Credit only: Fewer places accepting cash and checks

Businesses cite faster service and convenience, but some consumers aren't sold. **In Money**

Aces' A'ja Wilson nabs 3rd WNBA MVP – unanimously

Las Vegas forward is only the second player in league history to get all top votes. **In Sports**

Lucas Bravo is ready to show his dark side

NATHANIAL GARY/USA TODAY

The on-again, off-again love interest in "Emily in Paris" pivots in #MeToo thriller "The Balconettes" and Bruno Sulak biopic "Freedom." **In Life**

USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | $3 | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

Schools cut buses amid lack of drivers

Parents turn elsewhere to find rides for students

Kayla Jimenez
USA TODAY

Before sunrise on school days, 7-year-old Laike Glesne used to lug his backpack from a Chicago public bus to a train and then a second train to get to his second grade classroom 20 miles south of his house.

During the two-hour commute last school year, Laike and his mother, Marissa Lichwick-Glesne, passed unhoused people sleeping in the streets, partiers heading home and angry people shouting expletives. The day would just be starting and the mother and son wouldn't return home until 7 p.m. – leaving him no time for after-school activities.

Lichwick-Glesne didn't know this morning commute would be their reality when she enrolled her son at Ted Lenart Regional Gifted Center, a school where high-achieving kids learn above grade level, in kindergarten. At the beginning of last school year, Chicago Public Schools announced it would suspend bus service for the 5,500 students who attend magnet and selective enrollment programs far from their homes, citing school bus driver shortages.

School buses in many parts of the country are becoming increasingly difficult for students to access.
JOE RONDONE/USA TODAY NETWORK

Lichwick-Glesne said she panicked and thought, "How am I going to get him to school?"

Chicago Public Schools doubled down on that decision this year along with many other districts across the country that have eliminated or trimmed bus services over the past several years.

The bus driver shortage that accelerated during the pandemic seems to have become an intractable problem for schools. The yellow school bus, once an American staple for getting kids from point A to point B and a tool that helped ensure equal access to schools, is now so difficult to access that some parents are using ride-sharing services, such as HopSkipDrive, and cutting back on work so they can get their kids to school. The number of bus drivers decreased by 15% between September 2019 and September 2023, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

Thousands of students who need transportation will be without school buses this year. Many in Hawaii's Central Oahu and East Hawaii Island were told they wouldn't have a school bus this fall, according to an announcement from the state's Department of

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Andrew Song, left, and Luke Iseman of California startup company Make Sunsets add helium to sulfur dioxide gas in a biodegradable latex balloon in hopes of lowering effects of climate change. PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH WEISE/USA TODAY

Climate activists delve into geoengineering

'Dystopian technologies' could backfire, wary experts warn

Elizabeth Weise USA TODAY

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, Calif. – Luke Iseman and Andrew Song weren't doing anything illegal hauling around 200-pound cylinders of sulfur dioxide in Song's RV to pump into weather balloons.

Against the law, no. Controversial? Absolutely.

On a golden California summer evening at the rural edge of Silicon Valley, Song pumped 3.8 pounds of the gas into the balloon while Iseman readied a small Styrofoam box holding an altimeter and locator module.

Next, Iseman attached the balloon's neck to a cylinder of helium. It slowly filled and rose until it became a giant floating orb taller than he was.

With a gentle push, he sent the biodegradable latex globe lofting into the air. It rose past a giant oak tree and drifted into the clear evening sky.

At just over 14 miles up, well above the air space of commercial planes, the balloon popped, sending its tiny payload of invisible yet reflective gas into the stratosphere.

Cooling the earth

See six moonshot ideas that have been proposed to fight climate change. **4A**

Once the weather balloon rises to the upper stratosphere and pops, Making Sunsets expects the gas it releases to slightly reflect the sun's rays, infinitesimally cooling the earth.

What do remote employees do all day?

Survey shows a lot more going on besides work

Jessica Guynn
USA TODAY

What do remote and hybrid workers do all day?

They often brag about how productive they are with no gossipy colleagues to distract them or time wasted on long commutes.

But a new survey is offering fresh insights into how remote workers really spend their time. Spoiler alert: It's not all white papers and PowerPoint presentations.

While employees in the office might kill time messaging friends or flipping through TikTok, remote workers take advantage of being far from the watchful gaze of bosses to chip away at personal to-do lists or to goof off.

CHAYTEE/GETTY IMAGES

> "Employees are making their own rules to accommodate the demands of high-pressure work environments."
>
> **Wendy Smith,** SurveyMonkey

Nearly half of remote workers multitask on work calls or complete household chores like unloading the dishwasher or doing a load of laundry, according to the SurveyMonkey poll of 3,117 full-time workers in the United States.

A third take advantage of the flexibility of remote work to run errands, whether popping out to the grocery store or picking up dry cleaning.

Sleeping on the job? It happens more than you might think. One in 5 remote workers confessed to taking a nap.

Some 17% of remote workers said they worked from another location without telling anyone or watched TV or played video games. A small percentage – 4% – admitted to working another job.

Multitasking during Zoom calls is another common pastime.

Nearly a third of remote and hybrid

Four dead in shooting in Birmingham, Ala.

Police chief calls it a hit; more than a dozen hurt

John Bacon
USA TODAY

At least four people were killed, more than a dozen were wounded and an intensive search was underway Sunday in Birmingham, Alabama, for gunmen who fired into a crowd in the city's entertainment district in what the police chief described as a "hit."

Birmingham police Chief Scott Thurmond said two men and a woman died at the scene Saturday night and a man died a short time later at a local hospital. He said about 17 people were wounded. First responders rushed some of them to hospitals while others traveled to medical centers on their own.

Thurmond said the gunmen drove up around 11 p.m., got out and fired into the crowd on the streets in the Five Points South district, a popular area of shops, bars and restaurants. The shooters then fled the scene, where more than 100 shell casings were found, he said.

The victims apparently included the person who was targeted, he said. He added he did not know the motive.

"We believe there was a hit, if you will, on that particular person," he said.

Thurmond said no arrests had been made and investigators were viewing video surveillance recordings for clues. The FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were assisting in the investigation.

Thurmond urged the public to provide any information they might have.

Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin said a Glock "switch" had been used that converts semiautomatic handguns into automatic weapons.

"This is not the first occasion, unfortunately, in 2024 where we've seen the style of weapons, the number of bullets on the scene ... automatic weapons being used in our streets," Woodfin said.

Dajon Singleton told WBMA-TV he was driving into the area Saturday when he saw the emergency response and chaos on the streets as people ran and screamed. He saw five or six people taken away on stretchers, he said.

"Very devastating, sad," he said. "The grieving-type screaming. ... That's when I instantly knew someone lost a loved one."

Mother of Ga. school shooting suspect is indicted

Gray faces elder abuse charges, reports say

Eduardo Cuevas
USA TODAY

The mother of the 14-year-old Georgia student charged in the Apalachee High School shooting that killed four people has been indicted in a domestic violence case involving her mother in 2023, according to reports.

On Monday, a grand jury indicted Marcee Gray, 43, on charges of exploiting and intimidating a disabled person or elderly adult, false imprisonment, criminal damage to property and theft, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Saturday.

The charges are unrelated to the mass shooting her son, Colt, is accused of committing on Sept. 4 that killed teachers Cristina Irimie, 53, and Richard Aspinwall, 39, and students Mason Schermerhorn and Christian Angulo, both 14. Nine other students were injured in the incident.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation also arrested the teen's father, Colin Gray, on Sept. 5, and prosecutors have charged him with two counts of murder, four counts of involuntary manslaughter and eight counts of child cruelty.

Marcee Gray could face up to 20 years in jail related to the felony charge of elder exploitation, the newspaper said. USA TODAY could not reach Gray for comment.

The case reportedly stems from Gray trying to have her mother, Deborah Polhamus, now 74, go with her to confront Colin Gray, her ex-husband, on Nov. 3, 2023. According to the newspaper, Polhamus refused to go, and then Gray taped her 73-year-old mother to a chair for nearly a day, taking her cellphone and damaging her home in Fitzgerald, Georgia.

The next day, on Nov. 4, 2023, a family friend found Polhamus, the newspaper reported. That day, court records show, police in a separate case said Marcee Gray damaged Colin Gray's work truck in Barrow County, about 3.5 hours away.

Two days later, on Nov. 6, a Barrow County Sheriff's deputy arrested Marcee Gray for allegedly concealing her Nissan Rogue with different tags and having fentanyl, methamphetamine and muscle relaxants, court records show.

Prosecutors charged her in December with concealing her license plate, damaging property and criminal trespass and family violence. She pleaded guilty, and a local judge sentenced her to five years in jail, with the first 46 days spent in confinement and credit for time she spent from Nov. 6, and the remaining time on probation.

Marcee Gray has reportedly apologized to parents and families affected by the school shooting. The Washington Post reported that Marcee Gray said she alerted the school on the morning of the shooting for an "extreme emergency" and that officials needed to find her son.

Contributing: N'dea Yancey-Bragg and John Bacon, USA TODAY.

A week after the incident, mourners visit a memorial to the victims of the Apalachee High School shooting in Barrow County, Ga., on Sept. 11.
TREVOR HUGHES/USA TODAY

School buses

Education. The Houston Independent School District cut bus services to save the school district $3 million during the 2024-25 school year. And the Jefferson County Board of Education in Kentucky eliminated bus routes for kids who attend traditional and magnet schools in the state's largest school district.

Those districts are among many that have severed kids' access to school buses in recent years.

In the aftermath, frustrated parents have had to find other means of getting their kids to school, including ride-sharing services, public transportation and carpools.

Education experts worry about the long-term impact of poor or patchy transportation on student attendance and learning outcomes.

Student learning suffers when school officials cut bus routes because kids miss instruction time, said Michael Gottfried, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania and applied economist who is an expert in the economics of education and education policy. Chronic absenteeism nearly doubled from 15% to 26% between 2018 and 2023, according to a report from the American Enterprise Institute. Children are considered chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of the school year.

"Taking away a mechanism that actually gets kids to school is hugely problematic," Gottfried said. "This could be a solution all families could rely on during the absenteeism crisis."

Scramble to find transportation

Families like Lichwick-Glesne's are facing the repercussions of bus service being eliminated.

Until early August, Lichwick-Glesne said she often cried knowing there wasn't a school-provided option for her son. She felt helpless because she has epilepsy and does not have a driver's license. She and her husband sometimes argued about the best solution for their son.

The family's despair ended on Aug. 2

when they heard Laike was accepted at another gifted school just a mile away. This school year, the mother and son only have to take one public bus to school, and they sleep in later and arrive home earlier, Lichwick-Glesne said. They still don't have access to a school bus, but she considers her family among the lucky ones.

They love the old school, but "we have no choice because we lost busing," she said.

Lichwick-Glesne's frustration inspired her to join Chicago Parents for School Buses, advocating for Chicago Public Schools to find transportation alternatives for low-income families.

Paul Wargaski, another member of the parents group, has two children on the autism spectrum who attend magnet and specialized schools. The kids qualify for the district's school-provided transportation. One of his children gets to school through a carpool route and the other child is picked up by a ride-sharing company and is transported by a driver to school.

Before last year, both kids went to school on a yellow school bus with many other students, which he preferred.

The new options work for his family even though last school year, he had to cut his shifts short at work or move around his schedule to be there for pick up and drop off. He yearns for the school bus option because it provided his kids an opportunity for socialization.

While parents in Chicago have moved on, using alternative options for school, New Jersey families have continued fighting their school district's decision to eliminate routes due to budget cuts.

Bus routes have gotten so sparse in Jefferson County Public Schools that a group of kids in the Louisville, Kentucky, district created a hip-hop video with their music arts program to ask administrators "Where my bus at?" – the title of their viral video.

The district threatened to cut school bus access for Braylon Blocker, 12, and his schoolmates this year. In the end, school officials eliminated transportation for students at all but two magnet and traditional schools and some kids like attending Academies of Louisville. The cuts were made due to a shortage of

bus drivers, said Mark Hebert, a spokesperson for Jefferson County Public Schools.

The threat of losing his transportation and the cuts to buses in the district motivated Blocker to create the video with the hip-hop education program HHN2L and his student peers. After the video took off, many people across the nation shared stories with him and his peers about bus cuts in their districts, said NyRee Clayton-Taylor, one of the leaders of HHN2L.

Blocker said he often hears other kids at school singing "Where my bus at?" since the video rose in popularity. The way the song resonates makes Blocker feel satisfied that he tapped into something but also disappointed, knowing how many kids and their families across the country face the same problem.

"What I really want to happen is that everyone can have a bus, and parents don't have to worry about talking to kids in the morning," he said.

Data shows school bus decline

The problem emerged before the pandemic, according to data analyzed by the U.S. Education Department's National Center for Education. Yellow school bus service steadily declined from 2013 to 2019, according to data from School Bus Fleet.

During the 2019-2020 school year, many schools closed after the COVID-19 pandemic hit, leaving school bus drivers without work and adequate pay. Many found other employment by the time schools opened. Since then, the lack of drivers has reached crisis levels, according to national data that shows a drop between 2019 to 2023.

Employment and hiring of school bus drivers never fully recovered. Every state last year saw at least one major school bus driver shortage, according to a USA TODAY analysis.

How did we get to this moment?

School buses became a staple around the time when schools consolidated from one-classroom schoolhouses to larger buildings that could accommodate more kids in the 1900s, according to an account by the Smithsonian.

After the Supreme Court outlawed segregation in public schools in Brown v. Board of Education, buses were used to desegregate schools and ensure all kids could get to their neighborhood school, said Paul Reville, a professor of educational policy and administration at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Today, only a patchwork of students have the option to travel on a yellow bus.

Most schools prioritize school buses for kids experiencing homelessness and, in some cases, special needs students. They are obligated to provide transit to those kids under federal law. Some states also require districts to transport kids who live far from school.

The way districts provide buses in some cases only to students who live far from their schools represents a shift from an era when desegregation was the priority, Reville said. This era of buses, he said, is in part a result of the increased movement toward school choice along with drivers shortages and budget decisions.

Finding innovative solutions

Some district leaders and principals have been rushing to provide families with alternatives, including public transportation, ride-sharing and mileage reimbursements.

Hawaii has offered families mileage reimbursements if they drive their kids to school or carpool with others and offering them public transportation passes. The state's governor made an emergency proclamation allowing kids to be transported to school in different types of vehicles and urging relaxed bus driver certification requirements.

Chicago Public Schools will try another alternative: offering bus stops where groups of students can access buses. The "hub stop" program, which exists elsewhere in the U.S., will roll out in the fall, district press secretary Sylvia Barragan said.

More families are also paying for ride-sharing services or carpooling. Districts – including those in Colorado, Florida and Indiana – have also turned to ride-sharing services to help kids who qualify for school-provided transportation at least since the pandemic.

Forecasters say brace for more fall heat

Many predict 'extended summer' weather

Doyle Rice
USA TODAY

If you're not quite ready to let go of summer, which officially ends Sunday, you may be in luck: The weather forecast for the United States for the months of October through December shows that warmer-than-average temperatures are likely for 46 of 50 states, federal forecasters at the Climate Prediction Center announced Thursday.

AccuWeather forecasters also are on board with the fiery fall forecast: "Fall is going to feel more like an extended summer for millions of Americans this year," said AccuWeather lead long-range expert Paul Pastelok. "Much of the country will experience a delayed transition to cooler temperatures this year, following a summer with intense heat."

Areas where warmer-than-average temperatures are most likely include eastern New England, southern Florida, and much of the Southwest, the Climate Prediction Center said. This includes the Phoenix area, which is still recovering from the record 113 straight 100-degree days it endured this summer.

Overall, parts of 46 states are in the "above-average temperature zone," including portions of Alaska and Hawaii. The only states where above-average temperatures aren't likely this fall include Washington, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. In those states, there are equal chances of above- and below-average temperatures, forecasters said.

What about rain and snow?

A damp fall is on tap for the Northeast, Great Lakes and Northwest, the Climate Prediction Center said, which only specified that above-average precipitation is likely, not whether it will fall as rain or snow.

The Southwest and southern Plains should see a drier-than-average fall. This will likely exacerbate drought conditions across those regions, the Climate Prediction Center said.

Hello La Niña?

Forecasters also said that La Niña is expected to form later this fall. The climate pattern – marked by a natural cooling of seawater in the tropical Pacific Ocean – is one of the main drivers of weather in the United States. Typically, during a La Niña winter, the southern tier of the nation sees dry, warm conditions while the north trends wetter.

According to the Climate Prediction Center: There is a 71% chance that La Niña will emerge during September-October-November. La Niña also expected to persist through January-March 2025. However, a strong event is unlikely. And "neutral" conditions are favored by the spring.

Climate

"Our goal," said Iseman, a serial entrepreneur, "is to cool the earth."

These two men, both veterans of storied tech incubator Y Combinator and with stints at multiple tech companies under their belts, sit at the bleeding edge of a global effort to protect the planet from climate change. Their company is called Make Sunsets.

At an infinitesimal scale, they are doing what giant volcanos have done since Earth's infancy – launching a slightly reflective gas high into the stratosphere where it deflects a tiny portion of the sun's energy – which incidentally also causes more colorful sunsets.

When Indonesia's Mount Tambora erupted in 1815, scientists say, the huge amount of spewed dust and sulfur dioxide lowered the global temperature that year by as much as 2 degrees.

But what Iseman and Song say are baby steps toward saving the planet, longtime climate scientists fear is the opening of a Pandora's box, leading to what could be a domino effect of catastrophic consequences.

"I agree this isn't the best way to do this – it should be an international coalition of countries and NGOs and led by brilliant scientists," said Iseman.

Unfortunately, he doesn't see that happening any time soon, he says with some heat.

"Way too many smart people are spending way too much time going on about politics and downsides and how some other thing would be ideal while the world literally burns."

He's content knowing the night's payload was enough to offset 1,745 tons of carbon dioxide for a year, about 380 cars' worth.

'It's morphine'

For years, experts considered climate engineering, also known as geoengineering, a dangerous science fiction.

Confronted with ideas like fertilizing the world's seas to produce enormous algae blooms that would sink to the ocean floor, adding millions of tons of sulfur dioxide to the stratosphere each year or launching huge sprays of salt water into the air over oceans to make low-lying clouds whiter and longer lasting, they collectively threw up their hands in horror.

The Center for International Environmental Law calls geoengineering "dystopian technologies." Hands off Mother Earth has a manifesto signed by more than 100 organizations in 45 countries calling for a ban on all geoengineering field experiments. The ETC Group, an international activist group, monitors geoengineering attempts.

But something has changed in recent years: Some environmental groups are begrudgingly acknowledging that humans will almost certainly have to use some methods to try to cool Earth while carbon dioxide levels are lowered and that these could end up being part of a global coping mechanism for climate change.

"Environmental groups are realizing if they don't engage in the topic, it's not going to stop the conversation and research from happening, so they better engage or they won't have any say at all," said Katharine Ricke, a professor of climate science and global policy and strategy at the University of California, San Diego.

Figuring out geoengineering needs to happen quickly, because the decision point is probably coming sooner rather than later, said Wake Smith, a lecturer at the Yale School of the Environment whose most recent book is "Pandora's Toolbox, the Hopes and Hazards of Climate Intervention."

"I'm afraid the climate problem is worse than you think it is," he said. Geoengineering, especially the solar geoengineering that Make Sunsets does, isn't a solution but could buy time for the world to rapidly cut back on carbon emissions. "It isn't penicillin, it doesn't cure the disease," he said. "It's morphine, it helps while you're healing."

Scientists aren't yet sure what's the best metaphor for geoengineering. Is it medicinal morphine to give Earth time to heal? Or is it illicit opioids that could cause the planet further harm?

Given that uncertainty, many international groups still think it's far too dangerous to even experiment with.

And yet, despite those fears, Make Sunsets keeps launching its balloons.

What could go wrong?

Conservationists fear geoengineering could cool the earth too much or unevenly. It could damage ecosystems, disrupt global weather patterns or potentially make global warming dramatically worse if a geoengineering project were to suddenly stop.

It could lead to drought, famines and even wars if such efforts caused shifts in the monsoon rainfall patterns that much of Asia and Africa depend on for farming. Or it could supercharge storms. Or it could potentially allow one country to steal rainfall from another.

In one nightmare scenario, solar geoengineering efforts are deployed at a large scale globally and then suddenly stopped due to political in-fighting.

Luke Iseman, left, and Andrew Song of Make Sunsets say they are making small steps to help save the planet from climate change. Critics worry unregulated and for-profit geoengineering could have serious, global consequences. Iseman acknowledges it's not ideal but says someone must act because "way too many smart people" aren't doing anything about it. ELIZABETH WEISE/USA TODAY

That would lead to a possible rebound effect.

Without artificial cooling, Earth might rapidly and chaotically warm, causing havoc far worse than slow warming. In another scenario, geoengineering cools one area of the globe more than another, furthering global inequity.

But no one knows if any of these will come to pass, which is why many scientists and an increasing number of conservationists think at least researching the various methods is important.

And always in the back of everyone's mind is the "moral hazard" fear that if stopgap measures are deployed that mask the results of skyrocketing carbon dioxide levels, the public may think it's now OK to keep burning coal, oil and natural gas – meaning the underlying cause of the problem only gets worse.

A startup does what was once unthinkable

Geoengineering technically comes in two flavors, one more controversial than the other.

The first is underway already: efforts to rid Earth's atmosphere of the excess carbon dioxide humanity has been pumping into it since the Industrial Revolution.

The second is more hypothetical – the ones that some fear could backfire spectacularly.

This category of geoengineering involves trying to find other ways to artificially cool Earth, to offset the damage done by greenhouse gasses while fossil fuel burning is ended and greenhouse gas levels slowly fall.

Make Sunsets' work falls in the second arena.

Some fear if Make Sunsets' type of solar geoengineering were ever done at scale, it could cause the earth to rebound to even higher temperatures if the sulfur dioxide treatments were stopped.

It's not so controversial to Iseman.

He notes humans already pump tons of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels every year. But that's in the lower atmosphere, where it can harm lungs but does nothing to reflect the sun's rays.

Make Sunsets aims higher, into the stratosphere, where the gas will linger about a year before falling back to Earth.

They are careful to alert the Federal Aviation Administration before each launch via a Notice to Airmen, as well as logging each balloon launch with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

By dark, the co-founders of the tiny startup have launched two more balloons at the behest of some of their 600 or so customers, each of whom pays to be part of what they see as not a solution but a stopgap.

"Someday, hopefully, this will lower the temperature slightly to buy us time while we stop burning fossil fuels," said Iseman.

Money changes the game

A new development has forced some experts to change their position on geoengineering: For-profit companies, like Make Sunsets, are entering the mix of what had been an entirely university-researcher-driven enterprise.

Questions of regulation and accountability remain unanswered. And so, many scientists say they want to be part of what is inevitably happening, rather than wishing it wouldn't.

"The movement in the startup space is really scary, honestly. The prospect of for-profit actors is alarming," said Ricke. "You have people lobbying for the deployment of technology not because it's necessarily good for the planet but because that's how investors make back their money."

The arrival of at least two companies looking to make money off geoengineering has heightened fears. Small-scale Make Sunsets has about 600 customers buying its "cooling credits," which pay for its launches.

But an America-Israeli startup called Stardust Solutions has also entered the scene. With $15 million in funding, it only recently became public about its ambition to create a solar geoengineering solution it could sell to governments or international entities.

As climate catastrophes continue, "people's perceptions of how the climate is changing the urgency of the situation is mounting," said Daniele Visioni, a professor of earth and atmospheric sciences at Cornell University who's studied climate intervention for the past decade.

The Sierra Club remains highly skeptical but acknowledges that "it might be good to start to study some of these things," said Patrick Drupp, director of climate policy and advocacy.

The Natural Resources Defense Council doesn't support deployment of solar radiation mitigation and wants to see international rules of the road for any tests, but it does support "limited" outdoor experiments that have been subject to independent review.

Who decides what can be done is a looming question, said Visioni.

"The stratosphere is a very unregulated piece of real estate," he said. "How do you stop a private actor from just launching a balloon?"

So far, the answer appears to be that you can't.

Remote work

workers said they used the bathroom during calls while 21% said they browsed social media, 14% went on online shopping sprees, 12% did laundry and 9% cleaned the kitchen.

In a finding that may shock some, 4% said they fall asleep and 3% take a shower.

"Employees are making their own rules to accommodate the demands of high-pressure work environments," said Wendy Smith, senior manager of research science at SurveyMonkey. "One thing we uncovered was that what you might consider 'off-the-books behavior' is widespread."

And it's not just the rank-and-file. More than half of managers and 49% of executives multitask on work calls, too, Smith said.

When asked "have you ever browsed social media while on a video or conference call at work," managers, executives and individual contributors, who have no supervisory responsibilities, were about even (22%, 20% and 21%, respectively), Smith said.

But managers and executives shopped online more frequently than individual contributors (16% and 14%, respectively, compared with 12% of individual contributors), Smith said.

Different generations also have different work habits:

● 26% of millennials admit to taking a nap during the workday compared with 16% of Gen Xers.

● 18% of Gen Zers have worked another job compared with 2% of Gen Xers and 1% of boomers.

● 31% of Gen Zers have worked from another location without telling anyone compared with 16% of Gen Xers.

If humans warmed Earth, can't we just cool it? Here are some ideas

These climate-change-fighting ideas sound outlandish. Even if they did work, critics worry they could backfire spectacularly.

BY ELIZABETH WEISE AND STEPHEN J. BEARD/USA TODAY

Could we MacGyver our way out of climate change?

Ask scientists and you'll get a range of answers: "Probably not." "Maybe?" and "Are you insane?"

And yet ideas for geoengineering – literally engineering ways to either lower carbon dioxide levels or temporarily cool the planet while they come down – are increasingly being floated as a climate stopgap, even though they seem more like movie plot lines than serious suggestions. Dehydrate the stratosphere. Create bubble curtains to keep warm water from melting glaciers. Fill the skies with dust or gas to reflect the sun's rays. Add iron to the oceans so they can absorb more carbon dioxide. Build enormous industrial parks that do nothing but suck carbon dioxide out of the air and bury it deep underground.

The ideas sound outlandish, and even if they do work, critics worry they could backfire spectacularly. But amid the climate crisis, these moonshot ideas have gained attention from experts and investors.

There's a big catch: None of these ideas would allow humanity to keep burning fossil fuels without consequence. They're intended as a stopgap while people reduce fossil fuel use.

Here's a look at a few ideas for how humans could help cool the planet:

Filter

Production well

CO_2 injection well

CO_2 loosens trapped oil, expanding it and pushing it toward the production well.

CO_2 stored in saline formation
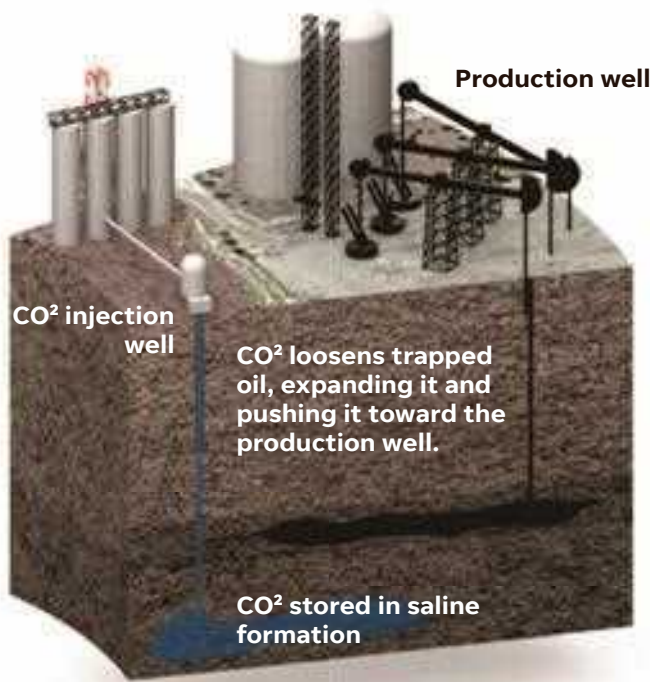
Enhanced oil recovery

In a method called enhanced oil recovery, carbon dioxide is captured as a byproduct of fossil fuel burning or industrial processes like making cement. Mixed with water, the CO_2 is injected into a nearly depleted oil field. It flushes residual oil from the rock formations toward a well where it can be pumped up. This is somewhat controversial because it results in more drilling for fossil fuels.

Injection well

Air flow

CO_2 storage
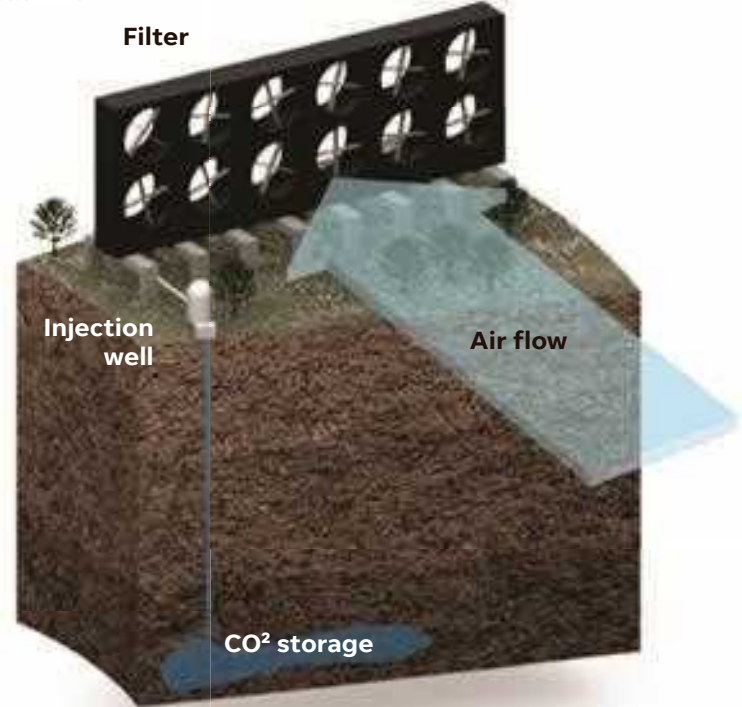
Direct air carbon capture

In direct air carbon capture, a large array of fans would suck air into filters that concentrate CO2, which is then pumped deep underground and stored. Because of the energy such a system would consume, it would need to operate on renewable energy to fully realize a decrease in CO2 from the atmosphere.

Sun rays
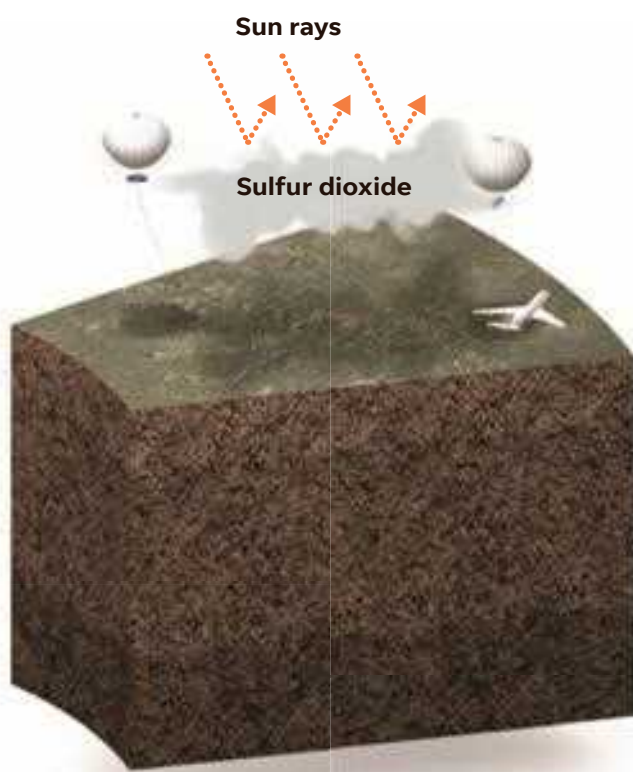
Sulfur dioxide

Solar geoengineering

In this approach, canisters either attached to balloons or high-altitude airplanes could spray an aerosol of sulfur dioxide in the stratosphere that could artificially cool the planet's surface by reflecting solar radiation back to space.

Low-lying marine cloud

Saltwater mist
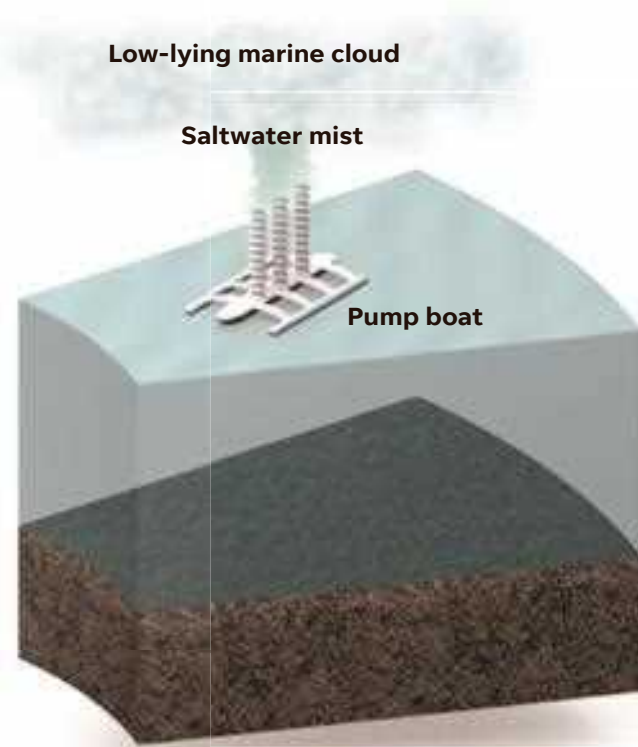
Pump boat

Marine cloud brightening

In marine cloud brightening, pump boats would spray large plumes of saltwater into the air. The idea is this would brighten low-lying clouds using sea salt crystals that attract moisture. The brightened clouds reflect solar energy.

Glacier

Air bubbles
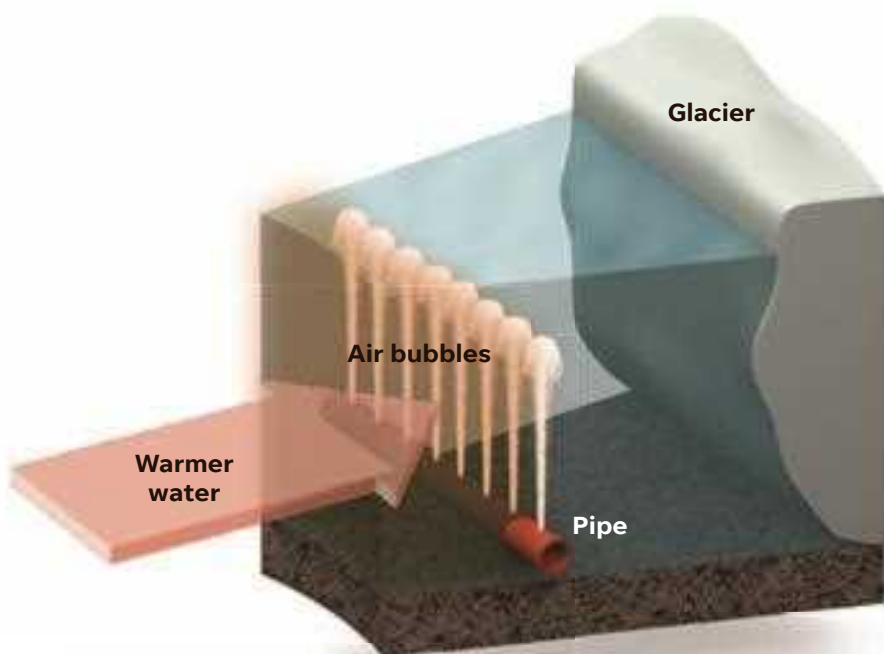
Warmer water

Pipe

Air curtain to protect glaciers

Glaciers melt from the intrusion of warm, deep and dense saline water creeping beneath them. One proposed idea calls for a "curtain" of air pumped through a long pipe that would divert the flow of warmer water away from the glacier.

Iron

Dead plankton sinking
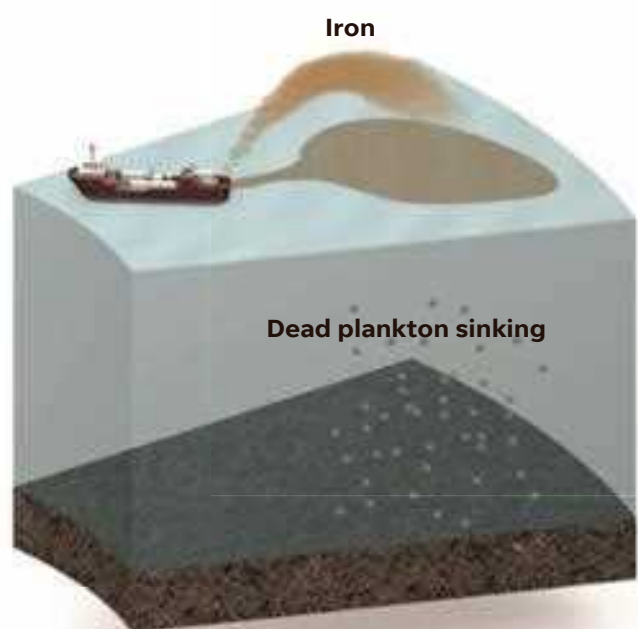
Ocean fertilization

Fertilizing the oceans with iron could stimulate algae and plankton blooms, which would pull CO2 from the water into their bodies. The blooms eventually die off and sink to the ocean floor, carrying the CO2 with them.

Questions surround shooting of Ky. judge

Small town wonders why sheriff would pull trigger

Lucas Aulbach
USA TODAY NETWORK

WHITESBURG, Ky. – They'd been friends for years and once worked side-by-side in the county courthouse. They were two high-profile elected officials in a town where it seems like everybody knows each other.

So why, as he's accused in court, did Letcher County Sheriff Shawn "Mickey" Stines walk into a private room inside the courthouse, pull out a gun and kill District Judge Kevin Mullins?

It's an unprecedented crime in a town that can go years without a homicide. And the Thursday afternoon shooting left a gaping hole in the judicial system – Mullins was the county's only judge, and its sheriff is behind bars in Leslie County, facing a first-degree murder charge after he surrendered on the scene.

With a population in 2020 of just less than 1,800 people, Whitesburg is tight-knit. Letcher County Commonwealth's Attorney Matt Butler recused himself from the case due largely to family ties with the judge. The two were once married to a pair of sisters, and Butler said his two daughters called Mullins "unkie."

And in that tight-knit community, Butler knows rumors spread like wildfire. In a video he posted Friday morning on social media, he told viewers he "would not be a source of gossip" and asked those in the region, many of whom have his cellphone number, to do the same.

"If you are only looking to gossip or to be a troublemaker or a stirrer-up of gossip, leave me out of that conversation and just don't have that conversation," Butler said. "Be more respectful."

No motive has been publicly identified. Kentucky State Police didn't provide one in the immediate aftermath of the shooting, which took place just before 3 p.m. Thursday. Nor did police host a news conference Friday. Stines' first court appearance will likely take place next week and the three-sentence arrest citation offered few details. As of

Saturday morning, Stines had not named an attorney.

In the meantime, Whitesburg, Letcher County and the rest of the region have been left only to speculate.

Mullins had no public discipline history from the Kentucky Bar Association and had a reputation of working with drug offenders to get them into treatment facilities instead of jails.

Stines, meanwhile, had been a fixture in the community for decades, working for years as bailiff in Mullins' court before winning the race for sheriff in 2018. He had no plans to seek another term, he had said earlier this year.

Patty Wood, a legal assistant at a law office down the street from the courthouse, said her husband, former District Judge James Wood, "took (Stines) under his wing" while the sheriff was still a bailiff in his courtroom more than 15 years ago. If she saw Stines 10 times in a day, she said, "there was always a hug."

"He would always say, 'Do you need anything? If you need anything, call me,'" Patty Wood said. "Literally, no matter how many times I'd see him in a day, it was always a hug, it was always those specific words that he would say."

She was at the law office when she heard about a shooting at the courthouse Thursday. She walked with attorney Jennifer Taylor to the scene, she said, where a crowd of stunned witnesses and onlookers had gathered.

"They said Kevin had been shot and Mickey shot him, and at that point, my heart had dropped," Wood said. "That was the last thing that you could even think of happening."

To Wood, it just doesn't add up. And she isn't the only one with questions.

Bill and Josephine Richardson have lived in Whitesburg since they helped found the Appalshop art center in 1969. The Richardsons had met both men but were closer with Stines. He was well-liked, Josephine Richardson said, and had pushed this year for a petition to allow alcohol sales throughout the county to add to its coffers, assuring residents he wouldn't benefit financially because he wasn't running for reelection.

The Richardsons said two people they'd spoken to said Stines "wasn't himself."

They've witnessed a lot, but they haven't witnessed a scene like the one that unfolded Thursday. Their son, who lives in Somerset, called Josephine Richardson minutes after the shooting, she said, and warned his parents not to go downtown.

The area was packed with police, ambulances and onlookers and the nearby high school was on lockdown. A contingent of media swarmed the town, including reporters with LEX-18 and The New York Times.

Laci Wright, who works at nearby Coal City Coffee, watched the scene.

"Three ambulances drove by, and then you saw fire trucks, and the police cars, cop cars and all that stuff. It backed all the way up (to the end of the street)," she said.

The sheriff is a defendant in a different ongoing federal lawsuit and was deposed Monday for several hours. He has been accused of failing to train and supervise a deputy sheriff who traded favorable treatment for a woman on house arrest who didn't want to return to the Letcher County jail in exchange for sexual favors in Mullins' chambers, where there were no cameras at that time.

That deputy, Ben Fields, was fired and later convicted of several state charges, spending less than a year in jail before being released this summer on probation. Stines was not accused of trading favors for sex, and Mullins was not charged or accused of wrongdoing.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs in that case told The Courier Journal, part of the USA TODAY Network, they were surprised by the shooting and are not sure whether the case played a role in Thursday's chaos.

"Everyone has different perspectives," Josephine Richardson said.

Jackie Steele, Commonwealth's Attorney for nearby Perry County and several other Eastern Kentucky jurisdictions, will take up the case alongside Attorney General Russell Coleman in place of the Letcher County Commonwealth's Attorney. Butler called Steele "maybe the most competent prosecutor in the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

Wood remains close to Stines' family and saw his wife and daughter Friday. They're a "good family," she said, but right now, "they're not good."

In the meantime, Butler said in the video he posted, rumors can only complicate a situation that is getting more frenzied by the minute.

"This is not the time to gossip. This is not the time to trash people," he told viewers. "We are going to do anything we can to help each other. We are going to be respectful of each other while we grieve, and we are going to do things to make our county safer and make sure this does not happen again."

Cars drive through downtown Whitesburg on Friday. Main Street was a chaotic scene a day earlier in the aftermath of the shooting. CLARE GRANT/USA TODAY NETWORK

Trump, allies push to shore up key Nebraska electoral vote

Maya Marchel Hoff
USA TODAY

Former President Donald Trump is making a renewed effort to secure one of Nebraska's Electoral College votes which could decide who wins the White House in November.

The Republican nominee is speaking to Nebraska state legislators in a second attempt to usher a bill through the unicameral Legislature that would change the state's electoral vote allocation system and take away Vice President Kamala Harris' chance to win one of the state's five votes, according to the Nebraska Examiner and other outlets.

If successful, that gambit could alter the electoral map, forcing Harris to carry another state in order to win the presidency.

A purple dot in a sea of red

Nebraska and Maine are the only states that do not follow the winner-take-all system for electoral votes. In Nebraska, two of the five electoral votes are awarded to the candidate who wins the most votes statewide. The other three go to the winners of each of the state's three congressional districts.

Although Nebraska is a reliably Republican-leaning state, its 2nd Congressional District, which surrounds Omaha, has sometimes gone for Democrats in recent presidential elections, including to former President Barack Obama in 2008 and President Joe Biden in 2020.

That one electoral vote could be Harris' key to getting the 270 she needs to win: If she carries the "blue wall" battleground states of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin she could win an Electoral College majority with the one vote from Nebraska. She would not need to carry any of the Sun Belt swing states such as Arizona, Georgia, Nevada and North Carolina.

Current polls show Harris tied or ahead in the "blue wall" states but trailing in some of the Sun Belt battlegrounds.

Some Nebraska Republicans have been trying to alter the system of splitting electoral votes by congressional district since it was approved by the Legislature in 1991, but the bills have either been vetoed by a Democratic governor or died in committee.

Nebraska's system drew national attention in April when conservatives from across the country, including Trump, urged Republican Gov. Jim Pillen to usher a bill through the Legislature to reinstate the state winner system. Although Republicans are in the majority and Pillen was supportive, the effort didn't have the 33 votes it needed to overcome a filibuster, but Pillen and other state Republicans are toying with idea of calling a special session to push it through if they can find the votes.

"I and other conservatives have worked diligently to assess legislative support for WTA (winner-take-all) in a pre-election special session," Pillen said in a statement last week.

"At this time, I have not yet received the concrete and public indication that 33 senators would vote for WTA," Pillen said. "If that changes, I will enthusiastically call a special session."

In an attempt to sway a handful of Republican state senators to back winner-take-all, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham paid a visit to the Nebraska governor's mansion Wednesday in a closed-door meeting, according to The Washington Post.

"I want the law changed. I've made no qualms about it," Graham an enthusiastic Trump supporter, told the Post.

One key Nebraska legislator is Omaha Sen. Mike McDonnell, who changed his party affiliation from Democrat to Republican at the end of this year's legislative session, after he was censured by the state Democratic Party for supporting anti-abortion legislation. While he is now a part of the Legislature's Republican majority, he took a firm stance on not voting for winner-take-all legislation, which he reiterated last week.

Maine now out of the picture

The current push by Republicans to make Nebraska a winner-take-all state is different from last time because there is no longer the opportunity for Maine to make the same change – which could have neutralized the effect of Nebraska putting an additional electoral vote in Trump's column.

When the battle over Nebraska's electoral system was reignited in April, Maine House Majority Leader Maureen Terry, a Democrat, said if Nebraska acts on changing its system, Maine will do the same and take away an electoral vote from Trump that he won in 2020 when he carried one of the state's congressional districts. Now, Maine doesn't have the ability to change their electoral vote system because it takes 90 days for legislation to go into effect after it is enacted by the Maine Legislature, which would be too late for the Dec. 17 meeting of the Electoral College.

Donald Trum, speaking to the Israeli American Council National Summit on Thursday, is looking to usher a bill through the Nebraska Legislature that would change the state's electoral vote allocation system. KEVIN DIETSCH/GETTY IMAGES

Ezra Gershanok, co-founder of Ohana, passes out flyers with memes and QR codes around New York City to get more young people to register to vote. PROVIDED BY EZRA GERSHANOK

Young voters are registering in record numbers

Vote.org says it signed 150,000-plus in one day

Maya Marchel Hoff
USA TODAY

Voter registration is breaking records as Election Day approaches, particularly among young people, many of whom are first-time voters.

On Tuesday's National Voter Registration Day more than 150,000 people registered through Vote.org, the most the organization has ever seen on that day. The organization registered 279,400 voters in all of last year.

Last week, 337,826 people visited a link posted on Instagram by pop star Taylor Swift that directed them to their state's voter registration site.

Although Swift noted that she would be voting for the Democratic candidate, Vice President Kamala Harris, people don't have to declare a party affiliation when they register and neither vote.org nor Swift tracked registrations by party. Vote.org has told USA TODAY that about 80% of people they register turn out in the next election.

According to Vote.org, voters younger than 35 made up 81% of Tuesday's registrations, with the biggest spike among 18-year-olds. On this year's National Voter Registration Day, 11% of those registered were 18, which is 53% higher than on the same day four years ago.

"We're really seeing a surge in 18-year-olds registering to vote." Vote.org CEO Andrea Hailey said. "We know that we can onboard the next generation of voters into our democracy if we can get people to register and get out to these elections."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., also is trying to make it easier for people to register to vote.

After years of lobbying, she announced Friday that those filing out applications for health insurance through the HealthCare.Gov website would be offered an option to receive information on voter registration.

"The health of our democracy depends on Americans registering and exercising their right to vote," Warren said in a statement.

Many people looking for coverage through the website have low-wage jobs that don't offer insurance or are just coming off of their parents' insurance at age 26.

"I've pushed for the government to use every tool to make it easier to register, particularly for younger and lower-income individuals, and this update is an important action by the Biden-Harris administration to protect the right to vote for all Americans," Warren said.

Others are finding creative ways to register young voters, including Ezra Gershanok, whose New York City apartment subletting company, Ohana, is reaching younger people in a way that catches their attention: Memes.

He and others have been passing out flyers with a QR code that leads to a voter registration site.

His hope, he said, is to get young people new to the region to register to vote. "This past month, our website traffic hit 40,000 people per month, and a lot of them are these young people that are fresh out of college taking their first job in New York, or in this demographic of folks that don't often register to vote," he said.

"So we were like, 'could we make an impact in this election by just getting our own users to register to vote?' "

They hit 445 registrations this week and hope to register 10,000 young people by Election Day.

"I don't think this would resonate with people in their 40s or 50s, but it definitely resonates with young people," Gershanok said.

Israel, Hezbollah trade barrages in conflict; official cites 'new phase'

John Bacon and Maya Homan
USA TODAY

Israeli warplanes pounded Hezbollah positions in Lebanon on Sunday after some of the militant group's rockets targeted the northern Israeli city of Haifa and the Jezreel Valley, reaching deeper into Israel than any since the start of the war in Gaza almost a year ago.

About 150 rockets, cruise missiles and uncrewed aerial vehicles were launched toward Israel, the Israeli military said in a statement, adding that air defense systems "prevented significant damage." Israel closed schools, restricted gatherings in the north and ordered hospitals to move patients and staff to protected areas.

Israel has countered with some of the fiercest aerial assaults of the war.

"We have inflicted a series of blows on Hezbollah (more severe) than it ever imagined," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a video statement. "If Hezbollah has not understood the message, I promise you, it will understand the message."

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said his military hit almost 300 targets over the weekend and that the strikes would continue until it was safe for evacuated people in the north to return. Hezbollah has vowed to fight on until a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war.

Hezbollah Deputy Secretary-General Naim Qassem said at a funeral Sunday the militants were "ready to face all military possibilities" in battle with Israel, adding that his militants had entered a "new phase" of battle.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog on Sunday defended the deadly escalation in violence against Hezbollah, blaming the militant group's almost daily rocket attacks from across the Lebanese border for forcing 100,000 Israelis from their homes for months.

"Hezbollah has been attacking us on a daily basis, demolishing Israeli villages and towns," Herzog said on CBS' "Face the Nation." "Life has been shattered in our northern border. I don't think any American would have accepted it as a kind of a status quo situation in the United States."

Jeanine Hennis, the U.N. special coordinator for Lebanon, said the region was on the "brink of catastrophe" and warned both sides to seek a diplomatic settlement.

"It cannot be overstated enough: There is NO military solution that will make either side safer," she said on X.

Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Mojtaba Amani, who was wounded Friday in Israeli bombings of Beirut, wrote on social media Sunday that his injury "is an honor for me, as I stand with the oppressed Lebanese people in this act of war."

The attack heightened tensions in the region that already were soaring.

Still, Herzog dismissed claims that Israel was trying to escalate the clash into a full-blown war, saying Israeli forces are hoping to reach a diplomatic agreement. He reiterated previous Israeli statements that leaders from Hezbollah and Hamas are refusing to engage.

"This is jihadism at its best, and that's what we are fighting," Herzog said.

Also Sunday, in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Qatari Al Jazeera TV aired live footage of Israeli forces storming into its bureau with a military order to close it for 45 days. Moments later, the broadcast was disrupted.

The Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate condemned the Israeli action as a "new violation against journalistic and media works, which has been exposing the occupation's crimes against the Palestinian people."

Contributing: Reuters

Mourners gather Sunday in Beirut during the funeral of Hezbollah senior leader Ibrahim Aqil and Hezbollah member Mahmoud Hamad, who were killed in Friday's Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs. AMR ABDALLAH DALSH/REUTERS

OPINION

Don't use military families in shutdown fight

Marla Bautista
USA TODAY

Another year another potential government shutdown.

Political leaders continue to use military families like mine and others who rely on incomes from the federal government as negotiating tools in recurring acts of partisan theater.

The threat of a shutdown leaves service members and their families at increased risk of financial insecurity and weakens military readiness as pay, benefits, health care and other critical support systems are placed in jeopardy.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., and other Republican House members are now using the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act to hold the federal budget hostage. The legislation would require voters to prove they are U.S. citizens, even though noncitizens are not legally allowed to vote now.

If a compromise is not reached by the end of this month, much of the federal government will shut down on Oct. 1.

Military families suffer as paychecks are delayed

When a government shutdown occurs, military families are hurt in a variety of ways that add even more stress to an already challenging way of life.

Gold Star families, who lost a family member in war, suffer an interruption in death benefits. Paychecks for active-duty service members are delayed. And important health care procedures are

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., addresses journalists on Thursday, when congressional members failed to pass a six-month GOP government funding plan that included a controversial measure on election voting. Government funding is slated to run out at the end of the month. ANNA ROSE LAYDEN/REUTERS

delayed as well.

In January 2019, I remember packing a trailer full of food, diapers, hygiene items and gift cards to donate to Coast Guard families in upstate New York who were suffering from lost wages due to a government shutdown.

The shutdown began a few days before Christmas in 2018 and dragged on for 35 days. It was the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. Paychecks owed to more than 40,000 Coast Guard members were suspended. Families used their savings and emergency funds to stay afloat, and those without a financial safety net fell into despair.

Lapses in government funding have far-reaching effects that linger well after a shutdown ends. Military service members must continue working during a government shutdown even though they are not paid. Can you imagine not being paid, but still being required to show up, ready to work, with no guarantee of when you'll receive compensation?

The toll on service members compounds challenges with readiness and retention in the Department of Defense. In the 2018-19 shutdown, about 1.3 million active-duty personnel faced delayed payments.

"Many military families live paycheck-to-paycheck and rely solely on the service member's income," Monique Street, relationship manager with AAF-MAA Wealth Management & Trust, told me. "Delayed income can result in late fees, added interest and other financial complications that may have a ripple effect on their finances. Military families rely on a steady, predictable income, and with many working to recover from a summer (transfer), financial pressures can already be high."

Costs extend well beyond politics

Shutdowns often lead to the suspension of nonessential services that military families rely on. Commissaries, health clinics, child care facilities and other support services on military bases may close or limit operations.

During the 2013 shutdown, military commissaries across the United States were forced to close temporarily, causing a financial strain for families who relied on the commissary for affordable groceries.

From delayed paychecks to suspended services, the uncertainty compounds the unique challenges that service members and their families face.

As members of Congress debate the SAVE Act, military families are left vulnerable while their financial well-being is used as a gambit in negotiations on Capitol Hill. Please remember that the costs of a government shutdown extend well beyond politics, affecting people who already are making tremendous sacrifices for our nation and our national security.

Marla Bautista is a military fellow columnist at USA TODAY Opinion.

Did your tax dollars fund the deadly pager attack?

Jeremy Mayer
Opinion contributor

Lebanon has been attacked by something the world has never seen before – a mass sabotage of electronic devices remotely detonated.

Tiny bombs inside pagers and walkie-talkies went off as the devices' users were in homes, supermarkets, buses and on the streets. At least 37 people, including two children, were killed and thousands wounded in two waves of attacks last week.

Lebanon's government and Hezbollah, an Iran-backed group that uses the nation as a base for its militants, both blamed Israel. Israel has not claimed responsibility for the attacks directly, but anyone who pays attention to the Middle East understands that this operation almost certainly originated in Tel Aviv.

On Friday, Israel launched an airstrike that killed senior Hezbollah commander Ibrahim Aqil in Beirut.

On Sunday, Israeli warplanes pounded Hezbollah positions in Lebanon after some of the militant group's rockets targeted the northern Israeli city of Haifa and the Jezreel Valley, reaching deeper into Israel than any since the start of the war in Gaza almost a year ago.

As an American, my tax dollars support Israel

War has always involved sabotage. But the morality and legality of sabotaging pagers is highly questionable. As is its wisdom. When you turn pagers into bombs, you have to know that there will be a high risk of collateral damage. The pagers belonged not just to military members of Hezbollah, but also medical staff and others.

In the past, when Israel targeted specific cellphone users, including killing a bomb maker working for Hamas, it seemed like a better way to respond to terrorism – with minimal risk of collateral civilian deaths, as compared with, say, a missile strike on an apartment.

This time, an entire nation, Lebanon, has been terrorized. Its medical facilities are straining to handle bomb victims. Some are comparing the feeling of insecurity to the awful aftermath of the 2020 Beirut dock explosion.

Relatives mourn on Wednesday a child killed after hundreds of paging devices exploded in a deadly wave across Lebanon. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Hezbollah is helping Hamas, and both groups kill Israeli civilians without mercy or regret. They kill Israeli children when they can. I have no illusions about their methods.

But I don't financially and politically support Hamas or Hezbollah. As an American, I financially support Israel with my tax dollars. If they are murdering Lebanese children, then to some extent, I did that.

And how, exactly, is this helping Israel? Is there a chance that Hezbollah goes, "We didn't realize how dangerous Israel was, let's negotiate"? The electronic attack has shaken the hornets' nest and killed a few terrorists, that's all.

Sure, Hezbollah's ability to communicate internally has been gravely damaged, at least momentarily. But this tactic is spurring anger at Israel across all sectors of Lebanese society, and indeed, the Arab world. Iraq is sending medical supplies to Lebanon; Egypt is expressing solidarity.

Will it be harder or easier for Hezbollah to get recruits? The pager and walkie-talkie explosions killed and wounded a few fighters, but there will be three or four replacements for each one who fell.

Hezbollah has always been a terrible challenge for Israel. It's a non-state actor, with a military force far stronger than Lebanon's national army.

A few years ago, I asked a Lebanese government minister how a fight between Hezbollah and the Lebanese military would go, and he predicted that Hezbollah would win in a week.

Hezbollah also is funded by Iran, and gets more sophisticated weaponry every year. Compared with Hamas, Hezbollah has always been far more potent as a military force.

Attacks might hurt Israel in the long term

The long-term hope for Israel in its relationship with Lebanon has to be that Hezbollah is eventually brought under control of the political authorities in Beirut, and that a coalition of Sunni, Druze, Christian and moderate Shiite leaders makes peace with Israel.

That is the dream, but also the only realistic way the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel ends well.

The digital attack just pushed that day off by years. Is a massive sabotage of devices as bad as a Hamas bus bombing, which indiscriminately killed Israelis? No, but Israel should remember what happened when bus bombings left body parts all over the streets of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

The attacks devastated the Israeli left, the side that had been working for peace and even a two-state solution. They unified the nation around harder policies against Palestinians.

They strengthened Israel's will to fight.

That's what's happening in Lebanon, as even Hezbollah's fiercest opponents are now rallying to their support.

It also will inevitably cause more and more Americans to wonder if we should be such strong supporters of a nation that uses tactics that terrorize an entire country and inevitably leave behind dead and wounded children.

Jeremy Mayer is an associate professor in the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University, where he also directs the master's and Ph.D. programs in political science.

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'College coach' benefit can ease search pain for families

More companies are offering their employees college coaches as a free perk. **Page 3B**

You can check the headlines from your home state or city

We survey and compile the top news stories from all 50 states plus Washington, D.C. **Page 4B**

Cash, checks slowly disappear

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

More businesses turn to credit cards, electronic payments

Betty Lin-Fisher USA TODAY

Paul Dickson pulled out a $20 bill recently when he was at a baseball game at Camden Yards in Baltimore and wanted to buy a beer. ● Another guy in line started laughing "because there's no place in the ballpark where you can spend cash," Dickson said. ● Dickson, 85, who is an Orioles fan while his son and grandson are Nationals fans, paid for the $17.50 beer by credit card. He knew that the Nationals' home stadium, Nationals Park, had become a cashless stadium, but he didn't know other baseball stadiums, like Camden Yards also stopped accepting cash. ● Dickson, a book author, is not opposed to using his credit card or other methods of payment. Before he moved to an independent living facility, he had most of his bills on auto pay from his checking account. He still writes a check occasionally and he's had a PayPal account for years.

But Dickson said he's offended that his choice to use cash where he wants is slowly becoming more limited.

"It's not that I'm livid. It's not some injustice, but it's sort of this thing where I say 'Wait, it's my money. I'll pay you however I want,'" said Dickson. "It's almost like they're (businesses) saying 'Well, we're removing an option, which is for our benefit.'"

Are cash and checks on the way out?

Cash and checks, the dominant forms of currency for generations, are now increasingly not welcome.

Like Camden Yards, most Major

> **"There is a war on cash."**
>
> **Jay Stanley**
> A senior policy analyst with the Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project with the American Civil Liberties Union

League Baseball stadiums and many other professional sports arenas have gone cashless.

In March, the National Park Service was sued by three people when they couldn't use cash to enter some national parks. The agency announced in 2023 that dozens of its sites would no longer

accept cash for entry because the U.S. Treasury had created policies to reduce the amount of cash and checks handled across the federal government. The lawsuit is ongoing.

Stores using Amazon's Just Walk Out technology, which include third-party stores at NFL stadiums, college campuses and airports, do not accept cash or checks. Amazon Go convenience stores started accepting cash in 2019, but do not accept checks, according to a spokeswoman. Similarly, Amazon Fresh grocery stores accept cash, but not checks.

"There is a war on cash," said Jay

Pricing airline tickets is complex

Several factors are involved in the process

Zach Wichter
USA TODAY

As an airline reporter, I often get asked for travel advice. One of the most enduring myths I hear about in these conversations is that it's dangerous to repeatedly search for a flight – that somehow, by doing so, you're going to tell the airline how interested you are in that flight. And the artificial intelligence revenue management gremlins are going to jack up the price just for you.

I'm here to tell you that's not happening – at least not yet. Airline pricing is complex, and it's very possible you're paying something different than your seat neighbor, even if you book the same flight at the same time.

"It's not hyperbolic to say on an aircraft with 100 seats there could easily, easily be 75 different fares," William J. McGee, senior fellow for aviation and travel at the American Economic Liberties Project, told me.

However, airlines also don't have such granular price control that a handful of searches by one person will result in a customized higher price.

"It's not because you're making a frequent search; it's because you are delaying booking and getting closer to the departure date," Ahmed Abdelghany, associate dean for research at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's David B. O'Maley College of Business told me.

Abdelghany said airlines' pricing software would have to comb through a tremendous trove of data to recognize that a single user like you was looking for a flight more than once in the shopping process. Typically, he said, pricing decisions at airlines are influenced by much larger data samples. Abdelghany and McGee both agree, however, that airline pricing is opaque, and that airlines are exercising increasingly granular control over the prices potential passengers see.

How are airline tickets priced?

As with most things in air travel, it's complicated.

"Several factors determine the price that you might see when you're searching for an itinerary," Abdelghany said. "When are you traveling? How early are you booking your ticket? This is an important variable. If you tend to buy at the last minute, the airline may classify the booking request to be coming from a business traveler instead of a leisure traveler. Typically, leisure travelers tend to book far in advance."

Survey: Shoppers on edge about holiday spending

More consumers starting before Halloween season

Betty Lin-Fisher
USA TODAY

Tara Bruckner has already started her holiday shopping.

Bruckner, who usually likes to start her holiday shopping by October and finish by Thanksgiving, started even earlier this year, buying a few things for her two kids and her mom.

"During school shopping back in July, I 'took note' of some items... and ordered them online in August when they were on sale," Bruckner, who lives in Chilton, Wisconsin, told USA TODAY.

She is not alone.

More consumers are starting their holiday shopping early this year but are still on edge about rising costs and their budgets, a new study has found.

In a study released last week, Gartner Inc. said 32% of consumers say they

were going to do their holiday shopping between July and October. A Bankrate study this month said 48% of shoppers were planning to begin their holiday shopping by Halloween.

But costs are on their mind.

More than half of shoppers aren't planning to spend more this year

"The effects of high inflation and supply chain issues in the post-pandemic economy mean holiday shoppers are still on edge," Kassi Socha, director analyst in the Gartner Marketing Practice, said in a news release.

Of the consumers surveyed, 64% said they are planning to maintain their holiday spending this year and 21% are pulling back.

For those who plan to spend more, "it's due to the increased costs the increased costs of gifts as the main reason, not having incremental discretionary spending, Sochi told USA TODAY in an email.

Bruckner buys holiday gifts for more than 20 people, including family, extended family, co-workers and families in need. She spends about $3,000 a year on holiday gifts and plans to spend about the same this year.

She is concerned about prices being higher due to inflation and said there may be fewer presents this year.

Bruckner said by spreading out her holiday shopping and being done by Thanksgiving, she spreads out the hit to her wallet, too.

She shops a lot of small businesses for "heart-felt items" but also shops the major retailers. She used to shop at midnight on Black Friday and "that was fun and crazy."

But "it seems like deals get released earlier and earlier each year," she said. "I like when the deals are spread out for big-ticket items like electronics. It allows for my pocketbook to catch up when I shop early."

Tara Bruckner of Chilton, Wis., shown shopping while on a trip in Wyoming, already has started her holiday shopping.
PROVIDED BY TARA BRUCKNER

Cash

Stanley, a senior policy analyst with the Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project with the American Civil Liberties Union.

Cash is not king

More businesses became cashless during the COVID-19 pandemic, citing the need to protect their workers' health by not requiring them to exchange paper money and coins with the public, said Bankrate Senior Industry Analyst Ted Rossman. But some businesses were already moving in that direction, saying a no-cash policy was more efficient for operations.

"Speed and convenience tend to be the main explanations, especially with most stadiums that have gone cashless," said Rossman. Businesses "typically do it under the guise of 'Oh, this is going to be faster for everybody, the staff is not going to have to count bills and coins and you can just kind of speed the line through.'"

Cash also is costly to businesses, Rossman said. Employees need time to balance cash registers at the end of a shift and there are costs associated with the business getting the cash to the bank, either via an employee or an armored vehicle service, he said.

Businesses handling cash also have the added potential worry of robberies, either by outside criminals or employees who steal, Rossman said.

Some businesses also are rejecting payments by check. Target became the latest retailer to stop accepting checks in its stores on July 15, citing low usage. Aldi and Whole Foods also do not take checks.

Cash has its benefits

But cash remains an important option for consumers, some advocates say.

"Cash is needed for choice, for privacy, for equity and for access," said Ruth Susswein, director of consumer protection for Consumer Action, a national education and advocacy organization.

Susswein was recently in Atlanta and saw a sign on an ice cream shop. It read: "We accept whoever you are, but we don't accept cash."

Consumers should be "allowed to decide how we want to pay," Susswein said.

Use of cash, checks is declining

The use of cash and personal checks has dropped in recent years while credit and debit card payments rose, according to the latest 2024 Diary of Consumer Payment Choice, put out yearly by the Federal Reserve Financial Services FedCash Services.

Among the study's findings:

● Cash was most used by consumers for in-person shopping. It also is the preferred payment method of consumers in low-income households and those 55 years old or older.

● Consumers younger than age 55 used cash for just 12% of payments in 2023, compared with 22% for those age 55 and older. Also, for the first time in the Diary's history, cash was not the most-used instrument for smaller-value payments of $25 or less.

● Cash carried in a consumer's pocket, purse, or wallet averaged $74, compared with $60 before the pandemic.

● Consumers living in households with income of less than $50,000 a year used cash for 28% of payments, compared with 13% for households with annual income of more than $50,000.

● Use of personal checks declined to 3% of payments made in 2023, down from 4% in 2021 and 2022, and 7% in 2020. Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments, or electronic check payments, accounted for 13% of payments.

The study, conducted in October 2023, was the first one since the Centers for Disease Control declared the end of the COVID-19 emergency in May 2023 – a period when some consumers

got increasingly used to digital and online payments while hunkered down at home and paying for goods and services remotely.

Results of the study, its authors said, "indicate that the pandemic had lasting effects on how consumers made payments."

Kennedy Ream, 23, from Indiana, said she used to use cash a lot more when she was a teenager. But for the last four years, she has been using her credit cards.

"I don't take time out of my day to go to the bank to take cash out," she said.

Tony Brunner of Virginia said it's so much easier to use credit cards and digital apps, and he doesn't have to go to the bank.

"I'm on board with the digital economy," Brunner said, who uses his phone and Google wallet for most payments.

The rise of plastic

Since the 2016 Federal Reserve Diary of Consumer Payment Choice, credit card payments have nearly doubled, increasing from eight payments in 2016 to 15 payments in 2023. Cash payments have decreased 50% over the same period, declining from 14 payments in 2016 to seven in 2023.

Increased debit and credit card use between 2022 and 2023 resulted in more than 60% of payments being made with credit (32%) and debit cards (30%).

Is a business required to accept cash?

Despite the printed words on money, which say "this note is legal tender for all debts, public and private," businesses are not required by law to accept cash, according to the Federal Reserve.

"There is no federal statute mandating that a private business, a person, or an organization must accept currency or coins as payment for goods or services," the Federal Reserve says on its website. "Private businesses are free to develop their own policies on whether to accept cash unless there is a state law that says otherwise."

Jay Zagorsky, an economist and associate clinical professor at Boston University's Questrom School of Business, explains it further: the key word is "debt." If a business notifies you ahead of time that it does not accept cash, then you haven't gone into a debt, he said.

For instance, many airlines have gone cashless for any purchases during a flight, requiring a credit or debit card. If you only have cash, they won't sell you a beer and there won't be a debt, said Zagorsky. Similarly, if a gas station says it doesn't accept cash, you don't pump the fuel, so you don't have a debt, he said.

"There's no debt incurred, so they can actually quite legally say sorry" no cash, said Zagorsky, who has a forthcoming book called "The Power of Cash: Why Using Paper Money is Good for You and Society."

Some businesses remain cash only

And yet, there are also businesses that only want payments in cash.

In recent weeks, Dickson says, he's gone to his favorite pizza place near his home in Kensington, Maryland, and his barber. Neither will take a credit card – only cash – or a check, though they prefer the former.

In some areas, businesses are legally required to take paper money or have been pushed to do so by customer demand.

Sweetgreen, a national salad chain, reversed its cashless policy in 2019 and again began accepting paper money after customer backlash. Meanwhile, several states, including Massachusetts and Colorado, and cities, like New York, Philadelphia and Detroit have passed laws banning businesses from going cashless, and many others are considering similar legislation.

Some of the laws have exceptions, such as allowing large stadiums to go cashless or having requirements for a reverse ATM to convert cash to a prepaid debit card. Businesses that violate

the cash ban laws can face fines. And some of those reverse ATMs can come with fees, Rossman said.

Lawmakers said the requirement was put in place to protect consumers' rights to use cash.

And advocates emphasize that cash continues to serve a vital purpose, from being the only means many Americans have to pay their bills, to being a critical backup when electronic systems are down after a natural disaster.

Credit cards can cost extra

The increase in credit card usage and businesses who raise all prices to cover credit card fees is hurtful to all consumers, said Stanley.

Instead, it's more equitable to have the individual customer using a credit card pay the accompanying fee, Stanley said.

Cash helps consumers budget, spend less

Paying with cash can also help consumers save, said Zagorsky.

"Using cash helps people spend a lot less money," said Zagorsky. It's called the pain of paying, he said. When people have to give up cash at the register, it hurts a bit, while swiping the credit card isn't as tangible, he said.

An example Zagorsky gives: he recently went into a liquor store to pick out a $35 bottle of wine he knew he wanted for a dinner party. But he realized he didn't have enough cash when he walked into the store.

"I walked out with five bottles of wine and I spent $150," said Zagorsky, who used his credit card. "Because I was no longer suddenly constrained, I was like 'Oh, that looks interesting, How about this one?' "

Lack of cash payment options hurts poor, unbanked

Limiting where people can spend cash causes disparities and difficulties for consumers in lower income brackets, many of whom may not have access to a bank account, and who are disproportionately from marginalized communities, said Stanley.

"Going cashless is bad for privacy. It's bad for low-income people. It's disproportionately bad for people of color, it's bad for homeless people and the undocumented," he said.

Low-income people, and consumers who don't have a good credit score and then don't have access to a credit or debit card, are most affected by businesses that don't accept cash, agreed Susswein with Consumer Action.

"Those folks have limited or no way to do business with retailers that don't accept cash," she said.

That may be forcing those consumers to go to check cashers who charge high fees or potentially to some underground economy, Susswein said.

People of color disproportionately are underbanked, meaning they may not have an account to tap for an electronic payment or that allows them to have a credit or debit card, said Stanley, who wrote an ACLU piece in 2019 entitled "Say No to the Cashless Future and Cashless Stores."

Are we moving to a cashless or checkless society?

Zagorsky and Stanley don't think we're moving to a cashless or checkless society, "but this is a very slippery slope," said Zagorsky.

Refusing to accept checks reduces the risk of check fraud, Zagorsky said, which is a plus. Many businesses also accept automated payments via a checking account. But, moving to a cashless society would leave out millions of Americans who lack access to credit cards and electronic payments or simply prefer to use cash.

"We're not saying we think you should pay with cash for everything," said Stanley. "We're saying that we should preserve the option of cash for people, even if that involves some expenses and some inefficiencies.

Chris Chang, a USA TODAY video producer, contributed to this report.

Cruising

As a result, airfare purchased well in advance is often cheaper because airlines know leisure travelers are more price-sensitive.

Abdelghany said the days of the week you travel on – for example, whether or not you have a Saturday stay in your destination – can also provide a clue as to the purpose of your trip and may influence pricing.

Are airfare prices personalized?

Airlines don't yet show totally different prices to different travelers based on their personal profiles – that much is demonstrated by the fact that pretty much everyone sees the same airfare if they search for the same itinerary at the same time – but McGee and Abdelghany both said the industry seems to be moving in that direction, especially as airlines roll out new technologies that allow for customization of ads and other offers through a passenger's frequent flyer profile.

"In my view, this is only going to get worse because the technology keeps getting better and the process keeps getting more and more opaque," McGee said "(Airfare is) going to be customized upward in many ways. In four years, it might be too late. Everybody might have their own price."

As an aviation adviser at Consumer Reports, McGee oversaw a study of airfares in 2016 that compared prices being quoted on multiple travel platforms on simultaneous searches for the same itinerary. It tested variables including whether or not browser cookies made a difference and found that there was some inconsistent pricing between users even when the exact same searches were happening at the same time.

It's seemingly the most recent comprehensive study of the effects of search volume on airfares, and even eight years later, McGee said the results stuck with him.

"There's no question in my mind that fares currently are being tailored in some way for some users," he said.

Abdelghany pointed out, however, that airlines' opaque pricing structure likely plays a role in inconsistent and unpredictable pricing.

"You made a search yesterday and now you made a search today, you are getting closer to the departure date," he said. "Getting closer to the departure date might have some consequences on the price."

It's also why airfares often spike during periods of intense demand.

Airlines, Abdelghany said, can see when there's a true demand spike much better than a few one-off searches.

"It's not because of the searches, it's because of the booking that already happened," Abdelghany told me. "The airlines will treat this as a premium flight because of strong demand."

How can you get the best deal on airfare?

Proving that it's really a myth that too many airfare searches bump up the price, the experts told me the best way to get a good deal on airfares is still to do your shopping.

"After 20 years, like I said, the motto is still the same: you have to shop around," McGee said.

As with most things in air travel, it's complicated.

Shoppers

Customers are cost-conscious

The study also found that consumers are concerned that in-store prices are not competitive with online prices, with 20% of consumers planning to increase their online shopping behavior this year.

Sixty percent of consumers have at least one concern about shopping in-store this holiday season, the study found. Shoppers showed interest in returning to in-store shopping last year,

but now report a variety of reasons for their concern, including higher prices (40%), inventory (28%), selection issues (18%) and security concerns (14%), the study said.

"When shopping, consumers are prioritizing price, promotion and free shipping in that order when determining what to buy," Socha told USA TODAY.

Retail sales are expected to see a moderate increase this year despite inflation, according to Deloitte's 2024 Holiday Forecast.

Holiday retail sales are likely to increase between 2.3% and 3.3% this year, the September study said. That compares to a 4.3% increase in retail sales

last year.

Consumers are starting their holiday shopping already

This month, Bankrate reported in a survey that 48% of holiday shoppers said they were planning to begin their buying by Halloween.

Walmart on Wednesday announced its Holiday Deals days coming in October and said it was launching its holiday savings early since consumers are shopping earlier for the holidays.

It followed Amazon's announcement for its second Prime Days, called Prime Big Deal Days, which are also in October.

The Walmart days coincide with – and are longer – than Amazon's days.

Retailers are responding to demand by consumers who have been starting their holiday shopping earlier, fueled by special retailer events such as Amazon Prime Days, Target Circle Week, and Walmart's Holiday Deals, Ted Rossman, Bankrate senior industry analyst, told USA TODAY for a previous story on holiday shopping.

"About 1 in 8 early birds have already started, and about one in eight are planning to start sometime this month. October, in particular, has become the unofficial holiday kickoff," Rossman told USA TODAY this month.

Home buyers hope rate cuts help housing

30-year fixed-rate mortgage touches 6.09%

Andrea Riquier
USA TODAY

Katherine Hare and her husband, Stephen Boyd, are retirees looking to make a move. The couple have lived in the Chapel Hill area of North Carolina, where Boyd grew up, for many years. But now, Hare wants to be closer to her family in the West Hartford area of Connecticut.

With plenty of equity built up in their home, located in a booming local economy, the couple is in a position many Americans would envy: They likely won't need to take out a mortgage on a new property. The biggest challenge, Hare thinks, will be the long-distance house-hunting.

Still, she's well aware that the recent decline in borrowing costs will be helpful when the couple goes to sell their own home. The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage just touched 6.09%, its lowest level in over 18 months, down sharply from the recent peak of 7.79%.

"Lower mortgage rates will definitely help," Hare said. "It will open up the market for us. When rates were lower, things were really, really cranking around here."

What is holding back the housing market?

Mortgage rates don't dictate the housing market – until they do. Ask any real estate agent why buyers aren't buying, and most will say it's the lack of inventory. But most housing-market inventory is simply houses that other people want to sell, and with nearly 90% of all Americans with a mortgage enjoying a rate below 6%, there's no reason to move on unless absolutely necessary. With new listings scarce, the few properties that are on the market get snatched up quickly, and prices keep getting bid higher.

That means the housing market looks a lot like the situation Hare and Boyd are about to encounter. The Federal Reserve cut interest rates by half a point Wednesday, and mortgage rates are likely to move in tandem as the central bank continues to ease.

Yes, prices may tick up as demand increases. Still, most observers think the entire housing ecosystem, not just those applying for a mortgage, will benefit from the "unlocking" effect. Many are hoping for a much healthier market after a few years of boom and bust.

"It's market whiplash," said Rick Sharga, CEO of CJ Patrick Company, a real estate consultancy. "We had a zero-interest rate policy for a few years to help with the unknowns of COVID. That pulled demand forward and made homes relatively affordable even though prices rose. Right now, affordability is at all-time lows, except for a period of the 1980s, so anything that will lower rates will be a boon."

On Thursday, the National Association of Realtors said that sales of previously owned homes fell 2.5% in August. At an annual pace of 3.86 million, sales are running roughly where they were at the depths of the foreclosure crisis a decade ago.

"Home sales were disappointing again in August, but the recent development of lower mortgage rates coupled with increasing inventory is a powerful combination that will provide the environment for sales to move higher in future months," the group's chief economist said in a statement.

Time to get off the sidelines?

Still, there are some green shoots in the market. In August, homebuilders started construction on more homes and applied for more permits for future projects than in previous months. That will help bring much-needed inventory to the market. More people applied for mortgages to purchase homes last week, the Mortgage Bankers Association said Wednesday, suggesting many Americans are looking for an opportunity to get off the sidelines.

Airline lounges offer a way to relax on the ground before your plane takes flight.
PROVIDED BY EMIRATES

Priority Pass program opens up lounge access

Zach Wichter
USA TODAY

With airports more crowded than ever, it can be hard to find a respite in the concourse. Seats near power outlets are often in high demand, and busy bathrooms aren't always the most pleasant place to take care of business.

For many frequent travelers, lounge access solves those issues by opening up secluded places in the airport that are often (though not always) less crowded than the main concourse and come with amenities like free food and nicer bathrooms.

In the beginning, lounges were the invitation-only properties of airlines, but access has been expanding over the decades.

Now, many top-tier travel credit cards include lounge access as a perk, even for nonelite frequent flyers.

But that's not the only way to get behind the frosted glass doors.

Priority Pass is a program that travelers can subscribe to if they want to get into lounges around the world without signing up for a credit card with a high annual fee.

Many of those credit cards include Priority Pass membership, but travelers can also join independently.

What is Priority Pass?

Priority Pass is a subscription service that gets travelers access to lounges around the world and other perks including spa services, airport restaurant credits, concierge services and other amenities.

How much does Priority Pass cost?

Priority Pass has three membership tiers:

● Standard, which costs $99 annually. With the Standard package, members still have to pay $35 per lounge visit and $35 to bring in a guest.

● Standard Plus, which costs $329 annually. With the Standard Plus package, members are entitled to 10 free lounge visits per year, and then get charged $35 for each additional visit. Guest visits also cost $35 with this package.

● Prestige, which costs $469 annually. With this package, all lounge visits are free for the member and guest passes cost $35.

How many lounges are in the Priority Pass network?

According to Priority Pass, it has more than 1,600 lounges in its global network, including more than 150 in North America and more than 370 in Europe.

What other benefits do Priority Pass members get?

Some of the other Priority Pass perks include:
● Restaurant credits.
● Credits toward spa treatments.
● Video game lounge access.
● Ground transportation deals.
● Preferred car rental rates.
● Airport concierge service.
● Access to shared workspaces.

Director of Counseling Halima Moore works with Ashly Callejas at the High school campus of College Achieve Central Charter School in North Plainfield, N.J. ANNE-MARIE CARUSO/USA TODAY NETWORK

'College coach' can ease search pain for families

Some companies offer service in benefit plans

Medora Lee
USA TODAY

When Jenny Rosenberger's high school junior wanted to start looking at colleges in 2020, she didn't even know where to begin.

Not only were they at home in Newark, Delaware, in the middle of a global pandemic that put many college-related activities on hold, but Rosenberger said: "I had no previous experience with the college application process. I went to community college after high school and then started working ... before I finished my studies."

They needed help.

That's when the senior vice president of Bank of America remembered seeing a new employee benefit launched in early 2020 for a "college coach."

With nothing to lose, Rosenberger gave it a try.

The service helped her daughter, Kaydria Boyer, narrow down her list of schools to consider, refine her essays, meet deadlines, and complete financial aid and other scholarship forms to pay for college.

The result? Nearly every school Boyer applied to accepted her.

"She even got multiple scholarships we didn't even know we could get," Rosenberger said.

Isn't college coaching what school counselors do?

Yes, school college counselors guide families through the admissions process, but they're often overwhelmed.

The national student-to-counselor ratio dropped to 385-to-1 in the 2022-23 academic year, the first time since 1986 it has dropped below 400-to-1, but it's still above the 250-to-1 recommended ratio, said the American School Counselor Association.

Students end up with a "variety of experiences," said Brock Jolly, financial adviser and founder of The College Funding Coach, which helps families plan to pay for college.

"Some kids may not get scheduled in a timely fashion and some may get a computer and be told to figure out where they want to go to school and get back to me."

Combined with the increasingly competitive and complex college landscape and soaring costs, many families seek more individualized, private college coaching, experts said.

College coaches are usually former college admissions and financial aid officers, those who've worked with them say.

How much does a personal college coach cost?

In 2023, the average hourly rate for private college counseling was $212, up 7% from 2022, according to CollegePlannerPro, which designs software independent college coaches use.

The average package price for college counseling was $5,255, up 9% from 2022.

Costs increase, on average, with the years of experience the counselor has, it said.

Companies lend a hand

Recognizing additional help can lower stress levels for both students and working parents, more companies are offering their employees college coaches as a free perk, experts said.

Recognizing additional help can lower stress levels for both students and working parents, more companies are offering their employees college coaches as a free perk, experts said.

Amazon, Starbucks, JPMorgan Chase, American Express, Morgan Stanley, Paramount Pictures, and Johnson & Johnson are among companies offering this benefit.

Bright Horizons College Coach, which partners with companies to offer this benefit, said the number of employers who offered its program more than tripled over the past 10 years.

Bank of America, where Rosenberger works, offers counseling geared toward students from 8th through 12th grades, said Brandt Bennett, the bank's global human resources executive.

Coaches help younger students choose courses – from advanced placement and honors classes – and extracurricular activities that will help them build their college résumés, he said.

As students enter their junior year in high school, guidance focuses more on choosing schools, completing applications, writing essays, and paying for school.

"Whether parents have been to college or not, things have changed," Bennett said.

"Think about that stress level. You're managing day to day and trying to understand the overall college application process.

"We provide help, an advocate to help navigate the application process and financial aid to alleviate that stress and help (families) enjoy the process.

"It should be an extremely exciting time."

Broadening horizons, strengthening relationships and finances

Thoughtful planning with a coach can help families choose a school that suits their kid and budget, and hopefully reduce the need for student loans.

"We would have stayed here and not explored beyond the tristate area," she said. "I would have been concerned about (affording) an out-of-state school but learned they would offer more money in scholarships."

Louisiana State University, where Boyer ended up enrolling, turned out cheaper, even with room and board, than the University of Delaware, she said.

Over the past four years, Bright Horizons College Coach said it's helped families negotiate for an additional $1 million in scholarship funding.

Families and employers also benefit in other ways.

Bright Horizons College Coach surveys of approximately 1,000 employees who used its coaching benefit through their employer showed:
● Improved work/life balance (81%).
● Reduced stress (87%).
● Increased job productivity (72%).
● Increased commitment to their employer (80%).

And though this isn't a scientific poll, Rosenberger said she thinks the college coach improves the relationship between parents and children.

"Teenagers think parents don't know anything, but a third party could steer her (daughter)," she said.

"I think our relationship improved."

50★States

ALABAMA Montgomery: City Council approved Mayor Steven Reed's budget for fiscal year 2025, marking a 6.5% increase from the previous year's budget. The council voted for a budget that includes raises for police and city workers.

ALASKA Shemya Island: U.S. Army soldiers were deployed to the remote Shemya Island in Alaska recently as part of a training exercise that follows recent flights of Russian and Chinese aircraft near American airspace in the region. Shemya Island, located 1,200 miles west of Anchorage and fewer than 300 miles from the Russian coast, is the home of the Eareckson Air Station.

ARIZONA North Rim: In an effort to control the Grand Canyon National Park's bison population, 100 of the animals recently were relocated. According to the National Park, its wildlife managers moved the bison from the park's North Rim to South Dakota's Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

ARKANSAS Little Rock: The Faulkner County Sheriff's Office and several other agencies recently executed Operation Room Service, which focused on human trafficking and child exploitation, leading to the arrest of nine people, KATV reported.

CALIFORNIA San Francisco: General Motors' self-driving unit Cruise said it will begin supervised testing this fall with up to five autonomous vehicles in the Bay Area. Cruise will deploy several manual mapping vehicles in Sunnyvale and Mountain View, following which the testing will start, it said in a post on X.

COLORADO Larimer County: Poudre School District has scheduled a series of information sessions designed to provide the community "factual information" about the $49 million schools mill levy it has on the November ballot. Money raised would go toward maintenance, repairs and upgrades of the district's buildings.

CONNECTICUT Norwich: The legend of Norwich artist Ellis Ruley grows as a sixth painting is added to the display at Slater Museum. The museum unveiled "Rice Picking Time" during a recent ceremony. The painting is one of about 60 Ruley paintings known to exist, Director Dayne Rugh said.

DELAWARE Sussex County: Delaware State Police are investigating card skimming devices found at the self-checkout kiosks at four Wawa locations in Sussex County.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington: The Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute received a $10 million donation to help fund the giant panda conservation program, WUSA reported.

FLORIDA Marion County: The winners of a 10-day hunt for Burmese pythons, which had more than 850 participants from 33 states and Canada collectively removing 195 of the invasive species from south Florida, were announced last week. Ronald Kiger of Marion County won, bringing in 20 Burmese pythons. Kiger won the grand prize of $10,000, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

GEORGIA Atlanta: Protesters threw ping pong balls at City Council members and chanted "You dropped the ball" in opposition to Mayor Andre Dickens and a pricey training center for law enforcement. The "Stop Cop City" group attended the city council meeting last week to "demand (their) voices be heard," according an Instagram post. The group is opposing construction of a $90 million Atlanta Public Safety Training Center.

HAWAII Kapaa: A building on Kauai suffered about $1.2 million in damage from a fire, KHON2 reported.

IDAHO Cascade: Soldiers from the 14th Brigade Engineer Battalion are returning to Joint Base Lewis-McChord after helping fight fires in the state, KTVB reported.

ILLINOIS Springfield: A grocery store that serves neighborhoods on the city's southeast side is closing in early November. According to Niemann Foods, the County Market store has not been able to renew its lease.

INDIANA Bloomington: An Indiana woman has pleaded guilty to a federal hate crime after she repeatedly stabbed a Chinese American teenager on a city bus while yelling slurs, court records show. Billie Davis, 58, admitted to stabbing an 18-year-old Indiana University student in her head seven to ten times last year. The teen survived but suffered injuries.

HIGHLIGHT: MISSISSIPPI

James Starnes of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Geology works at a site where a Columbian mammoth tusk was found. JONATHAN LEARD/USA TODAY NETWORK

Madison County: Eddie Templeton recently made headlines after finding a tusk from a mammoth in a Madison County creek. The complete tusk was estimated to be 10,000-20,000 years old and was the first discovery of its kind in the state. But the story didn't end there. A plaster jacket was formed around the tusk to protect it, and while it was drying, the man came across a fossilized bone from a giant whale that swam the seas millions of years ago. "That was pretty wild," he said. "It wasn't as exciting of a find as the mammoth tusk … but it was interesting that in the same place on the same day, I ran across these two fossils." The fossilized vertebra was from an ancient whale known as Basilosaurus.

IOWA Des Moines: The state's capital has banned sleeping and camping in public spaces. Chants of "shame" echoed through City Hall last week as Des Moines City Council members cast their third and final votes on two sweeping ordinance changes that make it illegal to camp on streets and sidewalks.

KANSAS Topeka: High-ranking members of a cult were convicted in a Kansas federal court last week for forcing dozens of people, including minors as young as 8, to work for up to 16 hours a day in factories and other businesses, prosecutors said. The men and women were either members of the United Nation of Islam or wives of the cult's founder, Royall Jenkins, according to a Justice Department news release.

KENTUCKY Frankfort: Gov. Andy Beshear signed an executive order banning the use of state and federal funds for conversion therapy on minors. The executive order goes into effect immediately.

LOUISIANA New Orleans: The Catholic Bishops of Louisiana and the St. Thomas More Catholic Lawyers Association will host the 17th annual Red Mass Oct. 7 at the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans.

MAINE Westbrook: Gov. Janet Mills and U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm toured Stroudwater Apartments, an affordable housing site for people ages 55 and older that was built using energy-efficient technologies, WMTW reported.

MARYLAND Annapolis: Maryland will join the Internal Revenue Service's Direct File online tool for the 2025 filing season, enabling taxpayers to prepare and file their taxes electronically and free of charge.

MASSACHUSETTS Topsfield: A teen was left with small burn injuries after a portable charger exploded last week, resulting in a bed catching fire at her friend's home in Topsfield, about 23 miles from Boston, according to officials and media reports. The report noted she was using a magnetic portable charger from Amazon, but the specific brand of the charger was not mentioned.

MICHIGAN Wayne County: Communities near Republic Services' Wayne Disposal Inc. hazardous waste landfill have filed a lawsuit in Wayne County Circuit Court seeking to halt radioactive waste shipments from a World War II-era atomic bomb development site in New York. The cities of Belleville and Romulus, along with Van Buren and Canton townships, filed the lawsuit.

MINNESOTA St. Cloud : As St. Cloud Area School District 742 begins the academic year, officials said approximately 7% its student body were homeless this past year.

MISSOURI Springfield: A grant is allowing more than 400 third-grade students in Springfield Public Schools to learn more about local and state history. Missouri Humanities awarded $10,000 for the History Museum on the Square's Meet Missouri program. The funds will allow local students to participate in curated field trip experiences.

MONTANA Stillwater County: Sibanye Stillwater mine announced it would be laying off 680 employees starting Nov. 12, KPAX reported.

NEBRASKA Lincoln: Nebraska State Patrol broke ground last week on an expansion for the NSP Crime Laboratory in Air Park, KOLN reported.

NEVADA Esmeralda County: President Joe Biden's administration on Thursday published an environmental report for Ioneer's Rhyolite Ridge lithium mine in Nevada, the last step needed before the mine can be approved. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management also published an opinion on how a rare flower at the mine site can best be protected.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Hillsboro: Firefighters rescued an 11-year-old boy who was trapped between boulders for more than nine hours, according to officials. The Hillsboro Fire Department and EMS responded to Camp Wediko last week, where they discovered the child "lodged between the crevasse in a large boulder," according to a news release.

NEW JERSEY Atlantic City: The mayor of Atlantic City and his wife, the city's school superintendent, have been indicted on charges related to allegations of mistreatment and abuse of their teenage daughter, prosecutors announced last week.

NEW MEXICO Las Cruces: The trial of three former New Mexico State University men's basketball players who stand accused of sexually assaulting teammates was moved back to early 2025. The men pleaded not guilty to multiple felony sexual assault charges filed by the New Mexico Attorney General in 2023.

NEW YORK Binghamton: Mayor Jared Kraham delivered his 2025 Budget Address at city hall, totaling $108 million in spending. Kraham spoke about public safety, city-wide infrastructure and improvements to community spaces.

NORTH CAROLINA Brunswick County: An 80-year-old man died trying to drive through a flooded road last week as the state dealt with a historic rainfall event, according to highway officials. The North Carolina State Highway Patrol received a call about a submerged vehicle after Richard Walton Robinson drove around stationary Brunswick County Sheriff's Office vehicles and into high water.

NORTH DAKOTA Fargo: After eight months and a $75,000 donation, North Dakota State has opened its first museum, KFYR reported

OHIO Newark: Residents packed City Council chambers to speak out about a proposed ordinance that would make it a crime to camp on public property. Speakers on both sides of the issue were present.

OKLAHOMA Norman: A "home away from home" for Jewish students at the University of Oklahoma was demolished earlier this year, but a new "safe space" will soon take its place. Members of the Jewish community recently gathered to break ground on a new $5.4 million Hillel Center to be built at the same site on the OU campus in Norman.

OREGON Salem: Police made another arrest as part of an ongoing investigation into an organized mail theft ring. Officers with the Criminal Investigations Section arrested Ashley Wood, 31, last week while executing a warrant at her apartment in West Salem, according to a news release. Wood marks the fifth person arrested in Salem this year for mail theft.

PENNSYLVANIA Philadelphia: A man pleaded guilty to falsely claiming that a man he disagreed with in a fantasy football league chat was planning a mass shooting in Norway, a hoax that Norwegian and U.S. authorities spent hundreds of hours investigating, federal prosecutors said Wednesday.

RHODE ISLAND Pawtucket: Hasbro won't move its headquarters out of Pawtucket for at least the next year and a half, its CEO told employees. CEO Chris Cocks wrote in the email that the Pawtucket building is "showing its age." Hasbro is considering a move to a "more suitable HQ, including in the Greater Boston area," Cocks wrote in the email.

SOUTH CAROLINA Asheville: The 18-month restoration project at the historic McCormick Field began with the leveling of the iconic arch entryway of the ballpark. McCormick Field, built in 1924, is receiving a facelift and upgrade. The $38.5 million project began at the close of the Asheville Tourists baseball season.

SOUTH DAKOTA Beadle County: A construction zone worker died last week from injuries sustained in a two-vehicle crash two miles east of Wessington in Beadle County, according to a release. The 44-year-old female construction zone flagger suffered fatal injuries; the two drivers sustained minor injuries and were transported to a nearby hospital.

TENNESSEE Knoxville: The highest peak in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is dropping the name of a Confederate general in favor of its Cherokee name "Kuwohi." The U.S. Board of Geographic Names last week approved a formal request by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

TEXAS Houston: Three people have been taken into custody after an officer was shot during a home invasion in Houston last week. Authorities with the Houston Police Department said Raymond Perez, 35, was the shooter and has been charged with aggravated assault against a public servant, aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon and unlawful carrying of a weapon. The officer who was shot should fully recover.

UTAH West Valley City: City Council passed a resolution last week to re-zone the Redwood Drive-In for housing, KUTV reported.

VERMONT Burlington: An excessive force lawsuit against the Burlington Police Department has been settled five years after it was initially filed. The city agreed to pay Mabior Jok $215,000 to settle the suit that accused Officer Joseph Corrow of grabbing Jok and slamming him to the ground, knocking him unconscious in the early hours of Sept. 8, 2018.

VIRGINIA Petersburg: Plans to divert truck traffic to the city's wastewater treatment plant away from a Pocahontas Island neighborhood are being realized. City Council voted unanimously to accept a proposal from the South Central Wastewater Authority to extend a street through the dormant Roper Brothers Lumber site and wrap around to the plant. The bypass will be financed by the authority.

WASHINGTON Snohomish: Loved ones are mourning the loss of a couple and their unborn baby following the apparent drowning of a pregnant Washington state woman and her husband in Hawaii.

WEST VIRGINIA Richwood: The Nicholas County Commission declared a state of emergency last week for water conservation and drought conditions, WSAZ reported.

WISCONSIN Chippewa Falls: More than two dozen people were hurt after a wagon rolled over during a school field trip at an apple orchard, officials said. The incident at Bushel and a Peck Orchard involved students and adults from St. Mark Lutheran School in Eau Claire.

WYOMING Cheyenne: Botanic Gardens visitors can see eight La Catrina sculptures representing Dia de los Muertos through Nov. 16, Wyoming News Now reported.

From USA TODAY Network and wire reports

SEC has five of the top six teams in US LBM Coaches Poll

Georgia remains at No. 1, followed by Texas, Ohio State, Alabama, Ole Miss, Tennessee, **8C**

Latest news, results, opinions 24/7 at sports.usatoday.com

Check out who won and who lost games Sunday in the NFL, plus previews of two MNF games

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Aces center A'ja Wilson, being guarded by Diana Taurasi, led the WNBA with a 26.87-point average. After being named the outstanding player at the Olympics, Wilson was named the WNBA MVP on Sunday. MICHAEL CHOW/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

A'ja Wilson no-doubt 3-time WNBA MVP

Lindsay Schnell
USA TODAY

In 28 years of the WNBA, no player had led the league in points, rebounds and blocks in the same season.

A'ja Wilson changed that in 2024, as the Las Vegas Aces forward totaled a league-best 1,021 points, 451 rebounds and 98 blocks in a sensational display of dominance all season that has led to the 28-year-old winning her third MVP Award – this time unanimously – as announced by the league Sunday.

Wilson received all 67 first-place votes. Napheesa Collier of the Minnesota Lynx got 66 of the 67 second-place votes. They were followed by Breanna Stewart (295 points), Caitlin Clark (130 points) and Alyssa Thomas (83 points).

Before Wilson, only one other MVP in league history had earned every top vote: In 1997 Cynthia Cooper was the No. 1 selection on 37 ballots.

The award is the latest addition to a sparkling resume for Wilson, who led the American women to an unprecedented eighth consecutive Olympic gold medal in basketball in August at the Paris Summer Games. Widely considered

MVP voting

Player, team	Points
A'ja Wilson, Las Vegas	670
Napheese Collier, Minnesota	467
Breanna Stewart, New York	295
Caitlin Clark, Indiana	130
Alyssa Thomas, Connecticut	83

the best player in the world at both ends of the floor, Wilson was named MVP of the Paris Olympic tournament, too.

Only three other players in WNBA history – Sheryl Swoopes, Lauren Jackson and Lisa Leslie – have won three MVP awards.

On Sept. 15, Wilson became the first player in WNBA history to score a thousand points in a season.

Earlier this year, she set a record when she became the first player to score at least 20 points and grab at least 10 rebounds in eight consecutive games.

Despite playing a career-high 34.4 minutes per game this season, Wilson is having a career year, turning

in highs in points per game (26.9), rebounds per game (9.8) and steals per game (1.8). She finished the regular season with the highest scoring average in league history at 26.87, easily surpassing the record of 25.29 set by Diana Taurasi in 2006.

Wilson is the defending defensive player of the year – an award she's expected to contend for this season, too – and finished third in MVP voting last year. She was MVP in 2020 and 2022 and led the Aces to back-to-back WNBA titles the last two seasons.

The Aces entered the 2024 playoffs Sunday as the No. 4 seed against the fifth-seeded Seattle Storm. Las Vegas is trying to become the first team since the Houston Comets to win three consecutive titles (Houston won four championships from 1997 to 2000).

This marks the first time since 2015 that the league MVP did not come from a top-three team. That year, Elena Delle Donne took home MVP honors despite the Washington Mystics finishing fourth in the Eastern Conference. Delle Donne averaged 23.4 points, 8.4 rebounds and 2.0 blocks that season.

WEEK 4 WINNERS, LOSERS

Trojans fumble away Big Ten start

Michigan pounds ball to defeat USC

Paul Myerberg
USA TODAY

It seemed for most of the second half in the Big House that Southern Cal was ready for life in the Big Ten.

That may still be the case: Down 14-3 at the break and with nothing working offensively, the Trojans flipped the script in the second half Saturday against Michigan and were a late defensive stand away from kicking off life in the new conference on a very high note.

But the Wolverines scored on a 1-yard run by Kalel Mullings with 36 seconds left and pulled out a 27-24 victory that keeps the defending national champions in the College Football Playoff mix and leaves USC and coach Lincoln Riley frustrated over a win that got away.

There are things to like about the Trojans' Big Ten debut. For one, the shift in physicality and production on both lines in the second half suggests USC is ready for the style of play in this conference.

Meanwhile, the Trojans were able to augment this running attack with a solid game from quarterback Miller Moss, who was pressured and under duress from the Wolverines' pass rush but finished with 283 passing yards and three touchdowns. On the other side of the field, Michigan got nothing from quarterback Alex Orji. Making his starting debut, he had 32 passing yards and 43 yards on the ground.

After reeling in new defensive coordinator D'Anton Lynn from rival UCLA this winter, the Trojans are also seeing

Michigan lineman Kenneth Grant (78) tackles Southern Cal running back Woody Marks, who had 13 carries for 100 yards but did not score a TD.
JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

NIGHTENGALE'S NOTEBOOK

Home-field advantage in MLB playoffs bit overrated

Bob Nightengale
Columnist
USA TODAY

PHOENIX – You're the Arizona Diamondbacks, the defending National League champions, and you've got a huge decision looming on your hands.

You're facing the San Diego Padres the final weekend of the regular season at Chase Field in Phoenix. If you win the three-game series, you'll likely open the postseason at home against these Padres. Lose the series, and you'll likely open in San Diego.

So, just how do you play it?

Do you go all-in and use top starters in Zac Gallen or Merrill Kelly, or do you make sure they're fresh for the playoffs?

Do you exercise caution or are you aggressive with the bullpen?

Just how important is it to win the series and secure home-field advantage in the best-of-three wild-card round?

The New York Yankees will face a

The Rangers went 11-0 on the road in the 2023 playoffs, including three games at Chase Field in Phoenix to win the World Series. ROB SCHUMACHER/USA TODAY NETWORK

similar dilemma. How hard will they go this week against Baltimore and Pittsburgh to ensure they have home-field advantage throughout the American League playoffs, if not the World Series?

If you're the Los Angeles Dodgers with a depleted starting rotation, how important is it to keep the foot on the gas to make sure you have a better record than the Philadelphia Phillies in case they meet in the NL championship series?

Well, if these teams step inside their analytics room, they may discover they're wasting their time and energy if they really believe home-field advan-

tage is worth fighting for, except for providing a few extra bucks in their owners' pockets.

"If there's anybody to tell you that home-field advantage is overrated," three-time Cy Young winner Max Scherzer of the Texas Rangers tells USA TODAY Sports, "I'm your guy. Really, it's almost the opposite."

Trust him.

Scherzer was on the 2019 Washington Nationals team that lost every home game during the World Series and still won it all by winning four games against the Astros in Houston.

Scherzer was also on the Texas team that lost all three games at home during the ALCS last year but won four games in Houston to reach the World Series, with the Rangers winning their first championship by going a record 11-0 on the road.

"Baseball is a team sport, but there's a very individual component to it," Scherzer says. "You're not relying on necessary communication like other sports where crowd noise affects that.

Nightengale

The field conditions are the same, too. Because of that, baseball is played the same way, whether you're home or road.

"So, this home-field advantage hasn't made a bit of a difference in my experience."

Go ahead, take a good hard look at the numbers.

The home team in last year's postseason went 15-26 (.366), the worst in 53 years, dating to 1970 when there were four teams in a postseason (4-7, .364).

In the last five full years, excluding the 2020 postseason when games were played at neutral sites, more series were won on the road (27) than at home (22).

Even when the pressure is the greatest, and the stakes are the highest, home teams were 6-10 in winner-take-all games since 2018.

"I can't explain it," says Rangers manager Bruce Bochy, who has won four World Series titles in his career, never clinching at home. "We didn't just lose, we got pummeled at home last year against the Astros. We go to their place and play lights out. I looked back and tried to make sense of it, but I couldn't. Last year wasn't an advantage for any team."

Times are different now, negating home-field advantage in the postseason. It's not like the days of the 1987 and 1991 World Series when the Minnesota Twins won every home game at the old Metrodome and lost every road game, leaving opposing managers like Whitey Herzog of the St. Louis Cardinals convinced the Twins were cheating by adjusting their air conditioning system.

It's not like the days in Detroit when the infield grass was so thick that it slowed the ball down. Or the days of the cold, dark visiting clubhouse in Arlington, Texas, where you struggled trying to stay warm inside and then felt like it was 140 degrees when you stepped outside. Or the chilly nights at old Candlestick Park in San Francisco where the Giants had portable space heaters for their dugout and the visiting team had to fend for itself.

Life on the road is so comfortable nowadays that it can feel like a spa day.

"The one thing about being on the road is that it's just you," Bochy says.

Braves pitcher Chris Sale not only leads MLB in wins, ERA and strikeouts, but he hasn't permitted more than two earned runs in any his past 18 starts, dating to June 7.
JORDAN GODFREE/IMAGN IMAGES

"There's less distractions. You're all in the same hotel together. You're hunkering down as a group. So maybe that does play a role.

"When you're at home, you're going your own way, and nobody sees each other until you get to the park."

The Diamondbacks, who have won more games on the road (44-35) than at home (42-33) this season, insist that winning home-field advantage is important to them. They even have a glossy postseason road resume, starting every playoff series on the road last year and going 7-3 in Milwaukee, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Texas.

Still, they're not changing their minds.

"You want home-field advantage," Diamondbacks first baseman Christian Walker says. "It's not about scaring the visiting team or anything like that, it just makes you feel more comfortable. When we walked into Philly last year, we weren't nervous or intimidated at all, but when we came home and had 48,000 people cheering for us, it gives you a little energy.

"But really, just get in, and it really doesn't matter where you play.

"I think history has proven that."

Again and again.

"I know it's nice being at home," Scherzer says, "but speaking from personal experience, the road can be a beautiful place."

Around the bases

● MLB and the Oakland Athletics are beefing up stadium security for the final game at Oakland Coliseum on Thursday with players and staff instructed not to loiter on the field after the game in case of fan violence. Manager Mark Kotsay, who had planned to thank the crowd after the game, was advised to instead retreat to the clubhouse, according to one of his peers.

● If the Giants dismiss Farhan Zaidi, president of baseball operations, at the season's conclusion, look for them to reach out to former Miami Marlins GM Kim Ng and Twins GM Thad Levine as potential replacements. The Giants have missed the postseason in all but two years since winning the 2014 World Series.

● Billy Eppler, the former New York Mets GM who was suspended from MLB for fabricating injuries to place players on the injured list to open roster spots, will officially be reinstated after the World Series.

Eppler, who was GM of the Los Angeles Angels when they landed Shohei Ohtani and has strong ties in Japan, could be a shrewd hire for a team making a run at Roki Sasaki, Japan's most talented pitcher who has teams drooling.

"He is a healthy Jacob deGrom," one executive said, "only better. He might have the best stuff I've ever seen."

It remains unknown whether Sasaki will leave Japan this winter or wait one more year. debate sure ended quickly. Ohtani will run away and perhaps win his third *unanimous* MVP award.

● Twins outfielder Manny Margot quietly broke an MLB record. He is now 0-for-30 as a pinch hitter this season.

● How great is the Cleveland Guardians bullpen with sensational closer Emanuel Clase? They have lost only two games when leading after six innings and will be a serious threat in the AL playoffs.

● Just how great of a season is Chris Sale having for Atlanta en route to his unanimous NL Cy Young Award? He not only leads MLB in wins, ERA and strikeouts, but he hasn't permitted more than two earned runs in any his past 18 starts,

dating to June 7. It's the longest single-season stretch by a full-time starter since earned runs became an official statistic in 1913.

● This could be the second time in the past 25 years that only two AL teams finish with 90 or more victories. The AL has had three or more teams win at least 90 games every year since 1998 with the exception of 2015 when the Kansas City Royals won 95 games (and the World Series) and the Toronto Blue Jays won 93.

● It seems almost mathematically impossible, but Red Sox outfielder Tyler O'Neill somehow leads the team with 31 home runs but has only 61 RBIs. He will join Felix Mantilla in 1964 (30 homers, 64 RBIs) as the only Red Sox players to hit 30 or more homers and drive in fewer than 80 runs. O'Neill has hit 20 solo homers this year.

● f the Seattle Mariners are sitting home this winter, they can blame two of the strangest base-running blunders you'll ever see on their downfall.

Mariners outfielder Victor Robles actually tried to steal home on a 3-0 count with the bases loaded on a pitcher in the first inning and was easily thrown out against the Yankees.

And Mariners outfielder Julio Rodriguez tried to top the boneheaded move one night later by getting picked off third base with one out in the 10th inning. He was scrambling out of the way when Randy Arozarena's bat slipped out of his hand toward him but forgot the play was still live and was easily thrown out.

"That's one I've never seen," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said, "and I don't know if I'll ever see it again."

The two blunders will live forever in Mariners' lore, failing to make the postseason for the 22nd time in 23 years.

● The Padres are so much more of a complete team than they were a year ago with their abundance of stars.

When they were down in games last year, their team seemed to quit. When they are down this year, they fight back:

They are 10-1 in extra-inning games, compared to 2-12 of a year ago.

They are 31-22 in games in they've lost a lead, compared to 8-33 a year ago.

They are 22-18 in one-run games compared to 9-23 a year ago.

"It's just a hungry group that loves to play baseball," Padres manager Mike Shildt says, "and loves to compete."

Week 4

the sort of improved results that could keep this team in the mix for an at-large playoff bid.

But there are also plenty of unresolved question marks. The first is the Trojans' ability to protect the quarterback, very much in doubt after Saturday. Another is whether USC can afford to stumble out of the gate, as on Saturday, and rally back against a team such as Penn State; the Nittany Lions go to the Coliseum on Oct. 12. While the Trojans kept the Michigan run game in check for long stretches, the defense allowed three big plays, including a 63-yard run to Kalel Mullings on the game-winning drive. The Wolverines finished with 290 yards rushing.

And there's some question about what it means to lose to Michigan. The Wolverines are inept offensively and clearly not built to contend for another national title. But when it counted, they had enough to hand USC a painful setback as new members of the Big Ten.

The Trojans, Michigan and Utah lead college football's winners and losers from Week 4:

Winners

Tennessee

Get your tickets now, because seats on the Tennessee bandwagon are going fast. The Volunteers showed why they are one of the best teams in the country and a real national championship contender by pushing around Oklahoma in a 25-15 road win. Offensively, young quarterback Nico Iamaleava wasn't perfect and UT played more conservatively than usual, though the running game was able to set an early tone and put the Sooners on their heels. The bigger story is on defense. The Volunteers have given up just two touchdowns in four games and limited OU to 222 yards of offense and 1.1 yards per carry. On both sides of the ball, Tennessee looks like a very elite team.

Utah

Utah's 22-19 win at Oklahoma State puts the Utes ahead of Iowa State, Kansas State and underrated Central Florida as the team to beat in the Big 12.

That's in big part because the Utes

Utah's Micah Bernard slips past the tackle of the Oklahoma State defense on his way to 182 yards rushing Saturday. SARAH PHIPPS/THE OKLAHOMAN

did so without quarterback Cam Rising in the lineup, meaning there might be another gear they've yet to tap into through four games. With the senior again sidelined – injuries are a constant concern for Rising, who's excellent when healthy – coach Kyle Whittingham turned to backup Isaac Wilson, who tossed a pair of interceptions but was bailed out by running back Micah Bernard's 182 yards on 25 carries. So the big story was the play on defense: Utah chewed through two OSU quarterbacks, gave up just 38 rushing yards and showed why it's more than ready to make a playoff push.

Clemson

After scoring 56 points in the first half of a 66-20 win against Appalachian State two weeks ago, Clemson dropped 45 first-half points against North Carolina State and sailed to a 59-35 win against a would-be ACC contender. (It turns out the Wolfpack are very much not that.) This explosiveness comes after a 34-3 loss to Georgia in the season opener raised an additional round of questions about the Tigers' underachieving offense. While the Mountaineers and Wolfpack are not exactly elite competition, this quick turnaround strongly suggests Clemson is a legitimate ACC player and a contender for the College Football Playoff, whether as the conference winner or via an at-large bid. Quarterback Cade Klubnik had 209 yards and four total touchdowns against North Carolina State and has a combined 11 touchdowns across these past two games.

Indiana

The strength of schedule isn't impressive: Florida International, Western Illinois, UCLA and Charlotte. The final scores are, though: 31-7, 77-3, 42-13 and 52-14, respectively. With transfer quarterback Kurtis Rourke at the controls, the Indiana offense looks like one of the best in recent program history while new coach Curt Cignetti looks like one of the more inspired hires of this past off-season. After Saturday's rout over Charlotte, the Hoosiers are unbeaten through four games for the first time since the 2020 season – Indiana's only ranked finish since 1989 – while Cignetti is the first new coach in program history to start his tenure 4-0.

Florida State

FSU finally got into the win column on its fourth try by topping California 14-9. Wins are good – better than losses – and maybe no team needed one more than the Seminoles, previously seen cratering to the most disappointing start in program history. Not that this is the sort of victory that does much to increase optimism: Cal is pretty good but nowhere near great, and the Seminoles were outgained by more than 100 yards while quarterback DJ Uiagalelei continued to struggle. In the end, the win came down to two missed field goal attempts by the Golden Bears, both inside 40 yards.

Losers

Memphis

One week after beating Florida State in Tallahassee to rise to the top of the ladder in the Group of Five, Memphis tossed away all that goodwill and momentum with a 56-44 loss at Navy. In hindsight, maybe going from the highs of one of the biggest regular-season wins in program history to a road trip against an option team was a recipe for disaster. Riding this powerful running game, the Midshipmen finished with 361 yards on 39 carries, including a 90-yard score by quarterback Blake Horvath in the fourth quarter. Defensively, Navy gave up 659 yards but came up with a few key stops while the Tigers held possession for nearly 36 minutes. While still very much in the mix for the playoff, the loss could force Memphis to run the table from here to fend off other contenders from the Group of Five, in-

cluding UNLV and James Madison.

North Carolina

How do you, as North Carolina, give up 70 points at home to aforementioned James Madison? Start with five turnovers, the program's most in a game since Sept. 27, 2018. Because those giveaways help set JMU up with two possessions beginning inside the Tar Heels' 35-yard line, both of which ended with touchdowns. Also, give up one score on a blocked punt and another on a pick-six. But that doesn't quite explain just how horrendously bad UNC was defensively. The Tar Heels allowed 611 yards of offense on 8.4 yards per play as the Dukes landed a big-time, marquee win for new coach Bob Chesney and took a big leap into the playoff mix.

Mississippi State

It doesn't get much more damning than this: Mississippi State is worse than Florida. How much worse? Try 17 points worse, and at home, no less. Behind 201 passing yards and three scores from Graham Mertz, the 45-28 win gives the Gators and coach Billy Napier a boost amid another slow start, slightly raising the odds of six wins and a bowl berth. (The odds are still pretty low.) On the flip side, losing in the friendly confines to a team and program clearly on life support sets off some alarm bells about the state of the Bulldogs under new coach Jeff Lebby, who won his debut against Eastern Kentucky but has since lost at Arizona State, been embarrassed at home against Toledo and been blown away by the Gators.

Kansas

One of the drawbacks of actually being a successful football program – something Kansas definitely was not for a very long time are the expectations that come with competency. After back-to-back bowl berths and a nine-win season in 2023, the Jayhawks are one of the biggest disappointments in the Power Four after giving up a late score to lose 32-28 to West Virginia and fall to 1-3. What makes it worse, somehow, is that each loss has been extremely avoidable – they led in the fourth quarter of all three games. Against the Mountaineers, KU was ahead 28-17 after scoring with 5:39 left but then gave up a pair of scoring drives down the stretch to drop this Big 12 opener and put its bowl hopes in some jeopardy.

MISERY INDEX

Mack Brown faces uncertain future

Second UNC stint is far from great

Dan Wolken
Columnist
USA TODAY

We live in a society that struggles with the concept of age. People are living longer, working longer and becoming more resistant to the idea that they're supposed to fade into the background and pass the torch to a new generation.

In some ways, it's aspirational. We all want to be vibrant and productive in our 70s and 80s. At the same time, hanging on to power looks selfish and delusional when the results are no longer there.

North Carolina coach Mack Brown, now 73 years old, has had an incredible life in college football. It began as a head coach in 1983 when Appalachian State put him charge at age 32. It brought him to Tulane, then North Carolina, then Texas where he won a national championship and had a decade-long run of success few have ever matched.

Brown eventually went to the television booth when his run at Texas went south, but he always wanted one more shot on the sideline. North Carolina and athletic director Bubba Cunningham gave it to him in 2019, when Brown vowed that his goal was to win a national title at a place that meant so much in his life and career.

It seemed really romantic back then. Now, it seems ridiculous.

Brown isn't going to win another national title. Will he even make it through this season?

After North Carolina's embarrassing 70-50 loss to James Madison on Saturday, Inside Carolina reported that Brown's emotional speech in the locker room suggested he was going to walk away. But after cooling off, Brown told ESPN he would be back at work on Sunday.

This isn't sustainable.

Here are the facts. In his second stint at North Carolina, Brown's record is 41-28. In his first four years, the Tar Heels have been ranked at the end of the season just once: No. 17 in the final poll of 2020. That's particularly disappointing when he's had elite-level quarterbacks like Sam Howell and Drake Maye on his roster until this year. The loss to James Madison underscores the problems Brown has had with his defensive coordinators, from Jay Bateman to Gene Chizik and now Geoff Collins, the former Georgia Tech head coach.

Has it been a disaster in the big picture? No, not at North Carolina, which has always been one of college football's biggest underachievers.

But has Mack's second stint in Chapel Hill been a success? It would be disingenuous to say yes.

At an age when all of his contemporaries have left the stage, does it make sense for Brown to be hanging on? Not if the goal is for North Carolina to have a football program that contends for ACC and national titles.

It's sad and uncomfortable and uncouth to talk about so bluntly, but even a beloved Hall of Famer like Brown reaches a point where it no longer makes sense to run a college football program that is trying to win at the highest level.

Losing in such awful fashion to James Madison will supercharge that conversation. And that's why North Carolina is No. 1 in the Misery Index, a weekly measurement of which fan bases are feeling the most angst.

Four more in misery

TCU: Since appearing in the College Football Playoff national championship game – and yes, said appearing rather than playing because the Horned Frogs didn't play much football that night against Georgia – TCU has lost nine of its past 16 games. And the frustration of that predicament manifested Saturday when Sonny Dykes lost his cool on multiple occasions and was ejected early in the second half of a 66-42 loss to SMU.

When's the last time you saw a college football coach get thrown out of a game for two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties?

Then again, when is the last time you saw a program get close to the pinnacle of the sport and then completely retreat to a level of mediocrity that looks far more permanent than the success they experienced two years ago? Let's face facts. TCU's 2022 season was a fluke.
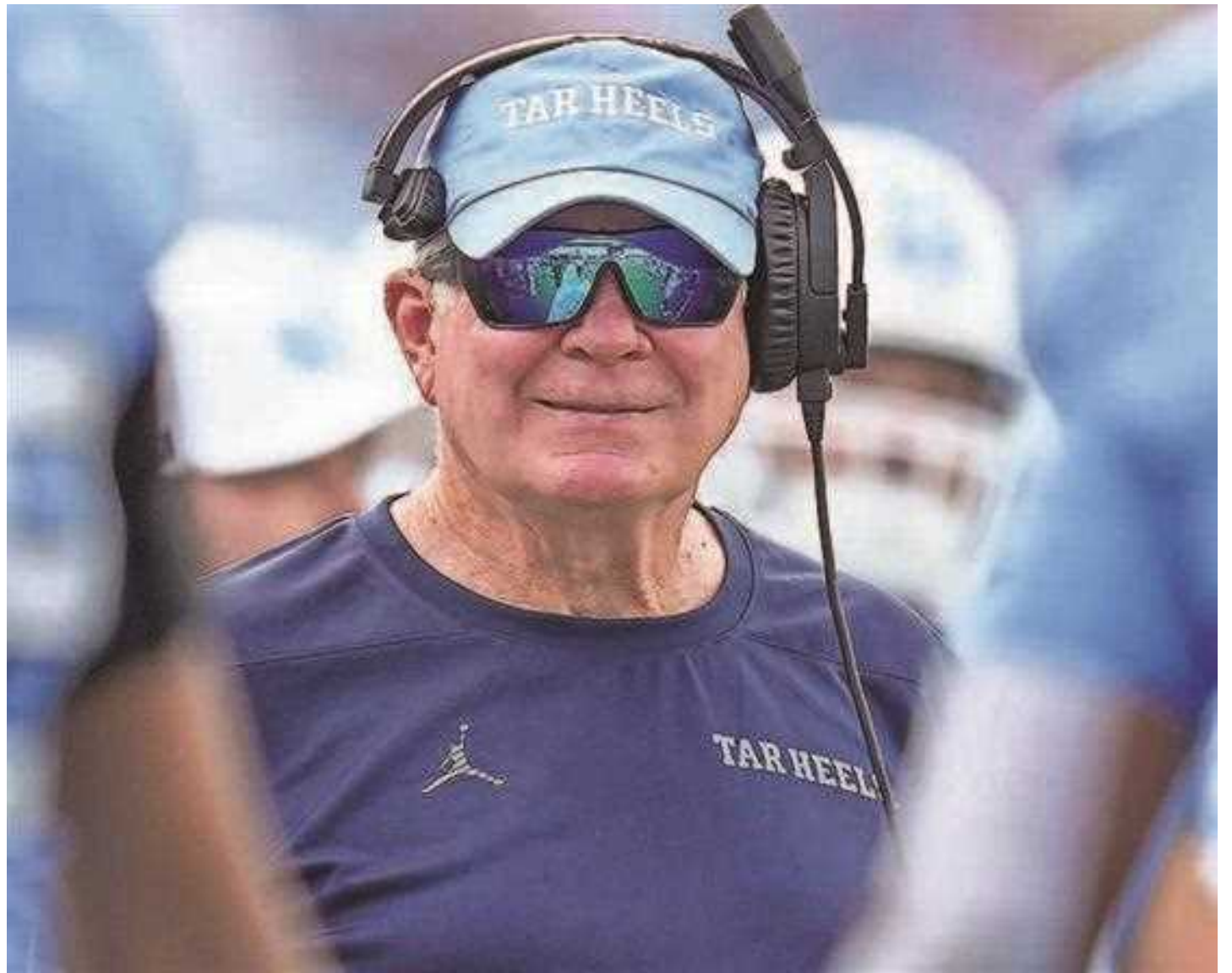
North Carolina head coach Mack Brown was critical of the play of the Tar Heels in the 70-50 loss Saturday to James Madison in Chapel Hill. GRANT HALVERSON/GETTY IMAGES

Oklahoma quarterback Jackson Arnold had a tough going Saturday against Tennessee and was replaced in the second half. BRYAN TERRY/THE OKLAHOMAN

Maybe one of the biggest flukes in the history of college football. And now, TCU isn't even the best program in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, much less the state of Texas, much less the Central time zone, much less the Big 12, much less the country.

Virginia Tech: In mid-October last season, the Hokies were 2-4 and going nowhere. Brent Pry, the second-year head coach, was trending toward the hot seat. Whit Babcock, the longtime athletic director, was facing criticism for a second consecutive disappointing football hire.

But then the Virginia Tech turned it around, winning five of its last seven games to get to 7-6. Hokie Nation suddenly felt great. With more returning starters than anyone in the ACC, expectations soared. Pry was the toast of the town. The Hokies were back!

Of course, that was before any games were played. And now that we're a month into the season, we can say definitively that the Hokies are not back. If anything, they're back to irrelevance. They stink.

Virginia Tech's 26-23 loss at home to Rutgers leaves them 2-2 (they lost a season opener to Vanderbilt), and now we have to reexamine last year's run to a winning record. The Hokies' finish included wins over Wake Forest, Syracuse, Boston College, Virginia and Tulane. Not exactly Murderers' Row. Maybe this year's schedule will turn out to be just as weak, but nobody is going to be fooled. The Hokies have major problems.

Auburn: The reason you want Hugh Freeze to coach your program is to score points. That's why you overlook the NCAA violations at Ole Miss, the inappropriate phone calls that got him fired and the general sense of phoniness that has made him college football's version of Jimmy Swaggart over the last decade.

It's not a bad trade-off, in theory. If you believe the entire sport is a cesspool, then Freeze is worth the bad publicity – as long as he's winning.

But in two years at Auburn, the cost-benefit analysis on Freeze has hit a snag. His team doesn't win. It doesn't score points. It isn't entertaining to anyone, unless punting and committing an unusual number of turnovers (14 through four games) is your idea of a good time.

Auburn's 24-14 loss to Arkansas, dropping the Tigers to 2-2, should absolutely put Freeze on a short leash. If you're going to be an offensive guru, you have to do better than 14 points, which is what Auburn managed against the only power conference teams on its schedule thus far in California and Arkansas.

Freeze version 2.0 just isn't working in the SEC. And if you want to blame the quarterback position – neither Payton Thorne nor Hank Brown has looked the part – then you have to blame Freeze too. He's had two years to improve that position, and so far there's zero promise of a better future.

Oklahoma: Jackson Arnold was one of the best quarterback recruits in the country, and it was a massive coup in January of 2022 when Brent Venables got the Denton, Texas, native to commit to the Sooners. But recruiting rankings don't mean guaranteed success at the college level, and the Sooners are going through major growing pains with Arnold.

While the narrative of Tennessee's 25-15 win in Norman will focus a lot on Vols coach Josh Heupel, who won a national title as Oklahoma's quarterback in 2000 and was Bob Stoops' offense coordinator for four years before getting fired, the actual story here is Arnold.

He completed just 7 of 16 passes for 54 yards, threw an interception and fumbled in the first half when the Sooners were within sniffing distance of the end zone. He got pulled for Michael Hawkins, who wasn't amazing but looked steadier and more confident in the second half. If Oklahoma had gotten decent quarterback play for 60 minutes,

it might have had a chance to upset the Vols. Instead, the Sooners look a step or two below where they need to be in the SEC. The quarterback situation is going to be a key point of contention for Oklahoma in the second half of the season as it evaluates what's necessary to compete at this level.

Miserable but not miserable enough

Nebraska: Stop us if you've heard this before. The Huskers found a way to lose a game they absolutely should have won. It's not as devastating this time because Nebraska is clearly on the right track under Matt Rhule, and quarterback Dylan Raiola is an insanely good freshman who should eventually get the Huskers in the College Football Playoff mix. Still, Nebraska missed a 39-yard field goal attempt with three minutes remaining and then lost 31-24 in overtime to Illinois. That dropped the Huskers to 17-43 in one-score games since the start of the 2015 season.

Vanderbilt: No program in the country is as reliably awful in crunchtime as the Commodores. Year after year, coach after coach, recruiting class after recruiting class, Vanderbilt's ability to lose winnable games is as consistent as the sunrise. The Commodores had their chances to register a huge win at Missouri on Saturday, but kicker Brock Taylor missed a 50-yarder with 3:06 remaining for the lead in regulation and a 31-yarder to extend the game to a third overtime as Vanderbilt lost to Missouri 30-27. And it's not like Taylor is a bad kicker: He made a 57-yarder in the game but just couldn't connect when the pressure was on. This is just what happens at Vanderbilt, where head coach Clark Lea is now 2-23 in the SEC.

Northern Illinois: The Huskies had two weeks to bask in the glory of upsetting Notre Dame on Sept. 7, and they took full advantage of the interview requests and social media cachet that came their way. But the party ended on Saturday when they lost at home to Buffalo 23-20 in two overtimes. Somehow, Northern Illinois' defense only gave up 184 yards but lost when Upton Bellenfant – maybe the best name in all of college football – made a 37-yard field goal in overtime for the Bulls.

Mississippi State: The Bulldogs are headed for their worst season in nearly two decades. Under Sylvester Croom in 2006, Mississippi State finished 3-9 and fired him two years later. That led to a long run of success under Dan Mullen, who raised expectations at one of the most challenging programs in the SEC. Needless to say, Jeff Lebby is going to struggle living up to those expectations. Mississippi State is now 1-3 in Lebby's first season after a 45-28 shellacking by Florida at home, which came just one week after losing by 24 points to Toledo. To be fair to Lebby, most of Mississippi State's team hit the transfer portal after last season when Zach Arnott was fired. But it's now clear this is going to be a really painful and long rebuild.

Colorado celebrates win into rainy night

Brent Schrotenboer
USA TODAY

BOULDER, Colo. – The fans stormed the field before the game was even over.

It was wet. It was wild. And now the Colorado Buffaloes are on the march again after an incredible series of clutch plays at the end of a 38-31 overtime win Saturday at home against Baylor.

Cue the celebration in the locker room under head coach Deion Sanders.

"It was a party, man," Colorado receiver LaJohntay Wester said of the postgame scene. "I loved it, man. ... Ain't nothing like here, man, especially after a win. There's nothing like it."

There was nothing like what happened at the end of the game, either. After falling behind by 14 points earlier in the game, the Buffs stormed back with a Hail Mary pass as time expired in regulation play, followed by a forced fumble in overtime to end the game from two-way superstar Travis Hunter.

"Great, great, great, great, great win," Deion Sanders said afterward.

And yet it all came so close to never happening. Here's how it went down and what it means after Colorado survived – barely – in front of a sold-out homecoming crowd of 52,794 at Folsom Field. The Buffs are now off to a 3-1 start for the second straight year under Sanders while Hunter keeps finding new ways to steal the show.

The final drive in regulation for Colorado

Baylor (2-2) almost put the game away in the fourth quarter with a 45-yard field goal try on its final drive of regulation with 2:16 remaining. If the kick succeeded, the Buffs likely would have lost. But the kick missed wide right, allowing the Buffs to get the ball back with Baylor leading 31-24.

What happened next was a parade of close calls, near misses and "Perfect Timing," which also happens to be the rap song of Colorado quarterback Shedeur Sanders, Deion's youngest son.

"They never gave up," Deion Sanders said. "They never surrendered."

At one point, Shedeur Sanders faced fourth down and 1 at the Baylor 46-yard line – a play that would have ended the game for the Buffs if he didn't convert. Sanders instead got a first down on a 3-yard run to keep Colorado's hopes alive.

Two plays later, Sanders threw a long second-down pass near the end zone to receiver Will Sheppard, a transfer from Vanderbilt. But Sheppard dropped the potential touchdown catch, stopping the clock with two seconds left.

"We should have had that one," Deion Sanders said. "But we caught the one that we needed to catch."

The Hail Mary, nearly 30 years after that other Hail Mary

After the drop by Sheppard, there was time for one more play – a 43-yard Hail Mary pass, nearly 30 years to the day of Colorado's 64-yard Hail Mary to win at Michigan as time expired on Sept. 24, 1994.

"I just trusted God," Shedeur Sanders said. "I just threw it up to God, and God answered the prayer for sure."

Shedeur Sanders rolled left and lofted it to the left corner of the end zone, where Wester turned to catch it in the rain for a 43-yard touchdown catch with no time remaining in the fourth quarter. It helped that Baylor's defense was paying more attention to Hunter, allowing Wester to free himself more easily to reel it in.

"It was a Hail Mary," said Wester, a transfer from Florida Atlantic. "I was one-on-one. I just ran down there. I see him (Shedeur) rolling out, and then I see the ball coming my way. As a receiver, your job is to make the quarterback right whether it's a good ball or bad ball, and I just made a play on the ball."

After the extra-point kick, the game went to overtime tied 31-31.

Overtime and the fumble forced by Travis Hunter

Colorado got the ball first in overtime and drove 25 yards in seven plays, including 8 yards rushing and 12 yards passing from Shedeur Sanders. "Whatever it takes to win," Shedeur said.

Freshman running back Micah Welch rushed up the middle for a 1-yard touchdown to cap the drive, helping put the Buffs up 38-31.

But Baylor still had its chance to respond and even ran four plays to get to the Colorado 2-yard line, including a 13-yard run by quarterback Sawyer Robertson that would have been a touchdown if not for an open-field tackle by Buffs safety Cam'Ron Silmon-Craig.

One play later, the ball went to run-ning back Dominic Richardson, who had a clear path to the end zone except for one player.

Travis Hunter.

Hunter stood his ground at the goal line, forcing Richardson to try to leap past him. The ball then came loose and tumbled into the end zone.

"I knew that was coming at me," Hunter said. "They don't think I can tackle, so I had to show 'em."

Hunter finished with seven catches for 130 yards on offense and three tackles and the clutch forced fumble on defense.

The crazy postgame scene

After the fumble, the game was over. Buffs win.

Or so it seemed.

Colorado fans reacted to the fumble by storming the field in the rain, but game officials still needed to review replays of the play to confirm it. It wasn't quite over yet, in other words, leading to a call for the fans to move back and leave.

"I want to apologize to the opposition, the way we stormed the field," Deion Sanders said.

Sanders said he didn't even get the chance to shake hands afterward with Baylor head coach Dave Aranda.

"I don't like what transpired at the end of the game, but I love what transpired at the end of the game," Deion Sanders said. "We have a fan base that's phenomenal."

After replays confirmed the fumble, the homecoming party kicked into overdrive while the Bears went home wondering what had just happened. Aranda called it a "heart-wrenching loss" and said his team was "gutted."

For his part, Hunter celebrated afterward by rapidly crawling on his hands and knees through the end zone – a personal shout-out to popular online streamer Kai Cenat.

"I had to do it," Hunter said.

The Buffs still kind of got lucky

They gave up two huge touchdown plays in the second quarter, silencing a crowd that had come to make noise. The first was a 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Baylor's Jamaal Bell down the right sideline. The second was a 45-yard fourth-down run from Baylor quarterback Robertson, helping put the Bears up 24-10 with 4:19 left before halftime.

The Buffs also gave up eight quarterback sacks, just a week after only giving up one in a 28-9 win at Colorado State.

Shedeur Sanders called the win "a relief." He completed 25 of 41 passes for 341 yards and two touchdowns, including a 58-yarder to sophomore receiver Omarion Miller in the second quarter to help cut Baylor's lead to 24-17 with 50 seconds left before halftime. Miller almost was tackled near the 35-yard line but kept going to score. But Shedeur found fault with himself and said he missed reads.

"You gotta understand I can't have a game like that again," Shedeur said.

The question now is whether the Buffaloes can sustain their success, unlike last year when they lost seven of their final eight games after starting 3-1. If they had lost a game like that against Baylor, they'd be facing a serious uphill fight to get the minimum six wins required to earn a postseason bowl berth.

Now they've got momentum heading into a cross-country trip to play Saturday at Central Florida (3-0), followed by a weekend off Oct. 5.

"I don't like how it played out, but I loved the results," Deion Sanders said. "I think we're so much better than what we're showing you at times."

Colorado wide receiver and cornerback Travis Hunter (12) is chased by Buffaloes fans after forcing a game-ending fumble by Baylor for the win. Hunter had seven catches for 130 yards on offense.
CHRISTOPHER HANEWINCKEL/IMAGN IMAGES

A speeding penalty on a pit stop Saturday night at Bristol cost Martin Truex Jr. a chance to advance in the Cup Series playoffs. JONATHAN BACHMAN/GETTY IMAGES

2017 champ out of Cup playoffs after speeding

Ellen J. Horrow
USA TODAY

While Kyle Larson was running away with the Bass Pro Shops Bristol Night Race on Saturday night, fascinating battles were taking place farther back in the pack.

Bristol served as the first elimination race of the NASCAR Cup Series playoffs, where 12 drivers would advance to the second round and four would be eliminated from championship contention. While no driver could touch Larson, who led an incredible 462 of the 500 laps en route to his fifth win of the season and the 28th of his career, there was drama brewing all over the Tennessee short track as the 16 playoff drivers fought for positions on the track and points in the standings.

The cutline was where the real action centered, with teams calculating points as the race was being run to keep their drivers in 12th place or better in the playoff standings. The biggest example: A driver running in second in the middle of Stage 3 had to worry about a driver racing in 30th and multiple laps down.

That was the case for Martin Truex Jr., the 2017 Cup Series champion who has announced that this will be his final season of full-time racing.

Truex came into Bristol ranked 15th in the playoff standings, but he qualified fourth on Saturday and was racing in the Top 5 most of the night. He was doing exactly what he needed to squeak into the Round of 12. At the other end of the spectrum was Daniel Suarez, who ranked fifth in the standings after two playoff races but had an extremely slow car all weekend.

And then everything turned on a penalty on lap 332 of 500. Truex came down pit road second and kept his position after getting fuel and changing tires – until NASCAR informed the No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing team that Truex was being penalized for speeding, sending him to the back of the field for the restart. Where moments before a runner-up finish and advancement in the playoffs seemed well within his grasp, Truex now had to figure out a way to drive through the field and, at the same time, worry about a driver racing laps behind him. In the end, Truex could never regain that ground. He finished 24th at Bristol and was one of four drivers to be eliminated from the playoffs along with teammate Ty Gibbs, 2012 series champion Brad Keselowski, and Harrison Burton.

"It's really tough – when it's .09 miles per hour that kind of screws your whole chance at a good season up. It's on me, obviously, it's my mistake," a clearly disappointed Truex said after the race.

"They said we were going to have to run second or third there to have a chance, and I don't know if we could have done it, but it would have been nice to see. We had a really strong car tonight, and we got a lot of stage points, we did what we needed there, just hate that I screwed it up.

"But from here we'll just go on to race hard and hopefully get back to victory lane before it's all said and done."

Suarez was never in contention to win or even race in the Top 10. He qualified 35th of 38 drivers and never could recover. Larson put him a lap down and then another and then another, and it seemed the Trackhouse Racing driver's chance to reach the Round of 12 was rapidly disintegrating. But Suarez had one thing going for him that Truex didn't – strong performances in the first two playoff races, including a runner-up finish in the opener at Atlanta Motor Speedway, which allowed him to build up a lot of points – he had 44 more than Truex – heading into this elimination race. And Suarez needed every one after finishing 31st Saturday night.

"It was a struggle," Suarez admitted after the race. "Since yesterday, when we unloaded the car for first practice, we just didn't have the speed. If you don't have the speed out of the trailer, it's very, very difficult to bring it back to speed.

"Luckily, we had a great Atlanta, a decent Watkins Glen after a broken wheel, and we were able to build a cushion. And we definitely used every single point out of that cushion."

But Truex wasn't the only driver Suarez needed to worry about while he was driving around in the back of the pack. There was also Gibbs, who entered the night 12th in the playoff standings, to contend with. Interestingly, a pit-road speeding penalty possibly doomed Gibbs' night as well, though his penalty occurred much earlier in the race. And while the 21-year-old grandson of team owner Joe Gibbs was able to recover and race his way back into the Top 10 in the third stage, he could never move beyond eighth. He eventually finished 15th in the race and behind Suarez in the standings.

In the end, Bristol provided a huge celebration for Larson and Hendrick Motorsports, a huge sigh of relief for Suarez and Trackhouse Racing and mixed emotions at Joe Gibbs Racing, with two drivers eliminated but two others – Christopher Bell and Denny Hamlin – advancing.

The playoffs now shift to Kansas Speedway, the first of three races in the second round, before the mayhem of Talladega Superspeedway and another elimination race at Charlotte Motor Speedway on the Roval – a part road course, part oval circuit. The playoff drama will surely continue, but it will do so without Truex, and the possibility of a glorious end to a Hall of Fame career.

NASCAR playoff standings entering second round

Rank, driver, points, deficit to leader. Through three races; points were reset after first round.

Rank	Driver	Points
1	Kyle Larson	3,047
2	Christopher Bell	3,032 (-15)
3	Tyler Reddick	3,028 (-19)
4	William Byron	3,022 (-25)
5	Ryan Blaney	3,019 (-28)
6	Denny Hamlin	3,015 (-32)
7	Chase Elliott	3,014 (-33)
8	Joey Logano	3,012 (-35)
9	Austin Cindric	3,008 (-39)
10	Daniel Suarez	3,006 (-41)
11	Alex Bowman	3,005 (-42)
12	Chase Briscoe	3,005 (-42)

NFL SUNDAY ROUNDUP

Vikings rout Texans, now 3-0

Field Level Media | Reuters

Sam Darnold threw four touchdown passes, Aaron Jones accounted for 148 scrimmage yards and a score, and the Minnesota Vikings rolled to a 34-7 win over the Houston Texans on Sunday afternoon in Minneapolis.

Darnold completed 17 of 28 passes for 181 yards for Minnesota (3-0). Jones finished with 19 carries for 102 yards to go along with five catches for 46 yards and a touchdown.

C.J. Stroud hit on 20 of 31 passes for 215 yards, one TD and two interceptions for Houston (2-1). Cam Akers was limited to nine carries for 21 yards as the Texans struggled on the ground without injured starter Joe Mixon.

The game started ugly for Stroud and the Texans and never really improved. Stroud had his second pass intercepted by Vikings linebacker Kamu Grugier-Hill, who returned the pick to Houston's 21-yard line.

Minnesota capitalized less than three minutes later to grab a 7-0 lead. Darnold found Justin Jefferson for a 6-yard touchdown pass.

The Vikings made it 14-0 with 1:08 to go in the first quarter. After a missed field goal attempt by the Texans, Darnold led a six-play, 56-yard drive culminated with an 8-yard TD pass to Jones.

Unbeaten Steelers dominate short-handed Chargers

Justin Fields threw a 55-yard touchdown pass to Calvin Austin III to highlight a dominant second-half performance that lifted the host Pittsburgh Steelers to a 20-10 win over the Los Angeles Chargers in a battle of unbeatens.

The Fields-Austin connection closed the scoring with 7:02 left in the game and added insult to injury for Los Angeles (2-1), which lost quarterback Justin Herbert to an apparent ankle issue and linebacker Joey Bosa to an ailing hip.

Fields finished with 245 yards, the touchdown and an interception on 25-for-32 passing. He also rushed for a score.

Vikings running back Aaron Jones (33) celebrates his touchdown with wide receiver Justin Jefferson (18). BRAD REMPEL/IMAGN IMAGES

Eagles hand Saints first loss

Saquon Barkley rushed for 147 yards and two TDs, including the game-winner from 4 yards out with 1:01 remaining, and the visiting Philadelphia Eagles (2-1) beat the New Orleans Saints 15-12.

Jalen Hurts passed for 311 yards and Dallas Goedert had 10 catches for 170 yards, including a 61-yard reception that set up the winning score.

In addition, the Eagles defense stymied the Saints' high-scoring offense, which had averaged 45.5 points in their first two games. Derek Carr, who entered the game leading the NFL in passer rating (142.4), completed just 14 of 25 for 142 yards for New Orleans (2-1).

Carr, however, drove the Saints 50 yards on nine plays to a go-ahead 13-yard touchdown pass to Chris Olave with barely two minutes to play.

After the Eagles regained the lead, Reed Blankenship intercepted Carr.

Bo Nix sparks Broncos past Bucs

In his first NFL win, Bo Nix completed 25 of 36 passes for 216 yards and rushed for 47 yards and a touchdown, leading the visiting Denver Broncos to a 26-7 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Tyler Badie ran for 70 yards and Courtland Sutton caught seven passes for 68 yards, as the Broncos (1-2) held Tampa Bay scoreless in the second half.

Wil Lutz made all four of his field goal attempts for Denver.

Baker Mayfield completed 25 of 33 passes for 163 yards and threw for a TD and an interception. Bucky Irving led Tampa Bay (2-1) with 70 rushing yards.

Giants avoid 0-3 start

Daniel Jones threw two touchdown passes to Malik Nabers as the New York Giants notched a solid 21-15 victory over the host Cleveland Browns.

Devin Singletary rushed for a TD and Dexter Lawrence had two of the Giants' eight sacks. New York (1-2) held Cleveland to 217 total yards.

Jones was 24 of 34 passing for 236 yards and the two touchdowns to Nabers, who finished with eight receptions for 78 yards.

Deshaun Watson completed 21 of 37 passes for 196 yards and two touchdowns for the Browns (1-2).

Colts slide past Bears for first win of season

Jonathan Taylor ran for 110 yards and two touchdowns, Trey Sermon added a rushing TD and Jaylon Jones snagged two interceptions to boost the host Indianapolis Colts to a 21-16 victory against the Chicago Bears. Indianapolis (1-2) overcame two Anthony Richardson interceptions, succeeding with its ground game while shoring up what had been a suspect run defense. The Colts had 150 rushing yards compared to 63 for the Bears (1-2).

Malik Willis leads Packers

Malik Willis threw for a touchdown and ran for another as the Green Bay Packers (2-1) never trailed in a 30-14 win over the Tennessee Titans (0-3) in Nashville. Playing against the team that traded him last month for a seventh-round draft choice, Willis completed 13 of 19 passes for 202 yards and added 73 yards on the ground in the best game of his three-year NFL career.

'72 perfect Dolphins star Morris dies at 77

Steve Gardner
USA TODAY

Eugene "Mercury" Morris, a fleet-footed running back for eight NFL seasons and a key cog in the undefeated 1972 Miami Dolphins, has died at 77.

Morris teamed with backfield mates Larry Csonka and Jim Kiick as the Dolphins won back-to-back Super Bowls under coach Don Shula in 1972 and 1973.

Selected in the third round of the 1969 NFL draft out of West Texas A&M, Morris began his pro career as a kick returner, leading the NFL in kickoff return yardage as a rookie and taking one back 105 yards for a TD.

He became an effective change-of-pace back, subbing in for the bruising Csonka, earning the first of three consecutive Pro Bowl honors in 1971.

Morris' best season came in Miami's perfect 1972 campaign. He rushed for an even 1,000 yards as he and Csonka became the first teammates in NFL history to run for 1,000 yards in the same season. He also led the league that season with 12 rushing touchdowns as the Dolphins capped a 17-0 season with a 14-7 victory over Washington in Super Bowl 7.

Morris tallied 954 yards on an NFL-best 6.4 yards per carry in 1973 as he was again named a Pro Bowler and the Dolphins won a second consecutive Super Bowl.

He joined the San Diego Chargers for the final season of his career in 1976. He finished with 4,133 rushing yards and 35 TDs – 31 rushing, one receiving and three on kickoff returns.

After retiring, Morris became one of the most prominent members of the undefeated Dolphins in their annual celebrations, coining the term "Perfectville" to describe their unique place in history.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL FOUR DOWNS AND A BRACKET

Michigan embraces its power running game again

Matt Hayes
USA TODAY NETWORK

First Down
Michigan: Welcome back, Bully Ball

Those bruising, battering runs from Kalel Mullings. Pounding and thundering and reverberating.

All the way to Columbus, Ohio.

Michigan found itself again Saturday, a punishing 27-24 rock fight of a welcome to the Big Ten defeat of then-No. 12 Southern Cal.

But look deeper. It wasn't so much an upset win for the suddenly shaky defending national champs as it was recommitting to a powerful run game and sending a message to the Buckeyes.

Because while Michigan has been grinding through the first month of the season with difficult games against Texas and USC, Ohio State has been frolicking through three guarantee games.

But just in case Ohio State – and everyone else in the Big Ten – believed Michigan had lost its way after dominating the conference the past three seasons, the winning drive against Southern Cal ended that narrative.

Eight carries from Mullings on the 10-play winning touchdown drive – 4 yards, 63, 1, 8, 2, 3, 2, 1 – capped an 89-yard drive where Michigan lined up with four minutes remaining and played bully ball. Like it did all game.

The drive ended, on fourth-and-goal from the 1, with Mullings ramming over the left side for the winning points with 29 seconds to play.

How dominating was the drive?

Mullings' 63-yard run, where he dragged USC cornerback John Humphrey for 8 of the yards, was the highlight. But the underlying reality for USC (and, hello, Ohio State): Trojans coach Lincoln Riley started using timeouts after the 63-yard run because he knew his defense couldn't stop the run – and he was desperately trying to preserve time.

Michigan had 290 yards rushing and three touchdowns on 46 carries and more important left no doubt where the rest of the season is headed.

Second down
Tennessee: Big Orange D stops Oklahoma

They lost concentration in the fourth

Michigan running back Kalel Mullings (20) rushes for the game-winning touchdown in the final minute against Southern Cal on Saturday at Michigan Stadium. RICK OSENTOSKI/IMAGN IMAGES

quarter, and the score of a big road win in the SEC doesn't represent the carnage that played out on the field.

But Tennessee, everyone, has an elite defense.

Oklahoma could've played eight quarters and not scored enough points to beat a complete Tennessee team. It's no longer all about Volunteers coach Josh Heupel's Blur Ball offense.

The defense is beginning to look a whole lot like those elite SEC defenses of the College Football Playoff era. A 25-15 win at Oklahoma included two forced fumbles, an interception, a safety and 11 tackles for loss.

How very Georgia of Tennessee.

And that's the point of Saturday night's exercise in Norman, Oklahoma. Tennessee had been defense optional for much of Heupel's first three seasons in Knoxville.

Now this Tennessee team looks a lot like the Oklahoma team he quarterbacked to a national title in 2000. The ability to score big with the backbone of a stout defense.

Just how good was the Tennessee defense? The offense lost fumbles at its 20 and 35, and the game wasn't really close.

Oklahoma rushed for 36 yards on 34 carries and never really made any throws of significance – especially when it mattered. Starting quarterback Jackson Arnold played so poorly, he was benched late in the first half for true freshman Michael Hawkins Jr.

Tennessee has a defensive line that rivals the elite units of the late 1990s under coach Phil Fulmer. They're athletic and active, and they dictate what of-

The College Football Playoff bracket

Four power conference champions ranked 1-4 with first-round bye, highest-ranked Group of Five conference champion, and seven at-large selections.

(1) Texas

(2) Ohio State

(3) Miami

(4) Utah

(12) Boise State at (5) Georgia

(11) Kansas State at (6) Alabama

(10) Missouri at (7) Tennessee

(9) Oregon at (8) Ole Miss

fenses can do.

By the end of the game, Heupel did what he has always done at Oklahoma: 10 wins in 10 games as a player, and now one win in one game as a head coach.

Third Down
Utah's statement

So a big game happened in the Big 12, and Utah officially introduced its new league to what its old league was forced to deal with for years.

A tough, talented team doing whatever it takes to win a game.

Like playing nearly flawless on the road in a difficult environment with a backup quarterback playing for the injured star.

Or the tight end running Wildcat and scoring on a short-yardage touchdown.

Or the defense – the trademark Utah defense – suffocating Oklahoma State in an important conference game that will have lasting impact in the College Football Playoff race.

You want defense?

Utah built a 22-3 lead with six minutes to play, and Oklahoma State had 158 total yards.

Then the Utes dialed down the pressure to avoid giving up a big play and got out of Stillwater with a deceiving 22-19 win.

"Made it a lot more dramatic than we needed to," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said after the game.

But think about this: Utah already has a win against one of the two teams that have the roster to beat the Utes – and won't play the other (Kansas State) unless they play in the Big 12 championship game.

In fact, Utah – which should get star quarterback Cam Rising back this week against Arizona – will be favored in all of its remaining games.

The most difficult tests remaining appear to be a home game against Iowa State (Nov. 23) and a road game against Central Florida (Nov. 29).

Fourth Down
The rise of ... Vanderbilt?

Diego Pavia deserves better. Better than a hooked chip-shot field goal in an overtime loss to Missouri.

Better than the Vanderbilt defense folding with a minute to play in last week's loss to Georgia State, and giving up a 75-yard game-winning touchdown drive in 55 seconds.

Vanderbilt – yes, *Vanderbilt* – should be 4-0, and we should all be celebrating the most impactful transfer quarterback of 2024 instead of lamenting same ol' Vandy.

More impactful than Dillon Gabriel or Will Howard or Riley Leonard – all of whom landed on ready-made championship teams.

Pavia has elevated one of the worst Power Four conference teams into the land of respectability.

But for a missed 31-yard field goal attempt against Missouri, Vanderbilt could have eventually earned another significant upset (Virginia Tech) in the first month of the season behind the quarterback who last went viral for urinating on a rival's practice field.

Pavia led New Mexico State to 10 wins in 2023, including a 21-point win at Auburn.

He arrived at Vanderbilt with former coach Jerry Kill joining Clark Lea's coaching staff and has immediately changed the way the Commodores think about offense.

In four games, Pavia has accounted for 75.2% of Vanderbilt's production, throwing for 543 yards and four touchdowns, and rushing for 279 yards and two more touchdowns. The Commodores get an open week, before getting another upset opportunity.

Against mighty Alabama on Oct. 5.

FOR THE RECORD

All times ET

MLB

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East Division
	W	L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Yankees	91	64	.587	—
Baltimore	86	70	.551	5½
Tampa Bay	78	78	.500	13½
Boston	77	78	.497	14
Toronto	73	83	.468	18½

Central Division
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	90	67	.573	—
Kansas City	82	74	.526	7½
Detroit	82	74	.526	7½
Minnesota	81	74	.523	8
Chicago	36	119	.232	53

West Division
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	85	70	.548	—
Seattle	80	75	.516	5
Texas	73	82	.471	12
Oakland	67	88	.432	18
L.A. Angels	62	93	.400	23

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	92	63	.594	—
N.Y. Mets	86	69	.555	6
Atlanta	85	71	.545	7½
Washington	69	86	.445	23
Miami	57	99	.365	35½

Central Division
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	88	67	.568	—
Chicago	79	76	.510	9
St. Louis	79	77	.506	9½
Cincinnati	76	81	.484	13
Pittsburgh	73	83	.468	15½

West Division
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	92	63	.594	—
San Diego	89	66	.574	3
Arizona	87	68	.561	5
San Francisco	77	79	.494	15½
Colorado	60	95	.387	32

Saturday's Games
Cincinnati 2, Pittsburgh 1
Washington 5, Chicago 1
Detroit 6, Baltimore 4
Minnesota at Boston, PPD Rain
Atlanta 6, Miami 2
Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 2
N.Y. Mets 6, Philadelphia 3
Seattle 8, Texas 4
Houston 10, L.A. Angels 4
St. Louis 6, Cleveland 5
San Diego 6, Chicago 2
N.Y. Yankees 10, Oakland 0
Colorado 6, L.A. Dodgers 3

Sunday's Games
Boston 3, Minnesota 1
Pittsburgh 2, Cincinnati 0
Baltimore at Detroit 3
Atlanta at Miami
Toronto at Tampa Bay
L.A. Angels at Houston
San Francisco 2, Kansas City 0
Arizona at Milwaukee
St. Louis 2, Cleveland 1
Washington at Chicago Cubs
Seattle at Texas
N.Y. Yankees at Oakland
Colorado at L.A. Dodgers
Chicago White Sox at San Diego
Minnesota at Boston
Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets

Monday's Games
Chicago Cubs at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m.
Boston at Toronto, 6:40 p.m.
Seattle at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Cincinnati at Cleveland, 6:40 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Detroit, 6:40 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m.
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.
Kansas City at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Boston at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Chicago White Sox, 7:40 p.m.
Miami at Minnesota, 7:40 p.m.
Seattle at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
St. Louis at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.
Texas at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE
East
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	65	38
N.Y. Jets	2	1	0	.667	67	52
Miami	1	1	0	.500	30	48
New England	1	2	0	.333	39	57

North
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	3	0	0	1.000	51	26
Cleveland	1	2	0	.333	50	67
Baltimore	0	2	0	.000	43	53
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	35	42

South
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	2	1	0	.667	55	74
Indianapolis	1	2	0	.333	58	61
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	30	38
Tennessee	0	3	0	.000	48	78

West
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	2	0	0	1.000	53	45
L.A. Chargers	2	0	0	.667	58	33
Las Vegas	1	1	0	.500	36	45
Denver	1	2	0	.333	52	46

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
East
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	70	63
Washington	1	1	0	.500	41	55
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	52	61
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0	.333	45	64

North
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	3	0	0	1.000	85	30
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	75	58
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	42	40
Chicago	1	2	0	.333	53	57

South
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	2	1	0	.667	103	44
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	64	62
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	32	39
Carolina	0	2	0	.000	13	73

West
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	2	0	0	1.000	49	40
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	69	44
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	49	42
L.A. Rams	0	2	0	.000	30	67

Thursday's Game
N.Y. Jets 24, New England 3

Sunday's Games
N.Y. Giants 21, Cleveland 15
Tampa Bay 3, Denver 26
Minnesota 34, Houston 7
Philadelphia 15, New Orleans 12
Pittsburgh 20, L.A. Chargers 10
Denver 26, Tampa Bay 7
Green Bay 30, Tennessee 14
Carolina at Las Vegas
Miami at Seattle
Detroit at Arizona
Baltimore at Dallas
San Francisco at L.A. Rams
Kansas City at Atlanta

Monday's Games
Jacksonville at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Cincinnati, 8:15 p.m.

SOCCER

English Premier League
	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Man City	5	4	1	0	13	5	13
Liverpool	5	4	0	1	10	1	12
Aston Villa	5	4	0	1	10	7	12
Arsenal	5	3	2	0	8	3	11
Newcastle U	5	3	1	1	7	6	10
Chelsea	5	3	1	1	11	5	10
Nottingham For	5	2	3	0	6	4	9
Brighton & Hove	5	2	3	0	8	6	9
Fulham	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Tottenham	5	2	1	2	9	5	7
Manchester U	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
Brentford	5	2	0	3	7	9	6
AFC Bmemouth	5	1	2	2	5	8	5
West Ham U	5	1	1	3	5	9	4
Ipswich Town	5	0	3	2	3	8	3
Leicester City	5	0	3	2	6	8	3
Crystal Palace	5	0	3	2	4	7	3
Everton	5	0	1	4	5	14	1
Southampton	5	0	1	4	2	9	1
Wolverhampton	5	0	1	4	5	14	1
Note: Three points for win, one point for tie.

Saturday's Games
West Ham United 0, Chelsea 3
Aston Villa 3, Wolverhampton Wanderers 1
Fulham 3, Newcastle United 1
Leicester City 1, Everton 1
Tottenham Hotspur 3, Brentford 1
Liverpool 3, AFC Bournemouth 0
Southampton 1, Ipswich Town 1
Crystal Palace 0, Manchester United 0

Sunday's Games
Nottingham Forest 2, Brighton & Hove Albion 2
Arsenal 2, Manchester City 2

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	19	4	7	64	68	44
Cincinnati	17	8	5	56	52	39
Columbus	16	5	8	56	58	31
NY Red Bulls	10	6	14	44	47	39
Orlando City	12	11	7	43	50	45
Charlotte FC	11	11	8	41	36	33
NY City FC	11	11	8	41	43	43
Toronto FC	11	17	3	36	38	55
CF Montreal	8	12	10	34	41	61
Philadelphia	8	12	9	33	53	47
Atlanta	8	13	9	33	40	44
D.C. United	8	12	9	33	44	57
Nashville	8	13	9	33	31	46
Chicago	7	16	8	29	36	54
New England	8	17	4	28	32	60

WESTERN CONFERENCE
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LA Galaxy	17	7	7	58	68	45
Real Salt Lake	14	7	9	51	60	45
Colorado	15	10	5	50	58	50
Los Angeles FC	14	8	7	49	52	40
Houston	13	8	9	48	43	33
Seattle	13	9	8	47	45	34
Vancouver	13	9	7	46	49	40
Portland	12	10	8	44	63	53
Minnesota	12	12	6	42	50	48
FC Dallas	10	13	7	37	49	49
Austin FC	9	13	8	35	32	42
Sporting KC	8	16	7	31	49	58
Saint Louis	6	11	13	31	43	57
San Jose	5	22	3	18	37	69
Note: Three points for win, one point for tie.

Saturday's Games
NY City FC 1, Inter Miami CF 1
Charlotte FC 4, New England 0
Columbus 4, Orlando City 3
CF Montreal 2, Chicago 0
NY Red Bulls 2, Atlanta 2
FC Dallas 3, Los Angeles FC 1
Nashville 2, Cincinnati 2
Sporting KC 0, Minnesota 2
Austin FC 0, Houston 1
San Jose 1, Saint Louis 2

Sunday's Game
D.C. United at Philadelphia

NWSL
	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Orlando	15	0	6	51	37	12
Washington	14	5	4	46	42	24
Kansas City	12	3	6	42	44	26
NJ/NY Gotham	12	4	4	40	25	16
North Carolina	10	9	3	28	28	23
Chicago	9	10	2	29	27	28
Portland	8	9	3	27	29	28
Louisville	8	6	7	25	26	29
Bay	8	12	1	25	25	33
Angel City	6	11	3	21	23	33
Seattle	5	11	5	20	23	35
San Diego	4	10	7	19	17	26
Houston	4	12	4	16	12	34
Utah	4	13	3	15	14	33
Note: Three points for win, one point for tie.

Saturday's Games
Louisville 2, North Carolina 1
Houston 1, Seattle 0
Chicago 1, San Diego 0

Sunday's Game
Utah at NJ/NY Gotham, 1 p.m.

Monday's Game
Portland at Angel City, 7 p.m.

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
	W	L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Liberty	32	8	.800	—
Connecticut	28	12	.700	4
Indiana	20	20	.500	12
Atlanta	15	25	.375	17
Washington	14	26	.350	18
Chicago	13	27	.325	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	30	10	.750	—
Las Vegas	27	13	.675	3
Seattle	25	15	.625	5
Phoenix	19	21	.475	11
Dallas	9	31	.225	21
L.A. Sparks	8	32	.200	22
x–clinched berth; e– eliminated from playoffs

Playoffs
Best-of-three
Sunday's Games
N.Y. Liberty 83, Atlanta 69, N.Y. Liberty leads series, 1-0
Connecticut 93, Indiana 69, Connecticut leads series, 1-0
Phoenix at Minnesota
Seattle at Las Vegas

Tuesday's Games
Atlanta at N.Y. Liberty, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at Las Vegas, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Indiana at Connecticut, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.

NHL

Preseason
Saturday's Games
Buffalo 7, Pittsburgh 3
Dallas 2, St. Louis 1
Minnesota 5, Winnipeg 2

Sunday's Games
Florida 3, Nashville 2
Philadelphia 6, Washington 2
N.Y. Rangers at Boston
Winnipeg at Edmonton
N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey
Ottawa at Toronto
St. Louis at Utah
Vegas at San Jose
Calgary at Seattle

Monday's Games
Columbus at Buffalo, 2 p.m.
Philadelphia at Montreal, 4 p.m.
Dallas at Colorado, 6 p.m.
Los Angeles at Utah, 6 p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 6 p.m.
Calgary at Edmonton, 6 p.m.

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Cup Series Point Leaders
Through Sept. 22
1. Kyle Larson, 3047.
2. Christopher Bell, 3032.
3. Tyler Reddick, 3028.
4. William Byron, 3022.
5. Ryan Blaney, 3019.
6. Denny Hamlin, 3015.
7. Chase Elliott, 3014.
8. Joey Logano, 3012.
9. Austin Cindric, 3008.
10. Daniel Suárez, 3006.
11. Alex Bowman, 3005.
12. Chase Briscoe, 3005.
13. Ty Gibbs, 2074.
14. Martin Truex Jr., 2064.
15. Brad Keselowski, 2048.
16. Harrison Burton, 2031.

NASCAR Cup Series Schedule and Winners
Feb. 19 – Daytona 500 (William Byron)
Feb. 25 – Ambetter Health 400 (Daniel Suárez)
March 3 – Pennzoil 400 (Kyle Larson)
March 10 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at Phoenix (Christopher Bell)
March 17 – Food City 500 (Denny Hamlin)
March 24 – EchoPark Automotive Grand Prix (William Byron)
March 31 – Toyota Owners 400 (Denny Hamlin)
April 7 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at Martinsville (William Byron)
April 14 – Autotrader EchoPark Automotive 400 (Chase Elliott)
April 21 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at Talladega (Tyler Reddick)
April 28 – Würth 400 (Denny Hamlin)
May 5 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at Kansas (Kyle Larson)
May 12 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at Darlington (Brad Keselowski)
May 26 – Coca-Cola 600 (Christopher Bell)
June 2 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at WWTR (Austin Cindric)
June 9 – Toyota Save Mart 350 (Kyle Larson)
June 16 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at Iowa (Ryan Blaney)
June 23 – Bass Pro Shops Night Race (Christopher Bell)
June 30 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at Nashville (Joey Logano)
July 7 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at Chicago (Alex Bowman)
July 14 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at Pocono (Ryan Blaney)
July 21 – Brickyard 400 (Kyle Larson)
Aug. 11 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at Richmond (Austin Dillon)
Aug. 19 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at Michigan (Tyler Reddick)
Aug. 24 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at Daytona (Harrison Burton)
Sept. 1 – Cook Out Southern 500 (Chase Briscoe)
Sept. 8 – Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart (Joey Logano)
Sept. 15 – NASCAR Cup Series Race at Watkins Glen (Chris Buescher)
Sept. 21 – NASCAR Cup Series Playoff Race at Bristol (Kyle Larson)
Sept. 29 – Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan.
Oct. 6 – YellaWood 500, Talladega, Ala.
Oct. 13 – Bank of America ROVAL 400, Concord, NC
Oct. 20 – South Point 400, Las Vegas, Nev.
Oct. 27 – Straight Talk Wireless 400, Homestead, Fla.
Nov. 3 – XFINITY 500, Martinsville, Va.
Nov. 10 – NASCAR Cup Series Championship Race, Avondale, Ariz.

F1 World Championship Points Leaders
Through Sept. 22
1. Max Verstappen, 331.
2. Lando Norris, 279.
3. Charles Leclerc, 245.
4. Oscar Piastri, 237.
5. Carlos Sainz Jr., 190.
6. Lewis Hamilton, 174.
7. George Russell, 155.
8. Sergio Pérez, 144.
9. Fernando Alonso, 62.
10. Nico Hülkenberg, 24.
11. Lance Stroll, 24.
12. Yuki Tsunoda, 22.
13. Alexander Albon, 12.
14. Daniel Ricciardo, 12.
15. Pierre Gasly, 8.
16. Oliver Bearman, 7.

F1 World Championship Schedule and Winners
March 2 – Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix (Max Verstappen)
March 9 – Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (Max Verstappen)
March 24 – Australian Grand Prix (Carlos Sainz Jr.)
April 7 – MSC Cruises Japanese Grand Prix (Max Verstappen)
April 21 – Chinese Grand Prix (Max Verstappen)
May 5 – Miami Grand Prix (Lando Norris)
May 19 – Gran Premio dell'Emilia Romagna (Max Verstappen)
May 26 – Monaco Grand Prix (Charles Leclerc)
June 9 – AWS Grand Prix du Canada (Max Verstappen)
June 23 – Gran Premio de España (Max Verstappen)
June 30 – Austrian Grand Prix (George Russell)
July 7 – British Grand Prix (Lewis Hamilton)
July 21 – Hungarian Grand Prix (Oscar Piastri)
July 28 – Belgian Grand Prix (Lewis Hamilton)
Aug. 25 – Heineken Dutch Grand Prix (Lando Norris)
Sept. 1 – Italian Grand Prix (Charles Leclerc)
Sept. 15 – Azerbaijan Grand Prix (Oscar Piastri)
Sept. 22 – Singapore Grand Prix (Lando Norris)
Oct. 20 – United States Grand Prix, Austin
Oct. 27 – Gran Premio de la Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico
Nov. 3 – Grande Prêmio de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
Nov. 24 – Heineken Silver Las Vegas Grand Prix
Dec. 1 – Qatar Grand Prix, Doha, Qatar
Dec. 8 – Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

GOLF

Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G
Saturday
Maineville, Ohio
TPC River's Bend
Purse: $2 million
Yardage: 6,705; Par: 72
Atthaya Thitikul	66-66-68-200 (-16)
Lydia Ko	67-66-69-202 (-14)
Yan Liu	66-69-68-203 (-13)
Hae-Ran Ryu	69-65-70-204 (-12)
Albane Valenzuela	70-66-68-204 (-12)
Lindy Duncan	68-69-68-205 (-11)
Hyo Joon Jang	73-65-67-205 (-11)
Stephanie Kyriacou	69-67-69-205 (-11)
Bianca Pagdanganan	68-68-69-205 (-11)
Jasmine Suwannapura	67-69-69-205 (-11)
Ashleigh Buhai	65-73-68-206 (-10)
Kristen Gillman	69-68-69-206 (-10)
Austin Lim	70-70-66-206 (-10)
Sei Young Kim	68-68-70-206 (-10)
Nelly Korda	67-70-69-206 (-10)
Gaby Lopez	68-67-71-206 (-10)
Anna Nordqvist	71-65-70-206 (-10)
Jing Yan	71-69-66-206 (-10)
Nanna Koerstz Madsen	68-72-67-207 (-9)
Polly Mack	70-70-70-207 (-9)
Yuka Saso	73-65-69-207 (-9)
Angel Yin	67-72-68-207 (-9)
Pajaree Anannarukarn	71-65-72-208 (-8)
Linn Grant	69-72-67-208 (-8)
Savannah Grewal	67-70-71-208 (-8)
Esther Henseleit	74-68-66-208 (-8)
Charley Hull	70-70-68-208 (-8)
Jin Hee Im	68-69-71-208 (-8)
So Mi Lee	70-67-71-208 (-8)
Yealimi Noh	68-67-73-208 (-8)
Ryann O'Toole	70-69-69-208 (-8)
Ruixin Liu	69-69-71-209 (-7)
Perrine Delacour	72-70-67-209 (-7)
Frida Kinhult	69-71-69-209 (-7)
Ruixin Liu	68-73-68-209 (-7)
Weiwei Zhang	70-69-70-209 (-7)
Minjee Lee	71-71-68-210 (-6)
Lexi Thompson	71-71-68-210 (-6)
Maria Fassi	68-67-76-211 (-5)
Grace Kim	70-70-71-211 (-5)
Cheyenne Knight	70-71-70-211 (-5)
Min Lee	74-69-68-211 (-5)
Pernilla Lindberg	68-72-71-211 (-5)
Madelene Sagstrom	70-68-73-211 (-5)
Alena Sharp	69-72-70-211 (-5)
Dewi Weber	68-72-71-211 (-5)
Jodi Ewart Shadoff	72-70-70-212 (-4)
Georgia Hall	72-70-70-212 (-4)
Minji Kang	71-72-69-212 (-4)
Leona Maguire	67-71-74-212 (-4)
Alexa Pano	72-68-72-212 (-4)
Gabriela Ruffels	73-69-70-212 (-4)

DEALS

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TODAY'S FORECAST

Severe weather is once again expected in some locations today as a disturbance continues on its path to the **East**, with the best risk for storms that can produce damaging wind gusts and flooding downpours stretching from northern and central **Arkansas** to southwestern **Pennsylvania** into the evening hours.

However, the risk for showers in association with this feature will extend to the east through most of **New York** and central **Pennsylvania**, also including places from eastern Lower **Michigan** to central **Oklahoma**. More spotty thunderstorms are expected from **West Texas** to the **Oklahoma** border, with rumbles of thunder along the **Texas** and **Louisiana** coastline as well.

Storms will also build across the **Carolinas** and South **Florida** as most locations west of the **Plains** have a dry day instead.

TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather Inc. ©2024

Below 10 | 10s | 20s | 30s | 40s | 50s | 60s | 70s | 80s | 90s | 100s | 110+

PRECIPITATION FORECAST

T-storms | Rain | Snow | Ice/mix

TODAY

TUESDAY

EXTREMES
Note: For contiguous 48 states through 3 p.m. ET yesterday
HOTTEST: 93° Key West, Fla.
COLDEST: 24° West Yellowstone, Mont.

TOP TRAVEL CITIES
Air quality index (AQI)

	MON	TUE	WED	AQI
ATLANTA	Hot 93/72	Mostly sunny 91/70	Stray t-storm 81/69	Moderate
BALTIMORE	Partly sunny 72/64	Mostly cloudy 70/64	Showers around 73/65	Good
BOSTON	Partly sunny 65/56	Mostly cloudy 64/57	A.P.M. shower 62/59	Good
CHARLOTTE	Stray t-storm 81/70	Stray t-storm 82/69	Stray t-storm 83/68	Good
CHICAGO	Shower 68/60	Showers around 67/56	Mostly sunny 77/59	Good
DALLAS/FT. WORTH	Stray t-storm 82/68	Partly sunny 89/68	A few showers 87/64	Good
DENVER	Warmer 80/49	Partly sunny 77/50	Sunny, warm 84/53	Good
DETROIT	Not as warm 72/60	Shower 89/77	Shower 73/58	Good
HONOLULU	Partly sunny 88/76	Sunny 89/77	Breezy 88/75	Moderate
HOUSTON	Stray t-storm 93/75	T-storms 92/72	A few showers 87/70	Good
LAS VEGAS	Sunny, hot 97/72	Hot 99/72	Sunny, hot 98/74	Good
LOS ANGELES	Sunny, warm 88/63	Sunny, warm 88/61	Sunny 80/61	Good
MIAMI	Stray t-storm 91/79	Stray t-storm 91/76	Showers around 89/80	Good
MPLS-ST. PAUL	Partly sunny 70/51	Mostly sunny 71/54	Sunny, nice 75/57	Good
NEW ORLEANS	Humid 91/74	Showers 91/74	Shower 88/74	Good
NEW YORK	Partly sunny 71/57	Rather cloudy 67/59	A few showers 68/61	Good
ORLANDO	Showers around 91/72	Humid 89/73	A few showers 89/76	Good
PHILADELPHIA	Some sun, nice 73/61	Sunny, nice 69/62	Shower 72/63	Good
PHOENIX	Hot 104/77	Sunny, hot 100/80	Very hot 110/82	Moderate
SALT LAKE CITY	Sunny 80/57	Sunny 80/59	Sunny, warm 89/63	Moderate
SAN DIEGO	Mostly sunny 81/65	Mostly sunny 80/65	Sunny, warm 75/64	Good
SAN FRANCISCO	Warmer 86/61	Mostly sunny 78/57	Partly sunny 70/58	Good
SEATTLE	Clearing 71/57	Mostly cloudy 75/58	Rain late 65/52	Good
WASHINGTON	Mainly cloudy 73/65	Showers 70/63	A few showers 74/67	Good

c Cloudy f Fog i Ice r Rain sf Snowflurries sn Snow w Windy dr Drizzle h Haze pc Partly cloudy s Sunny sh Showers t Thunderstorms

U.S. CITIES
	TODAY	TUE
Akron, Ohio	74/64t	73/62t
Albany, N.Y.	70/53pc	72/54c
Albuquerque	80/56pc	83/58c
Allentown, Pa.	68/57pc	67/58c
Amarillo, Texas	78/56s	85/53t
Anaheim, Calif.	90/60s	91/60s
Anchorage, Alaska	50/43sh	50/41sh
Aspen, Colo.	65/40c	69/42pc
Atlantic City, N.J.	70/63w	70/64c
Augusta, Ga.	94/69s	91/69s
Austin, Texas	94/73pc	94/70t
Bakersfield, Calif.	98/71s	103/71s
Baton Rouge, La.	95/71pc	93/71s
Billings, Mont.	72/53sh	82/55s
Birmingham, Ala.	94/71s	90/69s
Bismarck, N.D.	70/48pc	75/46pc
Boise, Idaho	80/56s	87/59s
Buffalo, N.Y.	73/61sh	68/61t
Burlington, Vt.	71/54pc	71/54c
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	71/48c	72/48pc
Charleston, S.C.	88/72t	90/70t
Charleston, W.Va.	84/65t	81/65t
Cheyenne, Wyo.	77/44c	74/43pc
Cincinnati	79/65t	76/60t
Cleveland	74/64t	76/64t
Colorado Springs	78/52c	77/50c
Columbia, S.C.	91/71t	88/69t
Columbus, Ohio	79/66t	78/63t
Corpus Christi, Texas	94/79pc	94/76t
Dayton, Ohio	77/65t	74/60t
Daytona Beach, Fla.	89/73s	89/74t
Des Moines, Iowa	69/53c	70/51s
Duluth, Minn.	66/46pc	65/41sh
Durham, N.C.	80/67pc	79/67t
El Paso, Texas	86/66s	93/67pc
Fairbanks, Alaska	48/39c	50/37c
Flagstaff, Ariz.	76/40pc	79/41pc
Fort Myers, Fla.	92/75pc	93/75t
Fort Smith, Ark.	76/62t	85/63pc
Fort Wayne, Ind.	73/61sh	72/58t
Fresno, Calif.	99/68s	100/67s
Grand Rapids, Mich.	73/56c	66/57sh
Green Bay, Wis.	69/51c	66/50sh
Greensboro, N.C.	75/66t	78/66t
Greenville, S.C.	86/67t	85/68t
Harrisburg, Pa.	68/62sh	67/63sh
Hartford, Conn.	70/52sh	68/54c
Indianapolis	73/65t	74/59t
Islip, N.Y.	70/57pc	68/60c
Jackson, Miss.	93/69s	91/67t
Jacksonville, Fla.	90/69s	88/63s
Jefferson City, Mo.	70/62c	74/54t
Kansas City	64/55c	70/52pc
Key West, Fla.	91/83pc	90/81t
Knoxville, Tenn.	89/66t	88/67t
Laredo, Texas	97/75s	96/73pc
Lexington, Ky.	81/67t	76/63t
Lincoln, Neb.	75/51pc	77/48pc
Little Rock, Ark.	87/67t	86/64pc
Long Beach, Calif.	85/63s	86/64s
Louisville, Ky.	82/69t	79/63t
Lubbock, Texas	77/59pc	86/58t
Madison, Wis.	69/51c	69/49pc
Manchester, N.H.	67/48sh	68/53c
Memphis, Tenn.	90/68pc	81/66t
Milwaukee	68/52c	66/58sh
Mobile, Ala.	96/69s	90/71pc
Modesto, Calif.	98/64s	100/65s
Montgomery, Ala.	96/70s	93/69s
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	81/72t	83/72t
Nags Head, N.C.	73/64pc	73/65pc
Nashville, Tenn.	92/71sh	83/64t
Newark, N.J.	72/60pc	71/62c
New Haven, Conn.	72/56pc	72/59c
Norfolk, Va.	75/61sh	75/65sh
Oakland, Calif.	90/58s	81/57s
Oklahoma City	75/55s	82/59pc
Omaha, Neb.	72/53pc	74/49sh
Palm Springs, Calif.	108/80s	108/79s
Pensacola, Fla.	91/72t	88/76s
Pierre, S.D.	79/50s	75/49pc
Pittsburgh	79/65t	74/66t
Portland, Maine	64/49pc	64/49c
Portland, Ore.	81/60pc	89/63s
Providence, R.I.	64/56pc	66/56c
Raleigh, N.C.	83/69pc	80/68t
Rapid City, S.D.	74/48c	79/45pc
Reno, Nev.	84/52pc	89/54s
Richmond, Va.	76/64pc	74/64t
Rochester, N.Y.	71/61sh	70/59sh
Sacramento, Calif.	98/62s	99/60s
San Antonio	95/75s	93/72pc
San Jose, Calif.	95/66s	92/59s
Sarasota, Fla.	91/75s	93/74s
Savannah, Ga.	91/71pc	90/71s
Scottsdale, Ariz.	102/74s	103/76s
Shreveport, La.	93/71s	93/67t
Sioux Falls, S.D.	75/52pc	74/49s
South Bend, Ind.	71/60c	70/59sh
Spokane, Wash.	78/54s	85/58s
Springfield, Mo.	71/60c	74/56s
Springfield, Ill.	67/59t	71/52c
St. Louis	70/64t	75/58c
St. Petersburg, Fla.	92/76sh	92/75s
Syracuse, N.Y.	69/59sh	72/59sh
Tallahassee, Fla.	94/70s	91/72s
Tampa, Fla.	93/76pc	93/75s
Toledo, Ohio	71/63sh	70/61t
Topeka, Kan.	72/51pc	72/51pc
Tucson, Ariz.	99/69s	101/71s
Tupelo, Miss.	93/70s	86/67t
Tulsa, Okla.	73/58pc	83/56pc
Virginia Beach, Va.	73/68c	75/67c
Wichita, Kan.	73/51s	76/55pc
Wilmington, Del.	72/61pc	69/62c
Winston-Salem, N.C.	78/68t	78/67t
Worcester, Mass.	63/50pc	61/52c

WORLD CITIES
	TODAY	TUE
Beijing	76/52h	77/57pc
Buenos Aires	67/58pc	67/58s
Cancun, Mexico	87/79sh	86/78sh
Dubai, UAE	104/86s	101/86s
Frankfurt	68/54c	65/54sh
Hong Kong	79/72r	80/75c
Istanbul	77/63pc	79/65s
Jerusalem	78/62pc	82/64s
Johannesburg	67/46pc	74/54s
London	66/54sh	65/53c
Mexico City	75/60sh	71/56sh
Montreal	68/55pc	72/55c
Moscow	60/38s	67/45h
Mumbai, India	88/79r	88/78t
Paris	68/56c	65/55c
Rio de Janeiro	86/72s	86/71s
Rome	75/64sh	76/62r
Seoul	77/56s	78/59s
Singapore	92/79r	86/76r
Sydney	81/59s	75/65sh
Toronto	72/61r	67/62sh
Tokyo	79/69pc	80/67r

Clark's confidence in Hull paying off

Back in playoffs, Fever face Sun

Lindsay Schnell
USA TODAY

Like most WNBA fans, Lexie Hull consumes a lot of Caitlin Clark content.

Any time Clark breaks a record, says something interesting or, like, sneezes, Hull is made aware.

But when Hull, Clark and Katie Lou Samuelson traveled with their boyfriends (in Samuelson's case, husband) to Mexico for a much-needed beach vacation during the Olympic break, Hull learned something new about Clark.

The No. 1 pick of the 2024 draft and the overwhelming favorite to win Rookie of the Year is ... funny.

Goofy, even. A prankster.

"She loves to stir up some trouble, that's for sure. If you need a laugh, she'll get it done for you," Hull told USA TODAY Sports.

What's more, Hull's friendship with Clark, and the on-court chemistry that's resulted from it, could be a difference-maker going into the WNBA playoffs.

The Fever, who haven't been to the postseason since 2016, started their playoff journey Sunday at Connecticut in the first of a three-game series versus the Sun. The Fever are the sixth seed and have won nine of their past 13 games. Everyone knows what they're going to get with Clark (19.2 points per game, 8.4 assists per game), 2023 Rookie of the Year Aliyah Boston (14.0 ppg, 8.9 rebounds per game) and two-time All-Star Kelsey Mitchell (19.2 ppg).

But Hull's rise this season has been the most impressive and, in many ways, the most surprising.

The No. 6 pick in the 2022 WNBA draft, Hull was a starter most of last season. Many thought that would change with the addition of Clark, who was predicted to go No. 1 in 2024 as soon as the Fever secured the top pick last December. When Indiana made it official on April 15, a video of Hull, Erica Wheeler and Maya Caldwell celebrating – and immediately putting on No. 22 red Fever jerseys – went viral.

Hull knew her role might change, but she embraced the opportunity to play with someone who rewrote the college record books.

"I want to play with the best players and I want to win games," Hull said. "Having her on your team makes your team better. I watched her in college and I was really impressed with her playmaking. Honestly, I was more excited about her passing ability than her scoring. I was excited to get out and run and make cuts, because I knew she'd find me."

That they clicked and immediately became good friends was a bonus.

And yet, even Hull admits the first few weeks of the season were rough.

Out of the rotation early – she did not leave the bench in six of the Fever's first 21 games – Hull got hot after the Olympic break. On Aug. 18, Indiana's second game back after the monthlong pause, Hull came off the bench and drained six of her seven 3-point attempts in a 92-75 win over Seattle.

"It was frustrating because I was in the gym every single day, but I felt like my performance wasn't matching up with the amount of work I was putting in," she said. "So getting to the point where I could just let it fly felt so good. Things were finally clicking, and that definitely changes the feeling of the game on both ends of the floor."

After that game, Clark posted on the platform formerly known as Twitter, "This is now a Lexie Hull fan account."

She's been on a roll ever since. Hull was inserted into the starting lineup Aug. 28; Indiana has gone 6-3 with her

Lexie Hull, left, and Caitlin Clark look on during the Fever game against the Storm at Climate Pledge Arena on June 27 in Seattle. Since Hull joined the starting five Aug. 28, Indiana has gone 6-3. STEPH CHAMBERS/GETTY IMAGES

> **"What she brings for us is a tenacity, especially on the defensive end. She's gonna be the one diving on the floor. She's gonna be the one chasing the best player all over the court. And she's obviously worked really hard on her shot as well."**
>
> **Caitlin Clark, on Lexie Hull**

in the first five. She's second in the WNBA in 3-point percentage, connecting on 47.1% of her attempts from long range. She's 24 of 38 post-Olympics, an eye-popping 63.2%.

Hull's confidence has clearly skyrocketed the second half of the season. That's especially true when she's on the floor with Clark, whose belief in Hull is obvious every time she feeds her the ball on the perimeter.

"I think there is a lot of confidence from her, but also, she has high expectations for everyone," said Hull, who is often seen laughing on the bench with Clark. "She's creating a lot of shots. We get open looks because of how much at-

tention she draws, and when she does give up the ball, we get open shots. And when you knock those down, it gives you confidence."

Clark sees the difference in Hull, too.

"What she brings for us is a tenacity, especially on the defensive end," Clark said. "She's gonna be the one diving on the floor. She's gonna be the one chasing the best player all over the court. And she's obviously worked really hard on her shot as well. The way she's been able to shoot the ball since the Olympic break is incredible. I think it's added a whole other dynamic for us."

Hull credits the month off for giving her, and others, a chance to build a relationship with Clark away from basketball. Based on past experiences, Hull knew camaraderie in the locker room could translate to games.

"I think even when I look at back at our success at Stanford, a lot of that came from really caring about each other and building those friendships off the court," said Hull, who helped the Cardinal to the 2021 NCAA title.

From 1,800 miles away, even Kate Martin, Clark's teammate at Iowa who now plays for the Las Vegas Aces, noticed Hull's improved play – and suspected Clark's friendship had something to do with it. Clark's ability to infuse her teammates with confidence, Martin said, is a game-changer.

"The best part of her game is her ability to make her teammates better," Martin said. "When you're that great of a player and that confident, other people start to believe it (about themselves) too."

At Iowa, Martin said she often felt Clark knew how good she could be before Martin realized it herself. Martin might be surprised that she made a WNBA roster, but Clark predicted it would happen.

Indiana coach Christie Sides has seen it, too. She said for all of Clark's accomplishments, her ability to elevate her teammates is "what separates her."

The surge in confidence for Hull hasn't just impacted her offensive production, either. Hull is often assigned to guard the opponent's best perimeter player, and she is known for hustle plays that typically don't show up on a stat sheet.

Since her resurgence mid-August Hull has made some sort of late pivotal play – knocking down a big shot, grabbing a key defensive rebound, deflecting a critical pass or taking a charge – in nearly every close Fever contest. TV analyst Debbie Antonelli, who has called every Indiana game this season, described her play on air recently as "vintage Lexie Hull."

For the Fever, it couldn't come at a better time.

Fiebech and Stewart lead Liberty to win in opener

Staff and wire reports

Rookie Leonie Fiebich scored a career-high 21 points to help the New York Liberty beat the visiting Atlanta Dream 83-69 on Sunday in Game 1 of their WNBA first-round playoff series.

Breanna Stewart added 20 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks for the top-seeded Liberty, who never trailed and led by as many as 22. Game 2 of the best-of-three series is Tuesday.

Fiebich, whose previous career high was 16 points, started on Sunday after making just 15 during the regular season. She shot 7-for-8 from the floor, including all four of her 3-point attempts.

Sabrina Ionescu made three triples

and had 17 points, and Betnijah Laney-Hamilton added 10 points for New York. Both had five assists. Jonquel Jones paired nine points with seven boards.

New York outshot Atlanta 43.3% to 39.7% on field goal attempts and made 17 of 18 free throws.

Rhyne Howard had 14 points to lead the eighth-seeded Dream, who won at New York in Thursday's regular-season finale to clinch the final playoff spot.

– Field Level Media | Reuters

Mabrey sparks Sun past Fever

A record-breaking performance from Marina Mabrey, playing in her first postseason with the Connecticut Sun,

helped the third-seeded team to a 93-69 win over sixth-seeded Indiana in Game 1 of the quarterfinals Sunday.

Mabrey scored 27 points off the bench, a WNBA record for the playoffs, connecting on 9 of 20 shots, including 5 of 12 from 3.

But that might not have even been the most impressive performance Sunday, as Sun guard-forward Alyssa Thomas turned in her fourth career triple-double (12 points, 13 assists, 10 rebounds) of the postseason.

Caitlin Clark finished with 11 points on 4 of 17 shooting for the Fever, including 2 of 13 from 3. She also dished eight assists, and turned the ball over twice.

– USA TODAY

Liberty forward Breanna Stewart drives past Dream forward Nia Coffey in Sunday's game. Stewart scored 20 points. WENDELL CRUZ/IMAGN IMAGES

US LBM COACHES POLL

1. Georgia (3-0)
Points: 1,350 (35 first-place votes).
Previous ranking: 1. **This week:** Saturday at No. 4 Alabama (ABC, 7:30).
Last week: Idle.

2. Texas (4-0)
Points: 1,324 (18 first-place votes).
Previous ranking: 2. **This week:** Saturday vs. Mississippi State (SEC, 4:15).
Last week: Defeated Marshall 49-14.

3. Ohio State (3-0)
Points: 1,279 (2 first-place votes). **Previous ranking:** 3. **This week:** Saturday at Michigan State (Peacock, 7). **Last week:** Defeated Marshall 49-14.

4. Alabama (3-0)
Points: 1,185. **Previous ranking:** 4. **This week:** Saturday vs. No. 1 Georgia (ABC, 7:30). **Last week:** Idle.

5. Mississippi (4-0)
Points: 1,145. **Previous ranking:** 5. **This week:** Saturday vs. Kentucky (ABC, noon). **Last week:** Defeated Georgia Southern 52-13.

6. Tennessee (4-0)
Points: 1,094. **Previous ranking:** 7. **Next game:** Oct. 5 at Arkansas. **Last week:** Defeated then-No. 13 Oklahoma 25-15.

7. Oregon (3-0)
Points: 1,016. **Previous ranking:** 6. **This week:** Saturday at UCLA (Fox, 11). **Last week:** Idle.

8. Penn State (3-0)
Points: 967. **Previous ranking:** 8. **This week:** Saturday vs. No. 21 Illinois (NBC, 7:30). **Last week:** Defeated Kent State 56-0.

9. Miami (4-0)
Points: 912. **Previous ranking:** 11. **This week:** Friday vs. Virginia Tech (ESPN, 7:30). **Last week:** Defeated South Florida 50-15.

10. Utah (4-0)
Points: 904. **Previous ranking:** 10. **This week:** Saturday vs. Arizona (ESPN, 10:15). **Last week:** Defeated then-No. 15 Oklahoma State 22-19.

11. Missouri (4-0)
Points: 887. **Previous ranking:** 8. **Next game:** Oct. 5 at Texas A&M. **Last week:** Defeated Vanderbilt 30-27 (OT).

12. Michigan (3-1)
Points: 692. **Previous ranking:** 17. **This week:** Saturday vs. Minnesota (Fox, noon). **Last week:** Defeated then-No. 12 Southern California 27-24.

13. LSU (3-1)
Points: 632. **Previous ranking:** 16. **This week:** Saturday vs. South Alabama (SEC, 7:45). **Last week:** Defeated UCLA 34-17.

14. Notre Dame (3-1)
Points: 553 **Previous ranking:** 18. **This week:** Saturday vs. No. 17 Louisville (Peacock, 3:30). **Last week:** Defeated Miami (Ohio) 28-3.

15. Clemson (2-1)
Points: 542. **Previous ranking:** 19. **This week:** Saturday vs. Stanford (ESPN, 7). **Last week:** Defeated North Carolina State 59-35.

16. Southern California (2-1)
Points: 520. **Previous ranking:** 12. **This week:** Saturday vs. Wisconsin (CBS, 3:30). **Last week:** Lost to then-No. 17 Michigan 27-24.

17. Louisville (3-0)
Points: 509. **Previous ranking:** 20. **This week:** Saturday at No. 14 Notre Dame (Peacock, 3:30). **Last week:** Defeated Georgia Tech 31-19.

18. Oklahoma (3-1)
Points: 404. **Previous ranking:** 13. **This week:** Saturday at Auburn (ABC, 3:40).

Last week: Lost to then-No. 7 Tennessee 25-15.

19. Iowa State (3-0)
Points: 386. **Previous ranking:** 21. **This week:** Saturday at Houston (FS1, 7). **Last week:** Defeated Arkansas State 52-7.

20. Oklahoma State (3-1)
Points: 326. **Previous ranking:** 15. **This week:** Saturday at No. 25 Kansas State (ESPN, noon). **Last week:** Lost to then-No. 10 Utah 22-19.

21. Illinois (4-0)
Points: 307. **Previous ranking:** Not ranked. **This week:** Saturday at No. 8 Penn State (NBC, 7:30). **Last week:** Defeated then-No. 22 Nebraska 31-24 (OT).

22. Brigham Young (4-0)
Points: 167. **Previous ranking:** Not ranked. **This week:** Saturday at Baylor (FS1, noon). **Last week:** Defeated then-No. 14 Kansas State 38-9.

23. UNLV (3-0)
Points: 124. **Previous ranking:** 25. **This week:** Saturday vs. Fresno State (FS1, 3:30). **Last week:** Idle.

24. Texas A&M (3-1)
Points: 119. **Previous ranking:** 24. **This week:** Saturday vs. Arkansas in Arlington, Texas (ESPN, 3:30). **Last week:** Defeated Bowling Green 26-20.

25. Kansas State (3-1)
Points: 116. **Previous ranking:** 14. **This week:** Saturday vs. No. 20 Oklahoma State (ESPN, noon). **Last week:** Lost to Brigham Young 38-9.

Dropped out: No. 22 Nebraska (3-1); No. 23 Memphis (3-1).

Others receiving votes: Washington State (4-0) 94; Indiana (4-0) 67; Pittsburgh (4-0) 50; Boise State (2-1) 42; Central Florida (3-0) 35; Iowa (3-1) 34; Arizona (2-1) 16; Boston College (3-1) 15; Duke (4-0) 14; James Madison (3-0) 13; Nebraska (3-1) 7; Washington (3-1) 6; Colorado (3-1) 5; Rutgers (3-0) 5; SMU (3-1) 4; Arkansas (3-1) 2; Liberty (4-0) 2; Navy (3-0) 2; South Carolina (3-1) 2.

Ohio State running back Quinshon Judkins, right, celebrates with Brandon Inniss after scoring one of his two TDs Saturday. SAMANTHA MADAR/THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

WEEK 4 RESULTS

Thursday
Benedict 31, Edward Waters 28
South Alabama 48, Appalachian State 14
Friday
Illinois 31, Nebraska 24 (OT)
Stanford 26, Syracuse 24
Washington State 54, San Jose State 52 (OT)
Saturday
East
Army West Point 37, Rice 14
James Madison 70, North Carolina 50
West Virginia 32, Kansas 28
Maryland 38, Villanova 20
Harvard 35, Stetson 0
Lehigh 35, Princeton 20
Duquesne 35, West Virginia Wesleyan 0
Rhode Island 28, LIU 21
Columbia 31, Lafayette 20
Maine 26, Merrimack 15
Stonehill 35, Sacred Heart 21
Brown 26, Georgetown 14
Colgate 41, Cornell 24

Dartmouth 45, Fordham 13
Norfolk State 32, VMI 10
Temple 45, Utah State 29
Yale 38, Holy Cross 31
New Hampshire 38, Bryant 17
Navy 56, Memphis 44
Penn State 56, Kent State 0
Pittsburgh 73, Youngstown State 17
Rutgers 26, Virginia Tech 23
Massachusetts 35, Central Connecticut State 31
Robert Morris 21, Wagner 14
Hampton 27, Howard 20
Stony Brook 24, Campbell 17
Richmond 38, Delaware State 24
Bucknell 34, Marist 18
ETSU 34, Elon 14
William & Mary 34, Furman 24
Delaware 29, Penn 22
Morgan State 56, Virginia-Lynchburg 7
North Carolina Central 66, North Carolina A&T 24

Boston College 23, Michigan State 19
Southeast
Tulane 41, Louisiana 33
Florida 45, Mississippi State 28
Clemson 59, North Carolina State 35
Kentucky 41, Ohio 6
Virginia 43, Coastal Carolina 24
Tennessee Tech 24, Tennessee State 14
Jacksonville State 44, Southern Miss 7
Clark Atlanta 38, Bethune-Cookman 37
Arkansas 24, Auburn 14
LSU 34, UCLA 17
Louisville 31, Georgia Tech 19
Duke 45, Middle Tennessee 17
Nicholls 66, Mississippi Valley State 0
Monmouth 45, FIU 42
Mercer 38, Citadel 21
Eastern Kentucky 42, Morehead State 13
Miami (FL) 50, South Florida 15
Tulsa 23, Louisiana Tech 20, OT
Troy 34, Florida A&M 12
Western Kentucky 26, Toledo 21

Florida State 14, California 9
Central Arkansas 56, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 17
Austin Peay 59, Alabama A&M 16
Grambling State 41, Jackson State 20
Weber State 39, Northwestern State 0
Missouri State 31, UT Martin 24
South Dakota State 41, Southeastern Louisiana 0
Gardner-Webb 42, Presbyterian 21
Tarleton State 28, North Alabama 14
South Carolina 50, Akron 7
Ole Miss 52, Georgia Southern 13
McNeese 42, Alcorn State 14
Midwest
Indiana 52, Charlotte 14
Ohio State 49, Marshall 14
Cincinnati 34, Houston 0
Dayton 49, Ave Maria 7
Central Michigan 37, Ball State 34
Iowa State 52, Arkansas State 7
Eastern Michigan 36, Saint Francis U 0
South Dakota 42, Drake 3

Lindenwood 64, St. Thomas (MN) 0
North Dakota State 41, Towson 24
North Dakota 41, San Diego 24
Valparaiso 31, Roosevelt 23, OT
Buffalo 23, Northern Illinois 20, OT
Notre Dame 28, Miami (OH) 3
Michigan 27, USC 24
Missouri 30, Vanderbilt 27, OT
Southeast Missouri State 38, Southern Illinois 21
Illinois State 31, Eastern Illinois 7
Iowa 31, Minnesota 14
West
Nevada 49, Eastern Washington 16
Montana 46, Western Carolina 35
Montana State 52, Mercyhurst 13
UTSA 45, Houston Christian 7
Texas Tech 30, Arizona State 22
Utah 22, Oklahoma State 19
Colorado State 27, UTEP 17
SMU 66, TCU 42
Idaho State 38, Southern Utah 28

Connecticut 48, Florida Atlantic 14
North Texas 44, Wyoming 17
Sam Houston 31, New Mexico State 11
Washington 24, Northwestern 5
Sacramento State 34, Texas A&M-Commerce 0
Southern University 31, Prairie View A&M 24, OT
UIW 38, Northern Arizona 14
Lamar 20, Texas Southern 17
Tennessee 25, Oklahoma 15
Texas A&M 26, Bowling Green 20
Texas 51, Louisiana-Monroe 3
Colorado 38, Baylor 31, OT
Idaho 27, Abilene Christian 24
Boise State 56, Portland State 14
Fresno State 38, New Mexico 21
Oregon State 38, Purdue 21
UC Davis 32, Utah Tech 14
Hawaii 36, Northern Iowa 7

Tyler Henry takes on his skeptics in real time on 'Live'

The celebrity medium is back on Netflix in "Live From the Other Side." **Page 4D**

Kathy Bates is back in court for an updated 'Matlock'

The Oscar winner takes over for Andy Griffith in a fresh look at a legal drama. Preview. **Page 4D**

LIFELINE

JON KOPALOFF/GETTY IMAGES

THEY SAID WHAT?
THE STARS' BEST QUOTES

❝ "FINE BOTH WAYS." – Lizzo wrote on Instagram with a video showing her recent weight loss, accompanied by audio of Nicki Minaj saying, "The fact that you would even discuss my looks is insane." The 36-year-old singer also addressed Ozempic rumors in a video posted Friday, noting that the claims followed "5 months of weight training and calorie deficit."

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY

Anthony Mackie is 46. **Bruce Springsteen** is 75. **Julio Iglesias** is 81.

HOROSCOPE | SANCTUARY
More: www.sanctuaryworld.co

Aries (March 21-April 19). It's getting steamy up in here! Venus in Scorpio is adding heat to your passionate side. Feel the erotic energy?

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Love is in the water! Get ready for intense connection. It's about to get deep.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). When you love what you do, you're all in. Venus in Scorpio infuses the need for passion into your routine.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). You may not know it, but you're casting a love spell. What is your heart intent on receiving?

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). In need of a foundational balm? Venus in Scorpio is here to smooth the jagged edges so healing can occur.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your words have a special allure to them. Stirring up compelling conversations? Venus in Scorpio has you speaking with passion.

Libra (Sept.23-Oct. 23). Pull in the resources you desire. There's an ease to attracting money and possessions.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Turning heads wherever you go? Your power of seduction is enhanced. Prepare to get noticed.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Keeping your passions to yourself? Venus in Scorpio has a behind-the-scenes agenda in your love life. Secrets may be brewing.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have the opportunity to make some powerful alliances. Turn your attention to networking.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's not what you know. It's who you know. Venus in Scorpio positions you to make a professional power play.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Is a mysterious destination calling your name? A love of adventure is sparked now that Venus is in Scorpio.

STREAMING
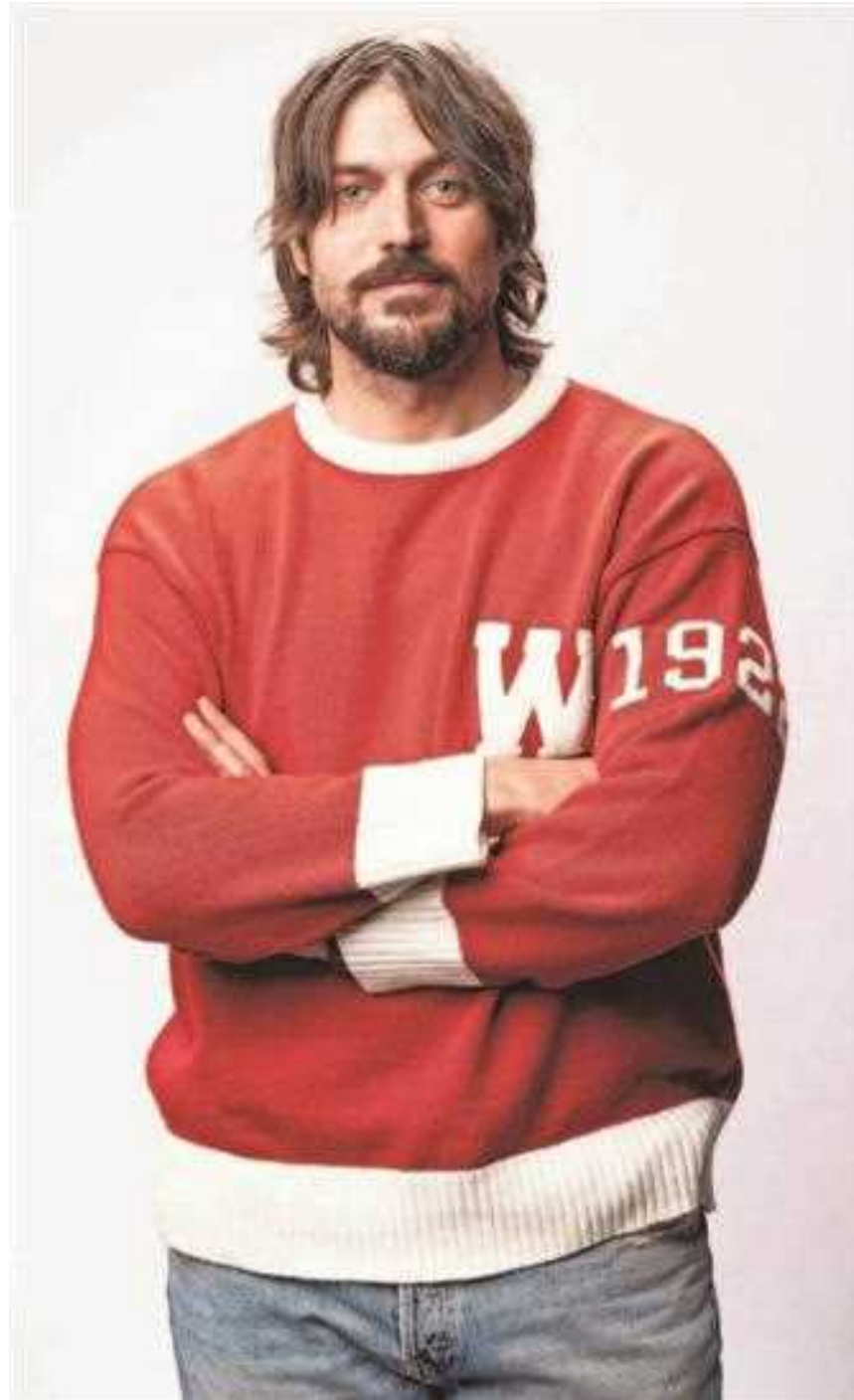
"I'm still at the early stage of my career," says busy actor Lucas Bravo. "I have a lot to prove." NATHANIAL GARY/USA TODAY

Bravo looks beyond hunky roles to show versatility

Patrick Ryan USA TODAY

NEW YORK – Lucas Bravo knows how you feel about his "Emily in Paris" character. ● For the last four seasons of the hit Netflix rom-com, French chef Gabriel (Bravo) has ping-ponged between his next-door neighbor, Emily (Lily Collins), and ex-fiancée, Camille (Camille Razat), only to torpedo both relationships. But Bravo, 36, won't shoulder the blame for his indecisive TV dreamboat. ● "I'm an actor and I don't make choices for him," shrugs Bravo, speaking hours after Netflix announced the series would return for a fifth season. "I don't know where it's going to go from here, but I hope we're not going to go through another Team This or Team That, because I don't like to be a choice; humans are complex. But, you know, the show is what it is."

Bravo is ready to show his dark side

Since "Emily" premiered in 2020, Bravo has worked hard to prove he's more than just a beefcake bourguignon. "I can't say it's the part where I'm showing the most range," he says candidly. "But it's not what the show is about. I'm mostly here to support the girls."

After other heartthrob roles in comedies "Ticket to Paradise" and "Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris," Bravo is

See BRAVO , Page 2D

Emily (Lily Collins) and Gabriel (Lucas Bravo) fall in and out of love in "Emily in Paris," which was picked up for a fifth season. PROVIDED BY NETFLIX

FALL STREAMING

Curl up to horrors and true tales at home

Brian Truitt
USA TODAY

There are plenty of movies to watch at the cinema this fall. A bunch awaits those who like to stay closer to home, too, from a "Rosemary's Baby" prequel to a new Stephen King movie.

Just look to your favorite streaming services for a bumper crop of fresh film flavors. Apple TV+ boasts a George Clooney and Brad Pitt crime thriller team-up. Netflix has a Will Ferrell documentary, Anna Kendrick's directorial debut and a high-profile ensemble drama with Carrie Coon, Elizabeth Olsen and Natasha Lyonne. Amazon's Prime Video has an Ariana DeBose culinary horror flick as well as a Joseph Gordon-Levitt detective mystery. And Hulu's got a Sarah Paulson historical chiller because everybody loves spooky season.

Here's an exclusive peek at 15 movies you can soon stream from your sofa:

Natasha Lyonne, Elizabeth Olsen and Carrie Coon come together to help their ailing father "His Three Daughters." PROVIDED BY SAM LEVY/NETFLIX

'His Three Daughters' (Friday)

Three estranged sisters (Coon, Olsen and Lyonne) have to deal with hard feelings, face their past and hug it out big time when they come together to help their father (Jay O. Sanders) as he enters home hospice care in the emotional family drama.

● **Where to watch:** Netflix.

'Killer Heat' (Sept. 26)

Gordon-Levitt embraced being a noir detective in "Brick" and now again with this scenic mystery. Private eye Nick Bali (Gordon-Levitt) is an American expat living in Greece when he's hired to investigate the accidental death of a high-profile shipping magnate by the victim's sister-in-law (Shailene Woodley).

● **Where to watch:** Prime Video.

Julia Garner plays an injured dancer who finds dark dealings going on in her new digs in "Apartment 7A." PROVIDED BY GARETH GATRELL/PARAMOUNT+

'Apartment 7A' (Sept. 27)

A minor character in the 1968 horror classic "Rosemary's Baby" gets the spotlight in this freaky prequel, with Julia Garner as a rising star Broadway dancer whose career is derailed by a nasty injury. She's taken in by a seemingly kind, rich old couple and gets a second chance at fame but finds weird goings-on amid her swanky new digs.

● **Where to watch:** Paramount+.

'Rez Ball' (Sept. 27)

The drama, based on a true story, centers on the captain (Kauchani Bratt) and coach (Jessica Matten) of a

See STREAMING, Page 2D

Streaming

Native American high school basketball squad who go on an unlikely run to the state hoops tournament after the tragic death of their star player.

● **Where to watch:** Netflix.

'Will & Harper' (Sept. 27)

A film festival favorite this year, the feel-good documentary focuses on Will Ferrell and his friend of 30 years, comedy writer Harper Steele. When Harper comes out as a trans woman, his "Saturday Night Live" buddy takes him on a cross-country road trip to revisit his favorite places – diners, sports arenas, biker bars – with a new perspective.

● **Where to watch:** Netflix.

'Wolfs' (Sept. 27)

Ever wonder if George Clooney and Brad Pitt were up for the same movie part? Well, their characters are hired for the same gig – in this case, rival lone-wolf fixers having to cover up a high-profile crime – in an action comedy written and directed by recent "Spider-Man" filmmaker Jon Watts.

● **Where to watch:** Apple TV+.

'Hold Your Breath' (Oct. 3)

The psychological horror tale mines history for creepy thrills. Paulson plays an overprotective mom in Dust Bowl-era Oklahoma keeping her kids safe from dust storms and disease when the appearance of a mysterious preacher (Ebon Moss-Bachrach) coincides with the coming of a dark presence around the family.

● **Where to watch:** Hulu.

'House of Spoils' (Oct. 3)

Do you wish the "The Bear" was scarier? In this foodie-friendly horror flick, Ariana DeBose plays a star chef who opens a high-end restaurant on a remote estate, though she has to grapple with bigger problems than poor plating – such as crippling self-doubt, kitchen mayhem and maybe even a haunting.

● **Where to watch:** Prime Video.

'Salem's Lot' (Oct. 3)

In the latest adaptation of the 1975 Stephen King book, Lewis Pullman plays an author needing creative inspiration who returns to the Maine

Will Ferrell, left, goes on a cross-country trip with longtime friend Harper Steele, who is coming out as a trans woman, in the documentary "Will & Harper." PROVIDED BY NETFLIX

Bruce Springsteen rocks out live in the documentary "Road Diary: Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band." PROVIDED BY HULU

home he left behind after a childhood tragedy. What he finds, though, is a place where residents are going missing and the secretive, new-to-town European vampire is probably to blame.

● **Where to watch:** Max.

'It's What's Inside' (Oct. 4)

A group of college friends gets together for a reunion, one of them brings a suitcase containing a strange contraption, and by morning they'll never see each other the same way ever again. That's all you should know going into the scrappy, genre-mixing treat produced by Colman Domingo and featuring a host of fresh faces.

● **Where to watch:** Netflix.

'Lonely Planet' (Oct. 11)

In the Netflix romance, Laura Dern plays an introverted, newly single novelist struggling to finish her

Ariana DeBose plays a chef in the horror film "House of Spoils." PROVIDED BY BALAZS GLODI/PRIME VIDEO

latest book who travels to a prestigious Moroccan retreat. Rather than a plethora of ideas, she finds a younger man (Liam Hemsworth), the beau of a fellow attendee, to cozy up to for a life-altering affair.

● **Where to watch:** Netflix.

'Fanatical: The Catfishing of Tegan and Sara' (Oct. 18)

Tegan and Sara were indie pop darlings in the 2000s who cultivated

a safe space for the queer community online. Off stage, however, the identical twin Quin sisters met the downside of fame as well, and the documentary chronicles how personal files were stolen and Tegan Quin's identity was used in a nefarious catfishing scheme.

● **Where to watch:** Hulu.

'Woman of the Hour' (Oct. 18)

Anna Kendrick marks her directorial debut with this true-life 1970s-set thriller. She also stars as an aspiring Hollywood actress whose path crosses with a serial killer in the middle of an epic murder spree when both happen to be contestants on the same episode of "The Dating Game."

● **Where to watch:** Netflix.

'Road Diary: Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band' (Oct. 25)

Director Thom Zimny's fly-on-the-wall documentary follows Bruce Springsteen and his rock group on their current world tour, going back on the road for the first time in six years. The film digs into the methodology of "The Boss" and how he runs the band, from rehearsals to set-list creation.

● **Where to watch:** Hulu.

'Freedom' (Nov. 1)

Lucas Bravo, a breakout star from Netflix's "Emily in Paris," plays a charming rogue in this thriller, based on the exploits of a legendary French outlaw in the 1970s and '80s. Bruno Sulak (Bravo) becomes infamous for his daring heists and prison escapes but draws the ire of a dogged cop (Yvan Attal).

● **Where to watch:** Prime Video.

Bravo

now stepping out of his comfort zone. He's playing a violent predator in #MeToo thriller "The Balconettes," which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in May, and portraying a real-life Robin Hood figure in "Freedom" (streaming on Prime Video on Nov. 1), a biopic of French robber Bruno Sulak.

Dubbed "the gentleman bandit" because of his nonviolent crimes, Sulak was a true chameleon: described as a "con man" by police and "the most amazing lover" by his girlfriend, Bravo explains. The actor could relate to that malleability, as the son of professional soccer player Daniel Bravo, whose job uprooted his family every couple of years.

"I had to adapt as a kid and always be the new guy," Bravo remembers.

By age 15, he had enrolled in acting school and went on to make his screen debut in the 2013 French TV drama "Sous le Soleil de Saint-Tropez." "Freedom" marks his first time leading a project, which he found both "scary and exhilarating."

"It was actually the first time I stepped off set being satisfied with my work," he adds. "It made me really hungry for more."

George Clooney consoled him after success of his Netflix show

Bravo credits his "Ticket to Paradise" co-star George Clooney for keeping him on the Hollywood path. After the fizzy first season of "Emily" became a pop-culture phenomenon (and frequent punching bag on social media), Bravo was unsure whether he wanted to keep acting.

"I'm a very private person," he says. "I like my tiny circle of friends; I'm close to my family; I'm from a quiet place in the South of France. It's a lot of noise and opinions, and it really feels like walking through a house of mirrors all day. I was like, 'Maybe I'm too sensitive for this.' "

But working with Clooney and Julia Roberts on the 2022 movie, "I saw how enthusiastic George was. It was like his first student film," Bravo recalls. "He was excited and joking about everything, and bringing everybody together. I realized that being a leading man is not only being first on the call sheet but looking after every actor's well-being."

"I like mystery," says Lucas Bravo, who keeps his social media presence professional. NATHANIAL GARY/USA TODAY

He calls Clooney a mentor, who shares advice and invites him for dinner from time to time: "It brought me peace to see that you can still be a good human being in an industry that is a bit crazy."

Bravo says he isn't recognized by fans as much lately, ever since debuting a

shaggy new look for his upcoming Max show "Merteuil," an adaptation of "Dangerous Liaisons." He keeps his Instagram strictly professional; no selfies or snaps of his breakfast. "I like mystery," the Frenchman says with a smile. "Mystery is sexy."

Wry and inquisitive, Bravo thoughtfully speaks about his passions for veganism, sustainability and ocean conservation. He has been taking Japanese classes for six months and hopes to go to Japan to shoot his directorial debut, which he describes as a love story. ("I really want to be immersed in their culture," he says.) In his free time, he enjoys backpacking through "crazy secluded places" such as Alaska and Patagonia.

"I'm very grateful I get to work and things are going well, but I can't remember the last time I had a week in nature by myself," Bravo says. "When you have one or two days off, you spend them rehearsing for the next project or doing press for the previous one. At some point, you're just in the hamster wheel, and unless you say stop, nobody else is going to."

But at some point soon, he adds, a break will be much needed: "It's hard to act in the world if you don't have time to contemplate it."

USA TODAY CROSSWORD

EDITED Amanda Rafkin
BY Stella Zawistowski

LACE UP

ACROSS
1 Handhold on a free solo climb
5 Breakfast chain that serves stacks
9 Octavia E. Butler's genre
14 College building
15 Food ___ (tired feeling after a big meal)
16 "Rainbow" fish
17 Up-front poker payment
18 Colored 25-Across part
19 Canned tomato brand
20 Inspired thought
21 Audition anyone can come to
23 Nothing to be shocked by
25 Organ in a socket
26 Tidy
29 Wire fastener
34 Muscat's country
37 Disguising pattern, for short
39 "Fly Me to the Moon" group
40 The Dragon Boat Festival falls on the fifth day of its fifth month
43 "___ 2 Proud 2 Beg" (TLC song)
44 Bigwig Norse god
45 Has the hots
46 Blu-ray error message
48 Cybertruck maker
50 Owns
52 Fragrant purple flowers
56 High school math class
62 Garage alternative
63 Unearthed
64 Ball-and-stick model
65 Mariah Carey, for one
66 Fit-and-___ dresses
67 Husky voice
68 At any time
69 Puts in the mail
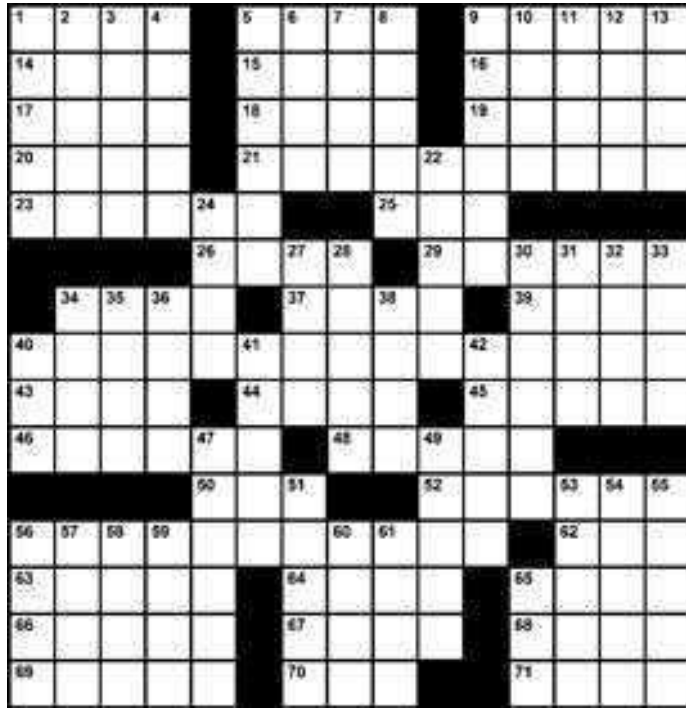
70 That chick
71 Sprinkles with water

DOWN
1 Walmart or Wendy's
2 Someone you don't know at all
3 Change
4 Flash of light
5 Clear December decoration
6 Dance at a Jewish wedding
7 Exclude
8 Ctrl-V command
9 Parade spot
10 Holey shoe brand
11 Teeny bit
12 Diesel, for example
13 "___ be fine in the end"
22 Disinfecting brand
24 Green Gables gal
27 Got 100% on
28 Meant but not said
30 Once a year
31 Period products

32 Exam in "Legally Blonde"
33 Corn servings
34 Lake Erie border state
35 "___ your own business"
36 ___-glare glasses
38 Horse's hair
40 Preserve, like veggies
41 East L.A.'s region
42 Island in immigration history
47 Circles, squares, triangles, etc.
49 Opposite of a streak in sports
51 Signs of surgery
53 Still in it
54 Really wish you could have
55 A-listers
56 Attached docs, often
57 Be in charge

58 "The Candy House" author Jennifer
59 Cheese ___ (poutine topping)
60 U.S. state where the 2002 Olympics were held
61 Get the fewest victory points
65 Morning moisture

Friday's Answer

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

CROSSWORDS ON YOUR PHONE get our crossword app

TXTPERT

Across
1. 5477
3. 447
6. 6673
7. 63783
10. 7225363

Down
2. 72627327
3. 4335
4. 7246
5. 58647
8. 3937
9. 863

Today's theme
Human body

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues.
For example:
2 could be A, B or C ... and 5678 could be LOST
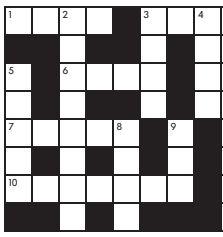
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Friday's solution   9/20

Numbers

More puzzles: puzzles.usatoday.com
Want solutions? answers.usatoday.com
Feedback: feedback@usatoday.com

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).
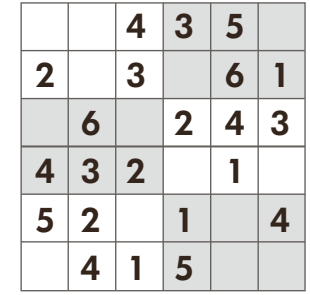
DIFFICULTY RATING ★☆☆☆☆

9/23

Friday's Answers

SUDOKU FUSION ON YOUR PHONE puzzles.usatoday.com

DIFFICULTY RATING ★☆☆☆☆

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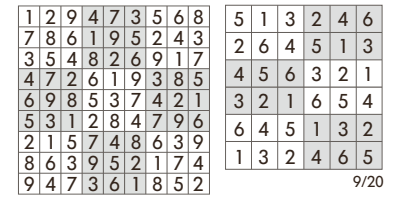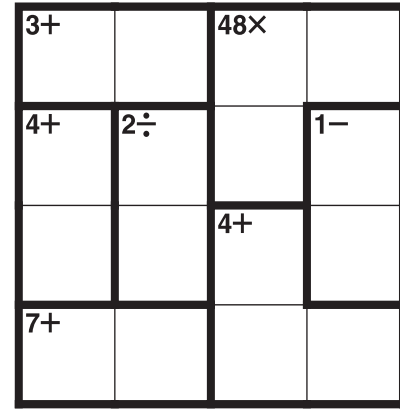
KENKEN

1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 though 6 (challenging) without repeating.

2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

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FRIDAY'S SOLUTION

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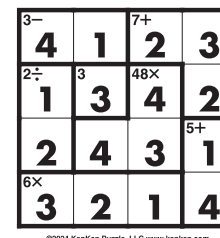
KUBOK 16

By Davide Coppo

Difficulty: EASY
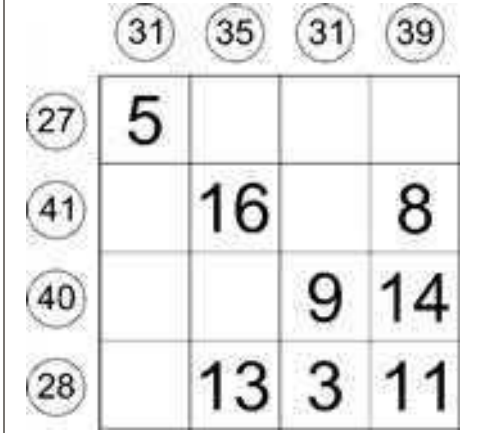
Solution to Friday's puzzle
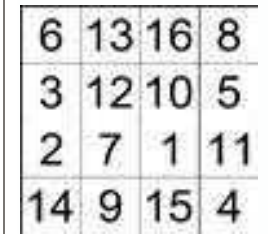
Enter the missing numbers from 1 to 16 without repetitions so that the sum of the four numbers in each row and column is the same as the corresponding circled number.

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Words

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek   9/23

Find and Circle:
Four odd numbers
Three lizards
Three Apollo 11 astronauts
Three face cards
Colors of the Greek flag

© Andrews McMeel

Friday's answer: MANDOLIN VIOLIN BANJO CELLO LUTE HARP / JUNEAU DENVER TOPEKA BOSTON / ANGOLA ZAMBIA / MAUI OAHU / FIVE

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes   9/23

Actress Jessica
Stead
American automaker
Against
Italian automaker, ____ Romeo
Lahr's role in "The Wizard of Oz"
Lahr from "The Wizard of Oz"
German automaker

Friday's Answer

E T A L
D A L I
G O L F
E S S E

9/20

QUICKCROSS ON YOUR PHONE puzzles.usatoday.com
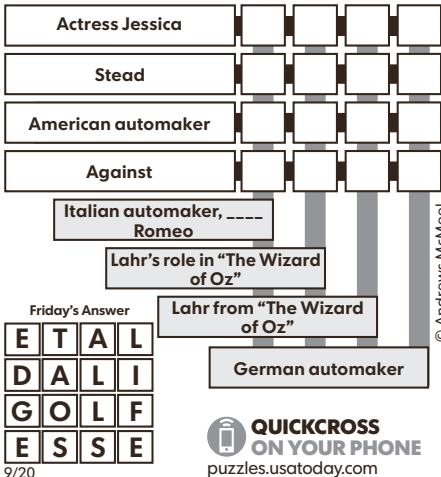
UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt   9/23

NORTHERN
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
MUSIC

Clues:
1. Sparsely populated region
2. Ginger ale brand
3. Solid carbon dioxide
4. Cold compress
5. Prepare to travel
6. Way to ascend a skyscraper
7. Background tunes

Friday's Answer
POKER
CHIPS
IN
POWER
COMPANY
NAME
AFTER

CHIPS
IN
POWER
COMPANY
NAME
AFTER
DINNER

PLAY ONLINE PUZZLES.USATODAY.COM   © Andrews McMeel

DON'T QUOTE ME®

Inventor Benjamin Franklin offers this advice.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.
ENEMIES   FAULTS   LOVE   TELL   YOUR

_____ YOUR _____, FOR THEY _____ YOU _____.

9/23

Friday's Answer: "My father always said, 'Never trust anyone whose TV is bigger than their book shelf.'" – Emilia Clarke

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7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES   **SOLUTIONS**
1 legal release (9)
2 home for washers & dryers (10)
3 out of the question (10)
4 permissive (7)
5 "Sphere" star Sharon (5)
6 requiring a great deal (5)
7 they step, stroll & stride (7)

UIT   ACQ   LAU   POS   MAT
NDRO   SI   NE   EDY   IE
KE   WAL   TAL   BLE   NT
RS   STO   NE   LEN   IM

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.

ARYRC
TBROO
CEFETD
CRIBEK

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

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(Answers tomorrow)

FRIDAY'S   Jumbles: CACHE   SWORN   ENROLL   HELIUM
Answer: When George Washington jumped his stallion over the fence, he rode on – AIR "HORSE" ONE

BONUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Apple remnant
5 — and robbers
8 Mil. rank
12 Top
13 "Tempest" sprite
15 Abounding in sticky thick threads
16 Hold
17 Family member
18 Sacred bird
19 Attempt
22 Beginner
23 Actor — Gosling
24 Trig function
26 Eats some of
28 Range of visible colors
32 Annoy
33 Complain
34 — Today
35 Time
36 Write a certain way
37 "3rd Rock from the —"
38 Caviar
39 Shackles
40 Hang down
41 Poisoning remedy
43 Mississippi city
46 Observe
47 Long narrative
48 Treat
51 Milwaukee's lake
55 Toward shelter
56 Metallic sound
58 Snout
59 Fiber plant
60 Hint of color
61 "Bye-bye!"
62 Strike gently
63 Act
64 Cut

DOWN
1 Dessert choice
2 Golfing event
3 Wetlands plant
4 Pro
5 Material for sails
6 Celestial hunter
7 Wharf
8 Dry, as wine
9 Desert in Asia
10 "— of Gilgamesh"
11 Wall St. org.
14 Permissive
15 Bolt for an I-beam
20 Naval assent
21 Formerly
24 Goes 'round
25 Jeweled headband
26 Inert gas
27 Trapshooting
28 "Rise and —!"
29 Charlotte — dessert
30 Regular
31 Tropical fruit
33 Composed
36 Give shelter
39 Graven image
42 Forefinger
44 Sewed looselsy
44 "That's disgusting!"
45 Enamels
47 Burn a little
48 Tool handle
49 — breve
50 — tide
51 Horse's hair
52 Object
53 Italian wine city
54 Tidy
57 Cover

FRIDAY'S SOLUTION

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Medium hopes to connect with 'Live'

Erin Jensen
USA TODAY

Leading up to the premiere of his live Netflix series Tuesday night, renowned medium Tyler Henry experienced waves of excitement. He wants to reveal more about the process in which his sixth sense manifests through his first five senses.

"While sometimes I'll get a taste or a smell or get kind of more of an audible impression in my head, visions are the primary way of communication, very strong, active imaginations or daydreams," he tells USA TODAY.

Henry also looks forward to addressing his skeptics with readings performed in real time. The curious check Google to see if he's real. A firsthand account of a reading in 2022 proved very popular with our readers.

"I think that in being able to see it without that editing is extremely powerful in a way even more than we've previously seen," the 28-year-old Henry says.

"Live From the Other Side With Tyler Henry," an eight-episode weekly series (Tuesdays, 6 p.m. EDT/3 p.m. PDT), follows five seasons of E's "Hollywood Medium" which introduced the Hanford, California native. Later Henry, who became aware of his ability at 10, and Netflix pooled their powers for one season of "Life After Death With Tyler Henry," in which he met with everyday people and tried to solve his own family mystery: How his mom, Theresa, ended up being raised by a woman evil enough to commit double homicide. Theresa learned only a few years ago that the woman is not her biological mother.

In "Live From the Other Side" Henry will be visited by celebrities accompanied by their friends and family whom they'd like to gift a reading with Henry. Their identities will be kept from Henry.

"A grade-school teacher that made an impact, or a friend or somebody who desperately needs a connection," Henry explains. Kind of like the ESP version of "Celebrity IOU."

"We, going live, will see what happens in real time with very little safe-

guards," Henry says with a laugh. "Which for skeptics is going to be really interesting to watch, and I think for believers could be very compelling if all goes as one hopes."

In Tuesday's premiere that was moderated by Amanda Kloots, guest Chrishell Stause brought her sister Shonda Davisson, and friends including celebrity hairstylist Chris Appleton and television host Nina Parker.

Henry's premonitions bounced among guests during the 43-minute program, which was not short on tears.

Henry felt Stause's late mom's love for Stevie Nicks. He also was able to relieve Stause's regrets about the final words they shared.

"I hated my last conversation with her," Stause revealed. "Is that something that she thinks about?"

Henry assured the "Selling Sunset" star that her mother doesn't dwell on that chat. Parker became emotional when Henry connected her with a cousin who died in January at age 33.

But of course in life – even when you can connect with the dead – there are no guarantees.

"As a medium, there's a great fear of humiliation," Henry concedes. "There's a great risk of not only being wrong but looking fake, and this is an occupation where if people don't believe that what you're doing is real, they believe you are lying. So it's not just even so much an ideological thing about, 'I don't know about that. I don't really believe in that,' as much as it becomes a moral thing."

Fortunately for Henry, he has made it a habit to pursue the fears that shake him.

"I think that really there's something to be said about being able to have the courage to face discomfort and understand that is where growth exists," Henry says. "I hope that in taking those risks and embracing that it makes people look at their own life and think, 'Hey, what can I do to be more of who I am and not be afraid of being afraid?' "

In addition to "Live," Henry will continue his live tour, doing readings at theaters across the country. He also is devoting time to working on a book, co-written with his mother, centered on her turbulent upbringing "being abducted as a child and all of the crazy things she dealt with as having a homicidal mother figure who spent 30 years in prison," Henry says. "So very interesting story, and and I'm excited to be able to work on that more."

Celebrity medium Tyler Henry and Netflix have partnered on a new series, two years after the debut of "Life After Death With Tyler Henry." PROVIDED BY NETFLIX

Bates' 'Matlock' reboot isn't just for older viewers

Kelly Lawler
Columnist
USA TODAY

Did you have "Kathy Bates plays a septuagenarian lawyer in a shockingly good 'Matlock' reboot on CBS" on your 2024 TV bingo card? Because I sure didn't!

But in this day and age on TV – with the chaos of streaming and the decline of traditional broadcast – there's no limit to the Mad-Libs-style shenanigans we'll see when it comes to what makes it on the air. And it's even more of a roll of the dice to find out which remake or reboot of the week is actually good and popular. Or, dare I say it, both!

So here we are, and here is Bates, venerated thespian and Oscar-winner, donning sensible suits and a legal notebook as Madeline "Matty" Matlock in, well, "Matlock" (sneak preview was Sunday, 8 EDT/PDT, moves to 9 EDT/PDT Thursdays on Oct. 17, ★★★½). Bates, 76, is a doll, the cast is charming and the legal-plots-of-the-week are compelling. For those who miss a "Good Wife"-style procedural in their lives, it might just scratch an itch. And offer you a hard candy.

Because that's the whole shtick of "Matlock" this time around. Andy Griffith played a disarming and powerful defense attorney as Ben Matlock in the original 1986-1995 series, but Bates isn't whom you would pick as the most dominating lawyer in the room just by looking at her.

Her version of Matlock is a lawyer, too, but a corporate one, back in the workforce after long absent years due to personal trauma.

She wheedles her way into a fancy firm and starts showing the youngsters what's what, all while pursuing her own agenda.

Matty surprises not only the audience and her legal enemies but also her co-workers and superiors, including boss Olympia (Skye P. Marshall), a Black woman and top-notch attorney who has

had to work harder than her peers to get where she is in her career. Olympia is constantly battling her ex-husband and firm nepo baby Julian (Jason Ritter, who does good smarm). Matty is a thorn in Olympia's side and a fresh career competition for junior associates Billy (David Del Rio) and Sarah (Leah Lewis). Watching the Madeline-instigated sideshow with amused disinterest is the firm's head honcho Senior (Beau Bridges), who seems to hire Madeline as a private joke, but watches her closely.

It's a big cast but creator Jennie Snyder Urman ("Jane the Virgin," "Charmed") has balanced the ensemble well in the humorous and well-paced scripts. In the first two episodes made available for review, there's been time to get to know everyone *and* win two legal battles. The best procedurals can do both, and "Matlock," especially after its big twist, certainly has ambitions as big as some of our best procedurals.

When Max's "Hacks" – which stars Jean Smart, age 73 – won a boatload of Emmys last weekend, there was a lot of talk about making TV for and about people above a certain age. I'd argue that "Matlock" isn't just for the Boomers. It's yet more proof that stories about humans (and especially women) across the whole spectrum of our lives can be compelling. Matty Matlock can be a hero just like any of the young bucks on the latest Marvel show.

Great storytelling has no retirement age.

Kathy Bates as Madeline "Matty" Matlock in "Matlock." PROVIDED BY SONJA FLEMMING/CBS

NATION&WORLD EXTRA

Johnson unveils bill to halt shutdown

Sets vote for Wed., days before funding runs out

Bo Erickson
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., on Sunday proposed a three-month stopgap funding bill that excludes an immigration-related measure demanded by Donald Trump, as lawmakers look to avert a month-end partial government shutdown.

Johnson laid out the plan in a letter to colleagues released just eight days before the government's current $1.2 trillion in discretionary funding runs out on Sept. 30. The chamber will aim to vote on the measure on Wednesday, according to a source with knowledge of the plan.

Failure to act by then would furlough thousands of federal workers and shut down a wide swath of government operations weeks before the Nov. 5 election.

The proposal, which excludes a Trump demand to impose new requirements that people provide proof of citizenship to register to vote, is aligned with what Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., had urged: a basic extension of government funding to December.

"As history has taught and current polling affirms, shutting the government down less than 40 days from a fateful election would be an act of political malpractice," Johnson said in the letter.

The House, which Republicans control by a narrow 220-211 margin, last week rejected Johnson's prior proposal for a six-month funding extension including the voter-registration measure, which Democrats and democracy advocates call unnecessary as it is already illegal for non-citizens to vote in federal elections.

Congress faces an even more critical deadline on Jan. 1, 2025, by which time lawmakers will have to raise the nation's debt ceiling or risk defaulting on more than $35 trillion in federal government debt.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., introduced a three-month stopgap funding bill in a letter Sunday. The chamber will vote on it this week.
ANNA ROSE LAYDEN/REUTERS FILE

Hezbollah, Israel enter 'new phase'

UN: Middle East 'on the brink of an imminent catastrophe'

First responders and Israeli security forces gather amid debris and charred vehicles Sunday in the Haifa district of Israel following a reported strike by Lebanon's Hezbollah. JACK GUEZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Timour Azhari and Miro Maman
REUTERS

BEIRUT – Hezbollah and Israel exchanged heavy fire into Sunday, as the Lebanese militant group sent rockets deep into northern Israeli territory after facing some of the most intense bombardment in almost a year of conflict.

Hezbollah deputy chief Naim Qassem told mourners at the funeral of one of the group's commanders killed last week in Beirut: "We have entered a new phase, the title of which is the open-ended battle of reckoning."

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said operations would continue until it was safe for evacuated people on his side of the border to return – also setting the stage for a long conflict as Iran-backed Hezbollah has vowed to fight on until a ceasefire in the parallel Gaza war.

Israel's Chief of the General Staff Herzi Halevi said in a televised statement the military was well-prepared for the next stages of fighting, which were coming in the next few days, but did not say what this would entail.

"We will do whatever it takes to removes threats against Israel," Halevi said in a televised statement.

The conflict – which has escalated sharply in the past week – has raged since Hezbollah opened a second front against Israel, saying it was acting in support of Palestinians facing an Israeli offensive further south in Gaza.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, thousands of pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah members exploded. The attack was widely blamed on Israel, which has not confirmed or denied responsibility.

The following day, Israel launched its heaviest bombardment of Lebanon yet.

A woman inspects damage to a school in Gaza City, Gaza Strip. An estimated 1 million people in Gaza are currently crammed into a designated humanitarian zone, the United Nations says.
DAWOUD ABU ALKAS/REUTERS

On Friday, an Israeli airstrike on Beirut's southern suburb targeted senior Hezbollah commanders in an attack that killed 45 people, according to the Lebanese health ministry. Hezbollah said 16 members of the group were among the dead, including senior leader Ibrahim Aqil and another commander, Ahmed Wahbi.

In a further intense bombardment on Saturday the Israeli military said it struck around 290 targets, including thousands of Hezbollah rocket launcher barrels.

"In recent days, we have inflicted a series of blows on Hezbollah that it never imagined," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday. "If Hezbollah has not understood the message, I promise you, it will understand the message."

Trump says he won't run in 2028

Says this year 'will be it' if he loses to Harris

REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Republican Donald Trump said that he will not make a fourth consecutive run for the presidency if he loses the Nov. 5 election, saying "that will be it" in an interview released on Sunday.

Asked if he saw himself running again in four years if he is not successful in his third consecutive bid for the White House, the 78-year-old former president told Sharyl Attkisson's "Full Measure" program: "No I don't. I think that will be – that will be it. I don't see

Former President Donald Trump has continued to falsely blame his 2020 loss to Democratic President Joe Biden.
KEN BLEVINS/ WILMINGTON STARNEWS

that at all. Hopefully, we will be successful."

Trump faces a tight race against Vice President Kamala Harris, with polls showing the two neck-and-neck in key battleground states that are likely to be decisive in determining the winner, even as Harris has begun to edge up in nationwide polls.

Trump launched his first reelection bid for the 2020 election the same day he was inaugurated in 2017 and announced his latest White House bid two years ago in November 2022.

Trump has continued to falsely blame his 2020 loss to Democratic President Joe Biden on widespread

Harris pushes for 2nd debate

Vice President Kamala Harris on Sunday said her Republican rival Donald Trump should accept the proposal for a new debate on CNN next month as Election Day nears.

Former President Trump on Saturday rejected doing another debate with his Democratic opponent after Harris' campaign said she had agreed to an Oct. 23 matchup.

"He should accept because I feel very strongly that we owe it to the American people and to the voters to meet once more before Election Day," Harris told supporters at a fundraiser in New York City.

A representative for Trump's campaign referred to the presidential candidate's comments at a rally on Saturday when asked about Harris' remarks.

Speaking to supporters at a North Carolina rally on Saturday, Trump said: "The problem with another debate is that it's just too late. Voting has already started."
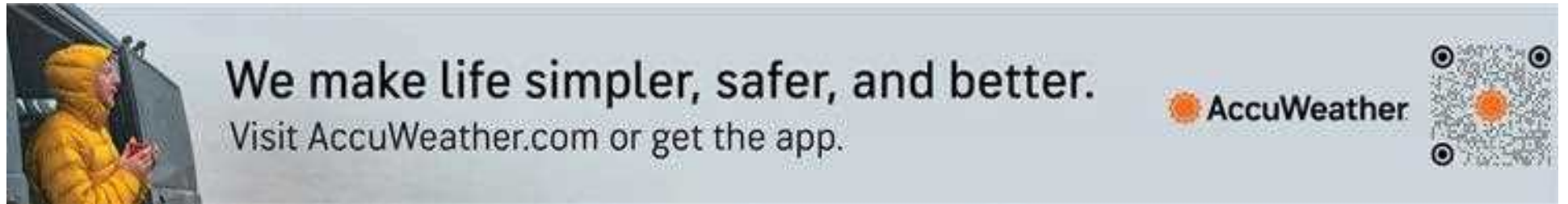
NATIONAL SUMMARY

Thunderstorms will be capable of turning severe from southeastern Missouri through the Ohio Valley today, bringing strong wind gusts. Showers and less potent thunderstorms will stretch from the interior portions of the Northeast southward to West Texas, with spotty thunderstorms for Florida, the Carolinas and southeastern Texas.

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 Monday. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

Seattle 71/56
Billings 73/52
Winnipeg 65/49
Minneapolis 70/51
Montreal 66/54
Toronto 71/62
Detroit 73/59
New York 70/58
San Francisco 86/58
Denver 81/49
Chicago 70/60
Washington 73/65
Kansas City 64/54
Los Angeles 88/63
Atlanta 92/72
El Paso 85/66
Houston 93/75
Chihuahua 88/64
Miami 91/79
Monterrey 87/70

Fairbanks 49/40
Anchorage 50/44
Juneau 58/50
Honolulu 88/77
Hilo 83/70

-10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110s | Showers T-storms Rain Flurries Snow Ice | Cold front Warm front Stationary front

SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATIONAL (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 103 at Palm Springs, CA
Low: 24 at Stanley, ID
Precip: 3.97" at Madison, WI

INTERNATIONAL (excludes Antarctica)
High: 113 at Abadan, Iran
Low: 13 at Isachsen, Canada
Precip: 4.95" at Haikou, China

TODAY IN HISTORY

On Sept. 23, 1984, the mercury read 38 degrees at Chadron in northwestern Nebraska. At the same hour, it reached 90 in Kearney in the eastern part of the state.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: At what humidity level does sweat fail to evaporate from your skin?

A: About 60%

NATIONAL CITIES MONDAY

Denotes possible travel delays

City	High/low/W	Air Quality
Aberdeen, SD	77/50/s	35
Abilene, TX	76/63/pc	40
Accomac, VA	73/61/pc	36
Adrian, MI	74/57/c	42
Akron, OH	74/62/t	46
Alamogordo, NM	86/58/s	58
Alexandria, VA	72/63/pc	44
Alliance, OH	74/61/t	45
Amarillo, TX	78/55/s	38
Ames, IA	70/49/c	40
Anderson, SC	91/69/t	56
Appleton, WI	70/50/c	36
Asheville, NC	82/65/t	58
Ashland, OH	71/62/sh	40
Athens, GA	94/69/pc	65
Augusta, GA	95/69/s	65
Austin, TX	95/72/pc	45
Bartlesville, OK	73/52/s	30
Battle Creek, MI	73/57/c	33
Bedford, IN	76/65/t	30
Binghamton, NY	59/52/sh	29
Bluffton, SC	88/73/t	53
Bremerton, WA	71/56/c	32
Brockton, MA	66/55/pc	27
Brownwood, TX	80/66/t	40
Burlington, IA	69/55/sh	25
Burlington, NC	77/68/t	37
Cambridge, OH	83/64/t	43
Camdenton, MO	70/60/r	24
Canandaigua, NY	66/59/sh	32
Canton, OH	74/62/t	46
Carlsbad, NM	78/60/c	35
Chambersburg, PA	68/60/sh	29
Cherry Hill, NJ	72/61/pc	37
Cincinnati, OH	79/65/t	41
Clarksville, TN	86/70/t	44
Coldwater, MI	73/57/c	33
Columbus, OH	79/65/t	51
Corning, NY	65/59/sh	32
Corpus Christi, TX	94/76/pc	34
Daytona Beach, FL	89/73/s	35
Deming, NM	86/59/s	52
DeRidder, LA	91/71/s	50
Des Moines, IA	70/55/c	36
Detroit, MI	73/59/c	48
Devils Lake, ND	66/50/c	26
Dover, NH	64/48/pc	28
El Paso, TX	85/66/s	56
Elmira, NY	65/59/sh	33
Erie, PA	74/65/sh	36
Eugene, OR	83/56/pc	29

City	High/low/W	Air Quality
Evansville, IN	78/69/t	36
Fall River, MA	66/55/pc	25
Farmington, NM	79/46/c	59
Fayetteville, NC	85/70/pc	49
Fond du Lac, WI	68/50/c	45
Fort Myers, FL	93/75/pc	28
Fort Smith, AR	79/64/t	36
Framingham, MA	67/52/pc	23
Freeport, IL	71/51/c	39
Fremont, OH	72/63/c	42
Fort Collins, CO	83/48/c	46
Gadsden, AL	92/67/pc	58
Gainesville, FL	92/68/s	40
Galesburg, IL	70/56/sh	25
Gastonia, NC	82/68/t	51
Glen Rose, TX	81/66/t	43
Gonzales, LA	93/71/pc	57
Great Falls, MT	74/50/c	31
Green Bay, WI	68/50/c	26
Greenville, SC	86/69/t	58
Hackensack, NJ	70/56/pc	44
Hagerstown, MD	68/61/sh	27
Hattiesburg, MS	96/68/s	58
Henderson, KY	77/68/t	35
Hendersonville, NC	81/62/t	57
Herkimer, NY	65/50/pc	23
Hillsdale, MI	71/56/c	32
Holland, MI	73/56/c	33
Hornell, NY	65/57/sh	30
Houma, LA	92/71/s	52
Howell, MI	69/54/c	38
Hutchinson, KS	72/49/s	41
Hyannis, MA	64/55/pc	26
Indianapolis, IN	73/64/t	34
Iowa City, IA	71/54/c	29
Ithaca, NY	62/57/sh	34
Jackson, MS	92/70/s	61
Jackson, TN	88/68/t	48
Jacksonville, FL	90/70/s	46
Jacksonville, NC	80/66/pc	40
Kent, OH	72/61/t	45
Kewanee, IL	71/55/c	30
Keyser, WV	75/63/pc	29
Kinston, NC	82/66/pc	41
Knoxville, TN	89/67/t	58
Lafayette, IN	73/62/sh	24
Lafayette, LA	92/74/s	54
Lakeland, FL	93/73/s	33
Lansing, MI	71/54/c	34
Las Cruces, NM	85/59/s	51
Lebanon, PA	66/60/sh	32
Leesburg, FL	93/72/s	31

City	High/low/W	Air Quality
Levittown, PA	72/61/pc	36
Lincoln, IL	71/60/sh	25
Louisville, KY	82/69/t	39
Lubbock, TX	78/59/pc	40
Manitowoc, WI	66/53/c	36
Mansfield, OH	71/62/sh	41
Marshall, NC	82/61/t	57
Marshfield, WI	67/44/c	48
Massillon, OH	75/62/t	45
McLean, VA	71/63/c	36
Melbourne, FL	89/76/pc	29
Memphis, TN	89/70/t	49
Middletown, NY	66/54/pc	29
Milford, MA	66/53/pc	25
Milwaukee, WI	68/59/c	42
Monroe, MI	72/57/c	46
Monroe, LA	93/72/s	55
Montgomery, AL	95/70/s	66
Muncie, IN	74/62/sh	26
Murfreesboro, TN	90/69/t	50
Naples, FL	93/76/t	29
Nashville, TN	89/71/t	45
Neptune, NJ	67/62/pc	36
New Bedford, MA	66/57/pc	26
New Bern, NC	82/66/pc	40
New Philadelphia, OH	77/62/t	42
Newark, OH	82/63/t	44
Newton, NJ	65/54/pc	32
New York, NY	70/58/pc	51
Norwich, CT	67/53/pc	28
Ocala, FL	92/69/s	34
Oklahoma City, OK	74/56/s	40
Opelousas, LA	92/70/pc	49
Oshkosh, WI	69/52/c	35
Palm Beach, FL	89/81/t	24
Palm Springs, CA	108/80/s	71
Panama City, FL	92/72/s	49
Pekin, IL	73/60/sh	32
Pensacola, FL	91/72/s	61
Peoria, IL	72/60/sh	34
Petersburg, VA	77/64/c	31
Phoenix, AZ	104/77/s	71
Port Huron, MI	70/59/c	50
Portsmouth, NH	66/57/pc	34
Poughkeepsie, NY	70/51/pc	26
Providence, RI	65/56/pc	27
Pueblo, CO	84/54/c	44
Quincy, MA	66/57/pc	29
Redding, CA	102/65/pc	48
Reno, NV	84/53/pc	63
Ravenna, OH	72/61/t	45
Richmond, IN	75/62/t	34

City	High/low/W	Air Quality
Rochester, NY	70/60/sh	38
Rockford, IL	72/54/c	36
Ruidoso, NM	74/48/s	55
Salem, OR	82/57/pc	29
Salina, KS	72/52/s	38
Salinas, CA	86/57/s	50
Salisbury, MD	75/63/c	37
San Angelo, TX	76/64/t	37
Sarasota, FL	91/75/s	44
Savannah, GA	92/72/pc	64
Sheboygan, WI	68/54/c	39
Shelby, NC	82/67/t	52
Sherman, TX	81/62/t	39
Shreveport, LA	93/72/s	59
Silver City, NM	82/56/s	53
Sioux Falls, SD	74/52/pc	42
Somerset, PA	72/60/t	30
Somerville, NJ	70/59/pc	37
South Bend, IN	71/61/c	39
Spartanburg, SC	86/67/t	60
Springfield, IL	70/61/sh	28
Springfield, MO	72/60/r	32
St. Augustine, FL	87/73/s	36
St. Cloud, MN	70/48/pc	34
St. George, UT	94/61/pc	46
Staunton, VA	72/62/sh	26
Stevens Point, WI	68/42/c	45
Stockton, CA	99/63/s	72
Stroudsburg, PA	66/54/pc	31
Stuart, FL	88/78/t	27
Sturgis, MI	73/59/c	32
Tallahassee, FL	94/71/s	47
Thibodaux, LA	92/71/pc	52
Topeka, KS	70/53/pc	32
Tuscaloosa, AL	94/70/s	63
Utica, NY	64/52/sh	23
Ventura, CA	73/57/s	58
Victorville, CA	96/57/s	83
Vineland, NJ	74/59/pc	39
Visalia, CA	99/61/s	92
Washington, DC	73/65/c	33
Watertown, SD	72/50/s	39
Wausau, WI	67/42/c	40
Waynesboro, PA	68/60/sh	27
White Plains, NY	68/56/pc	30
Wichita Falls, TX	80/59/pc	37
Wilmington, DE	73/60/pc	39
Wilmington, NC	82/69/pc	42
Wisconsin Rapids, WI	69/45/c	50
Wooster, OH	74/62/t	46
Worcester, MA	63/52/pc	28
York, PA	68/62/sh	30

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

City	Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W
Acapulco	87/79/t	86/77/t
Addis Ababa	74/47/s	73/49/sh
Algiers	83/59/pc	84/63/pc
Amman	80/61/pc	86/66/s
Amsterdam	66/53/sh	63/54/r
Ankara	63/47/r	76/46/s
Asuncion	100/77/s	101/77/s
Athens	81/65/s	81/68/s
Auckland	63/56/pc	64/52/pc
Baghdad	102/80/pc	103/76/pc
Bangkok	92/78/t	89/77/t
Beijing	76/52/pc	78/58/pc
Beirut	85/73/sh	84/75/s
Belgrade	81/58/s	80/57/t
Berlin	77/55/pc	64/54/sh
Bogota	69/47/sh	70/47/sh
Brussels	66/53/sh	63/54/sh
Bucharest	81/53/s	83/56/s
Budapest	77/51/pc	74/54/c
Buenos Aires	68/58/pc	66/57/s
Cairo	87/74/s	90/73/s

City	Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W
Cape Town	83/55/c	71/53/pc
Caracas	91/77/t	91/78/t
Casablanca	81/62/pc	78/58/pc
Colombo	88/82/sh	87/82/sh
Copenhagen	68/58/s	64/56/c
Damascus	85/56/s	88/58/s
Dublin	62/48/c	59/43/pc
Geneva	63/51/sh	66/48/sh
Guatemala City	78/63/t	76/63/t
Hanoi	86/74/pc	87/74/pc
Harare	80/50/s	82/49/s
Havana	91/74/t	86/76/t
Helsinki	61/57/c	66/60/pc
Hong Kong	76/73/r	80/76/c
Jakarta	93/79/t	92/78/t
Jerusalem	78/61/pc	82/63/s
Johannesburg	67/46/pc	73/54/c
Kabul	91/66/s	92/73/s
Khartoum	104/83/s	106/82/s
Kyiv	74/53/pc	79/57/s
Kingston	83/79/t	89/79/t

City	Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W
La Paz	64/35/s	63/35/sh
Lagos	85/77/r	84/76/t
Lima	67/59/pc	67/59/c
Lisbon	74/59/c	73/66/c
London	66/54/sh	64/52/c
Madrid	78/52/s	75/60/c
Manila	91/78/t	91/78/r
Mexico City	75/58/sh	74/54/c
Milan	69/55/sh	74/58/r
Mombasa	87/71/pc	86/71/pc
Montevideo	64/55/sh	65/57/s
Montreal	66/54/pc	72/55/c
Moscow	60/37/s	67/45/pc
Nairobi	79/56/pc	81/57/c
New Delhi	96/81/pc	97/83/pc
Panama City	85/77/t	86/76/t
Paris	64/55/c	64/55/c
Port-au-Prince	94/76/t	95/75/t
Rio de Janeiro	87/72/s	87/72/s
Riyadh	104/80/s	103/80/s
Rome	75/64/sh	76/62/r

City	Monday High/low/W	Tuesday High/low/W
San Jose	76/67/r	73/68/r
San Salvador	82/71/t	81/70/t
Santiago	63/43/r	67/43/s
Sao Paulo	88/64/s	91/66/s
Sarajevo	77/49/s	73/53/pc
Shanghai	82/73/pc	84/75/r
Singapore	92/79/r	88/78/c
Stockholm	63/50/pc	66/53/pc
Sydney	82/58/s	75/65/pc
Taipei	83/76/sh	87/76/t
Tegucigalpa	81/67/t	82/68/t
Tehran	94/76/s	96/74/s
Tokyo	79/69/pc	79/67/r
Toronto	71/62/r	67/62/sh
Tunis	80/68/sh	85/69/s
Vancouver	65/55/c	68/57/s
Vienna	74/58/s	64/51/sh
Warsaw	74/51/pc	78/54/pc
Yerevan	72/54/t	72/55/s
Zagreb	76/55/s	73/54/pc
Zurich	65/51/r	66/45/pc

Denotes possible travel delays Monday

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

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Investors eye data, election, earnings

Lewis Krauskopf
REUTERS

NEW YORK – A roaring rally in U.S. stocks will face a gauntlet of economic data, looming political uncertainty and a corporate earnings test in coming weeks as investors navigate one of the most volatile periods of the year for equity markets.

The benchmark S&P 500 last week hit its first closing all-time high in two months after the Federal Reserve unveiled a hefty 50-basis point rate cut, kicking off the first U.S. monetary easing cycle since 2020.

The index is up 0.8% so far in September, historically the weakest month for stocks, and has gained 19% year-to-date. But the rocky period could carry over until the Nov. 5 election, strategists said, leaving the S&P 500 vulnerable to market swings.

"We're entering that period where seasonality has been a bit less favorable," said Angelo Kourkafas, senior investment strategist at Edward Jones. "Despite the excitement about the start of the new rate-cutting cycle, it could still be a bumpy road ahead."

The second half of September is historically the weakest two-week period of the year for the S&P 500, according to a Ned Davis Research analysis of data since 1950.

The index has also logged an average 0.45% decline in October during presidential years, data from CFRA going back to 1945 showed.

Volatility also tends to pick up in October in election years, with the Cboe Market Volatility index rising to an average level of 25 at the start of the month, as opposed to its long-term average of 19.2, according to an Edward Jones analysis of the past eight presidential election years. The VIX was recently at 16.4.

The market could be particularly sensitive to this year's close election

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This week includes reports on manufacturing, consumer confidence and durable goods, as well as the personal consumption expenditures price index, a key inflation measure.

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between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris.

"Unless the data deteriorates considerably, we think U.S. elections will start to be more at the forefront," UBS equity derivative strategists said in a note.

Investors are also looking for data to support expectations that the economy is navigating a "soft landing," during which inflation moderates without badly hurting growth. Stocks fare much better after the start of rate cuts in such a scenario, as opposed to when the Fed cuts during recessions.

This week includes reports on manufacturing, consumer confidence and durable goods, as well as the personal consumption expenditures price index, a key inflation measure.

Attention will be squarely on employment after Fed Chair Jerome Powell said the central bank wanted to stay ahead of any weakening in the job market as the Fed announced its cut last week. The closely watched monthly jobs report is due on Oct. 4.

"We're going to have hyper-focus on anything that speaks to the strength of the labor force," said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at B Riley Wealth.

Meanwhile, the rally in stocks has pushed up valuations. The S&P 500 has a price-to-earnings ratio of 21.4 times expected 12-month earnings, well above its long-term average of 15.7, according to LSEG Datastream.

With the scope for valuations to go higher now more limited, investors said that puts a greater burden on corporate earnings to be strong in order to support stock gains.

Third-quarter reporting season kicks off next month. S&P 500 earnings for the period are expected to have climbed 5.4% from the prior year, and then jump nearly 13% in the fourth quarter, according to LSEG IBES.

FedEx shares tumbled on Friday after the delivery giant reported a steep quarterly profit drop and lowered its full-year revenue forecast.

"Extended multiples put pressure on macro data and fundamentals to support S&P 500 prices," Scott Chronert, head of U.S. equity strategy at Citi, said in a report.

Harris to speak this week on economic proposals

Likely to include plans to lower costs, make housing more affordable

Nandita Bose
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Vice President Kamala Harris plans to roll out a new set of economic policies this week that aim to help Americans build wealth and set economic incentives for businesses to aid that goal, three sources with knowledge of the matter said.

The new policies, which have not been previously reported and could be announced in Pittsburgh on Wednesday, come as undecided voters continue to ask for more information about how Harris would help them economically if she were elected president in November, including those in critical swing states, the sources said.

Harris, speaking to reporters on Sunday after Reuters reported the expected rollout, said she would outline her vision for the economy in a speech this week.

She added that the plan is about investing in the aspirations and ambitions of the American people while addressing the challenges they face.

The rollout would follow heated debate in Democratic circles over whether releasing more economic policies so close to election day is a smart strategy.

"It's not just about affordability, it's also about showing (voters) they have a path to building wealth," said one of the sources with direct knowledge of Harris's economic plans, adding she wanted to show Americans how they can "get a foot in the door."

None of the sources would provide specific details on the expected new policies, and the Harris campaign would not comment on any new proposals. However, Harris' 2020 presidential run and President Joe Biden's administration included plans with similar goals.

In her 2020 campaign, Harris proposed significant pay hikes for the millions of public school teachers, forcing companies to disclose their pay gap between men and women and penalizing those who are not narrowing it. The Biden and Harris administration have pushed to eliminate bias in home appraisals and use the more than $700 billion federal contracting budget to buoy minority businesses.

Harris has released a basket of economic policies focused on the high cost of housing, taxes, small business

James Singer, a spokesperson for Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign told Reuters that the Democratic presidential nominee "will continue to present her opportunity economy agenda to lower costs, make housing more affordable, and spur economic growth across America." KENA BETANCUR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

The rollout would follow heated debate in Democratic circles over whether releasing more economic policies so close to election day is a smart strategy.

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expenses, childcare and goods. Her plans often build on Biden's policies, like increasing the child tax credit and lifting the corporate tax rate to 28%.

Campaign spokesperson James Singer did not comment on the story. He told Reuters that Harris "will continue to present her opportunity economy agenda to lower costs, make housing more affordable, and spur economic growth across America."

Releasing new economic policy with less than 50 days left in a tight presidential election race could mean the new measures never reach crucial voters, some advisers acknowledge.

"Typically you'd see a campaign wrap up persuading voters by September and move to mobilizing people but this is not a typical campaign," said a source with knowledge of the new plans, referring to Harris' jump to the top of the ticket in late July. "We have to continue persuading and mobilizing folks at the same time until the very end."

Republican Donald Trump's eco-

nomic proposals aimed at working-class Americans include eliminating taxes on tips and Social Security benefits, opening up federal lands to housing construction and deporting millions of immigrants to the country who Republicans say are driving up costs.

The former president has also proposed new across-the-board tariffs on goods not made in the U.S. that could raise costs for American consumers and inflation, but that is backed by a slim majority of voters.

Trump has tried to pin on Democrats inflation that popped globally as the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns eased and has made the still-high cost of groceries, particularly bacon, a rally speech staple.

From 2019 to 2023, the food Consumer Price Index rose by 25%, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported.

Some Harris supporters have urged the campaign to double down on the economic message that is already out there instead of rolling out new ideas.

"My recommendation is to do more show-and-tells. Rather than address this with endless white papers, go to grocery stores and apartment buildings and more," said Donna Brazile, a long-time Democratic strategist.

"Inflation may have gone down, but the cost of living hasn't changed. Some of this is post pandemic and that still must be addressed," she said.

Many of Harris' proposals would require congressional approval, and would be unlikely to pass unless Democrats win both the House and Senate.

US to propose ban on Chinese software, hardware vehicles

David Shepardson
REUTERS

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

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

The proposed regulation would ban the import and sale of vehicles from China with key communications or automated driving system software or hardware, said the two sources, who declined to be identified because the decision had not been publicly disclosed. The move is a significant escalation in the United States' ongoing restrictions on Chinese vehicles, software and components. The Biden administration recently locked in steep tariff hikes on Chinese imports, including a 100% duty on electric vehicles as well as new hikes on EV batteries and key minerals.

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

"You can imagine the most catastrophic outcome theoretically if you had a couple million cars on the road and the software were disabled," she said. President Joe Biden in February ordered an investigation into whether

Nearly all newer vehicles on U.S. roads are considered "connected." Such vehicles have onboard network hardware that allows internet access, allowing them to share data with devices both inside and outside the vehicle. GETTY IMAGES

Chinese vehicle imports pose national security risks over connected-car technology – and if that software and hardware should be banned in all vehicles on U.S. roads.

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

The Commerce Department plans to give the public 30 days to comment before any finalization of the rules, the sources said.

Nearly all newer vehicles on U.S. roads are considered "connected." Such vehicles have onboard network hardware that allows internet access, allowing them to share data with devices both inside and outside the vehicle.

The department also plans to propose making the prohibitions on software effective in the 2027 model year and the ban on hardware would take effect in January 2029 or the 2030 model year.

The prohibitions in question would include vehicles with certain Bluetooth, satellite and wireless features as well as highly autonomous vehicles that could operate without a driver behind the wheel. A bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers in November raised alarm about Chinese auto and tech companies collecting and handling sensitive data while testing autonomous vehicles in the United States.

The prohibitions would extend to other foreign U.S. adversaries, including Russia, the sources said.

IN BRIEF

4 aides to NC gubernatorial candidate quit campaign

Four top aides to North Carolina's Republican candidate for governor resigned Sunday, three days after CNN reported that he once called himself a "black NAZI!" and proposed bringing back slavery in comments posted on a pornography website.

Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, 56, who is Black and denied making the comments, announced that his campaign manager, finance director, deputy campaign manager and senior advisor stepped down from their roles with the campaign without saying why.

The departures further unsettle Robinson's campaign with 45 days to go. He is running against Democratic candidate Josh Stein, the state's attorney general.

The North Carolina Republican Party stood by Robinson in a statement on Friday, but Trump did not mention him during a campaign rally Saturday in Wilmington.

Biden expected to meet Vietnam president this week, source says

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden is expected to meet Vietnam's President and ruling Communist Party chief To Lam on Wednesday, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters.

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

The White House had no immediate comment. A Vietnamese foreign ministry spokesperson previously had not said whether Lam would meet Biden during the trip.

Last September, Biden visited Vietnam and secured deals on semiconductors and minerals and an upgrade to Hanoi's highest diplomatic status, alongside China and Russia.

40% of regions, companies lack emissions-cut goals, survey says

SINGAPORE – More than 40% of major companies, cities and regions have still not set any targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions, according to an annual "stocktake" released on Monday to gauge global progress in the fight against catastrophic climate change.

While more governments and enterprises have issued net-zero pledges since last year, their attention has been further diverted by wars, elections and economic challenges, leaving a significant "commitment gap", said Net Zero Tracker, a coalition of research groups at the University of Oxford.

The total number of companies with no emissions targets dropped to 495, from 734 last year. They include electric vehicle makers Tesla and BYD, Nintendo and Berkshire Hathaway, Net Zero Tracker said.

The report cited Costa Rica, Volvo and Google owner Alphabet as examples of "good practice" when it comes to implementing net-zero pledges.

At least 31 dead in Iran coal mine blast, state media reports

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates – A gas explosion in a coal mine in Iran's South Khorasan Province killed at least 31 people and injured 16, the country's interior minister Eskandar Momeni told state media on Sunday.

Local media had reported earlier in the day that 51 people were killed following the accident they said was caused by a methane gas explosion in two blocks, B and C, of the privately-owned mine operated by the Madanjoo company.

Momeni added that 17 miners were still missing and their fate remained unknown as rescue teams were still approaching their likely location.

There were 69 workers in the blocks at the time of the explosion, state TV reported.

– Reuters

People revel in a beer tent Sunday during the Oktoberfest festival in Munich, Germany. The world's biggest beer festival runs until Oct 6.
KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

UN adopts pact that aims to save global cooperation

Leaders warn of growing mistrust among nations

Simon Jessop and Valerie Volcovici
REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS – United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres launched a two-day, climate-themed "Summit for the Future" on Sunday as part of the U.N. General Assembly, where some leaders warned of growing mistrust between nations as climate-fueled disasters mount.

National leaders addressed the group after adopting a "Pact for the Future" aimed at ensuring and increasing cooperation between nations, with many calling for urgent access to more climate finance.

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

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley echoed Guterres' warning and urged a "reset" in how global institutions are governed so they can better respond to crises and serve those most in need.

"The distress in our institutions of governance, the mistrust between the governors and the governed, will continue to foster social alienation the world over at the very time that we need to find as many people as possible to shape a new world," Mottley said.

On Monday, the U.N. climate summit continues with speeches from China, India, and the United States.

Also this week, President Joe Biden is expected to deliver a speech at an event also attended by actor and climate activist Jane Fonda and World Bank President Ajay Banga, among others. Another event hosted by the Clinton Foundation features speeches by Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, and actor and water activist Matt Damon.

Climate summits and events like Climate Week, held alongside the U.N. General Assembly, have taken on a more urgent tone in recent years as rising temperatures fuel increasingly extreme disasters like heatwaves and storms.

Some observers to climate negotiations regretted that the global pact adopted Sunday morning by the General Assembly did not go further than last year's COP28 summit in Dubai in affirming a commitment to transition away from fossil fuel use.

Countries are showing "collective amnesia" about the need to tackle these polluting fuels, said Alden Meyer, a senior associate at the climate think tank E3G.

Leaders have also been grappling with a more urgent challenge on the climate agenda. There are just two months left until November's COP29 climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, leaving little time for agreeing on a new global finance target to replace the annual $100 billion pledge that expires in 2025.

With some U.N. agencies estimating the annual financing need in the trillions, leaders are looking beyond their own budgets for ways to boost climate cash.

The World Bank and other multilateral development banks are undergoing reform processes this year, which could see them making more funding available or taking on more climate-related risk.

Under an initiative led by Barbados, France and Kenya, countries also continue to discuss imposing new global taxes to help pay for climate finance, such as a financial transaction tax or a shipping tax.

British Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland noted that some of the world's poorest countries were now facing climate-fueled disasters along with an increased debt burden.

"We have to do more to understand the fundamental unfairness of the debt crisis that most of our developing countries are going through," Scotland told Reuters. "The development banks and the World Bank have to step up to that reality."

"International challenges are moving faster than our ability to solve them," United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said Sunday at the kickoff for a two-day, climate-themed "Summit for the Future," part of this week's U.N. General Assembly. ANGELA WEISS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Zelenskyy seeks 'truly just peace' for Ukraine

Elaine Monaghan
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy arrived in the United States on Sunday to attend sessions at the U.N. General Assembly and urged his partners to help achieve "a shared victory for a truly just peace."

"This fall will determine the future of this war," he said in a post on X alongside his nightly video address, delivered from a plane he said was en route to Pennsylvania. Ukrainian media later reported he had arrived in New York. He is also due to visit Washington, D.C., later in the week.

Zelenskyy

Zelenskyy did not say what his plans were in Pennsylvania, but the state is home to a munitions plant in President Joe Biden's hometown of Scranton.

The Ukrainian leader's concerns about a shortage of such munitions have taken on added urgency as Russia pummels Ukraine's energy grid ahead of the critical winter months.

In his video, Zelenskyy said Ukraine was doing everything it could, by acquiring weapons and through diplomacy, "to consolidate our partners' support and force Russia into peace."

The Ukrinform state news agency reported separately that Zelenskyy had arrived in New York and that he would meet heads of U.S. companies to discuss his country's energy needs as well as leaders of states and international organizations on Sunday.

Zelenskyy's visit coincides with U.S. efforts to prepare a $375M military aid package for Ukraine, breaking a trend toward smaller packages for Kyiv's military operations.

Zelenskyy said he would present a "victory plan" in Ukraine's war against Russia first to Biden. He is also expected to discuss the plan with Vice President Kamala Harris, as well as with other world leaders.

Zelenskyy also hopes to meet GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump. Trump has said he will probably meet with Zelenskyy this week but no date has been announced.

India's Modi rallies Indian Americans, calls 2024 'very important' year

REUTERS

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi rallied the Indian community in the U.S. on Sunday, citing the power of the diaspora ahead of the Nov. 5 presidential election along with the importance of the 2024 contest and democracy in general.

Modi, speaking at a packed coliseum in New York's Long Island suburbs that also featured Indian dancing and songs, did not comment specifically on the contest between Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and former Republican President Donald Trump.

"This year 2024 is a very important one for the entire world," he said, according to a translation of his remarks.

"On the one hand, there are conflicts raging between several countries in the world, there is tension. And on the other, democracy is being celebrated in several countries of the world," Modi told the crowd. "India and Amer-

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks at a gathering of Indian Americans on Sunday in Long Island, N.Y. He met earlier in the day with President Joe Biden in Delaware.
JEENAH MOON/REUTERS

ica are also together in the celebration of democracy."

About 4.5 million people in the U.S. identify as being of Indian descent, according to 2020 U.S. census data.

Trump has said he will meet with Modi this week.

He faces a tight race against Harris, who is of Indian descent.

Modi secured his own historic third term earlier this year and was sworn in as prime minister of the world's most populous nation in June following a shock election setback that left him facing the potential challenges of a coalition government after an election campaign marked by religious rhetoric.

Modi and President Joe Biden met in Delaware over the weekend one-on-one as well as part of the Quad grouping that also includes the leaders of Australia and Japan.

While a U.S. official declined to say whether human rights issues were raised in the Biden-Modi talks, senior U.S. officials met with Sikh advocates ahead of the Biden-Modi meeting to discuss threats they face in the U.S.

4 dead in Alabama mass shooting

More than a dozen are wounded Saturday evening rampage

John Bacon
USA TODAY

At least four people were killed, more than a dozen were wounded and an intensive search was underway Sunday in Birmingham, Alabama, for the people who fired into a crowd in the city's entertainment district in what the police chief described as a "hit."

Chief Scott Thurmond said two males and a female died at the scene Saturday night and a fourth male died a short time later at a local hospital. He said about 17 people were wounded. First responders rushed some of them to hospitals while others traveled to hospitals around the city on their own.

Thurmond said the shooters rolled up in a vehicle at around 11 p.m., got out and fired into the crowd on the streets in the Five Points South district, a popular area of shops, bars and restaurants. The shooters then fled the scene, where more than 100 shell casings were found, he said.

The victims included the person who was targeted, he said, but added that he did not know the motive for the killing.

"We believe there was a hit, if you will, on that particular person," he said.

Thurmond said no arrests had been made and investigators were viewing video surveillance recordings for clues. The FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were assisting in the investigation.

Thurmond urged the public to provide any information they might have. Tips leading to an arrest could pay up to $5,000, authorities said.

"It's going to take everyone to work together to get these individuals off the streets who inflicted this carnage on our city last night," Thurmond said. "No one in our city wants these people on our streets."

Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin said a Glock "switch," which converts semiautomatic handguns into automatic weapons, had been used.

"This is not the first occasion, unfortunately, in 2024 where we've seen the style of weapons, the number of bullets on the scene ... automatic weapons being used in our streets," Woodfin said.

The devices are banned by federal law. Legislators have pushed to codify the ban under state law, but that effort fell short in the last state legislative session.

"We need the necessary tools," Woodfin said.

Dajon Singleton told WBMA-TV he was driving into the area when he saw the emergency response and chaos on the streets as people ran and screamed. He saw five or six people taken away on stretchers, he said.

"Very devastating, sad," he said. "The grieving-type screaming. ... That's when I instantly knew someone lost a loved one."

Contributing: Marty Roney, Montgomery Advertiser

People take part in the funeral procession of Ibrahim Aqil, the head of Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force, on Sunday in Beirut. Aqil was killed Friday in an Israeli air strike in a densely populated Hezbollah stronghold. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Middle East

Continued from Page 1NN

Speaking at Aqil's funeral on Sunday, Qassem said Israel was seeking to paralyze the group, but would not succeed.

Qassem said Israel's escalation of the conflict would lead to further displacement of its own citizens.

Israel has closed schools, restricted gatherings in the north and ordered hospitals there to move patients and staff to protected areas – many have secured or underground facilities designed to withstand rocket fire.

Air raid sirens sounded constantly in Israel on Sunday. About 150 rockets, cruise missiles and drones were fired at Israel overnight and into Sunday, most of which were intercepted by air defenses, the military said.

Several buildings were struck, including a house badly damaged near the city of Haifa. Rescue teams treated wounded but there were no reports of deaths. Residents had been instructed to stay near bomb shelters and safe rooms.

Hezbollah said it hit a barracks and another Israeli position with squadrons of attack drones and also launched rockets at military-industrial facilities in an "initial response" to last week's device attacks.

Meanwhile, the pro-Iranian Islamic Resistance in Iraq militant group said Sunday it had launched a drone attack on a target in the Israeli-occupied Jordan Valley.

Islamic Resistance in Iraq vowed to escalate its attacks.

In a statement, the Israeli military said interceptors were launched towards a UAV (drone) that was launched from Iraq and was identified crossing from Syria into Israeli territory. No injuries were reported.

The pro-Iranian militant group said its drones hit a location in the Jordan Valley in the "occupied Palestinian territories" but did not elaborate.

The U.N. special coordinator in Lebanon, Jeanine Hennis-Plasscharet, said in a post on X that "with the region on the brink of an imminent catastrophe, it cannot be overstated enough: there is NO military solution that will make either side safer."

Lebanon's top Christian cleric, Bechara Boutros al-Rai, said in his Sunday sermon that Lebanon was "deeply saddened" by the casualties among civilians and within Hezbollah in the attacks of the past week, in a rare condolence message by a Christian leader to the group.

"We direct an appeal to the (United Nations Security Council) to put an end to this war by all available means," Rai said.

Tens of thousands of people have left their homes on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border since Hezbollah began firing rockets at Israel in October.

Israel has faced fierce international criticism for the humanitarian crisis brought on by its nearly one-year offensive against the Hamas militant group in Gaza.

Most of Gaza's population has been displaced. An estimated 1 million people – half the population – are currently crammed into a designated humanitarian zone that makes up less than 15% of the territory and is lacking essential infrastructure and services, according to the United Nations.

Humanitarian access to northern Gaza, where estimates of the population run between 300,000 and 500,000 people – is especially difficult, according to the United Nations.

The Gaza conflict was triggered on Oct. 7 when Hamas attacked Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking about 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel's subsequent assault on the Gaza Strip has killed more than 41,300 Palestinians, according to the local health ministry, and laid waste to the enclave.

Some inmates pin hopes on clemency before Biden leaves office

Sarah N. Lynch
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Michael Montalvo has served 37 years in federal prison for leading a criminal enterprise that sold tens of millions of dollars' worth of cocaine in California. And during that time, he has earned a law degree and helped other inmates obtain their freedom through a program called compassionate release.

But due to a quirk in the law, the 78-year-old Vietnam War veteran is barred from seeking compassionate release himself. He has two options to get out of prison: death or persuading President Joe Biden to grant him clemency.

Montalvo is one of more than 7,000 federal inmates asking Biden to use this power to release them from prison before the end of his term.

Montalvo

"Mr. Montalvo poses no danger to society," his lawyers wrote in his clemency petition, noting he was not accused of violence. "Clemency is the only remedy available to correct his sentence."

When Montalvo was convicted of "continuing a criminal enterprise," he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. A similar conviction today would most likely lead to a far less stringent sentence, his lawyers said.

Montalvo is part of a small and often forgotten subset of the 158,000 federal inmates who were convicted of crimes committed before November 1987, when the federal parole system was abolished and replaced with new U.S. sentencing guidelines.

The U.S. government says it does not keep track of the number of inmates, including Montalvo, who are serving sentences of life without the possibility of parole, but Berkeley Law professor Charles Weisselberg estimates there are somewhere between 100 and 400.

When Congress amended the law in 2018 to make it easier for aging or ill inmates to be freed through compassionate release by petitioning a federal court, it did not account for people incarcerated under the earlier system.

Criminal justice advocates say they believe that exclusion was unintentional.

In 2021, Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, introduced the Safer Detention Act to address these issue, but the bill did not pass.

Weisselberg said he believes everyone serving a sentence under the parole system should be granted clemency.

Since Biden took office in 2021, the White House has pardoned 25 people and commuted sentences for 131 people, according to Justice Department data.

The White House has not said what Biden's priorities might be in using his power of clemency in his last months in office.

A White House spokesperson said Biden remains "committed to reforming our criminal justice system" and continues to evaluate clemency requests "in a thoughtful and deliberative manner."

SpaceX plans to send uncrewed missions to Mars

REUTERS

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

Earlier this month, Musk said the first Starships to Mars would launch in two years "when the next Earth-Mars transfer window opens."

The CEO on Sunday said the first crewed mission timeline will depend upon the success of uncrewed flights. If the uncrewed missions land safely, crewed missions will be launched in four years. However, in case of challenges, crewed missions will be postponed by another two years, Musk said.

Musk, known for providing changing timelines on Starship's readiness, said earlier this year the first uncrewed starship to land on Mars would be within five years, with the first people landing on Mars within seven years.

In June, a Starship rocket survived a fiery, hypersonic return from space and achieved a breakthrough landing demonstration in the Indian Ocean, completing a full test mission around the globe on the rocket's fourth try.

Musk is counting on Starship to fulfill his goal of producing a large, multipurpose next-generation spacecraft capable of sending people and cargo to the moon later this decade, and ultimately flying to Mars.

NASA earlier this year delayed Artemis 3 mission and its first crewed moon landing in half a century using SpaceX's Starship, to September 2026. It was previously planned for late 2025, NASA said.

Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa in June canceled a private mission around the moon he had paid for, which was to have used SpaceX's Starship, citing schedule uncertainties in the rocket's development.

A SpaceX Starship craft launches atop a rocket in March near Brownsville, Texas. CEO Elon Musk is counting on Starship to fulfill his goal of producing a large, multipurpose next-generation spacecraft capable of sending people and cargo to the moon later this decade, and ultimately flying to Mars.
JOE SKIPPER/REUTERS FILE

New polls: Harris gains ground in race

NBC, CBS surveys show larger boost in favor

REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Vice President Kamala Harris leads Republican rival Donald Trump by 5 percentage points in an NBC News poll released Sunday that found that respondents have come to see her more favorably since she emerged as the Democratic candidate for president.

Asked about their views of Harris since she became the nominee, 48% of 1,000 registered voters surveyed said it was positive compared to 32% in July – the largest jump among politician ratings polled by NBC since President George W. Bush's favorability rose after the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Asked about Trump, 40% of those polled said they viewed him positively compared to 38% in July, the news network said. The poll, conducted Sept. 13-17, has a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

A separate CBS News poll also found Harris leading Trump, by 4 percentage points, 52% to 48%, among likely voters, with a margin of error rate of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

The findings are broadly in line with other recent national polls, including those by Reuters/Ipsos, that show a close contest heading into the Nov. 5 election.

Trump, 78, continues to falsely blame on widespread voter fraud while facing federal and state criminal charges over efforts to overturn the election results.

Harris, 59, would be the first woman

Vice President Kamala Harris leads former President Donald Trump in new polls from CBS and NBC News.
BRIAN SNYDER/REUTERS FILE

to serve as president in the nation's 248-year history.

"She's been able to change this from a race that was a referendum on Joe Biden to a race that is a referendum on Donald Trump," Amy Walter, publisher and editor in chief of the nonpartisan Cook Political Report, told NBC's "Meet the Press."

In CBS' poll of 3,129 registered voters surveyed Sept. 18-20, Harris edged up 2 percentage points after a 50-50 split in August, shored by her performance in the Sept. 10 debate and brightening economic news.

Harris' abortion rights bus tour spreads out

Aims for votes the big rallies don't reach

Gabriella Borter
REUTERS

ALLENTOWN, Pa. – An intimate crowd gathered around a blue bus and listened intently while Hadley Duvall, an abortion rights advocate and a supporter of Kamala Harris' presidential campaign, told how she was raped and impregnated by her stepfather at age 12.

Duvall ultimately had a miscarriage but said that under new abortion laws in her home state of Kentucky, she would have been forced to carry the pregnancy to term.

Aleyda Garcia, 53, held a Harris campaign sign in Spanish and teared up. Her son Brandon Rodriguez, 18, wiped a drop from his mother's cheek. A first-time voter, he had yet to decide between Harris, a Democrat, and the Republican Donald Trump.

Duvall's story, part of the Harris campaign's "Reproductive Freedom" bus tour, made Garcia think of her granddaughters.

"You never know when something can happen like that," Garcia said. "I want them to have a choice."

Reuters followed the bus tour for two days in Pennsylvania. Most who showed up support Harris while a few, like Rodriguez, came to hear more about her. Voters like him make up the small group who could swing the Nov. 5 election.

Democrats see abortion rights as a popular issue for Harris to use against Trump, a Republican who while president appointed three Supreme Court justices who in 2022 helped overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that had legalized abortion nationwide.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted from August 21-28 found a majority of voters, including 34% of Republicans, want the next president to protect or increase abortion access.

Trump says he backs abortion rights in circumstances of rape, incest or when a mother's life is in danger but says it's up to each state to decide for itself, and

Hadley Duvall speaks Sunday in Allentown, Pa., a stop on Vice President Kamala Harris' "Reproductive Freedom" bus tour.
HANNAH BEIER/REUTERS

some allow no exceptions. He denies Democrats' assertions he plans to sign into law a national ban on abortions.

The bus will make at least 50 stops that began with a few laps around Trump's Florida home in West Palm Beach. It will hit all seven battleground states expected to decide the election. The aim is to take the fight to small-town and neighborhood voters that big rallies will not reach.

Spokespeople hop off and on the bus and include Harris' husband Doug Emhoff, actors, influencers, local radio hosts, podcasters and senators. Stops include colleges, health centers and beer halls in places like Allentown, Pennsylvania, population 126,000.

"You can get into communities that you don't get to as easily with principals flying in and out," said Morgan Mohr, senior campaign adviser for reproduc-

Democrats see abortion rights as a popular issue for Harris to use against Trump, a Republican who while president appointed three Supreme Court justices who in 2022 helped overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling.

tive rights who rode the bus through the battleground states of Florida, Georgia and North Carolina before arriving in Pennsylvania.

Harris has vowed to bring back Roe's protections, although to do so she would

likely need a Democratic majority in both houses of Congress – a long shot in the 2024 election.

In Allentown, a left-leaning city whose population is more than 50% Latino, the campaign gave out empanadas to appeal to a demographic group that Democrats have been losing ground with in recent years.

Honduran-born Garcia, a Democratic voter since she became a citizen, heard about the event that morning on a local Spanish-language radio station.

Garcia said she brought her son, who works at an amusement park, so he could hear from the campaign and make an informed voting decision.

"I think I'll probably vote for Harris," Rodriguez said, after the program ended. He said he still found Trump funny, but didn't want him to be president again.

Trump

voter fraud and faces federal and state criminal charges over efforts to overturn the election results.

He denies any wrongdoing and has cast his indictments as a political attack against him while embracing increasingly dystopian rhetoric if he were to

lose in 2024.

He has also launched a number of businesses ventures amid his latest campaign, including Trump Media, NFTs, and Trump-branded sneakers, coins and cryptocurrency.

Harris, 59, meanwhile, has cast the race as a critical moment for U.S. democracy even as she seeks to focus on kitchen-table issues such as costs for families and housing.

Asked whether the four year break

helped him regroup and figure out who he could trust as allies, Trump said: "It would have been easier if I did it ... contiguous."

"But the benefit is more than anything else, it shows how bad they were," he added.

Trump, who spoke with Attkisson at his Florida resort, also said it was "too early" to make deals with people for any position in his White House cabinet should he win in November.

"I think that will be – that will be it. I don't see that at all. Hopefully, we will be successful."

Former President Donald Trump
On Sharyl Attkisson's "Full Measure" program

SPORTS Extra

NFL

Ravens running back Derrick Henry (22) runs as Cowboys safety Donovan Wilson (6) and cornerback Jourdan Lewis defend at AT&T Stadium. KEVIN JAIRAJ/IMAGN IMAGES

COWBOYS' RALLY FALLS SHORT

Derrick Henry rushed for 151 yards and two touchdowns on 25 carries, and the Baltimore Ravens survived a late rally by the Dallas Cowboys to earn their first win of the season, a 28-25 victory on Sunday in Arlington, Texas. Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott completed 28 of 51 passes for 379 yards with two touchdowns. **ROUNDUP, PAGE 2NS**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Georgia holds off Texas atop coaches poll

Eddie Timanus
USA TODAY

The upper echelon of the US LBM Coaches Poll after college football's Week 4 remains largely unchanged this week. That will likely not be the case next week with the season's first top-five showdown on the horizon.

Georgia remains No. 1, receiving 35 of 55 first-place votes cast this week. The Bulldogs had an open date to prepare for next week's trip to No. 4 Alabama, which was also idle over the weekend. No. 2 Texas, which easily handled UL-Monroe on Saturday, closes the gap a little more picking up 18 first-place nods. The remaining two firsts went to No. 3 Ohio State, which opens Big Ten competition next week at Michigan State.

Ole Miss stays put at No. 5 as Tennessee nudges ahead of Oregon at No. 6, giving the SEC five of the top six teams in the poll this week. The news wasn't all good for the league, however, as Missouri slips from a tie for eighth to No. 11 after needing overtime to escape Vanderbilt. Penn State, Miami (Fla.) and Utah now round out the top 10.

Michigan makes the week's biggest gain within the rankings, gaining five spots to check in at No. 12 after upending Southern Cal, knocking the Trojans down four slots to No. 16.

Kansas State tumbles 11 positions to No. 25 after a late-night drubbing at Brigham Young, which moves into the poll at No. 22. No. 21 Illinois also joins the rankings after taking down Nebraska in overtime Friday night.

The Cornhuskers and Memphis are the week's dropouts.

Georgia running back Cash Jones (32) celebrates with teammates after a touchdown against Clemson during the third quarter at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. BRETT DAVIS/USA TODAY SPORTS

MLB

White Sox tie MLB record with 120th loss

Gabe Lacques
USA TODAY

It took more than half a century, but the 1962 New York Mets have company.

For 62 years, the first team in that franchise's history was also the biggest loser in Major League Baseball's record books. But these 2024 Chicago White Sox are now eye to eye with Casey Stengel's expansion Mets in the toilet bowl of history – and about to plumb the depths even further.

The White Sox lost their 120th game Sunday, their 4-2 defeat to the San Diego Padres equaling the '62 Mets for most setbacks in a single season.

Now, the White Sox are 36-120 and heading home with six more chances for that 121st loss to stand alone in history's loss column. They do have one bar they can hope to clear: The 1916 Philadelphia Athletics' .235 winning percentage is the worst in modern baseball history. The White Sox are currently at .232.

Yet, at this point, all the ignominy feels inevitable. Chicago has endured losing streaks of 21, 14 and 12 games this season, and finishes the season with series against the Los Angeles Angels and Detroit Tigers. The White Sox are 1-9 this year against the Tigers alone, a big reason why they're a mind-boggling 8-41 against American League Central foes this season.

That 21-game skid spanning July and August resulted in the firing of manager Pedro Grifol, who went 28-89 this season and 89-190 these past two seasons. They decimated their putrid roster even further at the July 30 trade deadline, dealing pitchers Erick Fedde and Michael Kopech, and outfielders Eloy Jimenez and Tommy Pham to contenders, making life no easier for interim manager Grady Sizemore.

But make no mistake: This outcome is very much a case of systemic rot, nothing no manager, interim or permanent, or player could have realistically prevented.

This was the first full season under GM Chris Getz after longtime club president Kenny Williams and former GM Rick Hahn were let go in August 2023. While the club did make playoff appearances in pandemic-shortened 2020 and 2021, the club became unmoored under venerable manager Tony La Russa and Grifol.

A long history of disinvestment in free agents – current outfielder Andrew Benintendi's $75 million contract is the largest in team history, and he's been worth -0.8 WAR in his two seasons – and behind-the-curve efforts in drafting and player development left the organization largely barren.

With another grim season ahead, Getz did not wait to trade the club's best asset, pitcher Dylan Cease, to the Padres in March. While that was a typical move for a club aiming to rebuild, the roster left behind was, in a word, putrid. **ROUNDUP, PAGE 4NS**

Chicago White Sox players look on from the dugout during their 4-2 loss to the San Diego Padres at Petco Park. ORLANDO RAMIREZ/IMAGN IMAGES

NFL

ROUNDUP

Rams use rally to stop 49ers

Field Level Media

Joshua Karty hit a 37-yard field goal with two seconds remaining and the Los Angeles Rams pulled off an improbable 27-24 victory over the visiting San Francisco 49ers on Sunday by scoring 13 points in the final six minutes, 15 seconds.

Matthew Stafford was 16-of-25 passing for 221 yards and a touchdown, while Kyren Williams ran for 89 yards and two scores on the ground, with one more receiving, as the Rams (1-2) ended a five-game home losing streak against the 49ers.

Tutu Atwell had four receptions for 93 yards as the Rams overcame two separate 14-point deficits.

Brock Purdy was 22-of-30 passing with 292 yards for the 49ers (1-2) and connected on three touchdown passes with Jauan Jennings, who had 11 receptions for 175 yards. Jordan Mason rushed for 77 yards for San Francisco.

Giants 21, Browns 15

Daniel Jones threw two touchdown passes to Malik Nabers as the New York Giants notched a solid 21-15 victory over the host Cleveland Browns on Sunday afternoon. Devin Singletary rushed for a touchdown and Dexter Lawrence had two of the Giants' eight sacks. New York (1-2) held Cleveland to 217 total yards. Jones was 24-of-34 passing for 236 yards and two touchdowns. Nabers caught eight passes for 78 yards and two touchdowns.

Deshaun Watson completed 21 of 37 passes for 196 yards and two touchdowns for the Browns (1-2). Amari Cooper caught seven passes for 86 yards and both scoring catches. Jones and Nabers hooked up twice in the final two minutes of the first half as the Giants took a 21-7 advantage.

Colts 21, Bears 16

Jonathan Taylor ran for 110 yards and two touchdowns, Trey Sermon added a rushing TD and Jaylon Jones snagged two interceptions to boost the host Indianapolis Colts to a 21-16 victory against the Chicago Bears on Sunday. Indianapolis (1-2) overcame a pair of Anthony Richardson interceptions, succeeding with its ground game while shoring up what had been a suspect run defense.

The Colts had 151 rushing yards compared to 63 for the Bears (1-2). Chicago quarterback Caleb Williams, the No. 1 overall pick in the April draft, was 33-of-52 passing for a career-high 363 yards and his first two career TD passes to go with two interceptions.

Vikings 34, Texans 7

Sam Darnold threw four touchdown passes, Aaron Jones accounted for 148 scrimmage yards and a score, and the Minnesota Vikings rolled to a 34-7 win over the Houston Texans on Sunday afternoon in Minneapolis. Darnold completed 17 of 28 passes for 181 yards for Minnesota (3-0).

Jones finished with 19 carries for 102 yards to go along with five catches for 46 yards and a touchdown. C.J. Stroud hit on 20 of 31 passes for 215 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions for Houston (2-1). Cam Akers was limited to nine carries for 21 yards as the Texans struggled on the ground without injured starter Joe Mixon.

Eagles 15, Saints 12

Saquon Barkley rushed for 147 yards and two touchdowns, including the game-winner from 4 yards out with 1:01 remaining, and the visiting Philadelphia Eagles defeated the New Orleans Saints 15-12 on Sunday afternoon. Jalen Hurts passed for 311 yards and Dallas Goedert had 10 catches for 170 yards, including a 61-yard reception that set up the winning score.

In addition, the Eagles (2-1) defense stymied the Saints' high-scoring offense, which had averaged 45.5 points in their first two games. Derek Carr, who entered the game leading the NFL in passer rating (142.4), completed just 14 of 25 for 142 yards for New Orleans (2-1).

Steelers 20, Chargers 10
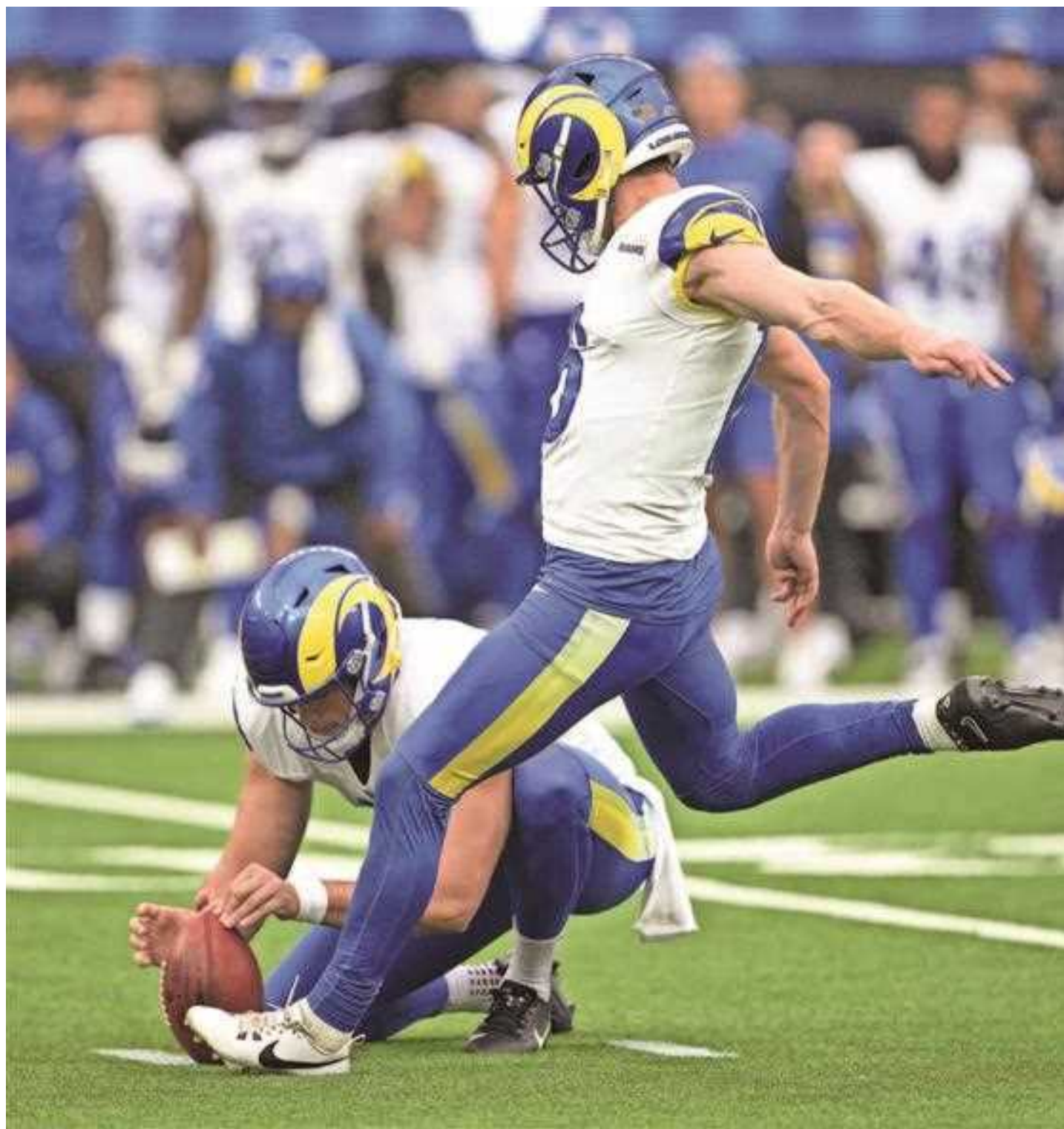
Justin Fields threw a 55-yard touchdown pass to Calvin Austin III to highlight a dominant second-half performance that lifted the host Pittsburgh Steelers to a 20-10 win over the Los An-

geles Chargers on Sunday afternoon.

The Fields-Austin connection closed the scoring with 7:02 left in the game and added insult to injury for Los Angeles (2-1), which lost quarterback Justin Herbert to an apparent ankle issue and star linebacker Joey Bosa to an ailing hip.

Fields finished with 245 yards, the touchdown and an interception on 25-for-32 passing. He also rushed for a score. Austin had four catches for 95 yards. Najee Harris rushed 18 times for 70 yards.

Broncos 26, Buccaneers 7

In his first NFL win, Bo Nix completed 25 of 36 passes for 216 yards and rushed for 47 yards and a touchdown, leading the visiting Denver Broncos to a 26-7 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Tyler Badie ran for 70 yards and Courtland Sutton caught seven passes for 68 yards, as the Broncos (1-2) held Tampa Bay scoreless in the second half. Wil Lutz made all four of his field goal attempts for Denver.

Baker Mayfield completed 25 of 33 passes for 163 yards and threw for a touchdown and an interception. Bucky Irving led Tampa Bay (2-1) with 70 rushing yards, while Chris Godwin hauled in six balls for 53 yards and a score.

Packers 30, Titans 14

Malik Willis threw for a touchdown and ran for another on Sunday as the Green Bay Packers never trailed in a 30-14 win over the Tennessee Titans in Nashville, Tenn. Playing against the team that traded him last month for a 7th-round draft choice, Willis completed 13 of 19 passes for 202 yards and added 73 yards on the ground in the best game of his three-year NFL career.

Green Bay (2-1) also got three field goals from kicker Braydon Narveson, who was in training camp with Tennessee. The Packers dominated in total yardage, outgaining the Titans 378-237. Tennessee quarterback Will Levis completed 26 of 34 for 260 yards with two touchdowns.

Panthers 36, Raiders 22

Andy Dalton threw three touchdown passes and sparked what had been a

dismal Carolina offense as the Panthers beat the host Las Vegas Raiders 36-22 on Sunday. Dalton, a 36-year-old veteran who became a journeyman after beginning his career with the Cincinnati Bengals, replaced 2023 No. 1 overall draft choice Bryce Young as the starting quarterback just three games into the season. Dalton completed 26 of 37 passes for 319 yards without an interception. Diontae Johnson made eight catches for 122 yards and a touchdown. Chuba Hubbard ran for 114 yards on 21 carries and caught five passes for 55 yards and a score for the Panthers (1-2).

Seahawks 24, Dolphins 3

Zach Charbonnet rushed for a career-high 91 yards and two touchdowns and the defense did the rest as the Seattle Seahawks defeated the visiting Miami Dolphins 24-3 Sunday afternoon. DK Metcalf hauled in a 71-yard touchdown reception and Jason Myers kicked a 56-yard field goal for the Seahawks (3-0). Seattle's defense limited the Dolphins (1-2) to 205 yards of total offense. Miami went 1-for-12 on third-down conversions and 0-for-3 on fourth down while committing 11 penalties for 85 yards. Skylar Thompson, who started at quarterback for Miami after Tua Tagovailoa was placed on injured reserve because of a concussion, completed 13 of 19 passes for 107 yards and was sacked five times.

Lions 20, Cardinals 13

Jared Goff passed for 199 yards and two touchdowns and the Detroit Lions topped the Arizona Cardinals 20-13 on Sunday in Glendale, Ariz. Goff, who was intercepted once, completed 18 of 23 passes. David Montgomery rushed for 105 yards and a touchdown on 23 carries for the Lions (2-1).

Jahmyr Gibbs rushed for 83 yards and scored a 21-yard touchdown on a hook-and-ladder play. Amon-Ra St. Brown caught seven passes for 75 yards and a touchdown. Kyler Murray passed for 207 yards and a touchdown with an interception for Arizona (1-2).

Ravens 28, Cowboys 25

Derrick Henry rushed for 151 yards and two touchdowns on 25 carries, and

the Baltimore Ravens survived a late rally by the Dallas Cowboys to earn their first win of the season, a 28-25 victory on Sunday in Arlington, Texas. Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott scored Dallas' first touchdown with a 1-yard sneak with 8:53 left in the game to cut the margin to 28-12.

Dallas then recovered the onside kick and capitalized with Prescott's 15-yard touchdown pass to Jalen Tolbert with 7:07 left in the game. Lamar Jackson threw for 182 yards with a touchdown and ran for 87 yards and a score. He became the fifth quarterback in NFL history to reach 30 rushing touchdowns within the first seven years of a career.

Chiefs 22, Falcons 17

Patrick Mahomes completed 26 of 39 passes for 217 yards to go along with two touchdowns and an interception as the Kansas City Chiefs escaped with a win over the Atlanta Falcons.

Carson Steele ran for 72 yards as the Chiefs (3-0) won their third one-score game to begin the season. Rashee Rice hauled in 12 receptions for 110 yards and a touchdown.

Kirk Cousins completed 20 of 29 passes for 230 yards and a touchdown for Atlanta (1-2). He was also intercepted once. Drake London caught six passes for a team-high 67 yards and a touchdown. After trailing 14-13 at halftime, the Chiefs marched to the Falcons 1-yard line on the opening possession of the second half but were forced to settle for Harrison Butker's 21-yard field goal with 9:40 remaining in the third quarter.

Mahomes later extended the Kansas City lead to 22-14 when he capped an 11-play, 80-yard drive with a 13-yard scoring strike to JuJu Smith-Schuster with 1:16 to go in the third. Butker missed the ensuing extra-point attempt.

Younghoe Koo's 54-yard field goal on the next possession cut Atlanta's deficit to 22-17 with 12:52 left in the game. Following a Kansas City punt, the Falcons went on a 15-play, 83-yard drive, but they came up short of the end zone after back-to-back incompletions from the Chiefs 6-yard line and turned the ball over on downs.

Atlanta worked down to the Kansas City 13 on its last drive of the game, and on fourth-and-1, Bijan Robinson was stuffed for a loss of 3 yards.

Rams punter Ethan Evans (42) sets the ball as kicker Joshua Karty (16) hits the game-winning field goal in the fourth quarter against the 49ers at SoFi Stadium. JAYNE KAMIN/ONCEA-IMAGN IMAGES

NFL

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Taylor confirms Higgins is a go vs. Commanders

Kelsey Conway
Cincinnati Enquirer | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Cincinnati Bengals will get back one of their best players on Monday night as coach Zac Taylor confirmed Saturday wide receiver Tee Higgins will play.

After suffering a hamstring injury in practice days before Cincinnati's home opener, Higgins missed the Bengals' first two games.

For the first time this season, quarterback Joe Burrow will have his full arsenal of offensive weapons.

Taylor said he feels "positive" about safety Vonn Bell's status despite him being downgraded to a non-participant in Friday's practice with a back injury.

The team will use the next 24 hours to gauge how Bell is feeling before deciding if he'll play against Washington. If Bell is unable to go, second-year safety Jordan Battle will start in his place.

Rookie defensive tackle Kris Jenkins is expected to play in his first regular-season game. Jenkins underwent surgery on his thumb prior to Week 1 after injuring it in practice.

Jenkins' return to the field comes at a good time for the Bengals who are dealing with several injuries at defensive tackle.

Tee Higgins was reduced to spectator the first two games after suffering a hamstring injury. SAM GREENE/CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

Taylor officially ruled out Sheldon Rankins (hamstring) to play against the Commanders. B.J. Hill also suffered a hamstring injury in Week 2, but the team is still waiting to decide if he is able to play.

It's worth noting that despite not practicing all week, Hill was not in uniform but still present at practice going through team stretch, signaling he is at least further along in his return than Rankins might be.

Rankins wasn't spotted on the practice fields this week. The Bengals take on the Commanders on "Monday Night Football" at 8:15 p.m. ET.

Chase fined by NFL

Wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase was given a hefty fine for his unsportsmanlike penalty against the Chiefs last week.

The NFL fined Chase $31,599 for his penalty.

Head referee Alex Kemp said he gave Chase the flag because of "abusive language" towards an official.

Chase believed he was hip-drop tackled by cornerback Trent McDuffie and that's why he was upset.

This is the fourth time Chase has been fined by the NFL in his career. As the Bengals prepare to take on the Com-

manders on Monday night, Chase opted not to discuss the penalty.

Jaguars rule out Savage vs. Bills

The Jacksonville Jaguars announced safety Darnell Savage has been downgraded to out for the Monday Night Football game against the Buffalo Bills.

He will not travel with the team.

Savage suffered a quad injury last week during practice and will miss his second consecutive game due to the injury. This comes after a standout debut performance against the Miami Dolphins in Week 1.

He practiced on a limited basis this week and was originally listed as questionable for Monday's game.

The Jaguars will turn to rookie defensive back Jarrian Jones again, along with the likely elevation of Christian Braswell from their practice squad. The team is also without cornerback Tyson Campbell, who is on injured reserve with a hamstring injury. Tight end Evan Engram has also been ruled out with a hamstring injury.

Running back Tank Bigsby (shoulder) and wide receiver Tim Jones (foot) are both questionable.

— Juston Lewis, Jacksonville Florida Times-Union

Kansas City 22, Atlanta 17

Kansas City	0	13	9	0 —	22
Atlanta	7	7	0	3 —	17

First Quarter
Atl–Drake London 14 yd pass from Kirk Cousins (Younghoe Koo kick), 11:07.
Second Quarter
KC–Rashee Rice 13 yd pass from Patrick Mahomes (Harrison Butker kick), 8:45.
Atl–Bijan Robinson 1 yd run (Younghoe Koo kick), 6:37.
KC–Harrison Butker 53 yd FG, 2:43.
KC–Harrison Butker 44 yd FG, 0:06.
Third Quarter
KC–Harrison Butker 21 yd FG, 9:40.
KC–JuJu Smith-Schuster 13 yd pass from Patrick Mahomes (missed kick), 1:16.
Fourth Quarter
Atl–Younghoe Koo 54 yd FG, 12:52.
A–72,441

	KC	Atl
First downs	22	19
Total Net Yards	345	311
Rushes-yards	33-128	25-82
Passing	217	229
Punt Returns	1-12	2-12
Kickoff Returns	2-51	2-56
Interceptions Ret.	1-15	1-10
Comp-Att-Int	26-39-1	20-29-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	2-1
Punts	3-48.3	3-54.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-0
Penalties-Yards	6-61	6-44
Time of Possession	34:57	25:03

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING–Kansas City, Steele 17-72, Perine 6-25, Mahomes 6-17, Worthy 3-13, Rice 1-1. Atlanta, Allgeier 7-32, Robinson 16-31, McCloud III 1-20, Cousins 1-(minus 1).
PASSING–Kansas City, Mahomes 26-39-1-217. Atlanta, Cousins 20-29-1-230.
RECEIVING–Kansas City, Rice 12-110, Kelce 4-30, Perine 3-15, Smith-Schuster 2-17, Worthy 2-17, Gray 1-13, Watson 1-13, Steele 1-2. Atlanta, Mooney 8-66, London 6-67, Pitts 2-59, Robinson 2-21, McCloud III 2-17.
MISSED FIELD GOALS–None.

N.Y. Giants 21, Cleveland 15

N.Y. Giants	7	14	0	0 —	21
Cleveland	7	0	0	8 —	15

First Quarter
Cle–Amari Cooper 24 yd pass from Deshaun Watson (Dustin Hopkins kick), 14:49.
NYG–Devin Singletary 1 yd run (Greg Joseph kick), 2:07.
Second Quarter
NYG–Malik Nabers 3 yd pass from Daniel Jones (Greg Joseph kick), 1:44.
NYG–Malik Nabers 5 yd pass from Daniel Jones (Greg Joseph kick), 0:11.
Fourth Quarter
Cle–Amari Cooper 6 yd pass from Deshaun Watson (Jerry Jeudy 2pt Pass from Deshaun Watson), 11:33.

	NYG	Cle
First downs	21	16
Total Net Yards	340	217
Rushes-yards	32-112	18-69
Passing	228	148
Punt Returns	2-19	5-38
Kickoff Returns	2-52	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	24-35-0	21-37-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-8	8-48
Punts	7-51.6	6-51.0
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	2-2
Penalties-Yards	9-68	5-48
Time of Possession	33:56	26:04

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING–N.Y. Giants, Singletary 16-65, Tracy Jr. 5-23, Jones 8-20, Nabers 2-4, Gray 1-0. Cleveland, Ford 10-37, Watson 4-26, Foreman 2-5, Winston 2-1.
PASSING–N.Y. Giants, Jones 24-34-0-236, Nabers 0-1-0-0. Cleveland, Watson 21-37-0-196.
RECEIVING–N.Y. Giants, Nabers 8-78, Robinson 7-61, Singletary 4-43, Tracy Jr. 2-17, Bellinger 1-17, Johnson 1-13, Slayton 1-7. Cleveland, Cooper 7-86, Akins 4-29, Jeudy 4-27, Ford 3-30, Moore 2-17, Tillman 1-4.
MISSED FIELD GOALS–Hopkins 53, Joseph 48.

Indianapolis 21, Chicago 16

Chicago	0	0	3	13 —	16
Indianapolis	0	7	7	7 —	21

Second Quarter
Ind–Jonathan Taylor 29 yd run (Matt Gay kick), 8:19.
Third Quarter
Chi–Cairo Santos 53 yd FG, 12:51.
Ind–Trey Sermon 1 yd run (Matt Gay kick), 0:21.
Fourth Quarter
Chi–Rome Odunze 1 yd pass from Caleb Williams (Khalil Herbert failed 2pt Pass from Caleb Williams), 8:21.
Ind–Jonathan Taylor 1 yd run (Matt Gay kick), 5:22.
Chi–Cole Kmet 6 yd pass from Caleb Williams (Cairo Santos kick), 2:01.

	Chi	Ind
First downs	26	15
Total Net Yards	399	306
Rushes-yards	28-63	33-150
Passing	309	145
Punt Returns	2-4	1-19
Kickoff Returns	1-26	1-30
Interceptions Ret.	2-2	2-5
Comp-Att-Int	33-52-2	10-20-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-27	1-11

Punts	3-42.3	5-49.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-25	5-78
Time of Possession	35:02	24:58

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING–Chicago, Johnson 8-30, Swift 13-20, Herbert 4-9, Williams 1-8, Odunze 1-2, Moore 1-(minus 6). Indianapolis, Taylor 23-110, Richardson 8-24, Sermon 2-16.
PASSING–Chicago, Williams 33-52-2-363. Indianapolis, Richardson 10-20-2-167.
RECEIVING–Chicago, Kmet 10-97, Moore 8-78, Odunze 6-112, Johnson 4-32, Carter 3-22, Swift 2-22. Indianapolis, Pittman Jr. 4-36, Downs 3-22, Pierce 1-44, Granson 1-40, Taylor 1-25.
MISSED FIELD GOALS–Santos 56.

Minnesota 34, Houston 7

Houston	0	0	7	0 —	7
Minnesota	14	0	7	13 —	34

First Quarter
Min–Justin Jefferson 6 yd pass from Sam Darnold (Will Reichard kick), 12:03.
Min–Aaron Jones 8 yd pass from Sam Darnold (Will Reichard kick), 1:08.
Third Quarter
Min–Jalen Nailor 4 yd pass from Sam Darnold (Will Reichard kick), 10:22.
Hou–Cam Akers 8 yd pass from C.J. Stroud (Ka'imi Fairbairn kick), 3:56.
Fourth Quarter
Min–Will Reichard 35 yd FG, 14:53.
Min–Johnny Mundt 2 yd pass from Sam Darnold (Will Reichard kick), 10:14.
Min–Will Reichard 58 yd FG, 4:43.

	Hou	Min
First downs	17	19
Total Net Yards	296	274
Rushes-yards	14-38	28-98
Passing	258	156
Punt Returns	3-5	1-10
Kickoff Returns	1-27	1-19
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-8
Comp-Att-Int	28-44-2	17-28-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	5-49	4-25
Punts	4-44.3	4-48.3
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	11-88	5-30
Time of Possession	30:42	29:18

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING–Houston, Diggs 10-94, Stroud 3-12, Taylor 1-3, Brooks 1-2. Minnesota, Jones 19-102, Chandler 7-13, Nailor 1-3, Mullens 1-0.
PASSING–Houston, Stroud 20-31-2-215, Mills 7-12-0-79, Diggs 1-1-0-13. Minnesota, Darnold 17-28-0-181.
RECEIVING–Houston, Diggs 10-94, Dell 5-62, Collins 4-86, Ogunbowale 2-28, Woods 2-18, Schultz 2-11, Taylor 2-0, Akers 1-8. Minnesota, Jefferson 6-81, Jones 5-46, Nailor 3-31, Powell 1-13, Sherfield Sr. 1-8, Mundt 1-2.
MISSED FIELD GOALS–Fairbairn 54.

Philadelphia 15, New Orleans 12

Philadelphia	0	0	0	15 —	15
New Orleans	3	0	0	9 —	12

First Quarter
NO–Blake Grupe 34 yd FG, 6:51.
Fourth Quarter
Phi–Saquon Barkley 65 yd pass from (Jake Elliott kick), 13:17.
NO–Blake Grupe 38 yd FG, 9:49.
NO–Chris Olave 13 yd pass from Derek Carr (failed 2pt Pass from Carr), 2:03.
Phi–Saquon Barkley 4 yd run (Saquon Barkley 2pt Rush), 1:01.

	Phi	NO
First downs	20	12
Total Net Yards	460	219
Rushes-yards	25-172	29-89
Passing	288	130
Punt Returns	1-6	1-0
Kickoff Returns	3-77	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	1-0	1-23
Comp-Att-Int	29-38-1	14-25-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-23	1-12
Punts	2-21.5	4-40.5
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	7-45	3-25
Time of Possession	32:15	27:45

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING–Philadelphia, Barkley 17-147, Hurts 8-25. New Orleans, Kamara 26-87, Carr 2-3, Williams 1-(minus 1).
PASSING–Philadelphia, Hurts 29-38-1-311. New Orleans, Carr 14-25-1-142.
RECEIVING–Philadelphia, Goedert 10-170, Smith 7-79, Barkley 4-9, Campbell 2-13, Gainwell 2-12, Dotson 2-8, Covey 1-11, Wilson 1-9. New Orleans, Olave 6-86, Kamara 3-40, Tipton 2-11, Wilson Jr. 1-3, Moreau 1-2, Williams 1-0.
MISSED FIELD GOALS–Elliott 60.

Pittsburgh 20, L.A. Chargers 10

L.A. Chargers	7	3	0	0 —	10
Pittsburgh	0	7	3	10 —	20

First Quarter
LAC–Quentin Johnston 27 yd pass from Justin Herbert (Cameron Dicker kick), 2:46.
Second Quarter
Pit–Justin Fields 5 yd run (Chris Boswell kick), 10:17.
LAC–Cameron Dicker 26 yd FG, 3:13.
Third Quarter
Pit–Chris Boswell 38 yd FG, 9:05.
Fourth Quarter
Pit–Chris Boswell 30 yd FG, 14:14.
Pit–Calvin Austin III 55 yd pass from Justin Fields (Chris Boswell kick), 7:02.

	LAC	Pit

First downs	10	20
Total Net Yards	168	346
Rushes-yards	20-61	31-114
Passing	107	232
Punt Returns	1-5	2-20
Kickoff Returns	2-37	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	1-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	14-20-0	25-32-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	5-42	2-13
Punts	7-50.0	3-52.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	7-69	3-15
Time of Possession	26:09	33:51

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING–L.A. Chargers, Dobbins 15-44, Edwards 3-9, Davis 1-8, Herbert 1-0. Pittsburgh, Harris 18-70, Patterson 4-33, Fields 6-6, Warren 3-5.
PASSING–L.A. Chargers, Herbert 12-18-0-125, Heinicke 2-2-0-24. Pittsburgh, Fields 25-32-1-245.
RECEIVING–L.A. Chargers, McConkey 3-44, Dissly 3-19, Dobbins 3-10, Johnston 2-44, Hurst 2-15, Fehoko 1-17. Pittsburgh, Pickens 5-57, Harris 5-16, Austin III 4-95, Freiermuth 4-33, Patterson 3-15, Miller 2-31, Heyward 1-2, Warren 1-(minus 4).
MISSED FIELD GOALS–Boswell 62.

Denver 26, Tampa Bay 7

Denver	14	6	0	6 —	26
Tampa Bay	0	7	0	0 —	7

First Quarter
Den–Bo Nix 3 yd run (Wil Lutz kick), 11:05.
Den–Jaleel McLaughlin 1 yd run (Wil Lutz kick), 2:56.
Second Quarter
Den–Wil Lutz 43 yd FG, 9:25.
TB–Chris Godwin 5 yd pass from Baker Mayfield (Chase McLaughlin kick), 1:50.
Den–Wil Lutz 38 yd FG, 0:02.
Fourth Quarter
Den–Wil Lutz 33 yd FG, 14:52.
Den–Wil Lutz 43 yd FG, 7:30.

	Den	TB
First downs	18	17
Total Net Yards	352	223
Rushes-yards	28-136	16-91
Passing	216	132
Punt Returns	1-27	0-0
Kickoff Returns	0-0	2-54
Interceptions Ret.	1-37	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	25-36-0	25-33-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	7-31
Punts	2-48.0	4-47.3
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	5-51	5-19
Time of Possession	32:08	27:52

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING–Denver, Badie 9-70, Nix 9-47, Williams 5-12, McLaughlin 5-7, Tampa Bay, Irving 9-70, White 6-17, Tucker 1-4.
PASSING–Denver, Nix 25-36-0-216. Tampa Bay, Mayfield 25-33-1-163.
RECEIVING–Denver, Sutton 7-68, Humphrey 6-37, Williams 4-29, Reynolds 2-36, Franklin 2-11, Trautman 1-13, Mims Jr. 1-9, McLaughlin 1-7, Adkins 1-6. Tampa Bay, Otton 7-47, Godwin 6-53, White 5-18, Irving 3-14, Evans 2-17, Durham 1-8, McMillan 1-6.
MISSED FIELD GOALS–None.

Green Bay 30, Tennessee 14

Green Bay	17	3	7	3 —	30
Tennessee	7	0	7	0 —	14

First Quarter
GB–Malik Willis 5 yd run (Brayden Narveson kick), 12:25.
Ten–Nick Vannett 1 yd pass from Will Levis (Nick Folk kick), 7:15.
GB–Brayden Narveson 21 yd FG, 1:05.
GB–Jaire Alexander 35 yd interception return (Brayden Narveson kick), 0:51.
Second Quarter
GB–Brayden Narveson 26 yd FG, 0:00.
Third Quarter
GB–Emanuel Wilson 30 yd pass from Malik Willis (Brayden Narveson kick), 8:25.
Ten–DeAndre Hopkins 11 yd pass from Will Levis (Nick Folk kick), 4:55.
Fourth Quarter
GB–Brayden Narveson 47 yd FG, 3:29.

	GB	Ten
First downs	16	19
Total Net Yards	377	240
Rushes-yards	37-187	11-33
Passing	178	154
Punt Returns	2-15	2-24
Kickoff Returns	0-0	3-84
Interceptions Ret.	2-35	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	13-19-0	26-34-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-12	8-53
Punts	5-48.8	4-46.8
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	10-75	2-15
Time of Possession	32:36	27:24

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING–Green Bay, Willis 6-73, Wilson 12-50, Jacobs 14-42, Reed 2-19, Brooks 3-3. Tennessee, Pollard 6-14, Levis 3-12, Spears 2-7.
PASSING–Green Bay, Willis 13-19-0-202. Tennessee, Levis 26-34-2-260.
RECEIVING–Green Bay, Reed 4-50, Watson 2-67, Wilson 2-35, Kraft 2-24, Doubs 1-18, Jacobs 1-5, Musgrave 1-3. Tennessee, Hopkins 6-73, Spears 4-54, Whyle 4-43, Boyd 3-33, Pollard 3-15, Okonkwo 2-15, Vannett 2-9, Burks 1-9, Ridley 1-9.
MISSED FIELD GOALS–None.

Carolina 36, Las Vegas 22

Carolina	7	14	6	9 —	36
Las Vegas	7	0	0	15 —	22

First Quarter
Car–Chuba Hubbard 6 yd pass from Andy Dalton (Eddy Pineiro kick), 10:13.
LV–Alexander Mattison 2 yd run (Daniel Carlson kick), 0:24.
Second Quarter
Car–Diontae Johnson 5 yd pass from Andy Dalton (Eddy Pineiro kick), 9:28.
Car–Adam Thielen 31 yd pass from Andy Dalton (Eddy Pineiro kick), 0:28.
Third Quarter
Car–Eddy Pineiro 43 yd FG, 9:59.
Car–Eddy Pineiro 35 yd FG, 4:46.
Fourth Quarter
Car–Miles Sanders 1 yd run (failed 2pt Pass from Andy Dalton), 13:33.
LV–Jakobi Meyers 13 yd pass from Gardner Minshew II (Jakobi Meyers 2pt Pass from Gardner Minshew II), 10:56.
Car–Eddy Pineiro 26 yd FG, 4:47.
LV–Tre Tucker 8 yd pass from Aidan O'Connell (Daniel Carlson kick), 0:56.

	Car	LV
First downs	24	20
Total Net Yards	437	331
Rushes-yards	31-131	16-55
Passing	306	276
Punt Returns	3-33	1-0
Kickoff Returns	2-55	2-53
Interceptions Ret.	1-1	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	26-37-0	27-40-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-13	3-20
Punts	4-44.3	5-52.2
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	7-51	6-54
Time of Possession	36:02	23:58

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING–Carolina, Hubbard 21-114, Sanders 7-17, Mingo 1-2, Dalton 2-(minus 2). Las Vegas, White 10-34, Minshew II 3-14, Mattison 3-7.
PASSING–Carolina, Dalton 26-37-0-319. Las Vegas, Minshew II 18-28-1-214, O'Connell 9-12-0-82.
RECEIVING–Carolina, Johnson 8-122, Hubbard 5-55, Thielen 3-40, Tremble 3-29, Mingo 3-18, Legette 2-42, Sanders 2-13. Las Vegas, Tucker 7-96, Meyers 7-62, Adams 4-40, Bowers 3-41, Mattison 3-37, Abdullah 2-13, Mayer 1-7.
MISSED FIELD GOALS–Carlson 57.

Seattle 24, Miami 3

Miami	3	0	0	0 —	3
Seattle	0	17	0	7 —	24

First Quarter
Sea–Jason Myers 56 yd FG, 10:49.
Second Quarter
Mia–Jason Sanders 23 yd FG, 0:11.
Sea–DK Metcalf 71 yd pass from Geno Smith (Jason Myers kick), 0:03.
Fourth Quarter
Sea–Zach Charbonnet 10 yd run (Jason Myers kick), 4:55.

	Mia	Sea
First downs	13	21
Total Net Yards	205	340
Rushes-yards	18-65	23-100
Passing	140	270
Punt Returns	1-44	2-19
Kickoff Returns	3-91	2-58
Interceptions Ret.	2-2	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	20-32-0	26-34-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	6-46	3-19
Punts	6-42.6	4-48.8
Fumbles-Lost	3-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	11-85	11-92
Time of Possession	28:32	31:28

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING–Miami, Achane 11-30, Wright 2-17, Wilson Jr. 3-14, Boyle 1-6, Ingold 1-(minus 2). Seattle, Charbonnet 18-91, McIntosh 3-11, Smith 2-(minus 2). PASSING–Miami, Thompson 13-19-0-107, Boyle 7-13-0-79. Seattle, Smith 26-34-2-289.
RECEIVING–Miami, Waddle 4-26, Hill 3-40, Achane 3-28, Ingold 3-16, Hill 2-24, Smith 2-18, Eskridge 1-30, Smythe 1-3, Conner 1-1. Seattle, Fant 6-60, Lockett 5-46, Metcalf 4-104, Smith-Njigba 3-39, Charbonnet 3-16, Barner 3-13, Brown 1-9, Shenault Jr. 1-2.
MISSED FIELD GOALS–Myers 53, Sanders 57.

Detroit 20, Arizona 13

Detroit	7	13	0	0 —	20
Arizona	3	0	3	7 —	13

First Quarter
Det–David Montgomery 1 yd run (Jake Bates kick), 10:16.
Ari–Marvin Harrison Jr. 10 yd pass from Kyler Murray (Matt Prater kick), 5:08.
Second Quarter
Det–Amon-Ra St. Brown 5 yd pass from Jared Goff (Jake Bates kick), 12:27.
Det–Jahmyr Gibbs 21 yd pass from Jared Goff (Jake Bates kick), 0:29.
Ari–Matt Prater 42 yd FG, 0:00.
Third Quarter
Ari–Matt Prater 45 yd FG, 3:48.

	Det	Ari
First downs	23	17
Total Net Yards	373	277
Rushes-yards	43-187	18-77
Passing	186	200
Punt Returns	4-40	0-0
Kickoff Returns	0-0	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-10
Comp-Att-Int	18-23-1	21-34-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-13	1-7
Punts	5-49.4	5-52.0
Fumbles-Lost		

Penalties-Yards	9-79	4-30
Time of Possession	36:49	23:11

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING–Detroit, Montgomery 23-105, Gibbs 16-83, Goff 3-6, Williams 1-(minus 2). Arizona, Murray 5-45, Conner 9-17, Benson 2-8, Demercado 2-7. PASSING–Detroit, Goff 18-23-1-199. Arizona, Murray 21-34-1-207.
RECEIVING–Detroit, St. Brown 7-75, Wright 4-34, Montgomery 3-17, LaPorta 2-36, Williams 1-9, Patrick 1-8. Arizona, Wilson 8-64, Harrison Jr. 5-64, Dortch 3-35, McBride 3-25, Higgins 1-11, Conner 1-8.
MISSED FIELD GOALS–None.

Baltimore 28, Dallas 25

Baltimore	14	7	7	0 —	28
Dallas	3	3	0	19 —	25

First Quarter
Bal–Lamar Jackson 9 yd run (Justin Tucker kick), 9:36.
Bal–Brandon Aubrey 65 yd FG, 6:33.
Bal–Derrick Henry 1 yd run (Justin Tucker kick), 2:41.
Second Quarter
Bal–Rashod Bateman 13 yd pass from Lamar Jackson (Justin Tucker kick), 0:25.
Dal–Brandon Aubrey 51 yd FG, 0:02.
Third Quarter
Bal–Derrick Henry 26 yd run (Justin Tucker kick), 11:58.
Fourth Quarter
Dal–Dak Prescott 1 yd run (CeeDee Lamb failed 2pt Pass from Dak Prescott), 8:53.
Dal–Jalen Tolbert 15 yd pass from Dak Prescott (Rico Dowdle failed 2pt Pass from Dak Prescott), 7:07.
Dal–KaVontae Turpin 16 yd pass from Dak Prescott (Brandon Aubrey kick), 2:53.

	Bal	Dal
First downs	24	27
Total Net Yards	456	411
Rushes-yards	45-274	16-51
Passing	182	341
Punt Returns	2-29	0-0
Kickoff Returns	3-51	2-58
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	12-15-0	28-51-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	3-19
Punts	4-42.8	4-52.3
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	13-105	6-44
Time of Possession	34:43	25:17

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING–Baltimore, Henry 25-151, Jackson 14-87, Hill 5-33, Flowers 1-3. Dallas, Dowdle 8-32, Prescott 2-7, Elliott 3-6, Vaughn 2-5, Turpin 1-1. PASSING–Baltimore, Jackson 12-15-0-182. Dallas, Prescott 28-51-0-379.
RECEIVING–Baltimore, Bateman 3-28, Flowers 3-20, Hill 2-21, Agholor 1-56, Kolar 1-30, Henry 1-23, Likely 1-4. Dallas, Ferguson 6-95, Lamb 4-67, Turpin 3-51, Tolbert 3-42, Dowdle 3-24, Luepke 2-41, Cooks 2-16, Brooks 1-24, Vaughn 1-8, Elliott 1-6, Schoonmaker 1-5, Smith 1-0.
MISSED FIELD GOALS–Tucker 46.

L.A. Rams 27, San Francisco 24

San Francisco	14	0	7	3 —	24
L.A. Rams	0	7	7	13 —	27

First Quarter
SF–Jauan Jennings 13 yd pass from Brock Purdy (Jake Moody kick), 11:12.
SF–Jauan Jennings 4 yd pass from Brock Purdy (Jake Moody kick), 1:47.
Second Quarter
LAR–Kyren Williams 15 yd pass from Matthew Stafford (Joshua Karty kick), 1:11.
Third Quarter
SF–Jauan Jennings 3 yd pass from Brock Purdy (Jake Moody kick), 7:01.
LAR–Kyren Williams 3 yd run (Joshua Karty kick), 3:53.
Fourth Quarter
SF–Jake Moody 26 yd FG, 11:57.
LAR–Joshua Karty 33 yd FG, 6:15.
LAR–Kyren Williams 4 yd run (Joshua Karty kick), 1:51.
LAR–Joshua Karty 37 yd FG, 0:02.

	SF	LAR
First downs	24	19
Total Net Yards	422	296
Rushes-yards	34-137	26-98
Passing	281	175
Punt Returns	1-9	1-38
Kickoff Returns	0-0	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	22-30-0	16-27-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-4	3-23
Punts	2-45.0	3-42.3
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	7-111	8-75
Time of Possession	33:29	26:31

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING–San Francisco, Mason 19-77, Purdy 10-41, Guerendo 5-19. L.A. Rams, Williams 24-89, Rivers 2-9. PASSING–San Francisco, Purdy 22-30-0-261. L.A. Rams, Stafford 16-26-0-221, Atwell 0-1-0-0.
RECEIVING–San Francisco, Jennings 11-175, Aiyuk 5-48, Saubert 2-41, Mason 2-11, Bell 1-6, Juszczyk 1-6. L.A. Rams, Atwell 4-93, Whittington 3-28, Parkinson 3-21, Johnson 3-20, Williams 2-27, Robinson 1-32.
MISSED FIELD GOALS–Moody 55.

MLB

Mets stop Phils from clinching East

Field Level Media

Brandon Nimmo homered leading off the sixth inning, and the surging New York Mets once again prevented the visiting Philadelphia Phillies from clinching the National League East title with a 2-1 win Sunday night in the finale of a four-game series.

The Mets (87-69) took three of four from the Phillies (92-64), who would have clinched the division with a win either Saturday or Sunday.

New York, which is 18-5 in its last 23 games, moved into a tie for the second NL wild-card spot with the Arizona Diamondbacks, who lost to the Milwaukee Brewers. The teams are two games ahead of the Atlanta Braves, whom the Mets visit for a three-game series beginning Tuesday.

Alec Bohm had an RBI single in the first for the Phillies, who left the bases loaded against Tylor Megill. The Mets built their tying rally with two outs in the second against Zack Wheeler (16-7) when Mark Vientos doubled and scored on Tyrone Taylor's single.

Padres 4, White Sox 2

A three-run rally in the bottom of the eighth inning lifted the San Diego Padres to a win over the visiting Chicago White Sox, moving the winners within a victory of a National League playoff spot and the losers into a tie for history of the worst kind.

Chicago (36-120) equaled the 1962 New York Mets' single-season loss total, the worst in modern MLB history. One loss in the final six games will evict the Mets from the record books.

How the White Sox lost this one was on brand for their season. Ahead 2-1 with six outs left to get, they instead gave it up in a hurry. Donovan Solano doubled to lead off the inning and pinch-hitter Luis Arraez doubled against reliever Fraser Ellard (2-3) to plate pinch-runner Tyler Wade.

Brandon Lockridge pinch-ran for Arraez and got to third via a wild pitch, then scored easily on Jurickson Profar's sacrifice fly to right that snapped the tie. Fernando Tatis Jr. capped the inning with a solo homer to left-center, his 20th of the year.

Brewers 10, Diamondbacks 9

Jake Bauers delivered a go-ahead RBI single in the bottom of the eighth as the host Milwaukee Brewers overcame an eight-run deficit to earn a stunning win against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Milwaukee (89-67) trailed 8-0 after Arizona struck for a seven-run third that featured back-to-back homers by Josh Bell and Eugenio Suarez and a two-run single from Jake McCarthy. Bell hit a two-run blast, while Suarez had a solo shot.

But the Brewers slowly came all the way back, completing the shocking rally with a four-run eighth.

Braves 5, Marlins 4

Jorge Soler drove in the tiebreaking run with an infield single off the pitcher's glove in the seventh inning as the wild-card contending Atlanta Braves earned a crucial win over the host Miami Marlins.

With two outs in the seventh, Marlins reliever Declan Cronin couldn't handle Soler's comebacker, allowing Michael Harris II to score from third.

Miami (57-99) has the worst record in the NL. Atlanta got solo homers from Ozzie Albies and Gio Urshela.

Yankees 7, Athletics 4

Northern California native Aaron Judge said goodbye to the Oakland Coliseum with his 55th home run, Jasson Dominguez and Gleyber Torres also homered and the New York Yankees clinched no worse than a tie for the American League East title with a victory over the Oakland Athletics.

The sweep-completing win, coupled with a second straight Baltimore Orioles loss to the Detroit Tigers, left the Yankees (92-64) with a six-game lead over the Orioles with just six games remaining.

After the A's scored twice in the first inning, the Yankees rallied into the lead for good when Judge launched his home run to center field, a solo shot, in the third after a two-run blast by Dominguez, his second of the season, had tied the score an inning earlier.

Tigers 4, Orioles 3

Kerry Carpenter hit two solo home runs and the Detroit Tigers held off the host Baltimore Orioles.

Spencer Torkelson also homered for Detroit, which won two of three games in the series despite managing only five hits in the finale. Carpenter smacked both of his blasts off Orioles starter Albert Suarez, including a tiebreaking solo shot to lead off the sixth.

Suarez (8-7) gave up four runs on five hits in five-plus innings while striking out six and walking one.

Giants 2, Royals 0

Grant McCray tripled in a run and scored another in a two-run second inning, Blake Snell combined with three relievers on a shutout and the San Francisco Giants completed a surprising three-game road sweep over the playoff-contending Kansas City Royals.

A seventh straight defeat dropped the Royals (82-74) into a tie with the Detroit Tigers for the second American League wild-card playoff spot with just six games to play.

The Giants (77-79) did all their scoring against Royals ace Seth Lugo (16-9) in the second after Jerar Encarnacion singled with one out. McCray lashed his triple to right field to open the scoring. One out later, he jogged home on a single by Brett Wisely.

Red Sox 8, Twins 1
Red Sox 9, Twins 3

Romy Gonzalez hit a three-run home run and drove in four runs to help the Boston Red Sox sweep a doubleheader against the visiting Minnesota Twins with a 9-3 victory in Game 2.

Gonzalez homered against Minnesota reliever Cole Irvin to give the Red Sox a 3-2 lead in the fifth inning. It was his sixth home run of the season. He also hit a sacrifice fly in Boston's six-run sixth.

Minnesota starting pitcher Zebby Matthews was pulled after he surrendered a double to Ceddanne Rafaela with two outs in the fifth and the Twins leading 2-0. Irvin (6-6) replaced Matthews and walked Jarren Duran before giving up the three-run home run to Gonzalez. Matthews allowed one run on two hits with six strikeouts and two walks in 4⅔ innings.

Minnesota (81-75) now trails the Kansas City Royals and Detroit Tigers by one game for the American League's third wild-card spot.

The Red Sox prevailed 8-1 in the first game.

Triston Casas hit three home runs and drove in seven to propel Boston. Casas hit a pair of three-run home runs off Minnesota starter Pablo Lopez and added a solo homer against Brent Headrick.

Angels 9, Astros 8

Zach Neto had six RBIs on a two-run homer, a solo shot, and a three-run double in the ninth inning off Houston closer Josh Hader as the Los Angeles Angels posted a wild victory over the Astros.

After losing the first three of this four-game set, Los Angeles (63-93) trailed 4-0 after five innings Sunday. But it scored in each inning after, then held off a ninth-inning charge from the American League West-leading Astros.

Houston (85-71) went ahead in the bottom of the eighth via an RBI double from Yainer Diaz (three hits) and a pinch-hit, run-scoring single from Shay Whitcomb. However, Hader (8-8) blew just his fourth save in 37 attempts.

Rangers 6, Mariners 5

With two outs in the bottom of the ninth, Marcus Semien hit the walk-off RBI single to complete the Texas Rangers' comeback win over the Seattle Mariners in Arlington, Texas.

Semien's single to left scored Leody Taveras, who had singled and stolen second in front of him. The Rangers were able to avoid getting swept by the Mariners, and they broke Seattle's three-game winning streak.

The Mariners' comfortable 5-0 lead evaporated when the Rangers cut into the deficit with a four-run sixth inning. Taveras then hit the game-tying solo home run in the seventh.

Dodgers 6, Rockies 5

Shohei Ohtani tied the game with a home run to lead off the ninth inning and Mookie Betts followed with a game-ending blast as the Los Angeles Dodgers rallied for a victory over the visiting Colorado Rockies.

Ohtani, the favorite to become the first primary designated hitter to win an MVP award, had four hits with two stolen bases. His home run gave him 53 on the season to go along with 55 steals.

Teoscar Hernandez and Enrique Hernandez also hit home runs as the Dodgers (93-63) remained three games ahead of the San Diego Padres in the National League West with six games to play. The Dodgers and Padres open a three-game series at Los Angeles on Tuesday.

Pirates 2, Reds 0

Pittsburgh rookie ace Paul Skenes struck out nine in five scoreless innings while Oneil Cruz and Nick Yorke homered to lead the visiting Pittsburgh Pirates past the Cincinnati Reds.

In tossing five shutout innings without a walk, the hard-throwing rookie right-hander lowered his ERA to 1.99.

Skenes (11-3) is the first pitcher in MLB history to have a sub-2.20 ERA and 150-plus strikeouts in their first 21 games. He also compiled his 16th game with seven-plus strikeouts and enters the final week with 167, a Pittsburgh rookie record.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 3

Christopher Morel's sacrifice fly and Brandon Lowe's homer helped the Tampa Bay Rays close out a strong final homestand, sweeping the Toronto Blue Jays in St. Petersburg, Fla.

After the Blue Jays (73-83) tied it 2-all in the top of the seventh on Ernie Clement's RBI single, Morel plated Jose Siri with the go-ahead run in the bottom of the frame.

Lowe added his 20th homer this season in the eighth, which proved pivotal after Vladimir Guerrero Jr. stroked a ninth-inning RBI single against Edwin Uceta.

Cardinals 2, Guardians 1

Andre Pallante allowed just one hit over seven innings as the St. Louis Cardinals edged the visiting Cleveland Guardians.

Masyn Winn walked to plate the go-ahead run in the seventh inning for the Cardinals (79-77), who won for the fifth time in seven games.

Gavin Williams allowed one run on four hits in 5⅔ innings for the Guardians (90-67). He walked two and struck out three. Reliever Tim Herrin (5-1) took the loss.

Cubs 5, Nationals 0

Shota Imanaga pitched seven scoreless innings and the Chicago Cubs hit three home runs in a win over the visiting Washington Nationals.

Mike Tauchman, Michael Busch and Miguel Amaya went deep for Chicago (80-76), which took three of four from Washington (69-87).

The start of the game was delayed two hours and 20 minutes by rain.

Mets left fielder Brandon Nimmo reacts to hitting a home run against the Phillies during the sixth inning at Citi Field. GREGORY FISHER/IMAGN IMAGES

Reds fire manager Bell

On Sunday night, the Cincinnati Reds fired manager David Bell.

Bell received a contract extension last summer, but the Reds had a disappointing 2024 season and missed the playoffs. The goal was to win the division, but the Reds have a 76-81 record entering the final week of the season.

Bench coach Freddie Benavides will fill in as the interim manager for the final week of the season.

"David provided the kind of steadiness that we needed in our clubhouse over the last few seasons," Reds president of baseball operations Nick Krall said in a statement. "We felt a change was needed to move the Major League team forward. We have not achieved the success we expected, and we need to begin focusing on 2025."

Bell joined the Reds for the 2019 season and posted a 405-456 record over the last six seasons.

— Charlie Goldsmith, Cincinnati Enquirer

MLB

SUNDAY'S BOX SCORES

N.Y. Mets 2, Philadelphia 1

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Philadelphia 100  000  000 –  1  5  0
NYM .......... 010  001  00x –  2  7  0
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Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Schwarber dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.249
Turner ss	4	1	2	0	0	0	.298
Harper 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.283
Bohm 3b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.288
Castellanos rf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.247
Stott 2b	2	0	0	0	2	1	.244
Realmuto c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.264
Marsh lf	2	0	0	0	2	1	.253
Rojas cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.260
b-Clemens ph-cf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.219
Totals	32	1	5	1	4	12	

N.Y. Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Iglesias 2b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.337
Nimmo lf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.228
Alonso 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.244
Winker dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	.257
a-Martinez ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.234
Marte rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.270
Bader cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Alvarez c	2	0	0	0	1	1	.236
Vientos 3b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.268
Taylor cf-rf	3	0	2	1	0	0	.253
Acuna ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.379
Totals	30	2	7	2	1	10	

a-struck out for Winker in 8th. b-struck out for Rojas in 7th.
2B: Vientos (22). **HR:** Nimmo (22). **RBI:** Bohm (95), Nimmo (87), Taylor (35). **CS:** Acuna (1). **SB:** Turner 2 (19), Stott 2 (31), Marsh (18). **Runners left in scoring position:** Philadelphia 6 (Bohm, Realmuto 2, Rojas, Clemens 2), N.Y. Mets 1 (Iglesias). **RISP:** Philadelphia 1 for 9, N.Y. Mets 2 for 3. **DP:** Philadelphia 1.

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wheeler L, 16-7	7.0	7	2	2	1	8	94	2.56
Strahm	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	1.96

N.Y. Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Megill	4.0	4	1	1	2	6	83	3.98
Maton W, 2-1	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	22	2.10
Butto H, 4	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	2.60
Diaz S, 20	2.0	1	0	0	2	4	30	3.35

Wheeler pitched to 1 batter in the 8th.
Inherited runners: Strahm 1-1. **WP:** Megill 2. **Umpires:** HP-Libka, 1B-Hamari, 2B-Moscoso, 3B-Carapazza. **T:** 2:30. **A:** 43,139 (41,922).

San Diego 4, Chicago White Sox 2

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CWS ........... 001  001  000 –  2  5  0
San Diego .... 001  000  03x –  4  5  0
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Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Vargas 3b	4	1	2	1	0	2	.122
Robert Jr. cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.223
Benintendi lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.224
Vaughn dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.246
Sheets 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.236
Sosa 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.245
Fletcher rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.205
Lee c	3	1	1	1	0	1	.207
Amaya ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.200
Totals	32	2	5	2	0	15	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Profar lf	3	1	2	0	0	0	.285
Tatis Jr. dh	4	1	1	1	0	1	.282
Cronenworth 2b-1b	3	0	0	1	2	2	.243
Machado 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.276
Merrill cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.292
Bogaerts ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.259
Peralta rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.268
Solano 1b	3	0	1	0	0	2	.287
a-Wade pr-2b	0	1	0	0	0	0	.229
Higashioka c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.217
c-Arraez ph	1	0	1	1	0	0	.318
b-Lockridge pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	.200
Diaz c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.266
Totals	28	4	5	4	2	8	

a-ran for Solano in 8th. b-ran for Arraez in 8th. c-doubled for Higashioka in 8th.
2B: Solano (13), Arraez (29). **HR:** Vargas (2), Lee (10), Profar (24), Tatis Jr. (20). **RBI:** Vargas (7), Lee (33), Profar 2 (85), Tatis Jr. (48), Arraez (44). **SB:** Vargas (2), Sheets (2), Profar (10). **SF:** Profar. **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 3 (Robert Jr., Sheets, Fletcher), San Diego 1 (Merrill). **RISP:** San Diego 1 for 3.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Burke	6.0	2	1	1	1	8	87	1.93
Berroa H, 3	1.0	1	1	1	1	0	18	2.76
Ellard L, 2-3 BS, 1	0.2	2	2	2	0	0	20	3.03
Varland	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	3	3.78

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Darvish	6.1	3	2	2	0	9	87	3.18
Morejon	0.2	1	0	0	2	13	2.90	
Estrada W, 6-2	1.0	0	0	0	2	16	2.88	
Suarez S, 34	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	21	2.71

Berroa pitched to 1 batter in the 8th.
Inherited runners: Ellard 1-0. **WP:** Ellard. **Umpires:** HP-Guccione, 1B-Vondrak, 2B-Jimenez, 3B-Morales. **T:** 2:24. **A:** 45,197 (40,019).

Atlanta 5, Miami 4

```
Atlanta ....... 100  021  100 –  5  11  0
Miami ......... 010  102  000 –  4  9  0
```

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Harris II cf	5	2	2	1	0	1	.261
Albies 2b	5	1	1	1	0	3	.253
Ozuna dh	5	1	3	1	0	2	.309
Olson 1b	3	0	2	1	0	0	.249
Soler rf	3	0	1	1	0	0	.286
a-White pr-rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.286
Laureano lf	4	0	0	0	1	.302	
Urshela 3b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.282
Murphy c	3	0	1	0	1	2	.196
Arcia ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	.217
Totals	36	5	11	5	2	9	

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Edwards ss	5	0	0	0	0	2	.167
Norby 3b	5	1	1	1	0	2	.253
Sanchez lf-rf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.247
Burger dh	4	1	2	1	0	0	.248
b-Pache pr-dh	0	0	0	0	0	0	.143
Stowers cf-lf	4	0	1	1	1	0	.195
Bride 1b	3	1	1	1	1	0	.189
Conine rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.248
d-Lopez ph-2b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.264
Brujan 2b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.223
c-Hill ph-cf	2	0	1	0	0	1	.229
Fortes c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.226
Totals	36	4	9	4	3	11	

a-ran for Soler in 7th. b-ran for Burger in 8th. c-singled for Brujan in 7th. d-singled for Conine in 7th.
2B: Urshela (8), Conine (3). **3B:** Harris II (3). **HR:** Albies (9), Urshela (3), Norby (7), Sanchez (18), Burger (28), Bride (8). **RBI:** Harris II (46), Albies (47), Olson (98), Soler (64), Urshela (13), Norby (16), Sanchez (63), Burger (69), Bride (31). **S:** Fortes. **Runners left in scoring position:** Atlanta 5 (Harris II, Laureano 3, Murphy), Miami 5 (Edwards 2, Sanchez 2, Hill). **RISP:** Atlanta 2 for 9. **GIDP:** Laureano, Arcia. **DP:** Miami 2.

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Holmes	4.0	3	2	1	5	62	3.88	
Lee	1.0	2	2	2	0	2	26	3.98
Johnson W, 6-5	1.0	0	0	0	1	5	26	3.66
Bummer H, 2	1.0	1	0	0	1	3	3.02	
Hernandez H, 1	1.0	3	0	0	0	1	26	3.67
Iglesias S, 32	1.0	0	0	0	1	22	2.55	

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McCaughan	4.0	4	1	1	1	67	6.68	
Baumann	1.0	3	2	2	0	2	25	4.28
Curry	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	17	4.08
Cronin L, 3-4	1.0	1	1	1	0	2	17	4.41
Bender	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	17	4.60
Tinoco	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	16	1.65

Holmes pitched to 2 batters in the 5th. Lee pitched for 2 batters in the 5th.
Inherited runners: Lee 2-2, Hernandez 3-3. **HBP:** Soler. **WP:** McCaughan. **Umpires:** HP-Fairchild, 1B-Wills, 2B-Torres, 3B-Valentine. **T:** 2:45. **A:** 20,104 (37,446).

Boston 8, Minnesota 1 (G1)

```
Minnesota .... 000  000  010 –  1  7  1
Boston ........ 303  110  00x –  8  11  2
```

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Buxton cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.273
Margot lf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.239
Larnach dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.236
Correa ss	3	1	1	0	0	0	.313
Lee ss	1	0	0	0	0	1	.211
Castro lf-cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.250
Jeffers c	4	0	2	1	0	0	.209
Santana 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.238
Miranda 1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.286
Farmer 2b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.228
Totals	31	1	4	7			

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Duran lf	4	1	1	0	1	65	.283
Gonzalez 3b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.287
Yoshida dh	4	1	0	0	0	0	.287
Story ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	.259
Casas 1b	4	1	3	3	0	0	.241
Abreu rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.253
Jansen c	3	1	1	0	2	0	.253
Rafaela cf	4	0	3	2	0	0	.251
Totals	36	4	4	1	9		

E: Gonzalez, Grissom. **2B:** Abreu (32). **HR:** Casas 3 (12). **RBI:** Gonzalez (25), Casas 7 (29). **SB:** Gonzalez (11), Grissom (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** Minnesota 2 (Castro 2), Boston 3 (Gonzalez 2, Story, Jansen). **RISP:** Boston 3 for 11. **GIDP:** Margot. **DP:** Boston 1.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lopez L, 15-9	4.0	9	7	7	1	3	86	4.11
Headrick	3.0	2	1	1	0	5	40	3.34
Blewett								

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pivetta W, 6-11	5.0	4	1	3	4	95	4.21	
García								
Sims	1.0	0	0	1	1	6.75		
Weissert								

Aaron Judge of the Yankees celebrates his solo home run with Austin Wells (28) in Oakland on Sunday.
EAKIN HOWARD/GETTY IMAGES

Boston 9, Minnesota 3 (G2)

```
Minnesota .... 000  020  010 –  3  8  0
Boston ........ 000  036  00x –  9  10  0
```

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Buxton cf	5	0	1	0	0	3	.273
Duran lf	2	0	0	0	2	2	.247
Larnach lf	4	1	2	1	0	2	.236
Correa ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.307
Wallner rf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.260
Lewis dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.242
Castro 3b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.249
Santana 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Farmer 2b	3	1	1	1	0	3	.229
Vazquez c	4	1	2	0	0	1	.249
Totals	35	3	8	3	1	8	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Duran lf	4	2	2	1	0	0	.285
Gonzalez 3b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.273
Yoshida dh	4	1	1	0	0	0	.240
Wong c	4	0	1	1	0	1	.285
Casas 1b	4	2	2	2	0	0	.241
Sogard ss	4	1	2	0	0	0	.274
Abreu rf	3	1	0	0	1	0	.251
Valdez 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.192
Rafaela cf	4	1	0	0	0	1	.251
Totals	33	9	10	6	1	4	

2B: Duran (46), Sogard 2 (3), Rafaela (23). **HR:** Gonzalez (6), Buxton (54), Larnach (50), Castro (59), Duran 2 (75), Gonzalez 4 (29), Yoshida (54), Stanton (68), Chisholm Jr. (16). **SF:** Chisholm Jr. **Runners left in scoring position:** N.Y. Yankees 4 (Chisholm Jr., Dominguez, Rizzo 2), Oakland 4 (Gelof 2, McCann, Wilson). **RISP:** N.Y. Yankees 2 for 10, Oakland 2 for 9.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Matthews	4.2	2	1	1	2	6	87	5.71
Irvin L, 6-6	0.2	2	4	4	2	0	25	5.15
Sands	0.1	2	3	3	0	0	13	3.13
Tonkin	1.1	4	1	0	1	37	3.65	
Thielbar	1.0	0	0	0	1	17	5.40	

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Crawford W, 9-15	7.2	8	3	3	0	7	101	4.17
Winckowski	1.1	0	0	0	1	25	4.05	

Inherited runners: Irvin 1-0, Tonkin 1-0, Winckowski 3-2. **HBP:** Wallner, Abreu, Rafaela. **Umpires:** HP-Blakney, 1B-Merzel, 2B-Porter, 3B-Hanahan. **T:** 2:41. **A:** 31,941 (37,755).

Chicago Cubs 5, Washington 2

```
Washington ... 000  000  0 –  0  8  0
CHC .......... 200  300  00x –  5  7  0
```

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Crews rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.204
Wood lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.267
Yepez 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.285
b-Gallo ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.163
a-Garcia Jr. ph-dh	0	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Ruiz c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.224
Lipscomb 3b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.254
Garcia 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.270
Young cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Nunez ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Totals	34	0	8	0	6		

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Tauchman rf	2	1	0	0	2	2	.242
Swanson ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.240
Suzuki dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.252
Busch 1b	3	1	1	0	1	2	.246
Paredes 3b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.240
Wisdom lf	4	1	1	1	0	2	.210
Crow-Armstrong cf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.238
Amaya c	3	1	2	0	0	.227	
Madrigal 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.252

a-grounded out for Chaparro in 8th. b-struck out for Yepez in 8th.
2B: Wood (13), Chaparro (12), Busch (28), Amaya (8). **RBI:** Tauchman (7), Suzuki (71), Busch (65), Amaya 2 (45). **SB:** Swanson (18). **Runners left in scoring position:** Washington 4 (Crews, Garcia Jr., Ruiz 2), Chicago 3 (Paredes 2, Mastrobuoni). **RISP:** Chicago 1 for 4. **DP:** Washington 2, Chicago 1.

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Irvin L, 10-13	4.0	4	5	5	4	83	4.22	
Weems	2.0	2	0	0	0	1	29	3.85
Barnes	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	21	3.45
Law	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	3.09

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Imanaga W, 15-3	7.0	6	0	0	4	94	2.98	
Merryweather	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	2.55	
Wingenter	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	2.69	

Umpires: HP-De Jesus, 1B-Gibson, 2B-Johnson, 3B-Arrieta. **T:** 2:34. **A:** 30,086 (41,649).

N.Y. Yankees 7, Oakland 1

```
NYY .......... 021  020  101 –  7  9  1
Oakland ...... 200  002  000 –  4  7  0
```

N.Y. Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Torres 2b	5	1	1	0	0	1	.254
Soto rf	4	1	1	0	1	1	.288
Judge cf	4	2	2	1	1	1	.324
Stanton dh	4	1	1	2	0	1	.237
Chisholm Jr. 3b	4	1	1	2	0	1	.256
Verdugo lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.233
Rizzo 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.226

Pittsburgh 2, Cincinnati 0

```
Pittsburgh ... 100  010  000 –  2  7  0
Cincinnati ... 000  000  000 –  0  4  0
```

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
India 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.247
De La Cruz ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.263
Stephenson c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.261
Steer dh	3	0	1	0	0	0	.242
Friedl cf	2	0	0	0	1	0	.246
Fraley rf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.276
Espinal 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Benson lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.188
Totals	28	0	3	0	1	13	

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Greene L, 9-5	3.0	2	1	1	4	31	2.83	
Cruz	2.0	2	1	0	1	33	2.13	
Santillan	1.0	0	0	0	0	12	3.33	
Farmer	2.0	1	0	0	2	30	3.04	
Diaz	1.0	2	0	0	1	27	4.07	
Suter	2.0	0	0	0	1	31	3.22	

HBP: Friedl. **Umpires:** HP-Clemons, 1B-Scheurwater, 2B-Baker, 3B-Ramos. **T:** 2:25. **A:** 34,750 (45,814).

Detroit 4, Baltimore 3

```
Detroit ....... 021  001  000 –  4  5  0
Baltimore .... 000  030  000 –  3  6  0
```

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Estes L, 7-9	4.0	7	5	5	1	85	4.99	
Muller	2.1	0	0	0	1	25	3.95	
Otanez	0.1	1	1	1	0	1	13	4.34
McFarland	0.1	1	1	1	0	0	11	3.95
Bido	2.0	0	0	0	2	34	4.09	

Estes pitched to 3 batters in the 5th.
Inherited runners: Otanez 2-2, Muller 2-2, McFarland 1-1, Holman 1-1. **HBP:** Soto, Rizzo. **IBB:** Muller (3), Alexander (6). **Umpires:** HP-Metz, 1B-Estabrook, 2B-Bacchus, 3B-Diaz. **T:** 2:55. **A:** 24,663 (46,847).

L.A. Dodgers 6, Colorado 3

```
Colorado ..... 301  001  000 –  5  7  0
LAD .......... 100  302  0 –  6  11  0
```

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Blackmon dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.269
Tovar ss	5	1	1	0	0	2	.285
McMahon 3b	5	1	3	2	0	1	.251
Toglia 1b	5	0	1	1	0	2	.218
Rodgers 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.264
Hilliard cf	4	1	0	0	0	2	.192
Cave rf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.234
Goodman c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Stallings c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.227
Young lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Totals	38	5	8	4	0	9	

L.A. Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Betts ss	4	1	1	0	1	0	.289
Freeman 1b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.285
Smith c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.249
Lux 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.252
Edman cf	3	1	1	0	0	1	.236
Rojas ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.282
Totals							

2B: McMahon (26), Rodgers (28), Goodman (9). **3B:** Ohtani (53), Betts (19), Hernandez (31), Hernandez (11). **RBI:** Rodgers 2 (54), Jones 2 (25), McMahon (36), Ohtani (123), Betts (73), Freeman (89), Hernandez (83). **SB:** Ohtani 2 (55). **Runners left in scoring position:** Colorado 5 (Toglia 2, Hilliard, Cave 2), L.A. Dodgers 6 (Freeman 2, Hernandez 2, Lux, Hernandez). **RISP:** Colorado 3 for 11, L.A. Dodgers 1 for 9. **GIDP:** Goodman, Freeman 2, Edman. **DP:** Colorado 3, L.A. Dodgers 1.

Suarez pitched to 2 batters in the 6th. Guenther pitched to 4 batters in the 5th.
Inherited runners: Guenther 1-1, Hanifee 1-1, Vest 1-1, Akin 1-1, Treinen 1-1. **IBB:** Muller. **Umpires:** HP-Beck, 1B-Iassogna, 2B-Bucknor, 3B-May. **T:** 3:04. **A:** 44,040 (45,971).

San Francisco 2, Kansas City 0

```
SF ............ 020  000  000 –  2  4  0
Kansas City .. 000  000  000 –  0  6  0
```

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Yastrzemski rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Ramos lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.269
Wade Jr. 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.248
Chapman 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.242
Encarnacion dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.262
Conforto lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.235
a-Melendez ph-dh							

Seattle, Texas (top right)

(totals row)

	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	
Totals	28	2	5	1	4	4	

a-grounded out for Hedges in 8th. b-flied out for Straw in 8th.
2B: Rocchio (17). **3B:** Donovan (3). **RBI:** Hedges (15), Arenado (70). **CS:** Schneemann (2). **SB:** Straw 2 (2). **S:** Hedges. **Runners left in scoring position:** Cleveland 2 (Schneemann, Thomas), St. Louis 5 (Burleson 4, Siani). **GIDP:** Donovan. **DP:** Cleveland 1.

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Williams	5.2	4	1	1	2	3	86	4.86
Herrin L, 5-1	1.0	0	1	1	0	1	8	1.98
Walters	0.1	0	0	0	2	0	17	0.00
Gaddis	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	15	1.57

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pallante W, 8-8	7.0	4	1	1	2	4	85	3.77
Kittredge H, 36	1.0	1	0	0	0	13	2.93	
Helsley S, 47	1.0	0	0	0	0	15	2.09	

Inherited runners: Herrin 1-1, Walters 1-0. **HBP:** Nootbaar, **WP:** Walters. **Umpires:** HP-Miller, 1B-Conroy, 2B-Livensparger, 3B-O'Nora. **T:** 2:15. **A:** 39,100 (44,383).

Texas 6, Seattle 5

```
Seattle ....... 011  003  000 –  5  8  0
Texas ......... 000  004  101 –  6  10  2
```

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Robles rf	5	1	1	2	0	1	.333
Rodriguez cf	5	0	1	0	0	2	.272
Raleigh dh	3	1	1	1	0	1	.214
Arozarena lf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.219
Turner 1b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.258
Polanco 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.206
Garver c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.169
Crawford ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.203
Moore 3b	3	1	2	1	0	1	.208
a-Raley dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Rojas 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.228
Totals	35	5	8	4	1	7	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Semien 2b	4	1	2	1	0	2	.234
Smith ss	4	1	3	1	0	1	.261
Langford lf	4	1	1	3	0	1	.251
Garcia rf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.219
Lowe 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.218
Heim c	4	0	2	0	0	2	.218
Duran 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.253
Jankowski cf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.209
Taveras cf	4	3	3	1	0	0	.233
Totals	35	6	8	6	2	8	

a-grounded out for Moore in 9th.
E: Semien, Smith. **2B:** Moore (23). **HR:** Raleigh (31), Langford (12), Taveras (12). **RBI:** Robles 2 (23), Raleigh (95), Moore (42), Semien (73), Smith (60), Langford 3 (69), Taveras (44). **SB:** Robles (28), Taveras (21). **Runners left in scoring position:** Seattle 2 (Robles, Turner), Texas 2 (Duran 2). **RISP:** Seattle 2 for 5, Texas 3 for 4. **GIDP:** Duran. **DP:** Seattle 1.

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Woo	6.0	7	4	4	1	4	82	3.02
Chargois BS, 2	1.0	1	1	1	1	17	2.95	
Thornton	1.0	0	0	0	2	18	3.71	
Munoz L, 3-7	0.2	2	1	1	0	1	2.16	

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Heaney	5.2	7	4	4	1	4	94	3.98
Festa	1.1	1	1	0	0	1	22	4.66
Robertson	1.0	0	0	0	1	9	3.13	
Yates W, 7-2	1.0	0	0	0	1	17	1.21	

Inherited runners: Festa 2-0. **HBP:** Raleigh, Crawford. **Umpires:** HP-Blaser, 1B-Tichenor, 2B-Ceja, 3B-Gonzalez. **T:** 2:28. **A:** 39,882 (40,518).

L.A. Angels 9, Houston 8

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LAA .......... 000  002  214 –  9  12  1
Houston ...... 001  030  022 –  8  12  1
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L.A. Angels	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Ward lf	4	1	1	1	1	0	.243
Neto ss	5	3	2	6	0	2	.249
Drury 1b-2b	5	0	1	0	1	67	
Wagaman 3b	5	0	0	0	0	0	.229
Moniak cf	4	1	2	0	1	1	.223
O'Hoppe dh-c	3	0	0	0	1	2	.247
Thaiss c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.207
c-Pillar ph-rf	2	1	1	0	0	1	.155
Campero rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.209
Lopez 2b	1	2	0	0	1	0	.213
e-Schanuel ph-1b	1	1	1	0	0	.233	
Totals	37	9	12	8	2	8	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Altuve 2b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.308
Alvarez lf	4	2	2	0	1	2	.308
a-Dubon pr-lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Tucker dh-rf	5	1	2	1	0	0	.287
Bregman 3b	5	1	2	3	0	1	.262
Diaz 1b	5	1	2	1	0	1	.302
Caratini c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.255
b-Kessinger pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Pena ss	4	1	2	1	0	0	.262
Meyers cf	4	1	0	0	0	0	.230
d-Whitcomb ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Totals	35	8	12	6	2	8	

a-ran for Alvarez in 3rd. b-ran for Caratini in 9th. c-singled for Thaiss in 9th. d-singled for Heyward in 8th. e-hit a sacrifice fly for Lopez in 7th.
E: Moniak, Diaz. **2B:** Neto (33), Drury (7), Moniak (17), Alvarez (34), Diaz (29). **HR:** Neto 2 (23), Pena (28). **RBI:** Neto 6 (72), Ward (20), Bregman (25). **RBI:** Ward (72), Neto 6 (77), Schanuel (54), Altuve (65), Bregman 3 (74), Diaz (82), Caratini (28), Whitcomb (5). **CS:** Lopez (1). **SB:** Campero (2). **SF:** Schanuel, Bregman. **Runners left in scoring position:** L.A. Angels 3 (Ward, Wagaman, Moniak), Houston 6 (Caratini 2, Pena, Meyers 3). **RISP:** L.A. Angels 4 for 11, Houston 4 for 11. **GIDP:** Drury, Meyers 2. **DP:** L.A. Angels 2, Houston 1.

L.A. Angels	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Canning	4.1	6	4	4	3	87	5.24	
Strickland	1.2	3	0	0	1	18	2.45	
Burke W, 2-1	0.2	1	0	0	0	4	4.30	
Quijada H, 6	2.2	1	0	0	5	2.26		
Zuniga S, 2	1.0	0	0	0	1	4.30		

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Arrighetti	6.0	5	2	2	0	9	14	4.05
Abreu BS, 7	1.1	3	3	2	1	15	3.87	
Hader L, 8-8 BS, 4	1.1	4	4	4	1	2	35	3.92
King	0.2	0	0	0	0	10	2.90	

Inherited runners: Burke 2-1, Zuniga 2-2, Abreu 2-1, King 1-1. **IBB:** Canning (1), Abreu (15). **WP:** Arrighetti. **Balk:** Neris. **Umpires:** HP-Walsh, 1B-Rivera, 2B-Eddings, 3B-Drake. **T:** 3:06. **A:** 39,631 (41,168).

Milwaukee 10, Arizona 9

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Arizona ...... 107  000  010 –  9  9  1
Milwaukee .... 001  201  24x –  10  16  3
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Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Smith rf	5	2	2	1	0	0	.257
a-Marte ph-1b							
Marte 2b							
Pederson dh							
b-Grichuk ph-dh							
McCarthy cf							
Bell 1b							
Newman 2b							
Moreno c							
Herrera c							
Del Castillo c							
Perkins cf							
Suarez 3b							
Chourio rf							
Adames ss							
Adames ss							
Ortiz 3b							
Haase c							
Bauers 1b							
Frelick lf							

a-singled for Sanchez in 8th. b-walked for Pederson in 8th. b-ran for Contreras in 9th.
E: Diaz, Sanchez 2, Turang. **2B:** Hoskins (13), Adames (12), Black (20). **3B:** Perdomo (2). **HR:** Marte (35), Bell (19), Suarez (29). **RBI:** Marte (96), Grichuk (44), Gurriel Jr. (71), Suarez (98), Chourio (78), Perkins (42), Mitchell (21), Hoskins 3 (84), Adames (110), Bauers (42), Frelick (30), Ortiz (53). **SB:** McCarthy 2 (25), Mitchell (9), Adames (19). **SF:** Ortiz. **Runners left in scoring position:** Arizona 3 (Smith 2, Herrera), Milwaukee 4 (Chourio, Hoskins, Sanchez, Frelick). **RISP:** Arizona 3 for 9, Milwaukee 6 for 18. **GIDP:** Frelick. **DP:** Arizona 1.

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Montgomery	4.1	6	4	3	0	4	69	6.29
Saalfrank								
Thompson								
Nelson								
Maynard H, 16								
Ginkel L, 9-4								

Inherited runners: Diaz 1-1, Martinez 2-0, Ashby 1-1. **Umpires:** HP-Muchlinski, 1B-Fletcher, 2B-Visconti, 3B-Segal. **A:** 37,612 (41,700).

GOLF

LPGA TOUR

Ko wins again at Kroger Queen City Championship

Beth Ann Nichols
Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

Lydia Ko picked up right where she left off — winning. On the heels of an Olympic gold medal and the AIG Women's British Open victory at St. Andrews, Ko added another first-place prize at the 2024 Kroger Queen City Championship, topping the field by five strokes after a three-week break. Incredibly, she had only one bogey the entire week at TPC River's Bend.

In her post-round interview with Golf Channel's Amy Rogers, Ko called this stretch of golf "surreal" and put any talk of retirement on a back burner with a newish goal.

"I think it's always been the goal of mine to do the career grand slam," said Ko, who currently owns three different majors. "I thought that would be so out there.

"I feel like I've already been part of this fairytale, so why not?"

The newest member of the LPGA Hall of Fame now owns 22 LPGA career titles. She has three LPGA official wins this season, plus the gold medal. Ko closed with a 9-under 63 to run away from former No. 1 Jeeno Thitikul. Ko finished at 23 under for the tournament.

This marks the first time since 2016 – when she claimed the JTBC Classic and Chevron Championship titles – the 27-year-old Kiwi has won in back-to-back starts on the LPGA.

She joins Nelly Korda as the only other player with at least three wins this season. Korda, who finished in a share of fifth in Cincinnati, won six times in the first half of the season and leads the Rolex Player of the Year list by 100 points. (Ko did not receive any POY points for her gold-medal performance in Paris, though she did get that valuable LPGA Hall of Fame point.)

Ko starts the fall season the same

Lydia Ko poses with the trophy after the final round of the Kroger Queen City Championship.
DYLAN BUELL/GETTY IMAGES

way she ended the summer, on a hot streak, extending her top-10 run to her last five consecutive starts, including the Olympics.

World No. 1 Korda will have three weeks at home before heading to South Korea for the LPGA's BMW Ladies Championship. The LPGA heads to the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship, Sept. 27-29, before a four-event swing through China, Korea, Malaysia and Japan.

"I don't think I had my best stuff, but played some solid golf here and there," said Korda, who closed with a 68. "Definitely didn't capitalize on the par-5s. I had a lot of irons in my hands and came out with pars. A little disappointing there.

"Overall, happy with the way I played coming off last week and my energy levels."

South Korea's Haeran Ryu birdied five consecutive holes on the back nine en route to a closing 67. She finished solo third.

LIV GOLF

Smith, Ripper GC win Team Championship

Field Level Media

Cameron Smith and Ripper GC won a LIV Golf team title for their native Australia, not to mention boatloads of cash for themselves.

The all-Australian team of Smith, Lucas Herbert, Matt Jones and Marc Leishman edged 4Aces GC and won the LIV Golf Team Championship on Sunday outside Dallas, bringing a close to the third season of the Saudi-backed breakaway tour.

The final round of the team championship featured 18 holes of stroke play at Maridoe Golf Club in Carrollton, Texas, with every player's score combining to create their respective teams' scores. The four winners in Saturday's match-play semifinals qualified for the final.

Herbert and Smith made hugely important birdie putts down the stretch to lift Ripper to 11-under 277 and a three-stroke victory.

Tied for second at 8 under were Dustin Johnson's 4Aces, which won the team title in the inaugural 2022 season, and the underdog Iron Heads GC. Legion XIII – playing without captain Jon Rahm of Spain, the 2024 individual champion – placed fourth at 6 under.

Ripper is the third different team to win the LIV team championship in three seasons. They captured $14 million of the $50 million prize pool.

There was a three-way tie at 8 under featuring Ripper, 4Aces and Iron Heads with just a few holes for each team to finish. Herbert, atoning for a triple bogey early in his round, was powering Ripper's late move with three straight birdies at Nos. 15-17, as the team eked ahead at 9 under.

Harold Varner III made a long birdie at his last hole, No. 1, to bring 4Aces into a tie with Ripper at 9 under. But Herbert then rolled a slippery birdie putt into the cup, following it in with an emphatic fist pump, as Ripper moved back in front at 10 under.

Patrick Reed of 4Aces had a 5-foot birdie try at the final hole, but it curled dramatically right to left and stayed

Cameron Smith pumps his fist on the 18th green as his team, Ripper GC, wins the LIV Golf Dallas Team Championship Finals at Maridoe Golf Club. JIM COWSERT/IMAGN IMAGES

out. Smith then rolled in his fifth birdie of the day at No. 17 to give Ripper a two-shot lead.

Johnson, playing in the final group with Smith, Iron Heads captain Kevin Na and Legion XIII's Tyrrell Hatton, had a chance to bring 4Aces to 10 under as well, but his birdie try at No. 17 rolled past the cup.

Then, after Smith teed off at No. 18, Johnson's tee shot sailed left and into a water hazard, essentially clinching Ripper's victory.

Smith led Ripper with a 4-under 68. Herbert shot a 3-under 69, and Jones and Leishman each posted 70. Johnson and Reed scored the best rounds for 4Aces at 69.

Na and Japan's Jinichiro Kozuma led Iron Heads with rounds of 69. Hatton, of England, paced Legion with a 68 as LIV alternate John Catlin stood in for Rahm over the weekend while Rahm dealt with "severe flu symptoms."

The Iron Heads finished last in the regular-season standings but upset Brooks Koepka's Smash GC and Bryson DeChambeau's Crushers GC (the defending champions) in match play Friday and Saturday to advance to the final.

PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS

Paul Broadhurst of England poses with the trophy on the 18th green after winning the PURE Insurance Championship. LACHLAN CUNNINGHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Broadhurst prevails at Pebble Beach

Field Level Media

Englishman Paul Broadhurst grinded out an even-par 72 at Pebble Beach Golf Links to win the PURE Insurance Championship on Sunday in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Broadhurst opened the day with a five-shot lead on the field after firing a round of 64 on Saturday. He made key par saves down the stretch to finish the week at 14-under 202, three ahead of Germany's Alex Cejka, whose 64 was the round of the day.

It marked the seventh victory of Broadhurst's PGA Tour Champions career. After ending a winless drought dating to 2018 at the Invited Celebrity Classic in April, Broadhurst has two wins under his belt this season.

Broadhurst's only birdies Sunday came at the par-4 fourth hole and the par-5 18th. He converted 14 pars, remaining steady on the back nine despite bogeys at the 13th and 15th holes.

"I've never been in that position before, having a five-shot lead," said Broadhurst, 59. "I just went out and just tried to play solid, and felt like I did for nine holes. I was reasonably comfortable and just hit a couple of poor shots to the right on 12 and 13, and then you

start thinking a little bit."

Broadhurst missed the green at the par-3 17th, but he chipped on and made a tricky par putt to stay two in front of Cejka.

"It was massive," Broadhurst said of the putt. "... I didn't want to shoot over par and win. My kids would be giving me stick back home if I shot over par."

Cejka made five birdies over his first 10 holes before holing out for eagle at the par-4 13th and birdieing the last hole, getting to 11-under 205 to set the clubhouse lead that Broadhurst had to beat.

Rocco Mediate (69), Doug Barron (70) and Fiji's Vijay Singh (71) tied for third at 10 under.

The unique event had 80 PGA Tour Champions pros play one round at Pebble Beach Golf Links and one round at Spyglass Hill Golf Course before the low 50 and ties advanced to Sunday's final round at Pebble Beach.

The pros also played alongside amateur and junior players who competed on separate leaderboards. Daniel Ferguson won in the First Tee boys' division, and Nicole Iniakov captured the title in the First Tee girls' division. The team of John Vegas and Ryan Harrington won the pro-am competition.

DP WORLD TOUR

Billy Horschel of the U.S. celebrates after winning the BMW PGA Championship in a playoff. PAUL CHILDS/ACTION IMAGES VIA REUTERS

Horschel beats McIlroy in playoff at BMW PGA Championship

Cameron Jourdan
Golfweek | USA TODAY NETWORK

2024 has been the year of so close, yet so far for Rory McIlroy.

On Sunday, the latest saga involved a playoff against Billy Horschel, a fellow past champion of the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth Club in Surrey, England. But the final sentence was the same.

Horschel topped McIlroy on the second playoff hole to win, making an eagle putt on the par-5 18th. His eagle attempt went right in the center of the

cup. McIlroy's barely missed right.

Horschel had to birdie the 18th in regulation to get into a playoff with McIlroy and Thriston Lawrence, who hit his third shot in the water on the first playoff hole and didn't make it to the second playoff hole.

McIlroy had a chance to win it in regulation, but his birdie attempt missed low.

Both Horschel and McIlroy made birdie on the first playoff hole, but it's Horschel taking the title and adding another what-if to McIlroy's 2024 season.

WNBA PLAYOFFS

Thomas carries Sun past Fever in Game 1

Field Level Media

Alyssa Thomas recorded her WNBA-leading 15th career triple-double and fourth in the postseason as the Connecticut Sun overwhelmed the visiting Indiana Fever 93-69 in the opener of their best-of-three series on Sunday in Uncasville, Conn.

Thomas finished with 12 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds, and Marina Mabrey led all scorers with a game-high 27 points off the Connecticut bench. Mabrey shot 5 of 12 from 3-point range, knocking down almost as many from beyond the arc as Indiana (6 of 28) had as a team.

Indiana star Caitlin Clark, introduced as the unanimous 2024 WNBA Rookie of the Year, was 4 of 17 from the floor, including 2 of 13 from 3-point range, and went to the foul line just twice (making one) for 11 total points. She also had a team-high eight assists.

Fever teammate Kelsey Mitchell had 21 points but was just 2 of 10 from distance, and center Aliyah Boston had a double-double with 17 points and 11 rebounds.

The Sun host the Fever on Wednesday, with Game 3, if necessary, on Friday in Indianapolis.

Lynx 102, Mercury 95

Napheesa Collier scored a season-high 38 points as the Minnesota Lynx held off a comeback bid from the Phoenix Mercury to win Game 1 of their first-round playoff series in Minneapolis.

Collier shot 11-of-19 from the floor and 13-of-14 from the free-throw line while adding six rebounds and four assists for Minnesota, which took a one-game lead over the Mercury in the best-of-three series. Kayla McBride scored 20 points for the Lynx, Bridget Carleton added 12 and Myisha Hines-Allen scored 10.

Natasha Cloud led Phoenix with 33 points and 10 assists, while Diana Taurasi scored 21 points. Kahleah Copper chipped in 16 points and Brittney Griner had 10 points.

Liberty 83, Dream 69

Rookie Leonie Fiebich scored a career-high 21 points to help the New York Liberty beat the visiting Atlanta Dream in Game 1 of their WNBA playoff series.

Breanna Stewart added 20 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks for the top-seeded Liberty, who never trailed and led by as many as 22. Game 2 of the best-of-three first-round series is Tuesday in New York.

Fiebich, whose previous career-high was 16 points, started on Sunday after making just 15 during the regular season. She shot 7-for-8 from the floor, including all four of her 3-point attempts.

Sabrina Ionescu made three triples and had 17 points, and Betnijah Laney-Hamilton added 10 points for New York.

Rhyne Howard had 14 points to lead the eighth-seeded Dream, who won at New York in Thursday's regular-season finale to clinch the final playoff spot. Tina Charles tallied 12 points and seven rebounds, while Allisha Gray and Naz Hillmon each scored nine.

Aces 78, Storm 67

A'ja Wilson scored 21 points, Tiffany Hayes added 20 off the bench and a strong defensive performance in the fourth quarter led the host Las Vegas Aces to a win over the Seattle Storm in Game 1 of a best-of-three, first-round playoff series.

Las Vegas held Seattle without a field goal in the fourth quarter, and the Storm didn't score in the frame until Skylar Diggins-Smith made a pair of free throws with 4:07 to go. Seattle went 0-for-12 from the floor in the final 10 minutes of action.

The Aces, struggling to generate offense against Seattle's own stifling defense, were only up by five when Diggins-Smith went to the foul line. They didn't score in the fourth until Kelsey Plum made a layup with 7:08 left, Plum's only points of the night.

Following the late free throws from Diggins-Smith, Las Vegas rattled off eight unanswered points to close the game.

Chelsea Gray, who finished with 16 points for the Aces, bookended the game-closing run with a pair of baskets.

Connecticut Sun forward Alyssa Thomas (25) dribbles past Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark (22) in the fourth quarter at Mohegan Sun Arena. MARK SMITH/IMAGN IMAGES

AUTO RACING FORMULA ONE

McLaren driver Lando Norris looks at his trophy Sunday after winning the Singapore Grand Prix. CAROLINE CHIA/REUTERS

Norris making run at Verstappen's F1 lead

Rae Wee
Reuters

SINGAPORE – McLaren's Lando Norris dominated the Singapore Grand Prix from start to finish on Sunday to take another chunk out of Max Verstappen's Formula One championship lead. The 24-year-old Briton roared away from pole position at the floodlit Marina Bay circuit and, despite living dangerously at times as he twice brushed the unforgiving walls, led every lap to the chequered flag.

Verstappen finished second for Red Bull, a massive 20.945 seconds behind his main rival, and McLaren's Oscar Piastri was third in a sweltering night race run over 62 laps in exhausting heat and humidity.

Verstappen's 59 point lead over Norris was cut to 52 with six rounds, including three sprints, remaining, while McLaren stretched their lead over Red Bull in the constructors' standings to 41 points.

"It was an amazing race. A few too many close calls, I had a couple of little moments in the middle, but it was well controlled, I think," said Norris after his third career victory and third of the season.

"The car was mega. I could push, we were flying the whole race and at the end could just chill. So it was a nice race, still tough, I'm a bit out of breath, but a very fun one."

Norris could have also had a bonus point for fastest lap but RB's Daniel Ricciardo pitted for a third time for soft tyres and snatched it at the end of what many suspect could be the Australian's last race.

Extraordinarily for Singapore, there was no safety car deployment in a largely incident-free race with only two retirements.

"On a weekend when we knew that we were going to struggle, to be P2 is a good achievement," said Verstappen after what amounted to a lonely race.

"Of course we are not happy with second. Now we just have to try and improve more and more and that's what we will try to do."

George Russell took fourth place for Mercedes with Charles Leclerc fifth for Ferrari and seven times world champion Lewis Hamilton sixth for Mercedes.

Last year's winner Carlos Sainz was seventh for Ferrari, ahead of fellow-Spaniard Fernando Alonso.

SOCCER ROUNDUP

Gotham's early goal holds up in shutout

Field Level Media

Yazmeen Ryan's goal in the third minute proved to be the difference on Sunday as Gotham FC notched a 1-0 victory over the visiting Utah Royals in Harrison, N.J.

The victory for Gotham (13-4-4, 43 points) moves them into third place in the NWSL table, one point ahead of the Kansas City Current and one point behind the Washington Spirit with five games remaining in the regular season. It's the third consecutive loss for Utah (4-14-3, 15 points), which remains in last place, far outside of the playoff picture.

Ryan's goal was created when Lynn Williams picked off a Royals pass in their own half of the field with relative ease. After a give-and-go with a teammate, Williams streaked down the left wing and into the box, then played a long ball across it. Ryan, with one touch of her left foot, redirected the ball with precision into the back of the net for her fourth goal of the year.

For Williams, Gotham's captain, the score marked her 30th regular season assist in NWSL play, a figure matched only by Sofia Huerta and Jess McDonald.

Despite firing 16 shots and putting 10 of those attempts on-target, Gotham couldn't put another ball past Utah keeper Mandy Haught, who tallied nine saves on the day. Haught had a memorable stop in the 33rd minute, when she leapt into the air to knock a long-range attempt from Williams over the bar.

The win for Gotham was its fifth in its last six matches.

MLS
Union 4, D.C. United 0

A two-goal night for Daniel Gazdag and two assists from 20-year-old Quinn Sullivan powered the Philadelphia Union over D.C. United 4-0 Sunday night in Chester, Pa.

With the victory, the Union moved back into ninth place – the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference – with four matches remaining.

Sullivan got the Philadelphia (9-12-9, 36 points) scoring started in the 13th minute by splitting two defenders on the right sideline and running around another to draw in the defense and send a pass across the face of goal. On the other end was Mikael Uhre, who stood undefended for an easy tap-in.

Less than three minutes later, Philadelphia sent in another cross that D.C. (8-13-9, 33 points) initially cut off, but Gazdag sprinted into the box to intercept the subsequent loose ball, shooting from the right side of the 18-yard box into the left-side netting.

In the second half, Sullivan picked up a second assist in 51st minute when the young winger received a pass under pressure, broke away and ran to the endline. Sullivan sent in a cross that Tai Baribo headed into the back of the net, giving Philadelphia a three-goal lead.

Gazdag's second came when the match was already heavily in the home side's favor.

Gotham FC midfielder Yazmeen Ryan controls the ball against Utah Royals FC during the first half at Red Bull Arena. JOHN JONES/IMAGN IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

MLB

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Yankees	92	64	.590	—
Baltimore	86	70	.551	6
Tampa Bay	78	78	.500	14
Boston	78	78	.500	14
Toronto	73	83	.468	19

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	90	67	.573	—
Kansas City	82	74	.526	7½
Detroit	82	74	.526	7½
Minnesota	81	75	.519	8½
Chicago	36	120	.231	53½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	85	71	.545	—
Seattle	80	76	.513	5
Texas	74	82	.474	11
Oakland	67	89	.429	18
L.A. Angels	63	93	.404	22

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	92	64	.590	—
N.Y. Mets	87	69	.558	5
Atlanta	85	71	.545	7
Washington	69	87	.442	23
Miami	61	95	.391	31

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	89	67	.571	—
Chicago	80	76	.513	9

St. Louis	79	77	.506	10
Cincinnati	76	81	.484	13½
Pittsburgh	73	83	.468	16

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	93	63	.596	—
San Diego	90	66	.577	3
Arizona	87	69	.558	6
San Francisco	77	79	.494	16
Colorado	60	96	.385	33

Saturday's Scores

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

Sunday's Scores

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

Monday's Games

Chicago Cubs (TBD) at Philadelphia (Nola 12-8), 6:40 p.m.
Boston (Houck 8-10) at Toronto (Francis 8-5), 7:07 p.m.
Seattle (Miller 11-8) at Houston (Brown 11-8), 8:10 p.m.
San Francisco (Birdsong 4-5) at Arizona (Rodriguez 3-3), 9:40 p.m.

NFL

American Conference

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	65	38
N.Y. Jets	2	1	0	.667	67	52
Miami	1	2	0	.333	33	72
New England	1	2	0	.333	39	57

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	3	0	0	1.000	51	26
Baltimore	1	2	0	.333	71	78
Cleveland	1	2	0	.333	50	67
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	35	42

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	2	1	0	.667	55	74
Indianapolis	1	2	0	.333	58	61
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	30	38
Tennessee	0	3	0	.000	48	78

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	3	0	0	1.000	65	38
L.A. Chargers	2	1	0	.667	58	33
Las Vegas	1	2	0	.333	58	81
Denver	1	2	0	.333	52	46

National Conference

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	70	63
Washington	1	1	0	.500	41	55
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0	.333	45	64
Dallas	1	2	0	.333	77	89

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	3	0	0	1.000	85	30
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	75	58
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	42	40
Chicago	1	2	0	.333	53	57

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	2	1	0	.667	103	44
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	64	62
Atlanta	1	2	0	.333	49	55
Carolina	1	2	0	.333	49	95

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	3	0	0	1.000	73	43
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	69	44
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	49	42
L.A. Rams	0	2	0	.000	30	67

Thursday's Game

N.Y. Jets 24, New England 3

Sunday's Scores

N.Y. Giants 21, Cleveland 15

Indianapolis 21, Chicago 16
Minnesota 34, Houston 7
Philadelphia 15, New Orleans 12
Pittsburgh 20, L.A. Chargers 10
Denver 26, Tampa Bay 7
Green Bay 30, Tennessee 14
Carolina 36, Las Vegas 22
Seattle 24, Miami 3
Detroit 20, Arizona 13
L.A. Rams 27, San Francisco 24
Baltimore 28, Dallas 25
Kansas City 22, Atlanta 17

Monday's Games

Jacksonville at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Cincinnati, 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 26

Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 29

New Orleans at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Carolina, 1 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Houston, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Denver at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Washington at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
New England at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
Kansas City at L.A. Chargers, 4:25 p.m.
Cleveland at Las Vegas, 4:25 p.m.
Buffalo at Baltimore, 8:20 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 30

Tennessee at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at Detroit, 8:15 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

US LBM Coaches Poll

Sept. 22

The US LBM Coaches Poll is conducted weekly throughout the regular season using a panel of head coaches at Football Bowl Subdivision schools. The panel is chosen by random draw, conference by conference plus independents, from a pool of coaches who have indicated to the American Football Coaches Association their willingness to participate. Each coach submits a Top 25 with a first-place vote worth 25 points, second place 24, and so on down to one point for 25th.

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Georgia (35)	3-0	1350	1
2. Texas (18)	3-0	1324	2
3. Ohio State (2)	3-0	1279	3
4. Alabama	3-0	1185	4
5. Ole Miss	4-0	1145	5
6. Tennessee	4-0	1094	7
7. Oregon	3-0	1016	6
8. Penn State	4-0	942	8
9. Miami (FL)	4-0	912	11
10. Utah	4-0	904	10
11. Missouri	4-0	887	8
12. Michigan	3-1	692	16
13. LSU	3-1	632	16
14. Notre Dame	3-1	553	18
15. Clemson	2-1	542	19
16. USC	2-1	520	12
17. Louisville	3-0	509	20
18. Oklahoma	3-1	404	13
19. Iowa State	4-0	386	21
20. Oklahoma State	3-1	326	15
21. Illinois	4-0	307	NR
22. BYU	4-0	167	NR
23. UNLV	3-0	124	25
24. Texas A&M	3-1	119	24
25. Kansas State	3-1	116	14

Others receiving votes: Washington State 94; Indiana 67; Pittsburgh 50; Boise State 42; UCF 35; Iowa 34; Arizona 16; Boston College 15; Duke 14; James Madison 13; Nebraska 7; Washington 6; Rutgers 5; Colorado 5; SMU 4; South Carolina 2; Navy 2; Liberty 2; Arkansas 2.

WNBA

Playoffs

Sunday's Games

N.Y. Liberty 83, Atlanta 69, Liberty take 1-0 series lead
Connecticut 93, Indiana 69, Sun take 1-0 series lead
Minnesota 102, Phoenix 95, Lynx take 1-0 series lead
Las Vegas 78, Seattle 67, Aces take 1-0 series lead

Tuesday's Games

Atlanta at N.Y. Liberty, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at Las Vegas, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Indiana at Connecticut, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games

N.Y. Liberty vs Atlanta at Atlanta, noon
Las Vegas at Seattle, 3 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	19	4	7	64	68	44
Cincinnati	17	8	5	56	52	39
Columbus	16	5	8	56	58	31
NY Red Bulls	13	9	6	14	44	47	39
Orlando City	12	11	7	43	50	45
Charlotte FC	11	11	8	41	36	33
NY City FC	11	11	8	41	43	43
Toronto FC	11	17	3	36	38	55
Philadelphia	9	12	9	36	57	47
CF Montreal	8	12	10	34	41	61
Atlanta	8	13	9	33	40	44
Nashville	8	13	9	33	31	46
D.C. United	8	13	9	33	44	61
Chicago	7	16	8	29	36	54
New England	8	17	4	28	32	60

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LA Galaxy	17	7	7	58	63	46
Real Salt Lake	16	7	9	51	60	45
Colorado	15	10	5	50	58	50
Los Angeles FC	14	8	7	49	52	40
Houston	13	8	9	48	43	33
Seattle	13	9	8	47	45	34
Vancouver	13	9	7	46	49	40
Portland	12	10	8	44	63	53
Minnesota	12	12	6	42	50	48
FC Dallas	10	13	7	37	44	47
Austin FC	9	13	8	35	32	42
Sporting KC	8	16	7	31	49	58
Saint Louis	6	11	13	31	43	61
San Jose	5	22	3	18	37	69

Saturday, Sept. 21

NY City FC 1, Inter Miami CF 1
Charlotte FC 4, New England 0
Columbus 4, Orlando City 3
CF Montreal 2, Chicago 0
NY Red Bulls 2, Atlanta 2
FC Dallas 3, Los Angeles FC 1
Nashville 2, Cincinnati 2
Sporting KC 0, Minnesota 2
Austin FC 0, Houston 1
Colorado 2, Toronto FC 0
Real Salt Lake 3, Portland 3
LA Galaxy 4, Vancouver 2
San Jose 1, Saint Louis 2

Sunday, Sept. 22

Philadelphia 4, D.C. United 0

NWSL

	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Orlando	15	0	6	51	37	12
Washington	14	5	2	44	42	24
NJ/NY Gotham	13	4	4	43	26	16
North Carolina	10	9	2	32	28	23
Chicago	9	10	2	29	27	28
Portland	8	9	3	27	29	28
Louisville	6	8	7	25	30	29
Bay	8	12	1	25	25	33
Angel City	6	11	3	21	23	33
Seattle	5	11	5	20	23	35
San Diego	4	10	7	19	17	36
Houston	4	12	5	17	14	32
Utah	4	14	3	15	14	34

Friday Matches

Kansas City 3, Washington 0
Orlando 1, Bay 0

Saturday Matches

Louisville 2, North Carolina 1
Houston 1, Seattle 0
San Diego 1, San Diego 0

Sunday Match

NJ/NY Gotham 1, Utah 0

Monday's Game

Portland at Angel City, 7 p.m.

GOLF

LPGA Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G

Sunday

Maineville, Ohio
TPC River's Bend
Purse: $2 million
Yardage: 6,705; Par: 72

Final Round

Lydia Ko	.67-66-69-63—265 (-23)
Atthaya Thitikul	.66-66-68-70—270 (-18)
Hae-Ran Ryu	.66-69-70-67—271 (-17)
Yuka Saso	.73-65-69-65—272 (-16)
Hyo Joon Jang	.73-65-67-69—274 (-14)
Nelly Korda	.67-70-69-68—274 (-14)
Gaby Lopez	.68-67-71-69—275 (-13)
Albane Valenzuela	70-66-68-71—275 (-13)
Kristen Gillman	.69-68-69-70—276 (-12)
Jin Hee Im	.68-68-71-69—276 (-12)
A Lim Kim	.70-70-66-70—276 (-12)
Nanna Koerstz Madsen	68-72-67-69—276 (-12)
Yealimi Noh	.68-67-73-68—276 (-12)
Pajaree Anannarukarn	71-65-72-69—277 (-11)
Ashleigh Buhai	.65-73-68-71—277 (-11)
Yan Liu	.66-69-68-74—277 (-11)
Polly Mack	.67-70-70-70—277 (-11)
Angel Yin	.68-68-72-69—277 (-11)
Lindy Duncan	.68-69-68-73—278 (-10)
Maria Fassi	.68-67-76-67—278 (-10)
Charley Hull	.70-70-68-70—278 (-10)
Grace Kim	.70-70-71-67—278 (-10)
Sei Young Kim	.68-68-70-72—278 (-10)
Anna Nordqvist	.71-65-70-72—278 (-10)
Jasmine Suwannapura	67-69-69-73—278 (-10)
Lexi Thompson	.71-71-68-68—278 (-10)
Savannah Grewal	.67-70-71-71—279 (-9)
Esther Henseleit	.74-68-66-71—279 (-9)
Stephanie Kyriacou	69-67-69-74—279 (-9)
Minjee Lee	.71-71-68-69—279 (-9)
Ryann O'Toole	.70-69-69-71—279 (-9)
Perrine Delacour	.72-70-67-71—280 (-8)
Linn Grant	.69-72-67-72—280 (-8)
Cheyenne Knight	.70-71-70-69—280 (-8)
Lucy Li	.73-68-71-68—280 (-8)
Pernilla Lindberg	.68-72-71-69—280 (-8)
Bianca Pagdanganan	68-68-69-75—280 (-8)
Jing Yan	.71-69-66-74—280 (-8)
Haeji Kang	.74-69-71-67—281 (-7)
Min Ji Kang	.71-72-69-69—281 (-7)
Frida Kinhult	.69-71-69-72—281 (-7)
Azahara Munoz	.70-73-70-68—281 (-7)
Mao Saigo	.73-70-69-69—281 (-7)
Dewi Weber	.68-72-71-70—281 (-7)
Leona Maguire	.67-71-74-70—282 (-6)
Gabriela Ruffels	.73-69-70-70—282 (-6)
Sophia Schubert	.69-71-73-69—282 (-6)
Linnea Strom	.74-69-71-68—282 (-6)
Celine Borge	.68-70-76-69—283 (-5)
Georgia Hall	.72-70-70-71—283 (-5)
So Mi Lee	.70-67-71-75—283 (-5)
Alexa Pano	.72-70-67-74—283 (-5)
Madelene Sagstrom	70-68-73-72—283 (-5)
Alena Sharp	.69-72-70-72—283 (-5)
Weiwei Zhang	.70-70-69-74—283 (-5)
Marina Alex	.71-66-81-66—284 (-4)
Matilda Castren	.71-69-72-72—284 (-4)
Peiyun Chien	.67-75-72-70—284 (-4)
Muni He	.71-72-71-70—284 (-4)
Wei-Ling Hsu	.70-73-72-69—284 (-4)
Laetitia Beck	.69-69-71-76—285 (-3)
Jaravee Boonchant	75-67-70-73—285 (-3)
Robyn Choi	.70-69-74-72—285 (-3)
Nasa Hataoka	.73-70-72-70—285 (-3)
Minami Katsu	.69-73-73-70—285 (-3)
Min Lee	.74-69-68-74—285 (-3)
Ruixin Liu	.68-73-68-76—285 (-3)
Hinako Shibuno	.73-69-71-72—285 (-3)
Gurleen Kaur	.74-69-72-71—286 (-2)
Gina Kim	.72-71-73-70—286 (-2)
Morgane Metraux	.72-71-73-70—286 (-2)
Xiaowen Yin	.68-72-72-74—286 (-2)
Ssu-Chia Cheng	.73-69-75-71—288 (0)
Jodi Ewart Shadoff	.72-70-70-76—288 (0)
Kaitlin Milligan	.68-75-74-71—288 (0)
Jeongeun Lee5	.71-69-77-73—290 (2)

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Bass Pro Shops Night Race
Bristol Motor Speedway
Saturday

1. (2) Kyle Larson, Hendrick Motorsports, 500 laps, 60 points.	
2. (10) Chase Elliott, Hendrick Motorsports, 500, 38.	
3. (11) Bubba Wallace, 23XI Racing, 500, 40.	
4. (8) Denny Hamlin, Joe Gibbs Racing, 500, 46.	
5. (6) Christopher Bell, Joe Gibbs Racing, 500, 46.	
6. (22) Ryan Blaney, Team Penske, 500, 33.	
7. (14) Ryan Preece, Stewart-Haas Racing, 500, 30.	
8. (5) Chase Briscoe, Stewart-Haas Racing, 500, 36.	
9. (1) Alex Bowman, Hendrick Motorsports, 500, 41.	
10. (12) Ross Chastain, Trackhouse Racing, 500, 27.	
11. (18) Michael McDowell, Front Row Motorsports, 499, 26.	
12. (16) Noah Gragson, Stewart-Haas Racing, 499, 25.	
13. (27) Austin Cindric, Team Penske, 499, 23.	
14. (17) Chris Buescher, RFK Racing, 499, 24.	
15. (13) Ty Gibbs, Joe Gibbs Racing, 499, 25.	
16. (33) Zane Smith, Spire Motorsports, 499, 21.	
17. (3) William Byron, Hendrick Motorsports, 499, 26.	
18. (7) Carson Hocevar, Spire Motorsports, 499, 19.	
19. (21) Daniel Hemric, Kaulig Racing, 499, 18.	
20. (15) Tyler Reddick, 23XI Racing, 499, 24.	
21. (30) Austin Dillon, Richard Childress Racing, 499, 16.	
22. (26) Justin Haley, Rick Ware Racing, 499, 15.	
23. (19) AJ Allmendinger, Kaulig Racing, 499, 0.	
24. (4) Martin Truex Jr, Joe Gibbs Racing, 499, 29.	
25. (29) Kyle Busch, Richard Childress Racing, 498, 12.	
26. (23) Brad Keselowski, RFK Racing, 497, 11.	
27. (31) Ricky Stenhouse Jr, JTG Daugherty Racing, 497, 10.	
28. (20) Joey Logano, Team Penske, 496, 9.	
29. (25) Josh Berry, Stewart-Haas Racing, 496, 8.	
30. (32) Erik Jones, Legacy Motor Club, 496, 7.	
31. (35) Daniel Suárez, Trackhouse Racing, 496, 6.	
32. (24) Todd Gilliland, Front Row Motorsports, 496, 5.	
33. (28) John H. Nemechek, Legacy Motor Club, 491, 4.	
34. (37) Josh Bilicki, Power Source, 467, 0.	
35. (34) Harrison Burton, Wood Brothers Racing, 422, 2.	
36. (9) Corey LaJoie, Spire Motorsports, 330, Accident 1.	
37. (36) Kaz Grala, Rick Ware Racing, 296, Steering 1.	

NASCAR Cup Series Playoff Points Standings

1. Kyle Larson, 3,047.
2. Christopher Bell, 3032.
3. Tyler Reddick, 3032.
4. William Byron, 3022.
5. Ryan Blaney, 3019.
6. Denny Hamlin, 3015.
7. Chase Elliott, 3014.
8. Joey Logano, 3012.
9. Austin Cindric, 3008.
10. Daniel Suárez, 3006.
11. Alex Bowman, 3005.
12. Chase Briscoe, 3005.

TRANSACTIONS

Sunday's Transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

BALTIMORE ORIOLES – 3B Ramon Urias Removed From 10-Day IL Sprained right ankle. 3B Ramon Urias Recalled From Minors Rehab. 3B Jordan Westburg Removed From Minors Rehab. 3B Jordan Westburg Recalled From Minors Rehab. 2B Livan Soto Sent to Minors. RF Daniel Johnson Sent to Minors.
CINCINNATI REDS – P Hunter Greene Removed From 15-Day IL Right elbow soreness. P Alan Busenitz Designated for Assignment.
NEW YORK METS – P Kodai Senga Recalled From Minors Rehab.
NEW YORK YANKEES – P Jake Cousins Placed on 15-Day IL Strained right pectoral muscle. P Clayton Beeter Called Up from Minors.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS – P Joe Boyle Called Up from Minors. P Brandon Bielak Designated for Assignment.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES – P Spencer Turnbull Sent to Minors for Rehabilitation.
SAN DIEGO PADRES – P Jhony Brito Placed on 60-Day IL Strained right elbow. P Jhony Brito NTR - Called Up From Minors. SS Mason McCoy Placed on 10-Day IL Lower back inflammation. SS Nick Ahmed Purchased From Minors.
SEATTLE MARINERS – P Gabe Speier Called Up from Minors. P Emerson Hancock Sent to Minors.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

DETROIT RED WINGS – D Matthew Virgilio Released. D Josh Van Mullighen Released. D Blake Smith Released. D Zackary Sandhu Released. D Marcus Kearsey Released. D Bauer Dumanski Released. RW Borya Valis Released. RW Charlie Paquette Released. C Chase Lefebvre Released. C Brayden Edwards Released. G Landon Miller Assigned to Junior Club Sault Ste. Marie-OHL.
MINNESOTA WILD – D Will Zmolek Released. LW Matthew Sop Released. G Kyle McClellan Released. C Gavin Hain Released. G Chase Wutzke Assigned to Junior Club Red Deer-WHL. RW Ryder Ritchie Assigned to Junior Club Medicine Hat-WHL. D Kalem Parker Assigned to Junior Club Moose Jaw-WHL.

TENNIS ROUNDUP

Alcaraz wins twice, leads Team Europe to title

Field Level Media

Carlos Alcaraz couldn't be beaten on Sunday, winning two matches to lift Team Europe to a 13-11 victory over Team World for the Laver Cup title in Berlin.

The Spaniard, ranked No. 3 in the world, defeated No. 7 Taylor Fritz 6-2, 7-5 in the final match of the three-day event to secure the trophy for Team Europe for the first time since 2021.

Alcaraz earlier partnered with Casper Ruud of Norway to win a doubles match against Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe 6-2, 7-6 (6).

Team World's Shelton won a battle with Russia's Daniil Medvedev 6-7 (6), 7-5, 10-7, while Germany's Alexander Zverev kept Team Europe's hopes alive with a 6-7 (5), 7-5, 10-5 comeback victory over Tiafoe.

Bjorn Borg, serving the last of his seven-year stint as Team Europe captain, won for the fifth time. Team Europe had five of the top 10 players in the world rankings. John McEnroe was Team World captain for the seventh and final time.

Hangzhou Open

Marin Cilic continued his comeback from injury, fighting off two match points to defeat Yasutaka Uchiyama of Japan 6-2, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5) to reach the semifinals in China.

Cilic, 35, advanced to his 67th career semifinal after saving eight of nine break points, as well, as he seeks his 21st ATP Tour title.

The Croatian will take on fourth-seeded Brandon Nakashima in the semifinals after the American defeated Rinky Hijikata of Australia 7-5, 6-3.

An all-Chinese match – the first in an ATP Tour semifinal in the Open Era – also awaits. Sixth-seeded Zhizhen Zhang topped Spain's Roberto Carballes

Carlos Alcaraz of Team Europe serves the ball to Taylor Fritz of Team World during their Laver Cup men's singles match in Berlin.
ODD ANDERSEN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Baena 6-3, 6-3, and he will square off against wild card Yunchaokete Bu, a wild card who defeated Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan 6-4, 6-2.

Chengdu Open

Chinese teenager Juncheng Shang upset second-seeded Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan 6-4, 7-6 (8) to move to the semifinals of his home-country tournament.

The 19-year-old is seeking his first tour title and will need to defeat Yannick Hanfmann of Germany in Monday's semifinal to have a chance. Hanfmann topped Pedro Martinez of Spain 7-6 (1), 6-2 in the quarters.

Top seed Lorenzo Musetti of Italy knocked out Frenchman Adrian Mannarino 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 to set up a semifinal match with Alibek Kachmazov. The Russian upset Nicolas Jarry of Chile, the third seed, 6-3, 6-4 to move on.

WTA
Korea Open

Third-seeded Beatriz Haddad Maia rebounded from a first-set hiccup to record a 1-6, 6-4, 6-1 win over top-seeded Daria Kasatkina of Russia on Sunday in the final in Seoul.

The WTA 500 singles title was the first of the season and fourth overall for Haddad Maia, who bounced back from a 26-minute loss in the first set to topple Kasatkina. The 28-year-old Brazilian won the match in one hour, 50 minutes to capture her first title since the 2023 WTA Elite Trophy Zhuhai.

Haddad had two aces, won 71.7 percent of her first-serve points and saved four of seven break points to upend Kasatkina.

Thailand Open

Slovakian Rebecca Sramkova secured her maiden career title following her 6-4, 6-4 victory over German Laura Siegemund in Hua Hin.

Sramkova, 27, followed up reaching her first WTA final last week in Monastir by dispatching Siegemund in one hour, 56 minutes. After the match, she dedicated the trophy "to my grandpa, who is healing from cancer."