Notre Dame Academy girls soccer has standout defenders

SPORTS, 1B

The Enterprise

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023 | ENTERPRISENEWS.COM

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Beauty treatments available at med spa

Carolyn Ray, with nurse Sara Macrae, has a microneedling procedure at the grand reopening of Easton Medical Aesthetics. MARC VASCONCELLOS/THE ENTERPRISE

Alisha Saint-Ciel
The Enterprise
USA TODAY NETWORK

NORTH EASTON – The town of Easton is getting a facelift with the new emerging spa, Easton Medical Aesthetics.

The two owners, Lindsey Gillooly and Allison Daly, are nurse practitioners by trade and wanted to spread the idea of beauty and a luxury experience.

"We wanted to reinvest in the town that helped us grow. We've had wonderful success in Easton, and we're thrilled to expand in the community where it all began," Daly said. "Our highly skilled and experienced staff are excited to bring their talents to this new location. Our new location will help us continue to do what we love best, making people look and feel like their best selves."

What luxury treatments are offered?

Easton Medical Aesthetics, located at 50 Olivier St., suite 109, offers a wide

See SPA, Page 2A

Driver identified in crash

Amelia Stern
The Enterprise
USA TODAY NETWORK

EAST BRIDGEWATER — The East Bridgewater Police Department has identified the hit-and-run driver who struck and dragged an 11-year-old girl in the parking lot of a town elementary school Sunday afternoon, Chief Michael Jenkins announced in a written statement Tuesday night.

The female driver, who is 62 years old and from Florida, will be summoned to Brockton District Court for negligent operation of a motor vehicle and leaving the scene of an accident with personal injury, police said. Her name has not been released to the public.

The driver, who had relatives in the area, struck the juvenile victim with a blue SUV while the girl was riding a bicycle through a small path that leads from Route 18 to the rear parking lot of Central Elementary School on Sunday afternoon, police said.

Surveillance video released to the public shows the blue SUV enter the parking lot, turn around and strike the girl just as she emerges on her bicycle from a line of bushes alongside the parking lot, dragging her nearly 60 feet.

The female driver wearing blue hospital-type scrubs can be seen exiting the vehicle and briefly speaking to the victim before leaving the scene, police said.

The victim's friend who witnessed the crash told WCVB that the woman wearing scrubs, who reportedly confirmed she was a nurse, asked if the victim was OK and told her to go home and shower before leaving the scene.

The 11-year-old suffered cuts and bruises, but her mother declined medical transportation on behalf of her daughter, police said.

After two days of trying to identify the driver, WCVB reported that the woman turned herself into the police department, showing up in a car that matched the one involved in the crash. The front grill of the car appeared to be broken.

Jenkins later thanked the East Bridgewater area residents who offered tips after seeing the video of the incident.

"Without the information provided by the public, we would have had a much harder time reaching a resolution," he said.

Enterprise staff writer Amelia Stern can be reached by email at astern@enterprisenews.com.

Biden pledges solidarity with Israelis

Kim Hjelmgaard, Michael Collins and Maureen Groppe
USA TODAY

TEL AVIV, Israel – President Joe Biden said Wednesday that Israel had agreed to allow humanitarian assistance to begin flowing into Gaza from Egypt with the understanding it would be subject to inspections and that it should go to civilians and not Hamas militants.

In remarks from Tel Aviv where the president had gone to show support for Israel following a brutal and deadly Oct. 7 terrorist attack that killed roughly 1,400 people, Biden cautioned the nation against all-consuming rage.

Israel cut off the flow of food, fuel and water in Gaza following the attack. Mediators have been struggling to break a deadlock over providing supplies to desperate civilians, aid groups and hospitals.

Biden said that he had spoken with

See SOLIDARITY, Page 3A

Homeowners Weigh Heating Options

With heating season fast approaching. homeowners in Massachusetts consider their options for staying warm through another east coast winter.

With summer heat finally starting to subside, Massachusetts residents are beginning to switch off their AC and turn their attention to the winter ahead. Many residents with old and costly fossil fuel systems are looking to **hyper efficient electric heat pumps** to help ease the heating season burden. Not only do these units function at higher efficiency than traditional oil and gas furnaces, but they also provide extraordinarily efficient air conditioning via the exact same system. Plus, generous state and federal incentives mean Massachusetts homeowners don't have to shoulder the entire cost alone. Don't wait - get **a cutting edge system at a great price!**

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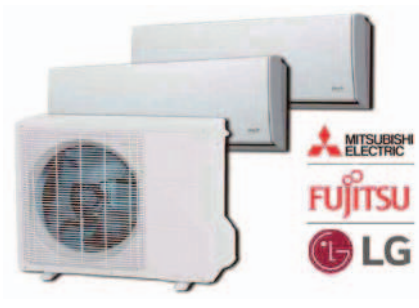

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FROM PAGE ONE

Mansfield is first Mass. site for this seller of healthy fruit bowls

James E. Kukstis
Wicked Local
USA TODAY NETWORK

MANSFIELD — Local diners have a new option for meals that are a quick and healthy. Rush Bowls, which focuses on blended fruit and vegetable bowls and smoothies, opened its first Massachusetts restaurant on Copeland Drive this past weekend.

"There was no doubt that we wanted to open in Mansfield," said Danielle Carr, who is running the business with her husband, Bill, and fellow couple Michelle and Jeff Ward. "We know Mansfield, it's in our backyard. We know people really wanted to bring this healthy concept to our community."

Based in Colorado, Rush Bowls was founded in 2004 by Andrew Pudalov, a former financial worker in New York City who decided to pursue his dream of creating a healthy, fast-dining restaurant. The franchise now contains 48 restaurants in 22 states.

"People are very, very excited for this, which makes me very excited," Carr said. "Folks are driving two or three towns away to get their bowls — 30-40 minutes — and it's supposed to be a quick-serve option. It's exciting to bring this to this community where people are looking for these options."

Rush Bowls' first Massachusetts restaurant opened last Saturday in Mansfield. COURTESY PHOTO/RUSH BOWLS

Owners tried many acai products before deciding on Rush Bowls

Carr said she and her family tried multiple acai bowl products, traveling two hours to a Rush Bowl in Connecticut. It was there they became convinced it was the one to bring to Massachusetts.

"It is much different than a lot of the other acai bowl franchises," Carr said. "Everything is freshly blended and the bowls that we originally had in our lives, that we as a family fell in love with, they were more of a scoopable sorbet with a lot of added sugar, which I personally try to stay away from."

The bowls at Rush, Carr said, are a different concept, where added sugars are avoided by freshly blending the fruit.

The Carrs and Wards said they were intent on making an open, inviting and comfortable space that families and children would be excited to come back to.

"There is a serious need for healthy options for the young people in the town," Carr said. "People want their kids to have healthy options, and this is a healthy option that tastes good, it's fun, it looks good."

Rush Bowls, at 90 Copeland Drive, is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

State reserves 20 rooms in Rockland hotel for migrant families

Peter Blandino
The Patriot Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

ROCKLAND – A hotel in town now shelters seven migrant families, with more to come, Town Administrator Douglas Lapp said in a news release.

State officials informed Rockland on Thursday that it had reserved rooms "to provide emergency shelter to unhoused families with children and pregnant individuals," the news release stated.

By law, Massachusetts must provide housing to families. The 1983 "right to shelter" legislation applies to adults with minor dependents as well as pregnant mothers.

In an email, Lapp told The Patriot Ledger that the state has reserved 20 rooms at the hotel for homeless families, but more rooms could be booked later this month. Lapp said he hopes the town will receive federal or state aid to help support the families, but that he doesn't know for certain at this point.

In August, Gov. Maura Healey declared a state of emergency due to the rapid influx of migrant families into Massachusetts. At the end of August, 6,000 families were dependent on the shelter system, a number which has increased since.

In September, state Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities Ed Augustus said 6,400 homeless families in Massachusetts were relying on the state for emergency shelter, a 68% increase since January.

About 80 communities across the state have opened hotels, permanent shelters and other facilities for homeless and refugee families, with more opening every week, Augustus said.

Now Rockland is one of those communities. The town is working with the state Department of Public Health's regional response coordinator on "day-to-day operations of the shelter," according to the news release.

The Massachusetts National Guard is helping families with food delivery, transportation, accessing medical care and obtaining child care necessities such as diapers, baby formula and cribs.

The news release notes that some families could have school-age children and that Rockland's school department is working with the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to meet potential needs.

In the past year, similar emergency shelters have drawn the attention of a neo-Nazi group based in New England, including shelters in Kingston and Quincy.

Lapp said in an email that "the National Guard will be on-site 24/7 and our local police department will be paying close attention."

"We are grateful that our neighboring towns have reached out to Rockland to offer assistance helping these families in need feel welcome," Lapp wrote in the news release. "Our fire, police, building, health and school departments are all working collectively to make sure our local government is prepared to provide safety and support for these families.

"I am confident that our community at large will come together to embrace this opportunity to support these families that have followed the legal process to seek asylum in our country."

Lapp said people wishing to help should consider donating winter clothing, but they should wait until after officials have assessed the needs of the families.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Prosecutors seeking to re-charge Baldwin in fatal 'Rust' shooting

Special prosecutors are seeking to recharge actor Alec Baldwin in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer on the set of a Western movie in 2021, describing Tuesday their preparations to present new information to a grand jury.

New Mexico-based prosecutors Kari Morrissey and Jason Lewis said they'll present their case to the grand jury within the next two months, noting "additional facts" have come to light in the shooting on the set of the film "Rust" that killed Halyna Hutchins.

Baldwin, a co-producer of the film, was pointing a gun at Hutchins during a rehearsal inside a rustic chapel on a movie-set ranch near Santa Fe when the gun went off on Oct. 21, 2021, killing the cinematographer and wounding director Joel Souza.

"After extensive investigation over the past several months, additional facts have come to light that we believe show Mr. Baldwin has criminal culpability in the death of Halyna Hutchins and the shooting of Joel Souza," Morrissey and Lewis said in an email. "We believe the appropriate course of action is to permit a panel of New Mexico citizens to determine from here whether Mr. Baldwin should be held over for criminal trial."

They declined to elaborate on the additional information they may present to the grand jury.

Baldwin has said he pulled back the hammer – but not the trigger – and the gun fired. Attorneys for Baldwin said the latest move by prosecutors is misguided.

Spears writes in memoir of abortion while dating Timberlake

Britney Spears wrote that she had an abortion while dating Justin Timberlake more than 20 years ago, according to a peek inside her hotly anticipated memoir.

"If it had been left up to me alone, I never would have done it," she writes of the procedure, according to the excerpt from "The Woman in Me" published Tuesday in People magazine. "And yet Justin was so sure that he didn't want to be a father."

The pregnancy "was a surprise, but for me, it wasn't a tragedy," she wrote in the excerpt, saying that she had wanted to start a family with Timberlake – it was just earlier than expected.

"But Justin definitely wasn't happy about the pregnancy. He said we weren't ready to have a baby in our lives, that we were way too young," she wrote. The couple broke up in 2002. It's unclear when the pregnancy happened.

Representatives for Spears declined to offer further comment. Representatives for Timberlake did not respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press. The AP has not been able to independently review a copy of "The Woman in Me" yet.

Morris files for divorce from Hurd, citing 'irreconcilable differences'

Maren Morris has filed for divorce from her husband, Ryan Hurd, citing the prominent country music couple's "irreconcilable differences" after five years of marriage.

Morris filed the divorce complaint in Nashville, Tennessee, circuit court on Oct. 2, writing that the couple have been separated since that date. They were married in March 2018.

Morris and Hurd have one 3-year-old son, Hayes, who has lived with them in Nashville since he was born.

Representatives for Morris and Hurd could not immediately be reached for comment about the divorce filing.

The Grammy-award winning Morris, who is from Texas, is best known for platinum country hits like "The Bones," "My Church" and her 2018 dance hit "The Middle" with EDM DJ Zedd, which proved Morris' musical interests stretched beyond the confines of genre and ushered her into the pop mainstream.

Yeoh elected to be International Olympic Committee member

Oscar-winning actor Michelle Yeoh was elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee on Tuesday despite some "no" votes from her new colleagues.

Eight new IOC members were voted in to make a total of 107 drawn from royal families, sports officials, current and former athletes, and leaders from politics and industry.

After being summoned to the lectern by Princess Nora of Liechtenstein, the longest serving IOC member at 39 years, Yeoh read the 104-word oath while holding a corner of the Olympic flag – white with five colored rings.

Spa

Continued from Page 1A

range of treatments, including laser tattoo removal, micro-needling, IPL photo facials, laser hair removal, vein removal treatments, body sculpting and contouring treatments to dissolve fat, dermaplaning, chemical peels, and vaginal rejuvenation.

The two have been nurses since 2009; this location will be their third in New England. The other med spas are located in Hingham and Milton.

Daly's main areas of focus are on women's health when it comes to sexual health, reproductive health, and providing care to women across the age span.

In addition to a women's health, her specialties include Botox, dermal fillers, collagen induction therapy, hair restoration, vaginal rejuvenation, sclerotherapy, IV Therapy, vitamin injections, and semaglutide administration and monitoring.

Gillooly, a mother of two, has a background in critical care nursing, aesthetics, and injections. She specializes in all injectable treatments, including neurotoxins, dermal fillers, Kybella, Sclerotherapy, PRP/collagen Induction Therapies, laser treatments, tattoo removal, hair restoration, IV Therapy, vitamin injections, and semaglutide administration and monitoring.

"It's important for my patients who see me to look and feel their best from head to toe. I do believe we are all incredibly beautiful, and our goal is to help bring a patient's natural attributes to the surface. We're all about enhancement and preserving one's natural beauty. We're not surgeons, we're not about changing someone's entire look but elevating it," Daly said.

Health and beauty is bread and butter of this business. Daly wants women to come as they are and feel beautiful in the skin they where given once they leave.

The business opened its doors in 2018 and hasn't stopped since.

What's new in the med spa?

According to Jessica Heslam, the spa's public relations manager, the med spa is newly renovated with 3,000 square foot space and seven treatment rooms, a luxurious and tranquil IV lounge, a dedicated room for laser treatments, and the latest and most advanced skin, body, wellness and anti-aging treatments.

The two childhood friends are happy to be in Easton, where they grew up, and where their friendship blossomed over the years.

To find out more about their many services or to make an appointment, visit www.medicalaestheticsma.com.

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DNA helps solve 1986 murder case

Gary White
USA TODAY

Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd is surrounded by relatives of Teresa Scalf on Monday as he says Donald Douglas has been identified as her killer. GARY WHITE/USA TODAY NETWORK

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. – Each October, Teresa Scalf's relatives prepare for the painful anniversary of her murder in 1986.

This year, for the first time, the family members will at least know who committed the vicious killing 37 years ago.

Through an investigation based on retained blood from the killer and public genetic databases, the Polk County Sheriff's Office in Florida identified Donald Douglas, a former neighbor of Scalf's, as the murderer.

Douglas, 33 at the time of the killing, died of natural causes at age 54 in 2008, PCSO said.

Scalf's mother, Betty Scalf, and two of Teresa's sisters joined Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd for a news conference Monday as Judd described how his agency solved the 37-year-old case.

"All I want to say is, I'm 84 years old," said Betty Scalf, a petite, white-haired woman who uses a cane. "I lived to see this done. I think that's why I lived so long."

Scalf found the mutilated body of her daughter on Oct. 27, 1986, in the duplex she shared with her 8-year-old son in an unincorporated area of Lakeland, about 35 miles east of Tampa. Teresa Scalf, 29, worked the night shift as a trauma nurse at what was then Lakeland General Hospital.

Betty Scalf received a call saying that her daughter, a single mother, had not shown up for work. Betty went to the duplex, used a credit card to open the locked door, then discovered her daughter's body.

Judd, with the family's permission, disclosed that Teresa had been repeatedly stabbed and nearly decapitated. Douglas lived just behind the duplex, Judd said. Polk County Sheriff's investigators interviewed him and other neighbors at the time but never considered him a suspect.

Judd speculated that Douglas killed Scalf because he sought a sexual relationship with her and she rebuffed him. Family members said Scalf had mentioned "a creepy neighbor" shortly before her death but didn't name or describe him.

Judd credited Detective Matthew Newbold with leading the effort to resolve the case after receiving it in 2015. Newbold kept a photo of Teresa Scalf on his desk and vowed to her family that he wouldn't retire until he had identified her killer, Judd said.

The investigation

Evidence at the scene suggested that Teresa fought back against her attacker, and PCSO investigators collected blood from her murderer. As technology advanced, the agency entered DNA taken from that blood into the FBI's national database in the early 2000s but found no matches, meaning the killer's DNA had not been entered.

Judd said Douglas had never been arrested.

"My prayer is that he had been in mental prison," Judd said.

Newbold worked with Othram, a Texas company that specializes in developing genetic samples from crime scene evidence. Using publicly available DNA that people submit through such programs as 23andMe, the company helped create a family tree for the murderer, said David Nutting, a company representative who attended the news conference.

It was the 106th publicly announced solution to an unsolved case through Othram's DNA research, Nutting said. He said there are an estimated 330,000 unsolved murders in the United States.

After identifying Douglas as the murderer, PCSO investigators contacted his son and asked for a DNA sample. He fully cooperated, Judd said, and was "mortified" to learn that his sample confirmed that Donald Douglas' blood had been found at the scene of Scalf's murder.

Judd said that detectives originally investigating the case saw no wounds on Douglas and had no reason to suspect him of the killing. Betty Scalf said that heavy rain on the day of the murder washed away evidence and prevented search dogs from being able to find the killer's trail from the duplex.

Joining Betty Scalf at the news conference were Teresa's sisters – Pam Shade, 61, and Lynne Scalf, 57. Teresa's granddaughter, Teresa Wouters, 25, of Winter Haven, stood beside her great-grandmother, holding her arm.

Betty Scalf said that Teresa's son could not attend because of the overwhelming emotion the anniversary brings on.

Family members said they did not know Douglas, who co-owned an electrical company with his brother. Lynne Scalf said she wished Teresa had described the "creepy" neighbor in a way that might have led the investigation to Douglas.

Newbold said investigators found no sign of forced entry at Scalf's duplex. Betty Scalf said she thinks Douglas entered through a sliding glass door and was waiting for Teresa when she arrived home after finishing her overnight shift and sharing lunch with some co-workers.

'Don't give up'

Family members praised Judd and Newbold for not giving up on solving the murder. They offered affectionate memories of Teresa Scalf, who rose from an entry level role as a phlebotomist to become a respiratory technician and then a registered nurse.

Betty Scalf, noting that the murder occurred four days before Halloween, said her daughter had promised to take her son out that day to buy a pumpkin for carving and had put a bike on layaway as his Christmas gift.

Lynne Scalf said that learning the identity of her sister's killer does not bring an end to their grief but does relieve them of suspecting others who knew Teresa.

"I hope it gives everybody comfort to know that we now know who did this," said Shade. "We also would like to offer encouragement to other homicide victims – don't give up. They (law enforcement) don't give up. And as long as they don't give up, you don't give up."

Solidarity

Continued from Page 1A

the Israeli cabinet "to agree to the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance of civilians in Gaza."

"Let me be clear," Biden said. If Hamas diverts or steals the assistance, they will have demonstrated once again that they have no concern for the welfare of the Palestinian people."

He also said an additional $100 million in humanitarian assistance would be delivered to Gaza and the West Bank.

"Based on what I've seen, it appears as though it was done by the other team, not you," Biden told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a meeting. But he said there were "a lot of people out there" who weren't sure what caused the blast, which sparked protests throughout the Middle East.

Biden later said he based his conclusion on "the data I was shown by my Defense Department."

The visit to Israel coincides with rising humanitarian concerns in Gaza, where Israel has cut off the flow of food, fuel and water. Mediators have been struggling to break a deadlock over providing supplies to desperate civilians, aid groups and hospitals.

Israel said Wednesday its radar as well as independent video showed a rocket in a barrage fired by Palestinian militants misfired and caused a large explosion just as the blast hit the hospital. It said there was no crater, which would have been present with an airstrike, and it released a recording it said was between two Hamas militants who said the blast was believed to be an Islamic Jihad misfire.

Biden had also been scheduled to visit Jordan to meet with Arab leaders Wednesday, but the summit was called off after the hospital explosion. His remarks in Tel Aviv spoke both to the horrors that the Israelis had endured, but also the growing humanitarian crisis for Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

He told Netanyahu he was "deeply saddened and outraged" by the hospital explosion. But he also stressed that "Hamas does not represent all the Palestinian people, and it has brought them only suffering." And he spoke of the need to find ways of "encouraging life-saving capacity to help the Palestinians who are innocent, caught in the middle of this."

"I want you to know you're not alone. We will continue to have Israel's back as you work to defend your people," Biden said. "We'll continue to work with you and partners across the region to prevent more tragedy to innocent civilians."

Netanyahu again said Israel was not to blame for the hospital attack. "The entire world was rightfully outraged but this outrage should be directed not at Israel but at the terrorists," Netanyahu said during a subsequent meeting with Biden and Israel's war cabinet.

He called the president's visit "deeply, deeply moving," adding, "I know I speak for all the people of Israel when I say thank you Mr. President, thank you for standing with Israel today, tomorrow and always."

Netanyahu said Biden had rightly drawn a clear line between the "forces of civilization and the forces of barbarism," saying Israel was united in its resolve to defeat Hamas.

"The civilized world must unite to defeat Hamas," he said. U.S. officials on Wednesday also announced sanctions against a group of 10 Hamas members and the Palestinian militant organization's financial network across Gaza, Sudan, Turkey, Algeria and Qatar.

Biden also met with Israeli President Isaac Herzog as well as with Israeli first responders and the families of victims and those being held hostage by Hamas. He held their hands, embraced them and listened quietly as their voices cracked as they spoke of the horrors they'd seen.

Eli Beer, the founder of a volunteer emergency medical service, told Biden that through his visit "you uplifted the whole spirit in this country, and all the Jewish people in the world."

The grim tone of Wednesday's meetings between Biden and Netanyahu stood in stark contrast to their optimistic meeting just a month ago on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, where Netanyahu marveled that a "historic peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia" seemed within reach.

The possibility of improved relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors has dimmed considerably with the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war. Israel has been preparing for a potential ground invasion of Gaza in response to Hamas' attacks.

Outrage scuttled Biden's plans to visit Jordan, where King Abdullah II was to host meetings with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi. But Abbas withdrew in protest, and the summit was subsequently canceled outright.

Ayman Safadi, Jordan's foreign minister, told a state-run television network that the war is "pushing the region to the brink."

Jordan declared three days of mourning after the hospital explosion and Safadi said the summit was canceled after speaking with all leaders. He said they had wanted the meeting to produce an end to the war, which seems unlikely now, and to give Palestinians the respect they deserve.

Kirby said Biden understood the move was part of a "mutual" decision to call off the Jordan portion of his trip. He said Biden would speak to Abbas and el-Sissi by phone Wednesday as he returned to Washington.

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian U.N. ambassador, on Tuesday urged Biden to use the visit to tell Israel that "Enough is enough."

"You have to stop this carnage against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. Let this stop. Let humanitarian assistance take place," he said. "Do not displace 2 million Palestinians and push them in the direction of Jordan."

New trial studying 3D mammograms

Group seeks to look at screening's effectiveness vs. traditonal 2D scans

Carla K. Johnson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Are 3D mammograms better than standard 2D imaging for catching advanced cancers?

A clinical trial is recruiting thousands of volunteers – including a large number of Black patients who face disparities in breast cancer death rates – to try to find out. People like Carole Stovall, a psychologist in Washington, D.C., have signed up for the study to help answer the question.

"We all need a mammogram anyway, so why not do it with a study that allows the scientists to understand more and move closer to finding better treatments and ways of maybe even preventing it?" Stovall said.

The underrepresentation of women and minorities in research is a long-simmering issue affecting health problems including Alzheimer's disease, stroke and COVID-19. Trials without diversity lead to gaps in understanding of how new treatments work for all people.

"Until we get more Black women into clinical trials, we can't change the science. And we need better science for Black bodies," said Ricki Fairley, a breast cancer survivor and advocate who is working on the issue.

Black patients are 40% more likely to die from breast cancer than white women and tend to be diagnosed younger. But it's not clear whether 3D mammography is better for them, said Dr. Worta McCaskill-Stevens of the National Cancer Institute.

"Are there populations for whom this might be important to have early diagnosis?" asked McCaskill-Stevens. "Or is it harmful," causing too many false alarms or unneeded follow-up tests and treatments?

McCaskill-Stevens, who is Black, leads NCI's efforts to boost access to cancer research in minority and rural communities. She has joined the study herself.

"We all need a mammogram anyway, so why not do it with a study that allows the scientists to understand more and move closer to finding better treatments and ways of maybe even preventing it?" said Carole Stovall, a participant in a new study to determine if 3D mammograms are better than standard 2D imaging for catching advanced cancers. STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH/AP

The newer 3D technique has been around for a decade, but there's never been conclusive evidence that it's better than 2D at detecting advanced cancers. The screening technique combines multiple pictures of the breast taken from different angles to create a 3D-like image. Both 3D and 2D mammograms compress the breast and use low doses of radiation.

Prior studies suggest that 3D finds more cancers than 2D, but catching more cancers doesn't necessarily mean more lives saved. Some cancers missed by standard screening may not progress or need treatment. Previous studies did not randomly assign patients to a screening method, the gold standard for research.

The notion "that if it's new, it's shiny, then it's better," isn't necessarily true, McCaskill-Stevens said. "Until we have the evidence to support that, then we need well-designed randomized trials."

The trial has enrolled nearly 93,000 patients so far with a goal of 128,000. The NCI-funded study is now running in Canada, South Korea, Peru, Argentina, Italy and 32 U.S. states. A site in Thailand will soon begin enrolling patients.

"We added more international sites to enhance the trial's diversity, particularly for Hispanic and Asian women," said Dr. Etta Pisano, who leads the study.

Overall, 42% of participants are Hispanic. As recruiting continues, enrolling Black patients and other patients of color will "absolutely" continue as a priority, Pisano said.

Participants are randomly assigned to either 2D or 3D mammograms and are followed for several years. The number of advanced cancers detected by the two methods will be compared.

At the U.S. study sites, 21% of study participants are Black – that's higher than a typical cancer treatment study, in which 9% of participants are Black, McCaskill-Stevens said.

The University of North Carolina has signed up more Black participants than any other study site. Nearly a quarter of the nearly 3,000 women enrolled at UNC's two locations are Black.

"Women in North Carolina want to take part in something that's bigger than them," said Dr. Cherie Kuzmiak, who leads the UNC arm of the study. "They want this active role in helping determine the future of health care for women."

In Washington, D.C., word of mouth has led to successful recruiting.

A chance encounter at her hair salon persuaded Stovall to join the research. While waiting for a hair appointment, she met Georgetown University cancer researcher Lucile Adams-Campbell. The two, both Black, started chatting.

"She explained how important it was to get women of color into the program," said Stovall, who jumped at the chance to catch up on her mammograms after the COVID-19 pandemic delayed screening for her and thousands of others.

For Stovall, there was a personal reason to join the research. Her sister recently completed treatment for triple negative breast cancer, an aggressive type that affects Black patients at higher rates than white patients.

People ages 45 to 74 without a personal history of breast cancer are eligible for the study, which launched in 2017. Many participants also are providing blood and cheek swab samples for a database that will be mined for insights.

"It's a dream that people had since the beginning of screening that we wouldn't fit everybody into the same box," Pisano said. The study's findings could "reduce disparities if we're successful, assuming people have access to care."

Stovall, 72, had a brief scare when her mammogram, the traditional 2D type, showed something suspicious. A biopsy ruled out cancer.

"I was extremely relieved," Stovall said. "Everybody I know has heard from me about the need for them to go get a mammogram."

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science and Educational Media Group. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Kari Lake and fellow Republican Mark Finchem argued in their lawsuit that ballot tabulation machines were not trustworthy. ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Lawsuit over voting machines tossed out

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX – A federal appeals court tossed out a lawsuit brought by former Arizona gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake that was previously dismissed, challenging use of electronic voting machines and seeking to ban them in last year's midterm elections.

Lake and failed Arizona Secretary of State candidate Mark Finchem, both Republicans, filed a lawsuit in April 2022 that alleged the ballot tabulation machines were not trustworthy.

The former Phoenix TV anchor lost her race by more than 17,000 votes. Finchem lost by over 120,000 votes.

In the ruling Monday, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said their claims didn't show "a plausible inference that their individual votes in future elections will be adversely affected by the use of electronic tabulation, particularly given the robust safeguards in Arizona law, the use of paper ballots, and the post-tabulation retention of those ballots."

The challenge focused on problems with ballot printers at some polling places in Maricopa County, home to Phoenix and where more than 60% of the state's voters live. The defective printers produced ballots with text that was too light or too small for the paper and therefore couldn't be read by the on-site tabulators at polling places.

Amid the confusion, lines were backed up in some areas. But the Arizona Court of Appeals concluded that no evidence was presented that voters whose ballots were unreadable by tabulators at polling places were ultimately unable to vote.

Messages left for lawyers for Lake and Finchem seeking comment on the appeal court's ruling weren't immediately returned Tuesday.

Still pending is a ruling in another lawsuit that Lake filed this year over Maricopa County's ballot signature-verification process. She has demanded that Arizona's most populous county release 1.3 million ballot envelopes signed by voters.

Lake is among the most vocal of last year's Republican candidates promoting former President Donald Trump's election lies, which she made the centerpiece of her campaign.

While most other election deniers around the country conceded after losing races in November, Lake did not.

Top Hutchinson issues: border, school shootings

Karissa Waddick
USA TODAY

GOP presidential hopeful Asa Hutchinson might be trailing in 2024 polls, but that hasn't stopped the former Arkansas governor from making his case on the campaign trail.

At a Republican presidential town hall in Exeter, New Hampshire, hosted by Seacoastonline and the USA TODAY Network last week, Hutchinson outlined his platform focused on sending additional resources to the U.S. southern border, addressing school shootings and quelling the opioid crisis that has ravaged communities across the country.

"We have a nation that has its challenges. I'm running for president because I believe that we need new leadership," Hutchinson told the small crowd of New Hampshire voters last week at the historic Exeter Town Hall.

"We need a course correction in the Republican Party," Hutchinson said, arguing that the front-runner, former President Donald Trump, "is not the right leader" for the party or the nation.

Hutchinson described securing the U.S. southern border as "the most fundamental question and responsibility the next president will have."

Among his first acts as president would be providing additional resources for the U.S. Border Patrol. Hutchinson also vowed to continue construction of the border wall that became a signature conservative policy during the Trump administration.

The former Arkansas governor called on leaders to streamline the processing of asylum seekers, "so we're not catching and then releasing them and expecting them to show up four years later," referring to the practice of releasing, rather than detaining, migrants while they await hearings.

Nearly 110,000 people died of an opioid overdose in the U.S. in 2022, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Addressing voters in New Hampshire, which is among the states with the highest rates of opioid-related deaths, Hutchinson said he'd take a three-pronged approach to thwart the epidemic by improving education about addiction, boosting treatment options and cracking down on drug trafficking from other countries.

Republican Asa Hutchinson says he would provide more resources for the U.S. Border Patrol and would continue building of the border wall. USA TODAY

"You've got to have treatment facilities that are expanded and available in our communities. That's a joint federal and state responsibility," he said.

Once head of the DEA during former President George W. Bush's administration, Hutchinson criticized candidates in the 2024 race who have called for using force against Mexico in an effort to stop the importation of fentanyl.

Fielding a question about school shootings, Hutchinson pushed for investing in security measures in schools and increased mental health resources for kids from coast to coast.

"Today, to have active shooter drills is not what we want our children to experience in life, but they are adaptable," he said.

However, Hutchinson's comments weren't an endorsement of gun control measures; he vowed that he would not take firearms away from Americans.

When asked how to keep Social Security solvent, Hutchinson said he'd employ a strategy used by former President Ronald Reagan: having a commission investigate and make recommendations to Congress on how to finance Medicare and Social Security.

HOROSCOPE | SANCTUARY | For more: www.sanctuaryworld.co

Aries (March 21-April 19). A candid outlook serves you well in relationships today. The Sagittarius moon gives an opportunity for freer connections. Feeling open?

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Someone else's contributions can feel like a divine intervention. Grateful for their offering? Show your appreciation.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Feeling lucky? A fortuitous connection can make your heart sing today. You express yourself with confidence.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Get ready to learn. A teacher may come into your life today to give you important foundational advice.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). A doorway could magically appear today. Opportunity coming your way? Get all the details.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Chewing over what's worth it to you? A valuable hit of intuition can have you looking within today. Explore further.

Libra (Sept.23-Oct. 23). Weighing sides can only do so much. Sometimes making decisions is a matter of faith. Are you a believer?

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Discover the value of levity. Get out of your head. Try living a little.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Friends will have never-ending advice for you today. But what are your instincts telling you? Filter that first.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In need of personal rejuvenation? Give yourself the gift of freedom today. Nurture through alone time.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A friendship can open up your world today. Invited on an adventure? Take the leap. See where it leads you.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). You light up the room today! Make professional connections. You'll impress others.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

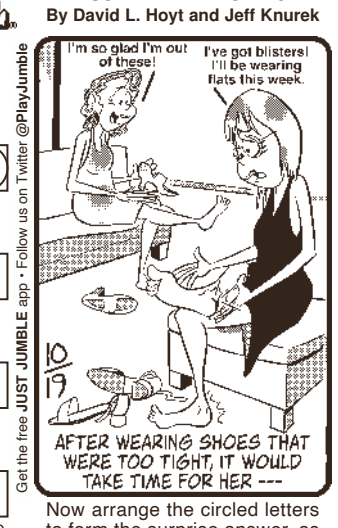
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NATGE

LORED

LAHHET

TREEHT



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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Ans. here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WIPER SNACK FIXATE VISUAL
Answer: The distance between NYC and Tokyo in an airplane is 6,739 miles — AS THE "CREW" FLIES

SUDOKU | CREATORS

Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) **RATING: BRONZE**

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

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

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

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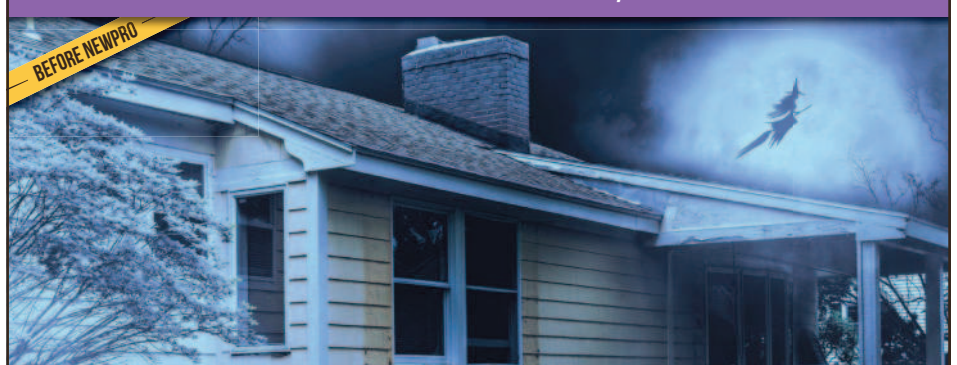

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Schools not screening for math disabilities

Jackie Mader
THE HECHINGER REPORT

Laura Jackson became seriously concerned about her daughter and math when the girl was in third grade. While many of her classmates flew through multiplication tests, Jackson's daughter relied on her fingers to count, had difficulty reading clocks and burst into tears when asked at home to practice math flashcards.

At school, the 9-year-old had been receiving help from a math specialist for two years, with little improvement.

"We hit a point where she was asking me, 'Mom, am I stupid?' " Jackson said.

One day, when having lunch with a friend, Jackson heard about a disorder known as dyscalculia. She later looked up a description of the learning disability that impacts a child's ability to process numbers and retain math knowledge. "I was like, 'Oh my gosh, this is my kid,' " Jackson said.

Nationwide, hundreds of thousands of students face challenges learning math due to disabilities like dyscalculia, a neurodevelopmental learning disorder caused by differences in parts of the brain that are involved with numbers and calculations. There are often obstacles to getting help.

America's schools have long struggled to identify and support students with learning disabilities of all kinds. Kids often languish while waiting to receive a diagnosis; families frequently have to turn to private providers to get one; and even with a diagnosis, some schools are unable to provide children the help they need.

That's slowly changing – for some disabilities. Most states have passed laws that mandate screening early elementary students for the most common reading disability – dyslexia – and countless districts train teachers to recognize struggling readers. Meanwhile, parents and experts say schools neglect students with math disabilities like dyscalculia, which affects up to 7% of the population and often coexists with dyslexia.

"There's not as much research on math disorders or dyscalculia," as there is on reading disabilities, said Karen Wilson, a clinical neuropsychologist who specializes in the assessment of children with learning differences. "That also trickles down into schools."

Math scores in the U.S. have remained dismal for years and only worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Learning struggles for some may be due to dyscalculia or other math learning disabilities, yet few teachers report their students have been screened for dyscalculia.

Experts say all students, not only those with dyscalculia – a form of math disability – could benefit from using manipulatives to help visualize problems and graph paper to assist in lining up numbers. LILLIAN MONGEAU/THE HECHINGER REPORT VIA AP

Experts say learning the most effective methods for teaching students with math disabilities could strengthen math instruction for all students.

"If it works for the students with the most severe disconnections and slower processing speeds, it's still going to work for the kids that are in the 'middle' with math difficulties," said Sandra Elliott, a former special education teacher and current chief academic officer at TouchMath, a multisensory math program.

Some signs of dyscalculia are obvious at an early age, if parents and educators know what to look for. Young children might have difficulty recognizing numbers or patterns. In elementary school, students may have trouble with math functions like addition and subtraction, word problems, counting money or remembering directions.

Even after Jackson learned about dyscalculia on her own, her daughter's Seattle-area public school was doubtful the third grader had a learning disability because she was performing well in other areas. Teachers suggested Jackson spend extra time on math at home.

"For so many parents, they assume the school would let them know there's an issue, but that's just not how it works," said Jackson, who ultimately wrote a book, "Discovering Dyscalculia," about her family's journey.

Students with dyscalculia often need a more structured approach to learning math that involves "systematic and explicit" instruction, said Lynn Fuchs, a research professor in special education and human development at Vanderbilt University.

Part of the problem is that teachers don't receive the training needed to work with children with math disabilities. At least one state, Virginia, requires dyslexia awareness training for teacher licensure renewal, but has no similar requirement for math disability training.

"It's pretty rare for undergraduate degrees or even master's degrees to focus on math learning disabilities with any level of breadth, depth, quality or rigor," said Amelia Malone, director of research and innovation at the National Center for Learning Disabilities.

Without more widespread knowledge of and support for dyscalculia, many parents have had to look for specialists and tutors on their own, which they say can be particularly challenging for math, and costly. In 2019, Jackson started pulling her daughter out of school for part of each day to teach her math at home.

"I am not a math teacher, but I was so desperate," Jackson said. "There's no one who knows anything, and we have to figure this out."

At the tutoring organization Made for Math, specialists have found children with dyscalculia need repetition, especially to understand math facts. Some students attend tutoring up to four days a week, at a cost of up to $1,000 a month.

"It's hard because it's not something schools are offering, and kids deserve it," said Heather Brand, a math specialist and operations manager for the organization.

There are pockets of progress around the country in screening more children for math disabilities, but movement at the federal level – and in most states – is "nonexistent," said Malone, of the National Center for Learning Disabilities.

New York City is one district that has prioritized math disability screening and math instruction in the early years. In 2015 and 2016, the city spent $6 million to roll out a math curriculum featuring games, building blocks, art projects and songs. The district has also introduced universal math and reading screeners to try to identify students who may be behind.

There are ways that all schools can make math instruction more accessible, experts say. In elementary schools, activities that involve more senses should be used more widely, including whole-body motions and songs for teaching numbers and hands-on materials for math operations.

Jackson said her daughter could have benefited from a wider variety of methods at school. When the teen returned to school-based math classes in high school, after several years of learning math at home, she achieved an A in algebra.

"When you really understand what it is to be dyscalculic, then you can look around and decide what this person needs to succeed," Jackson said. "It's not just that you're 'bad at math' and need to buckle down and try harder."

The Education Reporting Collaborative, a coalition of eight newsrooms, is documenting the math crisis facing schools and highlighting progress. Members of the Collaborative are AL.com, The Associated Press, The Christian Science Monitor, The Dallas Morning News, The Hechinger Report, Idaho Education News, The Post and Courier in South Carolina, and The Seattle Times.

The Associated Press education team receives support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Obituaries

TODAY'S DEATH NOTICES

Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements	Service Time	Service Location	Interment
*George, Helen G. (Dimitri)	-	Brockton	15-Oct	Russell & Pica Funeral Home, Brockton	-	-	-

*** Additional information in display obituaries**

Helen G. (Dimitri) George

BROCKTON - Helen G. (Dimitri) George, 88 of Brockton, passed peacefully Sunday, October 15, 2023 at Copley Nursing home, Stoughton, MA. She was the loving wife of the late Vasil George for 54 years.

Born February 17, 1935 in Worcester, MA, she was the daughter of the late Pandi Dimitri and Margarita (Kasuli) Dimitri, immigrants from Albania.

Helen graduated from Commerce High School in 1953 and spent her professional career in the dental field. She retired from Brockton Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery after 45 years in the industry.

Helen was a devout member of St. George Cathedral in South Boston, where she was also an enthusiastic Sunday School teacher and member of the Ladies Guild. She shared her beautiful voice as a participant in the Sunday choir. She was very involved in the Cathedral community and was instrumental in the publication of the St. George Albanian Cookbook in 2012.

Helen was passionate about life. She loved traveling, reading, gardening, cooking, painting and knitting. She traveled the world with her sister Dottie and would bring back tales of Russia, Greece and their homeland of Albania. She also loved to dance, particularly the jitterbug with her favorite partner, Vasil. But her true passion was her family, friends and faith. Helen could often be found sipping coffee and chatting for hours with loved ones. She was a loving mother who always had a home cooked dinner on the table for her family and her sons had crisp ironed shirts well into their 40's.

She is survived by her sons, Christopher L. George of Brockton, Matthew P. George and his wife Heidi of Reading; her beloved grandchildren, Theodore "Teddy" V. George (8) and Ryann A. George (4); her sister, Dorothy Dimitri, brother James Dimitri of West Boylston and was the sister of the late Marion Dimitri. Helen is also survived by many lifelong friends who adored her.

Funeral services will be held in the Russell & Pica Funeral Home, 165 Belmont St. (Rte. 123), Brockton on Saturday at 10 a.m. Interment will follow in Coweeset Cemetery, Brockton. Calling hours Friday 4-8 p.m.

Donations may be made to St. George Albanian Orthodox Cathedral, 523 E. Broadway, S. Boston, MA 02127 or Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverley Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA 02452. For online guestbook, visit RP-FH.com.

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SPORTS

Notre Dame Academy goalie Emelia DaPonte, right, leaps to grab a shot from Cohasset's Megan Smith, left, during girls high school soccer on Wednesday in Hingham. TOM GORMAN/FOR THE PATRIOT LEDGER

Notre Dame Academy girls soccer has standout defenders

Kevin Perrington-Turner
The Patriot Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

HINGHAM — The Notre Dame Academy girls soccer team has made its mark as one of the best teams on the South Shore, and it starts with their defense.

The Cougars are 10-3-3 and have only allowed 11 goals so far this season. Typically it's the scoring that gets the recognition, but the defense has stepped up tremendously.

Marshfield resident Emelia DaPonte is the goalkeeper for NDA and has had eight clean sheets. She's been on varsity since her freshman year and has playoff experience. Last fall, the Cougars lost to Grafton, 3-2 in penalty kicks, in the Division 2 quarterfinals. She knows what it takes to make a deep playoff run.

"I really want it, it's my last year," DaPonte said of a state title.

"It's such a win or lose thing and you have to really want it in order to move on. If you lose it's the end of the season. You have to really want to win," the Salve Regina commit continued.

When the Div. 2 rankings came out Tuesday, the NDA was ranked No. 4. Last season, the Cougars were also the No. 4 seed.

"Not worried about the ranking," said Dorchester resident Lola Griffin. "We definitely want to move up. Last year we were No. 4 too so I think it's just up from here."

Griffin, who is committed to play at Bryant University next year, has love for her backline. She shouted out senior Abby Tucker and sophomore Taylor Watts as girls on the backline next to her and Caroline Sacco of Hanover.

"I think collectively the four of us just works well together and we know our job is to not let the other team score," said Griffin.

NDA has only allowed more than two goals once, a 3-0 loss to Natick (No. 2 in Div. 1). The Cougars have struggled to create offense when star scorer Sydney Comeau gets doubled teamed by opposing squads.

All the defense cares about is remaining victorious. Even Sacco, who's been on varsity since she was a freshman, just wants the best for her team.

"No I don't care," said Sacco on getting recognition. "I just care about winning, playing hard, and being a strong team like we was last year coming out high in the ranks."

Week 7 South Shore high school football predictions

Chris McDaniel
The Patriot Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

There are just two weeks remaining in high school football's regular season.

League titles and playoff positioning are starting to get cleared up.

Other teams are chasing that third win to become eligible for the playoffs. Hingham, Cohasset, Stoughton and Randolph are all pace to qualify for the postseason as long as they can win one of their next two games.

The action is spread out this week with three Thursday night games and four games on Saturday.

Thursday

Diman Regional (3-3) at Southeastern (3-3), 6 p.m.

It's Senior Night for the Hawks. Southeastern is trying to snap a two-game skid. **The pick: Southeastern 19, Diman 17**

See FOOTBALL, Page 2B

Blue Hills linebacker Andrew Blige celebrates his tackle on Diman running back Talyn Cusick for a loss during a game on Oct. 12. MARC VASCONCELLOS/THE ENTERPRISE

NFL POWER RANKINGS

49ers, Eagles stay high despite upsets

Nate Davis
USA TODAY

NFL power rankings entering Week 7 of the 2023 season (previous rank in parentheses):

1. 49ers (1): Way too premature to suggest they got exposed against the league's No. 1 defense – especially amid circumstances when you'd expect QB Brock Purdy to have his worst professional game given the staggered absences Sunday of injured Pro Bowlers Christian McCaffrey, Deebo Samuel and Trent Williams around him.

2. Lions (3): They're indeed in rare air – one more win would make them 6-1 for the first time in the Super Bowl era (since 1966). And while it can be dangerous to look too far ahead, even for a team on a four-game heater, there don't appear to be many losses on the other side of Detroit's Week 9 bye.

3. Chiefs (4): Including postseason, QB Patrick Mahomes has now started 100 NFL games ... and won 80 of them. Crazy. Fifteen percent of his career victories, or 12, have come against Denver – a team that will be back in Kansas City's crosshairs in Week 8.

4. Eagles (2): Time to find something out about a team that largely tightroped its way to 5-0. But Philly couldn't hang in the Jets' mosh pit, and next must try and keep pace with Miami's track team.

5. Bills (5): Trust issues are becoming evident for a team that's won three laughers, including the Week 4 runaway from the Fins, but had trouble waking up in its other three contests. New England should pose little problem in Week 7, but then Buffalo will be under the prime-time microscope for three in a row.

6. Dolphins (6): How good – really – is this offense? The numbers, individually and collectively, have it tracking to be among the best in league history. In fact, Miami's O is averaging better than 100 yards more than the second-ranked Eagles. But dates with the Philly and K.C. defenses in two of the next three weeks should provide litmus tests.

7. Jaguars (7): A club that just spent two weeks in London now hits the road for two more games outside Duval County. RB Travis Etienne has 339 yards and four TDs from scrimmage during Jacksonville's three-game winning streak.

8. Cowboys (8): Scratching out a win in LA against the Chargers – in front of legions of Dallas fans – salvaged a bye week that was on the verge of ruination, especially pitted against former OC Kellen Moore and coming on the heels of the blowout in San Francisco.

9. Steelers (9): A team that's won three of four coming out of its bye week is also about to get WR Diontae Johnson back on an offense that needs a spark.

10. Ravens (10): A team that's only had two home games will play four of its next five in Baltimore. Fun fact: Lamar Jackson has joined Michael Vick as the only quarterbacks to rush for at least 50 yards in a game 50 times.

11. Browns (13): Cleveland's stingy

See NFL, Page 2B

NFL

Continued from Page 1B

D has ceded 1,002 yards, fewest through five games in 52 years. On average, the Browns are surrendering 200.4 yards a week, more than 60 fewer than Baltimore's second-ranked defense.

12. Bengals (22): They leveled back to .500 entering a much-needed bye week. QB Joe Burrow, WR Tee Higgins and Co. better rest up, though, because they're not scheduled to face a team currently below .500 until Week 15.

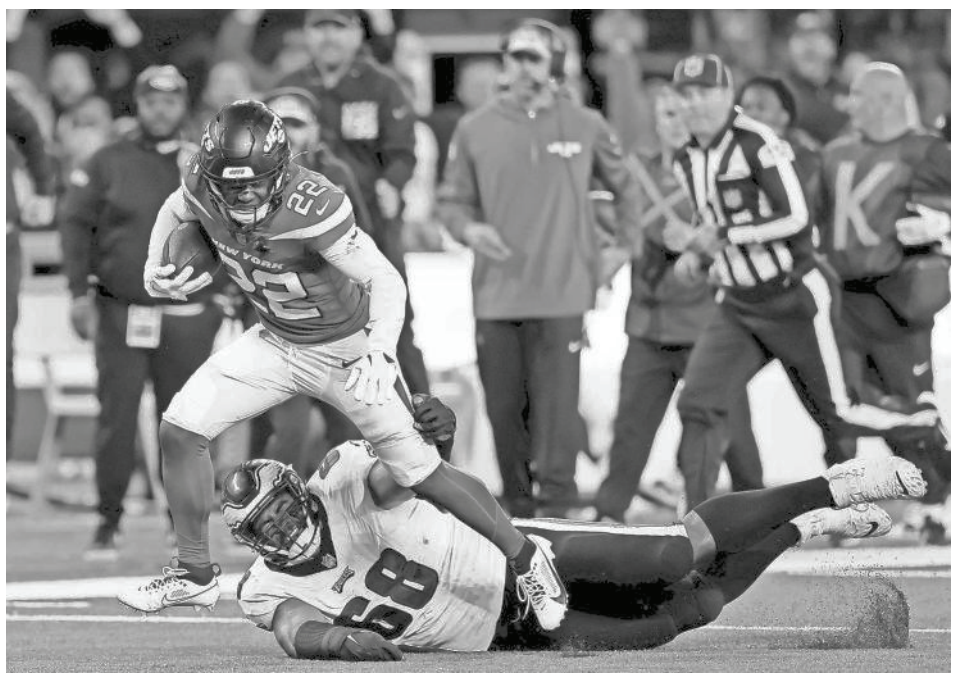
13. Rams (11): WR Puka Nacua's production has unsurprisingly downshifted with the return of Cooper Kupp, but he's still carved out a nice piece of historical real estate. The rookie's 50 catches for 598 yards are both records in the Super Bowl era for a player through six career games.

14. Seahawks (12): Despite Sunday's pair of unfortunate INTs, QB Geno Smith's mistakes are essentially on par with 2022's level. It's his touchdown production that's down by nearly half.

15. Jets (21): Per HC Robert Saleh, "(W)e've played a gauntlet of quarterbacks. I know we haven't gotten all wins, but we've embarrassed all of them." Whether or not that's legitimately true, it's a fact this defense hasn't allowed as many as 300 net passing yards since the end of the 2021 season.

16. Texans (18): They have two players with at least three TD catches ... same as the entirety of Houston's 2022 season. No team has fewer giveaways than their three.

17. Buccaneers (14): If you don't want QB Baker Mayfield to shoulder an inordinate amount of the offensive load, you can't wallow at the bottom of the league with 3.0 yards per carry.



Jets safety Tony Adams (22) returns an interception against Eagles offensive tackle Jordan Mailata in the fourth quarter on Sunday at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. BRAD PENNER/USA TODAY SPORTS

18. Saints (15): Here's a crazy factoid: Since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger, Walter Payton is the only player to have more games (25) with a pass attempt, carry and catch than New Orleans' Taysom Hill (20).

19. Chargers (20): You can argue they stole defeat from the jaws of victory yet again. Now? Better regroup quickly for a short week that will end in Kansas City against the rested Chiefs ... in a game the Bolts really need.

20. Raiders (23): A win at Chicago on Sunday puts Las Vegas above .500 ... which wouldn't be bad at all for a team tied for the AFC lead with 12 turnovers.

21. Packers (24): Assuming they're revitalized coming out of their bye, could be time to go on a run given they're not scheduled to see an opponent currently sporting a winning record until Week 10.

22. Vikings (25): Another week and another key injury (LB Marcus Davenport, ankle) for a struggling team apparently determined not to have a fire sale.

23. Commanders (27): With four of their next six against NFC East opponents, including both games against the Giants, Washington could well be entering a stretch that determines its season ... and quite possibly HC Ron Rivera's viability beyond 2023.

24. Falcons (16): Is there any head coach more fun to watch – meaning, literally taking in his facial expressions – than Arthur Smith? If he wants the focus back on his brilliance as a play caller, Smith might need to pivot to QB Taylor Heinicke.

25. Titans (19): QB Ryan Tannehill's ankle injury effectively sunk Tennessee in 2022. It's come earlier this year.

26. Colts (17): QB Anthony Richardson's shoulder injury will likely scuttle his rookie season, per owner Jim Irsay. Probably an unsurvivable setback ... unless RB Jonathan Taylor displays his 2021 form soon.

27. Giants (29): The Giants are the fourth team since 1950 which failed to score an offensive touchdown before halftime in each of their first six games. In fact, New York's offense hasn't scored a TD since Week 3.

28. Broncos (28): They'll only leave Denver one time from now until December. That may not necessarily be a plus given how this 1-5 outfit is trending ... though if Sean Payton continues offloading players, at least the home fans will have some new guys to boo.

29. Bears (26): Two steps forward, one step back for QB Justin Fields, whose dislocated thumb threatens to send this squad back into hibernation.

30. Cardinals (30): That's three straight losses by an average of 16.7 points per. It took a month, but it appears the Cards are who we thought they were.

31. Patriots (31): Among their many, many failings? No team has fewer takeaways (3). And no team has a higher percentage of drives (81.7%) that end without points.

32. Panthers (32): Little has gone right for Carolina, but at least WR Adam Thielen continues to shine. Only two undrafted players have more 100-yard receiving games than his 24.

Football

Continued from Page 1B

Sharon (1-5) at Stoughton (2-4), 6

The Black Knights have a turned a corner since starting 0-3. Stoughton needs to win this one to become playoff eligible as a tough Mansfield team is waiting next week. **The pick: Stoughton 28, Sharon 12**

Mansfield (3-3) at Oliver Ames (0-5), 7

The Tigers have had two weeks to prepare for this one, but the Hornets are a state-title contender. **The pick: Mansfield 34, OA 19**

Friday

Braintree (3-3) at Walpole (3-3), 5:45

The Wamps are on the bubble in the Div. 1 playoff field, currently in the No. 17 spot. Walpole is coming off a huge win over previously unbeaten Milton. **The pick: Walpole 32, Braintree 20**

Bishop Stang (1-5) at Archbishop Williams (3-3), 6

The Spartans are No. 17 in Div. 5 while the Bishops are No. 18, so this has big playoff implications. **The pick: Archies 26, Stang 17**

Mashpee (5-1) at Cohasset (2-3), 6

The Skippers have to win this week or next week against Randolph to qualify for the playoffs. Cohasset has gotten the best of the Falcons in recent years, but this is Mashpee's best team in a few years. **The pick: Mashpee 27, Cohasset 24**

Foxboro (5-1) at Canton (4-2), 6

This might be the best team the Bulldogs play all season. **The pick: Foxboro 33, Canton 21**

Marshfield (4-2) at Plymouth North (3-3), 6

The Rams are rolling during a four-game winning streak. The Blue Eagles have been one of the biggest surprises this fall. **The pick: Marshfield 42, Plymouth North 22**

Brighton (3-2) at Randolph (2-3), 6

The Blue Devils are searching for that third win to become playoff eligible. **The pick: Randolph 26, Brighton 16**

St. Mary's-Lynn (4-2) at Cardinal Spellman (5-1), 6:30

The Cardinals are coming off their first loss of the season against Div. 2 Bishop Feehan. The Spartans are the defending Div. 6 state champions, but they're fighting for a playoff spot this fall. **The pick: Spellman 20, St. Mary's 14**

Blue Hills (4-2) at West Bridgewater (4-2), 6:30

If you're a fan of the ground game, this is the game to check out. I'm setting the over/under on 100-yard rushers in this one at 2.5. **The pick: WB 27, Blue Hills 21**

Hull (2-3) at Carver (6-0), 6:30

The Crusaders are coming off their best two wins of the season (Cohasset and Randolph). **The pick: Carver 35, Hull 21**

Cape Cod Tech (2-3) at Holbrook/Avon (2-4), 6:30

The Bulldogs have played in a lot of wild games in recent years. I think they're due for one this week. **The pick: Holbrook/Avon 36, CCT 30**

Norwell (5-1) at Sandwich (3-3), 7

The Clippers just keep getting better. Last week's win over Middleboro has bumped Norwell up to No. 1 in Div. 6. **The pick: Norwell 29, Sandwich 10**

South Shore Tech (4-2) at Wareham (4-2), 7

Wareham is one of the state's most-improved teams this fall. This should be a good one. **The pick: SST 25, Wareham 21**

Needham (5-1) at Weymouth (5-1), 7

This is Weymouth's toughest game to date. Needham is No. 4 in Div. 1, while the Wildcats are No. 11. **The pick: Needham 22, Weymouth 15**

Abington (5-1) at East Bridgewater (2-4), 7

The Green Wave are coming off a stellar 21-0 win over Rockland. **The pick: Abington 30, EB 20**

Bridgewater-Raynham (1-5) at Dartmouth (6-0), 7

The Trojans need to win their last two games to get into the playoffs. **The pick: Dartmouth 26, B-R 22**

Rockland (5-1) at Middleboro (4-2), 7

Both teams are still in the South Shore League Sullivan Division title picture. The loser likely gets kicked out of that race. **The pick: Middleboro 18, Rockland 16**

Milton (5-1) at Taunton (3-3), 7

The Wildcats are trying to bounce back following their first loss of the season. Div. 1 Taunton is a tough test. **The pick: Milton 28, Taunton 23**

Scituate (3-3) at North Quincy (3-3), 7

The Sailors are much better than their record shows, and the Raiders are coming off a big win over Pembroke. **The pick: Scituate 34, NQ 20**

Pembroke (2-4) at Hanover (6-0), 7

The Titans' win over Austin Prep doesn't count for MIAA tournament purposes, so this is a must-win for Pembroke. **The pick: Hanover 28, Pembroke 14**

Whitman-Hanson (3-3) at Duxbury (4-1)

The Panthers gave the Dragons a battle last season, but Duxbury has been playing on another level since losing to Hanover in Week 1. **The pick: Duxbury 36, W-H 21**

Saturday

BC High (4-2) at Saint John's-Shrewsbury (3-3), noon

The Eagles dropped a competitive game against Xaverian last week. **The pick: BC High 33, Saint John's 28**

Plymouth South (3-3) at Quincy (2-4), noon

Both teams are fighting for their playoff lives. **The pick: Plymouth South 22, Quincy 13**

Brockton (1-5) at New Bedford (2-4), 1

The Boxers need to win out to have a shot to sneak into the playoffs. They're currently No. 23 in Div. 1. **The pick: Brockton 24, New Bedford 20**

Silver Lake (0-6) at Hingham (2-4), 3:15

The Lakers are trying to spoil Hingham's playoff hopes. **The pick: Hingham 28, Silver Lake 14**

Last week: 17-9 (65.4%)
Overall: 118-42 (73.8%)

SPORTS ON TV

Thursday, Oct. 19
(All times Eastern)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
7 p.m.
ESPN — James Madison at Marshall
ESPN2 — Rice at Tulsa
7:30 p.m.
ESPNU — N.C. Central at Morgan St.
COLLEGE SOCCER (WOMEN'S)
5 p.m.
PAC-12N — Oregon at Southern Cal
6 p.m.
ACCN — Boston College at Wake Forest
BTN — Rutgers at Ohio St.
7 p.m.
PAC-12N — Utah at Washington
SECN — Vanderbilt at Mississippi St.
8 p.m.
ACCN — Notre Dame at North Carolina
BTN — Wisconsin at Maryland
GOLF
8 a.m.
GOLF — DP World Tour: The Estrella Damm N.A Andalucia Masters, First Round, Real Club de Sotogrande, Cádiz, Spain
5:30 p.m.
GOLF — LPGA Tour: The BMW Ladies Championship, First Round, Seowon Valley Country Club, Seoul, South Korea
11 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour: The ZOZO Championship, Second Round, Narashino Country Club, Inzai, Chiba Prefecture, Japan
HORSE RACING
12:30 p.m.
FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races
MLB BASEBALL
5 p.m.
TBS — N.L. Championship Series: Philadelphia at Arizona, Game 3
8 p.m.
FS1 — A.L. Championship Series: Houston at Texas, Game 4
NBA BASKETBALL
7 p.m.
NBATV — Preseason: Boston at Charlotte
10 p.m.
NBATV — Preseason: Phoenix vs. LA Lakers, Thousand Palms, Calif.
NFL FOOTBALL
8:15 p.m.
PRIME VIDEO — Jacksonville at New Orleans
NHL HOCKEY
10:30 p.m.
ESPN — Chicago at Colorado
TENNIS
6 a.m.
TENNIS — Tokyo-ATP, Stockholm-ATP, Antwerp-ATP, Monastir-WTA, Cluj-Napoca-WTA, Nanchang-WTA Early Rounds
12 a.m. (Friday)
TENNIS — Tokyo-ATP, Stockholm-ATP, Antwerp-ATP, Monastir-WTA, Cluj-Napoca-WTA, Nanchang-WTA Quarterfinals

THESE BOOKS WILL SCARE YOUR SOCKS OFF THIS HALLOWEEN

Brian Truitt USA TODAY

As you're prepping for Halloween, don't forget to read a scary book. Because nothing screams spooky season like your imagination running wild with some freaky prose. ● This fall offers a whole slew of horror reads and novel chillers to get in the mood. Sure, don't forget the classics (Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein"? Still a banger) or the usual suspects like Stephen King, Shirley Jackson, Clive Barker and their literary lot. But there's a bunch of authors, up-and-coming as well as well-known, whose fresh fare will keep you up at night with page-turning thrills. ● Here are new titles available to check out now, depending on your horror tastes.

If you're a sucker for true crime: 'Becoming the Bogeyman'

By Richard Chizmar (Gallery Books)

Chizmar's 2021 thriller "Chasing the Boogeyman" wove together mystery and coming-of-age elements in a metafictional narrative that centered on an '80s Maryland serial killer, and the author carries over that approach for the intriguing sequel. His on-the-page counterpart discovers a garbage bag full of human remains near his home, which puts a strain on his marriage, and more deaths spark fears of a copycat and a new investigation.

If you prefer epic nightmares of the seasonal variety: 'Black River Orchard'

By Chuck Wendig (Del Rey)

Pour yourself some cider when sitting down with this huge (609 pages) tome, set in small-town Pennsylvania. After several painstaking years, Dan Paxson's apple trees have finally fostered a fruit his teen daughter has named the Ruby Slipper. Local residents become ravenous for its delicious taste – and the apple's powerful after-effects – but there's something much more evil at root in this story of social status and rural terror.

If you live for devilish family drama: 'Black Sheep'

By Rachel Harrison (Berkley)

Vesper is a young cynical woman who escaped a devout religious community – and her scream-queen mommy dearest – before turning 18 and hasn't looked back. Now in her 20s, she receives a wedding invitation from her beloved cousin Rosie and decides to dip her toe back into a toxic environment. But Vesper is met with more than just an awkward family reunion when she learns of the place's biggest secret and potentially an impending apocalypse.

If you enjoy anthologies like 'Tales From the Crypt' and 'Creepshow': 'Out There Screaming'

Edited by Jordan Peele (Random House)

The "Get Out" filmmaker curates a collection of thoughtful short stories by 19 leading voices in Black horror. Rebecca Roanhorse's "Eye & Tooth" stars a pair of sibling monster hunters tackling the Texas undead, Tananarive Due's "The Rider" centers on two Freedom Riders and the sinister thing on their bus, while P. Djèlí Clark's "Hide & Seek" is a tale of kids, drug addiction and black magic.

If you like a mix of Stephen King and cyberstalking: 'Parasocial'

By Alex de Campi and Erica Henderson (Image Comics)

With his marriage on the rocks and his sci-fi TV show canceled, Luke Indiana is a fading actor on the convention circuit who needs a win but winds up wrecking his car on a Texas highway. Devoted superfan Lily stops to help, but instead of getting a charge for his dead phone to call a tow truck, he's kidnapped and has to use all his charm and wits to survive. The graphic novel offers a contemporary take on "Misery" and a clever look at modern fandoms.

If you prefer your rock music on the darker side: 'Schrader's Chord'

By Scott Leeds (Tor Nightfire)

Like a heavy-metal spin on "Evil Dead," Leeds' debut novel centers on a family record store in Seattle. After the death of his estranged dad, Charlie Remick returns home to discover he's inherited not only the business but also a strange black case with four old vinyl records. Playing them opens a portal to the land of the dead, and the key to closing off all this supernatural badness happens to be Charlie's resurrected father.

If you dig a humorous haunted house tale: 'The September House'

By Carissa Orlando (Berkley)

Margaret realized a life's dream when she and her husband Hal bought an old Victorian house for a steal. Then the walls started bleeding – something to look forward to every September! – and she met the spirited houseguests that came with the place. Four years later, Hal's gone missing, Margaret teams with her daughter to find him and they deal with the house's big secrets in a darkly comic mix of "Ghosts" and "The Shining."

If you're all about supernatural Westerns: 'Vampires of El Norte'

By Isabel Cañas (Berkley)

"The Hacienda" author goes back to 1840s Mexico with this historical fiction tale of Nestor, a vaquero who works on ranches near the Texas border and still grieves his beloved Nena, whom he assumes dead nine years after she was savagely attacked and drained of her blood. Surprise, though: They're reunited when America invades Mexico, she's now a very alive healer and is mad he left her, though they have more sinister problems to tackle than relationship issues.

If you're interested in Southern Gothic stories of parental loss: 'What Kind of Mother'

By Clay McLeod Chapman (Quirk Books)

In Chapman's follow-up to last year's "Ghost Eaters," Madi Price is forced to return to the Virginia hometown she left as a teen mom and starts a gig as a local palm reader. Now with her 17-year-old daughter in tow, Madi runs into high school love Henry, a fisherman whose wife died by suicide and infant son went missing five years ago, and she reluctantly gives him a reading, leading to psychic visions that the kid isn't as dead as everyone thinks he is.

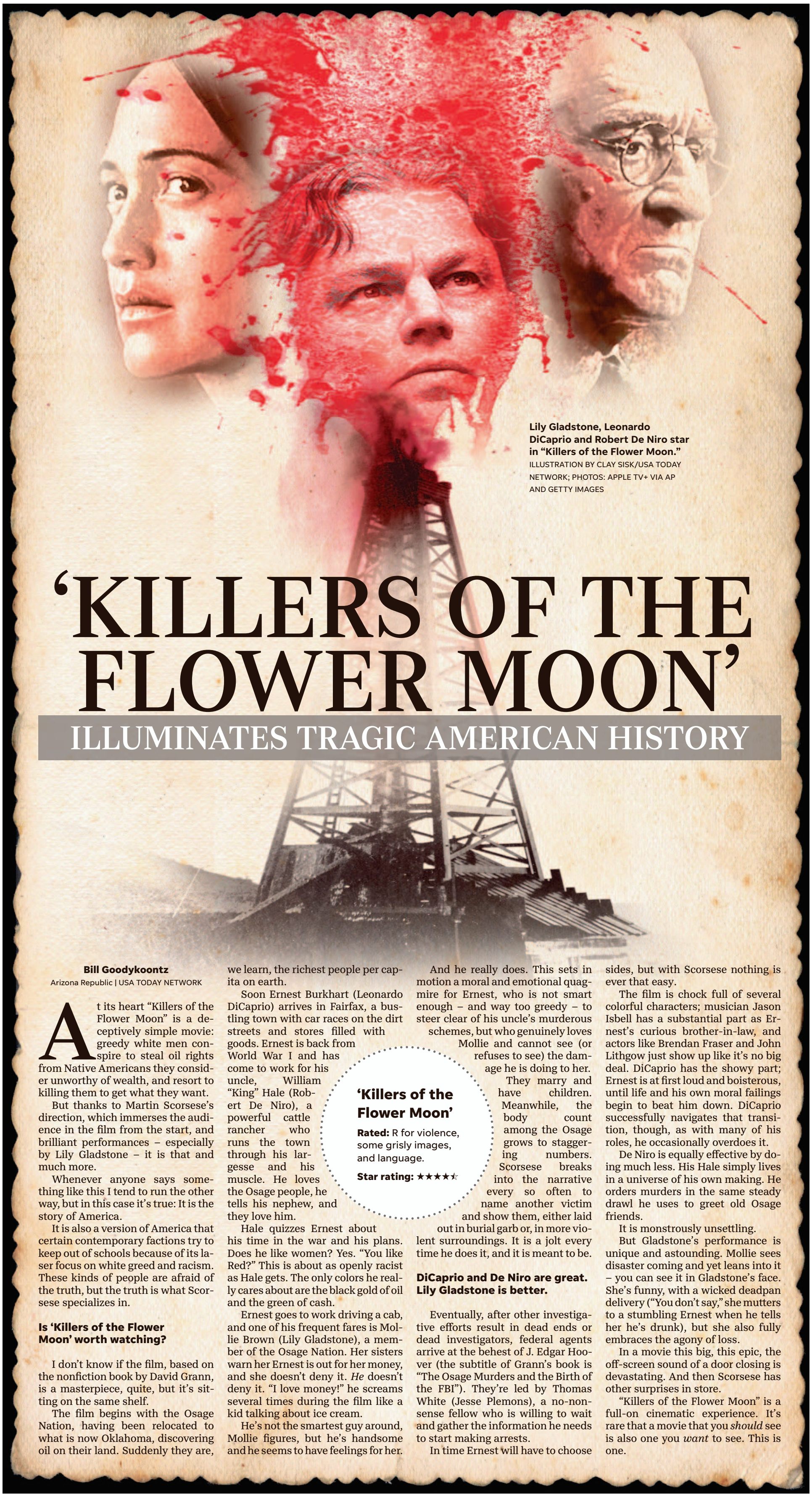
If you love crafty teen slashers: 'Your Lonely Nights Are Over'

By Adam Sass (Viking Books for Young Readers)

Dearie and Cole are gay best friends and snarky seniors at Stone Grove High who get blamed when anything bad happens. They're of course the first suspects when Mr. Sandman – a notorious serial killer who was never caught – reemerges and targets the school's Queer Club. The pals have to stop the gory rampage before the body count grows any higher in Sass' violently funny outing.

TOP ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN GRAY/USA TODAY NETWORK; GETTY IMAGES

FILM



Lily Gladstone, Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro star in "Killers of the Flower Moon." ILLUSTRATION BY CLAY SISK/USA TODAY NETWORK; PHOTOS: APPLE TV+ VIA AP AND GETTY IMAGES

'KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON'

ILLUMINATES TRAGIC AMERICAN HISTORY

Bill Goodykoontz
Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

At its heart "Killers of the Flower Moon" is a deceptively simple movie: greedy white men conspire to steal oil rights from Native Americans they consider unworthy of wealth, and resort to killing them to get what they want.

But thanks to Martin Scorsese's direction, which immerses the audience in the film from the start, and brilliant performances – especially by Lily Gladstone – it is that and much more.

Whenever anyone says something like this I tend to run the other way, but in this case it's true: It is the story of America.

It is also a version of America that certain contemporary factions try to keep out of schools because of its laser focus on white greed and racism. These kinds of people are afraid of the truth, but the truth is what Scorsese specializes in.

Is 'Killers of the Flower Moon' worth watching?

I don't know if the film, based on the nonfiction book by David Grann, is a masterpiece, quite, but it's sitting on the same shelf.

The film begins with the Osage Nation, having been relocated to what is now Oklahoma, discovering oil on their land. Suddenly they are, we learn, the richest people per capita on earth.

Soon Ernest Burkhart (Leonardo DiCaprio) arrives in Fairfax, a bustling town with car races on the dirt streets and stores filled with goods. Ernest is back from World War I and has come to work for his uncle, William "King" Hale (Robert De Niro), a powerful cattle rancher who runs the town through his largesse and his muscle. He loves the Osage people, he tells his nephew, and they love him.

Hale quizzes Ernest about his time in the war and his plans. Does he like women? Yes. "You like Red?" This is about as openly racist as Hale gets. The only colors he really cares about are the black gold of oil and the green of cash.

Ernest goes to work driving a cab, and one of his frequent fares is Mollie Brown (Lily Gladstone), a member of the Osage Nation. Her sisters warn her Ernest is out for her money, and she doesn't deny it. *He* doesn't deny it. "I love money!" he screams several times during the film like a kid talking about ice cream.

He's not the smartest guy around, Mollie figures, but he's handsome and he seems to have feelings for her.

And he really does. This sets in motion a moral and emotional quagmire for Ernest, who is not smart enough – and way too greedy – to steer clear of his uncle's murderous schemes, but who genuinely loves Mollie and cannot see (or refuses to see) the damage he is doing to her.

They marry and have children. Meanwhile, the body count among the Osage grows to staggering numbers. Scorsese breaks into the narrative every so often to name another victim and show them, either laid out in burial garb or, in more violent surroundings. It is a jolt every time he does it, and it is meant to be.

'Killers of the Flower Moon'

Rated: R for violence, some grisly images, and language.

Star rating: ★★★★½

DiCaprio and De Niro are great. Lily Gladstone is better.

Eventually, after other investigative efforts result in dead ends or dead investigators, federal agents arrive at the behest of J. Edgar Hoover (the subtitle of Grann's book is "The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI"). They're led by Thomas White (Jesse Plemons), a no-nonsense fellow who is willing to wait and gather the information he needs to start making arrests.

In time Ernest will have to choose sides, but with Scorsese nothing is ever that easy.

The film is chock full of several colorful characters; musician Jason Isbell has a substantial part as Ernest's curious brother-in-law, and actors like Brendan Fraser and John Lithgow just show up like it's no big deal. DiCaprio has the showy part; Ernest is at first loud and boisterous, until life and his own moral failings begin to beat him down. DiCaprio successfully navigates that transition, though, as with many of his roles, he occasionally overdoes it.

De Niro is equally effective by doing much less. His Hale simply lives in a universe of his own making. He orders murders in the same steady drawl he uses to greet old Osage friends.

It is monstrously unsettling.

But Gladstone's performance is unique and astounding. Mollie sees disaster coming and yet leans into it – you can see it in Gladstone's face. She's funny, with a wicked deadpan delivery ("You don't say," she mutters to a stumbling Ernest when he tells her he's drunk), but she also fully embraces the agony of loss.

In a movie this big, this epic, the off-screen sound of a door closing is devastating. And then Scorsese has other surprises in store.

"Killers of the Flower Moon" is a full-on cinematic experience. It's rare that a movie that you *should* see is also one you *want* to see. This is one.

BRIDGE | FRANK STEWART

Having a partner who is imperfect

"I think my wife's a perfect partner," a club player told me, "except for one thing: She expects me to be one also."

He and his wife were today's East-West.

"My wife led the K-A of diamonds against four hearts," he said, "and I signaled high-low with the jack and deuce. When she led a third diamond, declarer ruffed high in dummy. He drew trumps, lost a club finesse to my king and claimed, pitching a spade on a good club.

"My wife rarely complains and didn't then, but I had a feeling I'd done something dreadful."

Attitude

East's defense was imperfect. His jack (then deuce) of diamonds was an "attitude" signal, requesting a diamond continuation. But what East needed was a spade shift to set up a spade trick while he had the king of clubs. On the first diamond, East should play the deuce, asking for the logical shift to spades.

Nobody's perfect; West might have shifted anyway. (A shift at Trick Two might be too late.) But I can't blame her for obeying East's signal.

Daily question

You hold: ♠ A Q 5 ♥ A J 6 ♦ 7 4 ♣ A Q J 10 5. The dealer, at your right, opens one diamond. You double, and your partner responds ("advances") one spade. The opponents pass. What do you say?

Answer: Don't get carried away. Your partner was obliged to bid, and you can't assume he has any points or a decent spade suit. He is quite likely to have neither. Bid two clubs, suggesting substantial extra strength. If you have a game, partner will bid again.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A Q 5
♡ A J 6
◇ 7 4
♣ A Q J 10 5

WEST
♠ 10 9 3
♡ 7
◇ A K 9 8 5 3
♣ 7 6 2

EAST
♠ K J 8 7 2
♡ 8 5 2
◇ J 2
♣ K 8 3

SOUTH
♠ 6 4
♡ K Q 10 9 4 3
◇ Q 10 6
♣ 9 4

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♡	2 ◇
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♡	Pass
4 ♡	All Pass		

Opening lead — ◇ K

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Can't wait for your answers? Find all the puzzle answers at **answers.usatoday.com**

BOGGLE BRAINBUSTERS

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

10-19-23

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE
3 letters = 1 point
4 letters = 2 points
5 letters = 3 points
6 letters = 4 points
7 letters = 6 points
8 letters = 10 points
9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
61-100 = Pro
31-60 = Gamer
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?
Find AT LEAST FOUR FIVE-LETTER BIRDS in the grid of letters.

Answers to Wednesday's Boggle BrainBusters: ONE TWO SIX TEN THREE FIFTY TWENTY

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DEAR ABBY | ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

Long-distance couple tries to hash out their future together

Dear Abby: I've been separated and divorced for two years. A year ago, I met a man through a mutual friend. He was also going through a divorce. We started communicating, fell in love and have been traveling back and forth between Ohio, where he works and lives, and New Jersey, where I am.

He wants me to quit my job and find a new one so we can make our relationship permanent in Ohio. I'm a sales support coordinator for a broker, and I have been with the company for some time. There's no guarantee I could find a job that pays as well as this one does. He has his own business and also cares for his elderly aunt and uncle.

I want to be with him, but at my age (60), I'm hesitant to start a new job. Also, I'd be leaving my adult kids behind and would miss them dearly. It's a dilemma because I want to be able to see my kids as often as we can, but I also love this man and want to share my life with him. How do I figure this out?

Hard Decisions To Make

Dear Hard Decisions: Your work is cut out for you. Before making any decisions, do some exploring. Would moving out of state guarantee that you would have to sacrifice your well-paying job? Many people work remotely these days, and it wouldn't hurt to ask if it would be possible for you to do that with your current company. Are there similar job openings in the city where your gentleman friend lives?

Relocating to Ohio would not necessarily mean you would no longer see your adult children. They could visit, and the reverse is also true. Other families surmount this challenge and so could you. Give yourself some time to decide what is right for you.

Dear Abby: I am divorced and have an adult son. He hasn't been back for four or five years. His dad had a heart attack, so my son took a few days to come home. I texted to see how his dad was doing and got only short responses. My son made no attempt to see me while he was here – not a one-hour visit or even a phone call.

I have never been so hurt. I am beyond devastated. I know it's not about me, but I have feelings, and I feel like I don't exist to either of them. My ex and I are both in relationships. Should I quit trying to communicate with my son? I don't want to do this, but spin it any way you want, he didn't want to see me. So, is it, "When a door closes, quit knocking"? I am crushed. What should I do?

Still Mom in Canada

Dear Mom: Your son's visit was not about you. It was about his father who had suffered a heart attack and could have died. It's entirely possible that your son had his hands full dealing with his dad and the circumstances surrounding his treatment and care. If you hadn't seen your son in four or five years, you may not have been that close to begin with. Leave it alone. If you continue to pursue and personalize this, you will only drive your son further away.

Contact Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CELEBRITY CIPHER | LUIS CAMPOS

"W M L O N A D W E N R T D L F N A D P P L Y M D I P Z Y M D O , N R C . . . R D D C F A Z Y D F Z M X D C . L A C D F D P X D F A Z Y D N E H T D I P L Z P L A G ." — Y L M M T N A D F

Previous Solution: "What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?" — Henry David Thoreau

TODAY'S CLUE: R equals P

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BIRTHDAYS

Actor **Tony Lo Bianco** ("The French Connection") is 87. Artist **Peter Max** is 86. Actor **John Lithgow** is 78. Singer **Jeannie C. Riley** is 78. Singer **Patrick Simmons** of The Doobie Brothers is 75. Actor **Annie Golden** ("Orange is the New Black") is 72. Talk show host **Charlie Chase** is 71. Singer-keyboardist **Karl Wallinger** of World Party is 66. Singer **Jennifer Holliday** is 63. TV host **Ty Pennington** ("Extreme Makeover: Home Edition") is 59. Singer-guitarist **Todd Park Mohr** of Big Head Todd and the Monsters is 58. Actor **Jon Favreau** is 57. "South Park" co-creator **Trey Parker** is 54. Comedian **Chris Kattan** ("Saturday Night Live") is 53. Singer **Pras Michel** of The Fugees is 51. Actor **Omar Gooding** ("Hangin' With Mr. Cooper") is 47. Country singer **Cyndi Thomson** is 47. Writer-director **Jason Reitman** ("Juno") is 46. Actor **Benjamin Salisbury** ("The Nanny") is 43. Actor **Gillian Jacobs** ("Community") is 41. Actor **Rebecca Ferguson** ("Dune," "The Greatest Showman") is 40. Singer **Zac Barnett** of American Authors is 37. Actor **Ciara Renee** ("Legends of Tomorrow") is 33. Actor **Hunter King** ("The Young and the Restless") is 30.

Lithgow

WHAT TO WATCH | CONTENT BY TV WEEKLY

All times listed are Eastern/Pacific Time. Shows air one hour earlier in Central/Mountain Time.

God's Grace: The Sheila Johnson Story
BET+ • Original Film
This biopic is based on the life of Sheila Marie Johnson (portrayed by Demetria McKinney), who had to retire from the Air Force at age 43 after being diagnosed with stage IV metastatic breast cancer. With the emotional support of her father, daughter and best friend, Sheila later went on to found an advocacy group to support and empower Black women and men diagnosed with the disease.

Bodies
Netflix • New Series
This police procedural offers a twist: When a body – the same body – is found on Longharvest Lane in London's East End in 1890, 1941, 2023 and 2053, one detective from each period must investigate. As connections are drawn across the decades, the detectives soon discover their investigations are linked, and an enigmatic political leader – Elias Mannix (Stephen Graham) – becomes increasingly central. To solve the mystery, the four detectives must somehow collaborate and uncover a conspiracy spanning over 150 years.

Neon
Netflix • New Series
This eight-episode comedy follows three friends (played by Tyler Dean Flores, Emma Ferreira and Jordan Mendoza) from small-town Florida to the bustling beaches and bright lights of Miami as they hustle their way toward making it big in the world of reggaeton music.

Wolf Like Me
Peacock • Season Premiere
In the second season of this half-hour romantic dramedy, Mary (Isla Fisher) and Gary (Josh Gad) leap into the next phase of their relationship and face their biggest challenge yet: pregnancy. As much as they try to have a "normal" pregnancy, it seems impossible with so many questions looming over them.

"Wolf Like Me" PEACOCK

Will their child be a baby or a wolf pup? Just how long can they keep things secret from the rest of their family? And will what happened in the Outback come back to haunt them? When Mary's former professor, Anton (Edgar Ramirez), suddenly reappears in her life, new secrets from her past are revealed, leaving Mary and Gary to question whether they are even meant to be together.

Transplant
NBC, 9 p.m.
As Bash (Hamza Haq) and Mags (Laurence Leboeuf) take a big step forward in their relationship, Mags treats a young pregnant patient with a life-threatening condition, Bash confronts an extremely rare condition of his own and June (Ayisha Issa) settles into trauma OR with the demanding Dr. Novak (Gord Rand).

The Dead Files
Travel Channel, 10 p.m. • Season Finale
In "The Eternal Haunting," the Season 15 finale, Kentucky's Octagon Hall is known for its paranormal activity, but that activity has turned violent following the death of the museum's founder. Staff and guests are scared out of their minds, and the director, Barry, fears he'll have to shut it down.

(:08) That '70s Show | (:39) The '70s Sh
Leah Remini: Scien and the Aftermath
The Other Mothe
Kimberley Crossm
All In With Chri
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LOCAL FIVE-DAY FORECAST

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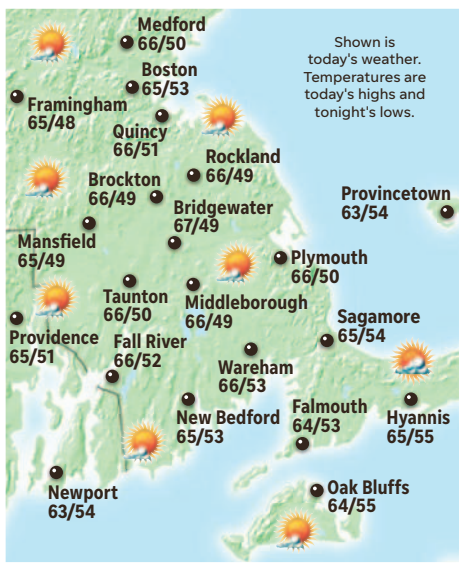
TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Sunny to partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Occasional rain	Rain	A little rain; cooler	Sunny intervals
High 66	Low 49	High 66 / Low 58	High 67 / Low 51	High 58 / Low 43	High 55 / Low 38

REGIONAL WEATHER



TIDES

Today	High tides AM	(FT)	PM	(FT)	Low tides AM	(FT)	PM	(FT)
Boston	2:47	(9.0)	2:54	(10.2)	8:47	(1.3)	9:25	(0.4)
Cape Cod	2:37	(7.4)	2:46	(8.6)	8:52	(1.3)	9:32	(0.3)
Hull	2:52	(8.7)	2:59	(9.9)	8:54	(1.3)	9:32	(0.4)
Hyannis Port	4:05	(2.8)	3:57	(3.8)	9:25	(0.8)	10:15	(0.1)
Monument Bch.	11:46	(4.4)	-----	(--)	4:46	(0.3)	5:38	(0.5)
Plymouth	2:59	(9.3)	3:12	(10.5)	9:17	(1.6)	9:55	(0.5)
Scituate	2:49	(8.4)	2:57	(9.6)	8:47	(1.3)	9:28	(0.2)
Weymouth	2:52	(9.3)	3:03	(10.5)	9:00	(1.2)	9:37	(0.1)
Woods Hole	-----	(--)	12:11	(2.3)	6:07	(0.5)	7:57	(0.2)

ALMANAC

As of 1 pm Wednesday

Temperatures

High	59
Low	50
Normal high	61
Normal low	47
Record high	82 (1947)
Record low	31 (1939)

Precipitation (inches)

24-hour total	Trace
Month to date	0.19
Normal m-t-d	2.32
Year to date	40.50
Normal y-t-d	33.92

SUN AND MOON

First	Full	Last	New
10/21	10/28	11/5	11/13

Sunrise today	7:01 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:57 p.m.
Moonrise today	12:23 p.m.
Moonset today	8:51 p.m.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: On average, which continent receives the most rain?

A: South America

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2023

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today	Fri.
Boston	65/53	64/56
E. Greenwich	64/51	65/57
Edgartown	64/55	67/60
Framingham	65/48	65/55
Gr. Barrington	64/50	63/52
Hartford	67/50	63/55
Hyannis	65/55	67/59
Lowell	66/48	66/55
Nantucket	67/57	68/61
Narragansett	63/53	64/58
New London	66/54	65/59
Norwich	65/49	65/55
Plymouth	66/50	68/58
Provincetown	63/54	66/56
Quincy	66/51	65/57
Springfield	66/48	62/55
Wareham	66/53	68/59
Westerly	65/53	65/58
Worcester	62/49	61/53
Yarmouth	66/54	67/58

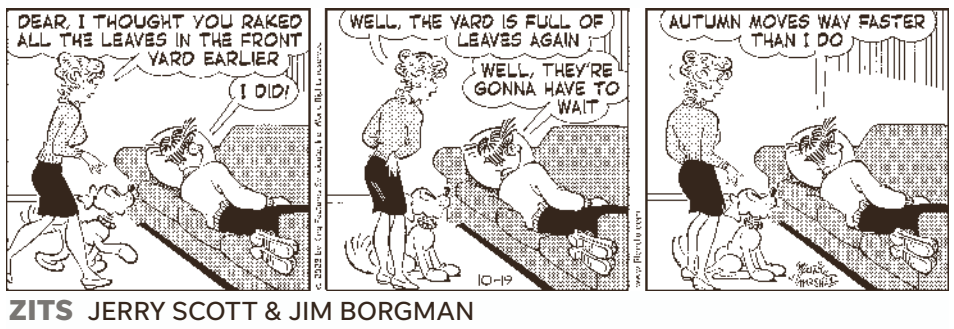
NATIONAL CITIES

	Today	Fri.
Anchorage	40/23	33/22
Atlanta	72/56	67/52
Chicago	61/51	61/50
Cleveland	65/53	60/48
Dallas	87/58	90/59
Denver	80/49	82/46
Honolulu	87/74	84/74
Las Vegas	93/65	92/65
Los Angeles	89/65	89/63
Miami	86/74	87/70
Minneapolis	59/45	66/48
New Orleans	81/66	84/60
New York City	68/58	66/58
Orlando	83/64	82/66
Philadelphia	71/56	69/57
Phoenix	105/71	104/71
San Francisco	89/63	72/59
Seattle	69/54	62/51
Wash., DC	71/56	71/55

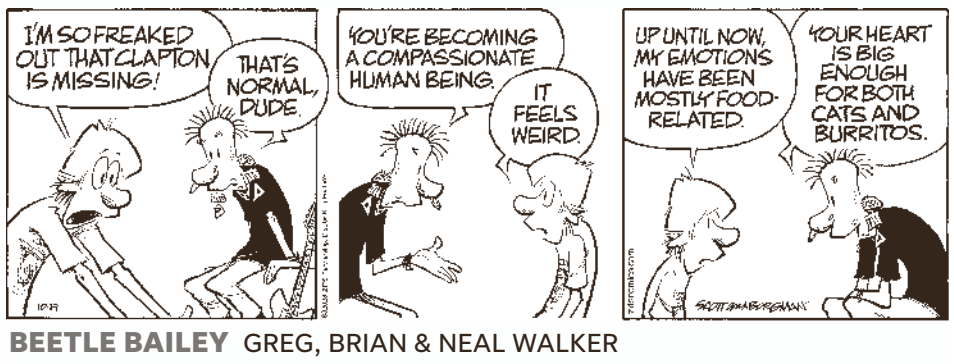
WEATHER HISTORY

On Oct. 19, 1961, heavy, wet snow fell on trees still in leaf in West Virginia. The snow broke millions of branches, causing the worst forest disaster since the fires of 1953.

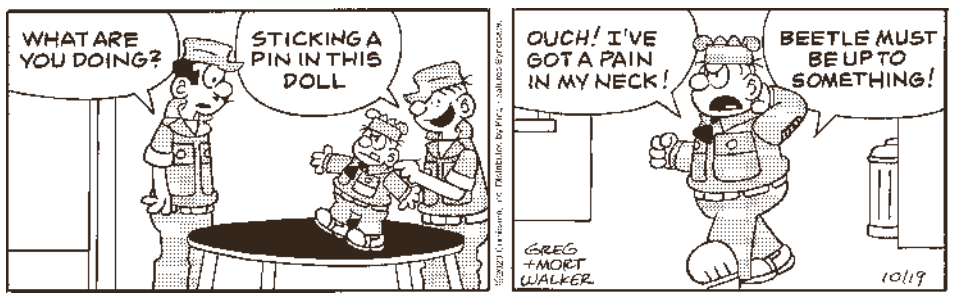
BLONDIE DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



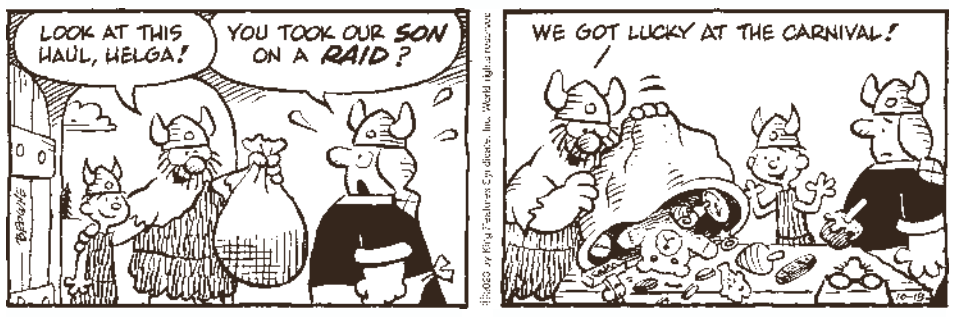
ZITS JERRY SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN



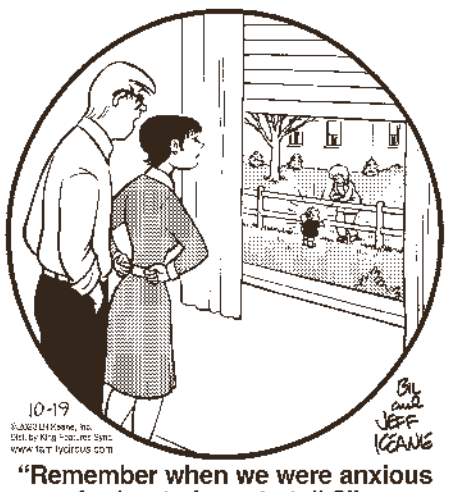
BEETLE BAILEY GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE CHRIS BROWNE

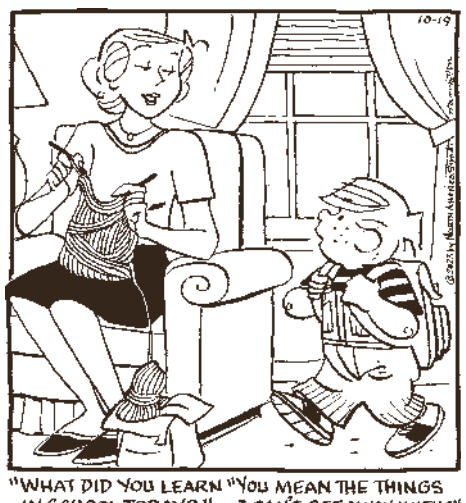


FAMILY CIRCUS BILL & JEFF KEANE



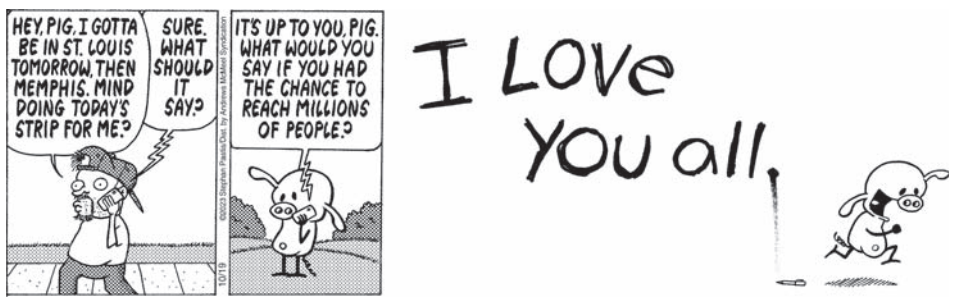
"Remember when we were anxious for her to learn to talk?"

DENNIS THE MENACE H. KETCHAM

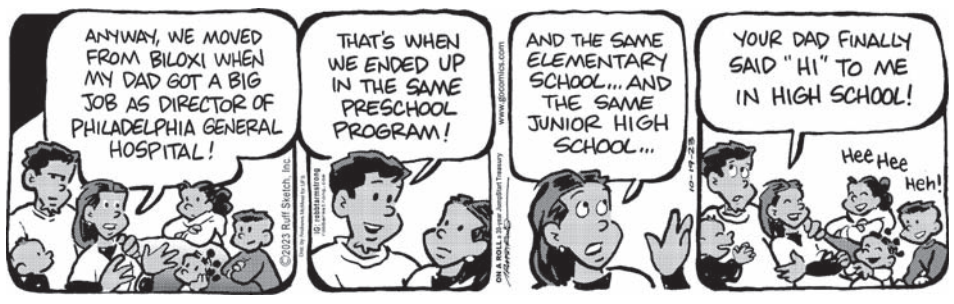


"WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN SCHOOL TODAY?" "YOU MEAN THE THINGS I CAN'T GET AWAY WITH?"

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE STEPHAN PASTIS



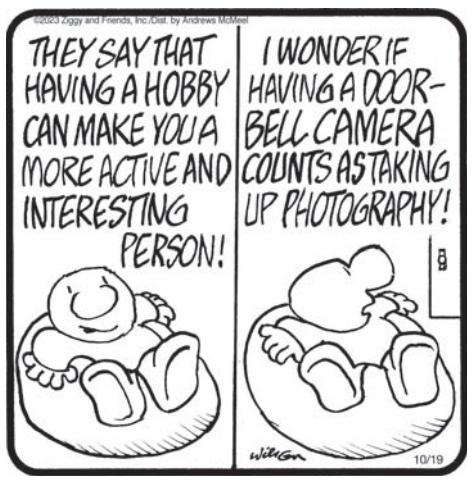
JUMP START ROBB ARMSTRONG



NON SEQUITUR WILEY

CRABGRASS TAUHID BONDIA

ZIGGY TOM WILSON & TOM II

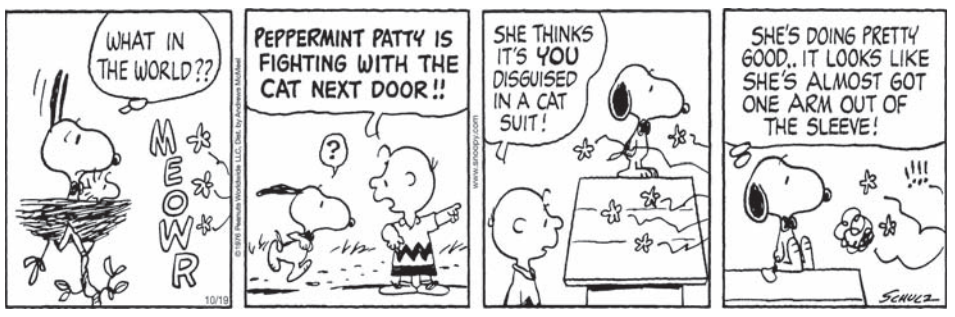


MARMADUKE BRAD ANDERSON

"Looks like it's time for a new mattress."

GARFIELD JIM DAVIS

PEANUTS CHARLES SCHULZ



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE LYNN JOHNSTON

BABY BLUES RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT

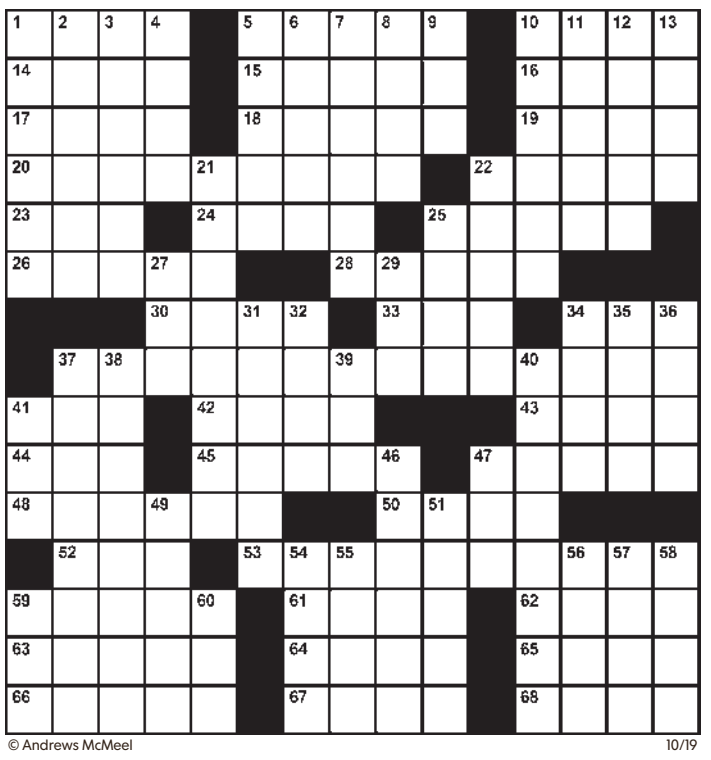
PICKLES BRIAN CRANE

USA TODAY CROSSWORD

EDITED Anna Gundlach

BY Enrique Henestroza Anguiano

THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT



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ACROSS
1 Romantic flower
5 Department that closes deals
10 "Join the ___!"
14 Nights before
15 Sweet, sour, salty, bitter, ___
16 Curve in a river
17 Shoes are worn on them
18 "You may start the test!"
19 Info to analyze
20 Constellation also known as the Little Dipper
22 Incursion
23 Secrecy contract
24 Ctrl+Z action
25 Support for an injured arm
26 Devours quickly
28 Himalayan country
30 Sicilian volcano
33 Himalayan ox
34 "Yuck!"
37 Mariah Carey hit with the line "Our love will never end, no"
41 Fashion designer Anna
42 Pottery material
43 Graduate, for short
44 List shortener
45 ___ and dreams
47 Shoes without raised heels
48 Like some thick socks
50 Place for sledding
52 Expert
53 Rock band that featured Kim Gordon on bass
59 Greek salad morsel
61 Teeming
62 The Buckeye State
63 Formula 1 competitor
64 Poker stake
65 Lymph ___
66 Will, Jonathan and Joyce's last name on "Stranger Things"
67 Not as much
68 Lose fur

DOWN
1 Money that's given back
2 Take too far
3 Teeter between two positions
4 ___ noche (tonight)
5 Replace a teammate
6 Modify
7 Water inside an atoll
8 Qatari ruler
9 Religious offense
10 Liquid used to treat chronic pain
11 Take lessons
12 Remove from a social media post
13 Celebration of another trip around the sun, for short
21 Feature of many drag kings
22 Prone to canceling last-minute
25 Email annoyance
27 Not used
29 "I've got my ___ on you"
31 Stocking fabrics
32 "Stat!"
34 Fancy reception
35 Border on
36 Places with rowing machines
37 Netflix feature that encourages marathon watching
38 Center of a Good & Plenty candy
39 "See ya!"
40 What Carl used to move his house in "Up"
41 Stitch
46 Stretches of work
47 Take to the skies
49 "I Wanna Be Your ___" (Prince hit)
51 Some frozen drinks
54 Like spoken exams
55 Number of Enneagram types
56 "God, here we go..."
57 "A rising ___ lifts all boats"
58 Broke up soil
59 Globular shape
60 Hosp. areas

Answers: Call 1-900-988-8300, 99 cents a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-320-4280.

Wednesday's Answer

10/18

LEXIGO

Start at the double hexagon. Spell solutions to the clues below by winding your way through the grid. You can backtrack to use letters more than once. **Each new word starts with the last letter of the previous word.** 10-19

1. Camel relative L _ _ _ _
2. Time zone east of Eastern _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
3. Insurance paperwork C _ _ _ _
4. Home of the NBA's Heat _ _ _ _ _
5. Not permitted by law I _ _ _ _ _ _

Previous Puzzle: TEETH, HAITI, INITIATED, DETESTS, STABLE

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Foreclosure/Sheriff Sales

5 MESSINA DRIVE, BROCKTON
LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 5 Messina Drive, Brockton, MA 02301

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Stephen V. Pina and Carlye Crosby Pina to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Community Federal Savings Bank, and now held by **Freedom Mortgage Corporation**, said mortgage dated December 20, 2016 and recorded in the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds in Book 47909, Page 264, as affected by a Loan Modification dated April 7, 2020 and recorded in the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds in Book 52754, Page 255; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Community Federal Savings Bank to Pacific Union Financial, LLC by assignment dated June 8, 2017 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 49489, Page 62; said mortgage was assigned from Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper as successor by merger to Pacific Union Financial, LLC to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment dated May 11, 2020 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 52741, Page 127; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on** December 4, 2023 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land in Brockton, Massachusetts situated on Messina Drive consisting of 31,180 square feet and known as Lot 8 on a definitive sub-division Plan of Land in Brockton, Massachusetts prepared for Ross Messina by J.K. Holmgren

Foreclosure/Sheriff Sales

and Associates, Inc., Consulting Engineers and recorded in the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 25 of 1985 Page 333 and further described as follows:

Beginning at the Southeast comer of said lot, thence running Westerly one hundred sixty-five and 40/100 (165.40) feet to a point; thence, running Northwesterly three hundred twenty-eight and 25/100 (328.25) feet to a point; thence, running Northerly forty (40) feet to a point; thence, running Southeasterly one hundred sixty-eight and 95/100 (168.95) feet by Lot 7 of said plan to a point; thence, running at a radius of sixty (60) feet and a length of one hundred forty-nine and 40/100 (149.40) feet to a point; thence, running at a radius of twenty-five feet and a length of thirty-four and 83/100 (34.83) feet to a point; thence, running Southwesterly by Lot 9 of said plan two hundred sixty-three and 61/100 (263.61) feet to the point of beginning.

For title reference, see Deed recorded herewith.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated December 20, 2016 and recorded in the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds in Book 47909, Page 261.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND ($5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
1080 Main Street, Suite 200
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Attorney for Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701

#9361840
BE 10/5, 10/12, 10/19/23

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LEGAL NOTICE
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The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Plymouth Division
52 Obery Street
Suite 1130
Plymouth, MA 02360
(508) 747-6204
Docket No. PL23P2127EA
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Estate of: John Drohan Neal

Also Known As: John D. Neal

Date of Death: 05/01/2023

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Beth L. Ciardi of Brockton MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Beth L. Ciardi of Brockton MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested

Public Notices

parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

AD#9412391
BE 10/19/23

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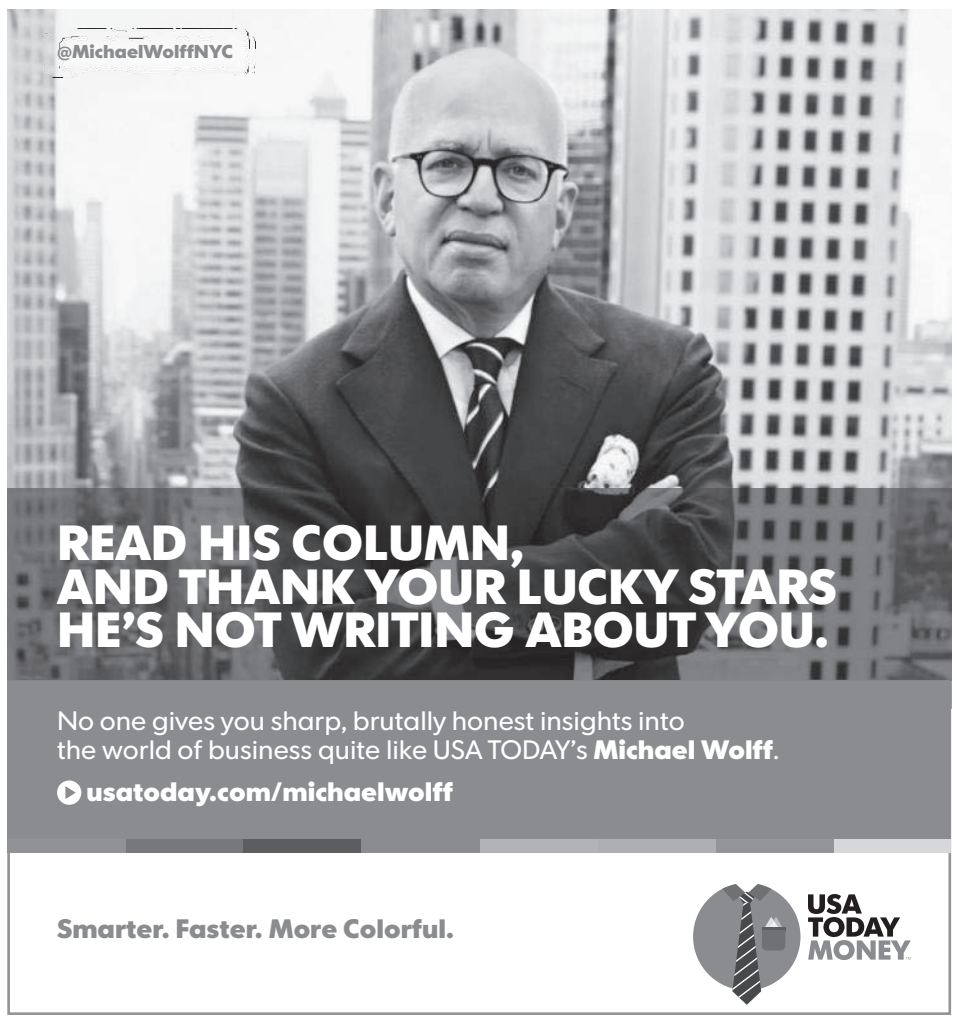

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USA TODAY | To the point

7 Questions to Ask
when choosing a Heat Pump installer

1. Can they complete a Mass Save® Assessment in-house?
The Mass Save program offers valuable incentives for energy-efficient upgrades, including heat pump installations. An installer who can conduct the assessment in-house streamlines the process, ensuring you **maximize available rebates and incentives.***

2. Do they offer assistance with rebate and heat loan filings?
Navigating the paperwork for rebates and heat loans can be complex. An installer who helps with these filings simplifies the process and ensures you take full advantage of available financial incentives.

3. Do they use in-house installers and technicians?
An in-house installation and service team **ensures better workmanship and accountability.** It guarantees a much smoother installation process than if installers are subcontracted.

4. Do they use in-house electricians?
Proper electrical work **is essential for the safe and efficient operation of heat pumps.** In-house electricians can guarantee quality work and seamless coordination with the installation team.

5. Which heat pump brands do they install?
Different heat pump manufacturers offer various features and efficiency ratings. Knowing which brands an installer works with allows you to assess the quality and options available to you.

6. Are they a preferred contractor for those brands?
Being a preferred contractor for specific manufacturers often indicates a high level of expertise and a strong working relationship with those brands. Preferred contractors also typically access **much longer warranty period for their customers.**

7. How long have they been installing Heat Pump Systems?
Many HVAC companies only began installing Heat Pump systems very recently. When choosing an installer, make sure to ask how long they have been working with Heat Pumps versus gas or oil systems, since **Heat Pumps tend to require a high degree of specialization to install correctly.**

Want to work with a company that checks all these boxes and more? Give us a call to see why Endless Energy is consistently chosen as a local expert for heat pump installation!

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NATION&WORLD EXTRA

INSIDE

US authorities resume migrant deportation flights to Venezuela. **4NN**

Smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip, as seen from southern Israel, on Wednesday.
FRANCISCO SECO/AP; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ABEL MUNIZ MONTENEGRO/USA TODAY NETWORK

WAR IN MIDDLE EAST

LIMITED AID TO BE ALLOWED INTO GAZA

Doctors struggle to treat hospital blast victims

Najib Jobain, Isabel Debre and Ravi Nessman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip – Israel said Wednesday that it will allow Egypt to deliver limited humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

The first crack in a punishing 10-day siege on the territory came one day after a blast at a hospital killed hundreds and put immense strain on Gaza's struggling medical system.

The announcement to allow water, food and other supplies happened as fury over the blast at Gaza City's al-Ahli Hospital spread across the Middle East, and as U.S. President Joe Biden visited Israel in hopes of preventing a wider conflict in the region.

There were conflicting claims of who was behind the explosion on Tuesday night, but protests flared quickly in the region as many Arab leaders said Israel was responsible. Hamas officials in Gaza quickly blamed an Israeli airstrike, saying hundreds were killed. Israel denied it was involved and released a flurry of video, audio and other information that it said showed the blast was instead due to a rocket misfire by Islamic Jihad, another militant group operating in Gaza. Islamic Jihad dismissed that claim.

The Associated Press has not independently verified any of the claims or evidence.

See GAZA, 8NN

More inside

Palestinians lose another sanctuary. **6NN**

Why Arab countries are unwilling to take in Palestinian refugees. **6NN**

Beirut protesters clash by US Embassy. **7NN**

Woman becomes Israeli folk hero for plying militants with snacks. **8NN**

Biden wraps up his visit to wartime Israel

Aamer Madhani and Colleen Long
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEL AVIV, Israel – President Joe Biden swept into wartime Israel for a 7½-hour visit Wednesday that produced a heaping dose of vocal support, a deal to get limited humanitarian aid into Gaza from Egypt, likely by the end of the week, and a plea for Israelis not to allow rage over the deadly Hamas attack to consume them.

"I understand. Many Americans understand," Biden said as he wrapped up his stay in Tel Aviv, likening the Oct. 7 Hamas assault to the attacks against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, that killed nearly 3,000 people.

"You can't look at what has happened here ... and not scream out for justice," he said.

"But I caution this: While you feel that rage, don't be consumed by it," he said. "After 9/11, we were enraged in the United States. And while we sought justice and got justice, we also made mistakes."

Biden urged Israel to step back from the brink, not just to ease growing tensions in the Mideast that threaten to spiral into a broader regional conflict, but also to reassure a world rattled by images of carnage and suffering, in Israel and Gaza alike. One million people have been displaced in roughly 10 days, according to the United Nations.

See BIDEN, Page 7NN

President Joe Biden speaks to the media on Air Force One during a refueling stop at Ramstein Air Base in Germany on Wednesday as he travels back to Washington after his trip to Israel.
EVAN VUCCI/AP

Jordan fails again to win vote to become House speaker

Lisa Mascaro, Farnoush Amiri and Stephen Groves
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – Firebrand Republican Rep. Jim Jordan failed again Wednesday on a crucial second ballot to become House speaker, but the hard-fighting ally of Donald Trump showed no signs of dropping out despite losing support from even more of his GOP colleagues.

Next steps were highly uncertain as angry, frustrated Republicans looked at other options. A bipartisan group of lawmakers floated an extraordinary plan – to give the interim speaker pro tempore, Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., more power to reopen the immobilized House and temporarily conduct routine business. But that seems doubtful, for now.

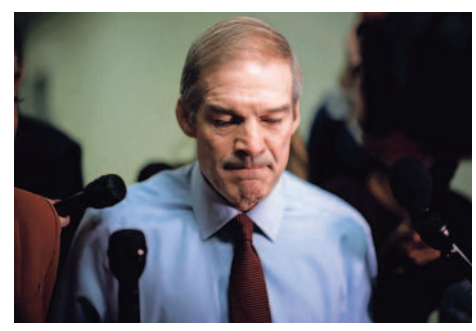
What was clear was that Jordan's path to become House speaker was almost certainly lost. He was opposed by 22 Republicans, two more than he lost in first-round voting the day before. Many view the Ohio congressman as too extreme for a central seat of U.S. power and resented the harassing hardball tactics from Jordan's allies for their votes. One lawmaker said they had received death threats.

"We'll keep talking to members, keep working on it," Jordan, a founding member of the hard-right Freedom Caucus, said after the vote.

The House came to another abrupt standstill, stuck now 15 days since the sudden ouster of Kevin McCarthy without a speaker – a position of power second in line to the presidency.

Once a formality in Congress, the vote for House speaker has devolved into a bitter GOP showdown for the gavel with no foreseeable end. Jordan is re-

See JORDAN, Page 5NN



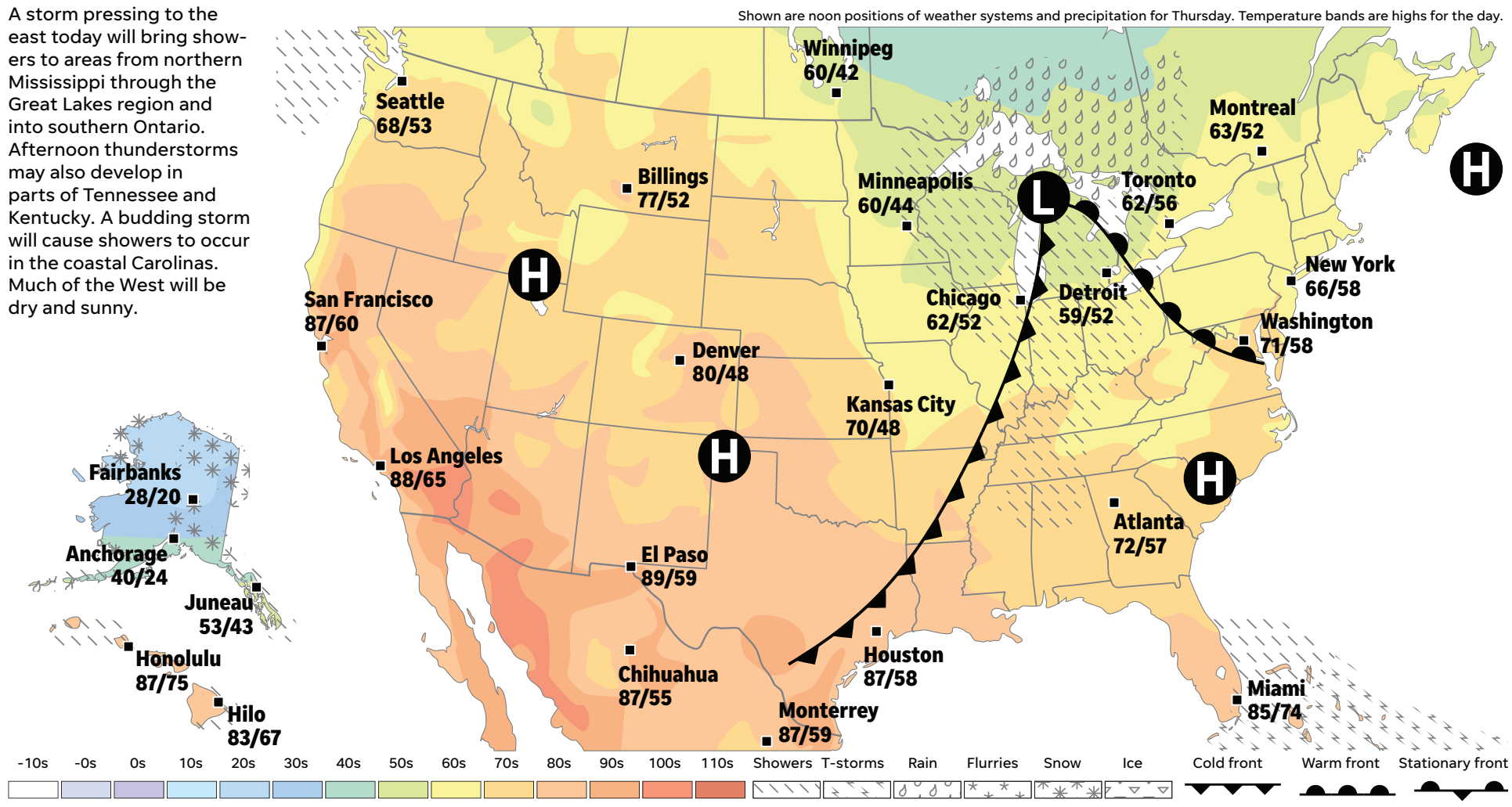
Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, vowed to stay in the race for House speaker despite failing again Wednesday on a crucial second ballot.
CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

NATIONAL SUMMARY

A storm pressing to the east today will bring showers to areas from northern Mississippi through the Great Lakes region and into southern Ontario. Afternoon thunderstorms may also develop in parts of Tennessee and Kentucky. A budding storm will cause showers to occur in the coastal Carolinas. Much of the West will be dry and sunny.

In the digital e-edition, you can click anywhere on the US map to get up-to-date forecasts, radar, MinuteCast® and more.

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation for Thursday. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



WEDNESDAY EXTREMES

NATIONAL (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: **103** at Palm Springs, CA
Low: **15** at Gould, CO
Precip: **0.66"** at Fargo, ND

INTERNATIONAL (excludes Antarctica)

High: **109** at San Matias, Bolivia
Low: **-22** at Eureka, Canada
Precip: **2.84"** at Jiajizhen, China

TODAY IN HISTORY

On Oct. 19, 1961, heavy, wet snow fell on trees still in leaf in southern West Virginia. The snow snapped millions of branches, causing the worst forest disaster since the fires of 1952 and 1953.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: On average, which continent receives the most rain?

A: South America

NATIONAL CITIES THURSDAY

● Denotes possible travel delays

	High/low/W	Air Quality
Aberdeen, SD	69/42/pc	31
Abilene, TX	86/57/s	60
Accomac, VA	67/57/s	42
● Adrian, MI	57/51/r	38
● Akron, OH	64/53/c	36
Alamogordo, NM	85/53/s	67
Alexandria, VA	71/56/pc	43
● Alliance, OH	65/53/c	35
Amarillo, TX	84/51/s	39
Ames, IA	63/42/c	25
Anderson, SC	71/53/pc	35
● Appleton, WI	58/47/sh	33
Asheville, NC	65/49/pc	33
● Ashland, OH	64/51/c	38
Athens, GA	72/53/pc	42
Augusta, GA	74/51/s	41
Austin, TX	89/54/s	58
Bartlesville, OK	79/46/pc	50
● Battle Creek, MI	57/51/r	34
Bedford, IN	65/51/pc	35
Binghamton, NY	61/51/c	24
Bluffton, SC	73/59/s	43
Bremerton, WA	68/52/pc	45
Brockton, MA	65/50/s	51
Brownwood, TX	86/51/s	60
Burlington, IA	63/46/c	30
Burlington, NC	71/50/s	43
Burlington, VT	64/55/pc	27
● Cambridge, OH	67/54/c	32
Camdenton, MO	68/46/pc	35
Canandaigua, NY	65/54/pc	34
● Canton, OH	65/54/c	39
Carlsbad, NM	82/51/s	58
Chambersburg, PA	67/52/pc	35
Cherry Hill, NJ	69/54/s	52
● Cincinnati, OH	63/52/sh	41
● Clarksville, TN	72/54/t	46
● Coldwater, MI	57/51/r	35
● Columbus, OH	66/54/c	40
Corning, NY	63/52/pc	29
Corpus Christi, TX	90/62/s	56
Daytona Beach, FL	80/60/pc	41
Deming, NM	87/50/s	50
DeRidder, LA	84/57/pc	52
Des Moines, IA	63/44/c	28
● Detroit, MI	59/52/r	44
Devils Lake, ND	63/46/c	31
Dover, NH	66/49/s	51
El Paso, TX	89/59/s	47
Elmira, NY	63/53/pc	29
● Erie, PA	64/55/c	36
Eugene, OR	73/51/s	52
Evansville, IN	72/53/pc	40
Fall River, MA	65/53/s	50
Farmington, NM	78/40/s	44
Fayetteville, NC	72/56/pc	44
● Fond du Lac, WI	60/50/sh	46
Fort Myers, FL	85/66/s	41
Fort Smith, AR	79/52/pc	46
Framingham, MA	65/49/s	51
Freeport, IL	61/49/c	34
● Fremont, OH	63/53/pc	38
Fort Collins, CO	81/46/s	46
● Gadsden, AL	72/53/pc	44
Gainesville, FL	80/55/s	43
Galesburg, IL	62/46/c	33
Gastonia, NC	71/51/s	38
Glen Rose, TX	86/55/s	62
Gonzales, LA	81/64/pc	62
Great Falls, MT	78/47/s	39
● Green Bay, WI	61/47/sh	32
Greenville, SC	71/52/s	35
Hackensack, NJ	68/54/pc	61
Hagerstown, MD	67/54/pc	33
● Hattiesburg, MS	79/62/pc	59
Henderson, KY	72/52/pc	41
Hendersonville, NC	64/50/pc	31
Herkimer, NY	65/51/pc	30
● Hillsdale, MI	56/51/r	35
● Holland, MI	58/52/r	34
Hornell, NY	64/52/pc	29
Houma, LA	80/63/pc	58
● Howell, MI	57/52/r	38
Hutchinson, KS	80/46/s	36
Hyannis, MA	62/55/pc	31
● Indianapolis, IN	61/51/pc	33
Iowa City, IA	63/45/c	32
Ithaca, NY	63/53/c	27
Jackson, MS	79/59/pc	66
Jackson, TN	75/50/pc	51
Jacksonville, FL	78/56/pc	45
Jacksonville, NC	69/59/pc	39
● Kent, OH	64/53/c	36
Kewanee, IL	61/48/c	33
Keyser, WV	69/52/pc	45
Kinston, NC	71/57/pc	45
Knoxville, TN	70/55/pc	35
● Lafayette, IN	61/51/c	29
Lafayette, LA	80/65/pc	56
Lakeland, FL	84/61/pc	51
● Lansing, MI	56/50/r	36
Las Cruces, NM	85/53/s	45
Lebanon, PA	67/54/pc	50
Leesburg, FL	82/60/s	44
Levittown, PA	69/53/pc	52
Lincoln, IL	65/51/pc	33
● Louisville, KY	69/55/t	45
Lubbock, TX	83/50/s	47
● Manitowoc, WI	59/48/sh	37
● Mansfield, OH	63/51/pc	38
Marshall, NC	68/50/pc	32
Marshfield, WI	56/44/sh	25
● Massillon, OH	66/54/c	38
McLean, VA	70/55/pc	38
Melbourne, FL	80/65/c	41
Memphis, TN	77/55/c	53
Middletown, NY	63/50/s	52
Milford, MA	64/49/s	51
● Milwaukee, WI	62/51/sh	49
● Monroe, MI	60/52/r	40
Monroe, LA	83/56/pc	62
● Montgomery, AL	75/57/s	40
● Muncie, IN	61/52/sh	34
● Murfreesboro, TN	71/54/t	50
Naples, FL	86/67/s	39
● Nashville, TN	71/56/t	47
Neptune, NJ	65/59/s	52
New Bedford, MA	65/53/pc	34
● New Bern, NC	71/60/pc	39
● New Philadelphia, OH	65/54/c	34
● Newark, OH	67/54/pc	42
Newton, NJ	64/50/s	51
New York, NY	66/58/pc	65
Norwich, CT	64/50/s	40
Ocala, FL	81/57/s	45
Oklahoma City, OK	79/53/s	63
Opelousas, LA	82/63/pc	53
● Oshkosh, WI	59/49/sh	33
Palm Beach, FL	83/74/pc	39
Palm Springs, CA	104/76/s	69
Panama City, FL	76/63/s	42
Pekin, IL	64/51/c	37
Pensacola, FL	76/66/s	47
Peoria, IL	63/50/c	36
Petersburg, VA	72/53/s	40
Phoenix, AZ	104/70/s	78
● Port Huron, MI	61/52/r	38
Portsmouth, NH	65/50/s	25
Poughkeepsie, NY	65/52/pc	32
Providence, RI	64/52/s	41
Pueblo, CO	82/41/s	44
Quincy, MA	65/52/s	52
Redding, CA	94/57/s	69
Reno, NV	86/51/s	61
● Ravenna, OH	64/52/c	35
Richmond, IN	61/51/sh	37
Rochester, NY	65/56/pc	33
Rockford, IL	61/50/sh	33
Ruidoso, NM	77/49/s	49
Salem, OR	72/51/s	52
Salina, KS	79/48/s	31
Salinas, CA	89/57/s	83
Salisbury, MD	71/55/s	40
San Angelo, TX	87/48/s	59
Sarasota, FL	83/64/s	52
Savannah, GA	77/56/pc	66
● Sheboygan, WI	60/49/sh	38
Shelby, NC	70/50/pc	36
Sherman, TX	83/57/pc	59
Shreveport, LA	83/54/pc	59
Silver City, NM	85/53/s	57
Sioux Falls, SD	67/45/pc	33
Somerset, PA	63/49/c	42
Somerville, NJ	68/50/s	52
● South Bend, IN	59/52/r	34
Spartanburg, SC	71/51/s	39
Springfield, IL	65/49/c	32
Springfield, MO	70/47/pc	47
St. Augustine, FL	76/59/pc	43
St. Cloud, MN	61/40/c	28
St. George, UT	88/55/s	47
Staunton, VA	68/49/pc	37
Stevens Point, WI	57/46/sh	27
Stockton, CA	95/58/s	106
Stroudsburg, PA	65/50/s	50
Stuart, FL	82/69/c	41
● Sturgis, MI	58/51/r	35
Tallahassee, FL	78/57/pc	47
Thibodaux, LA	80/63/pc	58
Topeka, KS	75/46/pc	40
● Tuscaloosa, AL	74/58/c	51
Utica, NY	64/53/c	26
Ventura, CA	74/59/s	61
Victorville, CA	92/55/s	73
Vineland, NJ	68/55/s	41
Visalia, CA	95/58/s	89
Washington, DC	71/58/pc	42
Watertown, SD	63/43/pc	35
Wausau, WI	57/45/sh	30
Waynesboro, PA	67/53/c	34
White Plains, NY	64/54/s	52
Wichita Falls, TX	87/55/s	60
Wilmington, DE	69/53/pc	46
Wilmington, NC	70/58/pc	39
Wisconsin Rapids, WI	58/47/sh	28
● Wooster, OH	63/52/pc	37
Worcester, MA	61/49/s	43
York, PA	69/56/pc	44

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

	Thursday High/low/W	Friday High/low/W
Acapulco	87/76/pc	88/77/pc
Addis Ababa	78/49/pc	76/48/s
Algiers	87/68/pc	78/58/sh
Amman	76/58/s	80/59/s
● Amsterdam	63/51/r	54/50/r
Ankara	64/39/pc	71/39/s
● Asuncion	87/73/t	88/73/t
Athens	72/63/s	77/68/s
Auckland	71/57/pc	71/57/c
Baghdad	94/69/pc	95/69/pc
Bangkok	92/79/r	96/79/t
Beijing	70/43/pc	67/38/s
Beirut	82/73/sh	82/71/s
Belgrade	74/62/pc	84/69/c
● Berlin	48/44/r	47/45/r
Bogota	69/48/c	68/50/r
● Brussels	64/56/sh	60/55/r
Bucharest	68/48/pc	77/54/c
Budapest	63/59/c	80/66/pc
Buenos Aires	68/60/s	71/63/s
Cairo	86/66/s	87/67/s
Cape Town	86/56/s	77/63/pc
Caracas	90/76/t	90/76/t
● Casablanca	82/63/pc	73/56/r
● Colombo	84/76/sh	86/76/sh
● Copenhagen	48/38/c	45/42/r
Damascus	82/55/s	82/53/s
● Dublin	62/54/c	57/47/sh
● Geneva	63/54/sh	57/50/r
Guatemala City	78/63/c	77/61/t
Hanoi	90/78/pc	86/74/pc
Harare	80/55/pc	80/56/pc
● Havana	85/70/r	85/66/r
Helsinki	41/34/pc	40/35/s
Hong Kong	81/78/r	82/69/t
Jakarta	94/77/pc	95/77/c
Jerusalem	75/59/s	76/59/s
Johannesburg	80/53/s	81/58/s
Kabul	71/41/s	70/40/s
Khartoum	103/80/pc	101/81/s
Kyiv	53/44/pc	55/50/r
Kingston	91/80/t	89/80/t
● La Paz	55/38/r	56/36/sh
Lagos	87/77/t	87/77/t
Lima	72/64/pc	72/63/pc
● Lisbon	69/59/r	66/55/pc
London	65/56/sh	60/51/r
● Madrid	63/51/r	63/45/sh
Manila	87/79/t	88/79/pc
Mexico City	76/50/c	77/50/c
● Milan	59/57/r	68/59/r
Mombasa	89/75/r	87/74/r
● Montevideo	67/52/pc	71/55/s
Montreal	63/52/c	64/53/c
● Moscow	43/38/sn	41/35/c
● Nairobi	77/61/t	80/60/t
New Delhi	86/66/pc	87/68/pc
Panama City	87/76/t	87/76/t
Paris	68/56/sh	64/52/r
Port-au-Prince	95/74/t	94/75/t
● Rio de Janeiro	74/69/c	75/69/c
Riyadh	98/70/pc	97/69/pc
● Rome	79/70/s	81/64/c
San Jose	78/68/t	78/68/r
● San Salvador	87/69/t	85/70/t
Santiago	84/53/pc	78/53/c
● Sao Paulo	67/60/c	68/61/c
● Sarajevo	69/57/c	73/58/c
Shanghai	86/60/s	71/54/pc
Singapore	88/78/r	86/78/t
Stockholm	37/29/pc	40/33/pc
Sydney	72/56/pc	77/61/s
Taipei	92/75/pc	82/68/sh
● Tegucigalpa	81/67/t	81/66/t
Tehran	77/62/s	76/59/s
● Tokyo	77/68/pc	77/62/pc
Toronto	62/56/c	61/47/r
Tunis	92/74/pc	93/67/c
● Vancouver	61/53/pc	58/51/pc
Vienna	61/47/pc	74/59/c
● Warsaw	51/43/c	48/44/c
● Yerevan	55/43/r	60/42/s
Zagreb	72/60/c	80/60/pc
Zurich	62/52/c	59/49/r

● Denotes possible travel delays Thursday

Weather(W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **r**-rain, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice.

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DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE

-332.57

Closing: 33,665.08
Change: -.0%
YTD % Chg: +1.6%

S&P 500 • STANDARD & POOR'S

-58.60

Closing: 4,314.60
Change: -1.3%
YTD % Chg: +12.4%

NASDAQ COMPOSITE

-219.44

Closing: 13,314.30
Change: -1.6%
YTD % Chg: +27.2%

RUSSELL 2000

-37.24

Closing: 1,728.81
Change: -2.1%
YTD % Chg: -1.8%

MARKET PERFORMANCE BY SECTOR

Sector	Close	Chg.	4wk [1]	YTD [1]
Technology	167.72	-1.74	+2.0%	+34.8%
Telecom	69.17	-1.16	-0.6%	+27.0%
Consumer discret.	158.12	-3.80	-1.7%	+22.4%
Energy	91.96	+0.83	+1.7%	+5.1%
Industrials	100.66	-2.49	-1.1%	+2.5%
Materials	77.12	-2.05	-3.7%	-0.7%
Financials	33.14	-0.58	-1.5%	-3.1%
Health care	129.85	-1.14	-0.2%	-4.4%
Consumer staples	68.03	+0.25	-3.0%	-8.7%
Utilities	59.23	-0.52	-6.4%	-16.0%

MARKET NOTEBOOK

Issues	NYSE	NASDAQ
Advancing	368	761
Declining	2,014	2,713
Unchanged	44	307
Total	2,426	3,781
Issues at		
New 52 Week High	27	27
New 52 Week Low	199	255
Share Volume		
Total	3,523,183,640	4,391,252,967
Advancing	614,457,751	1,288,915,843
Declining	2,881,080,452	3,075,134,334
Unchanged	27,645,437	27,202,790

TOP 10 EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

ETF, ranked by volume	Ticker	Close	Chg.	% Chg	%YTD
ProShs UltPro ShtQQQ	SQQQ	19.61	+0.78	+4.1%	-63.7%
ProShs UltraPro QQQ	TQQQ	36.68	-1.62	-4.2%	+112.0%
SPDR S&P500 ETF Tr	SPY	430.21	-5.81	-1.3%	+12.5%
Direx SOX Bull 3X	SOXL	18.28	-1.02	-5.3%	+89.0%
Direx SOX Bear 3X	SOXS	11.30	+0.57	+5.3%	-71.4%
iShares 20+yr TrsBd	TLT	84.50	-0.75	-0.9%	-15.1%
Direxion 30-Yr 3x Sh	TMF	4.15	-0.11	-2.6%	-45.5%
iShs iBoxx HY CpBd	HYG	72.04	-0.35	-0.5%	-2.2%
Invesco QQQ Trust	QQQ	363.37	-4.83	-1.3%	+36.5%
SPDR Financial	XLF	33.14	-0.58	-1.7%	-3.1%

COMMODITIES

Commodities	Close	Prev.	Chg.	% Chg.	% YTD
Cattle (lb.)	1.86	1.86	unch.	+0.1%	+20.0%
Corn (bushel)	4.92	4.89	+0.03	+0.6%	-27.5%
Gold (troy oz.)	1,955.30	1,922.70	+32.60	+1.7%	+7.5%
Hogs, lean (lb.)	.68	.68	unch.	+0.7%	-22.4%
Natural Gas (Btu.)	3.06	3.08	-0.02	-0.8%	-31.7%
Oil, heating (gal.)	3.14	3.18	-0.04	-1.2%	-6.6%
Oil, lt. swt. crude (bar.)	88.32	86.66	+1.66	+1.9%	+10.0%
Silver (troy oz.)	22.94	22.86	+0.08	+0.4%	-3.9%
Soybeans (bushel)	13.11	12.97	+0.14	+1.1%	-13.7%
Wheat (bushel)	5.80	5.71	+0.09	+1.7%	-26.7%

S&P 500'S BIGGEST GAINERS

Company (ticker)	Price	$ Chg.	% Chg.	YTD
DexCom Inc (DXCM)	84.12	+3.63	+4.5	-25.7
Nasdaq Inc (NDAQ)	51.92	+1.99	+4.0	-15.4
Abbott Labs (ABT)	95.56	+3.42	+3.7	-13.0
DaVita Inc (DVA)	78.74	+2.36	+3.1	+5.5
Procter & Gamble (PG)	150.03	+3.77	+2.6	-1.0

S&P 500'S BIGGEST LOSERS

Company (ticker)	Price	$ Chg.	% Chg.	YTD
Albemarle Corp (ALB)	152.89	-16.59	-9.8	-29.5
United Airlines Hldg (UAL)	36.24	-3.88	-9.7	-3.9
Hunt, JB Transport (JBHT)	178.67	-17.34	-8.8	+2.5
Bio-Rad Labs A (BIO)	314.00	-27.05	-7.9	-25.3
Walgreen Boots Alli (WBA)	21.25	-1.60	-7.0	-43.1

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Currency per dollar	Close	Prev.	6 mo. ago	Yr. ago
British pound	.8234	.8214	.8046	.8835
Canadian dollar	1.3708	1.3648	1.3393	1.3775
Chinese yuan	7.3155	7.3130	6.8760	7.2021
Euro	.9491	.9462	.9114	1.0152
Japanese yen	149.90	149.80	134.08	149.21
Mexican peso	18.2480	18.0175	18.0455	20.0497

FOREIGN MARKETS

Country	Close	Prev.	Change	%Chg.	%YTD
Frankfurt	15,094.91	15,251.69	-156.78	-1.0%	+8.4%
Hong Kong	17,732.52	17,773.34	-40.82	-0.2%	-10.4%
Japan (Nikkei)	32,042.25	32,040.29	+1.96	+0.0%	+22.8%
London	7,588.00	7,675.21	-87.21	-1.1%	+1.8%
Mexico City	49,274.78	49,666.02	-391.23	-0.8%	+1.7%

SOURCE Morningstar, Dow Jones Indexes, The Associated Press

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said the federal funding would support projects that will harden electric systems and improve energy reliability and affordability. LINDSEY WASSON/AP FILE

$3.5B dedicated to bolster electric grid

Funding set for 58 projects across country

Matthew Daly
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – The Biden administration on Wednesday announced $3.5 billion for 58 projects across the country to strengthen electric grid resilience as extreme weather events such as the deadly Maui and California wildfires continue to strain the nation's aging transmission systems.

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said it was the largest federal investment ever in grid infrastructure, supporting projects that will harden electric systems and improve energy reliability and affordability. The federal spending, combined with money promised by private partners, could result in up to $8 billion in investments nationally to upgrade the grid, Granholm said.

"The grid, as it currently sits, is not is not equipped to handle all the new demand" and withstand natural disasters and extreme weather worsened by climate change, Granholm said at a news conference Wednesday. "We need it to be bigger, we need it to be stronger, we need it to be smarter" to bring a range of renewable energy projects online and meet the Biden administration's goal of reaching 100% clean electricity by 2035, she said.

Projects funded by the federal Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships program will increase the flexibility, efficiency and reliability of electric power systems, with a particular focus on spurring solar, wind, and other renewable energy, Granholm said. The projects also are aimed at fixing problems that may contribute to wildfires and other disasters and will improve reliability by deploying innovative approaches to electricity transmission, storage and distribution, she and other officials said.

Projects to be funded include $249 million each for rural areas in Georgia and Louisiana and $250 million for a Native American tribe in Oregon.

The largest grant, $464 million, will go to improve five transmission projects across seven Midwestern states, from Iowa to North Dakota. The money includes $95 million previously announced for Hawaii in the wake of devastating wildfires this summer, and $150 million to PacifiCorp to upgrade the grid and boost wildfire mitigation in California, Oregon, Utah and other states.

"Our outdated grid has been in need of an update for a long, long time," said Mitch Landrieu, a White House senior adviser who coordinates implementation of the 2021 infrastructure law signed by President Joe Biden.

The grid "is especially vulnerable to the increasing impacts of the climate crisis," Landrieu added. "Older equipment can overload during extreme heat and cold when power is needed most. And it's more likely to fail when communities are washed out by historic floods and decimated by stronger storms."

The nation's existing power grids are not built to handle the growing energy demand, a fact that is complicated by the intermittent nature of renewables, since energy isn't generated when the sun doesn't shine or the wind isn't blowing.

"As we sadly saw in California, aging electricity infrastructure can cause catastrophic loss of life, property, natural areas and forest fires," said Jonathan Foley, executive director of Project Drawdown, a San Francisco-based group that publicizes climate solutions.

The projects announced Wednesday are "exactly the kind of thing that we should be doing: promoting renewables, better storage and better electrical grids for a better, greener, more resilient future," Foley said.

In Georgia, the state's environmental finance authority and companies that supports Georgia's electric cooperatives will team up on a project to upgrade the grid, including investments in battery storage, local microgrids, grid reliability and new transmission lines. The project will focus on remote, historically underinvested communities, Granholm said, including rural Locust Grove, Georgia, where she visited Wednesday as part of the grant rollout.

> **"The grid, as it currently sits, is not is not equipped to handle all the new demand. We need it to be bigger, we need it to be stronger, we need it to be smarter."**
>
> **Jennifer Granholm**
> U.S. Energy Secretary

In Louisiana, two projects will focus on helping disadvantaged communities withstand extreme weather and develop microgrids to work with local utilities and back up existing assets.

Entergy New Orleans also will enhance the local grid's resilience to severe weather, including hardening existing transmission lines and distribution systems to reduce outage frequency and duration.

CPS Energy in San Antonio will receive $30 million for a resiliency program, and Minnesota-based Xcel Energy will receive $100 million for projects in Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Minnesota and Wisconsin to mitigate wildfire risk, including thousands of fire-resistant poles. Texas has faced repeated challenges, from sweltering heat this summer to a winter blackout in 2021 that knocked out power to millions and resulted in hundreds of deaths.

In Michigan, Consumers Energy will get $100 million to strengthen electric systems in disadvantaged communities where outages are more frequent, including northern Michigan and the Flint and Grand Rapids areas. DTE Energy, meanwhile, will receive $23 million for adaptive microgrids in the Detroit area to enhance reliability and reduce outages.

In Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation will work with Portland General Electric to upgrade transmission capacity and improve service east of the Cascade Mountains, including the reservation.

Surge in wealth has boosted most US households

Christopher Rugaber
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – The net worth of the typical U.S. household grew at the fastest pace in more than three decades from 2020 through 2022, while relatively low interest rates at that time made it easier for households to pay their debts, according to a government report Wednesday.

Wealth for the median household – the midpoint between the richest and poorest households – jumped 37% during those three years, the Federal Reserve reported, to nearly $193,000. (The figures are adjusted for inflation.) The increase reflected primarily a jump in home values and higher stock prices and a rise in the proportion of Americans who own homes and stocks.

The jump in wealth occurred even as the brief but brutal pandemic recession cost 20 million Americans their jobs in 2020. Extensive government relief aid, totaling about $5 trillion, helped spur a rapid recovery that regained the lost jobs much faster than had been true after the 2008-2009 recession. The additional spending, though, is believed to have helped fuel the worst bout of inflation in four decades.

The broad-based wealth increase helps explain the surprising durability of the U.S. economy this year and the consumer spending that powers about two-thirds of it. For at least a year, economists have been warning of a forthcoming recession. Yet the economy has kept chugging along.

Economic growth in the just-completed July-September quarter might have topped a robust 4% annual rate, boosted by strong consumer spending for physical goods as well as for services, a broad category that includes airline travel, entertainment, restaurant meals and other experiences.

Government-provided stimulus payments in the aftermath of the pandemic also boosted households' finances. The median value of checking and savings accounts and other cash holdings surged 30%, according to the Fed's survey, which it conducts every three years. And with borrowing rates historically low, Americans dedicated just 13.4% of their incomes to paying off debt in 2022, the lowest such proportion since the Fed survey began in 1989.

Even so, substantial wealth inequality remained in place during the survey period, reflecting decades of widening disparities between the richest households and everyone else. Among the wealthiest 10% of households, median wealth reached nearly $3.8 million in 2022.

Household net worth rose more, on a percentage basis, for Black and Hispanic households than for white ones, though measured in dollar terms the disparities remained wide. The median net worth of Black households jumped 60% but remained comparatively low at $45,000. For Hispanics, the figure surged 47% to nearly $62,000. Among white households, median household net worth rose 31% to $285,000.

The Fed's survey found that even as wealth inequality declined, income disparities worsened. Median incomes grew 3% compared with the previous survey, which covered 2017 through 2019. But average incomes, which are swollen by the earnings of the wealthiest one-tenth of households, jumped 15%.

US resumes deportation flights to Venezuela

More than 100 migrants aboard first plane out

Valerie Gonzalez and Regina Garcia Cano
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Venezuelan migrants board a plane heading back to their home country from Harlingen, Texas, on Wednesday. VALERIE GONZALEZ/AP

MAIQUETIA, Venezuela – Deportation flights of Venezuelans from the U.S. resumed Wednesday with a first plane of more than a hundred migrants landing back in their economically troubled country under the Biden administration's latest attempts to deal with swelling numbers of asylum-seekers.

This is the first time in years that U.S. immigration authorities are deporting people to the South American nation, marking a significant concession by the government of Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro to a longtime adversary.

The first plane, a Boeing 737 jet, took off from the Texas border city of Harlingen and touched down in Miami before arriving hours later outside Caracas, Venezuela's capital. The roughly 130 passengers were Venezuelan women and men who were shuttled to the plane on buses, and wore wrist and ankle restraints. As they boarded, U.S. immigration officers patted them down.

Biden's administration said it plans to have "multiple" deportation flights a week to Venezuela, according to a U.S. Transportation Department waiver on travel restrictions, which would place Venezuela among the top international destinations for U.S. immigration authorities.

Restarted flights to Venezuela come after the country's government and opposition agreed to work on electoral conditions that are expected to trigger relief from U.S. energy sanctions on the Maduro government.

"This flight to Venezuela is the first I've seen in my career of an entire charter flight of Venezuelans going back to their country. And we plan on having several more of these in the coming days and weeks," said Corey Price, an acting executive associate director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Price said those who were prioritized for the flights include recent arrivals as well as migrants who have committed crimes in the U.S. Border Patrol Chief Jason Owens said the passengers had illegally entered the U.S. between ports of entry. State television showed footage of migrants in face masks exiting the plane in Maiquetia airport outside Caracas.

The deportees will find a homeland that is still in the midst of complex social, political and economic crises. The Venezuelan government said it had entered into an agreement with the U.S. government that "allows the orderly, safe and legal repatriation of Venezuelan citizens from the United States." In a statement issued when the flights were first announced, Maduro's government blamed recent migration on economic sanctions and said it would assist deportees with resources.

The situation has evolved since a global drop in the price of oil – Venezuela's most valuable resource – a decade ago and mismanagement by the self-proclaimed socialist government pushed the country into a downward spiral. People are grappling with constant food-price hikes and business closures, and workers try to meet their needs with a monthly minimum wage of $3.70 that's barely enough to buy a gallon of water.

The U.S. government employs a fleet of charter carriers known collectively as ICE Air. Using charter airlines though, these flights, which typically carry 135 migrants, will fly to Venezuela from unspecified airports in the United States, according to the Department of Homeland Security. They will be for Venezuelans who have received final removal orders, which are issued after losing an asylum bid or to those who weren't able to seek humanitarian protection.

The flights are in response to "an increase in migration from Venezuela that is straining immigration systems throughout the hemisphere – including in the United States," the Transportation Department said in its waiver.

The U.S. has struggled for years to deport people to countries with which it has strained diplomatic relations, including Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua. After a hiatus of more than two years, Cuba allowed for the resumption of U.S. deportations in April, with deportation flights there operating only about once a month.

The U.S. government hopes the recent threat of deportation will be enough to make Venezuelans reconsider trying to enter the United States illegally – and opt instead for the online appointment system to make asylum claims or attempt other legal paths. But it has not deterred many people from continuing to migrate.

Venezuelan migration to the U.S. tapered off a year ago when the Biden administration agreed to allow Venezuelans to enter the country if they applied online with a financial sponsor who also arrived at the airport. More than 61,000 Venezuelans came on that route since last October.

The restart of the deportation flights takes places just weeks after the Biden administration announced that it is granting temporary legal status to hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans that have arrived in the U.S. by July 31.

The temporary status makes it easier for them to get work authorization and stop deportation orders.

Experts and immigration attorneys are urging Venezuelans to apply to TPS to prevent their repatriation.

"Venezuelans who have not applied for TPS and have deportation orders could be affected," said Rachel Leon, an immigration attorney in Florida. "Those who are eligible for TPS should apply as soon as possible to avoid facing deportation."

At the same time, Mexico agreed to let in some Venezuelans who were deported from the U.S. after crossing the border illegally, recognizing that Venezuela wouldn't.

The lull was short-lived. In August, Venezuelans were arrested more than 22,000 times on charges of crossing the border illegally, fourth behind people migrating from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras. Many head to New York, Chicago and other major U.S. cities, overwhelming shelters and temporary housing there.

Menendez's co-defendants plead not guilty to charges

Wife, man accused in criminal bribery case

Larry Neumeister
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nadine Menendez, wife of U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., arrives Wednesday at federal court in New York for her arraignment on a revised indictment in a sweeping bribery case. BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP

NEW YORK – Four defendants in the criminal bribery case against U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., pleaded not guilty Wednesday in New York City to a revised indictment alleging that the senator, his wife and a third defendant conspired to use him as an agent of the Egyptian government.

The senator, who gave up his position as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee after his arrest last month, was excused from the Manhattan federal court proceeding until Monday because of Senate business.

The defendants entering the pleas included his wife, Nadine Menendez, and a businessman, Wael Hana.

The senator, his wife and Hana were charged in the rewritten indictment last week with a new charge of conspiring to utilize the senator as an agent of the Egyptian government even though he was prohibited from acting as one as a member of Congress.

The earlier indictment charged Menendez and his wife with participating in a bribery conspiracy by accepting bribes of cash, gold bars and a luxury car from three New Jersey businessmen who wanted the senator's help and influence over foreign affairs.

At Wednesday's proceeding, Judge Sidney H. Stein denied a request by Hana that a GPS monitoring device attached to his leg be removed on the grounds that it was painful and because there was no chance he would flee.

Stein ruled after Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Richenthal opposed the request, saying that Hana, a citizen of the U.S. and Egypt, was a flight risk because he was "deeply connected" to the Egyptian government and had more than $25 million in assets overseas.

Hana's attorney, Lawrence Lustberg, said the electronic ankle bracelet that his client was required to wear was uncomfortable and "buzzes all night when he's trying to sleep."

"It's an onerous condition that we feel, respectively, is simply not necessary," Lustberg said.

He said Hana was looking forward to being exonerated at a trial scheduled for May 6 and had no interest in leaving the U.S.

"He is absolutely resolute about staying here," Lustberg said.

Richenthal said prosecutors agreed to a $5 million bail package for Hana, even though the charges against him are not extraditable offenses in Egypt, because he agreed to wear the GPS device and because he was willing to post substantial property and cash to support his bail.

The new charge against the trio alleges that they conspired to take a series of steps on behalf of Egypt, including for Egyptian military and intelligence officials, from January 2018 to June 2022.

In a statement last week, Menendez said he will "show my innocence" at trial. His wife said through her attorney that she denies all allegations in the indictment while Lustberg said the allegation that Hana joined a plot to enlist Menendez as an agent of the Egyptian government was "as absurd as it is false."

Prosecutors say Menendez was acting on Hana's behalf when he urged U.S. agriculture officials to stop questioning a lucrative monopoly that Hana's company obtained from the Egyptian government to certify that all meat imported into that country met religious requirements.

Chicago's top cop: Migrants put burden on its stations

Says others need to step up to house new arrivals

Sophia Tareen
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snelling

CHICAGO – Chicago's new police chief said the city's use of police stations as temporary housing for the growing population of migrants seeking asylum has been a "burden" on the nation's second-largest police department.

Police Superintendent Larry Snelling told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday that among his main concerns is the toll the city's approach has taken on officers' well-being because it is unfolding in their workplace.

"We were the first to open our doors to the migrants and they're still coming. And we have not turned them away," Snelling said. "But what we need are other people to step up in these situations because the burden has been on the police department to house people."

Currently, over 3,000 new arrivals are sleeping at police stations with hundreds more at airports. Some stay a few days – others months – while they await longer-term placement at shelters set up throughout the city, including small hotels, a park field house and unused commercial space. More than 18,500 migrants have arrived in Chicago since Texas Gov. Greg Abbot began sending buses last year to so-called sanctuary cities, or largely Democrat-run places that limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

Some new arrivals stay inside police station lobbies, many sleeping close together on cardboard and sharing bathrooms. Others congregate just outside the stations, sleeping on mattresses or in tents on the sidewalks and adjacent lots. Volunteers provide food, clothes, hygiene items and medical care.

Snelling would not say whether he disagreed with the approach, which was put in place under former Mayor Lori Lightfoot. He said he would continue carrying out the program with her successor, Mayor Brandon Johnson, as long as required.

He said there was the possibility of people being deterred from making police reports because they wouldn't want to walk through crowds of people. But he was more worried about officers having to witness tough situations in the workplace, like seeing nursing or pregnant women sleeping on floors.

"Those officers now have to go out and serve the public," he said. "This could have a negative effect on our officers."

Johnson, who took office in May, has proposed using winterized tents and to stop using police stations and airports as temporary shelters. But there has been pushback on that idea as well.

Multiple city council members have argued that the $150 million set aside in Johnson's proposed budget isn't nearly enough to address the issue. Social service groups, including volunteers who deliver meals and supplies, worry how tents will stand up to harsh Chicago winters.

This week members of Johnson's administration left for border cities to establish "better lines of community" with Texas officials and discuss "extreme housing and weather conditions" for asylum seekers in Chicago.

Some police stations have been criticized for their handling of the new arrivals, many of who have experienced trauma and deep poverty. Many migrants are from Venezuela, where a political, social and economic crisis in the past decade has pushed millions into poverty. More than 7 million have left that country, often risking a harrowing route to the United States.

In July, authorities investigated an allegation of sexual misconduct involving a migrant teen and an officer. The investigation was closed when no victim or corroborating witnesses could be found.

One volunteer doctor group said physicians weren't allowed see patients in the lobby, forcing them to examine patients outdoors. Some migrants have complained of their belongings being tossed out or gruff treatment from officers.

Snelling said discarding items was a sanitation issue; stations need to be deep cleaned regularly with people living in close quarters, particularly after sickness. There have been bouts of flu and other illnesses spreading quickly in the stations. He said in one case there were bedbugs.

IN BRIEF

US eases oil, gas and gold sanctions on Venezuela

WASHINGTON – In response to Venezuela's government and a faction of its opposition formally agreeing to work together to reach a series of basic conditions for the next presidential election, the U.S. agreed Wednesday to temporarily suspend some sanctions on the country's oil, gas and gold sectors.

Tuesday's agreement between President Nicolás Maduro's administration and the Unitary Platform came just days before the opposition holds a primary to pick its candidate for the 2024 presidential election.

The U.S. Treasury issued a six-month general license that would temporarily authorize transactions involving Venezuela's oil and gas sector, another that authorizes dealings with Minerven – the state-owned gold mining company – and it removed the secondary trading ban on certain Venezuelan sovereign bonds.

The ban on trading in the primary Venezuelan bond market remains in place, Treasury says.

Pulse nightclub property to be purchased by city of Orlando

ORLANDO, Fla. – The city of Orlando plans to purchase the Pulse nightclub property where 49 people were massacred seven years ago with the intention of building a memorial for the victims, Mayor Buddy Dyer said Wednesday.

A proposal to purchase the property for $2 million will be presented before the city council next Monday. If it is approved, the sale will close by the end of the month, Dyer said in a news release.

"In the interest of solving challenges in a way that brings our community together in love, acceptance and partnership, which is the enduring legacy of Pulse, we have decided to purchase the land from its current owners," Dyer said. "We believe that this is the best and most appropriate way to expedite the creation of a proper memorial for the Pulse tragedy."

The efforts to build a memorial for Pulse victims had been moving ahead in fits and starts since the massacre at the gay nightclub in 2016.

Dyer said that the city wants to take a collaborative approach and work with the families of the victims in creating the memorial.

Tech CEO sentenced to 8 years in COVID-19, allergy test fraud case

SAN JOSE, Calif. – A Silicon Valley executive who lied to investors about inventing technology that tested for allergies and COVID-19 using only a few drops of blood was sentenced Wednesday to eight years in prison and ordered to pay $24 million in restitution, federal prosecutors said.

Mark Schena, 60, was convicted last year of paying bribes to doctors and defrauding the government after his company billed Medicare $77 million for fraudulent COVID-19 and allergy tests, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a statement.

Schena claimed his Sunnyvale, California-based company, Arrayit Corporation, had the only laboratory in the world that offered "revolutionary microarray technology" that allowed it to test for allergies and COVID-19 with the same finger-stick test kit, prosecutors said.

In meetings with investors, Schena falsely represented that Arrayit could be valued at $4.5 billion, prosecutors said.

The case against Schena shared similarities with a more prominent legal saga surrounding former Silicon Valley star Elizabeth Holmes, who founded Theranos.

Brazil's Bolsonaro should be charged, congressional panel says

RIO DE JANEIRO – A Brazilian congressional panel on Wednesday accused former President Jair Bolsonaro of instigating the country's Jan. 8 riots and recommended that he be charged with attempting to stage a coup.

An inquiry panel of senators and representatives mostly allied with the current leftist President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva – who narrowly defeated Bolsonaro in last fall's election – voted 20-11 to adopt the damning report drafted by Sen. Eliziane Gama.

The move was largely symbolic because it amounts to a recommendation for police and prosecutors to investigate, and federal law enforcement officials separately have already been investigating Bolsonaro's possible role in inciting the Jan. 8 uprising.

Bolsonaro has denied involvement in the rioting, which took place more than a week after the right-wing leader had quietly left the country to stay in Florida while refusing to attend Lula's inauguration.

From wire reports

Woman arrested after trying to get close to Trump at NY trial

Jennifer Peltz and Michael R. Sisak
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman is escorted from the courtroom during former President Donald Trump's civil fraud trial in New York on Wednesday. The woman, later identified as a court employee, was arrested after she stood up at the trial and walked toward the front of the courtroom where Trump was sitting. SETH WENIG/AP

NEW YORK – A spectator at Donald Trump's civil fraud trial was arrested Wednesday after standing up in the middle of testimony and walking toward the front of the courtroom where the former president sat.

The woman expressed a desire to aid Trump, and the court system said that neither he nor anyone else at the trial was ever in danger. The ex-president and 2024 GOP front-runner showed no reaction in court and later told reporters he wasn't aware of the episode that had unfolded behind him.

"Who got arrested?" Trump asked. "We didn't know anything about it."

The woman, later identified as a court system employee, retreated after a court officer told her to return to her seat. A short time later, officers escorted her out and arrested her on a contempt charge for disrupting a court proceeding, court spokesperson Lucian Chalfen said.

Chalfen said the woman had been yelling out to Trump that she wanted to help him, though reporters in the courtroom did not hear her raise her voice. She was later heard screaming in the courthouse lobby as officers removed her from the building.

Outside the courtroom, the woman was seen on an NBC camera telling court officers: "You're scaring me, and I have a right to be here. I'm an American citizen, and I'm also a court employee. I'm also just here to support Donald Trump."

She went on to say that she had been "peacefully watching this proceeding" and had complied when a court officer told her not to cause "any more problems."

Chalfen said the woman, whose name wasn't released, has been placed on administrative leave and barred from entering state courts while authorities investigate.

The trial went on, albeit with one other unusual moment – this one after Trump threw up his hands in apparent frustration and conferred animatedly with his lawyers while real estate appraiser Doug Larson testified about his interactions with a Trump company executive.

State lawyer Kevin Wallace asked Judge Arthur Engoron to ask the defense to "stop commenting during the witness' testimony," adding that the "exhortations" were audible on the witness' side of the room. The judge then asked everyone to keep their voices down, "particularly if it's meant to influence the testimony."

The case, brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James, accuses Trump and his company of duping banks and insurers by giving them heavily inflated statements of Trump's net worth and asset values. Engoron has already ruled that Trump and his company committed fraud, but the trial involves remaining claims of conspiracy, insurance fraud and falsifying business records.

James maintains that Trump's financial statements were key to securing deals and loans, and witnesses and evidence presented at trial have indicated that the documents were a factor.

For example, a 2015 offer to refinance a Trump-owned Wall Street building came with terms that included "delivery of financial statements (including tax returns)" from Trump, according to a document shown in court Wednesday.

While the deal was in the works, the Trump Organization sent prospective lender Ladder Capital paper copies of Trump's financial statements and personal tax returns, Ladder executive Jack Weisselberg testified, adding that a Trump executive messaged him about when to expect the documents.

"I think they were concerned about confidentiality, and they wanted to make sure it was going directly into my hands," said Weisselberg, who's the son of former longtime Trump Organization finance chief Allen Weisselberg.

Trump denies all James' allegations. He says his assets were actually worth far more than claimed on his statements, which came with disclaimers that he portrays as telling people to vet the numbers themselves.

With Trump voluntarily attending the trial for a second straight day – his fifth overall – his lawyers strove to undercut the state's claims that his top corporate deputies played games to inflate the values of his properties and pad his bottom line.

In a series of questions, Trump lawyer Lazaro Fields sought to establish that Larson had, at one point, undershot the projected 2015 value of the Wall Street office building by $114 million. Larson said the "values were not wrong – it's what we knew at the time."

Trump threw up his hands during the exchange.

Larson had testified Tuesday that he never consulted with or gave permission for the Trump Organization's former controller, Jeffrey McConney, to cite him as an outside expert in the valuation spreadsheets he used to create Trump's financial statements.

Fields on Wednesday accused Larson of lying, pointing to a decade-old email exchange between McConney and the appraiser.

That touched off an angry back-and-forth between the defense and state sides, with Trump lawyer Christopher Kise suggesting that Larson could risk perjuring himself and needed to be advised about his rights against self-incrimination. State lawyer Colleen Faherty called Kise's comments "witness intimidation."

Ultimately, Engoron allowed Larson to return and answer the question with no legal warning. Larson said he didn't recall the email.

Jordan

Continued from Page 1NN

sisting entreaties to step aside and no other politically viable candidate is emerging to unite the ruptured Republican majority.

As Republicans upset and exhausted by the infighting retreated for private conversations, hundreds of demonstrators amassed outside the Capitol over the Israel-Hamas war, a stark reminder of the concern over having the House adrift as political challenges intensify at home and abroad.

"The way out is that Jim Jordan has got to pull his name," said Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., who voted twice against him. "He's going to have to call it quits."

After Wednesday's vote, McCarthy and other party leaders appeared to tentatively rally around Jordan, giving the combative Judiciary Committee chairman the time he was demanding, though it was doubtful he could shore up votes. No further action was scheduled and the House lost another day.

With Republicans in majority control of the House, 221-212, Jordan must pick up most of his GOP foes to win. Wednesday's tally, with 199 Republicans voting for Jordan and 212 for Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, left no candidate with a clear majority.

As the rollcall got underway, Jordan lost more than he gained, picking up three backers but adding more detractors.

The holdouts added to a surprisingly large and politically diverse group of 20 Republicans who had rejected Jordan's nomination the day before.

Jordan's refusal to concede only further embittered some of the Republicans, who were upset that the party's first choice, Majority Leader Steve Scalise, was essentially forced to drop his own bid 24 hours after a failed vote last week in large part because Jordan's backers team refused to give their support.

Bipartisan groups of lawmakers have been floating ways to operate the House by giving greater power to McHenry or another temporary speaker. The House had never ousted its speaker before McCarthy, and McHenry could tap the temporary powers that were created after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks to ensure continuity of government.

The novel concept of boosting the interim speaker's role was gaining favor with a pair of high-profile Republicans: former GOP speakers Newt Gingrich and John Boehner.

Gingrich said while he likes Jordan, he has "no faith" the nominee can get much beyond the 200 votes he won in the first vote.

Boehner reposted Gingrich's views saying, "I agree," on social media.

The two men have deep experience with the subject. Both were chased to early retirement.

"All options are on the table to end the Republican civil war," Jeffries said Wednesday.

But McHenry appeared to brush off the idea of taking further powers for himself, saying Jordan "has the support of the conference to keep going, so that's what we're gonna do."

McHenry added that he finds himself in an unprecedented position and has constructed his role "as narrowly as the rules say I should, and we can't transact business until we elect a speaker."

In nominating Jordan, veteran Republican Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma said it was time to end the upheaval that he had warned against with McCarthy's sudden ouster.

"We have a chance today to end that chaos, end that uncertainty," Cole said.

Democratic Rep. Pete Aguilar of California nominated Jeffries, noting the Democratic leader continues to win more votes and is the best choice to move the country forward.

"The country cannot afford more delays and more chaos," Aguilar said.

Jordan had relied on backing from Trump, the party's front-runner in the 2024 election to challenge President Joe Biden, and groups pressuring rank-and-file lawmakers for the vote, but they were not enough and in fact backfired on some.

"One thing I cannot stomach or support is a bully," said a statement from Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, who voted against Jordan on the second ballot and said she received "credible death threats and a barrage of threatening calls."

Flexing their independence, the holdouts are a mix of pragmatists – ranging from seasoned legislators and committee chairs worried about governing, to newer lawmakers from districts where voters prefer Biden to Trump.

Instead, the holdouts cast their ballots for McCarthy, Scalise and others, with one vote even going to the retired Boehner.

Jordan has been a top Trump ally, particularly during the Jan. 6 Capitol attack by the former president's backers who were trying to overturn the 2020 election he lost to Biden. Days later, Trump awarded Jordan a Medal of Freedom.

The political climb has been steep for Jordan, who is known more as a chaos agent than a skilled legislator, raising questions about how he would lead. Congress faces daunting challenges, risking a federal shutdown at home if it fails to fund the government and fielding Biden's requests for aid to help Ukraine and Israel in the wars abroad.

First elected in 2006, Jordan has few bills to his name from his time in office.

WAR IN MIDDLE EAST

Palestinians lose another Gaza sanctuary

Explosion turns courtyard of hospital into deadly inferno

Samya Kullab and Isabel Debre
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A girl carries blankets as she walks past the site of a deadly explosion at al-Ahli hospital in Gaza City on Wednesday.
ABED KHALED/AP

JERUSALEM – The courtyard of al-Ahli hospital, where thousands of Palestinians had sought shelter or medical treatment, is now a blackened expanse of charred cars, stretchers coated in ash and shredded dolls.

That's all that remains after an explosion on Tuesday turned it into an inferno, tearing apart men, women and children, and burning people alive. Images of the aftermath ignited protests across the region, threatening to broaden the war between Israel and Hamas.

Mohammed al-Hayek had stepped away to fetch some coffee, making his way through the crowd of displaced people who were singing, praying or sleeping after fleeing to the Gaza City hospital in fear of Israeli airstrikes. Seeking the warm drink on a cold night saved his life.

"I returned to find them torn in pieces," al-Hayek said of his five cousins. He pointed to the mound of debris where they had been sitting, to their blood on the walls.

"This is where Shahir was. This is where Mutasim was," he said of the young men in their early 20s.

There were conflicting claims of who was responsible for the blast.

Israel has been launching waves of airstrikes and Palestinian militants have been firing rockets into Israel since the wide-ranging Hamas incursion on Oct. 7 ignited the fifth, and deadliest, war between the sides.

Officials in Hamas-ruled Gaza quickly said an Israeli airstrike had hit the hospital. Israel denied it was involved and released live video, audio and other evidence it said showed the blast was caused by a rocket misfired by Islamic Jihad, another Palestinian militant group. Islamic Jihad denied responsibility.

The Associated Press has not independently verified any of the claims or evidence released by the parties.

Dr. Fadhil Naim, an orthopedic surgeon, was taking a short rest between operations when he heard a loud crash at about 7 p.m. Tuesday. At first he ignored it, thinking it was another airstrike nearby.

Then the wounded began streaming into the operating ward, screaming for help.

"They were alive, and they died in our arms because there wasn't enough of us to save everyone," he said.

He didn't realize the full scale of devastation until later, when he stepped outside into the courtyard and saw that it was filled with corpses.

Saeb al-Jarz, 27, was tending to his mother at Shifa, Gaza's largest hospital, just a few miles away, when he felt the ground shake and heard the blast. He raced to al-Ahli to see what had happened.

He remembers the scene in fragments: Flames lapping cars and hospital walls, victims stumbling around in horror, a courtyard littered with body parts, sheets with soccer ball and flower patterns draped over corpses.

He saw a little girl being carried away by a rescue worker, holding a doll and calling out for her mother.

The wounded flooded into Shifa, which was already packed with patients. On Wednesday, officials said the hospital was running out of fuel to power its emergency generators after Israel cut off fuel shipments as part of the siege, forcing Gaza's only power plant to shut down.

The death toll from the blast was in dispute Wednesday, even among Palestinians.

The Hamas-run Health Ministry initially said 500 had died, then revised that number to 471, without providing a list of names. The staff at al-Ahli said only that the toll was in the hundreds. Mohammed Abu Selmia, the director of Shifa, said he thought the toll was closer to 250.

Israel has vowed to crush Hamas, threatening a war like no other. It has ordered the evacuation of over a million Palestinians – around half of Gaza's population – from north to south of the territory it has completely sealed off. Israeli officials say they are trying to separate civilians from Hamas, which they accuse of using Palestinians as human shields.

Many Palestinians have crowded into hospitals, hoping they will be spared. Al-Ahli, an 80-bed hospital founded in 1882 and run by a branch of the Anglican Communion, was seen as especially secure because of its international connection.

"I am tortured when I think, why did those kids have to be killed?" said Suhaila Tarazi, the general director of al-Ahli. "This was not just a hospital, but a safe space for everyone to take refuge – Christians, Muslims, Jews, it doesn't matter. Now it is neither."

The Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, Hosam Naoum, said the hospital received at least three Israeli military orders to evacuate before Tuesday's explosion. The warnings by phone began Sunday, after Israeli shelling hit two floors of the hospital, wounding four medics, he said.

On Wednesday, shell-shocked families who survived the blast packed up their mattresses and other belongings and headed out into the streets to look for safety in a war-torn land with one less sanctuary.

"The explosion points to the madness and futility of the current fighting," said the Rev. Canon Nicholas Porter, from an American fundraising arm for the Anglican church.

"It is the poor, the sick, and the innocent who seem to be paying the price."

EXPLAINER

Why Arab countries are unwilling to take in refugees

Jack Jeffery and Samy Magdy
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO – As desperate Palestinians in sealed-off Gaza try to find refuge under Israel's relentless bombardment in retaliation for Hamas' brutal Oct. 7 attack, some ask why neighboring Egypt and Jordan don't take them in.

The two countries, which flank Israel on opposite sides and share borders with Gaza and the occupied West Bank, respectively, have replied with a staunch refusal. Jordan already has a large Palestinian population.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi made his toughest remarks yet on Wednesday, saying the current war was not just aimed at fighting Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, "but also an attempt to push the civilian inhabitants to ... migrate to Egypt." He warned this could wreck peace in the region.

Jordan's King Abdullah II gave a similar message a day earlier, saying, "No refugees in Jordan, no refugees in Egypt."

Their refusal is rooted in fear that Israel wants to force a permanent expulsion of Palestinians into their countries and nullify Palestinian demands for statehood. El-Sissi also said a mass exodus would risk bringing militants into Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, from where they might launch attacks on Israel, endangering the two countries' 40-year-old peace treaty.

Here is a look at what is motivating Egypt's and Jordan's stances.

A history of displacement

Displacement has been a major theme of Palestinian history. In the 1948 war around Israel's creation, an estimated 700,000 Palestinians were expelled or fled from what is now Israel. Palestinians refer to the event as the Nakba, Arabic for "catastrophe."

In the 1967 Mideast war, when Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 300,000 more Palestinians fled, mostly into Jordan.

The refugees and their descendants now number nearly 6 million, most living in camps and communities in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

The diaspora has spread further, with many refugees building lives in Gulf Arab countries or the West.

After fighting stopped in the 1948 war, Israel refused to allow refugees to return to their homes. Since then, Israel has rejected Palestinian demands for a return of refugees as part of a peace deal, arguing that it would threaten the country's Jewish majority.

Egypt fears history will repeat itself and a large Palestinian refugee population from Gaza will end up staying for good.

No guarantee of return

That's in part because there's no clear scenario for how this war will end.

Israel says it intends to destroy Hamas for its bloody rampage in its southern towns. But it has given no indication of what might happen afterward and who would govern Gaza. That has raised concerns that it will reoccupy the territory for a period, fueling further conflict.

The Israeli military said Palestinians who followed its order to flee northern Gaza to the strip's southern half would be allowed back to their homes after the war ends.

Egypt is not reassured.

El-Sissi said fighting could last for years if Israel argues it hasn't sufficiently crushed militants. He proposed that Israel house Palestinians in its Negev Desert, which neighbors the Gaza Strip, until it ends its military operations.

"Israel's lack of clarity regarding its intentions in Gaza and the evacuation of the population is in itself problematic," said Riccardo Fabiani, Crisis Group International's North Africa Project Director. "This confusion fuels fears in the neighborhood."

Egypt has pushed for Israel to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza, and Israel said Wednesday that it would. According to the United Nations, Egypt, which is dealing with a spiraling economic crisis, already hosts some 9 million refugees and migrants, including roughly 300,000 Sudanese who arrived this year after fleeing their country's war.

But Arab countries and many Palestinians also suspect Israel might use this opportunity to force permanent demographic changes to wreck Palestinian demands for statehood in Gaza, the West Bank and east Jerusalem, which was also captured by Israel in 1967.

El-Sissi repeated warnings Wednesday that an exodus from Gaza was intended to "eliminate the Palestinian cause ... the most important cause of our region." He argued that if a demilitarized Palestinian state had been created long ago in negotiations, there would not be war now.

"All historical precedent points to the fact that when Palestinians are forced to leave Palestinian territory, they are not allowed to return back," said H.A. Hellyer, a senior associate fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Arab countries' fears have only been stoked by the rise under Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of hard-right parties that talk in positive terms about removing Palestinians. Since the Hamas attack, the rhetoric has become less restrained, with some right-wing politicians and media commentators calling for the military to raze Gaza and drive out its inhabitants.

Worries over Hamas

At the same time, Egypt says a mass exodus from Gaza would bring Hamas or other Palestinian militants onto its soil. That might be destabilizing in Sinai, where Egypt's military fought for years against Islamic militants and at one point accused Hamas of backing them.

Egypt has backed Israel's blockade of Gaza since Hamas took over in the territory in 2007, tightly controlling the entry of materials and the passage of civilians back and forth.

It also destroyed the network of tunnels under the border that Hamas and other Palestinians used to smuggle goods into Gaza.

With the Sinai insurgency largely put down, "Cairo does not want to have a new security problem on its hands in this problematic region," Fabiani said.

El-Sissi warned of an even more destabilizing scenario: the wrecking of Egypt and Israel's 1979 peace deal. He said that with the presence of Palestinian militants, Sinai "would become a base for attacks on Israel. Israel would have the right to defend itself ... and would strike Egyptian territory."

"The peace which we have achieved would vanish from our hands," he said, "all for the sake of the idea of eliminating the Palestinian cause."

WAR IN MIDDLE EAST

Lebanon protesters clash near US Embassy

Rallies held over fighting in Gaza

Kareem Chehayeb
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters chant slogans near the U.S. Embassy in a northern suburb of Beirut on Wednesday during a demonstration in solidarity with the Palestinian people in Gaza. HASSAN AMMAR/AP

BEIRUT – Hundreds of protesters clashed Wednesday with Lebanese security forces in a Beirut suburb near the U.S. Embassy during demonstrations in support of both Gaza's civilian residents and the militant group Hamas in its war with Israel.

The protest in the Aukar neighborhood came as U.S. President Joe Biden made a show of solidarity with Israel during his visit there Wednesday, a day after an explosion at a Gaza Strip hospital killed hundreds of people and prompted mass protests.

Biden offered his assessment that the explosion was not the result of a strike by the Israeli military. The Palestinian group Hamas, which rules Gaza, and many Arab countries accuse Israel of striking the hospital, while the Israeli military claims it was a misfired rocket from the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group in Gaza.

Demonstrators holding Palestinian flags and the flags of various Palestinian factions took down a security wall and cut a barbed wire barrier on a winding road that leads to the U.S. Embassy outside of Beirut.

Riot police lobbed dozens of teargas canisters and fired water canons to disperse the protesters, eventually pushing them back. Several protesters were injured.

Meanwhile, in a southern suburb of Beirut, the Hezbollah group, a key ally of Hamas, held its own rally Wednesday.

Thousands of Hezbollah supporters and Palestinians waving Palestinian flags protested against the explosion at the Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza the day before.

"The time has perhaps come for the peoples of the region to declare their word in the face of American tyranny," senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine said in a speech at the rally.

Chanting "death to America," protesters burned an American flag in solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza, where the violence has left more than 3,000 people dead since Hamas militants launched a surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 7, leaving more than 1,000 people dead or kidnapped.

Hezbollah and Israel have clashed along the Lebanon-Israel border, though the skirmishes remain mostly contained along a handful of border towns. The militant group announced another death among its ranks Wednesday, its 11th since the conflict began.

Israel has threatened to aggressively retaliate should Hezbollah escalate, while Hezbollah has promised to do the same should Israel decide to launch a ground incursion into Gaza.

As the clashes continue, Saudi Arabia became the latest country to ask its citizens to leave the tiny Mediterranean country of Lebanon. The U.S. State Department warned its citizens not to come and urged those in the country to "make appropriate arrangements to leave," while commercial flights are still available.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Lebanese Red Cross collected the bodies and remains of four slain Hezbollah militants, a spokesperson for the group told The Associated Press.

An Associated Press photojournalist saw the three bodies and bag of remains transferred from the Lebanese Red Cross to Hezbollah's Islamic Health Unit at the Hiram Hospital near the southern city of Tyre.

The Hezbollah spokesperson said the bodies belonged to militants whose deaths were announced the day before, without giving additional details. Hezbollah announced the death of five of its fighters Tuesday. The spokesperson commented on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

It was unclear why there was a 24-hour delay in collecting the bodies.

The initial death announcement came hours after the Israeli military announced they had killed four militants near the border carrying an explosive device in what they suspected was an attempted cross-border operation.

Biden

Continued from Page 1NN

Biden's mission was to display resolve for Israel and to diminish the likelihood of a wider war, while providing assurances that he was not overlooking the increasingly dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. Aboard the flight back to Washington Biden made progress when he spoke by phone with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi who agreed to reopen his country's sealed border crossing with Gaza and allow up to 20 trucks carrying humanitarian aid supplies to cross.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, Biden said roads near the crossing would first need hours of repairs, but that aid could begin rolling into the region by Friday. He suggested the aid could be distributed by international officials "which could take a little time" and added that, "if Hamas confiscates it, it's going to end. We're not going to send any aid to Hamas."

"I wanted to make sure that there was a vehicle, a mechanism where this could happen quickly," Biden said during a refueling stop at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. He added that el-Sissi was "very cooperative."

"He stepped up. As did Bibi," the president said, referring to Israeli Prime Minster Benjamin Netanyahu. But Biden was also in a mood to celebrate his own accomplishment, saying, "I came to get something done. I got it done."

"Not many people thought I could get this done," Biden said. "And not many people wanted me to be associated with failure."

In fact, the president said officials had a discussion "of an hour or more" on "whether to go" before the trip began. "Had we gone and this failed, then the United States failed. The Biden presidency failed, etc., which would be a legitimate criticism," he said.

Aid moving into Gaza will accomplish a key objective for Biden, and the White House announced that the president will address the nation from the Oval Office on Thursday night to "discuss our response to Hamas' terrorist attacks against Israel and Russia's ongoing brutal war against Ukraine."

Less clear is how far the trip would take the president in trying to tamp down volatile Mideast divisions, particularly after his plan collapsed to follow the Israel stop with an Arab leaders summit in Jordan.

His visit was full of signature Biden moments as he walked a careful diplomatic line. He doled out embraces to Netanyahu and to first responders, doctors and victims who witnessed nightmare moments. He spoke quietly of his own history with grief. He told the familiar anecdote about meeting every Israeli prime minister over more than five decades in elected office, starting with Golda Meir in 1973. He quoted an Irish poet.

"I come to Israel with a single message: You're not alone," Biden said. "As long as the United States stands – and we will stand forever – we will not let you ever be alone."

His presence and comments to Israeli leaders held weight. Netanyahu said the president's visit was "deeply, deeply moving" and said Biden had rightly drawn a clear line between the "forces of civilization and the forces of barbarism."

"The civilized world must unite to defeat Hamas," the Israeli leader said.

Biden arrived in Israel as the nations across the Mideast shook with protests triggered by an explosion Monday at a Gaza hospital that killed hundreds.

The blast undid plans for Jordan's King Abdullah II to host Biden along with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and el-Sissi. Abbas withdrew in protest of the hospital attack; the summit was subsequently canceled outright. Yet Biden's presence in Israel prompted fresh outrage.

In Amman, a sign hoisted by one protester labeled Biden and Netanyahu war criminals and called them "Partner in Crime." At the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh in south Lebanon, protesters set fire to a cardboard cutout of Biden's head with a rope around his neck and blood painted over his mouth.

Ayman Safadi, Jordan's foreign minister, told a state-run television network that the war is "pushing the region to the brink."

Still, Biden emerged from the day trumpeting food, water and medicine poised to move into Gaza after lengthy deadlock. Israel cut off the flow of aid and fuel to the Gaza Strip after the attack that killed 1,400 civilians by Hamas, which controls the region.

The Biden administration plans to ask Congress for more than $2 billion in combined additional aid for Israel and Ukraine. Biden on Wednesday also announced $100 million in aid to Gaza and the West Bank.

"The vast majority of Palestinians are not Hamas," Biden stressed. "Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people."

President Joe Biden is greeted by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after arriving at Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Wednesday. EVAN VUCCI/AP

The tone of the discussions between Biden and Netanyahu stood in stark contrast to their optimistic meeting just a month ago on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, where Netanyahu marveled that a "historic peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia" seemed within reach.

The possibility of improved relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors has dimmed considerably with the outbreak of the latest Israel-Hamas war. Israel has been preparing for a potential ground invasion of Gaza. There are also fears that a new front could erupt along Israel's northern border with Lebanon, where Hezbollah operates. The Iran-backed organization has been skirmishing with Israeli forces.

Allowing aid into the region had been seen by U.S. officials as a critical step toward the cooling of tensions in Arab nations after the blast at the hospital, which had been treating wounded Palestinians and sheltering many more who were seeking a refuge from the fighting.

There were conflicting claims of who was responsible.

Officials in Gaza quickly blamed an Israeli airstrike. Israel denied it was involved and released a flurry of video, audio and other information that it said showed the blast was instead due to a missile misfire by Islamic Jihad, another militant group operating in Gaza. The Islamic Jihad dismissed that claim. The Associated Press has not independently verified any of the claims or evidence released by the parties.

Biden said data from his Defense Department showed that the explosion was not likely caused by an airstrike by the Israeli military. A White House National Security Council spokesperson followed up later with a post on social media that an analysis of "overhead imagery, intercepts and open source information" showed Israel was not behind the attack. But the U.S. continues to collect evidence.

"Based on what I've seen, it appears as though it was done by the other team, not you," Biden told Netanyahu.

The leaders of the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee in a joint statement said they felt confident the explosion was "the result of a failed rocket launch" by militants and not an Israeli airstrike.

Roughly 2,800 Palestinians have been reported killed by Israeli strikes in Gaza. An additional 1,200 people are believed to be buried under the rubble, alive or dead, health authorities said. Those numbers predate the explosion at the Al-Ahli hospital on Tuesday.

Jordan declared three days of mourning, and Jordanian officials said the summit was canceled after speaking with all leaders. Foreign Minister Safadi said they had wanted the meeting to produce an end to the war, which seems unlikely now, and to give Palestinians the respect they deserve.

WAR IN MIDDLE EAST

Woman becomes hero for playing host to militants

Israeli feeds men who broke into her home

Julia Frankel
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rachel Edri, center, from Ofakim in southern Israel, has become an unlikely folk hero among Israelis for narrowly escaping death at the hands of Hamas militants by feeding them tea and cookies. MIRIAM ALSTER/POOL PHOTO VIA AP

JERUSALEM – When Hamas militants toting grenades appeared in her living room, Rachel Edri served them tea and Moroccan cookies until police stormed in and killed the attackers.

Edri's tale of quick-witted survival during the Israel-Hamas war has turned the 65-year-old woman into an unlikely folk hero in Israel. For many, she has come to symbolize the ingenuity of everyday Israelis left to fend for themselves as militants turned sleeping southern communities into bloodbaths on Oct. 7.

After an early-morning air-raid siren, Edri returned from a bomb shelter in her hometown of Ofakim to find a band of Hamas militants in her living room. As gunfire raged outside, Edri's home saw a 20-hour tete-a-tete between hospitality and brutality.

"One of the terrorists said to me: 'You remind me of my mother.' "

"I told him, 'I am really like your mother. I will help you, I will take care of you. What do you need?' " Edri told Ynet. After one of the grenade-toting gunmen struck Edri across the face with the butt of his gun, Edri soothed him. She served the militants canned pineapple, tea and her signature Moroccan cookies. She sang them Arabic songs, and they replied with Hebrew ones. She offered the men Coke Zero – when they said they preferred Coca Cola, she obliged. "After they drank and ate, they became much calmer," Edri told Ynet. "I started having conversations, and at one point I even forgot for a moment that they were terrorists."

After 17 hours, a rescue team was able to rescue Edri and her husband with the help of their son, Eviatar. A local policeman himself, Eviatar gave the team a sketch of the house, helping the rescuers surprise the militants and fatally shoot them. With the house heavily damaged, Edri has been relocated to a hotel in central Israel.

On Wednesday, she was one of several Israelis invited to meet with President Joe Biden during his whirlwind visit to Israel. She beamed and hugged Biden, as Biden thanked her for defending the country.

For plying the militants with snacks Edri has been touted online and in national media as the consummate Jewish mother, a play on the stereotype of women who overfeed guests. Israelis have also compared Edri to the biblical character of Yael, who slays an evil general by offering him food before killing him in his sleep.

The militants from the Gaza Strip blew through Israel's highly fortified separation wall and entered Ofakim and more than 20 other border communities, killing at least 48 residents of Ofakim.

A group of civilians bearing pistols fought back Hamas militants armed with assault riots.

"They fought like lions here," said Yoni Shalem, a man who lives down the street from Edri, describing the bravery of his neighbors. "Not the policemen, not the army – they did nothing. The only reason we're alive is because of other citizens who came to protect us."

Shimon Koram, Edri's brother, said he was not surprised when he heard how Edri had managed to avoid near-certain death. Before the war, Edri was known for her hospitality and generosity, Koram said, working at a nearby military base cooking meals for soldiers.

The two were raised in a working class family in Ofakim with 12 siblings, he said, a childhood that taught them how to be scrappy.

"We learned to survive and acquired the wisdom of life like street cats," Shimon said. "You can see that in how she acted."

Gaza

Continued from Page 1NN

Israel shut off all supplies to Gaza soon after Hamas militants rampaged across communities in southern Israel on Oct. 7. As supplies run out, many families in Gaza have cut down to one meal a day and have been left to drink dirty water.

The bloody devastation at al-Ahli threw the siege's impact into sharp relief. Video from the scene showed the hospital grounds strewn with torn bodies, many of them young children. Hundreds of wounded were rushed to another Gaza hospital where doctors, already facing critical supply shortages, performed surgery on the floors, often without anesthesia.

Biden said Egypt's president agreed to open the crossing and to let in an initial group of 20 trucks with humanitarian aid. If Hamas confiscates aid, "it will end," he said. The aid will start moving Friday at the earliest, White House officials said.

Egypt must still repair the road across the border that was cratered by Israeli airstrikes. More than 200 trucks and some 3,000 tons of aid are positioned at or near the Rafah crossing, Gaza's only connection to Egypt, said the head of the Red Crescent for North Sinai, Khalid Zayed.

Supplies will go in under supervision of the U.N., Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry told Al-Arabiya TV. Asked if foreigners and dual nationals seeking to leave would be let through, he said: "As long as the crossing is operating normally and the (crossing) facility has been repaired."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the decision was approved after a request from Biden. It said Israel "will not thwart" deliveries of food, water or medicine from Egypt, as long as they are limited to civilians in the south of the Gaza Strip and don't go to Hamas militants. The statement made no mention of fuel, which is badly needed for hospital generators.

Relatives of roughly 200 people who were taken hostage and forced back to Gaza during the attack reacted in fury to the aid announcement.

"Children, infants, women, soldiers, men, and elderly, some with serious illnesses, wounded and shot, are held underground like animals," said a statement from the Hostage and Missing Families Forum. But "the Israeli government pampers the murderers and kidnappers."

Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel resumed Wednesday after a 12-hour lull. Israeli strikes on Gaza continued, including on cities in the south that Israel had described as "safe zones" for civilians.

In his brief visit, Biden tried to strike a balance between showing U.S. support for Israel, while containing growing alarm among Arab allies. Upon his arrival, Biden embraced Netanyahu – and expressed concern for the suffering of Gaza's civilians.

Biden said the hospital blast appeared not to be Israel's fault, and he cautioned Israelis not to allow outrage over the deadly Hamas attack to consume them.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi warned that the war was "pushing the region to the brink." After the hospital blast, Jordan canceled a meeting between Biden, Jordan's King Abdullah II and the Palestinian and Egyptian presidents.

The Israeli military held a briefing Wednesday morning laying out its case for why it was not responsible for the explosion at the al-Ahli Hospital.

Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said the military was not firing in the area when the blast occurred. He said Israeli radar confirmed a rocket barrage was fired by the Palestinian militant Islamic Jihad from a nearby cemetery at the time of the blast, around 6:59 p.m. Independent video showed one rocket in the barrage falling out of the sky, he said.

The misfired rocket hit the parking lot outside the hospital, he said. Were it an airstrike, there would have been a large crater there; instead, the fiery blast came from the misfired rocket's warhead and its unspent propellant, he said.

Hamas called Tuesday's hospital blast "a horrific massacre" caused by an Israeli strike.

Islamic Jihad said Israeli orders issued days before for al-Ahli to be evacuated, and a previous strike at the hospital, proved the hospital was an target. The group added that the scale of the explosion, the angle of the explosive's fall and the extent of destruction all pointed to Israel.

The Anglican bishop of Jerusalem, Hosam Naoum, said the hospital, run by the Episcopal Church, received at least three Israeli military orders to evacuate in the days before the blast. Israeli shelling hit it Sunday, wounding four staff, he said. Israel ordered all 22 hospitals in northern Gaza to evacuate last week.

Naoum declined to cast blame. "We just want to let people see what is happening on the ground and hope that people will come to the conclusion that we've had enough of this war," he said.

Hundreds of Palestinians had taken refuge in al-Ahli and other hospitals in Gaza City, hoping they would be spared bombardment after Israel ordered all residents of the northern Gaza Strip to evacuate to the south.

On Wednesday morning, the blast scene was littered with charred cars. One man who had been sheltering there with his family, Mohammed al-Hayek, said he was sitting with other men in a hospital stairwell Tuesday night, wary of being in the yard.

He had stepped away to get coffee when the blast hit.

"When I returned, they were torn to pieces," he said.

The death toll was in dispute. The Health Ministry initially said at least 500 had died, but revised that number to 471 on Wednesday. Al-Ahli officials said the toll was in the hundreds.

Palestinians bring a man wounded in an Israeli airstrike to the Shifa hospital in Gaza City on Wednesday. ALI MAHMOUD/AP

Mourners gather around the coffins of Gil Taasa and his son Or during their funeral in Nitzan, Israel, on Wednesday. The father and son were killed by Hamas militants on Oct. 7. TSAFRIR ABAYOV/AP

The Gaza Health Ministry said 3,478 people have been killed in Gaza since the war began, and more than 12,000 wounded, mostly women, children and the elderly. Another 1,300 people across Gaza are believed to be buried under the rubble, alive or dead, health authorities said.

More than 1,400 people in Israel have been killed, mostly civilians slain during Hamas' deadly incursion. Militants in Gaza have launched rockets every day since toward cities across Israel.

Israel has been expected to launch a ground invasion into Gaza, though military officials say no decision has been made.

More than 1 million Palestinians have fled their homes – roughly half of Gaza's population. Those fleeing the north and Gaza City to move south have crowded into U.N. schools or the homes of relatives.

With Israeli airstrikes relentlessly pounding the Gaza Strip, displaced Palestinians increasingly feel that no place is safe.

The Musa family fled to the typically sleepy central town of Deir al-Balah and took shelter in a cousin's three-story home near the local hospital. But at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, a series of explosions, believed to be airstrikes, rocked the building, turning the family home into a mountain of rubble that they said buried some 20 women and children.

The dead body of Hiam Musa, the sister-in-law of Associated Press photojournalist Adel Hana, was recovered from the wreckage Wednesday evening, the family said. They don't know who else is under the rubble, alive or dead.

"It doesn't make sense," Hana said. "We went to Deir al-Balah because it's quiet, we thought we would be safe."

The Israeli military said it was investigating.

The Israeli military says it is targeting Hamas hideouts, infrastructure and command centers and accuses the militants of hiding among civilians.

SPORTS EXTRA

WNBA FINALS ACES 70, LIBERTY 69

Las Vegas Aces forward A'ja Wilson, center, and owner Mark Davis, right, celebrate after winning the 2023 WNBA Finals on Wednesday in New York. WENDELL CRUZ/USA TODAY SPORTS

ACES TRIUMPH

Las Vegas becomes first team to win repeat titles in 21 years

Doug Feinberg
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK – A'ja Wilson and the Las Vegas Aces secured their place as one of the greatest teams in WNBA history.

The Aces became the first team to repeat as champions in 21 years, getting 24 points and 16 rebounds from Wilson and a defensive stop in the closing seconds to beat the New York Liberty 70-69 in Game 4 of the Finals on Wednesday night.

"It's not easy, as you know. This is what it's all about," Wilson said. "Not a lot of people get to do it. To be shorthanded and win is amazing. It makes the win that much better. It's hard to get back to the Finals to win again."

The Aces joined the Los Angeles Sparks (2001-02) and the Houston Comets (1997-2000) as the only teams in league history to win consecutive titles.

Las Vegas did it without starters Chelsea Gray and Kiah Stokes, who were both sidelined with foot injuries suffered in Game 3. Gray, the 2022 WNBA Finals MVP, was constantly in the ear of her teammates during timeouts and shouting encouragement from the sideline. Las Vegas was also still missing veteran Candace Parker, who had foot surgery in late July.

"We've been facing adversity all season, playing without different players. ... We have some professional fighters," said Alysha Clark, who was pressed into the starting lineup Wednesday. "To weather the storm of everything we went through, to show up every single day. To be in this moment right now and do it together, it speaks volumes about us, our chemistry."

Coach Becky Hammon said this was the closest team she has ever been around. The entire team attended the postgame news conference and cheered every answer, especially those by Wilson, the Finals MVP, who finished third in the regular-season MVP balloting.

With the game tied at 64, Las Vegas scored six straight points, including the first four by Jackie Young, to go ahead 70-64 with 1:26 left.

Courtney Vandersloot hit a 3-pointer on New York's next possession, then

See WNBA, Page 3NS

NFL

Jags try to prolong win streak vs. Saints

Brett Martel
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS – The Jacksonville Jaguars have looked like one of the hottest teams in the NFL during the past three weeks.

But that was with a healthy franchise quarterback.

Now Trevor Lawrence aims to play through a sprained left knee as the Jaguars (4-2) visit the New Orleans Saints (3-3) on Thursday night.

Lawrence's injury occurred in the final minutes of a 37-20 victory over Indianapolis on Sunday, leaving him little more than three full days to recover before Jacksonville's offense goes up against one of the top-performing defenses in the NFL.

The Saints rank fifth in the NFL in total defense and fifth against the pass. Their eight interceptions puts them in a six-way tie for second most in the NFL (a group that also includes the Jaguars).

"We just got to hit on all cylinders when you play a defense like this," Jaguars offensive tackle Cam Robinson said.

Lawrence has completed 67% of his passes for 1,439 yards, with seven touchdowns and three interceptions this season. But he also has been sacked 16 times.

If he doesn't play in New Orleans, backup C.J. Beathard could make his first start in more than two seasons.

Since stumbling to a 1-2 start, the Jaguars have played considerably better in consecutive victories over Atlanta and Buffalo in England, and over Indianapolis at home in Week 6.

"Their confidence is extremely high right now," Jaguars coach Doug Pederson said. "We're beginning to eliminate some of those mistakes that happened early in the season. ... This team is really beginning to mature and come together."

Saints coach Dennis Allen might like to speak similarly about his own team. But for now, he can't.

Last week, New Orleans' defense held Houston to 20 points and fewer than 300 yards – only to see its offense stumble in a 20-13 loss.

The Saints' offense – now led by four-time Pro Bowl QB Derek Carr – gained more than 400 yards in that game, but was held to one or fewer touchdowns for the fourth time this season.

"We're not doing enough things the

See NFL, Page 5NS

ALCS ASTROS 8, RANGERS 5

Altuve, Javier lead Astros to Game 3 win

Stephen Hawkins
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARLINGTON, Texas – Jose Altuve homered, Cristian Javier worked into the sixth inning of another solid postseason start and the Houston Astros beat the Texas Rangers 8-5 on Wednesday night, closing to 2-1 in the AL Championship Series.

Texas lost for the first time this postseason after a 7-0 start. Three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer was gone after four innings in his first outing in more than a month after recovering from a strained shoulder muscle.

Javier set a franchise record for the defending champion Astros by extending his postseason scoreless streak to 20 1/3 innings. That streak ended in the fifth when rookie Josh Jung hit the first of his pair of two-run homers.

Javier improved to 4-0 in his four career postseason starts, allowing just five hits.

"I always try to have the same mentality. These moments are extremely special for me," he said through a translator. "When it comes to the game, just try to stay focused, try and attack the strike zone."

A 26-year-old Dominican right-hander known as "El Reptil," Javier limited the Rangers to two runs and three hits over 5 2/3 innings in his second win in these playoffs. He threw 51 of 85 pitches for strikes.

Ryan Pressly, the third reliever, worked the ninth for his third save of the playoffs, inducing Jung's game-ending, double-play grounder.

Martín Maldonado, the catcher

See ALCS, Page 4NS

The Astros' Jose Altuve celebrates after hitting a home run against the Rangers during the third inning in Game 3 on Wednesday. GODOFREDO A. VASQUEZ/AP

GOLF THIS WEEK

Powered by Golfweek

PGA TOUR

Tour heads to Japan

After a week in Sin City, the PGA Tour is across the world in Chiba, Japan, for the 2023 Zozo Championship at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club.

A loaded field including Xander Schauffele, Collin Morikawa, Rickie Fowler, Hideki Matsuyama and defending champion Keegan Bradley is set to tee off Thursday — or Wednesday for those on the East Coast, as the first tee time is 7:45 p.m. ET.

Who to watch

Min Woo Lee: Before tying for 64th at the DP World Tour's French Open, Lee finished T-14 at the BMW PGA Championship and T-7 at the Irish Open. However, at the Asian Tour's Macau Open last week, Lee posted a final-round 63 to win by two.

Cam Davis: Since the fall season began, Davis has finished third at the Fortinet Championship and T-7 last week at the Shriners Children's Open. The Aussie has made one appearance in the Zozo, tying for 29th in 2022.

Cameron Champ: Champ looked to be in control in Vegas over the first 36 holes, but Saturday (74) wasn't kind to him. He did finish the week tied for 18th after grabbing a share of ninth at the Sanderson Farms Championship. The three-time Tour winner finished solo eighth at last year's Zozo, his only appearance in Japan.

Joel Dahmen: Since missing the cut at the Fortinet Championship, Dahmen has finished T-13 at the Sanderson Farms Championship and T-7 at the Shriners Children's Open.Last year, the fan favorite and Full Swing star tied for 16th.

11-time winner Andy Bean dies

Andy Bean, an 11-time PGA Tour winner who underwent a double lung replacement last month, has died following complications from the surgery. He was 70. Bean won 11 times on the PGA Tour and captured three titles on the PGA Tour Champions. He turned pro in 1975 after an illustrious career at Florida, where he was a three-time All-American and helped the Gators win the NCAA men's golf title in 1973. Bean's lungs were badly damaged from a bout with COVID-19, according to a Facebook post by friend Alan Pope. He underwent surgery at Advent Health Hospital in Orlando last month.

— Riley Hamel and Cameron Jourdan

LPGA TOUR

Takeaways from Lexi Thompson's run

Lexi Thompson became only the second woman to record a sub-70 round in a PGA Tour event on Friday when she carded a 2-under 69 at the PGA Tour's Shriners Children's Open. Thompson joins Michelle Wie West, who twice shot 2-under 68 at the Sony Open. Thompson's exhilarating run toward the weekend made Friday golf at the Shriners must-see TV. While her even-par effort came up short, the 11-time LPGA winner dug deep to hover around the cutline for the entire back nine. Thompson became only the seventh woman to tee it up in a PGA Tour event.

Takeaways from Thompson's inspiring effort

1. This was a win: When word came down just over a week ago that Thompson was going to tee it up against the men, plenty of folks had their doubts. But Thompson can leave Las Vegas with her head held high after coming oh-so-close to making the cut. Folks who've never watched one minute of LPGA coverage saw the tour's most popular American star hang right there with men, pounding drives more than 300 yards and clawing back to hang around the cut line right to the finish. This was, in fact, good timing for Thompson.

2. The guys were impressed: Michael Kim, who played a practice round with Thompson, tweeted on Thursday her play was "seriously impressive." He also noted Thompson drew the biggest crowds at TPC Summerlin and future PGA Tour invites were likely to follow for her and other LPGA players. "We were kind of rooting for her the last few holes to maybe make a birdie or two to make the cut," said Trevor Werbylo, who played alongside Thompson, "but it was fun."

3. Stats are cool: While LPGA stats have improved in recent years, they're still a fraction of what the PGA Tour enjoys every week. For example, Thompson ranks 12th on the LPGA in distance at 270.7 yards, but the LPGA only measures two holes each week for distance, and Thompson often hits something other than driver off those tees. For the week she pounded driver everywhere and averaged 301 yards off the tee (with elevation), with her longest drive measuring 316 yards. Her driving average ranks 116th for the week. Thompson's explosive game was on full display as she was able to reach par 5s in two and even drove the green Friday on the drivable par-4 15th, making birdie.

— Beth Ann Nichols

COLLEGE

Spikemark gets spiked

Just five weeks into a new season, the NCAA has officially severed ties with Spikemark for its official scores and rankings. The NCAA announced Monday that Clippd will take over after a series of false starts and empty promises from Spikemark.

"A leader in the golf technology industry," according to the NCAA, Clippd will take over from Spikemark "following an agreed handover period."

Clippd bills itself as "a technology business founded and staffed by passionate golfers" and is already providing stats to more than 100 Div. I, II and III programs. The NCAA notes that Spikemark approached Clippd for help. Clippd reports its site has been able to publish more than 75 percent of all Div. I college golf tournaments.

In July, the NCAA announced Spikemark Golf would become the provider for all golf scoring and ranking services utilized by the NCAA beginning with the 2023-24 season. Spikemark took over the service role previously provided by Golfstat.

Nine days later, Golfstat responded with a statement saying the company wasn't going away, though its role was going to be reduced.

St. Joe's adds women's golf

More opportunities in women's college golf have opened up.

On Monday, Saint Joseph's University, located in Philadelphia, announced the addition of women's golf as a varsity sport for the Hawks. The team will begin competing fall of 2024.

"We are extremely excited to announce the addition of one of the most popular sports for high school girls and college women with the addition of women's golf," Vice President and Director of Athletics Jill Bodensteiner said in a post on the university's website. "During my time on Hawk Hill, I have had more inquiries about starting a women's golf program than any other sport. I am delighted to offer additional participation opportunities for female student-athletes to receive a Jesuit education at this great institution."

Saint Joseph's officials indicated the search for a head coach will begin soon and that the women's team will need placement in a conference. St. Joe's competes in the Atlantic 10 in all other sports.

— Todd Kelly

NHL ROUNDUP

Copp, DeBrincat each score 2 to lift Wings

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT – Andrew Copp and Alex DeBrincat each scored twice, Ville Husso made 30 saves and the Detroit Red Wings beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 6-3 on Wednesday night.

Copp scored in a three-goal second period to give Detroit a 4-1 lead, but Pittsburgh pulled within a goal midway through the third.

Copp sealed the win with an empty-net goal with 1:32 to go. DeBrincat also took advantage of the Penguins pulling their goaltender to add an extra skater, restoring the Red Wings' three-goal lead 21 seconds later.

Ben Chiarot, David Perron and Copp scored in the second period.

Evgeni Malkin gave the Penguins their only lead in the opening minute, when he extended his goals streak to three games. Tristan Jarry stopped 23 shots.

Erik Karlsson cut Pittsburgh's deficit to two goals early in the third period. Shortly thereafter, Copp was given a penalty shot and he couldn't get it past Jarry.

Husso kept the two-goal lead midway through the third by stopping shots by Rickard Rakell and Karlsson.

The Red Wings needed the cushion because Bryan Rust redirected a shot to make it 4-3 with 6:57 left.

Detroit has won three in a row since losing the opener by a goal at New Jersey.

Pittsburgh had won two straight games since dropping its opening game by two goals against Chicago.

Malkin scored his 474th goal, breaking a third-place tie with Alexander Mogilny for the most NHL goals by Russian-born players.

The 37-year-old center trails Washington superstar Alex Ovechkin (822) and former Red Wings great Sergei Fedorov (483) on the list.

Red Wings center Andrew Copp celebrates after scoring in the second period against the Penguins on Wednesday in Detroit. RICK OSENTOSKI/USA TODAY SPORTS

NHL SUMMARIES

Detroit 6, Pittsburgh 3

Pittsburgh	1	0	2	–	3
Detroit	1	3	2	–	6

First Period–1, Pittsburgh, Malkin 3 (Smith, Karlsson), 0:53. 2, Detroit, DeBrincat 4 (Czarnik, Gostisbehere), 12:23. Penalties–Kostin, DET (Interference), 9:55.
Second Period–3, Detroit, Chiarot 1 (Larkin, Petry), 5:21. 4, Detroit, Copp 2 (Petry, Rasmussen), 15:42. 5, Detroit, Perron 1 (Larkin, DeBrincat), 17:49 (pp). Penalties–Harkins, PIT (Tripping), 17:32; Detroit bench, served by Perron (Tripping), 19:08; Larkin, DET (Fighting), 19:08; Pettersson, PIT (Fighting), 19:08; Seider, DET (Roughing), 19:46; Malkin, PIT (Roughing), 19:46; Pittsburgh bench, served by Harkins (Roughing), 19:46.
Third Period–6, Pittsburgh, Karlsson 1 (Crosby, Graves), 3:37. 7, Pittsburgh, Rust 4 (Karlsson, Pettersson), 13:03. 8, Detroit, Copp 3, 18:28 (en). 9, Detroit, DeBrincat 5 (Larkin), 18:49 (en). Penalties–Petry, DET (Hooking), 5:32; Letang, PIT (Interference on breakaway (Penalty Shot)), 7:17; Pittsburgh bench, served by Harkins (Delay of Game), 18:28.
Shots on Goal–Pittsburgh 6-9-16–31. Detroit 7-12-10–29.
Power-play opportunities–Pittsburgh 0 of 3; Detroit 2 of 3.
Goalies–Pittsburgh, Jarry 1-1-0 (27 shots-23 saves). Detroit, Husso 1-1-0 (31-28).
A–0 (20,000). T–2:31.
Referees–Wes McCauley, Brian Pochmara. Linesmen–Ryan Gibbons, Matt MacPherson.

Ottawa 6, Washington 1

Washington	1	0	0	–	1
Ottawa	2	3	1	–	6

First Period–1, Ottawa, Tarasenko 2 (Joseph, Greig), 4:28. 2, Ottawa, Norris 1 (Stutzle, Batherson), 12:29 (pp). 3, Washington, Carlson 1 (Ovechkin, Wilson), 18:54. Penalties–Oshie, WSH (Slashing), 11:31.
Second Period–4, Ottawa, Norris 2 (Batherson), 1:47. 5, Ottawa, Zub 1 (Sanderson, Tarasenko), 4:47. 6, Ottawa, Giroux 1 (Chabot, Stutzle), 15:47. Penalties–Kastelic, OTT (Tripping), 12:53; Washington bench, served by Ovechkin (Delay of Game), 15:47; Washington bench, served by Milano (Unsportsmanlike Conduct), 18:57; Kastelic, OTT (Fighting), 18:57; Wilson, WSH (Fighting), 18:57.
Third Period–7, Ottawa, Sanderson 2 (Stutzle, Giroux), 11:48. Penalties–Kubalik, OTT (Tripping), 2:56; Fehervary, WSH (Holding Stick), 5:32; Wilson, WSH (Roughing), 12:03; Wilson, WSH (Roughing), 12:03; Sanderson, OTT (Roughing), 12:03; Hamonic, OTT (Roughing), 12:03; Sandin, WSH (Delay of Game), 15:58.
Shots on Goal–Washington 12-9-3–24. Ottawa 6-12-11–29.
Power-play opportunities–Washington 0 of 2; Ottawa 1 of 5.
Goalies–Washington, Kuemper 1-1-0 (29 shots-23 saves). Ottawa, Forsberg 2-0-0 (24-23).
A–15,021 (18,572). T–2:31.
Referees–Eric Furlatt, Morgan MacPhee. Linesmen–Andrew Smith, Libor Suchanek.

Senators 6, Capitals 1

OTTAWA, Ontario – Josh Norris scored a pair of goals in his season debut Wednesday night, leading the Ottawa Senators to a 6-1 win over the Washington Capitals.

Norris had missed the first three games of the regular season and didn't play in the preseason, but looked solid in his return. The Senators center was coming off shoulder surgery last January.

Vladimir Tarasenko, Artem Zub, Claude Giroux and Jake Sanderson also scored for the Senators (3-1-0), who picked up their third straight win. Anton Forsberg made 23 saves.

The Capitals (1-2-0), playing their first road game of the season, often dominated play in the opening period but the Senators capitalized on their chances and some poor defensive coverage.

John Carlson scored the Capitals' lone goal. Darcy Kuemper stopped 23 shots.

Trailing 5-1 in the third, the Capitals managed just three shots on goal while Ottawa extended its lead on a laser of a shot from Sanderson.

Ottawa scored three unanswered goals in the second to take that 5-1 lead and never looked back.

Norris picked up his second by beating Kuemper glove side two minutes into the second period. Zub scored with a shot from the blue line three minutes later.

Giroux picked up his first of the season after some poor coverage by the Capitals allowed him to drive to the net uncontested for an easy tap-in.

Tarasenko opened the scoring four minutes in after taking a pass from Ridly Greig to beat Kuemper, but it was Norris' power-play goal midway through the period that brought the crowd to its feet.

Capitals center Nicklas Backstrom skated in his 1,100th career NHL game Wednesday.

Backstrom made his NHL debut on Oct. 5, 2007, against the Thrashers in Atlanta.

Backstrom scored his first NHL goal against the Senators that season, beating the late Ray Emery for what would prove to be the game-winning goal in a 4-1 Caps victory.

BASKETBALL

NBA PRESEASON ROUNDUP

Wembanyama scores 15 to lead Spurs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top draft pick Victor Wembanyama scored 15 points in 21 minutes to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 117-103 victory over the visiting Houston Rockets in preseason action on Wednesday night.

The 7-foot-4 Wembanyama missed all five of his shots from the field in the first half, but made 7 of 8 from the free throw line to help the Spurs (2-2) to a 60-44 advantage at halftime. He hit 3 of 5 shots in the second half ,with two 3-pointers, and finished with six rebounds and two blocks.

Devin Vassell hit five 3-pointers and scored 25 points to lead the Spurs. Zach Collins had 11 points, nine rebounds, three assists. He also accounted for six of the Spurs' 22 turnovers.

Amen Thompson, the fourth overall selection in June's draft, and 20th pick Cam Whitmore started and combined to score five points in the first half for Houston (3-1). Thompson and Whitmore scored 15 points apiece in the Rockets' 99-89 win over the Spurs in Houston on Monday night, with Wembanyama sitting out.

Thompson finished with five points, four rebounds and four assists. Whitmore scored 14 of his 17 in the second half. Jeenathan Williams added 19 points and eight rebounds off the bench.

Spurs center Victor Wembanyama (1) shoots the ball in the first half against the Rockets on Wednesday in San Antonio, Texas. DANIEL DUNN/USA TODAY SPORTS

Warriors 116, Kings 115

Stephen Curry hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 6.1 seconds left and scored 16 of his 30 points in the final 4:46 as Golden State ran its preseason winning streak to four games and sent Sacramento to its fourth straight loss.

Curry hit eight 3-pointers for Golden State (4-0), including four late in the fourth quarter as the Warriors outscored the Kings (0-4) by 14 in the final period. He added five assists and four rebounds.

Jonathan Kuminga had 18 points and Andrew Wiggins scored 16 for the Warriors. Second-round pick Trayce Jackson-Davis, acquired in a trade with Washington, started and finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Chris Paul had 13 points, nine assists and six rebounds off the bench.

De'Aaron Fox scored 25 points and Keegan Murray added 24 for the Kings. Domantas Sabonis pitched in with 12 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists. Colby Jones, a second-round selection acquired in a trade with Charlotte, hit two 3-pointers and scored 10 in 15 minutes.

Murray and Davion Mitchell each had 14 points by halftime and the Kings led 56-49.

Wizards 131, Knicks 106

Jordan Poole scored 41 points in 27 minutes and Washington rolled past New York at Madison Square Garden.

Poole hit 10 of 19 shots, including 6 of 12 from 3-point range, and made 15 of 16 free throws – in three quarters – as the Wizards remained unbeaten in three preseason games.

Mike Muscala scored 15 of his 20 points in the first half on 5-for-5 shooting from long distance. Tyus Jones added 13 points and seven rebounds.

Julius Randle paced the Knicks (1-3) with 20 points and 10 rebounds. RJ Barrett had 19 points and seven rebounds, and Mitchell Robinson added 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Poole scored 29 points in the first half and helped the Wizards to a 65-52 lead at the break.

Bilal Coulibaly, the seventh overall pick acquired in a trade with Indiana, had seven points and three steals in a start for Washington.

Nets 107, Heat 104

Reserves Lonnie Walker IV scored 22 points and Day'Ron Sharpe added 19 points on 6-for-7 shooting and 11 rebounds as visiting Brooklyn held off Miami.

Walker made half of his 14 shots and was 4 for 7 from long distance for Brooklyn (2-2).

Haywood Highsmith and Cole Swider scored 15 apiece to lead Miami (2-2). Jamal Cain had 14 rebounds and seven points.

WNBA

Continued from Page 1NS

stole the ball from Kelsey Plum, which led to Sabrina Ionescu's foul-line jumper to get the Liberty within one with 41.7 seconds left.

On the ensuing possession, Las Vegas worked the shot clock down before Hammon called timeout with 3 seconds left on the shot clock. The Aces got the ball to Wilson on a lob, but Breanna Stewart blocked the shot, giving New York one last chance.

After a timeout with 8.8 seconds left, the Liberty got the ball to Stewart, who was double-teamed.

The ball swung over to Vandersloot in the corner, but her shot missed badly, setting off a wild celebration by the Aces at midcourt.

"It's a play we've ran before, get the ball to Stewie's hand," Liberty coach Sandy Brondello said. "Sometimes they work, sometimes they don't. We got it where we wanted to, but didn't make it."

Vandersloot finished with 19 points and Betnijah Laney added 15 for New York.

Hammon said before the game she would be "throwing the kitchen sink at (the Liberty), see what sticks, see what works."

The Aces rotated defenses, which stymied New York after the Liberty scored 23 points in the first quarter.

"I think they were throwing whatever defense they had at us and make sure it's ugly," Stewart said. "Sometimes we lost our flow and ball movement."

Hammon started WNBA sixth woman of the year Clark and Cayla George in place of Gray and Stokes. Clark did a stellar job on her former Seattle Storm teammate Stewart, holding her to 10 points on 3-of-17 shooting. George had 11 points.

"Just knowing what she likes to do. And just locking in and making sure that I don't give that to her," Clark said of guarding Stewart. "I'm so proud of this team."

This was the first close game of the season between these teams. The four regular-season matchups were all blowouts with the closest contest being a nine-point win by New York on Aug. 28. The first three games of the WNBA Finals were also routs, with New York winning Game 3 87-73 to stave off elimination.

Game 4 was so tense that Ionescu was seen vomiting into a trash can during a timeout midway through the fourth quarter, shortly after she hit a 3-pointer to get the Liberty within 60-58. Ionescu stayed in the game after the timeout.

The Aces' Kelsey Plum (10) shoots over the Liberty's Marine Johannes during the second half of Game 4 on Wednesday in New York. The Aces won 70-69. FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Star-studded crowd

New York drew dozens of celebrities to the game, including basketball royalty Sue Bird and Dawn Staley – the South Carolina coach who loudly cheered on her former star player, Wilson. The two embraced in a long hug after the game. Also in attendance were Liberty Ring of Honor members Vickie Johnson and Sue Wicks, and actors Jennifer Connelly, Issa Rae and Jason Sudeikis.

Las Vegas 70, New York 69

LAS VEGAS (70)
Clark 4-7 2-2 10, Wilson 11-21 2-3 24, George 4-14 0-0 11, Plum 2-12 3-4 7, Young 6-11 2-2 16, Bell 0-1 0-0 0, Colson 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 28-67 9-11 70.

NEW YORK (69)
Laney 6-13 2-2 15, Stewart 3-17 4-5 10, Jones 3-8 0-0 6, Ionescu 5-12 0-0 13, Vandersloot 7-16 1-1 19, Thornton 1-3 0-0 3, Dolson 1-1 0-2 2, Johannès 0-2 1-2 1. Totals 26-72 8-12 69.

Las Vegas	13	17	23	17	–	70
New York	23	16	12	18	–	69

3-Point Goals–Las Vegas 5-21 (George 3-10, Young 2-6, Clark 0-1, Plum 0-4), New York 9-26 (Vandersloot 4-8, Ionescu 3-7, Thornton 1-2, Laney 1-3, Jones 0-1, Johannès 0-2, Stewart 0-3). Fouled Out–None. Rebounds–Las Vegas 38 (Wilson 16), New York 39 (Stewart 14). Assists–Las Vegas 18 (Young 7), New York 19 (Vandersloot 6). Total Fouls–Las Vegas 14, New York 12. A–16,851 (17,732)

MLB PLAYOFFS

NLCS GAME 3 PREVIEW

Phillies are rolling, breaking records

Bob Nightengale
Columnist
USA TODAY

Phillies left fielder Kyle Schwarber reacts after hitting a home run against the Diamondbacks in the third inning of Game 2. KYLE ROSS/USA TODAY SPORTS

NLCS Game 3

Philadelphia Phillies (Suarez 1-0)
at Arizona Diamondbacks (Pfaadt (0-0)

At Chase Field, Phoenix

5:07 p.m. ET

TV: TBS

PHILADELPHIA –The Philadelphia Phillies sat around late Tuesday night, nursing a few Coors Lights and Presidente beers, telling a few jokes, sharing some videos, and trying not to get too giddy after their 10-0 beatdown of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

They were in no hurry to go home, not with three sporting events happening in the same complex, with the Philadelphia Flyers playing at Wells Fargo Center and a Mexico-Germany soccer game at Lincoln Financial Center while they were playing Game 2 of the National League Championship Series.

The traffic was so brutal that one player said his wife tried to make her way to Citizens Bank Park from home but turned around and watched the game on TV.

Really, everyone could have saved some time watching at home. The game was over the moment Trea Turner hit the fifth pitch the Phillies saw into the left-field seats. By the time the game mercifully ended, the Phillies produced three more home runs – two by Kyle Schwarber – 11 hits, six shutout innings by co-ace Aaron Nola, and a 2-0 lead in the NLCS. The game was so lopsided that the most suspenseful moment came when an overzealous fan ran onto the field to celebrate as the game ended, only to be smashed into the ground by security, drawing oohs and aahs from the sellout crowd of 45,412.

"Did you see that? He got absolutely crushed. He was de-cleated," said Phillies outfielder Jake Cave, laughing. "I love it. Really, just being here and watching all of this is unbelievable. You look around, and it's crazy. I'm around a bunch of guys who are the best baseball players I've ever seen.

"I mean, Bryce (Harper) is the best hitter I've ever been around in my life. The way he can take over baseball games is incredible. And the fear he puts into pitchers is something I've never seen before.

"This is the most fun I've ever had in baseball just watching these guys."

The Phillies are putting on a power show for the ages, hitting three home runs for the second consecutive game, ripping up the record book on a nightly basis.

"We all want to hit," Turner said. "We're not scared to swing the bat as a team."

Take a look at the record book, and you'll see for yourselves.

● They have hit 15 homers in the last four postseason games, the most by any team in a four-game span, and 19 this postseason.

● They have 17 home runs in their last five home games, another record.

● They have trailed at the end of only two innings this postseason, the fewest by any team after eight postseason games.

● They have outhomered the opposition by 15, the greatest differential in any eight-game span by any team in postseason, and by 37 home runs in the postseason history of Citizens Bank Park.

● And their winning percentage there of .718, 28-11, is also the best by any team in postseason history.

"It's just amazing," Cave said. "I can barely talk because I've been screaming the last two weeks watching this. This is the world stage. The best players in the world. The best league in the world.

"And I think we're the best team in the world."

Few outside the state of Texas, where the Astros and Rangers are battling in the ALCS, would argue. But right now, there's little debate that the Phillies are the best team in the National League.

They swept the Miami Marlins in the wild-card round, dropped Atlanta to its knees, and are now manhandling the Diamondbacks.

\Two series down, two games down, and a World Series to go.

Surprised?

You haven't been watching the Phillies this month.

"I wouldn't necessarily say surprised, no," said Phillies catcher J.T. Realmuto. "I think this is kind of the lineup that we envisioned ourselves having all season long. And I just think that we're clicking at the right time right now.

"From top to bottom, everybody seems like they're going good at-bats. The focus is there. The intent is there.

"We're hitting home runs all over the field, and these guys are doing a ton of damage."

They certainly are proving to be unstoppable at Citizens Bank Park, where they have now won 11 consecutive postseason games against NL teams, with the raucous crowd so intimidating that it has thrown the Diamondbacks completely off their game. This is a team that has run wild all season, with rookie Corbin Carroll stealing 54 bases, and the D-backs stealing seven bases this postseason.

This series? Carroll and the D-backs haven't even attempted a stolen base.

The crowd was so loud in the seventh inning when Phillies second baseman Bryson Stott hit a routine infield pop-up, the D-backs couldn't hear one another, and the ball dropped in for an embarrassing hit.

"Look, we could be playing on the moon," D-backs manager Torey Lovullo said. "Everybody is talking about coming into this environment, and I don't care. We have to play better baseball. Everybody has to be better. You can start with the manager and then trickle all the way down through the entire team.

"We've got to play Diamondback baseball. What we watched out there was not anything that we have done for a long period of time."

In the words of D-backs DH Tommy Pham: "We've got to start winning some games. We're getting humbled here."

Welcome to the club.

The Phillies have a way to doing that to everyone in their path this postseason. If they're not hitting home runs, they're stringing together singles. If they're not scoring, they're shutting down the opposition. The Phillies have a 1.39 ERA this postseason, the second-lowest in the first eight games of a postseason, according to MLB.com researcher Sarah Langs, behind only the 1983 Baltimore Orioles (1.23).

It was Nola who was the latest one to snuff out the D-backs, pitching six shutout innings yielding just three hits while striking out seven. If the game hadn't been lopsided, he may have pitched a complete game the way he dominated the strike zone. He's 3-0 with a 0.96 in three postseason starts this year.

Certainly, the Phillies believe this could be the year they win their first World Series title since 2008, and only their second in the last 43 years.

"This series is a long way from being over," Realmuto says. "But if we keep playing this brand of baseball, we feel pretty good about our chances."

The Phillies are having a hard time explaining this domination. They had scouting reports revealing that D-backs ace Zac Gallen throws first-pitch strikes, and took advantage with their onslaught in Game 1. Their reports showed that D-backs starter Merrill Kelly lives off the edge of the plate, so if you want to homer, just wait for that ball to drift over the middle. And they instructed their pitchers to implement slide steps, change the pace of their delivery, and shut down the D-backs' running game.

It has all worked like a charm, but as the Phillies will tell you, the cohesiveness in their clubhouse, the determination to win, and the sheer desire to make their fanbase proud, is going an awful long ways too.

"These guys in this clubhouse are A-plus," Schwarber said. "When you get to go out and battle with this locker room, it fires you up. We play for each other.

"We have an amazing fan base, and obviously we want to do this for the city, but when you have a bond like we all have in that clubhouse, it's so tight."

It's a team that has its fan base dancing in the aisles during games, screaming until their lungs burn, and now is ready to cut loose with an after-hours party that will last until Thanksgiving.

Maybe longer.

"There are 45,000 people going crazy for nine innings," said Cave, who doubled and was thrown out at third base in his excitement with his first postseason extra-base hit in the eighth inning. "It's insane. It's absolutely insane. It's the best baseball environment I've ever seen, seen videos of, maybe ever. I have no voice myself. I've been losing my mind screaming.

"So, I feel what they feel. I'm losing it, too. And it's genuine.

"Believe me, it's a beautiful feeling for all of us."

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ALCS

Continued from Page 1NS

wearing reptile-skin spikes in reference to his pitcher's nickname, and Yordan Alvarez both had two-run singles for the Astros, who scored five runs with two outs. Jung hit his second two-run homer in the seventh for the wild-card Rangers, who played only their second home game this postseason. They swept Tampa Bay and Baltimore – the AL's top two teams in the regular season – to get to their first ALCS since 2011 and their first postseason series against their instate AL West rival.

Game 4 is Thursday night and Game 5 will be Friday afternoon.

The Astros are 40-45 at home this year, losing three of four in the playoffs. But they have won 17 of their last 20 road games, including both at Minnesota in the AL Division Series and three during a record-setting sweep at Globe Life Field in early September, when they homered 16 times and outscored Texas 39-10.

"It's the strangest thing I've ever seen because usually you want to be .500 on the road and way over .500 at home," Astros manager Dusty Baker said. "I asked the team in spring training to be the best road team. Maybe I should have asked them to be the best road and home team. They usually give me what I ask for."

Philadelphia, which got swept in three games at Globe Life Field opening the season, has a 2-0 lead in the NLCS, which resumes Thursday in Arizona.

The Rangers had trailed after only one of the previous 64 innings this postseason until a three-run second that put Houston ahead to stay.

Alvarez was hit by a 89 mph cutter on his left foot to start that frame, struggling Kyle Tucker walked and Mauricio Dubón loaded the bases with a single. Alvarez came home as Scherzer bounced a wild pitch off Jonah Heim's mitt and Maldonado, the No. 9 batter, followed with his big hit

Altuve, who went deep five times in that September series, homered leading off the third. José Abreu doubled on the first pitch in the fourth and scored a single by Dubón for a 5-0 lead.

The 39-year-old Scherzer, a trade-deadline acquisition from the Mets, gave up five runs and five hits.

Astros starting pitcher Cristian Javier (53) talks with catcher Martin Maldonado during the sixth inning during Game 3. JEROME MIRON/USA TODAY SPORTS

ALCS Game 4

Houston Astros (Urquidy 1-0)
at Texas Rangers (Heaney 0-0)

At Globe Life Field, Arlington, Texas

8:03 p.m. ET

TV: FS1

HOUSTON 8, TEXAS 5

Houston							**031 100 210 – 8**
Texas							**000 020 210 – 5**

Houston	**AB**	**R**	**H**	**BI**	**BB**	**SO**	**Avg.**
Altuve 2b	5	2	2	1	0	0	.154
Brantley lf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.250
McCormick lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Bregman 3b	4	0	0	0	1	0	.167
Alvarez dh	4	1	2	2	0	0	.364
J.Abreu 1b	5	1	1	0	0	1	.167
Tucker rf	2	2	1	0	3	0	.100
Dubón cf	4	1	3	1	0	0	.571
Peña ss	4	0	1	1	0	1	.182
Maldonado c	4	1	2	2	0	2	.333
Totals	**37**	**8**	**12**	**7**	**4**	**5**	

Texas	**AB**	**R**	**H**	**BI**	**BB**	**SO**	**Avg.**
Semien 2b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.167
Seager ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.154
Carter lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.200
García rf	4	0	1	1	0	0	.182
Heim c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.182
Garver dh	3	0	0	0	1	1	.091
1-Jankowski pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Lowe 1b	4	2	2	0	0	1	.250
Jung 3b	4	2	2	4	0	1	.273
Taveras cf	2	0	0	0	1	0	.500
Totals	**32**	**5**	**6**	**5**	**3**	**5**	

1-ran for Garver in the 9th.

LOB: Houston 7, Texas 3. **2B**: J.Abreu (1), Tucker (1), Carter (2). **HR**: Altuve (1), off Scherzer; Jung (1), off Javier; Jung (2), off Neris. **RBIs**: Maldonado 2 (2), Altuve (1), Dubón (1), Alvarez 2 (4), Peña (1), Jung 4 (4), García (2).

Runners left in scoring position: Houston 2 (J.Abreu, Brantley); Texas 1 (García). **RISP**: Houston 5 for 12; Texas 1 for 2.

Runners moved up: Tucker, Carter. **GIDP**: Jung.

DP: Houston 1 (Peña, Altuve, J.Abreu).

Houston	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Javier, W, 1-0	5⅔	3	2	2	1	3	85	3.18
Neris, H, 1	1⅓	2	2	2	0	1	19	6.75
B.Abreu	1	1	1	1	1	0	17	3.00
Pressly, S, 1-1	1	0	0	0	1	1	13	0.00
Texas	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Scherzer, L, 0-1	4	5	5	5	1	4	63	11.25
Bradford	1⅓	0	0	0	0	0	11	0.00
Stratton	1	2	2	2	1	0	19	18.00
W.Smith	⅓	1	0	0	1	0	12	0.00
Gray	1	2	1	1	1	1	15	9.00
Pérez	1⅓	2	0	0	0	0	18	0.00

Inherited runners-scored: Neris 1-0, W.Smith 2-2, Gray 2-0, Pérez 2-0. **HBP**: Scherzer (Alvarez). **WP**: Scherzer.

Umpires: Home, James Hoye; First, Marvin Hudson; Second, Jordan Baker; Third, Dan Bellino; Right, Mark Ripperger; Left, Stu Scheuwater.

Time: 3:05. **Attendance**: 42,368 (40,000).

NFL

NOTEBOOK

Giants QB Jones practices for first time since injury

ASSOCIATED PRESS

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. – New York Giants quarterback Daniel Jones practiced on Wednesday for the first time since hurting his neck at Miami, but his status for this weekend's game against Washington remains uncertain because he has not been cleared for contact.

Jones threw with the other quarterbacks during individual workouts, but Tyrod Taylor, who started in last week's 14-9 loss the Bills, handled the snaps as the Giants (1-5) started preparing to host the Commanders (3-3) on Sunday.

Coach Brian Daboll listed Jones as limited on his lengthy injury report.

Jones, who signed a four-year, $160 million contract in March, said he has been throwing for a couple of days and has felt good. The No. 6 overall pick in the 2019 draft said his neck is feeling better but he has not been cleared by the medical staff for contact.

Jones confirmed there was pain in the left shoulder and neck after he was hurt on a sack in the fourth quarter against the Dolphins. He said he is close to being symptom-free.

The concern would be returning too early and aggravating the injury.

"I obviously want to be out there extremely, extremely badly," Jones said. "I want to be there for the team and be on the field. I certainly feel that way. But doing everything I can to get back out there and everything I can to help."

The 34-year-old Taylor is focused on being ready to play Sunday, saying the choice is up to the coaches and training staff.

"I think I did some things well," Taylor said of his performance last Sunday night, "but there is always room to grow and like I said, as a quarterback, you get judged on a lot, but at the end of the day, wins and losses is what matter."

Taylor admitted he made a mistake audibling out of a pass play at the Bills 1 with 14 seconds left in the first half. Saquon Barkley was stopped on a run and the Giants never got another play. He said he put the play behind him at halftime.

Giants quarterback Daniel Jones scrambles with the ball agianst the Dolphins on Oct. 8. JASEN VINLOVE/USA TODAY SPORTS

Jaguars list QB Lawrence as questionable for Saints game

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – With quarterback Trevor Lawrence listed as questionable for Thursday night's game at New Orleans, the Jacksonville Jaguars signed third-stringer Nathan Rourke from the practice squad to the active roster.

Lawrence was limited in practice for the second consecutive day Wednesday. He expressed optimism Tuesday about playing, but also said he needs to consider the best long-term plan for his sprained left knee and the team's success.

Lawrence has started every game during his three professional seasons and last missed a game during his final collegiate year at Clemson, when he sat out consecutive games because of a neck injury and then COVID-19 protocols.

If Lawrence doesn't play, backup C.J. Beathard would make his first start since the 2020 regular-season finale with San Francisco.

Rourke, a former Canadian Football League standout, would serve as the backup. He started 11 games for the BC Lions in 2021-22, throwing for 4,035 yards and 28 touchdowns. He completed 78.7% of his passes, setting a new CFL record and earning the CFL's Most Outstanding Canadian award.

Jets trading Mecole Hardman back to the Chiefs

The New York Jets are trading seldom-used wide receiver Mecole Hardman back to the Kansas City Chiefs, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Hardman, who signed with the Jets as a free agent last March, returns to the team with which he played his first four NFL seasons and helped win two Super Bowls.

ESPN first reported the deal. It includes the Jets sending a seventh-round pick in the 2024 draft to the Chiefs for a sixth-rounder, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the teams hadn't announced the trade.

Hardman signed a one-year, $4 million contract that included a $2.5 million signing bonus and $3.6 million guaranteed to add a speedy and versatile weapon in New York's offense. But that never materialized.

The 25-year-old Hardman had a quiet training camp during the summer, and undrafted rookie Xavier Gipson eventually surpassed him on the depth chart as a returner and wide receiver. Gipson had the winning punt return in overtime in New York's season-opening win over Buffalo and has become more involved in the offense, including running the ball out of the backfield on reverses and end-arounds.

Meanwhile, Hardman has played only 28 snaps on offense – with one 6-yard catch – and two snaps on special teams. He was a healthy inactive in Week 5 at Denver.

Arizona QB Murray activated from PUP list, returns to practice

TEMPE, Ariz. – Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray – almost always a man of few words – announced the next step in his return from an ACL injury with a two-word statement.

"Practicing today," Murray posted on social media.

A few minutes later on Wednesday, the Cardinals made if official, announcing that Murray has been designated to return from the physically unable to perform (PUP) list. Arizona can activate Murray to the 53-man roster at any time during the next 21 days or at the conclusion of the three-week period.

Murray got hurt against the New England Patriots on Dec. 12 – a little more than 10 months ago. He was flushed out of the pocket and running to his right when he tried to fake out a defender, but tumbled to the grass in obvious pain.

The quarterback has been relatively quiet about his recovery, occasionally posting pictures on social media.

It's been the first significant injury setback for Murray, who was a Texas high school phenom, Heisman Trophy winner at Oklahoma and No. 1 overall pick in the 2019 NFL draft.

"This is different," Murray said in July. "This is you-on-you. Nobody really knows what you're going through except for yourself and whoever you're working out with."

The two-time Pro Bowl selection signed a $230.5 million contract in 2022 that could keep him with the franchise until 2028.

NFL

Continued from Page 1NS

right way all the time," Carr said as he tried to explain New Orleans' red zone woes.

Stakes and standings

So far, the Saints have had plenty of margin for error in the weak NFC South. They're just a half game behind Tampa Bay for first place with 11 games to play. Two of their losses were by a touchdown or less, including an 18-17 setback at Green Bay in which New Orleans blew a 17-0 lead and missed a field goal for the lead in the final minute.

"That's the parity in this league," Saints linebacker Demario Davis said. "Week in and week out, you've got to be on your stuff."

Davis will get no argument from Jaguars linebacker Foyesade Oluokun, whose team entered Week 7 with a one-game lead in the AFC South.

"It's a week-to-week business," he said. "Whatever we did last week is really pointless going forward."

Banged-up blockers

Both clubs' offensive lines are missing starters.

Jacksonville could be without both guards. Walker Little (knee) was ruled out and and Brandon Scherff (ankle) was listed as questionable.

The Saints are without both starting tackles from Week 6: Ryan Ramczyk (concussion) and James Hurst (ankle).

Second-year left tackle Trevor Penning, who was benched in favor of Hurst last week, is likely to start against the Jaguars. Veteran backup guard Andrus Peat, who's been limited by a groin injury, could have to play guard or tackle. Or the Saints could call up veteran tackle Cameron Erving – a 2015 first-round draft pick by Cleveland – from the practice squad.

Jacksonville quarterback Trevor Lawrence passes against the Colts on Sunday. Lawrence is looking to play through a sprained left knee in Thursday night's game against New Orleans. COREY PERRINE/FLORIDA TIMES-UNION - USA TODAY NETWORK

Not-so-Super Dome

New Orleans is one of five NFL cities in which Jacksonville has never won. The Jaguars are 0-3 in the Big Easy, having lost the past two games by a combined 28 points. They also are winless in New England (0-9), Seattle (0-4), Washington (0-4) and San Francisco (0-2). The Superdome has been equally unkind to quarterback Trevor Lawrence, whose only two college losses came there. Lawrence and Clemson lost 42-25 to LSU in the 2019 championship game in New Orleans and 49-28 to Ohio State the following year in a College Football Playoff semifinal game.

Ridley vs. Lattimore

Jaguars receiver Calvin Ridley and Saints cornerback Marcus Lattimore will be facing off for the seventh time in their NFL careers. They used to play twice annually when Ridley was with Atlanta in the NFC South.

Ridley has 36 receptions for 556 yards and four touchdowns against the Saints, including seven catches for 146 yards and three scores in his third game as a pro in 2018.

"It's been a really good matchup," Ridley said.

"Lattimore is definitely one of the best cornerbacks in the league. He plays man. He follows good receivers. He plays at the line. Just a guy that goes out there and follows the good receivers and tries his best to lock them down."

AP Sports Writer Mark Long in Jacksonville, Florida, contributed to this report.

TENNIS ROUNDUP

Auger-Aliassime advances in China

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO – Felix Auger-Aliassime defeated Sebastian Ofner 6-4, 6-1 to advance to the quarterfinals of the Japan Open on Wednesday, winning consecutive matches for the first time since March.

The 23-year-old Canadian, who had not won back-to-back matches since Indian Wells, rallied from a break down in a tight first set before racing through the second by winning the final six games.

"I need results like this," said Auger-Aliassime, after backing up his win over Aleksander Vukic in the first round. "I believe in my game and I believe in myself that I have what it takes to win at this level. I have done it before but it is about doing it and having a lot of belief and a positive mind. I am happy that my level is translating to the match court after a couple of months."

Auger-Aliassime next plays American qualifier Marcos Giron, who upset eighth-ranked Casper Ruud 6-3, 6-4.

Fifth-seeded Tommy Paul beat fellow American Mackenzie McDonald 6-4, 6-2. The 12th-ranked Paul will play Ben Shelton, who overcame Jordan Thompson 6-7 (5), 6-4 6-3.

Also, Shanghai Masters winner Hubert Hurkacz lost his first-round match to No.57 Zhang Zhizhen 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (4).

Zhang fired 10 aces and broke serve three times to avenge his defeat to the 11th-ranked Hurkacz in Shanghai last week.

Jiangxi Open

Third-seeded Marie Bouzkova advanced to the quarterfinals of the Jiangxi Open in China by beating Amina Anshba 7-5, 6-0.

Nao Hibino of Japan followed her victory over top-seeded Beatriz Haddad-Maia in the first round with a 6-3, 7-5 win over Kimberly Birrell. The 93rd-ranked Hibino will play Diana Shnaider in Friday's quarterfinals after the Russian advanced when Vera Zvonareva retired due to illness when trailing 6-3, 0-1.

Eighth-seeded Sara Sorribes Tormo plays Camila Osorio in a late match.

Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime hits a return against Austria's Sebastian Ofner during their men's singles match on Wednesday. KAZUHIRO NOGI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

SOCCER MLS

Inter Miami forward Robbie Robinson (19) reacts against Charlotte FC during the second half on Wednesday. SAM NAVARRO/USA TODAY SPORTS

Robinson scores late, helps Miami earn draw

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – Robbie Robinson scored his first goal of the season and Inter Miami rallied for a 2-2 draw with Charlotte FC on Wednesday night.

Robinson subbed into the match in the 73rd minute and scored the equalizer for Inter Miami (9-17-7) in the 84th with assists from Leonardo Campana and DeAndre Yedlin.

Charlotte (9-11-13) and Inter Miami play again on Saturday in Charlotte to close out the regular season. Lionel Messi missed the match for Inter Miami. He was in Peru, scoring both goals in Argentina's 2-0 victory over the hosts in a World Cup qualifier. The club has not announced whether Messi will play in the finale.

Neither team found the net until Enzo Copetti used assists from Kerwin Vargas and Brandt Bronico in the 45th minute to score his sixth goal of the season and give Charlotte the lead.

Rookie Nicolás Stefanelli pulled Inter Miami even in the sixth minute of stoppage time with his second career goal, unassisted.

Charlotte regained the lead in the 52nd minute when Vargas took passes from Kamil Józwiak and Brecht Dejaegere and scored for a third time this season.

Drake Callender finished with four saves for Inter Miami. Kristijan Kahlina saved five shots for Charlotte.

The home side had won all three previous meetings – two by Inter Miami.

Karol Swiderski saw a three-match goal-scoring streak end for Charlotte.

SCOREBOARD

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NFL

Thursday

FAVORITE	OPEN	O/U	UNDERDOG
NEW ORLEANS	1½	38½	Jacksonville

Sunday

FAVORITE	OPEN	O/U	UNDERDOG
Cleveland	2½	39½	INDIANAPOLIS
Buffalo	8½	41½	NEW ENGLAND
BALTIMORE	2½	41½	Detroit
TAMPA BAY	2½	38½	Atlanta
Las Vegas	1½	37½	CHICAGO
Washington	1½	39½	GIANTS
SEATTLE	7	44½	Arizona
LA RAMS	2½	43½	Pittsburgh
KANSAS CITY	6	49½	LA Chargers
Green Bay	1½	45	DENVER
PHILADELPHIA	2½	51½	Miami

Monday

FAVORITE	OPEN	O/U	UNDERDOG
San Francisco	7	44	MINNESOTA

College Football

Thursday

FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG
TULSA	2½	57½	Rice
James Madison	4½	52½	MARSHALL

Friday

FAVORITE	OPEN	O/U	UNDERDOG
SMU	14½	56½	TEMPLE

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All times Eastern

MLB

Postseason Glance

x-if necessary

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

(Best-of-7)

American League

(Fox or FS1)

Texas 2, Houston 1

Sunday, Oct. 15: Texas 2, Houston 0
Monday, Oct. 16: Texas 5, Houston 4
Wednesday, Oct. 18: Houston 8, Texas 5
Thursday, Oct. 19: Houston (Urquidy 3-3) at Texas (Heaney 10-6), 8:03 p.m. (FS1)
Friday, Oct. 20: Houston at Texas, 5:07 p.m. (FS1)
x-Sunday, Oct. 22: Texas at Houston, 8:03 p.m. (FS1)
x-Monday, Oct. 23: Texas at Houston, 8:03 p.m. (Fox, FS1)

National League

(All Games on TBS)

Philadelphia 2, Arizona 0

Monday, Oct. 16: Philadelphia 5, Arizona 3
Tuesday, Oct. 17: Philadelphia 10, Arizona 0
Thursday, Oct. 19: Philadelphia (Suárez 4-6) at Arizona (Pfaadt 3-9), 5:07 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 20: Philadelphia at Arizona, 8:07 p.m.
x-Saturday, Oct. 21: Philadelphia at Arizona, 8:07 p.m.
x-Monday, Oct. 23: Arizona at Philadelphia, 5:07 p.m.
x-Tuesday, Oct. 24: Arizona at Philadelphia, 8:07 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	5	1	0	.833	223	156
Buffalo	4	2	0	.667	173	89
N.Y. Jets	3	3	0	.500	113	119
New England	1	5	0	.167	72	152

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	4	2	0	.667	142	122
Houston	3	3	0	.500	135	113
Indianapolis	3	3	0	.500	140	152
Tennessee	2	4	0	.333	104	117

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	4	2	0	.667	133	91
Cleveland	3	2	0	.600	95	77
Pittsburgh	3	2	0	.600	79	110
Cincinnati	3	3	0	.500	100	127

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	5	1	0	.833	147	88
Las Vegas	3	3	0	.500	100	131
L.A. Chargers	2	3	0	.400	127	124
Denver	1	5	0	.167	129	200

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	5	1	0	.833	155	124
Dallas	4	2	0	.667	154	100
Washington	3	3	0	.500	133	176
N.Y. Giants	1	5	0	.167	71	167

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	3	2	0	.600	90	88
Atlanta	3	3	0	.500	99	120
New Orleans	3	3	0	.500	109	96
Carolina	0	6	0	.000	112	186

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	5	1	0	.833	168	113
Green Bay	2	3	0	.400	113	113
Minnesota	2	4	0	.333	129	135
Chicago	1	5	0	.167	128	176

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	5	1	0	.833	184	87
Seattle	3	2	0	.600	124	108
L.A. Rams	3	3	0	.500	138	117
Arizona	1	5	0	.167	117	162

Thursday, Oct. 19

Jacksonville at New Orleans, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 22

Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Las Vegas at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at L.A. Rams, 4:05 p.m.
Green Bay at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
L.A. Chargers at Kansas City, 4:25 p.m.
Miami at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m.
Open: Cincinnati, Houston, N.Y. Jets, Tennessee, Carolina, Dallas

Monday, Oct. 23

San Francisco at Minnesota, 8:15 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Tuesday's Games

SOUTH

Liberty 42, Middle Tennessee 35
South Alabama 55, Southern Miss. 3
Jacksonville St. 20, W. Kentucky 17

Wednesday's Games

SOUTHWEST

FIU 33, Sam Houston St. 27
New Mexico St. 28, UTEP 7

Thursday's Games

James Madison (6-0) at Marshall (4-2), 7 p.m.
NC Central (5-1) at Morgan St. (1-4), 7:30 p.m.
Rice (3-3) at Tulsa (3-3), 7 p.m.
SE Louisiana (0-7) at Northwestern St. (0-5), 8 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	4	3	1	0	6	19	10
Detroit	4	3	1	0	6	19	11
Boston	2	2	0	0	4	6	3
Toronto	3	2	1	0	4	14	13
Montreal	3	1	1	1	3	10	13
Tampa Bay	4	1	2	1	3	13	17
Florida	3	1	2	0	2	8	11
Buffalo	3	1	2	0	2	6	10

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	4	3	1	0	6	20	17
NY Islandrs	2	2	0	0	4	4	2
NY Rangers	3	2	1	0	4	10	7
Philadlphia	3	2	1	0	4	8	7
Pittsburgh	4	2	2	0	4	14	12
New Jersey	3	1	1	1	3	10	11
Columbus	3	1	2	0	2	7	11
Washington	3	1	2	0	2	4	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	3	3	0	0	6	11	4
Minnesota	3	2	1	0	4	11	9
Chicago	4	2	2	0	4	11	9
Dallas	2	1	0	1	3	4	4
St. Louis	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Winnipeg	3	1	2	0	2	10	14
Arizona	3	1	2	0	2	5	6
Nashville	4	1	3	0	2	9	14

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	4	4	0	0	8	15	5
Vancouver	3	2	1	0	4	12	6
Los Angeles	3	1	1	1	3	12	12
Calgary	3	1	1	1	3	9	11
Anaheim	2	1	1	0	2	7	7
Edmonton	3	1	2	0	2	10	13
San Jose	3	0	2	1	1	5	12
Seattle	4	0	3	1	1	3	13

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Tuesday's Games

Philadelphia 2, Vancouver 0
Minnesota 5, Montreal 2
N.Y. Islanders 1, Arizona 0
Buffalo 3, Tampa Bay 2, OT
Los Angeles 5, Winnipeg 1
Edmonton 6, Nashville 1
Colorado 4, Seattle 1
Carolina 6, San Jose 3
Vegas 3, Dallas 2, SO

Wednesday's Games

Ottawa 6, Washington 1
Detroit 6, Pittsburgh 3

Thursday's Games

Calgary at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Nashville at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Florida, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Arizona at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Vegas at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Carolina at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Dallas at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Boston at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Chicago at Colorado, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

Calgary at Columbus, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.

NBA

Preseason

Wednesday's Games

Washington 131, New York 106
Brooklyn 107, Miami 104
San Antonio 117, Houston 103
Golden State 116, Sacramento 115

Thursday's Games

Boston at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Clippers, 10 p.m.
L.A. Lakers vs Phoenix, 10 p.m., Palm Desert, Calif.
Utah at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Flamengo Flamengo at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Washington at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Miami at Houston, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Golden State, 10 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

USA Today Women's Top 25 Preseason Poll

The USA TODAY Sports Top 25 women's basketball preseason poll, with first-place votes received in parenthesis, team's RECORDS FROM LAST YEAR, total points based on 25 for first place through one point for 25th and ranking in last years's final poll:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. LSU (29)	34-2	797	1
2. UConn (3)	31-6	727	9
3. Iowa	31-7	713	2
4. South Carolina	36-1	671	3
5. Virginia Tech	31-5	617	4
6. Ohio State	28-8	598	6
7. Utah	27-5	565	8
8. UCLA	27-10	555	13
9. Indiana	28-4	534	7
10. Notre Dame	27-6	511	11
11. Maryland	28-7	451	5
12. Tennessee	25-12	431	20
13. Stanford	29-6	427	10
14. Texas	26-10	357	19
15. Louisville	26-12	309	14
16. Mississippi	25-9	304	22
17. North Carolina	22-11	278	21
18. Colorado	25-9	212	15
19. Duke	26-7	152	16
20. Baylor	20-13	151	NR
21. Southern Cal	21-10	138	NR
22. Florida State	23-10	128	NR
23. Oklahoma	26-7	95	17
23. Creighton	22-9	95	NR
25. Miami (Fla.)	22-13	75	18

Dropped Out: No. 12 Villanova (30-7); No. 24 Florida Gulf Coast (33-4); No. 25 Iowa State (22-10).

Others receiving votes: Mississippi State (22-11) 67; Villanova (30-7) 42; Gonzaga (28-5) 40; Washington State (23-11) 34; Arizona (22-10) 33; Florida Gulf Coast (33-4) 27; Iowa State (22-10) 26; Kansas (25-11) 22; Kansas State (19-17) 22; Marquette (21-11) 16; South Florida (27-7) 16; UNLV (31-3) 14; Nebraska (18-15) 12; Princeton (24-6) 11; North Carolina State (20-12) 10; Oregon (20-15) 9; Illinois (22-10) 8; Middle Tennessee (28-5) 6; Toledo (29-5) 6; South Dakota State (29-6) 5; Texas A&M (9-20) 4; Georgia (22-12) 3; Arkansas (24-13) 1.

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
y-Cincinnati	20	5	8	68	55	37
x-Orlando City	17	7	9	60	53	39
x-Philadelphia	15	8	10	55	56	39
x-Columbus	15	9	9	54	65	45
x-New England	14	9	10	52	56	45
x-Atlanta	13	9	11	50	64	51
x-Nashville	13	10	10	49	39	31
CF Montréal	12	16	5	41	35	50
D.C. United	10	14	10	40	45	49
New York	10	13	10	40	35	39
Chicago	10	13	10	40	39	50
Charlotte FC	9	11	13	40	44	52
NY City FC	8	11	14	38	34	39
Inter Miami CF	9	17	7	34	41	53
Toronto FC	4	19	10	22	26	57

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
y-St Louis City	17	11	5	56	62	43
x-Los Angeles FC	14	10	9	51	53	38
x-Seattle	13	9	11	50	39	32
x-Houston	13	11	9	48	48	37
x-Real Salt Lake	13	12	8	47	47	50
x-Vancouver	12	10	11	47	54	47
Portland	11	12	10	43	45	55
FC Dallas	10	10	13	43	37	36
San Jose	10	10	13	43	38	42
Sporting KC	11	14	8	41	45	50
Minnesota United	10	12	11	41	45	48
Austin FC	10	15	8	38	48	54
LA Galaxy	8	13	12	36	50	63
Colorado	5	16	12	27	26	53

y-clinched conference, x-clinched playoff

Wednesday

Charlotte FC 2, Miami 2

Saturday, Oct. 21

Orlando City at Toronto FC, 6 p.m.
Miami at Charlotte FC, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Cincinnati, 6 p.m.
CF Montréal at Columbus, 6 p.m.
New York at Nashville, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at New England, 6 p.m.
Chicago at New York City FC, 6 p.m.
Minnesota at Sporting Kansas City, 9 p.m.
FC Dallas at LA Galaxy, 9 p.m.
Houston at Portland, 9 p.m.
Seattle at St Louis City, 9 p.m.
Los Angeles FC at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Austin FC at San Jose, 9 p.m.

NWSL

Friday, October 20

Angel City at OL Reign, 10 p.m.

Sunday, October 22

Gotham FC at North Carolina, 7 p.m.

WNBA

Playoff Glance (x-if necessary)

Finals

(Best-of-5)

Las Vegas wins series, 3-1

Sunday, Oct. 8: Las Vegas 99, New York 82
Wednesday, Oct. 11: Las Vegas 104, New York 76
Sunday, Oct. 15: New York 87, Las Vegas 73
Wednesday, Oct. 18: Las Vegas 70, New York 69

TRANSACTIONS

Wednesday's Transactions

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS – Waived RB Tony Gonzalez Jr. Designated QB Kyler Murray and S Budda Baker to return from the physically unable to perform (PUP) list and injured reserve to practice.
ATLANTA FALCONS – Released S Jaylin Hawkins from the practice squad. Promoted S Micah Abernathy from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed RB Jacob Saylors to the practice squad.
BALTIMORE RAVENS – Signed S Andrew Adams to the practice squad.
DENVER BRONCOS – Re-signed WR Michael Bandy to the practice squad. Signed LiL'Jordan Humphrey from the practice squad to the active roster.
HOUSTON TEXANS – Placed S Eric Murray on injured reserve. Signed CB Alex Austin to the practice squad. Promoted CB D'Angelo Ross from the practice squad to the active roster. Claimed DE Myjai Sanders off waivers from Arizona. Released LB Cory Littleton.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS – Promoted QB Nathan Rourke from the practice squad to the active roster.
LAS VEGAS RAIDERS – Signed CB Tyler Hall. Placed S Roderic Teamer on injured reserve. Signed TE John Samuel Shenker to the practice squad.
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS – Claimed S Jaylin Hawkins off waivers from Atlanta. Placed DB Raheem Layne on injured reserve.
LOS ANGELES RAMS – Placed RB Ronnie Rivers on injured reserve. Signed RB Myles Gaskin from the Minnesota practice squad.
MIAMI DOLPHINS – Designated CB Jalen Ramsey to return from injured reserve to practice.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS – Placed OLB Marcus Davenport on injured reserve. Reinstated RB Kene Nwangwu from injured reserve. Designated WR Jalen Nailor to return from injured reserve to practice. Signed WR Trishton Jackson to the practice squad.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS – Signed RB Patrick Taylor and DE William Bradley-King to the practice squad. Released DE Manny Jones and WR T.J. Luther from the practice squad.
NEW YORK GIANTS – Promoted OL Justin Pugh from the practice squad to the active roster. Released TE Lawrence Cager. Placed OT Joshua Ezeudu on injured reserve. Signed G Jalen Mayfield to the practice squad.
NEW YORK JETS – Traded WR Mecole Hardman to Kansas City.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES – Signed WR Julio Jones to the practice squad.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS – Released CB Desmond King. Signed CB Darius Rush from Kansas City practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS – Promoted WR Cody Thompson from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed WR Cody White and OT Greg Eiland to the practice squad. Released QB Holton Ahlers from the practice squad.

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

National League

CINCINNATI REDS – Sent RHP Ben Lively outright to Louisville (IL).
COLORADO ROCKIES – Sent RHPs Matt Koch and Karl Kauffmann and LHP Ty Blach outright to Albuquerque (PCL).
WASHINGTON NATIONALS – Sent 2B Michael Chavis, OF Blake Rutherford and RHP Hobie Harris outright to Rochester (IL).

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

CHICAGO BULLS – Waived Fs Derrick Favors and Kahlil Whitney.
DENVER NUGGETS – Waived C Amida Brimah and F Jamorko Pickett.
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS – Waived G Yuri Collins.
INDIANA PACERS – Waived Gs Kyle Mangas and Darius McGhee and F Reid Travis.
MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES – Waived F Timmy Allen and G Jason Preston.
MILWAUKEE BUCKS – Waived Gs Jazian Gortman and Omari Moore and F Drew Timme.
MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES – Waived G Vit Krejci.
NEW YORK KNICKS – Waived G Jaylen Martin and F Isaiah Roby.
ORLANDO MAGIC – Waived G Miye Oni.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

MINNESOTA WILD – Recalled F Sammy Walker from Iowa (AHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS – Assigned G Keith Kincaid to Chicago (AHL).
SAN JOSE SHARKS – Reassigned D Henry Thrun to San Jose (AHL).