comparison
6. On vacation, say
7. Resolve, as differences

Friday's Answer

BREAKING / BAD
BAD / BLOOD
BLOOD / BANK
BANK / DRAFT
DRAFT / PICK
PICK / UP
UP / ELEVATOR

PLAY ONLINE
PUZZLES.USATODAY.COM

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DON'T QUOTE ME

Actor Chuck Norris talks about emotions.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.
LIKE LOSE MEN TEMPER WHEN WORTH

“____ ARE ____ STEEL. ____ THEY ____ THEIR ____
THEY LOSE THEIR ____”

Friday's Answer: "Boxing is a great exercise - as long as you can yell 'cut' whenever you want to." - Sylvester Stallone

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

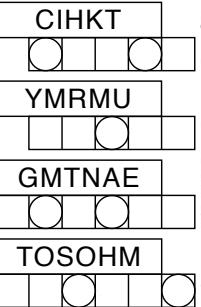
CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 circle and square (6)	_____
2 physicist Einstein (6)	_____
3 game played at Wrigley (8)	_____
4 doing impressions (9)	_____
5 set the parameters (9)	_____
6 largest cat that can purr (6)	_____
7 moving like an Artful Dodger (7)	_____



Friday's Answers: 1. PUSHING 2. FATHOMLESS 3. AERIAL 4. INGENUITY 5. RENDEZVOUS 6. SIMAK 7. GATHERER

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

FRIDAY'S Jumbles: PENNY GUESS NESTLE FIXATE
Answer: After seeing how difficult the Jumble would be to solve, they had an — UNEASY FEELING

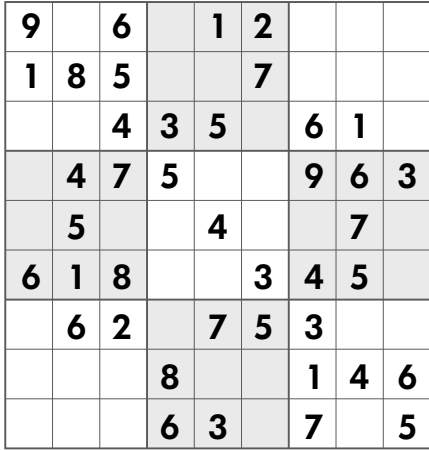
Numbers

More puzzles: puzzles.usatoday.com
Want solutions? answers.usatoday.com
Feedback: feedback@usatoday.com



SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).



8/11

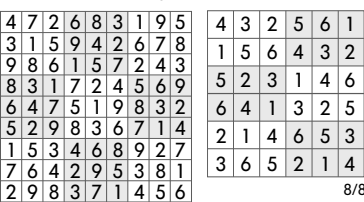
SUDOKU FUSION
ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).

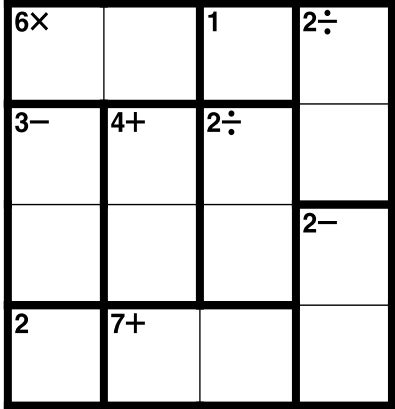


Friday's Answers



8/8

KENKEN



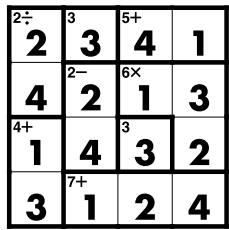
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1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 without repeating.

2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

FRIDAY'S SOLUTION

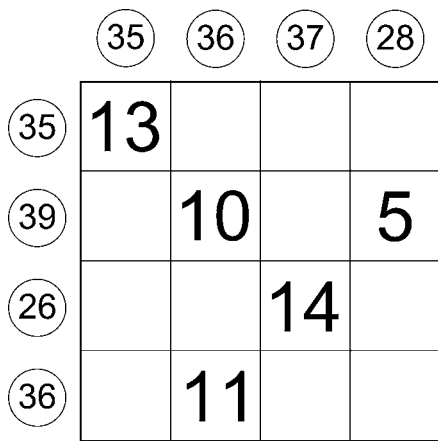


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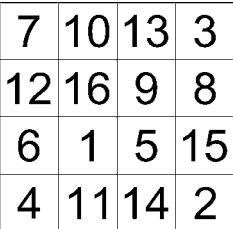
KUBOK 16

By Davide Coppo

Difficulty: HARD



Solution to Friday's puzzle



Enter the missing numbers from 1 to 16 without repetitions so that the sum of the four numbers in each row and column is the same as the corresponding circled number.

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8/11/25

BONUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Blob
5 Beer ingredient
9 Foot part
13 Cain's victim
14 Dated, but cool
15 Remove, in printing
16 Viral image
17 Self-evident truth
18 Elliptical
19 Worn down
21 — libre (cocktail)
23 Sprite
24 Sandy stuff
26 Ledger entry
28 Goes up, then down, then up
31 Remember
34 Possesses
35 Make into law
37 Lamb's pen name
38 Qty.
39 Sleepy
41 Hotel
42 Fencing sword
44 Dressed to the —
46 Last British letter
47 "The — of the Shrew"
50 Read
52 Bee-related
- 54 Duration
55 Command for Fido
57 Support
59 Near the back
63 Lane of "Superman"
65 — — Janeiro
67 Venus de —
68 On
69 Made a mistake
70 Cookie brand
71 Lots and lots of
72 Abound
73 Bird habitation

DOWN

- 1 Not cool
2 Ride share provider
3 Office note
4 Promise
5 Spell
6 Ear-related
7 Vainglorious
8 Gloomy
9 Fuss
10 Restore energy to
11 Mollusk
12 Lend a hand
14 Shining brightly
20 Gaelic
22 Honest —
25 Tom Sawyer's creator
27 Frost

FRIDAY'S SOLUTION



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- 28 Island nation in the Pacific
29 Judgment
30 Money substitute
32 Wrinkled
33 Conclude a flight
34 Tool handle
36 Doctrine
40 Mocked
43 Sass
45 Japanese sport
48 — and tuck
49 Attic room
- 51 Sunday talk
53 Bete —
55 Shut with force
56 Jot
58 Study (with "over")
60 Beget
61 Beer types
62 Plunder
64 Observe in secret
66 Certain party mem.

MOVIES

Disney sequel is a fun and ‘Freakier’ family affair

Brian Truitt
USA TODAY

Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis’ body-swapping shenanigans were a seminal movie moment for young film fans in the early 2000s, and the actresses are back to entertain another generation with more freaky high jinks. Rocker girl Anna (Lohan) and her psychiatrist mom Tess (Curtis) first switched places in 2003’s “Freaky Friday.” It happens again – this time alongside a couple of teen girls, Anna’s daughter Harper (Julia Butters) and soon-to-be stepkid Lily (Sophia Hammons) – in director Nisha Ganatra’s fantasy comedy sequel “Freakier Friday” (in theaters now). It is a Disney movie, so wholesomeness abounds, but is it actually for kids of all ages? Here’s what parents need to know about “Freakier Friday” going in:

What is ‘Freakier Friday’ about?

The new “Friday” runs back a bit of the plot from the original, where Anna and Tess swap bodies on the eve of the mom’s wedding and better understand each other’s lives. The sequel finds single mother Anna engaged to likable British chef Eric (Manny Jacinto) after just six months of dating, and surfer girl Harper and Eric’s somewhat snooty daughter Lily don’t get along *at all*. After a visit with an oddball fortune teller (Vanessa Bayer) during the bachelorette party, Anna switches with Harper while Tess ends up in Lily’s body (and vice versa). While mother and daughter venture off on scooters to find the psychic – plus enjoy the metabolism and flexibility of having young bodies – the girls do their darnedest to try and



Harper (Julia Butters, left), Anna (Lindsay Lohan), Tess (Jamie Lee Curtis) and Lily (Sophia Hammons) are embroiled in body-swapping shenanigans in the Disney sequel “Freakier Friday.” PROVIDED BY GLEN WILSON/DISNEY

ruin the wedding so they don’t have to be stepsisters.

What is the age rating of ‘Freakier Friday’?

“Freakier Friday” is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association “for thematic elements, rude humor, language and some suggestive references.” But nothing’s too extreme or scandalous, really. There’s some singing of the Chumbawamba song “Tubthumping” that’s got a slightly saucy word in the lyrics, though your kids might already know that from TikTok. Anna’s old flame Jake (Chad Michael Murray) shows up, and Harper-as-Anna tries to come on to him in the most awkward way possible, though akin to The Outfield, Jake likes his girls a

little bit older and hits on Lily-as-Tess.

Is ‘Freakier Friday’ appropriate for kids?

The first “Friday” was very much geared toward teens and tweens, and the same goes for the sequel. The main kid characters are teens navigating their parents getting remarried, so older children will be able to wrap their heads around that and are more apt to find that Anna’s old band, Pink Slip, still slaps. “Freakier” is mostly fine for younger audiences; they just might find a lot of the serious convos and deeper family/parenting themes (plus one trip to the DMV) boring. That said, little kids often look up to

their teen and tween siblings, so it might be a chance for some bonding time. The music is pretty cool and there are plenty of goofy moments that will appeal to little ones, such as an epic schoolyard food fight, Tess testing out a lip plumper, and she and Anna doing highway jumps in Jake’s sweet Camaro.

Is there a ‘Freakier Friday’ popcorn bucket and cup?

Yes! Popcorn buckets are all the rage these days with big theatrical releases, and the one for “Freakier Friday” really leans into the movie’s body-swap theme. Marcus Theatres, a chain of cinemas with locations in 17 states, is selling collectible popcorn buckets and drink cups with swappable covers. So the popcorn bucket can be used for soda and the soda cup can be used for popcorn. Most Marcus locations have the items for sale now. They’re not as cool as that gigantic light-up Galactus popcorn bucket, but certainly your kids might have some fun with them.

Where can I watch ‘Freakier Friday’?

The “freakquel” is in theaters, and because of the high anticipation going in, it might be there for a while with no other major kid-friendly releases coming to cinemas soon. That means those hoping to stream it at home will have to wait a tick. If the movie follows a similar path as the recent Disney release “Lilo & Stitch,” “Freakier Friday” likely will be available on demand in early to mid-October and on Disney+ in November. *Contributing: Melina Khan*

MUSIC NEWS & VIEWS

Gracie Abrams and her bestie Audrey surprise fans with new song

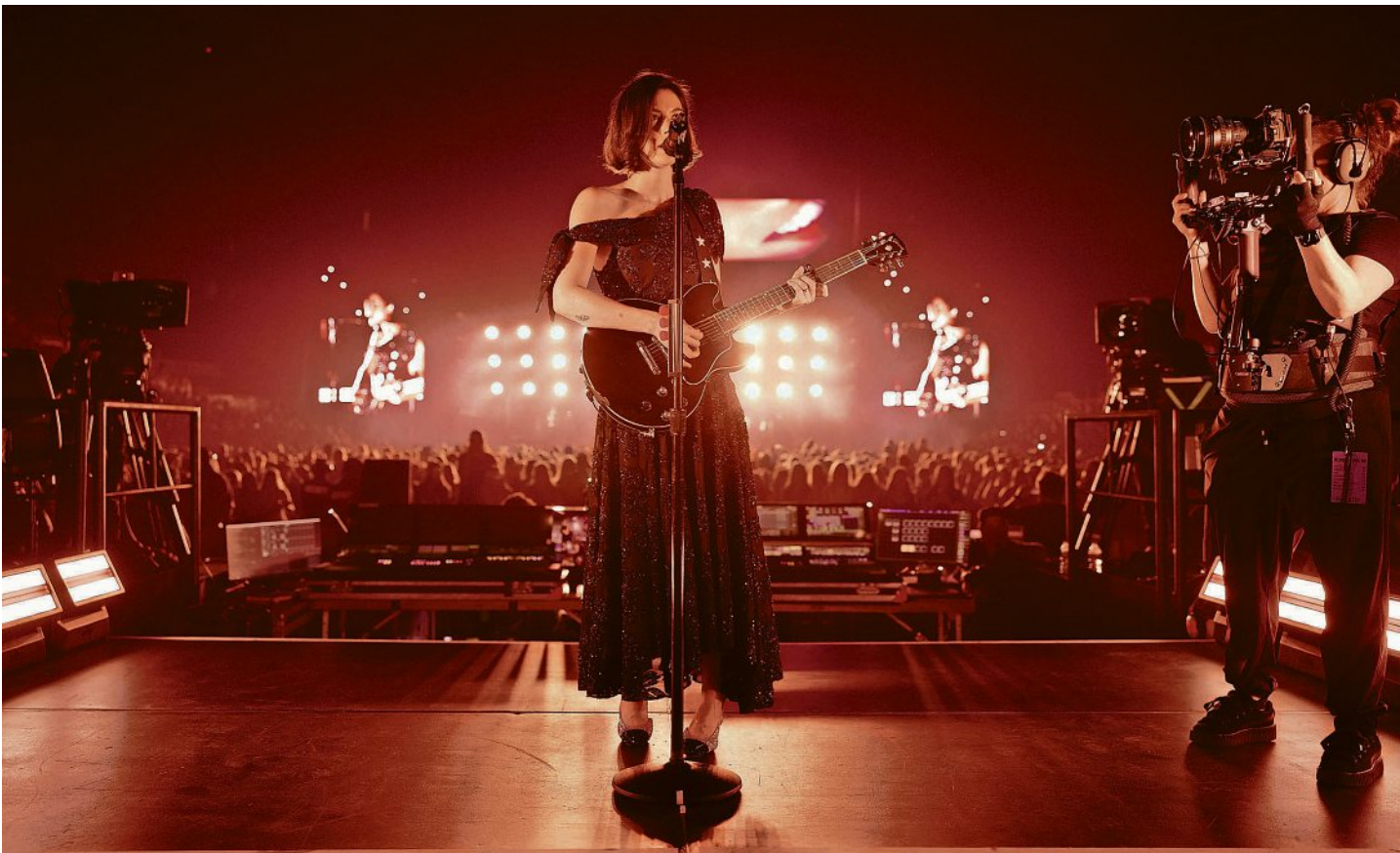
KiMi Robinson
USA TODAY

INGLEWOOD, CA – Gracie Abrams might be wrapping up The Secret of Us Deluxe Tour, but she’s far from done with treating her fans. After spending the first few songs getting acclimated to the “fever dream” that was performing a hometown show at the Kia Forum, the 25-year-old ushered out Audrey Hobert, her “best friend, also soul mate and also my favorite artist in the world” as a surprise guest during the first of Abrams’ two Los Angeles shows Aug. 6.

Once 26-year-old Hobert overcame any timidity and awe at the exuberant crowd – “I just need to stare at you” to focus, she told Abrams – the former roommates bantered and built up tension for what they’d perform together. (Spoiler: It was a “totally brand-new” song they’d recorded around the time they wrote the fan-favorite “That’s So True” on Abrams’ sophomore album, “The Secret of Us (Deluxe).”) Before they were musical collaborators, with Hobert co-writing seven of the 17 tracks on the aforementioned record and set to release her debut album Aug. 15, they were schoolkids who bonded over footwear. They’d met through a mutual friend, Clementine, while in the bathroom at Abrams’ fifth grade graduation. Hobert, then a sixth grader, had clocked Abrams’ white high-top Converse, which Hobert pointed out was exactly what she’d worn to her fifth grade graduation. “And in that moment, we knew that 10, 15 years later we’d be at the Forum,” Abrams joked.

Gracie Abrams and Audrey Hobert debut new song ‘Minibar’

And with that, they were ready to let the world in on their unreleased song, “Minibar.” “This is our song together and it’s kinda fun playing it like this because there isn’t really a version of it yet that exists,” Abrams explained as she strummed her acoustic guitar. Hobert took the first verse, then the duo harmonized on the chorus and bridge, singing about feeling out of place at a party. It wasn’t the only track of the night that Abrams hasn’t recorded in a studio. During her time on the childhood bed-



Gracie Abrams takes the stage in Boston’s TD Garden on her The Secret of Us Deluxe tour on July 24.



Audrey Hobert, left, and Abrams perform during “You’re Invited, I’m Sorry: An Evening With Gracie Abrams” on Nov. 12, 2024, in Los Angeles.

JOHN SCIULLI/GETTY IMAGES

room-themed B-stage, she seemingly spontaneously – and to the tune of thousands of delighted shrieks – launched into a deep cut, her Soundcloud release from about a decade ago called “In Between.” After debuting “Minibar,” the friends performed their song that took on a life of its own on social media last year, “That’s So True.” And as she did in her first The Secret of Us tour lap in LA last year, she closed her set in jubilant fashion with “Close to You.” Abrams’ team brands this as a “victory lap” tour for the singer, who

wrapped The Secret of Us tour in July and launched into this Deluxe tour more than a week later in Boston. As the tour winds down, Abrams has treated her fans to appearances from special guests in recent weeks. “Everywhere, Everything” collaborator Noah Kahan popped on stage for her two Boston shows, and Robyn joined for a duet of “Dancing on My Own” during Abrams’ Lollapalooza set. She invited up another contemporary, Lizzy McAlpine, for a performance of McAlpine’s song “Ceilings” at New York City’s Madison Square Garden.

The Secret of Us Deluxe Tour: Gracie Abrams’ 2025 setlist Los Angeles Night 1

- “Risk”
- “Blowing Smoke”
- “21”
- “I Love You, I’m Sorry”
- “Where Do We Go Now?”
- “Death Wish”
- “Normal Thing”
- “Friend”
- “Mess It Up”
- “Packing It Up”
- “Full machine”
- “I Told You Things”
- “Out Of Nowhere”
- “Let It Happen”
- “Tough Love”
- Surprise songs: “405” and “In Between”
- “Cool”
- “I Miss You, I’m Sorry”
- “Right Now”
- “Free Now”
- “us.”
- “Minibar” featuring Audrey Hobert
- “That’s So True”
- “Close to You”

NATION&WORLDEXTRA

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Netanyahu announces new offensive in Gaza



Palestinians carry aid supplies they collected from trucks that entered Gaza through Israel, in Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip on Aug. 10. International aid groups continue to call for more supplies to be sent to the population at risk of mass starvation. DAWOUD ABU ALKAS/REUTERS

Enclave struggling with starvation as PM vows to take out Hamas hubs

Nidal al-Mughrabi and Maayan Lubell REUTERS

JERUSALEM – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Aug. 10 he expected to complete a new Gaza offensive “fairly quickly” as the U.N. Security Council heard new demands for an end to suffering in the Palestinian enclave. • Netanyahu, speaking after his security cabinet on Aug. 8 approved a much-criticized plan to take control of Gaza City said he had no choice but to “complete the job” and defeat Hamas to free hostages seized from Israel.

Gaza City, the enclave’s most populous center, came under Israeli air strikes late on Aug. 10 and at least five people were killed at a sandwich shop in the Sabra neighborhood, health officials at Shifa Hospital said. Palestinian media said a missile hit a tent used by journalists near the hospital, and the head of Shifa Hospital, Muhammad Abu Salami-

yah, said on Al Jazeera television that seven people were killed there. Tank fire was also reported in the area. The Hamas-run Gaza media office said five Al Jazeera staff died in the attack including journalists Anas Al Sharif and Mohammed Qreiqeh and three photojournalists.

See GAZA, Page 4NN



Netanyahu

“We want a security belt right next to our border, but we don’t want to stay in Gaza. That’s not our purpose.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Grieving Gaza father scrambles to save children

Mahmoud Issa Hatem Khaled REUTERS

GAZA – Ibrahim al-Najjar said he lost his five-year-old son Naim to malnutrition that is ravaging Gaza. Over a year later, he is still grieving while scrambling to make sure his other children don’t suffer the same fate. “This child will follow him,” the Palestinian former taxi driver said, pointing to his 10-year-old son Farah. “For about a month he’s been falling unconscious. This child was once double the size he is now.” Najjar, 43, held up a medical certificate that shows Naim died on March 28, 2024. The whole family has been displaced by nearly two years of Israeli air strikes. The Najjars had been used to eating three meals a day before the war broke out in October 2023 – after Hamas-led Palestinian militants

See FATHER, Page 4NN

Trump wants to evict homeless people from D.C.

He says they’ll be sent ‘far from the capital’

Bo Erickson and Nandita Bose REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump pledged on Aug. 10 to evict homeless people from the nation’s capital and jail criminals, despite Washington’s may- or arguing there is no current spike in crime. “The Homeless have to move out, IMMEDIATELY. We will give you places to

stay, but FAR from the Capital. The Criminals, you don’t have to move out. We’re going to put you in jail where you belong,” Trump posted on the Truth Social platform. The White House declined to explain what legal authority Trump would use to evict people from Washington. The Republican president controls only federal land and buildings in the city. Trump is planning to hold a press conference on Aug. 10 to “stop violent crime in Washington, D.C.” It was not clear whether he would announce more details about his eviction plan then.

Trump’s Truth Social post included pictures of tents and streets with some garbage on them. “I’m going to make our Capital safer and more beautiful than it ever was before,” he said. According to the Community Partnership, an organization working to reduce homelessness in D.C., on any given night there are 3,782 single persons experiencing homelessness in the city of about 700,000 people. Most of the homeless individuals are in emergency shelters or transitional

See TRUMP, Page 4NN



President Donald Trump has offered few details of his plan to relocated the homeless population in Washington, DC. MARKO DJURICA/REUTERS FILE



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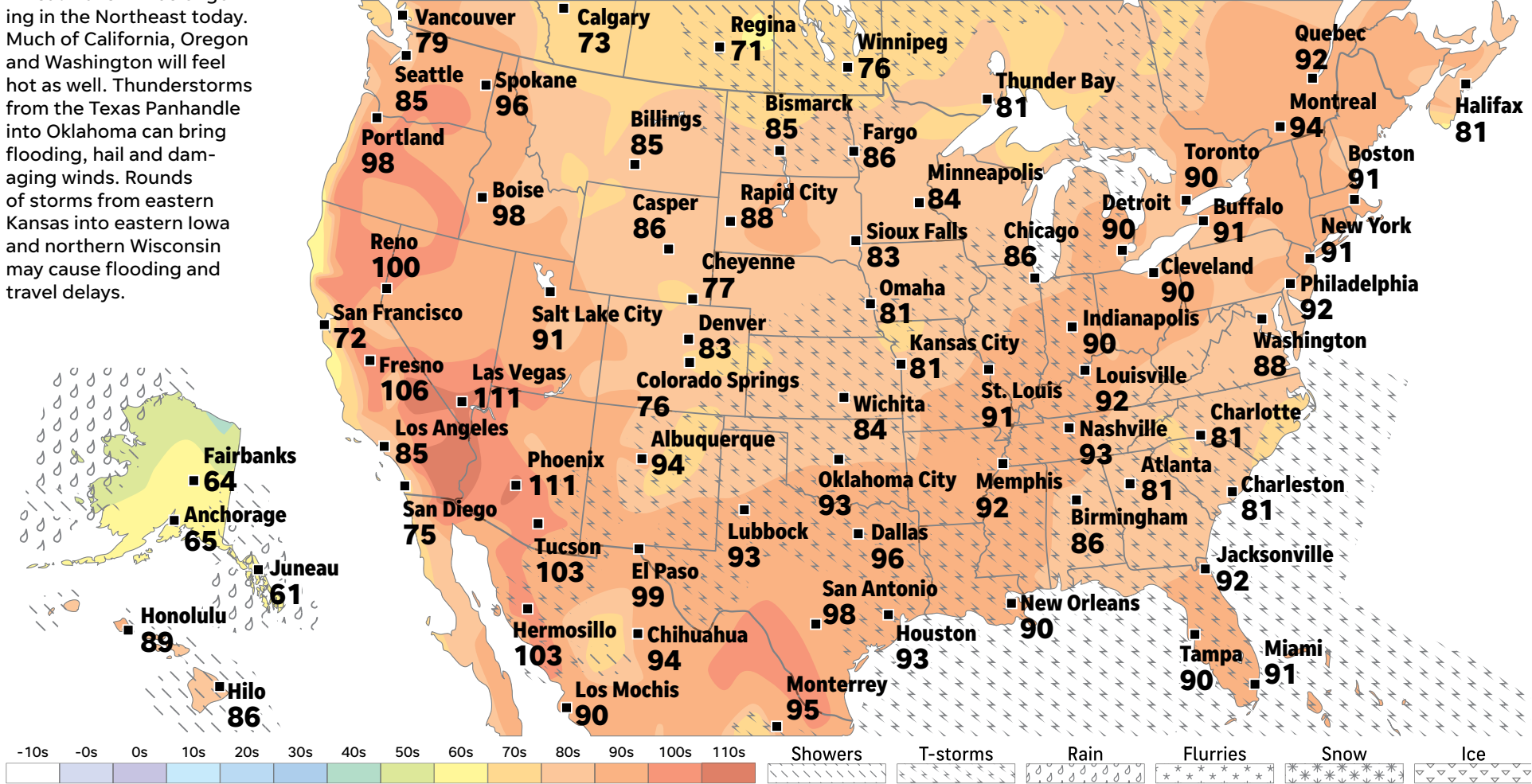


NATIONAL SUMMARY

A heat wave will be ongoing in the Northeast today. Much of California, Oregon and Washington will feel hot as well. Thunderstorms from the Texas Panhandle into Oklahoma can bring flooding, hail and damaging winds. Rounds of storms from eastern Kansas into eastern Iowa and northern Wisconsin may cause flooding and travel delays.

In the digital e-edition, you can click anywhere on the US map to get up-to-date forecasts, radar, MinuteCast® and more.

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for Monday.



SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATIONAL (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 113 at Needles, CA

Low: 32 at West Yellowstone, MT

Precip: 4.76" at Dubuque, IA

INTERNATIONAL (excludes Antarctica)

High: 123 at Karbala, Iraq

Low: 18 at Oruro, Bolivia

Precip: 6.87" at Fukuoka, Japan

TODAY IN HISTORY

After moving inland at the Texas coast the day before, Hurricane Allen weakened to a tropical depression on Aug. 11, 1980. It left a half a million people homeless and caused over \$1 billion in damage.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: What weather factor can change the length of your hair?

▲ The humidity

NATIONAL CITIES MONDAY

	High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality
● Aberdeen, SD	87/59/s	155	Evansville, IN	92/74/s	48	Levittown, PA	91/64/s	55	Rochester, NY	92/68/s	68
Abilene, TX	98/73/t	32	Fall River, MA	90/64/s	54	● Lincoln, IL	86/70/t	46	● Rockford, IL	83/69/t	41
Accomac, VA	79/67/pc	30	Farmington, NM	94/60/s	85	Louisville, KY	92/75/s	47	● Ruidoso, NM	79/55/t	67
Adrian, MI	90/69/s	63	● Fayetteville, NC	81/72/t	23	● Lubbock, TX	93/67/t	41	Salem, OR	101/65/s	32
Akron, OH	89/69/s	55	● Fond du Lac, WI	83/66/t	51	● Manitowoc, WI	82/67/t	45	Salina, KS	80/66/t	38
Alamogordo, NM	98/70/s	42	Fort Myers, FL	91/75/t	20	Mansfield, OH	88/69/s	62	Salinas, CA	75/56/s	31
Alexandria, VA	86/71/s	43	● Fort Smith, AR	97/75/t	39	Marshall, NC	79/68/t	18	Salisbury, MD	84/66/s	40
Alliance, OH	88/66/s	54	Framingham, MA	95/63/s	52	Marshfield, WI	81/61/pc	118	San Angelo, TX	97/72/pc	30
● Amarillo, TX	86/63/t	49	● Freeport, IL	82/68/t	44	Massillon, OH	89/67/s	57	Sarasota, FL	90/76/t	18
Ames, IA	83/64/t	72	Fremont, OH	90/71/s	67	McLean, VA	87/70/s	42	Savannah, GA	85/76/t	19
● Anderson, SC	80/71/t	24	Fort Collins, CO	86/57/s	62	Melbourne, FL	91/78/t	21	● Sheboygan, WI	84/68/t	47
● Appleton, WI	83/68/c	60	● Gadsden, AL	86/73/t	24	Memphis, TN	92/77/pc	45	● Shelby, NC	79/68/t	23
Asheville, NC	76/69/t	17	Gainesville, FL	92/74/t	23	Middletown, NY	89/58/s	54	Sherman, TX	95/73/t	40
Ashland, OH	88/67/s	64	● Galesburg, IL	82/67/t	39	Milford, MA	93/63/s	50	Shreveport, LA	96/77/t	33
Athens, GA	80/70/t	20	● Gastonia, NC	79/69/t	24	● Milwaukee, WI	84/69/t	48	Silver City, NM	94/62/s	95
Augusta, GA	82/72/t	15	Glen Rose, TX	96/73/t	34	Monroe, MI	86/71/s	53	Sioux Falls, SD	83/64/pc	127
Austin, TX	97/75/s	29	Gonzales, LA	92/75/t	30	● Monroe, LA	94/75/t	24	Somerset, NJ	85/64/s	42
● Bartlesville, OK	89/69/t	30	Great Falls, MT	79/53/pc	44	● Montgomery, AL	87/75/t	17	Somerville, NJ	91/61/s	57
● Battle Creek, MI	87/71/t	54	● Green Bay, WI	83/65/c	57	Muncie, IN	89/70/s	56	● South Bend, IN	88/71/t	45
Bedford, IN	89/70/s	49	● Greenville, SC	80/70/t	22	Murfreesboro, TN	89/72/t	26	● Spartanburg, SC	77/69/t	26
Binghamton, NY	85/64/s	56	Hackensack, NJ	92/68/pc	501	Naples, FL	92/77/t	17	● Springfield, IL	85/70/t	48
Bluffton, SC	82/76/t	19	Hagerstown, MD	88/69/s	43	Nashville, TN	93/75/t	27	● Springfield, MO	90/72/t	40
Bremerton, WA	88/60/pc	28	Hattiesburg, MS	91/75/t	15	Neptune, NJ	83/66/s	53	St. Augustine, FL	89/78/t	27
Brockton, MA	95/63/s	54	Henderson, KY	92/71/s	50	New Bedford, MA	88/64/s	53	● St. Cloud, MN	83/65/pc	156
● Brownwood, TX	97/72/s	33	Hendersonville, NC	74/68/t	19	● New Bern, NC	80/72/t	15	St. George, UT	107/75/pc	80
● Burlington, IA	82/69/t	38	Herkimer, NY	92/62/s	58	New Philadelphia, OH	90/66/s	52	Staunton, VA	84/64/pc	26
Burlington, NC	81/70/t	25	Hillsdale, MI	88/68/t	53	Newark, OH	89/66/s	54	Stevens Point, WI	83/63/pc	104
Burlington, VT	96/67/s	54	● Holland, MI	84/72/t	51	Newton, NJ	88/60/s	55	Stockton, CA	102/64/s	45
Cambridge, OH	89/67/s	55	Hornell, NY	93/65/s	53	New York, NY	91/70/pc	501	Stroudsburg, PA	88/61/s	62
● Camdenton, MO	86/70/t	34	Houma, LA	89/75/t	23	Norwich, CT	92/62/s	58	Stuart, FL	91/77/t	22
Canandaigua, NY	93/68/s	60	Howell, MI	91/70/t	58	● Ocala, FL	92/75/t	26	Sturgis, MI	88/69/t	51
Canton, OH	88/67/s	56	● Hutchinson, KS	83/65/t	41	● Oklahoma City, OK	93/71/t	40	● Tallahassee, FL	82/75/t	20
● Carlsbad, NM	95/69/t	34	Hyannis, MA	86/65/s	41	Opelousas, LA	92/74/t	41	● Thibodaux, LA	90/74/t	26
Chambersburg, PA	88/67/s	42	Indianapolis, IN	90/72/s	48	● Oshkosh, WI	83/67/c	55	● Topeka, KS	82/69/t	42
Cherry Hill, NJ	92/65/s	58	● Iowa City, IA	83/69/t	42	Palm Beach, FL	91/82/t	19	Tuscaloosa, AL	89/74/t	24
Cincinnati, OH	90/72/s	55	Ithaca, NY	90/63/s	60	Palm Springs, CA	114/84/s	53	Utica, NY	91/63/s	63
Clarksville, TN	93/74/t	30	Jackson, MS	92/76/t	18	● Panama City, FL	85/77/t	23	Ventura, CA	68/58/pc	42
Coldwater, MI	88/69/t	51	Jackson, TN	92/73/t	27	● Pekin, IL	85/71/t	41	Victorville, CA	104/68/s	71
Columbus, OH	90/71/s	72	● Jacksonville, FL	92/76/t	23	Pensacola, FL	86/76/t	26	Vineland, NJ	87/60/s	64
Corning, NY	92/61/s	57	Jacksonville, NC	80/73/t	21	● Peoria, IL	84/71/t	42	Visalia, CA	104/67/s	62
Corpus Christi, TX	96/75/s	23	Kent, OH	88/67/s	58	Petersburg, VA	83/69/pc	23	Washington, DC	88/73/s	48
Daytona Beach, FL	91/77/t	25	● Kewanee, IL	82/67/t	39	Phoenix, AZ	111/90/s	67	● Watertown, SD	83/61/pc	152
Deming, NM	99/68/s	90	Keyser, WV	89/65/s	42	Port Huron, MI	89/70/t	54	Wausau, WI	81/63/pc	111
● DeRidder, LA	91/74/t	22	Kinston, NC	81/71/t	19	Portsmouth, NH	93/68/pc	49	Waynesboro, PA	88/68/s	46
● Des Moines, IA	84/69/t	50	Knoxville, TN	88/72/t	33	Poughkeepsie, NY	90/60/s	64	White Plains, NY	89/66/pc	501
Detroit, MI	90/72/s	51	Lafayette, IN	88/69/t	50	Providence, RI	90/66/s	70	● Wichita Falls, TX	97/71/t	37
● Devils Lake, ND	77/57/t	190	● Lafayette, LA	92/75/t	34	Pueblo, CO	85/58/pc	43	Wilmington, DE	86/67/s	50
Dover, NH	93/65/pc	48	Lakeland, FL	92/74/t	22	Quincy, MA	94/68/s	65	Wilmington, NC	80/74/t	20
El Paso, TX	99/75/pc	55	● Lansing, MI	88/71/t	50	Redding, CA	110/72/s	41	Wisconsin Rapids, WI	83/63/pc	105
Elmira, NY	91/58/s	56	Las Cruces, NM	98/68/s	84	Reno, NV	100/68/s	48	Wooster, OH	88/66/s	57
Erie, PA	89/72/s	60	Lebanon, PA	88/64/s	51	Ravenna, OH	89/65/s	57	Worcester, MA	89/68/s	55
Eugene, OR	103/60/s	35	● Leesburg, FL	92/76/t	25	Richmond, IN	88/68/s	55	York, PA	89/67/s	56

Air Quality Index: 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-150, Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200, Unhealthy; 201-300, Very unhealthy; 301-500, Hazardous

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

	Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W		Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W		Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W		Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W
● Acapulco	91/76/pc	90/76/t	Cape Town	63/47/c	64/45/s	La Paz	60/28/s	62/27/s	San Jose	78/65/r	82/67/r
● Addis Ababa	69/55/r	68/55/r	Caracas	90/76/r	92/77/r	Lagos	84/75/r	84/75/r	● San Salvador	88/65/sh	85/66/t
Algiers	88/63/s	89/63/s	● Casablanca	108/69/s	106/69/s	Lima	66/60/pc	67/60/pc	Santiago	75/46/c	72/43/pc
Amman	104/82/pc	106/83/s	● Colombo	87/79/r	86/79/r	Lisbon	100/74/s	95/69/pc	Sao Paulo	61/49/pc	67/51/pc
Amsterdam	81/63/pc	88/64/pc	Copenhagen	69/59/c	71/60/pc	London	86/64/pc	91/64/s	Sarajevo	90/59/pc	93/59/pc
Ankara	95/66/s	93/67/s	Damascus	110/77/pc	110/76/pc	Madrid	103/72/pc	103/71/pc	● Shanghai	92/81/r	92/83/t
Asuncion	71/45/s	74/49/s	Dublin	72/57/pc	74/54/pc	Manila	94/78/t	91/78/r	Singapore	85/77/t	86/78/r
Athens	96/81/pc	95/79/pc	Geneva	91/65/pc	98/64/s	● Mexico City	75/57/sh	73/56/sh	Stockholm	69/53/pc	70/49/s
Auckland	57/40/s	58/40/s	Guatemala City	80/62/t	78/62/t	Milan	98/76/pc	96/75/pc	● Sydney	60/46/sh	63/46/pc
Baghdad	118/85/s	118/86/pc	Hanoi	96/81/r	96/80/t	Mombasa	82/68/c	83/69/pc	● Taipei	94/78/sh	94/76/sh
Bangkok	95/80/r	93/79/r	Harare	75/46/pc	73/45/s	Montevideo	64/44/pc	67/49/pc	Tegucigalpa	86/64/t	84/66/t
Beijing	92/73/pc	88/71/t	Havana	91/73/r	92/73/r	Montreal	94/69/s	95/73/s	Tehran	100/81/s	100/82/pc
Beirut	91/82/s	93/83/s	Helsinki	71/58/s	66/55/sh	● Moscow	68/57/sh	67/55/sh	Tokyo	86/81/sh	89/78/c
Belgrade	92/63/s	92/66/s	Hong Kong	89/82/t	90/82/r	● Nairobi	71/57/r	70/55/c	Toronto	90/71/s	90/73/t
Berlin	78/56/s	84/61/s	Jakarta	90/75/t	87/75/t	New Delhi	92/82/c	91/81/pc	Tunis	93/72/s	94/72/s
Bogota	64/48/r	66/47/pc	Jerusalem	97/76/s	99/76/s	Panama City	88/74/r	89/75/r	Vancouver	79/64/pc	78/61/s
Brussels	85/58/s	92/66/s	Johannesburg	67/41/s	66/42/s	Paris	92/66/s	98/68/s	Vienna	82/55/s	86/60/pc
Bucharest	94/68/s	91/64/s	Kabul	95/70/pc	96/70/pc	Port-au-Prince	97/74/c	98/73/pc	Warsaw	75/54/pc	80/57/s
Budapest	87/59/s	89/61/s	Khartoum	101/83/pc	98/78/pc	Rio de Janeiro	70/63/pc	71/62/s	Yerevan	87/69/s	87/63/s
Buenos Aires	64/50/pc	68/51/pc	Kyiv	76/57/s	77/59/pc	Riyadh	112/89/pc	112/89/s	Zagreb	87/59/s	89/59/pc
Cairo	103/80/pc	102/81/pc	Kingston	92/81/pc	94/81/pc	Rome	93/72/pc	94/70/pc	Zurich	85/60/s	92/63/s

● Denotes possible travel delays Monday

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Cattle ranchers slowly start to rebuild decimated herd

Meatpackers want larger herds to reduce prices

Tom Polansek
REUTERS

Nebraska cattle rancher Craig Uden bought 200 extra mother cows and their babies over a few weeks in May to expand his herd as dry weather gave way to rain that rejuvenated land used for grazing.

In South Dakota, Troy Hadrick kept 16 more young female cows, known as heifers, on his farm than he did last year to be used for breeding, rather than sending them to be slaughtered for beef. More than 1,400 miles south in Texas, the biggest cattle-producing state, Fausto Salinas was also preserving heifers to increase his herd. In major livestock regions, some ranchers have slowly begun taking the first steps to boost cattle production after the nation's inventory shrank due to a yearslong drought that dried up pasture land used for grazing and hiked feeding costs.

When grass failed to grow on pasture land that turned from green to brown and as feed grains became too expensive, ranchers began to ship off more cattle to be slaughtered. Some producers searched miles away for hay to nourish their remaining animals. The drop in supply drove food companies to increasingly import beef from other countries, including Australia and Brazil.

Though in its early stages, the herd expansion is now a sign of hope for consumers shelling out for expensive steaks and for meatpackers losing money buying high-priced cattle to slaughter. "Cattle availability should improve in coming years," Tyson Foods CEO Donnie King said during an earnings call this month.

Farmers' cautious plans to rebuild mark a turning point after a continuous downsizing of the herd for six years in a row pushed beef prices to record highs in 2025. Cattle prices reached records too, slashing the profits of processors and providing income for farmers who also grow grains and have struggled to turn a profit from selling crops.

Cattle production is the nation's most important agricultural industry, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which said the sector consistently accounts for the largest share of total cash receipts for farm commodities.

After delays due to persistent dryness, improved rains are motivating the expansion, along with expectations that cattle prices will remain lofty during the long rebuilding process, ranchers said.

In Nebraska, the second biggest cattle-producing state, the portion of the herd in areas suffering from drought dropped to 19% in late July from 79% two years earlier, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.



Fausto Salinas, Jr.'s cattle is being fed at his property as cattle ranchers are slowly starting to rebuild their herds after slashing the nation's inventory to its lowest level in more than 70 years, in Rio Grande City, Texas.
GABRIEL V. CARDENAS/REUTERS

“Everything has kind of fallen into place. The cattle will have plenty to eat this year.”

Craig Uden
Nebraska cattle rancher

Near Cozad, a city of 4,000 people where Uden works with his son-in-law, rains have not quit since starting around Mother's Day in May, Uden said. Grass conditions look the best since 2011, he added. The dramatic improvement comes as a record corn harvest is expected to boost available feed supplies.

"Everything has kind of fallen into place," said Uden, 64. "The cattle will have plenty to eat this year."

Ranches in South Texas also benefited from one of the greenest summers in years, a welcome reprieve after the punishing drought turned forage brown and dry and killed some cattle.

"Right now, we're in the process of rebuilding," said Salinas, a rancher in Rio Grande City, Texas, who sold cattle during the drought.

Tighter supplies

When ranchers retain heifers, beef production temporarily slows because the animals are not being sent to be slaughtered; it will also likely push meat prices even higher before they come down, agricultural economists said.

Consumers have shown resilience to the climbing cost of beef, but increased prices will test demand, they said.

It takes about two years before beef output rises after ranchers make initial moves to expand because that is how long it takes to raise full-grown cattle, ranchers said. Cattle and beef supplies are set to decline even further after

President Donald Trump's administration halted imports of Mexican livestock in July to keep out New World screw-worm, a devastating pest.

U.S. beef imports from Brazil, a key supplier of meat used to make hamburgers, are also expected to fall after Trump imposed a 50% trade tariff on Aug. 6.

Beef producers have waited years for ranchers to begin rebuilding herds because companies must increasingly compete with one another to buy limited supplies. Processors were losing about \$300 on each head of cattle they slaughtered on Aug. 5, according to livestock marketing advisory service HedgersEdge.com.

Farmers have worried a processor may shutter a beef plant due to hefty losses, though Cargill told Reuters it had no plans to do so.

"It's not overwhelmingly glaring that, 'Hey we're starting to rebuild the cow herd,' but I think there are quite a few signals," said Jarrod Gillig, senior vice president of Cargill's North American beef business.

For one, strong prices for heifers at a major video livestock sale in July signaled the animals will be retained on farms, Gillig said.

In rural feedlots, about 4.2 million heifers were being fattened for slaughter as of July 1, down 5% from 2024, according to USDA data.

The decline likely reflects that ranchers are keeping at least a few more heifers on farms to reproduce, analysts said.

Tyson said a 16% drop in beef cow slaughtering from January to June was another early indicator of ranchers retaining heifers on their farms. The meatpacker reported cattle costs climbed by about \$560 million in the quarter that ended on June 28, compared to a year earlier.

Herd rebuilding will begin in earnest next year, and the beef business will see benefits in 2028, King said.

WALL ST WEEK AHEAD

Inflation data to test stocks amid recent rally

Lewis Krauskopf
REUTERS

NEW YORK – A fresh look at inflation trends will test the U.S. stock market's rally in the coming week, with some investors saying equities are primed for a potential pullback after rocketing to records. The benchmark S&P 500 ended on Aug. 8 up more than 8% on the year and on the cusp of all-time high levels, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite was at a record, as stocks rebounded from declines following a weak employment report earlier this month.

Strategists at firms including Deutsche Bank and Morgan Stanley have recently said the market could be poised for some level of pullback after a largely unabated climb over the past four months, which has pushed valuations to historically expensive levels as a seasonally treacherous period for stocks begins.

The monthly U.S. consumer price index report, due on Aug. 12, could cause volatility. Data showing higher-than-expected inflation could undermine the growing expectation for impending interest rate cuts.

"I do think the market is set up for a bit of a pullback," said Dominic Papalardo, chief multi-asset strategist at Morningstar Wealth. "There's a lot of concern bubbling underneath."

The S&P 500 has surged 28% since its low for the year in April, as investor fears about a tariff-induced recession calmed after President Donald Trump's announcement earlier that month had set off extreme asset volatility. The index is trading at over 22 times its earnings estimates for the next year, well above its long-term average P/E ratio of 15.8 after recently reaching its highest valuation in over four years, according to LSEG Datstream.

Investors are also wary of risks posed by the calendar. Over the past 35 years, August and September have ranked as the worst-performing months for the S&P 500, according to the Stock Trader's Almanac. The index has declined an average of 0.6% in August and 0.8% in September – the only months of negative average performance for the index during that time period.

"The combination of a softer payroll number with concerns of tariff-related inflation could be the recipe for ... a correction, especially in the seasonally weak third quarter," Morgan Stanley equity strategist Michael Wilson said in a note last week. Still, Wilson said his 12-month outlook was bullish, adding "we're buyers of pullbacks." The CPI for July is expected to have climbed 2.8% on an annual basis, according to a Reuters poll of economists. Investors will be watching to see if Trump's tariffs on imports are translating into higher prices after the June CPI report suggested levies were impacting the prices of some goods.

Market bets on Fed rate cuts rose following the recent weak jobs data as investors expect the central bank will ease monetary policy to help shore up the labor market. Fed funds futures indicate an over 90% chance the Fed will cut at its next meeting in September, with at least two cuts priced in for this year, LSEG data showed.

That narrative could be at risk if CPI rises more than expected, making the Fed more hesitant to cut rates, investors said.

"If the CPI suggests that the market got a little ahead of itself, that can create volatility," said Angelo Kourkafas, senior investment strategist at Edward Jones. "But if it's not worse than feared ... that can further reinforce that we are now in an inflection point for the Fed."

The prospect of higher tariffs and the economic fallout from those levies already instituted by the Trump administration has been a persistent theme clouding markets, but stocks have managed to rise to records despite the uncertainty.

Higher tariffs on imports from dozens of countries took effect on Aug. 7, raising the average U.S. import duty to its highest in a century, while the president also this week announced plans for levies on semiconductor chips and pharmaceutical imports.

China could face a potential tariff increase on Aug. 12 unless Trump approves an extension of a prior truce.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mexico sets minimum export prices for fresh tomatoes

MEXICO CITY – Mexico has set minimum export prices for fresh tomatoes to protect its domestic production and ensure internal supply after a bilateral agreement with the U.S. expired, Mexico's economy and agriculture ministries said in a joint statement on Aug. 10.

The decision follows Washington's withdrawal in July from a 2019 deal between the two countries which regulated Mexican tomato exports to the United States.

The Trump administration on July 14 announced a duty of about 17% on imports of fresh tomatoes from Mexico.

While the new pricing rules apply exclusively to definitive exports, they don't restrict export volumes or impose maximum prices. Prices will be reviewed annually or sooner if market conditions demand, the Mexican ministries said.

Minimum export prices per kilogram are set at \$1.70 for cherry and grape tomatoes, \$0.88 for Roma tomatoes, \$0.95 for round tomatoes, and \$1.65 for round tomatoes with stems. Other varieties, such as cocktail and heirloom tomatoes, will also have a minimum price of \$1.70.

According to official figures, Mexico exported \$3.3 billion of tomatoes last year.

"This action reinforces the government's commitment to agricultural competitiveness, dignified rural employment, and food sovereignty," the ministries said.

The ministries added that Mexican associations of tomato producers have expressed support for the agreement, which entered into force immediately after its publication on Aug. 8 in the government's official gazette.

Iran says IAEA official to visit

A senior official from the U.N. nuclear watchdog will fly to Iran for talks on Aug. 11, but no visit to nuclear sites is planned, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Aug. 10.

Since Israel launched its first military strikes on Iran's nuclear sites during a 12-day war in June, inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency have been unable to access Iran's facilities, despite IAEA chief Rafael Grossi saying inspections remain his top priority.

Iran has accused the agency of effectively paving the way for the bombings by issuing a damning report on May 31, which led the IAEA's 35-nation Board of Governors to declare Iran in breach of its non-proliferation obligations.

Iran, which denies seeking nuclear weapons, said it remained committed to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"Negotiations with the IAEA will be held tomorrow to determine a frame-

work for cooperation," Araghchi said on Telegram. "There are no plans to visit any nuclear sites until we reach a framework."

Iran enacted a law passed by parliament suspending cooperation with the IAEA in July. The law stipulates that any future inspection of Iran's nuclear sites by the IAEA needs approval by Tehran's Supreme National Security Council.

1 killed in 6.1 magnitude earthquake in Turkey

One person was killed on Aug 10 when an earthquake of magnitude 6.1 struck northwestern Turkey's Balikesir province, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said, adding 29 people were wounded and 16 buildings collapsed.

The quake, which Turkey's AFAD disaster management authority said occurred at around 7:53 p.m., was felt in multiple provinces, including the country's biggest city, Istanbul.

Yerlikaya said an 81-year-old person died after being rescued from rubble by emergency teams.

He said search and rescue operations were now concluded and that there were no other signs of serious damage or casualties.

AFAD said the quake struck at a depth of 6.8 miles, while the German Research Centre for Geosciences registered the earthquake's magnitude at 6.19 and a depth of 6.2 miles.

Reuters

Father

Continued from Page 1NN

attacked Israel – but now they can only dream of even simple foods such as bread, rice, fruit and vegetables.

Naim’s brother Adnan, 20, focuses on taking care of his other brothers, rising every morning at 5:30 a.m. to wend his way gingerly through Gaza’s mountains of rubble to find a soup kitchen.

“I swear I don’t have salt at home, I swear I beg for a grain of salt,” said Naim’s mother Najwa, 40.

“People talk about Gaza, Gaza, Gaza. Come see the children of Gaza. Those who do not believe, come see how Ga-za’s children are dying. We are not liv- ing, we are dying slowly,” she said.

A global hunger monitor has said a famine scenario is unfolding in the Gaza Strip, with starvation spreading, chil- dren under five dying of hunger-related causes and humanitarian access to the embattled enclave severely restricted.

And the warnings about starvation and malnutrition from aid agencies keep coming.

The United Nations Office for the Co- ordination of Humanitarian Affairs said food consumption across Gaza has de- clined to its lowest level since the onset of the war.

Eighty-one percent of households in the tiny, crowded coastal territory of 2.2 million people reported poor food con- sumption, up from 33% in April.

“Nearly nine out of ten households resorted to extremely severe coping mechanisms to feed themselves, such as taking significant safety risks to ob- tain food, and scavenging from the gar- bage,” OCHA said in a statement.

Even when Palestinians are not too weak to access aid collection points, they are vulnerable to injury or death in the crush to secure food.

Between June and July the number of admissions for malnutrition almost



Palestinians rush to a charity kitchen in the Mawasi area of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on July 22. Children in Gaza are at increased risk of malnutrition and starvation and over 20 have died recently. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

doubled – from 6,344 to 11,877 – accord- ing to the latest UNICEF figures avail- able.

Meanwhile there is no sign of a cea- sefire on the horizon, although Israel’s military chief has pushed back against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s plans to seize areas of Gaza it doesn’t already control, three Israeli officials said.

Netanyahu has vowed no end to the war until the annihilation of Hamas, which killed 1,200 people and took 251 hostage in its Oct. 7 attack, according to

Israeli tallies.

Israel’s military response has killed over 60,000 people, according to Gaza health authorities, and turned Gaza, one of the world’s most densely populated areas, into a sea of ruins, with many feared buried underneath.

‘The shadow of death’

Holding her emaciated baby Ammar who, she said, is wasting away from malnutrition, Amira Muteir, 32, pleaded with the world to come to the rescue.

“The shadow of death is threatening him, because of hunger,” she said, add- ing that he endures 15 or 20 days a month with no milk so she waits hours at a hospital for fortified solution.

Sometimes he has to drink polluted liquids because of a shortage of clean water, she said.

Muteir and her children and husband rely on a charity soup kitchen that helps them with one small plate of food per day to try and survive. “We eat it throughout the day and until the follow- ing day we eat nothing else,” she said.

Gaza

Continued from Page 1NN

It said the fifth man was a driver and as- sistant.

Palestinian journalists’ groups con- demned the killings. A press freedom group and a UN expert previously warned that Al Sharif’s life was in dan- ger due to his reporting from Gaza. U.N. Special Rapporteur Irene Khan said in July Israel’s claims that he led a group in Hamas were unsubstantiated.

Earlier in the day, Netanyahu said the new Gaza offensive aimed to tackle two remaining Hamas strongholds in what he called his only option because of the Palestinian group’s refusal to lay down its arms.

Hamas says it will not disarm unless an independent Palestinian state is es- tablished.

Netanyahu’s office said late Aug. 10 the prime minister had spoken with President Donald Trump about “Israel’s plans to take control of the remaining Hamas strongholds in Gaza.”

It was not clear when the offensive, which would be the latest in successive attempts by the Israeli military to clear the militants from Gaza City, would be- gin.

“The timeline that we set for the ac- tion is fairly quickly. We want, first of all, to enable safe zones to be established so the civilian population of Gaza City can move out,” he added.

The city, home to a million people be- fore the two-year-old war, would be moved into “safe zones,” he said. Pales- tinians say these have not protected them from Israeli fire in the past.

Israel’s military chief has voiced op- position to occupying the entire Gaza Strip and has warned that expanding the offensive could endanger the lives of hostages Hamas is still holding and draw its troops into protracted and deadly warfare.

Netanyahu said his goal was not to occupy Gaza. “We want a security belt right next to our border, but we don’t want to stay in Gaza. That’s not our pur- pose,” he said.

European representatives at the



Displaced Palestinians shelter in a tent camp as buildings damaged during the Israeli offensive appear in the background, in the northern Gaza Strip on Aug.10. DAWOUD ABU ALKAS/REUTERS



Israel is preparing for another offensive, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Aug. 10. RONEN ZVULUN/REUTERS

United Nations said starvation was un- folding in Gaza and Israel’s plan would only make things worse.

“Expanding military operations will only endanger the lives of all civilians in Gaza, including the remaining hostages,

and result in further unnecessary suf- fering,” Denmark, France, Greece, Slo- venia and the United Kingdom said in a joint statement.

“This is a manmade crisis, and there- fore urgent action is needed to halt star-

vation and to surge aid into Gaza,” they said.

Malnutrition is widespread in the en-clave due to what international aid agencies say is a deliberate plan by Is- rael to restrict aid. Israel rejects that al- legation, blaming Hamas for the hunger among Palestinians and saying a lot of aid has been distributed.

The U.S. representative at the Securi- ty Council defended Netanhayu and said Washington was committed to ad- dressing humanitarian needs, freeing the hostages and achieving peace.

Netanyahu said Israel was working with Washington on creating a surge of aid into Gaza, including by land. After his conversation with Trump, the prime minister’s office said he thanked the president “for his steadfast support of Israel.”

Five more people, including two chil- dren, died of malnutrition and starva- tion in Gaza in the past 24 hours, Gaza’s health ministry said, taking the number of deaths from such causes to 217, in- cluding 100 children.

The Hamas-run Gaza government media office said a further 23 people had been killed so far in the war by airdrops of aid which countries have resorted to due to the difficulties of getting aid in by road.

In the latest case, a parachuted aid box killed a 14-year-old boy awaiting food with other desperate Palestinians at a tent encampment in central Gaza, according to medics and video verified by Reuters.

“We have repeatedly warned of the dangers of these inhumane methods and have consistently called for the safe and sufficient delivery of aid through land crossings, especially food, infant formula, medicines, and medical sup- plies,” it said.

The war began on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel and killed 1,200 people and took 251 hostages, according to Is- raeli figures. Israeli authorities say 20 of the remaining 50 hostages in Gaza are alive.

Israel’s offensive since then has killed more than 61,000 Palestinians, according to health officials, and left much of the territory in ruins.

Trump

Continued from Page 1NN

housing. About 800 are considered un- sheltered or “on the street,” the organiza- tion says.

A White House official said on Aug. 8 that more federal law enforcement offi- cers were being deployed in the city fol- lowing a violent attack on a young Trump administration staffer that angered the president.

Alleged crimes investigated by federal agents on Aug. 8 included “multiple per- sons carrying a pistol without license,” motorists driving on suspended licenses, and dirt bike riding, according to a White House official on Sunday. The official said 450 federal law enforcement officers were deployed across the city on Aug. 9.

The Democratic mayor of Washing- ton, D.C., Muriel Bowser, said on Aug. 10 the capital was “not experiencing a crime spike.”

“It is true that we had a terrible spike in crime in 2023, but this is not 2023,” Bows-

er said on MSNBC’s The Weekend. “We have spent over the last two years driving down violent crime in this city, driving it down to a 30-year low.”

The city’s police department reports that violent crime in the first seven months of 2025 was down by 26% in D.C. compared with last year while overall crime was down about 7%.

Bowser said Trump is “very aware” of the city’s work with federal law enforce- ment after meeting with Trump several weeks ago in the Oval Office.

Congress has control of D.C.’s budget

after the district was established in 1790 with land from neighboring Virginia and Maryland, but resident voters elect a mayor and city council.

For Trump to take over the city, Con- gress likely would have to pass a law re- voking the law that established local elected leadership, which Trump would have to sign. Bowser on Sunday noted the president’s ability to call up the National Guard if he wanted, a tactic the admini- stration used recently in Los Angeles af- ter immigration protests over the objec- tions of local officials.

SPORTS **EXTRA**

MLB



Brewers left fielder Isaac Collins celebrates after hitting a walk-off home run in the ninth inning against the Mets at American Family Field. BENNY SIEU/IMAGN IMAGES

ROLL OUT THE BARREL AGAIN

Isaac Collins led off the ninth inning with a walk-off homer for the red-hot Milwaukee Brewers, who stormed back from a five-run deficit to stun the reeling New York Mets, 7-6, and sweep their three-game series. The Brewers have won nine straight and 12 of 13 to improve their MLB-leading record to 73-44.

ROUNDUP, PAGE 4NS

GOLF

Rose wins in playoff at St. Jude

Phil Stukenborg
FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

MEMPHIS – England’s Justin Rose birdied four of the last five holes of the FedEx St. Jude Championship at TPC Southwind to force a playoff and birdied the third playoff hole to capture the first leg of the PGA Tour’s season-ending, three-tournament playoffs.

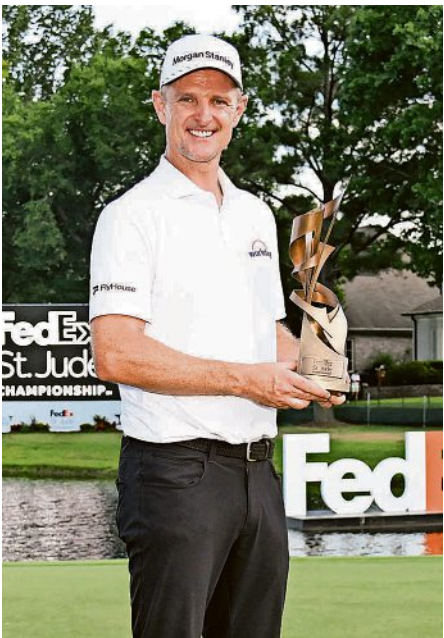
Rose’s magical finish in regulation – birdies at 14, 15, 16 and 17 – allowed the 45-year-old veteran to pass 54-hole leader Tommy Fleetwood and world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler and join J.J. Spaun, the reigning U.S. Open champion, in the playoff.

Spaun birdied two of his final three holes in regulation to join Rose in the playoff. Rose and Spaun both had birdie putts on the first playoff hole lip out, forcing a return trip to No. 18. On their second tries, they converted birdie putts with Spaun’s coming from 30 feet. The hole location on 18 was changed for the third playoff hole and Rose dropped his birdie putt from 12 feet. Spaun’s 7-foot attempt for birdie slid left of the cup.

“That was an amazing last 90 minutes,” Rose said. “I never stopped believing. I played unbelievable golf coming down the stretch.”

Rose shot 3-under 67 to finish at 16-under 264 and Spaun had a 65 to join him in the playoff. Scheffler was one stroke back at 15-under 265 after his final round 67. Fleetwood closed with a 69 to also finish at 15 under.

See GOLF, Page 6NS



Justin Rose poses with the winner’s trophy after the final round of the FedEx St. Jude Championship. STEVE ROBERTS/IMAGN IMAGES

NASCAR

Van Gisbergen earns 4th road-course win

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Shane van Gisbergen delivered some Down Under redemption at Watkins Glen International on Sunday to cap the New Zealander’s cracking good week.

The Trackhouse Racing driver continued his dominance of NASCAR’s road courses, speeding to his fourth straight road win in 2025 as he rolled over the Cup Series field in the Go Bowling at the Glen in Watkins Glen, N.Y.

After leader Brad Keselowski pitted with 16 laps left, van Gisbergen cycled back around to the point and breezed to his fourth victory this season by 11.116 seconds over Christopher Bell. Defending champion Chris Buescher, William Byron and Chase Briscoe joined them in the top five.

The four victories, all on road races, tied the 36-year-old van Gisbergen with

Denny Hamlin for this year’s series lead as he snared his fifth career win in just 38 starts. In last season’s race at the Glen, SVG led at the white flag but slipped up in the “Bus Stop” portion of the legendary road course, allowing Buescher to pass for the win.

On Saturday in the Xfinity Series race, he was booted out of the way while leading by teammate Connor Zilisch and was wrecked out.

Neither scenario would play out that way Sunday for SVG, who received a contract extension earlier in the week.

“Oh, man, good to get that one back,” said van Gisbergen, who led 38 laps in the three-caution race. “What an awesome win. ... The car was just amazing again. I gave that Bus Stop (turn) another meter on that last lap. Awesome.”

See NASCAR, Page 3NS



Shane van Gisbergen celebrates with his team in victory lane after winning at Watkins Glen International. MATTHEW O'HAREN/IMAGN IMAGES

NFL

PRESEASON ROUNDUP

Bears, Dolphins open with tie

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Tua Tagovailoa made a rare appearance in a preseason opener as the Miami Dolphins and host Chicago Bears forged a 24-24 tie on Sunday afternoon.

Tagovailoa, who hadn't seen action in an opener since 2021, completed 5 of 6 passes on the game's opening drive that ended at the Bears' goal line.

He then gave way to Zach Wilson (5-of-9, 96 yards) - who directed two touchdown drives - and rookie Quinn Ewers (5-of-18, 91 yards), who led the Dolphins to 10 fourth-quarter points that erased a pair of three-point deficits.

Starting quarterback Caleb Williams did not play for the Bears in Ben Johnson's head-coaching debut. Tyson Bagent hit 13 of 19 passes for 103 yards, one touchdown and one interception in the first half. Case Keenum went 8-of-10 for 80 yards and two scores in the second half. His 14-yard strike to Jahdae Walker gave the Bears a 24-21 lead with 8:38 to play. Ewers directed a 23-yard drive that set up Jason Sanders' 56-yard field goal with 6:22 left that made it 24-24.

Chargers 27, Saints 13

Quarterback Trey Lance led Los Angeles in passing and rushing, including a 5-yard touchdown run, as the host Chargers improved to 2-0 in the preseason while New Orleans dropped its opener in Inglewood, Calif.

Lance was 7 of 14 for 55 yards through the air and had seven carries for 48 yards as the Chargers rested starter Justin Herbert.



Dolphins running back Alexander Mattison (8) is tackled by Bears defensive back Alex Cook (30) during the second half on Aug. 10 at Soldier Field in Chicago. DAVID BANKS/IMAGN IMAGES

The Saints started Spencer Rattler, who was 7 of 11 for 53 yards, before second-round pick Tyler Shough made his debut. Shough was 15 of 22 for 165 yards, including a 54-yard scoring strike to

Mason Tipton in the third quarter. Shough gave up a 43-yard interception return for a score to rookie Eric Rogers earlier in the quarter.

Rogers made a second interception on the Saints' Jake Haener before

getting hurt in the final minutes. Saints offensive lineman Will Clapp, wide receiver Bub Means and tight end Mason Pline sustained injuries, as did Chargers defensive back Deane Leonard and guard Karsen Barnhart.

L.A. Chargers 27, New Orleans 13				
New Orleans	0	3	7	3 - 13
L.A. Chargers	0	9	8	10 - 27
Second Quarter				
LAC-Cameron Dicker 44 yd FG, 13:30.				
LAC-Trey Lance 5 yd run (failed 2pt Rush), 1:38.				
NO-Blake Grupe 31 yd FG, 0:05.				
Third Quarter				
LAC-Eric Rogers 43 yd interception return (Dalevon Campbell 2pt Pass from Trey Lance), 9:48.				
NO-Mason Tipton 54 yd pass from Tyler Shough (Charlie Smyth kick), 7:14.				
Fourth Quarter				
LAC-Cameron Dicker 40 yd FG, 4:50.				
LAC-Raheim Sanders 11 yd run (Cameron Dicker kick), 1:52.				
NO-Charlie Smyth 50 yd FG, 0:10.				
A-65,049				
First downs	NO	LAC		
	17	15		

Total Net Yards	300	248
Rushes-yards	20-61	34-148
Passing	239	100
Punt Returns	4-25	3-7
Kickoff Returns	4-134	4-89
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-43
Comp-Att-Int	27-41-2	9-20-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	5-20	3-12
Punts	6-40-0	6-48-3
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	3-1
Penalties-Yards	7-56	4-18
Time of Possession	31:08	28:52

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
RUSHING-New Orleans, Rattler 3-22, Miller 6-15, Akers 4-9, Haener 1-7, Edwards-Helaire 4-6, Shough 1-3, Jones Jr. 1-(minus 1). L.A. Chargers, Lance 7-48, Sanders 10-42, Haskins 6-33, Vidal 6-16, Miller-Hines 4-10, Uigalelelei 1-(minus 1).	
PASSING-New Orleans, Shough 15-22-1-165, Rattler 7-11-0-53, Haener 5-8-1-41. L.A. Chargers, Lance 7-14-0-55, Heinicke 1-5-0-8, Uigalelelei	

1-1-0-49.	
RECEIVING-New Orleans, Austin Jr. 4-42, Jones Jr. 4-16, Wilson Jr. 3-37, Yarns 3-15, Welch 3-14, Pettis 2-25, Tipton 1-54, Means 1-12, Cooks 1-10, Edwards-Helaire 1-9, Jacobson 1-9, Miller 1-9, Matavao 1-6, Stoll 1-1. L.A. Chargers, Campbell 3-62, Gadsden II 2-15, Haskins 2-12, Rice 1-12, Sanders 1-11.	
MISSED FIELD GOALS-None.	
Miami 24, Chicago Bears 24	
Miami	0 14 0 10 - 24
Chicago Bears	0 10 7 7 - 24

Second Quarter	
Mia-Alexander Mattison 1 yd run (Jason Sanders kick), 14:11.	
Chi-Maurice Alexander 4 yd pass from Tyson Bagent (Cairo Santos kick), 4:38.	
Mia-Jaylen Wright 7 yd run (Jason Sanders kick), 1:45.	
Chi-Cairo Santos 57 yd FG, 0:00.	
Third Quarter	
Chi-Deion Hankins 4 yd pass from Case Keenum	

(Jonathan Kim kick), 0:19.	
Fourth Quarter	
Mia-Ollie Gordon II 1 yd run (Jason Sanders kick), 11:48.	
Chi-Jahdae Walker 14 yd pass from Case Keenum (Jonathan Kim kick), 8:38.	
Mia-Jason Sanders 56 yd FG, 6:22.	
A-43,537	

First downs	16	22
Total Net Yards	272	295
Rushes-yards	26-101	24-90
Passing	171	205
Punt Returns	2-35	2-18
Kickoff Returns	3-116	3-65
Interceptions Ret.	1-20	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	15-33-0	26-39-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	6-43	3-19
Punts	2-54.5	3-52.3
Fumbles-Lost	4-2	0-0
Penalties-Yards	10-68	7-41

Time of Possession	26:50	33:10
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INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
RUSHING-Miami, Gordon II 8-33, Achane 3-22, Wright 9-16, Wilson 2-16, Mattison 3-8, Washington 1-6. Chicago Bears, Monangai 6-30, Hankins 7-23, Wheeler 7-20, Bagent 1-9, Homer 2-6, Keenum 1-2.	
PASSING-Miami, Ewers 5-18-0-91, Wilson 5-9-0-96, Tagovailoa 5-6-0-27. Chicago Bears, Bagent 13-19-1-103, Keenum 8-10-0-80, Reed 5-10-0-41.	
RECEIVING-Miami, Washington 4-18, Washington 3-53, Ezukanma 2-17, Gordon II 1-39, Westbrook-Ikhine 1-35, Mattison 1-21, Henning 1-18, Myarick 1-8, Wease Jr. 1-5. Chicago Bears, Alexander 4-19, Walker 3-41, Duvernay 3-27, Wilson 3-15, Burden III 2-29, Homer 2-15, Richardson 2-7, Toure 1-26, Wheeler 1-14, Loveland 1-8, Scott 1-8, Jackson III 1-7, Carlson 1-4, Hankins 1-4.	
MISSED FIELD GOALS-None.	

NOTEBOOK

Titans RB sidelined by ankle injury

WIRE REPORTS

Tennessee Titans coach Brian Callahan announced that running back Tyjae Spears will miss "some time" with the ankle injury he sustained in the team's Aug. 9 preseason opener against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, setting him back for the start of the season.

"Spears is expected to miss some time here, a couple of weeks at least," Callahan said the morning after the game. "We're waiting on some final word on a few things, but he will definitely miss some time."

Spears limped off the field and had to be carted into the locker room midway through the second quarter of the game in Tampa Bay, coming up hurt after catching a third-down screen pass. The Tennessean spotted Spears leaving the stadium on crutches and wearing a walking boot on his right foot. The Titans were critical of the field conditions in Tampa before and after the game, citing how clear it was that the grass had just been laid down and that the seams in the sod were visible.

Injuries limited Spears throughout 2024 as well, when he missed five games. Without Spears, veteran Tony Pollard figures to earn the majority of the Titans' top running back reps, with veteran Julius Chestnut and rookie Kaelin Mullings as the likeliest candidates to fill in behind Pollard.

Chiefs' Bush tears Achilles, out for season

Kansas City Chiefs safety Deon Bush is expected to miss the upcoming season after sustaining a torn left Achilles during the team's preseason game against the Arizona Cardinals.

Bush suffered a non-contact injury while attempting to shift directions on



Titans running back Tyjae Spears suffered an ankle injury in the team's Aug. 9 preseason opener against the Buccaneers. STEVE ROBERTS/IMAGN IMAGES

the field during the second quarter of Kansas City's 20-17 loss to Arizona.

"Bush is an Achilles, yes," Chiefs head coach Andy Reid told reporters. "So he's got to have surgery on it; he'll get double checked here. But, I mean, I think we're looking at surgery there. It's too bad because he's really been playing well. He's a great kid, too."

Bush, 31, played in 95 games during his first seven seasons with the Chicago Bears and Kansas City. He has been limited to eight games over his past two seasons with the Chiefs. A two-time Super Bowl champion, Bush has totaled 110 tackles and three interceptions since being selected by the Bears in the fourth round of the 2016 NFL Draft.

49ers signing Wilson to bolster backfield

The San Francisco 49ers are reportedly bringing back a familiar face to an injury-depleted backfield. Jeff Wilson Jr., who spent the first four-plus years of his NFL career in San Francisco before spending the past three seasons in Miami, will re-sign with the 49ers after working out for the team on July 30.

The 2018 undrafted free agent out of North Texas rushed for 1,733 yards and 15 touchdowns with San Francisco, which traded the running back to Miami midway through the 2022 season.

Wilson ran for just 637 yards and three scores in Miami, appearing in only

19 games over the past two years.

The 29-year-old adds some depth for the 49ers, who have seen several running backs succumb to injuries recently.

Raiders sign veteran S Edmunds

The Las Vegas Raiders bolstered their secondary with the signing of veteran safety Terrell Edmunds. Edmunds takes the 90-man roster spot of wide receiver Seth Williams, who was waived with an injury designation.

The 28-year-old Edmunds entered the league as a first-round pick by the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2018. After five years there, Edmunds bounced around to Philadelphia, Tennessee, Jacksonville and then back to Pittsburgh.

The Virginia Tech product has logged 465 combined tackles and 7.5 sacks in his career to go along with six interceptions in 101 games.

In 2024, he posted seven combined tackles in limited action with both the Jaguars and Steelers.

Report: Texans to add S Mills

The Houston Texans are signing free-agent safety Jalen Mills, ESPN reported.

Mills' reported addition to the Texans comes on the heels of C.J..Gardner-Johnson sustaining a right leg injury in practice on Thursday and fellow safety Jimmie Ward being arrested later that evening for violating conditions of his release in a separate legal matter.

Mills, 31, recorded 44 tackles, one interception and one forced fumble in nine games (eight starts) last season with the New York Jets. A seventh-round pick by Philadelphia in 2016, Mills has eight interceptions, 59 passes broken up and 450 tackles in 115 games (91 starts) with the Eagles (2016-20) and Patriots (2021-23) and Jets (2024).

WNBA ROUNDUP

Lynx beat Liberty in Finals rematch

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Kayla McBride scored a game-high 18 points as the Minnesota Lynx won their fifth straight game, defeating the host New York Liberty 83-71 on Sunday afternoon.

The Lynx, who own the WNBA's best record at 27-5, used a 14-0 third-quarter run to take control.

Alanna Smith approached a triple-double for Minnesota with eight points, a game-high nine rebounds and seven assists.

Courtney Williams added 14 points and seven assists for the Lynx. But the Lynx took off in the third quarter when Williams had foul trouble and was replaced by fellow point guard DiJonai Carrington, who finished with 15 points.

New York, which beat Minnesota in last year's WNBA Finals, had its three-game win streak snapped.

New York got 14 points from Natasha Cloud, 11 each from Jonquel Jones and Emma Meesseman and 10 points from Sabrina Ionescu. The Liberty also got help from reserves Marine Johannes (10 points) and Isabelle Harrison (nine).

Mystics 91, Wings 78

Kiki Iriafen scored 23 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead a dominant Washington Mystics paint performance in a Washington win over the Dallas Wings at Arlington, Texas.

The Mystics (14-17) snapped their four-game losing streak, while the Wings (8-24) have now dropped five games in a row.

Star rookie guard Paige Bueckers, who leads Dallas in points (18.6) and assists (5.4) per game, missed the team's 88-77 home loss to the New York Liberty on Friday with a back injury. She returned with 17 points on 5-for-9 shooting and three assists

Mystics rookie All-Star guard Sonia Citron tallied 18 points, six assists and five rebounds.



Lynx guard Kayla McBride (21) drives past Liberty forward Leonie Fiebich during the second half at Barclays Center. JOHN JONES/IMAGN IMAGES

Dream 74, Mercury 66

Brionna Jones scored 15 points and added 11 rebounds and Allisha Gray recorded 10 of her 17 points in the fourth quarter as the Atlanta Dream finished a sweep of the season series with a victory over the host Phoenix Mercury.

Naz Hillmon had 13 points and 14 rebounds and Jordin Canada had 13 points for the Dream, who have won five in a row and seven of eight.

Alyssa Thomas totaled 21 points and eight rebounds and DeWanna Bonner tallied 16 points off the bench for the Mercury, who had won three straight.

Sparks 94, Storm 91

Dearica Hamby turned a tie-breaking layup into a three-point play with 5.6 seconds remaining, lifting the Los Angeles Sparks to a tense victory over the visiting Seattle Storm.

After a pair of layups by Brittney Sykes had produced the fifth and sixth ties of the fourth quarter, the latter at 91-all on a layup with 12.7 seconds remaining, the Sparks got the ball to Hamby and she was fouled at the rim by Dominique Malonga while dropping in her go-ahead shot.

The win allowed the Sparks (15-16) to move within a half-game of the Storm (16-16) and Golden State Valkyries (15-15) in the WNBA standings. Those three teams are dueling the Washington Mystics (14-17) for the final two playoff positions.

Aces 94, Sun 86

A'ja Wilson's 30 points and career high-matching 20 rebounds helped the Las Vegas Aces to their fourth straight win with a defeat of the visiting Connecticut Sun.

A three-time league Most Valuable Player including last season, Wilson posted her third double-double in the last four games and third consecutive outing with at least 27 points. With 36 seconds remaining in the game, she grabbed her 20th board to match the personal record she established on July 10, 2024, at Seattle. Her Las Vegas teammates led the home crowd in applause for the milestone.

Wilson's heroics bolstered the Aces on a day when three of the five starters failed to score more than seven points. Jackie Young was the exception with 21 points on 9-of-14 shooting from the floor.

Young also dished six assists to match Chelsea Gray's game-high total.

Marina Mabrey led Connecticut with 22 points.

Washington 91, Dallas 78	
WASHINGTON (91)	
Citron 7-10 3-4 18, Iriafen 9-14 5-6 23, Dolson 4-5 4-14, Melbourne 3-5 2-8, Sutton 0-4 0-0 0, Clark 3-5 2-3 9, Engstler 4-9 1-2 11, Sheldon 2-6 4-5 8, Olsen 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 32-59 21-26 91.	
DALLAS (78)	
Jones 3-9 5-7 11, Ogunbowale 4-10 4-4 12, Geiselsoder 2-7 4-4 10, Berger 0-5 0-2 0, Bueckers 5-9 5-17, Hines-Allen 2-7 3-4 8, Siegrist 3-8 2-2 9, Yueru 0-2 0-0 0, James 1-3 0-0 2, Quinerly 3-3 1-1 9, Miller 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 23-63 24-29 78.	
WAS 18 12 33 28 - 91	DAL 23 18 17 20 - 78
3-Point Goals: Washington 6-15 (Dolson 2-2, Engstler 2-2, Clark 1-1, Citron 1-2, Iriafen 0-1, Olsen 0-1, Melbourne 0-1, Sutton 0-2, Sheldon 0-3), Dallas 8-23 (Quinerly 2-2, Bueckers 2-4, Geiselsoder 2-5, Hines-Allen 1-2, Siegrist 1-2, Berger 0-1, Jones 0-1, James 0-1, Yueru 0-2, Ogunbowale 0-3). Fouled Out: Washington (Sutton). Rebounds: Washington 34 (Iriafen 10), Dallas 26 (Hines-Allen 11). Assists: Washington 21 (Citron 6), Dallas 18 (Hines-Allen 5). Total Fouls: Washington 28, Dallas 26. A: 6,152 (0)	

Minnesota 83, New York 71	
MINNESOTA (83)	
Carleton 1-4 0-0 3, Smith 3-6 0-0 8, Shepard 3-4 0-2 6, McBride 6-12 2-2 18, Williams 7-18 0-0 14, Carrington 6-10 1-2 15, Kliandikova 2-5 2-2 6, Hiedeman 6-11 0-0 13. Totals 34-70 5-8 83.	
NEW YORK (71)	
Fiebich 2-5 0-0 6, Meesseman 5-11 0-0 11, Jones 4-7 3-4 11, Cloud 6-11 0-0 14, Ionescu 4-15 2-2 10, Johannes 3-8 1-2 10, Harrison 4-6 1-1 9, Talbot 0-3 0-0 0, Gardner 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 28-66 7-9 71.	
MIN 25 11 30 17 - 83	NYL 24 14 19 14 - 71
3-Point Goals: Minnesota 10-21 (McBride 4-7, Smith 2-3, Carrington 2-3, Hiedeman 1-2, Carleton 1-3, Kliandikova 0-1, Williams 0-2), New York 8-24 (Johannes 3-7, Fiebich 2-3, Cloud 2-6, Meesseman 1-1, Jones 0-1, Ionescu 0-6). Fouled Out: None. Rebounds: Minnesota 32 (Smith 9), New York 33 (Cloud, Jones 6). Assists: Minnesota 24 (Smith, Williams 7), New York 21 (Cloud, Ionescu, Jones 5). Total Fouls: Minnesota 11, New York 8. A: 17,343 (17,732)	

Atlanta 74, Phoenix 66	
ATLANTA (74)	
Gray 6-12 4-7 17, Hillmon 3-8 4-4 13, Jones 6-12 2-2 15, Canada 5-11 1-2 13, Paopao 2-4 0-0 5, Caldwell 2-8 0-0 5, Howard 0-7 4-4 4, Griner 1-3 0-0 2, Coffey 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-65 15-19 74.	
PHOENIX (66)	
Sabally 3-12 0-0 7, Thomas 9-14 3-4 21, Mack 1-5 0-0 2, Akoa Makani 1-7 0-0 3, Copper 3-14 3-3 9, Bonner 4-8 6-6 16, Whitcomb 1-3 0-1 3, Westbeld 2-6 0-0 5. Totals 24-69 12-14 66.	
ATL 24 15 14 21 - 74	PHO 19 15 16 16 - 66
3-Point Goals: Atlanta 9-32 (Hillmon 3-7, Canada 2-3, Jones 1-1, Paopao 1-3, Gray 1-6, Caldwell 1-7, Howard 0-5), Phoenix 6-23 (Bonner 2-4, Whitcomb 1-2, Akoa Makani 1-3, Westbeld 1-4, Sabally 1-6, Copper 0-4). Fouled Out: None. Rebounds: Atlanta 38 (Hillmon 13), Phoenix 34 (Thomas 8). Assists: Atlanta 20 (Gray 5), Phoenix 16 (Thomas 5). Total Fouls: Atlanta 15, Phoenix 19. A: 13,953 (9,510)	

L.A. Sparks 94, Seattle 91	
SEATTLE (91)	
Ogwumike 5-12 4-4 15, Williams 2-5 0-0 5, Magbegor 1-5 0-0 2, Diggins 7-18 0-0 17, Sykes 11-21 2-2 27, Malonga 9-12 1-2 20, Wheeler 2-4 1-1 5, Mitchell 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 37-78 8-9 91.	
L.A. SPARKS (94)	
Hamby 8-13 3-3 19, Jackson 3-12 1-1 9, Stevens 6-8 0-0 15, Allemand 2-4 0-0 5, Plum 6-12 5-5 20, Burrell 3-7 0-0 8, Vanloo 1-2 1-2 4, Brink 5-6 2-2 14. Totals 34-64 12-13 94.	
SEA 26 19 24 22 - 91	LAS 14 32 22 26 - 94
3-Point Goals: Seattle 9-24 (Diggins 3-6, Sykes 3-7, Malonga 1-1, Williams 1-3, Ogumike 1-4, Wheeler 0-1, Mitchell 0-1, Magbegor 0-1), L.A. Sparks 14-27 (Stevens 3-3, Plum 3-7, Brink 2-2, Burrell 2-3, Jackson 2-5, Vanloo 1-2, Allemand 1-3, Hamby 0-2). Fouled Out: None. Rebounds: Seattle 32 (Malonga 11), L.A. Sparks 30 (Stevens 8). Assists: Seattle 23 (Diggins 6), L.A. Sparks 25 (Allemand 8). Total Fouls: Seattle 17, L.A. Sparks 11. A: 11,796 (12,947)	

Las Vegas 94, Connecticut 86	
CONNECTICUT (86)	
Mabrey 8-16 1-1 22, Morrow 3-7 0-0 7, Charles 4-8 0-0 8, Hartley 3-6 0-0 9, Lacan 6-12 0-0 13, Rivers 7-10 1-1 17, Edwards 2-5 0-0 4, Nelson-Ododa 3-5 0-0 6, Peters 0-1 0-0 0, Allen 0-0 0-0 0, Toure 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-70 2-2 86.	
LAS VEGAS (94)	
Bell 1-3 0-0 3, Wilson 13-25 6-6 32, Smith 2-5 2-5 6, Gray 2-5 2-4 7, Young 9-14 1-1 21, Loyd 3-10 5-5 12, Evans 4-5 0-0 10, Gustafson 1-2 0-0 3, Nye 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 35-71 16-21 94.	
CON 31 14 17 24 - 86	LVA 27 18 25 24 - 94
3-Point Goals: Connecticut 12-31 (Mabrey 5-13, Hartley 3-3, Rivers 2-4, Morrow 1-3, Lacan 1-6, Charles 0-1, Peters 0-1), Las Vegas 8-25 (Evans 2-2, Young 2-6, Gustafson 1-2, Gray 1-3, Bell 1-3, Loyd 1-5, Wilson 0-1, Smith 0-1, Nye 0-2). Fouled Out: None. Rebounds: Connecticut 23 (Charles 5), Las Vegas 40 (Wilson 20). Assists: Connecticut 22 (Lacan 5), Las Vegas 24 (Gray, Young 6). Total Fouls: Connecticut 20, Las Vegas 12. A: 10,407 (12,000)	

NASCAR

Continued from Page 1NS

Added the No. 88 driver, who owns 22 playoff points, "We'll have a proper crack (in the playoffs)."

Chevrolet scored its fifth win in the past seven races while Ford remained winless through its past 10 starts.

Trackhouse withdrew its third entry, the No. 87 Chevrolet of Zilisch, after the 19-year-old road racing standout broke his collarbone in a fall from his car after winning Saturday's Xfinity event.

After earning his second career pole on a road course, Ryan Blaney paced the field during Stage 1 with van Gisbergen and Briscoe right behind in the same order they qualified for the Cup Series' fifth of six stops on road racing layouts.

However, early pitting before the first segment ended allowed leader Buescher, Alex Bowman and Ryan Preece - 16th, 15th and 17th, respectively, around the 16-car cut line for the playoffs - to secure the top three spots on Lap 20.

In Stage 2, van Gisbergen, who notched road victories at Mexico City, Chicago and Sonoma after failing to win in Austin, Tex., in early March, began to flex his muscle and started the pitting with three laps left in the stage.

Turning over the lead that late allowed Blaney to stay out and earn the maximum stage points as John Hunter Nemechek wrecked into the outer barrier as the segment concluded. Byron and Bell finished second and third.

van Gisbergen was the class of the field through the middle third of the 90-lap race, restarting 12th at halfway, moving to third within five laps and passing leader Blaney on Lap 54.

AUTO RACING INDYCAR SERIES

Palou clinches 4th series title

Nathan Brown

Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

PORTLAND, OR - Alex Palou put to bed what can only be deemed one of the most dominant championship performances the IndyCar Series has ever seen, capturing his fourth career season championship with two races still left to contest before the 2025 season is complete.

Will Power, the 44-year-old veteran whose future with Team Penske is uncertain, won the Bitnile.com Grand Prix of Portland by 1.6 seconds over Christian Lundgaard. Power earned his 45th career win and first since last year's Portland race.

By virtue of his third-place finish at Portland International Raceway on Sunday, Aug. 10, Palou increased his cushion over Pato O'Ward to 151 points.

O'Ward entered the weekend as Palou's only mathematical challenger started on the pole but had a power failure after the restart on Lap 21 causing him to go eight laps down. With only a maximum of 108 points to be earned over the final two race weekends at the Milwaukee Mile (Aug. 23-24) and Nashville Superspeedway (Aug. 30-31), O'Ward no longer holds any chance to pull off what for weeks would've been maybe the most miraculous championship comeback the sport had seen.

A title fight the 26-year-old Mexican driver has frequently deemed "over" recently, always accompanied with a chuckle, is now formally so, with Palou



Alex Palou clinched his fourth career IndyCar Series championship with two races to go. MARK J. REBILAS/IMAGN IMAGES

going wire to wire for his fourth IndyCar title in five seasons, all since joining Chip Ganassi Racing for the start of the 2021 IndyCar campaign off the back of a 2020 rookie season that even days ahead of signing with CGR had left him uncertain if his career in IndyCar would last beyond a single season.

The 28-year-old Spaniard won that 2021 season opener and was off to the

races, like he was this season.

Unlike that debut campaign with Ganassi, or any major American open-wheel season of any kind since A.J. Foyt's in 1979, Palou would go on to win five of the first six races of the season, a feat matched only three times in the sport's history (Foyt in 1964 and '79, and Al Unser Sr. in 1971). And in only one of those spectacular seasons, Foyt's 1964 campaign, did one of those drivers ride their early hot streak to not only an Indianapolis 500 victory as well as a championship, as Palou has now done. It's the first time in 15 years (Dario Franchitti, 2010) that a driver has paired a championship with a chance to kiss the bricks in the same calendar year.

Still with two races left, it's unclear whether Palou may match Foyt's all-time series mark of 10 wins in a single season (a record matched, but not beaten, by Unser Sr. in 1970). But already with eight victories, it makes Palou's 2025 season, and his six-year resume, already one of the best the sport has ever seen.

Palou is now just the third driver to win three consecutive championships in series history, joining Ted Horn (1946 to 1948), Sebastien Bourdais (four straight in 2004 to 2007) and Dario Franchitti (2009-11). Along with Franchitti (2007 to 2011), who won four consecutive IndyCar championships in which he competed after taking 2008 off to race in NASCAR, Bourdais and Foyt (1960 to 1964), the Ganassi driver is also one of only four to win four titles in five consecutive seasons.

MLB

SUNDAY’S ROUNDUP

Walk-off blast caps Brewers’ sweep of Mets

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Isaac Collins led off the ninth inning with a walk-off homer for the red-hot Milwaukee Brewers, who stormed back from a five-run deficit to stun the reeling New York Mets, 7-6, and sweep their three-game series.

The Brewers have won nine straight and 12 of 13 to improve their MLB-leading record to 73-44. The Mets, who squandered leads in all three games this weekend, lost their seventh straight and fell for the 11th time in 12 games as their lead over the Cincinnati Reds for the final National League wild-card spot dropped to 1½ games.

The Brewers, who trailed 5-0, began their comeback when William Contreras homered to lead off the fourth before Joey Ortiz laced a two-run single. Pete Alonso had an RBI double in the fifth for the Mets before Contreras added a homer in the fifth, a two-run shot, to cut the lead to 6-5.

Astros 7, Yankees 1

Jason Alexander took a no-hit bid into the sixth inning and pitched six scoreless innings as the visiting Houston Astros took an early lead on Max Fried en route to a victory over the struggling New York Yankees.

Making his 15th career start and fourth for Houston, Alexander (3-1) did not allow a hit until Ben Rice lined a one-out single. Five pitches after Rice’s hit, Alexander used his sweeper to induce a double play by Aaron Judge.

Alexander had a lead before taking the mound as Jose Altuve homered on the first pitch he saw from Fried (12-5). Altuve hammered a fastball into the left-field seats for his 250th career homer.

Diamondbacks 13, Rockies 6

Adrian Del Castillo had three hits, including his first homer of the season, and the Arizona Diamondbacks set a franchise record with nine consecutive two-out hits in an eight-run fifth for a victory over the Colorado Rockies in Phoenix.

Ketel Marte had two hits and three RBIs and Geraldo Perdomo had two hits to extend his hitting streak to seven games for the Diamondbacks, who led 12-3 after five and finished off a three-game sweep. Arizona has won six of its last eight.

Brenton Doyle had two hits and his second homer in as many games and Ezequiel Tovar and Braxton Fulford had three hits for the Rockies, who lost their seventh straight.

Mariners 6, Rays 3

Cal Raleigh hit his major league-leading 45th home run of the season and Josh Naylor also went deep as the Seattle Mariners held on to defeat the visiting Tampa Bay Rays for their seventh consecutive victory.

Ha-Seong Kim doubled and homered for the Rays, who dropped their third game in a row.

Seattle starter Bryan Woo (10-6) pitched at least six innings for the 23rd straight time to open the season. The right-hander allowed three runs on seven hits, walked one and matched his career-high with nine strikeouts.

Nationals 8, Giants 0

James Wood had a pair of two-run doubles out of the leadoff spot, MacKenzie Gore combined with three relievers for a three-hitter and the Washington Nationals spoiled Justin Verlander’s strikeout milestone with a thumping of the host San Francisco Giants.

Making his 546th career start, Verlander (1-9) began the day three strikeouts shy of becoming the 10th in major league history to reach 3,500 in his career. He did not take long to reach that mark, as he struck out three in the first inning and earned a standing ovation from the big crowd.

The rest of the afternoon’s highlights belonged to the Nationals, who scored four times in the second inning and never looked back en route to a second win in the three-game series. Wood’s first double opened the scoring with two outs, after which CJ Abrams bombed his 15th home run of the season for the 4-0 lead.

Phillies 4, Rangers 2

Edmundo Sosa hit a solo home run and Bryce Harper had an RBI double as



Brewers left fielder Isaac Collins gets a postgame dunk after hitting a walk-off home run against the Mets at American Family Field. BENNY SIEU/IMAGN IMAGES

the Philadelphia Phillies beat the slumping Texas Rangers to sweep a three-game interleague series in Arlington, Texas.

Sosa’s solo homer in the fifth tied the game 2-2. Philadelphia took the lead in the frame when Bryson Stott singled, stole second, and scored on Weston Wilson’s hit off Rangers starter Patrick Corbin (6-8).

Joc Pederson staked the Rangers to the lead with a two-run home run in the first inning that allowed Corey Seager, who had walked, to score ahead of him.

Reds 14, Pirates 8

Spencer Steer, Miguel Andujar and Noelvi Marte all hit homers and combined to drive in 11 runs to help the Cincinnati Reds outlast the host Pittsburgh Pirates in a shootout win.

Marte followed up his three-double performance on Saturday with three more hits, including a three-run home run off Pirates rookie reliever Cam Sanders with the Reds leading 9-8 in the top of the ninth inning.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa finished with three hits, and four other Pirates hitters had two apiece.

Athletics 3, Orioles 2

Willie MacIver delivered a two-run double in the ninth inning to lift the Athletics past the host Baltimore Orioles.

Two of the Athletics’ six hits came in the final inning. Elvis Alvarado (1-0) notched his first major-league victory by logging the last 1½ innings without allowing a hit or run.

Orioles starter Cade Povich turned in six strong innings, Jordan Westburg homered and Coby Mayo doubled in a tie-breaking run, but those contributions weren’t enough. Baltimore was limited to five hits.

White Sox 6, Guardians 4

Lenyn Sosa and Colson Montgomery each hit first-inning homers to help the Chicago White Sox avert a three-game sweep by beating the visiting Cleveland Guardians.

Davis Martin (4-9) allowed three runs over five innings for Chicago, which led 5-0 after three innings and

held on to snap its six-game losing streak. Grant Taylor retired the Guardians in order in the ninth for his fourth save of the year. Cleveland had its five-game winning streak come to an end despite the efforts of Kyle Manzardo, who hit a pair of solo homers.

Twins 5, Royals 3, 11 innings

Luke Keaschall hit a walk-off two-run homer in the bottom of the 11th inning to lift the Minnesota Twins to a win over the Kansas City Royals in Minneapolis.

Teammates lined up to exchange hugs and high fives with Keaschall, whose opposite-field blast to right gave Minnesota the series win. Keaschall finished 3-for-5 with a double, a homer and two RBIs.

Vinnie Pasquantino hit a two-run homer for Kansas City, which could not hold on to a one-run lead heading into the bottom of the eighth. Adam Frazier went 4-for-5 with an RBI while Maikel Garcia reached base five times with two singles, a double and a pair of walks.

Braves 7, Marlins 1

Matt Olson, Marcell Ozuna and Michael Harris II all homered for the Atlanta Braves, who defeated the visiting Miami Marlins.

Jurickson Profar went 2-for-5 with an RBI and scored twice for the Braves, who claimed four of the five games against the Marlins in the four-day series. The Marlins jumped ahead in the top of the second inning thanks to Liam Hicks’ RBI single, which scored Derek Hill after he clubbed a two-out double to extend the inning.

Tigers 9, Angels 5

Kerry Carpenter drove in four runs, including a three-run homer, and the host Detroit Tigers rolled to a win over the Los Angeles Angels.

Riley Greene knocked in three runs, including a two-run homer, as Detroit took two of three games during the weekend series. Gleyber Torres reached base three times while scoring twice and driving in another run.

Nolan Schanuel and Luis Rengifo each hit two-run homers for Los Angeles.

Padres 6, Red Sox 2

Dylan Cease took a shutout into the seventh inning, while Luis Arraez delivered a two-run double to lead the San Diego Padres to a win over the visiting Boston Red Sox.

In winning consecutive starts for the first time this year, Cease (5-10) permitted just four hits and two runs, walking two and striking out seven. It marked the first time since July 18 that Cease had pitched past the fifth inning.

Brayan Bello (8-6) absorbed the loss as he allowed five runs off six hits and three walks in 5½ innings, whiffing seven. All the runs came with two outs, including the pair Arraez knocked in to initiate scoring in the bottom of the third.

Blue Jays 5, Dodgers 4

Ernie Clement hit the first pitch of the ninth inning over the fence in left and the visiting Toronto Blue Jays avoided a three-game sweep by the Los Angeles Dodgers with a victory.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Addison Barger hit back-to-back solo home runs in the eighth inning to erase a one-run deficit for the Blue Jays.

Shohei Ohtani and Freddie Freeman homered for the Dodgers, who were trying to sweep a team with a winning record for the first time this season.

Cardinals 3, Cubs 2

Nolan Gorman atoned for a costly throwing error by producing the game-winning RBI as the St. Louis Cardinals edged the visiting Chicago Cubs.

Pedro Pages hit a two-run homer for the Cardinals, who have won three of their last four games.

Cardinals pitcher Sonny Gray (11-5) allowed two runs, one earned, on five hits in seven innings. He struck out seven and walked one.

Riley O’Brien retired two batters in the eighth inning, then JoJo Romero got the last four outs for his third save.

Matt Shaw hit a two-run homer for the Cubs, who lost for the fourth time in their last six games. Cubs pitcher Shota Imanaga (8-5) allowed three runs on four hits in 6½ innings. He struck out nine and walked none.

MLB

SUNDAY'S BOX SCORES

St. Louis 3, Chicago Cubs 2												
CHCs.....	000	020	000	-	2	8	0					
St. Louis.....	002	000	10x	-	3	4	1					
Chicago Cubs	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.					
Busch 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.263					
Suzuki dh	3	0	1	0	1	1	.251					
Tucker rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.271					
Kelly c	3	0	0	0	1	0	.272					
Crow-Armstrong cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.259					
b-Turner ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.222					
Happ lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.231					
a-Berti pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.210					
Hoerner 2b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.291					
Swanson ss	4	1	2	0	0	0	.252					
Shaw 3b	4	1	1	2	0	2	.228					
Totals	33	2	8	2	3	8						
St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.					
Winn ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.267					
Herrera dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.296					
Contreras 1b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.258					
Burlinson lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.280					
Hampson lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.151					
Walker rf	3	1	1	0	0	1	.241					
Gorman 3b	3	0	1	1	0	1	.228					
Saggses 2b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.241					
Pages c	3	1	2	1	0	1	.271					
Scott lf cf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.221					
Totals	28	3	4	3	0	11						
a-ran for Happ in 9th. b-flied out for Crow-Armstrong in 9th.												
E: Gorman. HR: Shaw (9), Pages (8). RBI: Shaw 2 (30), Gorman (34), Pages 2 (35).												
CS: Berti (3). SB: Crow-Armstrong (30), Walker (6). Runners left in scoring position: Chicago Cubs 3 (Kelly, Crow-Armstrong, Shaw), St. Louis 1 (Saggses). RISP: St. Louis 1 for 2. GDP: Swanson. DP: St. Louis 1.												

Chicago Cubs	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Imanaga L, 8-5	6.2	4	3	3	0	9	92	3.19
Keller	1.1	0	0	0	0	2	15	2.63
St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gray W, 11-5	7.0	5	2	1	1	7	92	4.06
O'Brien H, 4-4	0.2	0	0	0	1	1	13	1.74
Romero S, 3	1.1	3	0	0	1	0	26	1.98

Inherited runners: Keller 1-1, Romero 1-1. Umpires: HP-Jimenez, 1B-May, 2B-Ortiz, 3B-Miller, T: 2:29. A: 30,540 (44,383).

Toronto 5, L.A. Dodgers 4												
Toronto.....	100	001	021	-	5	9	0					
LAD.....	210	000	010	-	4	10	0					
Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.					
Lukes rf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.260					
d-Kirk ph-c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.296					
Bichette ss	4	2	1	0	1	1	.298					
Guerrero Jr. 1b	4	1	2	2	0	1	.296					
Barger 3b	4	1	1	1	0	2	.267					
France dh	4	0	0	1	0	2	.259					
Varsho cf	2	0	0	0	2	1	.233					
Clement 2b	4	1	1	1	0	2	.289					
Loperfido lf	2	0	1	0	0	1	.382					
a-Straw ph-rf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.251					
Heinemann c	2	0	1	0	1	1	.339					
Schneider lf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.242					
Totals	34	5	9	5	4	14						
L.A. Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.					
Ohtani dh	4	1	2	1	1	2	.284					
Betts ss	5	0	2	0	1	1	.240					
Smith c	3	0	0	0	2	1	.310					
Freeman 1b	3	1	1	3	2	0	.305					
Hernandez rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.254					
c-Dean pr-cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000					
e-Conforto ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.190					
Pages cf-rf-cf	3	0	1	0	2	1	.278					
Muncy 3b	3	0	0	0	2	0	.261					
Rojas 2b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.240					
b-Freeland ph-2b	0	1	0	0	1	0	.222					
Call lf-rf	0	0	0	0	1	2	.269					
Totals	32	4	10	4	13	10						

a-struck out for Loperfido in 7th. b-walked for Rojas in 8th. c-ran for Hernandez in 7th. d-grounded out for Lukes in 7th. e-fouled out for Dean in 8th. 2B: Guerrero Jr. (28), Loperfido (3), Hernandez (23), Rojas (9). HR: Guerrero Jr. (19), Barger (18), Clement (8), Ohtani (4), Freeman (4). RBI: Guerrero Jr. 2 (64), Barger (59), France (46), Clement (36), Ohtani (77), Freeman 3 (66). CS: Ohtani (5), Betts (2). SB: Ohtani (17), Pages (11). S: Freeland, Call. Runners left in scoring position: Toronto 3 (Lukes 2, France), L.A. Dodgers 8 (Betts 2, Hernandez 2, Conforto 2, Muncy, Rojas). RISP: Toronto 1 for 5, L.A. Dodgers 1 for 10. GDP: Lukes, Clement, Smith, DP: Toronto 1, L.A. Dodgers 2.

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lauer	3.0	6	3	3	4	4	71	2.82
Varland	12.2	20	0	0	0	28	1.98	
Fisher	0.1	0	0	0	1	1	11	2.25
Dominguez	0.1	0	0	0	1	1	23	3.88
Little	1.1	1	0	0	0	12	3.16	
Rodriguez H, 13	0.2	0	1	1	2	10	3.21	
Hoffman W, 7-4 BS, 5	0.2	0	0	0	5	0	33	4.50
Fluharty S, 1	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	12	5.15
L.A. Dodgers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Glasnow	5.2	4	2	2	4	8	86	3.08
Banda H, 8	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	4	3.48
Wrobleksi H, 1	0.2	1	0	0	0	2	11	3.88
Casparius H, 11	0.3	1	0	0	0	2	40	6.33
Treinen BS, 2	1.0	2	2	2	0	17	4.63	
Vesia L, 2-2	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	17	2.61

Inherited runners: Fisher 1-1, Little 2-2, Hoffman 2-1, Fluharty 3-3, Banda 1-1, Casparius 1-1. IBB: Lauer (1), Rodriguez (2). Umpires: HP-Barber, 1B-Hoye, 2B-Libka, 3B-Reyburn. T: 3:16. A: 41,557 (56,000).

Washington 8, San Francisco 0												
Washington 040	101	200	-	8	17	0						
SF.....	000	000	000	-	0	3	1					
Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.					
Wood lf	5	2	0	0	2	2	.262					
Hassel II rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.250					
Abrams ss	5	2	2	2	0	1	.268					
Bell dh	4	0	3	0	1	0	.235					
DeJong 2b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.243					
Lowie 1b	4	0	3	0	0	1	.216					
Adams c	5	2	2	0	0	1	.187					
Lile lf-rf	5	2	2	0	0	0	.253					
Houss 3b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.240					
Young cf	5	2	1	0	0	0	.227					
Totals	44	8	17	8	1	8						
San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.					
Ramos lf	4	0	1	0	1	0	.273					
McCray lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.143					
Devers 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.231					
Adames ss	3	0	0	0	1	2	.229					
Flores dh	4	0	0	0	1	0	.246					
Chapman 3b	3	0	0	0	2	0	.230					
Schmitt 2b	3	0	0	0	2	0	.239					
Lee cf	3	0	0	0	2	0	.256					
Bailey c	3	0	0	0	2	0	.217					
Kintner c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.173					
Gilbert rf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.000					
Totals	30	0	3	0	1	15						

E: Chapman. 2B: Wood 2 (25), Bell (12), Lile (10). HR: Abrams (15). RBI: Wood 4 (77), Abrams 2 (45), DeJong 2 (12). SB: Young (12). Runners left in scoring position: Washington 5 (Abrams, DeJong, Lowe 3). RISP: Washington 5 for 12. GDP: Adams. DP: San Francisco 1.

Arizona 130, Colorado 6									
Colorado	00	021	00	300	—	6	16	0	
Arizona	000	310	080	10x	—	13	17	0	
Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Aug.		
Moniak lf	5	0	0	0	0	2	262		
Tovar ss	4	2	3	0	0	0	284		
b-Schuck ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	1	207		
Goodman dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	278		
a-Nola ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	184		
Bernalist lb	5	0	1	0	0	0	333		
Arborek 3b	5	1	2	2	0	0	364		
Doyle cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	232		
Fernandez rf	3	1	2	0	0	1	234		
Fulford c	4	1	3	0	0	0	259		
Amador 2b	4	0	2	2	0	0	187		
Totals	40	6	16	6	1	5			

GOLF

LIV GOLF



Dean Burmester celebrates after winning the individual championship at LIV Golf Chicago at Bolingbrook Golf Club. MELISSA TAMEZ/IMAGN IMAGES

Burmester wins Chicago event in 3-way playoff

Todd Kelly
Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

The threesome making up the final group at the final day at LIV Golf Chicago were each seeking their first win of 2025. One of them, a rookie, was seeking his first professional win anywhere.

Dean Burmester began the final round with a two-shot lead over a pair of Spaniards, Jon Rahm and Josele Ballester.

“Going to have to brush up on my Spanish,” Burmester quipped after learning who he’d be playing with Sunday.

It would end up being those three in a playoff, after Burmester made a clutch par on the 18th hole, his last in the shotgun start format. He would only shoot even par on Sunday but his 9-under finish sent him to bonus golf and on the first playoff hole, Burmester would be the only one to make birdie, making quick work of the playoff.

“This has been emotional,” Burmester said on the telecast moments after winning. “Since kind of before Virginia, I’ve been going through a bit of a rough time, personal stuff, and I’ve just been grinding and trying to get better. I think about my kids and my wife back home, and I’m just trying to do the best I can for them. My wife finished an ultra marathon the week of West Virginia. That Sunday I was on my phone watching her, and that truly gave me an inspiration to kind of. ...if she can do that, she can run 90 whatever kilometers in a day, nine and a half hours or whatever it was, then I can do anything.”

Burmester banked the \$4 million first-place prize.

Stinger GC would then win the team title in a playoff, ending a 31-event LIV team drought.

Chicago was the second-to-last regular-season event for LIV. Next week it’s the LIV Golf Indianapolis event, followed by the LIV Golf Team Championship in Michigan.

PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS



Steve Allan holds up the Boeing Classic trophy after winning the tournament at The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge on Aug. 10 in Snoqualmie, Washington. STEPHEN BRASHEAR/GETTY IMAGES

Allan mounts comeback to win Boeing Classic

Todd Kelly
Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

Steve Allan overcame a four-shot deficit to start the final round Sunday to win the 2025 Boeing Classic. Allan’s 7-under 65 at The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge near Seattle was enough to overcome 36-hole leader Stewart Cink, who closed with a 2-under 70.

Allan won for the third time this season on the PGA Tour Champions. That ties him with Angel Cabrera and puts him one back of Miguel Angel Jimenez, who has four wins in 2025.

Allan’s final round was bogey free and showcased seven birdies, including a final one on the par-5 18th hole to

finish at 15 under.

After signing his scorecard, he played the waiting game to see if that number would hold up.

Cink birdied the 15th and 16th holes and made par on the 17th to get to 14 under but found a greenside bunker on the 18th hole and could do no better than par at the last.

Darren Clarke and Ernie Els — who started his week throwing out the ceremonial first pitch before a Mariners game on Tuesday — shot matching Sunday 66s to tie for third at 13 under. Alex Cejka was solo fifth at 12 under.

Charles Schwab Cup standings leader Miguel Angel Jimenez shot 71 and finished T14.

Golf

Continued from Page 1NS

The top 50 in the FedEx Cup points standings advance to the second round of the playoffs, the BMW Championship, which will be held at Caves Valley Golf Club at Owings Mills, Md., beginning Thursday.

Rose won for the 12th time on the PGA Tour and became the first winner on Tour age 40 or older this season. His last Tour win came at the 2023 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

“When I bring my best, I know I’m good enough to play and compete,” Rose said. “And to now win against the best players in the world, it’s a very gratifying day for me and a lot of hard work coming to fruition.”

Rose began his charge in regulation shortly after a bogey at the par-4 12th hole to move up the leaderboard. It allowed him to pass Scheffler, who shared the lead for several holes on the back nine.

Rose didn’t play any practice rounds before the start of the St. Jude and he skipped the Wednesday pro-am because of illness, but the absences didn’t affect his play.

Rose had a chance to win on the 72nd hole, but his 13-foot birdie putt slid past the hole forcing the playoff with the 34-year-old Spaun. He had the exact same putt on the first playoff hole.

Spaun thought he had a solid opportunity to extend the playoff to a fourth hole with a 7-foot birdie attempt.

“It (stinks) to miss a 7-footer, but tricky read and I pulled it a little bit,” Spaun said. “But yeah, I hung in there the best I could, and he beat me to the hole first. Just wasn’t meant to be.”

For Fleetwood, it also wasn’t meant to be. He once again was denied the opportunity to win for the first time in 15 years on the PGA Tour. Entering the final round with a one-stroke lead, he was unable to hold a two-stroke lead with three holes to play. He had a par-bogey-par finish.

“I’m obviously disappointed,” Fleetwood said. “But I was next to somebody (Rose) who played unbelievable golf down the stretch.”



J.J. Spaun putts on the ninth green during the final round of the FedEx St. Jude Championship. STEVE ROBERTS/IMAGN IMAGES

TENNIS

Zverev rolls into 3rd round at Cincinnati

REUTERS

German third seed Alexander Zverev swatted aside home hope Nishesh Basavareddy 6-3, 6-3 in the second round of the Cincinnati Open on Sunday, as Canadian Open winner Ben Shelton advanced when Argentina's Camilo Ugo Carabelli retired injured.

The 2021 champion Zverev never faced a break and closed out the evening program on the Grandstand with one of a dozen aces across the match, as he tuned out the rowdy U.S. crowd that was squarely in his opponent's corner.

He will meet American Brandon Nakashima in the third round.

Fresh off winning the biggest title of his career in Toronto, American Shelton was up a set and a break when Ugo Carabelli stopped short and clutched his knee in pain in the fourth game of the second set.

The Argentine tried to play on after taking a medical timeout but could not continue, clearing a path for Shelton to next face Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut, who beat Briton Cam Norrie 6-4, 6-3 earlier in the day.

Carlos Alcaraz bounced back from a mid-match slump to down Bosnian Damiir Dzumhur 6-1, 2-6, 6-3, as he hopes to keep his extraordinary run on track after reaching the finals of his last six tournaments.

After a routine start, the second-ranked Spaniard racked up an uncharacteristic number of unforced errors in the second set before regaining his composure, outfoxing his opponent at the net before closing it out with a solid forehand shot.

"I have to be better, for sure. I started the match really well, feeling the ball pretty good," Alcaraz, who next faces Serbia's Hamad Medjedovic, told the Tennis Channel. "I just want to feel much better in the next round."

Second seed Coco Gauff overcame early problems on serve to cruise past China's Wang Xinyu 6-3, 6-2, keeping her composure despite eight double faults in the first set to book a meeting with Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska in the third round.

The 2023 champion converted on all



Alexander Zverev returns a shot against Nishesh Basavareddy during the Cincinnati Open at the Lindner Family Tennis Center. PHOTOS BY AARON DOSTER/IMAGN IMAGES

five break point chances she got on Center Court and was firing on all cylinders as she won 20 of her last 23 points on serve.

"I had a shaky start with the serve but I was able to push through and figure that out," Gauff told the Tennis Channel.

"Just taking my time and remembering the things we worked on in practice and just trying not to, I guess, fall into the same old patterns."

Gauff's compatriot and former doubles partner, fourth seed Jessica Pegula, eased past Australian Kimberly Birrell 6-4, 6-3, on a day with few upsets at the U.S. Open tune-up tournament.

American Reilly Opelka got the home crowd going as he overcame the Australian sixth seed Alex de Minaur 7-6 (6), 6-4, while Australian Adam Walton knocked out the 2019 winner Daniil Medvedev 6(0)-7, 6-4, 6-1 in another surprise result.



Coco Gauff returns a shot against Wang Xinyu during the Cincinnati Open at the Lindner Family Tennis Center.

NWSL ROUNDUP

Portland scores 4 goals, defeats Reign

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Reilyn Turner scored a goal and also drew a penalty to lead the host Portland Thorns to a 4-2 victory over the Seattle Reign in the Cascadia derby on Sunday afternoon.

Sam Coffey, Reyna Reyes and Pietra Tordin also scored goals for Portland (7-4-4, 25 points), which leapfrogged the Reign into fifth place with the win. Mackenzie Arnold made one save for the Thorns, who extended their home unbeaten streak to a franchise-record 10-matches (7-0-3).

Jess Fishlock had a goal and an assist and Emeri Adames scored for Seattle (7-5-3, 24 points), which had a four-match unbeaten streak (3-0-1) snapped. Claudia Dickey finished with seven saves.

Adames gave Seattle a 1-0 lead in the third minute with her fifth goal, a left-footed shot into the right corner off a through pass from Fishlock.

Portland tied it, 1-1, in 18th minute when Turner was knocked down by Jordyn Bugg while slashing in from the left side of the box for a penalty. Coffey then drilled a right-footed penalty shot into the bottom left corner of the net for her second goal. The Thorns took a 2-1 lead in the 26th minute on Turner's fifth goal when she knocked in a bouncing pass from Jessie Fleming from the right edge of the six-yard box inside the far-left post.

Reyes extended the lead to 3-1 in the 55th minute with a header in the middle of the box off a deflected cross by Olivia Moultrie.

Fishlock cut the lead to 3-2 in the 64th minute when she headed in a cross from Madison Curry but Tordin put Portland back up two goals 61 seconds later on the ensuing kickoff with a right-footed shot into the bottom left corner off a through pass from Hina Sugita.

Stars 1, Bay FC 1

Chicago Stars FC returned to Bridge-



Thorns midfielder Sam Coffey controls the ball during the second half against the Reign at Providence Park. TROY WAYRYNEN/IMAGN IMAGES

view, Ill., hoping to end their nearly 11-month run without a home win. While they only come away with a draw against Bay FC, it could have been worse if not for a match-tying goal from Shea Groom.

In the 42nd minute, the Stars (1-9-5, 8 points) drew level thanks to the side's aggressive press that won the ball in their attacking third. Groom received a pass outside of the 18-yard box after Ally Schlegel laid off a pass that the veteran Groom dribbled past a falling defender.

Groom then sent a close-range shot into the right side of the net for the equalizer.

The match's first goal came as a result of poor Chicago defending that Bay FC (4-6-5, 17 points) rookie Taylor Huff turned into her second career goal, which have come in consecutive matches.

GYMNASTICS

Rivera wins all-around at U.S. Championships

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Hezly Rivera's Olympic gold medal has a little company now.

Rivera, who won gold as a member of the U.S. women's team in the Paris Olympics last year, won the all-around competition at the U.S. Gymnastics Championships in New Orleans.

Entering the final rotation with a narrow lead over Olympic alternate Leanne Wong, Rivera turned in the best floor score of the meet, posting a 14.200 score. Rivera finished with a 112.000 total over the two-day event, eight-tenths better than Wong's 111.200.

Joscelyn Roberson finished third at 109.600, with Ashlee Sullivan fourth with a 107.950.

"I was aware it was pretty close, right before I went on the floor, probably a minute or two," Rivera said on Peacock. "It's a little bit nerve-racking, but I just tried to trust the process and trust God and just let my body do what it knows how to do."

The meet will play a role this fall when the four spots on the U.S. team will be set for the World Championships in Jakarta, Indonesia, in October.

Asher Hong won the men's all-around on Saturday.

Rivera, 17, was the youngest competitor across all nations and all events at Paris last summer. She is also the youngest U.S. all-around champion since Ragan Smith won the title less than two weeks after turning 17 in 2017.

She is also the sixth gymnast since 2000 to win U.S. all-around and Olympic gold, joining the likes of Simone Biles, Shawn Johnson and Nastia Liukin.

The result provided Rivera with redemption after she finished 12th at the U.S. Classic in Illinois last month following falls on beam and bars.

With each rotation performed on Friday and again on Sunday and both scores added together for the meet total, Rivera posted the highest total score on floor (28.200) and the balance beam (28.350) and tied with Skye



Hezly Rivera performs on floor exercise during the U.S. Gymnastics Championships at Smoothie King Center. STEPHEN LEW/IMAGN IMAGES

Blakely for the highest uneven bars score (27.600).

Wong won the vault with a 28.175.

Blakely finished second to Biles in the 2024 U.S. Championships but ruptured an Achilles while training two days before the Olympic Trials.

Olympic bronze medalist Asher Hong turned in one dominant performance after another to capture his second men's all-around title.

Hong, a rising senior at Stanford, won with an overall score of 170.020 – a 7.465 margin over second place. The 21-year-old also earned gold medals on vault (29.594), floor exercise (two-day combined total of 30.016) and still rings (29.286) and collected silver on parallel bars (28.100).

Frederick Richard, who attends Michigan, was second in all-around with a total of 162.555, and Fuzzy Benas of Oklahoma was third with 162.310.

SCOREBOARD

All times Eastern				
MLB				
American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	69	50	.580	—
Boston	65	54	.546	4
N.Y. Yankees	62	56	.525	6½
Minnesota	57	62	.479	12
Baltimore	53	65	.449	15½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	68	51	.571	—
Cleveland	61	58	.521	6
Kansas City	58	60	.492	9½
Minnesota	56	61	.479	11
Chi. White Sox	43	75	.364	24½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	66	52	.559	—
Seattle	66	53	.555	½
Texas	60	59	.504	6½
L.A. Angels	56	62	.475	10
Athletics	53	67	.442	14
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	68	49	.581	—
N.Y. Mets	63	55	.534	5½
Miami	57	61	.483	11½
Atlanta	51	67	.432	17½
Washington	47	70	.402	21
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	73	44	.624	—
Chicago Cubs	67	50	.573	6
Cincinnati	62	57	.521	12
St. Louis	60	59	.504	14
Pittsburgh	51	68	.429	23
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	68	50	.576	—
San Diego	66	52	.559	2
San Francisco	59	59	.500	9
Arizona	57	61	.483	11
Colorado	30	87	.256	37½
Saturday's Scores				
Atlanta 7, Miami 1				
N.Y. Yankees 5, Houston 4				
Washington 4, San Francisco 2				
L.A. Angels 7, Detroit 4				
Cincinnati 2, Pittsburgh 1				
Athletics 11, Baltimore 3				
Cleveland 3, Chi. White Sox 1				
Kansas City 2, Minnesota 0				
Milwaukee 7, N.Y. Mets 4				
Atlanta 8, Miami 6				
Philadelphia 3, Texas 2				
Chicago Cubs 9, St. Louis 1				
Arizona 6, Colorado 5				
San Diego 5, Boston 4				
L.A. Dodgers 9, Toronto 1				
Seattle 7, Tampa Bay 4				
Sunday's Scores				
Minnesota 5, Kansas City 3				
Atlanta 7, Miami 1				
Athletics 3, Baltimore 2				
Houston 7, N.Y. Yankees 1				
Cincinnati 14, Pittsburgh 8				
Detroit 9, L.A. Angels 5				
Chi. White Sox 6, Cleveland 4				
Milwaukee 7, N.Y. Mets 6				
Philadelphia 4, Texas 2				
Washington 8, San Francisco 0				
Arizona 13, Colorado 6				
San Diego 6, Boston 2				
Seattle 6, Tampa Bay 3				
Toronto 5, L.A. Dodgers 4				
St. Louis 3, Chicago Cubs 2				
Monday's Games				
Philadelphia (Walker 4-5) at Cincinnati (Abbott 8-2), 6:10 p.m.				
Minnesota (Matthews 3-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Warren 6-5), 7:05 p.m.				
Detroit (Paddack 4-10) at Chi. White Sox (TBD), 7:40 p.m.				
Pittsburgh (Heaney 5-9) at Milwaukee (Peralta 13-5), 7:40 p.m.				
Washington (TBD) at Kansas City (Falter 7-6), 7:40 p.m.				

Colorado (TBD) at St. Louis (Mikolas 6-9), 7:45 p.m.

Arizona (Nelson 6-3) at Texas (Eovaldi 10-3), 8:05 p.m.

Boston (Crockett 13-4) at Houston (TBD), 8:10 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers (Yamamoto 10-7) at L.A. Angels (Soriano 7-9), 9:38 p.m.

San Diego (Darvish 1-3) at San Francisco (Webb 10-8), 9:45 p.m.

Tampa Bay (Peipiot 7-9) at Athletics (Springs 10-7), 10:05 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Seattle (Kirby 7-5) at Baltimore (Kremer 8-8), 6:35 p.m.

Philadelphia (Suarez 8-5) at Cincinnati (Singer 9-9), 6:40 p.m.

Miami (Junk 6-2) at Cleveland (Allen 7-9), 6:40 p.m.

Minnesota (Ohl 0-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Rodon 11-7), 7:05 p.m.

Chicago Cubs (Horton 6-3) at Toronto (Bernie 8-4), 7:07 p.m.

Atlanta (Strider 5-9) at N.Y. Mets (Holmes 9-6), 7:10 p.m.

Detroit (Flaherty 6-11) at Chi. White Sox (Smith 3-7), 7:40 p.m.

Pittsburgh (Skenes 7-8) at Milwaukee (Quintana 9-4), 7:40 p.m.

Washington (Parker 7-12) at Kansas City (Wacha 6-9), 7:40 p.m.

Colorado (Freeland 2-12) at St. Louis (Liberatore 6-9), 7:45 p.m.

Arizona (DeSclafani 1-2) at Texas (Leiter 7-6), 8:05 p.m.

Boston (May 6-8) at Houston (Arrighetti 1-2), 8:10 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers (Sheehan 3-2) at L.A. Angels (Anderson 2-7), 9:38 p.m.

San Diego (Cortes 1-1) at San Francisco (Ray 9-5), 9:45 p.m.

Tampa Bay (Baz 8-8) at Athletics (Lopez 5-6), 10:05 p.m.

NFL

Preseason

Thursday's Scores

Baltimore 24, Indianapolis 16

Philadelphia 34, Cincinnati 27

Las Vegas 23, Seattle 23

Friday's Scores

Detroit 17, Atlanta 10

Cleveland 30, Carolina 10

New England 48, Washington 18

Saturday's Scores

N.Y. Giants 34, Buffalo 25

Minnesota 20, Houston 10

Pittsburgh 31, Jacksonville 25

L.A. Rams 31, Dallas 21

Tampa Bay 29, Tennessee 7

N.Y. Jets 30, Green Bay 10

Arizona 20, Kansas City 17

Denver 30, San Francisco 9

Sunday's Games

Miami 24, Chicago 24

L.A. Chargers 27, New Orleans 13

Aug. 15 Games

Tennessee at Atlanta, 7 p.m.

Kansas City at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Aug. 16 Games

Cleveland at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.

New England at Minnesota, 1 p.m.

Green Bay at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.

Carolina at Houston, 1 p.m.

Miami at Detroit, 1 p.m.

San Francisco at Las Vegas, 4 p.m.

Baltimore at Dallas, 7 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.

N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants, 7 p.m.

L.A. Chargers at L.A. Rams, 7 p.m.

Arizona at Denver, 9:30 p.m.

Aug. 17 Games

Jacksonville at New Orleans, 1 p.m.

Buffalo at Chicago, 8 p.m.

WNBA

Eastern Conference		Pct	GB
	W	L	
N.Y. Liberty	20	11	.645
Atlanta	20	11	.645

Indiana	18	14	.563	2½
Washington	14	17	.452	6
Chicago Sky	8	23	.258	12
Connecticut	5	25	.167	14½
Western Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	27	5	.844	—
Phoenix	19	12	.613	7½
Las Vegas	18	14	.563	9
Golden State	15	15	.500	11
Seattle	16	16	.500	11
L.A. Sparks	15	16	.484	11½
Dallas	8	24	.250	19
Saturday's Scores				
Indiana 92, Chicago Sky 70				
Golden State 72, L.A. Sparks 59				
Sunday's Scores				
Minnesota 83, N.Y. Liberty 71				
Washington 91, Dallas 78				
Atlanta 74, Phoenix 66				
L.A. Sparks 94, Seattle 91				
Las Vegas 94, Connecticut 86				
Monday's Game				
Connecticut at Golden State, 10 p.m.				
Tuesday's Games				
Dallas at Indiana, 7:30 p.m.				
N.Y. Liberty at L.A. Sparks, 10 p.m.				
Wednesday's Games				
Chicago Sky at Connecticut, 7 p.m.				
Golden State at Washington, 7:30 p.m.				
N.Y. Liberty at Las Vegas, 9:30 p.m.				
Atlanta at Seattle, 10 p.m.				

SOCCER

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	15	5	6	51	44	25
Cincinnati	15	7	4	49	39	32
Nashville	14	7	5	47	43	29
Orlando City	12	6	8	44	50	34
Columbus	12	5	8	44	41	36
Inter Miami CF	12	5	6	42	50	38
Charlotte FC	13	11	2	41	44	39
NY City FC	11	8	5	38	34	29
Chicago	10	9	6	36	47	42
NY Red Bulls	10	10	6	36	41	37
New England	7	11	7	28	33	35
Toronto FC	5	13	7	22	26	33
Atlanta	4	11	10	22	30	46
CF Montreal	4	15	7	19	24	47
D.C. United	4	15	7	19	22	51

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego FC	15	7	4	49	50	32
Vancouver	13	6	6	45	43	28
Minnesota	12	6	8	44	43	30
Seattle	11	6	8	41	43	35
Los Angeles FC	10	6	7	37	41	30
Portland	10	8	7	37	33	34
Austin FC	9	8	7	34	23	28
Colorado	9	11	6	33	33	40
San Jose	8	10	8	32	49	45
Real Salt Lake	9	12	4	31	27	32
FC Dallas	7	11	7	28	37	45
Houston	7	11	7	28	32	41
Sporting KC	6	13	6	24	36	47
Saint Louis	5	14	6	21	27	41
LA Galaxy	3	15	7	16	28	52

Saturday's Scores

New England 2, D.C. United 0
CF Montreal 1, Atlanta 1
Philadelphia 1, Toronto FC 1
FC Dallas 2, Portland 0
Chicago 2, Los Angeles FC 2
Austin FC 2, Houston 2
Saint Louis 3, Nashville 1
San Diego FC 2, Sporting KC 0
San Jose 2, Vancouver 1

Sunday's Scores

NY Red Bulls 2, Real Salt Lake 1
Colorado 2, Minnesota 1
Charlotte FC 1, Cincinnati 0
Orlando City 4, Inter Miami CF 1
Seattle 4, LA Galaxy 0

NWSL

	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	13	2	0	39	32	10
Orlando	8	4	3	27	22	12
Washington	8	4	3	27	23	20
San Diego	7	3	5	26	26	17
Portland	7	4	4	25	24	16

Seattle	7	5	3	24	21	17
Louisville	6	6	3	21	20	25
Gotham	5	5	5	20	19	14
North Carolina	5	6	4	19	19	22
Bay	4	6	5	17	17	20
Angel City	4	7	4	16	21	27
Houston	4	8	3	15	17	25
Chicago	1	9	5	8	12	29
Utah	1	11	3	6	12	31
Friday's Scores						
Houston 2, North Carolina 1						
Kansas City 1, Utah 0						
Saturday's Games						
Gotham 0, Washington 0						
Orlando 1, Louisville 1						
Angel City 1, San Diego 1						
Sunday's Games						
Chicago 1, Bay 1						
Portland 4, Seattle 2						
GOLF						
FedEx St. Jude Championship						
Sunday						
Memphis, Tenn.						
TPC Southwind						
Purse: \$20 million						
Yardage: 7,288; Par: 70						
Final Round (x-won playoff)						
x-Justin Rose.....	64	-66	-67	-67	-264	(-16)
J.J. Spahn.....	68	-66	-65	-65	-264	(-16)
Tommy Fleetwood	63	-64	-69	-69	-265	(-15)
Scottie Scheffler.....	67	-66	-65	-67	-265	(-15)
Cameron Young.....	69	-65	-71	-64	-269	(-11)
Akshay Bhatia.....	62	-69	-71	-69	-270	(-10)
Rickie Fowler.....	66	-69	-66	-69	-270	(-10)
Andrew Novak.....	68	-64	-67	-71	-270	(-10)
Ludvig Åberg.....	67	-67	-67	-71	-271	(-9)
Patrick Cantlay.....	70	-67	-66	-68	-271	(-9)
Ben Griffin.....	66	-69	-66	-70	-271	(-9)
Chris Kirk.....	68	-67	-66	-70	-271	(-9)
Ron Kiteyama.....	69	-63	-72	-67	-271	(-9)
Bud Cauley.....	64	-69	-70	-69	-272	(-8)
Si Woo Kim.....	65	-69	-69	-69	-272	(-8)
Jhonattan Vegas.....	69	-69	-66	-68	-272	(-8)
Abigail Bridgeman.....	69	-64	-71	-69	-273	(-7)
Russell Henley.....	66	-70	-71	-66	-273	(-7)
Sungjae Im.....	71	-64	-71	-67	-273	(-7)
Hideki Matsuyama.....	69	-70	-69	-65	-273	(-7)
Sepp Straka.....	68	-67	-68	-70	-273	(-7)
Harry Hall.....	64	-72	-69	-68	-274	(-6)
Brann Hanman.....	67	-68	-72	-67	-274	(-6)
Collin Morikawa.....	66	-65	-67	-71	-274	(-6)
J.T. Poston.....	70	-69	-67	-68	-274	(-6)
Aaron Rai.....	70	-69	-68	-67	-274	(-6)
Xander Schauffele.....	68	-72	-65	-69	-274	(-6)
Sam Burns.....	70	-71	-66	-68	-275	(-5)
Maverick McNealy.....	66	-66	-74	-69	-275	(-5)
Justin Pendrith.....	69	-69	-65	-72	-275	(-5)
Tyler Thomas.....	68	-72	-60	-65	-275	(-5)
Matt Fitzpatrick.....	67	-71	-69	-69	-276	(-4)
Max Greyserman.....	70	-69	-69	-68	-276	(-4)
Viktor Hovland.....	74	-68	-67	-67	-276	(-4)
Denny McCarthy.....	70	-67	-72	-67	-276	(-4)
Davis Riley.....	72	-67	-69	-67	-276	(-4)
Kevin Yu.....	71	-67	-69	-69	-276	(-4)
Thomas Detry.....	67	-69	-68	-73	-277	(-3)
Nico Echavarria.....	69	-68	-66	-67	-277	(-3)
Robert MacIntyre.....	70	-67	-68	-72	-277	(-3)
Patrick Rodgers.....	71	-68	-60	-68	-277	(-3)
Matthews Schmid.....	71	-66	-69	-71	-277	(-3)
Jordan Spieth.....	69	-70	-60	-68	-277	(-3)
Keegan Bradley.....	72	-70	-69	-67	-278	(-2)
Lyran Gerard.....	70	-69	-73	-66	-278	(-2)
Rucas Glover.....	70	-66	-69	-73	-278	(-2)
Nick Taylor.....	67	-71	-72	-68	-278	(-2)
Harris English.....	70	-68	-69	-72	-279	(-1)
Stephan Jaeger.....	72	-69	-69	-69	-279	(-1)
Corey Conners.....	71	-68	-70	-71	-280	(0)
Cam Davis.....	69	-72	-67	-72	-280	(0)
Ryan Fox.....	72	-71	-68	-69	-280	(0)
Emiliano Grillo.....	69	-69	-71	-71	-280	(0)
Chris Gotterup.....	72	-73	-70	-66	-281	(-1)
Sam Stevens.....	71	-70	-69	-71	-281	(-1)
Wyndham Clark.....	67	-68	-72	-75	-282	(-2)
Jason Day.....	71	-68	-71	-72	-282	(-2)
MacKenzie Hughes.....	71	-69	-70	-72	-282	(-2)
Michael Kim.....	72	-72	-67	-67	-283	(-3)
Shane Lowry.....	73	-68	-71	-71	-283	(-3)
Aldrich Potgieter.....	71	-72	-73	-67	-283	(-3)
Jack Knapp.....	72	-70	-73	-73	-285	(-5)