

Hood County's proposed moratorium on data centers squashed by Texas senator

ELIZABETH CAMPBELL
liz@star-telegram.com

A proposal in Hood County for a moratorium on data centers and other large-scale industrial developments was stymied at the last minute Tuesday when a Houston lawmaker warned the county commission that it had no authority to even consider such a thing.

The county was considering a six-month pause on any new projects to allow time to study regulations over air and water quality and pollution. Developers have multiple projects in the pipeline in Hood County, including a 2,600-acre data center complex called



PROTECT THE PALUXY VALLEY INC.

In southern Hood County, a proposal to build a large data center called Comanche Circle faces opposition from nearby residents who worry about spoiling scenic Paluxy Valley.

IN THE NEWS

Local • Fort Worth City Council hits 'pause' on \$10 billion data center project

Business • A look inside DFW Airport Grand Hyatt's \$34M renovations

Weather • How warm will spring be in North Texas? What the forecast shows

LOCAL



A look inside DFW Airport Grand Hyatt's \$34M renovations

The [Grand Hyatt Hotel at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport](#) unveiled its new \$34 million renovations in a ribbon-cutting cere-



How warm will spring be in North Texas? What t...

As winter winds down in North



January's winter storm could cause a spike in...

During the [winter storm in January](#), Texans had to turn on



Fort Worth City Council hits 'pause' on \$10 billi...

The developer of a planned \$10 billion data center in south-



Tarrant commissioner questions if MHMR is...

A Tarrant commissioner continues to question whether



Roaches, rodents, collapsed ceilings in Tarrant school kitchens, inspectors say



Man shot to death in east Fort Worth motel parking lot, police say



LOCAL



Opinion | Is 'Landman' for real? Here's what two candidates for...

The [Taylor Sheridan](#) oilfield soap opera "Landman" is fun to watch, but don't think of it as an accurate portrayal — except in one key as-



Sid Miller tops poll as most Texas Republican...

Most top Republican Party primary races won't be settled until



Country star Dierks Bentley stopped by the..

The patio at Joe T. Garcia's in the Fort Worth Stockyards is a



"Our Man in Viet Nam"



Bob Schieffer
Star-Telegram Reporter

Is on his way to Viet Nam
to report on Texans
serving in the Southeast Asia
war theater.

He is one of only two Texas newspaper
reporters currently accredited as

Opinion | Bob Schieffer's Vietnam legacy: photos..

Bob Schieffer was back home having fun again this week, and



A place for vendors, community gathering ...

A community project with a goal of helping to revitalize a



When does daylight saving time start? Whe...

That hour of sleep you gained in the fall will be taken back this

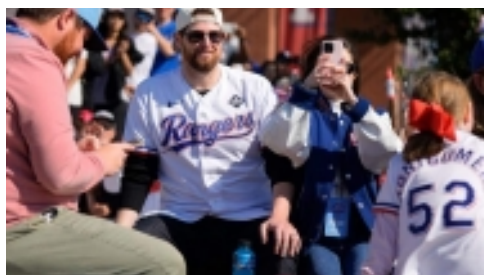


LOCAL SPORTS

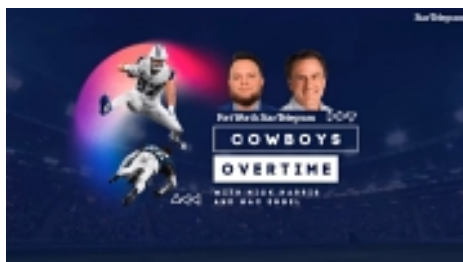


Team USA GM explains decision to leave Stars winger off Olympic team

Bill Guerin's answer is not to appease a fan base displeased with the former Dallas Stars winger, who did not pick one of the team's own to be on his [Team USA roster](#) for the 2026 Winter Olympics.



Rangers reportedly bringing back key pitch...



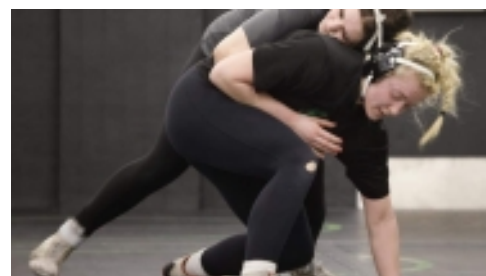
The five options the Cowboys have with...



How two unlikely heroes potentially saved TCU's...

Sometimes one small tweak can have a major impact, and TCU men's basketball saw that play out Tuesday in its massive [upset win over No. 5 Iowa State](#).

The tweak was inserting sophomore forward [Micah Robinson](#) into the starting lineup in place of Oregon State transfer Liutaurus



'A wrestling town': Inside Azle's developing...

There's not a lot of glory in high school wrestling.

Athletes deal with cauliflower ears, weight cuts, brutal conditioning circuits, injuries and, sometimes, skin infections. To top it off, scholarships are few and far between in the college wrestling landscape.

U.S. & WORLD



Bondi faces anger from lawmakers over handling of Epstein files

WASHINGTON - Attorney General Pam Bondi refused to apologize to survivors of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein who were



Border officials said to have caused El Paso...

WASHINGTON -- The abrupt



How hate groups, terrorists use gaming...

Taking a page from the child molesters' playbook, hate groups



Federal debt to hit record levels, Budget...

WASHINGTON - In the first year of his second term,



House passes revamped citizenship and voter I...

After weeks of pressure from rank-and-file Republicans, the



Police identify suspect in mass shooting in Canada

Canadian authorities on Wednesday identified the suspect



BUSINESS



Easing unemployment supports Fed extending pause on rate cuts

Strong monthly jobs growth and easing unemployment have pushed back expectations about when the Federal Reserve will lower



Get more electricity from coal, Trump tells Defen...

President Donald Trump on Wednesday issued an executive



Jury orders Conagra to pay \$25M in lawsuit...

A jury awarded a Los Angeles man \$25 million in a lawsuit



Instagram chief says social media not...

LOS ANGELES -- Instagram's chief executive said Wednesday



Meta, TikTok and others agree to teen safety...

Meta, TikTok and Snap will be rated on their teen safety ef-



QVC, HSN facing Chapter 11 bankruptcy

Back in the 1990s and 2000s, it seemed like nearly every



U.S. OPINIONS



The Heritage Foundation sees the family crisis - but not the fix

"What happens to a nation when its citizens largely stop having children and, when they do, eschew marriage?" asks the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think tank. The size of its 164-page report "Saving America by Saving the Family" is outdone only by the 60-by-30-foot banner draped across the outside of its building. Quoting the late Charlie Kirk, it reads: "Get married. Have children. Build a legacy."



How Trump squandered his most potent politic...

Republicans who minimize President Donald Trump's sliding



Do-it-yourself fact checking made easy

Newspaper billionaire deciders are demolishing their news media



Our era really is like the Civil War in one key way

We're one year in, and President Donald Trump's second





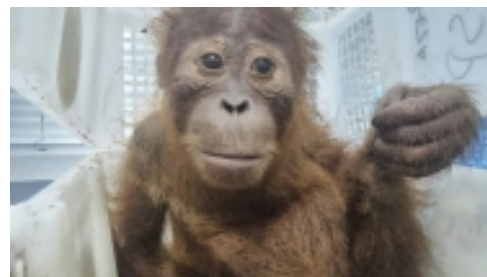
Gadgets | Safe portable power

Safe portable charging isn't optional; it's essential. That is exactly what you get with BMX's new SolidSafe portable power line featuring



Amplify your cycling experience with this...

Now that phones and smart-



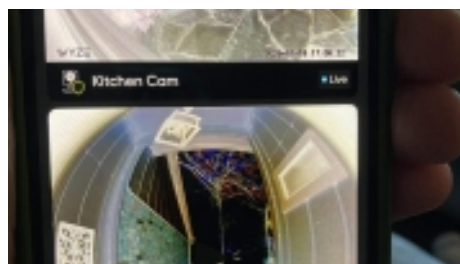
New technologies are stepping up the global...

In late 2025, Interpol coordinated a global operation across



These AI dreamers don't fit the stereotype

SAN FRANCISCO -- Marshall Kools shares an apartment in the



Hidden phone setting turns sister's screen in...

My family is a great resource for my column topics.



Netflix's 'Star Search' revival taps into...

LOS ANGELES - An orange hue illuminated an otherwise



ADVICE



Dear Annie | Standing up to family dysfunction

Dear Annie: My wife and I have been married for nearly half our lives, and we've always had a strong relationship. The problem we're facing now is her family — specifically her younger brother and his household.

Her brother has never been particularly motivated, and although we've always been cordial, we've never seen eye to eye. Early in my relationship with my wife, he spread hurtful rumors about my family



Carolyn Hax | Does coddling a dog translat...

Originally published Feb. 12, 2023.



Horoscopes for February 12

Happy Birthday: Take the high road. No matter who you are



Dear Abby | Old friend seeks to control the...

DEAR ABBY



OLYMPICS



With compassion and grit, Mikaela Shiffrin is carrying the US in mor...

CORTINA d'AMPEZZO, Italy - In accordance with her superstar status in the skiing world, Mikaela Shiffrin has some heavyweight



US speed skater Jordan Stolz grabs gold with...

Feb. 11 (UPI) --



Elizabeth Lemley wins gold, Jaelin Kauf nets...

LIVIGNO, Italy -- American freestyle skier Elizabeth Lemley



Von Allmen wins 3rd gold of Games in Super-G,...

BORMIO, Italy -- Switzerland's



Americans Chock, Bates settle for silver in...

MILAN - A single tear rolled down Madison Chock's face. A



Lindsey Vonn reveals third leg surgery since downhill crash



What Olympians can teach us about disappointment



SPORTS REPORT



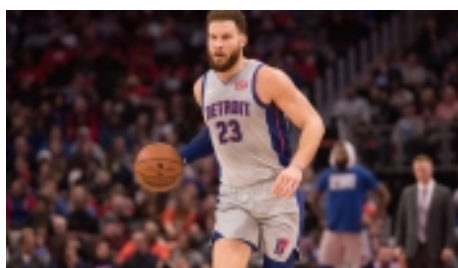
Commentary | With little to stop it, a race to the bottom like neve...

The perfect tanking storm has come to the NBA's shores, and it's arriving in the face of scrutiny regarding gambling and competition



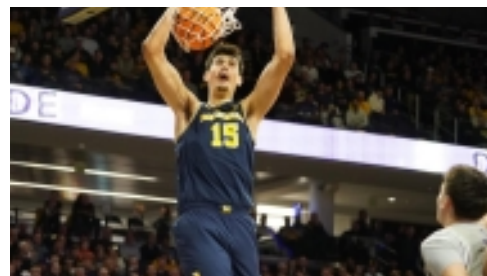
Jazz send Kings to franchise record-tying...

Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 23 points while Lauri Markkanen



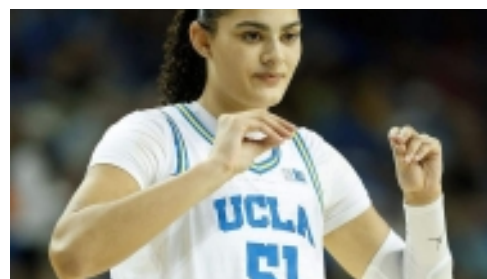
Blake Griffin, Doc Rivers among Naismith...

First-time candidates Blake Griffin and Candace Parker, as



Men's Top 25 Roundup: No. 2 Michigan...

L.J. Cason scored 18 points



Women's Top 25 roundup: Lauren Betts,...

Lauren Betts went 10-for-14 from the floor, scoring 22 points,



Chris Gotterup staying grounded through sudden career surge



Kyle Busch wins pole for Daytona 500 in 21st attempt





Nearly 1M pack Seattle streets for Seahawks' Super Bowl LX parade

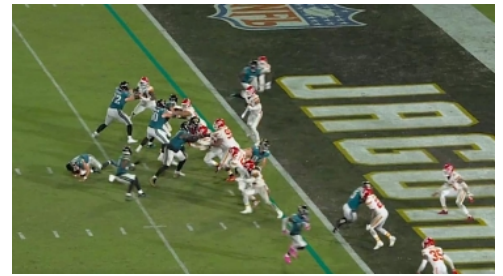
SEATTLE -- The "12s" flew in from Alaska, drove hours over the snowy mountain passes and camped overnight to take part in the celebration.



NFL Mailbag: How the Bills can help Josh Alle...



Eight lessons we learned during the 20...



Compiling the 10 strangest plays of 2025..

Each year, the NFL produces some incredible highlights.

From awe-striking throws, jaw-dropping catches to exhilarating comebacks, there are memorable plays every season-along with some comical bloopers.



2026 NFL free agency: Every All-Pro set to hit...

Now that the Super Bowl has come and gone, [NFL](#) teams are turning their attention toward free agency, which will open up in March. The new league year begins on March 11 with free agency officially getting underway at 4:00 p.m. ET.

There will be plenty of talent potentially hitting the market this



PUZZLES PLUS



Daily Crossword



Mahjongg Solitaire



Classic Solitaire



Best Daily Quick Crossword



Sunday Crossword



Mahjongg Candy



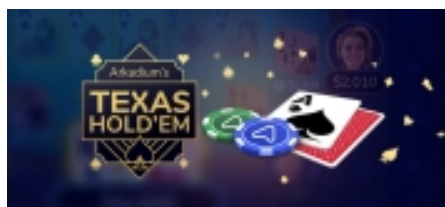
Klondike Solitaire



The Daily Sudoku



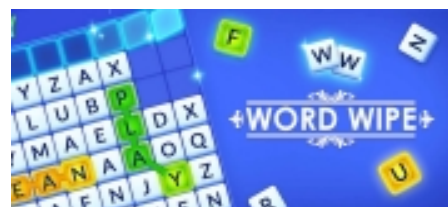
BlackJack



Arkadium's Texas Hold'em



Outspell



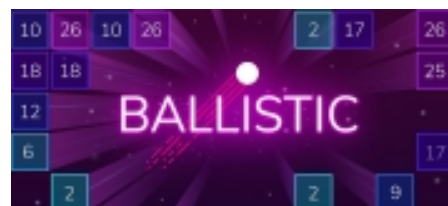
Word Wipe



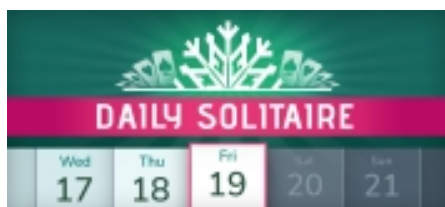
Spider Solitaire



The Daily Jigsaw



Ballistic



Daily Solitaire

Hood County's proposed moratorium on data centers squashed by Texas senator

ELIZABETH CAMPBELL

A proposal in Hood County for a moratorium on data centers and other large-scale industrial developments was stymied at the last minute Tuesday when a Houston lawmaker warned the county commission that it had no authority to even consider such a thing.

The county was considering a six-month pause on any new projects to allow time to study regulations over air and water quality and pollution.

Developers have multiple projects in the pipeline in Hood County, including a 2,600-acre data center complex called Comanche Circle that has triggered a tsunami of opposition from ranchers, landowners and conservationists near Glen Rose.

The standing-room only Commissioners Court was hours into a public hearing on the issue Tuesday when a letter from Texas Sen. Paul Bettencourt arrived. Addressed to Attorney General Ken Paxton, with a subject line "Proposed Illegal County Moratorium on Development," the letter said counties are merely political subdivisions of the state without



In southern Hood County, a proposal to build a large data center called Comanche Circle faces opposition from nearby residents who worry about spoiling scenic Paluxy Valley.

any powers other than those specified by the constitution or state statutes. And a moratorium isn't among those powers.

The commissioners ended up voting 3-2 against the six-month moratorium.

County attorney Matt Mills read Bettencourt's letter following an impassioned public hearing where most speakers told commissioners that their quality of life, and livelihoods, were at stake.

Bettencourt's letter cited a law adopted last year that attempts to limit the ability of

Texas cities to implement moratoria. He said the Senate Committee on Local Government "will be closely monitoring these situations" like with Hood County's proposal.

"I encourage your office," Bettencourt told Paxton, "to investigate counties that implement such a moratorium and explore any necessary legal actions."

Mills, the Hood County attorney, told the commissioners that the law was clear.

"I don't know how else to say

it to you,” Mills said. “I know that’s not what the people want. I’m not trying to cheerlead for data centers. That’s not what the law allows you to do.”

Commissioner Dave Eagle pushed back.

“I think it’s interesting to get this letter today, don’t you...,” he asked. “This isn’t a coincidence, right?”

County Judge Ron Massingill said the data centers in the pipeline still have hurdles to overcome, including access to water. The Upper Trinity Ground Water District will have to approve providing the water, he said.

That provided little consolation to residents who spoke of losing their rural way of life and property values. The Comanche Circle project isn’t far from Dinosaur Valley State Park.

Dianna Wright lives about two miles from Comanche Circle. She told commissioners that wells are her only source of water for her home and for her livestock.

“We enjoy the dark skies at night, and our well-being would be ruined,” she said. “We feel like we are on trial, and the five of you (commissioners) are controlling our fate.”

Fort Worth City Council hits ‘pause’ on \$10 billion data center project

EMILY HOLSHOUSER

The developer of a planned \$10 billion data center in southeast Fort Worth has hit a speed bump in the rezoning of land for what could become one of the largest data center campuses in the metroplex.

Black Mountain, a Fort Worth-based energy consortium, has successfully petitioned the city to rezone roughly 431 acres of land in the southeast corner of the city near Forest Hill and Everman.

At the Fort Worth City Council meeting Feb. 10, Black Mountain was scheduled to ask the city to rezone another roughly 80 acres of land in two separate requests.

One of those requests is for about 42 acres on the east side of Anglin Drive near the Forest Hill city line. That request was [rescheduled](#) after leaders in nearby cities asked for a discussion with council member Chris Nettles, who represents that part of Fort Worth. The other request, for about 38 acres east of Anglin Drive and north of Everman Kennedale Road, was previously approved by the Zoning Commission.

Bob Riley, a consultant with



Developer Black Mountain is asking the Fort Worth City Council to approve rezoning of additional land for inclusion in a development that includes a data center.

Richardson-based Halff, who is working on behalf of Black Mountain, told council members that Black Mountain met with city leaders in Everman and Forest Hill on Feb. 4.

After Riley spoke to the Fort Worth council members Feb. 10, Nettles and District 11 council member Jeanette Martinez said the council needs more information before it can approve the zoning cases.

“I just don’t feel comfortable supporting this zoning case, because I don’t know enough about data centers and how

concentration of those centers would impact our infrastructure and resources,” Martinez said.

Nettles agreed with Martinez, and said he wants to see more information about Black Mountain’s plans.

“I need real clarity on what the whole complex is going to look like, how many buildings, before we approve these last two lots,” Nettles said. Riley agreed to provide those details for the council.

Mayor Mattie Parker told the council it will receive a report on data centers from city staff

on March 3. The council approved a motion to postpone both zoning cases until its March 10 meeting.

If these two requests are later approved, the city of Fort Worth will have approved the rezoning of over 500 acres for Black Mountain's data center.

Meta's data center in north Fort Worth is on a 170-acre site. Another [north Fort Worth data center, which was approved for earth grading work recently](#), will be on 107 acres.

A look inside DFW Airport Grand Hyatt's \$34 million renovations

SAMUEL O'NEAL

The [Grand Hyatt Hotel at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport](#) unveiled its new \$34 million renovations in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the new "Flight Deck" of the hotel.

The project, which started just over seven months ago, includes the new top-floor Flight Deck with working spaces and conference rooms, a rooftop swimming pool with views of runways, newly renovated king and suite rooms, a renovated bar and restaurant and a new modern check-in lobby.

The renovations were in honor of the hotel's 20th anniversary since its opening in 2006.

"We have spent months transforming our hotel to be among the finest in the world," said Jeff Babcock, the hotel's general manager. "We believe that the experiences here are truly a world apart."

The renovation projected included updates to the existing 298 guestrooms and the addition of 17 more, and added new technology like better HD TVs, blackout curtains and "refreshed" designs.

All rooms and suites now have an aeronautical design that "incorporates the style of Texas



DFW Grand Hyatt leaders held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to announce renovations to the hotel Wednesday morning.

landscape" by using local woods like Red River Pecan and Yellow Pine to what hotel leadership describes as a new "sophisticated feel" to guestrooms.

Rooms are also now equipped with customizable thermostats, improved lighting controls, updated noise-canceling acoustics, stitched leather headboards and integrated accent lighting. Bathrooms in guestrooms were also renovated with larger closets, vanities, showers and tubs.

"We are starting a new exciting chapter at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport," said Mohamed Charkas, the airport's chief development and

infrastructure officer. "What you see is a \$34 million investment that is transformational, and it reflects our airport's vision to deliver an exceptional customer experience. Every aspect of the property was reimagined, from guestrooms to the lobby, to meeting and restaurant spaces."

The Grand Met restaurant, bar and lounge was updated with marble-tile flooring and local artwork. The restaurant has an increased seating capacity, redesigned private and semi-private dining rooms and a new seasonal menu with global fusion dining options.

A new top-floor executive



The new top-floor “Flight Deck” at DFW Grand Hyatt features a rooftop pool with runway views.

boardroom and rooftop event space overlooking runways was also added to the already existing 20,000 square feet of meeting space.

The Grand Hyatt renovation is the first step in a much larger multi-billion dollar airport expansion transformation project. Construction is underway on a new 15-gate Terminal F, the addition of 115,000 square feet to Terminal C, additional exits to Terminals A and B, and additional parking garages.

How warm will spring be in North Texas? What the forecast shows

BRAYDEN GARCIA

As winter winds down in North Texas, predictions for spring weather are here.

Despite a few especially chill days, temperatures have stayed mostly above normal in the region over the winter months, according to [climate data from the National Weather Service Fort Worth](#). On the flip side, precipitation totals have been below normal.

The [Old Farmer's Almanac](#) and [Farmers' Almanac](#) (separate entities) have both released spring weather forecasts for March through May.

Here's a look at what to expect.

The Farmers' Almanac spring forecast

While Texas is not specifically named in the outlook, the Lone Star state is part of the South Central region of the country.

The outlook for that region predicts **mild temperatures for spring**, according to the Farmers' Almanac. For precipitation, the region can expect a wet spring, which may support strong pasture growth.

The Old Farmer's Almanac spring forecast



Spring wildflowers such as bluebonnets and others must be planted in early fall, but weather will have to change for them to germinate successfully.

It will be a **warm and wet spring** for North Texas, per the Old Farmer's Almanac.

The forecast outlook states that April will bring warmer temperatures to the region, while May will cool off slightly. Temperatures in April are expected to be around 5 degrees above average and 2 degrees below average in May.

As for precipitation, rainfall will be above normal for the spring months.

How does the NOAA forecast for spring compare?

Temperatures in Texas are leaning above normal for the spring months, according to an

outlook from the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center](#).

The outlook, issued on Jan. 15, is a month and a half prediction valid from March through May. There is a 40-50% chance for above normal temperatures for the Metroplex and much of the state over the season.

In North Texas, the normal high for March is 68.6 degrees, 76.1 degrees in April and 83.6 degrees in May.

Above normal temperatures do not always equate to extreme heat, according to NOAA. Instead, above normal could



The Farmers' Almanac's spring weather forecast for 2026.

simply mean temperatures are a few degrees above the normal parameters. the NWS.

Precipitation-wise, the CPC's outlook is predicting "equal chances" for rainfall over the winter months.

When forecasters use "equal chances," it means they think an area has three possible outcomes — well above, well below, or near normal — that are all equally likely, according to the CPC. Or, sometimes it means that there are no strong influences that would favor one outcome over another.

In North Texas, the normal precipitation total for March is 3.30 inches, 3.22 inches in April and 4.78 inches in May.

While this is a snapshot of how things are expected to look in the future, a one-month outlook and subsequent weeks' and days' forecast will give a better look at what to expect as the date grows near, according to

January's winter storm could cause a spike in your energy bill

ELLA GONZALES

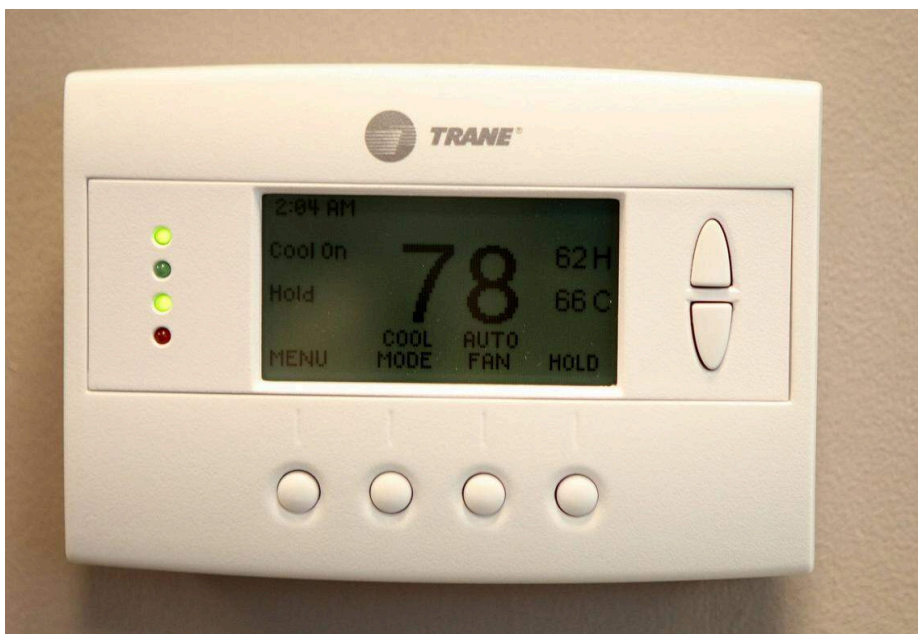
During the [winter storm in January](#), Texans had to turn on heaters and furnaces to keep warm from the icy outdoors for [at least four days](#).

[Atmos Energy](#) recently sent a reminder that customers may notice a **higher-than-normal energy bill** because of the snow, ice and freezing temperatures that swept the state from Jan. 23 to Jan. 27.

Rockwall resident [Kortni Williams](#) told our news partner WFAA she could not believe her bill went up as much as it did. The Atmos energy bill she received in February was \$290, which was more than \$100 higher than her January bill. The average monthly energy bill in Texas is [around \\$168 per month](#), according to data from the Energy Information Administration and Choose Texas Power.

The average monthly Atmos bill in 2010 was \$53. Now, it's around \$80. And by the end of the decade, it's projected to be \$120 a month, according to WFAA.

Whether you heat up your home via furnace, fireplace or water heater, it all contributes to the gas bill. Here's what to know before the potential shock



A thermostat that can be controlled remotely is part of several devices used in Verizon's new home monitoring technology, photographed in Irving on Aug. 2, 2011.

of a spiked energy bill.

What determines your energy bill?

[According to Atmos Energy](#), the following factors can impact the pricing of your energy bill:

- How much **natural gas you use** (it is common to use more gas during colder months due to heating your home)
- The [natural gas commodity cost](#), which is the price of natural gas determined by the market that sells and trades gas
- The **cost to move natural gas** from where it is stored to

your home

- Other **taxes and fees**

Ways to manage your energy bill

If your energy bill cuts into your budget a bit more than normal, there are ways to manage your payment.

Atmos, [Reliant](#) and most other energy companies allow customers to pay their bills through an **installment plan**.

There are also [local energy assistance agencies](#) that will help customers who qualify pay their bills.

Steve Wilson swilson@star-telegram.com

An elementary school kitchen was shuttered, and a high school kitchen was noted to have issues with rodents in the latest round of Tarrant County health inspections, according to the inspection report.

Tarrant County public health officials inspect all restaurants in the county except for those in Fort Worth, Arlington, Euless and North Richland Hills.

Back to Local

Tarrant commissioner questions if MHMR is meeting contract on juvenile services

KAMAL MORGAN

A Tarrant commissioner continues to question whether youth offenders in the county's juvenile system are falling through the cracks with rehabilitation and support services.

Commissioner Alisa Simmons has been critical of whether My Health My Resources of Tarrant County is capable of performing those services. MHMR is a component of county government that serves people with the mental illness, disabilities and substance use disorders.

Up until 2024, Tarrant County [contracted with Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.](#) to work with juveniles in the system, providing counseling, mentors and community service to reduce recidivism. But the county cut ties with YAP over inclusivity language on its website and accused the organization of using taxpayer money for lobbying. The county then [contracted with MHMR](#) to do the job for \$895,000.

Simmons asked for a briefing on MHMR's performance under the contract during Tuesday's commissioner meeting. She said her request was in response to



Alisa Simmons, the Tarrant County Commissioner of Precinct 2, listens during the public comment portion of a meetings in June 2025.

data over the last two years showing Tarrant County has [committed more youth to Texas juvenile prisons](#) than any other county. Many juvenile advocates attribute the increase in incarcerations to the removal of community-based alternatives that had existed in Tarrant County for decades, such as Youth Advocate Programs.

"I ask that we be briefed on this contract to ensure we are spending our money appropriately and that our incarcerated youth are getting the mental and behavioral support they need," Simmons said. "To be

truly diverted from crime and to hopefully become productive citizens of our county."

Riley Shaw, the director of Tarrant County Juvenile Services, did not attend Tuesday's meeting but wrote a letter of support for MHMR. It was read out loud by the county administrator.

"I believe that MHMR of Tarrant County has the capacity to deliver the specific mentoring and other services for which we have contracted with MHMR of Tarrant County, and I believe that such contracting services are capable of meeting the

needs of the youth and families who have been, are and will be referred to MHMR of Tarrant County,” Shaw wrote.

Last week, Simmons met with the chief executive officer of MHMR, Susan Garnett. According to Simmons, Garnett could not answer questions about the services that Youth Advocate Programs had provided to the county because she had never seen the contract.

Simmons said she came away from the meeting believing that MHMR was not fulfilling its contract obligations.

She asked the county administrator to compare MHMR and Youth Advocate Programs to determine whether there is a gap in services. When the Tarrant County Juvenile Board voted to end four contracts with Youth Advocate Programs in 2024, it halted services for about 75 youth at the time and up to 423 youths per year.

Garnett gave commissioners a presentation last month on the work MHMR is doing. It included the Multisystemic Therapy program, community navigation and mentoring services. Garnett also provided information on state services, including the Youth Crisis Outreach Team and youth psychiatric services.

Simmons asked how many juveniles MHMR serves through its contract. Garnett said it serves about 400 juveniles in all. She could not answer how many juveniles have served since being awarded the con-

tract, which includes mentoring, community navigation, Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program and post-adjudication navigation.

Simmons also asked whether MHMR has staff for these services and whether it outsources any of the work. Garnett said MHMR has over 2,000 staff members who, based on their availability for part-time work and training, will conduct the services as needed.

A place for vendors, community gathering is cleared to open on Hemphill Street

KAMAL MORGAN

A community project with a goal of helping to revitalize a section of the Hemphill Street corridor that had been [halted due to code violations](#) can now resume operations.

The Fork Yard by The Morningside Project is at 2529 Hemphill St., at the corner of West Morningside Drive, in the Jennings-May St. Louis neighborhood. The city council unanimously approved a permit Tuesday to allow use of the one-acre lot for mobile food vendors, merchandise vendors, and outdoor entertainment.

Angie Blochowicz, president of the Jennings-May St. Louis Neighborhood Association, and others from the community said they were grateful to Councilwoman Jeanette Martinez for seeing the heart, hard work, and community support behind the project. Those behind the project are not developers or a corporation, but are neighbors who have worked hard and dug deep into their pockets because they believed something exceptional could be built in the Hemphill corridor, Blochowicz said.

“This approval means we can



The Forkyard at The Morningside Project, located on 2529 Hemphill St. in south Fort Worth, has repurposed a vacant parking lot into a community co-work space and event venue.

keep building our third space where families can gather, small businesses grow and where our community finally has a place to belong,” Blochowicz told the Star-Telegram. “Something exceptional is here, and it is for all of Fort Worth to enjoy.”

Plans call for the project to open in the next few days, with an invitation to everyone from the community, mobile food vendors, and small businesses to be a part of it.

The location is where a developer in 2023 unsuccessfully tried to [build townhomes](#), fol-

lowed by an attempt to [rezone it for a used-car lot](#).

After those efforts failed, neighborhood leaders met with the property owner to explore other community uses for the corner. They included Blochowicz and others from the Hemphill Corridor Development Collaborative, an organization dedicated to revitalizing Hemphill Street. The area is a dead spot between the commercial hubs of La Gran Plaza and West Magnolia Avenue, with few food options, Blochowicz said.

Leaders spoke with residents of the corridor and at City Council meetings to get input on how to use the property. The result was the creation of a community hub and “third space” in residents’ own backyards.

Blochowicz received a certificate of occupancy in May and began renovating a small building on the corner. The Morningside Project serves as a co-working space for meetings or an event space for small workshops. The parking lot became The Fork Yard for vendors, food trucks and outdoor events.

By August, the space hosted frequent pop-up events and community gatherings. The lights and constant community presence helped prevent people from trespassing on the property or in nearby alleyways, Blochowicz said.

But in September, the city issued a code violation and said the group had to apply for a permit for mobile food vendors, tent vendors, picnic tables and temporary lights.

Now with the city permit, The Fork Yard by The Morningside Project can continue providing a space for people to gather and services to community.

“Their trust allows us to continue to serve the Southside in a positive way,” Blochowicz said.

Man shot to death in east Fort Worth motel parking lot, police say

EMERSON CLARRIDGE

A man was shot dead late Tuesday in the parking lot of a motel in east Fort Worth, police said.

The man was fired upon about 11:15 p.m. at the motel in the 5800 block of East Lancaster Avenue.

The man suffered multiple gunshot wounds and died in the parking lot, Fort Worth police said.

The homicide victim was in the lot with another man at the time of the shooting.

Police have not arrested the shooter.

The Tarrant County [Medical Examiner's Office](#) has not released the homicide victim's name or age.



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Sid Miller tops poll as most Texas Republicans face runoffs; Hinojosa leads Dems

BUD KENNEDY

Most top Republican Party primary races won't be settled until May runoffs, but embattled incumbent Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller has a wide lead over a challenger, according to a new University of Houston poll.

Miller, a Stephenville Republican in his third term, holds a 30-point lead, 48%-18%, over Collin County Republican challenger Nate Sheets, according to the Jan. 20-Jan. 31 poll of 550 likely primary voters by the Hobby School of Public Affairs.

Gov. Greg Abbott backed Sheets and says Texas deserves an agriculture commissioner with "zero tolerance for criminality," a reference to a [Miller aide](#) who is under two-year probation in a [bribery case](#).

Both the Republican and Democratic primaries are [March 3](#). Early voting begins Feb. 17.

If no candidate wins a clear majority, the top two finishers meet in a May 26 runoff.

Other statewide Republican races appear ready to continue to May.

In the campaign for Texas attorney general, U.S. Rep. Chip



Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller at a straw poll candidates' event in Hurst, Texas, Jan. 22, 2022.

Roy (33%) and state Sen. Mayes Middleton (23%) lead state Sen. Joan Huffman (13%) and Aaron Reitz (6%).

Acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock, a Tarrant County Republican appointed to the office by Abbott and trying for a full term, is running a distant third with 13% of voters polled.

Former state Sen. Don Huffines (33%) and Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick (21%) lead and appear headed for the runoff.

The race for the Texas Railroad Commission, the state energy agency, also appears to

be headed to a runoff.

Incumbent Chairman Jim Wright and second-time candidate James "Jim" Matlock are in a virtual tie at 21% and 20%.

Former Tarrant County Republican Party Chairman Bo French was the choice of 6% of voters polled.

In the Democratic primary, gubernatorial candidate state Rep. Gina Hinojosa of Austin holds a 30-point lead, according to the poll of 550 likely Democratic voters. No other candidate has more than 7%.

In the Democratic race for attorney general, state Sen.

Nathan Johnson and returning candidate Joe Jaworski are in a virtual tie and appear headed to the May runoff. Johnson had 25%, Jaworski 22%. The margin of error is about 4.2 percentage points, meaning results can vary by that much in either direction.

In a poll for the fall general election, 1,502 likely voters gave incumbent Republican Gov. Greg Abbott a 49%-42% edge over Hinojosa.

However, incumbent Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick held a thinner 46%-41% edge over the Democratic primary frontrunner, state Rep. Vikki Goodwin.

The same poll jarred Texas politics Feb. 9, when its results for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate showed U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett of Dallas with an 8-point lead over state Rep. James Talarico.

In the Republican primary, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton stretched his consistent lead over incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn to 38%-31%, with U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt at 17%. That race also appears destined for a runoff.

Country star Dierks Bentley stopped by the patio at Joe T. Garcia's

JAKE HARRIS

The [patio](#) at Joe T. Garcia's in the [Fort Worth Stockyards](#) is a known celebrity hotspot, with everyone from "Landman" star Sam Elliott to "Supernatural" star (and Texan) Jared Padalecki stopping by to try the iconic Tex-Mex joint's fajitas and margaritas.

The most recent celebrity to visit the restaurant is country and bluegrass star Dierks Bentley, who posed for a photo out on the patio this week.

"Always great to see friend and artist, Dierks Bentley, at our family table. You never know who you might run into at Joe T.'s!" [the restaurant's Facebook post reads](#).

The country star is best-known for hits like "What Was I Thinkin'" and "Come A Little Closer." Red dirt country star [Cody Canada of Cross Canadian Ragweed](#) also named [his son after Bentley](#).

Dierks Bentley and Joe T. Garcia's

Bentley previously talked to the Star-Telegram [about his love for Joe T.'s](#). Speaking to service reporter Brayden Garcia in 2024 before a show at Dickies



Joe T. Garcia's in the Fort Worth Stockyards is a hotspot for celebrity sightings.

Arena, he said:

"Yeah, that place is amazing. We ate at a little outdoor area, beautiful. I'm a huge Mexican food fan, and living in Tennessee, you just don't get it. I'm from Arizona originally. It's odd how they can't do it out here. It's pretty simple, you know? Take a burrito, you just have to have the right tortilla and butter and refried beans. But everything here is like, the tortillas are just weird and everything is always caked in cheese. It's just unfortunate. I don't know, it's just weird. It's a whole different style of food.

But yes, whenever I'm in Texas I always get Tex-Mex. Definitely try to stop by there if I can, or maybe get them to cater some food after the show."

Bentley is scheduled to perform at the [San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo](#) later this month on Feb. 25. His last North Texas concert appearance was in [May 2025 at Dos Equis Pavilion in Dallas](#).

When does daylight saving time start? When to spring forward in Texas

ELLA GONZALES

That hour of sleep you gained in the fall will be taken back this spring.

Daylight saving will spring us forward an hour on the **second Sunday in March**.

When will clocks spring forward?

Clocks spring forward an hour on **Sunday, March 8 at 2 a.m.**

This will give us a later sunrise. As of Feb. 11, the sun rises at 7:16 a.m. in Fort Worth, [according to Time and Date](#). On the day of the time change, the sun will rise at 7:48 a.m.

The “spring forward” daylight saving time change is when an hour of sleep is lost. In the fall, an hour of sleep will be gained during the “fall back” daylight saving time change.

Daylight saving time change dates were enacted by the [Energy Policy Act of 2005](#). In efforts to conserve energy during the summer, Congress passed this bill so people can take advantage of the most daylight possible.

As the earth orbits, its [tilted axis causes the seasons](#). When the North Pole is tilted toward



Ramsey Rivera skates up a slope at sunset at Chisholm Trail Skate Park in Fort Worth on Aug. 29, 2023.

the sun, there are longer days of sunlight in the Northern Hemisphere (summer). When the South Pole is tilted toward the sun, the Northern Hemisphere receives less sunlight (winter).

When will we see the longest day of sunlight in 2026?

The longest day of the year means the day with the most sunlight and the shortest night.

The length of daylight is actually dependent on the [summer and winter solstices](#), not daylight saving time.

On **June 21, 2026** (summer

solstice) there will be approximately [14 hours and 18 minutes of daylight](#), which will mark the **longest day of the year**.

After the summer solstice takes place, the days will gradually become shorter.

[Winter solstice](#) happens every year on Dec. 21, the shortest day of the year. After that occurs, the length of daylight starts to get longer, first by a matter of seconds every day, and then minutes per day by February and March.

When will clocks fall back in November?

Clocks will fall back an hour on **Sunday, November 1 at 2 a.m.**

Will Texas continue enforcing the daylight saving time change?

Daylight saving has been around since 1918, during World War I. It was created as a wartime measure to extend the workday.

However, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 allows states to choose whether to participate in daylight saving. Arizona and Hawaii, along with the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands remain on standard time.

Texas has [signed and proposed a permanent daylight saving calendar](#) but is waiting federal congressional approval before it becomes effective.

OPINION

Ryan J. Rusak
rrusak@star-telegram.com

Is ‘Landman’ for real? Here’s what two candidates for Texas’ oil agency say

The Taylor Sheridan oilfield soap opera “Landman” is fun to watch, but don’t think of it as an accurate portrayal — except in one key aspect, two industry veterans running for state office say.

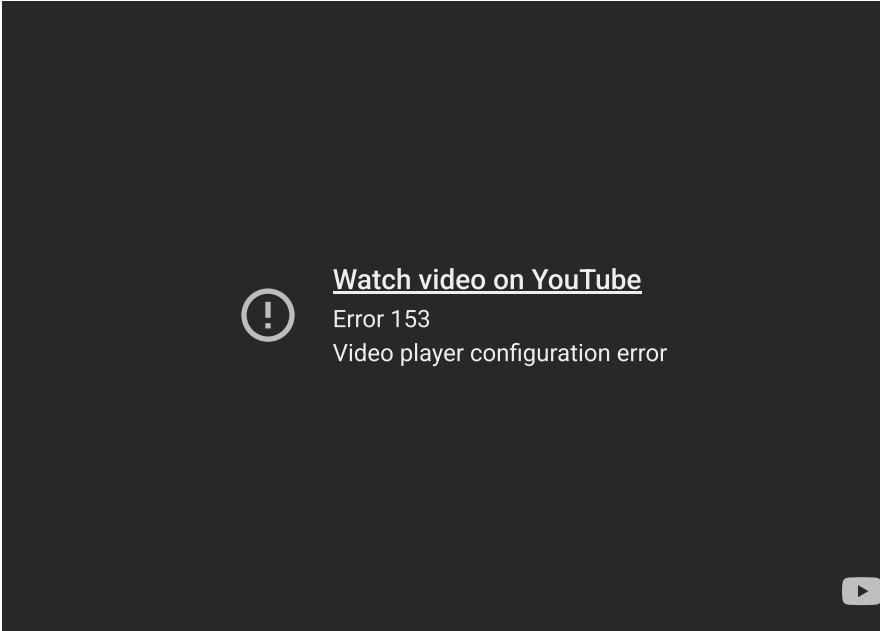
Yes, that’s really how drilling workers talk to each other, said Hawk Dunlap, a 30-year oil and gas veteran running in the Republican primary for railroad commissioner.

“The one-liners are great,” Dunlap told our Editorial Board. “That’s probably the most accurate thing in the entire series.”

He remembered an attorney asking him about the insults flying back and forth among roughnecks on the show.

“ ‘Is that real? Do y’all talk smack on each other for 12 hours a day?’ Yeah, then we come back the next day, and we do it all over again,” he said.

“Landman” stars Billy Bob Thornton as a constantly stressed oilman trying to put out company fires — sometimes literally — and balance his spirited family. Much of it is produced in the Fort Worth area, leading to fun games of spot-the-shooting-location for local viewers. Two seasons have aired on the Paramount+ streaming platform, and more are planned.



Exposition on the importance and challenges of the energy industry, often spewed out by Thornton in colorful monologues, defend a simple reality: Our entire way of life runs on oil.

Railroad Commission candidate Katherine Culbert, a process safety engineer in the industry, said the show is entertaining but stressed that one particular aspect is very much fictional.

“Taylor Sheridan does a great job of bringing a lot of drama to the whole thing,” she said. “Personally, as a female, I don’t know that I would be sleeping with all the guys on the rig, but if that happens, you know, out in the field, whatever.”

The candidates, two of five seeking the GOP nomination in the March 3 primary, agreed on how to rate the show on a 1-10 scale: just 2 or 3 for realism, but 10 for entertainment.

“Sunday nights [are] always kind of planned around the new episode of ‘Landman,’ ” Dunlap said. “And of course, I yell at the TV, ‘That’s not how it’s done! That’s the wrong way! What are they doing?’ ”



EMERSON MILLER · PARAMOUNT+

Andy Garcia as Gallino in “Landman,” season 2, streaming on Paramount+.

As for any relationship to the campaign, Culbert noted one portrayal that Texans might want to think more about.

“It’s using the Railroad Commission as a punchline,” she said. Culbert recalled a scene where Thornton’s character is striking a “shady deal” with Andy Garcia’s drug lord/financier candidate.

“The guy says, ‘Oh, well, the Railroad Commission will probably look the other way,’ ” she said. “That’s kind of the perception that people have of the Railroad Commission, and that’s not what we need.”

COMMENTARY

Bud Kennedy
bud@star-telegram.com

Bob Schieffer’s Vietnam legacy: photos, Star-Telegram letters revealed

Bob Schieffer was back home having fun again this week, and some of the fun was unexpected.

Along with his career-changing 1966 photos and interviews with dozens of Texas soldiers in a tour of war zones in Vietnam, Schieffer also brought home a peek into the history of American newspapers and the Star-Telegram.

Along with Schieffer’s stunning “Our Man in Viet Nam” photos and portraits of soldiers at war, the University of Texas at Arlington is now also the proud home of the 40-year CBS News anchor and host’s work memos and papers from his earlier career at the Star-Telegram.

Here under glass or preserved online are typed and handwritten letters from Editor Jack Butler and the iconic voices of Amon G. Carter Jr.’s Star-Telegram — writers such as Elston Brooks, Jerry Flemmons, Jon McConal, Lloyd “Cissy” Stewart and more.

And here are the management memos and papers that reflect the reality of an American newspaper in the mid-20th century: back-and-forth notes to Vietnam about expense accounts and carbon paper; Schieffer’s pay stub for \$125 a week; and a gentle nudge to send back that camera photographers Harry and Jerry Cabluck loaned him.



FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM COLLECTION · UTA LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Fort Worth Star-Telegram reporter Bob Schieffer prepares to board a plane to fly to Vietnam Dec. 18, 1965; on left is his brother, Tom, and his mother, Gladys Schieffer,

For all today’s good-old-days talk about print newspapers, the Star-Telegram of 1966 was thrifty.

(Not as thrifty, however, as the competing Fort Worth Press, where we had to turn in an old pencil stub to get a new one.)

The staff was stretched across two editions, morning and evening. In one memo, editors worried that they couldn’t hire anybody for the night staff while Schieffer was gone.

In another, Butler explained gently that the Star-Telegram couldn’t buy insurance on Schieffer in a war zone, so instead the newspaper would self-insure him up to \$20,000.

There are also the news updates from Fort Worth.

“If you think the war is going great in Saigon, you should see Commissioners Court,” Butler wrote, describing a contracting scandal.



STAR-TELEGRAM ARCHIVES

A 1965 Star-Telegram ad promoting reporter Bob Schieffer’s Vietnam coverage.

McConal wrote a vivid and unprintable description of a divorce trial that included a wife threatening a local attorney’s lower regions with pinking shears.

Reporter Jim Jones, later one of the nation’s premier religion writers, wrote to Schieffer about Francisco Elementary in Haltom City sending gifts and candy to a Saigon orphanage. The school principal was Alliene Mullendore, mother of future U.S. Rep. Kay Granger.

The archive also includes dozens of letters from Star-Telegram readers.

The owners of the notorious Cellar nightclub in downtown Fort Worth, Pat Kirkwood and Jim Hill, sent a telegram: “Swing on daddy tell chopper boys party on us upon return.”

A teenage girl from small-town Seymour wrote a stirring letter praising Schieffer for stories about troops’ “sacrifice and courage” and saying, “We young people are behind them all the way!”

She added: “P.S. I am sixteen years old and a sophomore at Seymour High School. I am five feet tall and have blond hair and blue eyes. My address is ... “

Then, another letter from the editor brought the exhibit back to reality.

“The raises went out yesterday,” Butler wrote Schieffer. “You were in the pot for another \$10 a week. I wish it was \$100 week, but we made so many promises to get this assignment I was afraid to go too much.”

It paid off for the next 60 years.



COURTESY OF CASTLEBERRY ISD

COMMENTARY

Mac Engel

tengel@star-telegram.com

Team USA GM explains decision to leave Stars winger off Olympic team

Bill Guerin's answer is not to appease a fan base displeased with the former Dallas Stars winger, who did not pick one of the team's own to be on his Team USA roster for the 2026 Winter Olympics.

When asked what he believes is the strength of his team, the Team USA GM said, "Goaltending. Our goaltending is really strong. When you put this team together I believe it's really strong. I think we are strong in every aspect, but our goaltending is really good."

Team USA's goalies are Boston's Jeremy Swayman, Winnipeg's Connor Hellebuyck, and the Stars' Jake Oettinger. Hellebuyck is expected to start in Team USA's first Olympic game, on Thursday against Latvia; according to reports, Oettinger may start the tournament as the third goalie.

Guerin is not saying this because he is aware that Stars fans were furious when he did not put winger Jason Robertson on the team. Whenever one of these teams is assembled, there is always a player or two or three who is a point of dismay and disgust.

Robertson's exclusion is No. 1. If this roster struggles to score in the Olympics, especially on the power play, leaving Robertson at home will be ridiculed. Robertson's 32 goals are tied for third in the NHL this season, with the Wild's Matt Boldy, who was picked to play for Team USA.

Guerin chatted with the Star-Telegram during a layover on his trip from Minnesota to Italy, where he will be for the next 10 days as NHL players have returned to the Olympics for the first time in 12 years. Guerin, who played in the NHL for 18 years, including three with the Stars, also played for Team USA. This is his first time as its GM.

WHY JASON ROBERTSON IS NOT ON TEAM USA

Guerin didn't want to mention a data point, or detail, why a player was selected ahead of another. He has been around long enough to know this was coming. When it comes to announcing a roster, the GM can't win.

"I believe in the players that I picked, and the coaches, and the group of people who helped me pick them," he said. "That's all I can do. This is the Teddy Roosevelt 'man in the arena' quote. I'm the man in the arena on this, and I understand that.

"People will naysay and criticize, and, honestly, I really don't care about that. I don't know if that sounds bad, but I have a job to do and this is the job."

Robertson, 26, is on pace for a career-best season, and is the top goal scorer for one of the best teams in the NHL.

When he has space, he's a terrific scorer. In tight games, which the Olympics typically are. Space is not plentiful; it's akin to an NHL playoff game. Goals are more often the ugly, rebound variety, which aren't Robertson's forte.

If he's not contributing shots on goal, he can be a liability in a short tournament like the Olympics. That is the only reason not to include him on this roster.

"I don't get into the specifics. Those phone calls are hard to make to the players. I'm not going to air anything out in public," Guerin said. "Whether you agree or don't agree, I would have been criticized in other markets for someone else I didn't pick. I do respect everyone's passion for their players. These are tough decisions.

"I wish I could make everybody happy, but I can't so I have to move on."

MOVING ON FROM THE MIRACLE ON ICE

Netflix recently released another documentary on the 1980 U.S. men's Olympic hockey team, the group that produced America's most significant sports moment of the 20th century. Every U.S. hockey team since then has been measured against that impossible standard set by a group of young men playing in a unique time in American history, under rules that no longer exist.

"It's more than 40 years ago, and we're still talking about it," Guerin said. "When I took this job, I really wanted to be a part of the solution to this."

This has been a point of discussion/disappointment among Team USA officials for the last 25 years. The need to create another gold medal moment. The U.S. has won two golds in men's Olympic hockey, 1960 and 1980.

Since winning gold in 1980, the performances by the U.S. in the Olympics range from the Thrilling to the Embarrassing.

The Thrilling: Reaching the gold medal games against Canada in 2002 and 2010. The U.S. finished with silver both times, including the painful overtime loss in Vancouver in '10. Also on the list is the 3-2 shootout win over host Russia in 2014, in Sochi. The 5-3 win over Canada in the 2010 Games during the qualifying rounds.

The Embarrassing: In the first year NHL players were allowed to play in the Olympics, the 1998 Games in Japan, the U.S. finished 1-3. The roster included Guerin and Stars icon Mike Modano. After the tournament was over, some of the players infamously trashed their rooms in the Olympic village.

In the '14 Games, the U.S. lost 1-0 to Canada in the semifinals. In the bronze medal game against Finland, the U.S. players were ready to go home; they lost, 5-0. This was the last time NHL players played in the Olympics. In the last two Olympics, the U.S. finished seventh and fifth.

As a longtime member of USA hockey, Guerin knows the history.

"Chemistry matters, and so does luck," he said. "Part of my getting involved in this is that I want to make this as good as it can be. We have great players, and we have great leadership, but we have to win.

"We've been good in the past at times, but we need to push for the big one. We need to win the gold medal."

Which will make everyone forget who he didn't put on the roster.

Rangers reportedly bringing back key pitcher from 2023 World Series team

LAWRENCE DOW

The Texas Rangers are [signing pitcher Jordan Montgomery](#), a key member of their [2023 World Series championship team](#), according to multiple reports.

The South Carolina native played part of that one season for the Rangers after being [acquired in a trade](#) from the St. Louis Cardinals.

Montgomery pitched well during the Rangers' title run, going 3-1 with a 2.90 ERA in six postseason appearances, including winning Games 1 and 7 against the Houston Astros in the AL Championship Series.

That offseason, Montgomery signed with the Arizona Diamondback on a one-year, \$25 million contract and went 8-7 with a 6.23 ERA.

Montgomery should add more depth to an already [formidable Rangers starting rotation](#), though he will not be available at season's start as he continues to recover from Tommy John surgery that caused him to miss all of last year.

The Rangers head into the upcoming MLB season hoping to make it back to the playoffs for the first time since winning



Jordan Montgomery (52) of the Texas Rangers rides in a truck bed during the World Series Championship parade at Globe Life Field on Nov. 3, 2023, in Arlington, Texas.

the World Series in 2023 and hope some familiar faces can help.

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","lastupdated":"2026-02-12T05:03:11.719Z","sectionguid":null,"authorcredit":"","entitlements":[],"parentsection":"Local Sports","shortheadline":"How two unlikely heroes potentially saved TCU's men's basketball season","twitterhandle":"","authorlastname":"","authorfirstname":"","publishdatetime":"1770892200","textdescription":"Sometimes a small tweak can have a major impact, and TCU men's basketball saw that play out Tuesday in its massive upset win over No. 5 Iowa State. The tweak was inserting sophomore forward Micah Robinson into the starting lineup in place of Oregon State transfer Liutaurus Lelevicius. It was a significant decision for this season and the future of the program. Not only did Robinson respond to getting the start with arguably the best game of his young career with 17 points, it also served a milestone for one of the most

[Back to Local Sports](#)

'A wrestling town': Inside Azle's developing powerhouse, area leading success

CHARLES BAGGARLY

There's not a lot of glory in high school wrestling.

Athletes deal with cauliflower ears, weight cuts, brutal conditioning circuits, injuries and, sometimes, skin infections. To top it off, scholarships are few and far between in the college wrestling landscape.

They don't receive a massive spotlight, as football players do. But the wrestlers who walk the halls at Azle High School don't seem to care about attention, despite a long list of individual and team accomplishments that warrant it.

In what Azle boys head coach Tyler Harrison calls "a wrestling town," they just want to see their hard work pay off when they step onto the mat at the [UIL state tournament](#), which begins Friday at Cy-Fair ISD's Berry Center.

"You have to love it to be in it," Azle wrestler Chase Yancey said. "And I think we have that respect from the people, because no one's working as hard as we are. No one is putting in the effort that we're putting in. And people that know [Azle wrestling] respect it."

While it can be hard to keep



Azle wrestler Elly Yelle attempts to break the hold of teammate Nevach Altringer during one of the final practices before the state championship meet at Azle High School in Azle on Feb. 9.

up with athletic juggernauts like Aledo in many sports, Azle wrestling flips the script, putting the Hornets on top.

Noah Kovach, who is aiming to [defend her state title](#) in the girls' 100-pound bracket, said wrestling success brings a lot of respect to Azle athletics — and she also sees herself grow and find support systems in the process.

"I just keep working because I just try to stay disciplined, so I can accomplish all my goals," she said.

Breaking down Azle's success

Many Azle athletes join a rapidly growing, vertically aligned system at a young age. From youth wrestling to junior high, the younger Hornets eagerly prepare to one day contribute to what has become a local powerhouse.

The boys' team has had a wildly successful season, going 24-1 in duals. They finished third at the 2026 Texas High School Wrestling Coaches Association state duals meet and followed it up by winning



Azle wrestler, Kenzie Harris pins Noah Kovach to the mat during one of the final practices before the state championship meet at Azle High School in Azle on Feb. 9.

their first regional title in program history.

No. 1-ranked 144-pound wrestler Chase Yancey, a four-time district champion, brought home a regional title. So did No. 1 Tyler Yancey in the 138-pound bracket.

“So, we’re really proud of that accomplishment and really excited to send these boys into the state tournament,” Harrison said.

With a flurry of title contenders, WrestlingTexas [ranks the Azle boys No. 3](#), while the [Azle girls are ranked No. 2](#). The Azle girls are a strong contender for an overall state title, although they’ll have some extremely qualified competition in No. 1 Melissa.

They also brought home a regional title, completing Azle’s sweep of Region One. The Hornets have had success for

years, but this season is arguably the program’s peak.

Kovach is a favorite to defend her title with a No. 1 ranking.

Freshman Zaylyn Woods, a multi-time [USA wrestling national champion](#), enters the 130-pound bracket, also with a No. 1 rank. Woods’ mother and stepfather are former UFC fighters Mark and Montana De La Rosa.

Kenzie Harris will enter the 120-pound girls bracket ranked No. 2, while Elly Yelle is ranked No. 2 in the 170-pound division.

Woods, Harris and Kovach brought home regional titles. For the girls, the timing couldn’t be better. Women’s wrestling is on the rise nationally.

In 2025, the [NCAA added women’s wrestling](#) as a championship sport. The inaugural

NCAA women’s championship is scheduled for March 6 and 7 at the Xtream Arena in Coralville, Iowa.

Teaching toughness

Harrison and girls coach Jayson Conger, both district coaches of the year, lead the Hornets.

“They just really care about us a lot,” Kovach said.

“Mentally and physically. They care about us if we win or lose, but they are constantly pushing us to succeed.”

From managing injury to body weight, the physicality of the sport is grueling. But those in the program will tell you that the mental side is the “secret sauce.”

“It’s just you on the mat, and if you mess up, it’s on you,” said Chase Yancey. “If you lose, it’s on you. So, it’s a lot of pressure in your mind.”

With this in mind, Harrison and Conger do their best to give their athletes the tools they need to improve. Mental toughness is a constant topic of discussion, Harrison said.

“We try and put the kids in the practice room in really adverse situations, and so they can learn how to battle through that before they’re in actual matches,” Harrison said.

Conger said the preparation helps athletes not be afraid of the moment when it arrives.

“Pressure is a privilege,” Conger said. “Those cliché things you hear all the time, but really, they do carry a lot of

weight when it comes to competing in a combat sport like wrestling.”

Whether it’s on the mat or in life, Conger said wrestling helps athletes visualize goals and understand that hard work is the only way to get there. If you want it, you have to take it, Conger said.

“We talk about everything’s earned, nothing given to you,” Conger said. “And we talk about building grit and what that means. We want these kids to talk about their goals, and we want them to not be afraid of things.”

A space fit for a champion

Ahead of the 2025-26 season, Azle wrestlers received a welcome surprise when the community came together to provide a much larger practice space.

An old storage room was completely transformed with new mats, wall decorations, Azle branding, a state countdown clock that says “Don’t waste a second” and more.

“[The old room] was really, really crowded, and I think the community just saw how hard we work and saw that we deserve to have the support and the equipment and the facility to back that up,” Kovach said.

Harrison said that Azle administration deserves a “big thank you” for the new and improved space.

“They cleaned it up and painted it and put new mats in here,” Harrison said. “And so



Azle wrestler, Kenzie Harris puts Noah Kovach in a leg hold during one of the final practices before the state championship meet at Azle High School in Azle on Feb. 9.

it’s been great for the program. We can have our whole team practice under one roof at one time.”

Looking ahead to state

The Azle boys and girls squads are set to enter the most intense tournament of the season. They’ve been prepared, facing some of the toughest in-state and out-of-state competition.

Kovach said she’ll enter the meet with a fearless attitude.

“I’ll just try to go in there and give it my all and hope to make it to the finals and win and defend my title,” Kovach said.

Senior Chase Yancey was the runner-up at state last season. The senior said he enjoys the tension-filled environment at state and plans to turn that pressure into joy, giving it his

all.

Win or lose, he takes great pride in his contributions to Azle wrestling.

“Like from my sophomore year to now, we’ve really developed and grown as a program, and it’s just been great to be a part of and to build that,” Chase Yancey said. “And to be a leader, to be able to help all these underclassmen out.”

Azle doesn’t shy away from its potential. The Hornets know what they have to offer, and humbly work to capitalize on the potential. Whether their individual goals are to defend or capture a state title or to become a contender, Harrison takes pride in seeing hard work turn into fulfilling dreams.

“Seeing them accomplish their goals – that’s what is going to make it a great tournament,” he said.



Azle wrestlers Nevaeh Altringer and Elly Yelle listen to instructions during one of the final practices before the state championship meet at Azle High School in Azle on Feb. 9.

All eyes will be on this weekend's state tournament. Harrison emphasized; however, becoming a champion is about more than one weekend.

Through this yearlong grind, Harrison said they try to teach the kids discipline, work ethic and more, which will lead the athletes to success in life on and off the mat.

"Eventually, one day, wrestling is going to go away and one thing they'll have left is their character," Harrison said. "So, we try and teach those things, and teach them how to do things right. And you know, it kind of takes care of the wrestling as well."

Fort Worth on the Air for Feb. 12, 2026

SPORTS BOT

Events may be affected by late programming changes. Listings include those events broadcast via network channels and over the air.

Thursday

Auto Racing

NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Fresh From Florida 250, Practice. **4:00 p.m. FS1**

NASCAR Cup Series America 250 Florida Duel 1 at DAYTONA. **6:00 p.m. FS1**

Baseball

College Softball Clearwater Invitational: Nebraska vs. LSU. **9:00 a.m. ESPN2**

College Softball Clearwater Invitational: Oklahoma State vs. Georgia. **10:00 a.m. SEC**

College Softball Clearwater Invitational: Florida State vs. Texas Tech. **12:00 p.m. ESPN2**

College Softball Clearwater Invitational: LSU vs. Oklahoma State. **2:00 p.m. ESPN2**

Basketball

EuroLeague Basketball Anadolu Efes vs. Virtus Olidata Bologna. **11:30 a.m. FDSW**
College Basketball Middle



5:30 p.m. CBSSN

Women's College Basketball Texas A&M at Kentucky. **5:30 p.m. SEC**

Women's College Basketball TCU at Baylor. **6:00 p.m. ESPN**
College Basketball Purdue Fort Wayne at Green Bay. **6:00 p.m. ESPN2**

College Basketball UNC-Asheville at Longwood. **6:00 p.m. ESPN2**

NBA G League Basketball Rio Grande Valley Vipers at Texas Legends. **7:00 p.m. KMPX**

College Basketball Louisiana Tech at Missouri State. **7:30 p.m. CBSSN**

College Basketball Memphis at North Texas. **8:00 p.m. ESPN**

College Basketball Oregon

State at San Francisco. **8:00 p.m. ESPN2**

College Basketball Texas-Arlington at Abilene Christian. **8:00 p.m. ESPN2**

Women's College Basketball Arkansas at Ole Miss. **8:00 p.m. SEC**

Golf

PGA Tour Golf AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, First Round. **2:00 p.m. GOLF**

LIV Golf League Adelaide, Round 2. **7:00 p.m.**

FS2 LIV Golf League Adelaide, Round 2. **10:00 p.m.**

FS1 Ladies Euro Tour Golf PIF Saudi Ladies International, Third Round. **4:30 a.m. GOLF**

Olympics

2026 Milan Cortina Olympics
Cross-Country Skiing: Women's
10km Free. **6:15 a.m. USA**

2026 Milan Cortina
Olympics Men's Snowboard
Cross Finals. **7:35 a.m. USA**

2026 Milan Cortina
Olympics Men's Hockey:
Czechia vs. Canada. **9:30 a.m.**
USA

2026 Milan Cortina
Olympics Luge: Team Relay
Final. **11:45 a.m. NBC KXAS**

2026 Milan Cortina
Olympics Women's Snowboard
Halfpipe Final. **12:30 p.m. NBC**
KXAS

2026 Milan Cortina
Olympics Short Track Speed
Skating: Women's 500m &
Men's 1000m Finals. **1:15 p.m.**
USA

2026 Milan Cortina
Olympics Hockey Preview. **1:45**
p.m. USA

2026 Milan Cortina
Olympics Short Track Speed
Skating: Women's 500m &
Men's 1000m Finals. **1:55 p.m.**
NBC KXAS

2026 Milan Cortina
Olympics Men's Hockey: Latvia
vs. U.S.. **2:10 p.m. USA**

Primetime in Milan: The
Olympics Luge, Alpine Skiing,
Snowboarding: Primetime in
Milan. **7:00 p.m. NBC KXAS**

2026 Milan Cortina
Olympics Olympic Late Night:
Snowboarding, Freestyle Skiing.
10:35 p.m. NBC KXAS

2026 Milan Cortina
Olympics Men's Curling:
Canada vs. U.S.. **2:00 a.m. USA**

2026 Milan Cortina
Olympics Cross-Country Skiing:

Men's 10km Free. **5:00 a.m.**
USA

Soccer

UEFA Women's Champions
League Soccer VfL Wolfsburg
vs. Juventus. **11:45 a.m. CBSSN**

UEFA Women's Champions
League Soccer Atletico Madrid
vs. Manchester United. **2:00**
p.m. CBSSN

2026 Concacaf U-17 Men's
Qualifiers Mexico U17 vs.
Trinidad & Tobago U17. **4:50**
p.m. FS2

PRIME TIME

Thursday, February 12, 2026

For Kids

Movies

News

Sports

1st No: Charter **2nd:** Time Warner **3rd:** DirecTV **4th** Dish Network
5th: FIOS **6th:** U-Verse (HD) HDTV (N)New (T)Taped (SAP)
Available in Spanish (DVS)Descriptive Video Service (CC)Closed Caption

BROADCAST	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM		
2 DAY 2,350,5,263,2,563	Discovering the	Reflections	Andrew Wommack	Joni Table Talk	FlashPoint		The Winner's Way	Ted Shuttlesworth	Dr. Sam	Kenneth Copeland	Healing Time With		
4 FOX 4,4,4,4,4,4	Fox 4 News at 6 (N)	Fox 4 Ne (N)	Next Level "Auditions -- Home Chefs" (N)		Animal Control	Going Dutch (N)	Fox 4 News at 9 (N)		Fox 4 News at 10 (N)	Fox 4 Ne (N)	Last Call		
5 NBC 5,5,5,5,5,5	News (N)	The Olympic Zone	Primetime in Milan: The Olympics Luge, Alpine Skiing, Snowboarding: Primetime in Milan (N) (Live)						NBC 5 News (N)	(:35) 2026 Milan Cortina Olympics			
5.2 COZI 188,1245,,,463,	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	Roseanne		
8 ABC 8,8,8,8,8,8	News 8 at 6pm (N)	News 8 (N)	9-1-1: Nashville "Good Southern Manors"			9-1-1: Nashville "You've Been Boarded"		9-1-1: Nashville "All Hands"		News 8 10pm (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)		
8.2 ACCUWEA 185,1240,.,.,.	(4:00) AccuWeather Ahead				Ask the Experts								
8.3 JUSTICE 186,1241,.,.,.	Heartland Homicide "Erin Chorney"			Homicide Hunt "Eyes Wide Shut"		The FBI Files "Stolen Identity"		Crime Stories "The Pictou Sadist"		Unusual Suspects "Absent Teacher"		Obsession: Dark Desi	
11 CBS 11,11,11,11,11,11	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Survivor "Loyalties Will Be Broken" (N)					Elsbeth "And Then There Were Nuns"		CBS News (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert		
11.2 STARTTV 196,.,.,483,	The Closer "About Face"		Major Crimes "Out of Bounds"			Major Crimes "The Shame Game"		Rizzoli & Isles "Face Value"		Gilmore Girls "Farewell, My Pet"		Gilmore Girls	
13 PBS 13,13,13,13,13,13	PBS News Hour (N)		The Madame Blanc Mysteries			Midsomer Murders "Claws Out: Part 2"		Inspector George Gently "Gently in the Blood"		Austin City Limits "Leon Thomas" (N)			
13.2 KIDS 182,1268,.,.,.	Lyla in the Loop	Arthur	Nature Cat	Hero Elementary	Cyberchase	Let's Go Luna!	Phoebe & Jay	Xavier Riddle	Molly of Denali	Alma's Way	Lyla in the Loop		
21 IND 12,12,21,21,21,21	Hot Bench (N)	Hot Bench	CBS News Texas at 7:00pm (N)			The Perfect Line (N)	The Perfect Line	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Neighborhood	The Neighborhood	The Conners	
21.2 QVC ,.,464,	Presidents' Day Sale (N) (Live)						Inside Q With Mally Roncal (N) (Live)	Serta (N) (Live)	Bumble and bumble. - Hair Care (N) (Live)			C R Fash (N)	
23 UNI 3,23,23,23,23,10	La rosa de Guadalupe "Todo por amor" (N)			Mi verdad oculta (N)		Doménica Montero "La leona y la oveja" (N)		Monteverde (N)	Noticias (N)		(:35) Noticiero (N)		Contacto deportivo (N)
23.2 BOUNCE ,.,476,	★★★ Marshall ('17) Josh Gad, Kate Hudson, Chadwick Boseman.					★★★ Just Mercy ('19)		Jamie Foxx, Brie Larson, Michael B. Jordan. Lawyer Bryan Stevenson fights to save a man on death row.					
23.3 ESCAPE ,.,486,	Bones "El Carnicero en el Coche"			Bones "The Sense in the Sacrifice"		Bones "The Lady on the List"		Bones "The Woman in White"		Bones "The Nazi on the Honeymoon"		Bones	
27 MNT 7,7,27,27,7,7	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	The Afterthought (N)	Just Wondering	FOX 4 News at 6pm	Fox 4 News at 6:30PM	DZTV (N)	Last Call (N)	The Ten		Family Feud (N)		
27.2 MOVIES 187,1260,,477,	(4:35) ★★★ Leave Her to Heaven ('45)		★★ The House on Telegraph Hill ('51) Valentina Cortese, William Lundigan, Richard Basehart.				★★★ Don't Bother to Knock ('52) Marilyn Monroe, Richard Widmark.		(:40) ★★★ Cornered ('45) Dick Powell.				
27.3 BUZZR 197,.,487,	Match Game	Match Game	Card Sharks	Card Sharks	Password Plus	Password Plus	Tattletales	Tattletales	Body Language	Body Language	Press Your Luck		
29 EST 29,29,29,29,29,29	Wicked Tuna		NBA G League Basketball Rio Grande Valley Vipers at Texas Legends (N) (Live)					Hardcore Pawn	Hardcore Pawn	Hardcore Pawn	Lizard Lick Towing		
33 CW 9,9,33,33,9,9	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Scrabble "Book Worms" (N)			Trivial Pursuit "Hot Buttered Biscuits" (N)		Friends	Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Two and a Half Men	
33.2 ANT TV 181,1256,,464,	Barney Miller	Barney Miller	One Day at a Time	One Day at a Time	The Jeffersons	The Jeffersons	Sanford and Son	Sanford and Son	Johnny Carson		Becker		
33.3 GRIT 180,.,.,.	Tales of Wells Fargo	Tales of Wells Fargo	★★★ El Dorado ('66) Robert Mitchum, James Caan, John Wayne. A gunfighter and a drunken sheriff face an evil land baron.						★★★ Tall in the Saddle ('44) Ella Raines, John Wayne.				
39 TELE 10,10,39,39,10,39	Exatión Estados Unidos (N)					Dinastía Casillas (N)				Noticiero Tele. (N)	(:35) Noticias (N)		El pelotazo (N)
47 MRT 22,24,47,47,18,47	The News on Merit TV (N)			Dr. Phil Primetime (N)		Crime Stories With Nancy Grace (N)		The News on Merit TV (N)		Dr. Phil Primetime (N)		Crime Stories (N)	
49 UM 20,20,49,49,20,20	¿Quién caerá? Kids			¿Apostarías por mí? "Cara a cara" (N)					C.D.I. "Caso Derrumbe Jet set (RD)" (N)		Dicho "Las águilas no cazan moscas" (N)		Como dice el dicho
49.2 GET TV 189,1277,,478,	Channel No Longer Available									Channel No Longer Available			
49.3 GRIT ,.,485,	Court of Opinion "Court of Opinion"			Closing Arguments with Vinnie Politan		VPI: Vinnie Politan Investigates		48 Hours "Missing Marsha"		Closing Arguments with Vinnie Politan		VPI: Vinnie Politan	
52 SONLIFE 14,14,52,52,14,52	Shopping		Shopping		Shopping		Shopping		Shopping		Shopping		
58 TBN 19,17,372,260,17,58	Allen (N)	Stakelbeck (N)	Drive Thru History Specials "Valentine's Day"			Rosenberg (N)	Boots (N)	God's Appointed	Stakelbeck (N)	Drive Thru History Specials "Valentine's Day"		Joseph Prince (N)	
58.2 MRT ,.,.	The News on Merit TV (N)			Dr. Phil Primetime (N)		Crime Stories With Nancy Grace (N)		The News on Merit TV (N)		Dr. Phil Primetime (N)		Crime Stories (N)	
68 ION 6,26,68,68,26,68	FBI "Breakdown"		FBI "Protégé"		FBI "Money for Nothing"		FBI "The Lies We Tell"		FBI "Family First"		FBI		
68.2 BOUNCE ,.,491,328	Leverage "The Top Hat Job"			Leverage "The Two Live Crew Job"		Leverage "The Ice Man Job"		Leverage "The Lost Heir Job"		Leverage "The Runway Job"		Sue Thomas F.B.Eye	

YOUR 7-DAY FORECAST

Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Times of clouds and sun	Mainly clear	Mostly cloudy, a t-shower in spots	Rain and a thunderstorm	Breezy in the morning; sunshine	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Warm with clouds and sunshine	Warm with times of clouds and sun
S 6-12 mph 74°	S 6-12 mph 53°	S 7-14 mph 72° 59°	WSW 8-16 mph 67° 52°	NNW 8-16 mph 67° 50°	S 7-14 mph 72° 55°	S 8-16 mph 77° 56°	SSW 8-16 mph 78° 55°



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ALMANAC

Statistics through Tuesday

TEMPERATURE	DFW AIRPORT	FT. WORTH
High/low	75°/52°	75°/50°
Normal high/low	60°/39°	60°/38°
Last year high/low	44°/40°	42°/41°
Record high	85° (1954)	83° (2000)
Record low	15° (2011)	12° (2011)

PRECIPITATION

Tuesday	0.01"	0.08"
Month to date	0.01"	0.08"
Normal month to date	0.84"	0.74"
Year to date	0.94"	0.78"
Normal year to date	3.37"	2.79"
Last year to date	5.98"	3.05"

EXTREME TEMPERATURES

Texas Extremes Tuesday	
High:	86° at McAllen
Low:	37° at Amarillo
National Extremes Tuesday (for the 48 contiguous states.)	
High:	86° at McAllen, TX
Low:	-13° at Berlin, NH

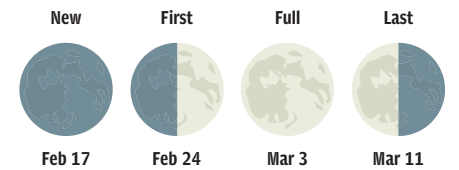
THE LONE STAR STATE

City	Tue.	Today	Fri.	City	Tue.	Today	Fri.
	Hi/Lo/Precip	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/Precip	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Abilene	70/42/0.01	77/56/s	75/59/pc	Laredo	76/56/0.00	84/64/c	88/66/pc
Alice	79/61/0.00	82/62/pc	81/67/pc	League City	76/61/0.00	75/61/pc	73/65/pc
Allen	73/46/0.04	75/53/pc	71/59/c	Lewisville	74/47/0.02	76/54/pc	74/59/c
Alpine	64/41/0.06	73/52/s	71/45/t	Longview	73/51/0.00	73/52/pc	75/62/c
Amarillo	52/37/0.00	76/38/pc	60/44/sh	Lubbock	61/37/0.00	79/44/c	66/46/t
Arlington	75/46/0.01	77/54/pc	74/59/c	Lufkin	76/60/0.00	76/56/c	75/61/c
Austin	69/56/0.01	79/60/c	78/65/c	Marfa	56/37/0.08	72/44/s	71/42/t
Bay City	77/63/0.01	77/61/pc	76/64/pc	Marshall	73/55/0.00	72/49/pc	75/60/c
Baytown	74/60/0.00	75/61/c	71/61/pc	McAllen	86/64/0.00	87/66/s	86/69/pc
Beaumont	79/55/0.00	76/59/pc	73/63/c	McKinney	74/45/Trace	74/50/pc	74/60/c
Big Bend	74/48/0.04	68/55/pc	73/53/t	Mesquite	73/49/0.02	75/53/pc	74/58/c
Brownsville	85/63/0.00	84/66/s	82/68/pc	Midland	63/37/0.12	75/53/s	70/51/t
Bryan	73/52/0.00	81/62/pc	78/66/c	Min. Wells	75/41/Trace	77/51/s	76/59/pc
Carrollton	76/44/0.03	76/55/pc	74/58/c	Mission	85/63/0.00	86/66/s	85/67/pc
C. Christi	79/64/0.00	79/63/pc	81/67/c	N. Braunfels	68/57/0.01	77/61/c	80/65/c
C. Station	73/54/0.00	80/61/pc	77/65/c	Odessa	64/41/0.30	74/55/s	72/51/t
Childress	57/37/0.00	80/46/pc	66/51/t	Padre Island	76/64/0.00	73/65/c	75/67/pc
Dalhart	54/37/0.00	75/35/pc	57/42/sh	Palacios	77/65/0.00	74/61/pc	76/65/pc
Del Rio	70/49/Trace	78/61/c	83/63/c	Paris	72/44/0.10	71/48/pc	71/59/t
Denton	71/45/0.04	76/51/pc	74/60/c	Pasadena	76/61/0.00	77/62/pc	74/65/c
Edinburg	82/63/0.00	85/65/s	83/69/c	Pearland	76/61/0.00	77/61/pc	74/64/pc
El Paso	72/48/0.00	75/54/pc	66/48/sh	Plano	73/46/0.02	76/54/pc	71/59/c
Frisco	72/45/0.03	75/53/pc	71/58/c	Richardson	74/49/0.02	76/54/pc	74/60/c
Gainesville	69/40/0.10	73/49/pc	72/59/t	Round Rock	69/53/0.01	80/61/c	77/62/c
Galveston	73/60/0.00	68/60/c	70/63/pc	San Angelo	77/45/0.03	78/54/pc	78/58/t
Garland	74/47/0.02	75/54/pc	73/60/c	San Antonio	68/57/0.00	76/62/c	78/64/c
Grand Prairie	74/47/0.02	77/55/pc	75/59/c	Sonora	74/44/0.14	77/56/pc	76/59/s
Houston	78/58/0.00	79/62/pc	75/66/pc	Sugar Land	76/63/0.00	80/62/pc	78/65/pc
Irving	74/47/0.01	77/55/pc	74/59/c	Texarkana	72/53/Trace	71/51/pc	72/59/t
Jasper	75/55/0.00	75/56/c	74/60/pc	Tyler	72/51/0.00	75/56/pc	74/62/c
Junction	71/48/Trace	76/55/c	80/60/c	Victoria	78/60/0.00	79/61/pc	77/66/pc
Killeen	70/52/0.01	79/59/c	76/63/c	W. Falls	67/37/0.06	77/50/pc	74/57/t
Kingsville	81/62/0.00	81/63/c	83/67/pc	Waco	74/51/0.00	77/56/pc	72/61/c

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2026

SUN & MOON

Sunrise today	7:16 AM
Sunset tonight	6:12 PM
Moonrise today	4:00 AM
Moonset today	1:36 PM
Sunrise Friday	7:15 AM
Sunset Friday	6:13 PM



AIR QUALITY

The presence of man-made particulates and ozone affecting aspects of human health.

Tuesday	Good
	Moderate
	Unhealthy for sensitive groups
Wednesday	Unhealthy
	Not Available

Source: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

POLLEN

As of 2/10

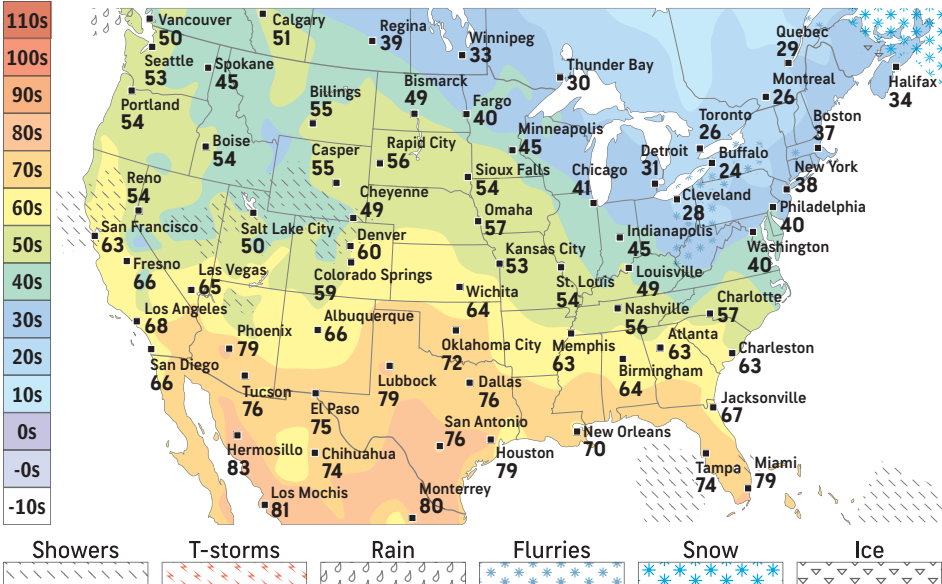
Grass	Absent
Trees	High
Weeds	Absent
Mold	Low

Key: l=low, m=medium, h=high, vh=very high

Source: <http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Pollen-Mold/>

TODAY'S FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 2026

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.



THE NATION

City	Tue.	Today	Fri.	City	Tue.	Today	Fri.
	Hi/Lo/Precip	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/Precip	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	68/41/0.00	66/42/c	53/38/sh	Little Rock	71/52/0.00	62/41/c	68/52/sh
Anchorage	19/15/0.17	24/16/s	26/14/s	Los Angeles	64/55/Trace	68/51/s	76/49/s
Atlanta	70/58/0.00	63/42/pc	65/43/pc	Louisville	69/34/0.00	49/29/pc	53/33/s
Atlantic City	38/32/0.00	38/19/pc	39/25/s	Miami	76/59/Trace	79/61/s	79/63/s
Baltimore	42/32/0.00	38/22/pc	39/27/pc	Milwaukee	41/25/0.00	34/26/pc	48/31/c
Baton Rouge	79/57/0.00	73/59/pc	78/60/pc	Missoula	45/21/0.00	46/25/c	49/31/c
Birmingham	67/56/0.00	64/40/pc	66/46/c	Minneapolis	34/19/0.00	45/29/pc	51/30/pc
Bismarck, ND	46/21/0.00	49/23/pc	52/26/s	Myrtle Beach	64/54/0.00	55/35/s	52/37/s
Boise	54/37/0.00	54/33/pc	56/37/pc	Nashville	77/46/Trace	56/34/pc	61/37/pc
Boston	34/28/Trace	37/17/pc	39/22/s	New Orleans	79/62/0.00	70/58/c	72/60/c
Buffalo	44/29/0.01	24/11/sf	31/28/s	New York	36/33/0.00	38/23/pc	37/27/s
Burlington, VT	31/24/0.16	27/6/c	30/21/s	Norfolk	58/42/0.00	44/28/pc	43/30/s
Casper	43/15/0.00	55/28/pc	53/25/s	Okla. City	61/36/0.00	72/45/c	69/54/t
Charleston, SC	76/56/0.00	63/40/s	63/40/s	Omaha	48/19/0.00	57/25/c	58/33/pc
Chicago	49/26/0.00	41/30/c	51/33/s	Orlando	79/51/0.00	74/55/pc	78/55/pc
Cincinnati	61/27/0.00	42/25/c	48/30/s	Philadelphia	40/31/0.00	40/21/pc	39/25/s
Cleveland	50/33/0.00	28/20/c	37/31/pc	Phoenix	80/61/0.00	79/62/c	67/51/c
Columbus	54/34/0.00	34/20/c	38/26/pc	Pierre, SD	45/20/0.00	52/22/pc	56/26/s
Concord, NH	34/21/0.12	35/10/pc	35/12/s	Pittsburgh	56/34/0.00	28/20/c	35/27/pc
Denver	46/24/0.00	60/32/c	56/31/pc	Portland, ME	33/27/Trace	37/11/pc	36/13/s
Des Moines	47/21/0.00	54/28/c	58/33/s	Portland, OR	56/35/0.00	54/39/pc	50/42/sh
Detroit	45/31/0.00	31/17/pc	37/26/s	Providence	31/30/Trace	36/13/pc	38/18/s
Dover, DE	37/29/0.00	38/22/pc	40/27/s	Raleigh, NC	70/53/0.00	53/26/s	54/30/s
Duluth	28/9/Trace	33/23/pc	43/25/pc	Ruidoso	57/37/0.00	62/43/pc	54/34/sh
Flagstaff	56/29/0.00	54/31/pc	43/20/sn	Salt Lake City	46/38/0.00	50/35/sh	49/32/pc
Hartford	34/19/Trace	36/9/pc	37/14/s	San Diego	66/58/0.00	66/56/pc	67/51/s
Honolulu	80/72/Trace	81/71/r	81/70/c	San Francisco	59/53/0.22	63/49/pc	60/49/s
Indianapolis	56/26/0.00	45/27/c	51/30/s	Seattle	55/40/0.00	53/43/pc	48/39/r
Jackson Hole	34/17/Trace	41/20/sn	38/17/sf	Shreveport	72/59/0.00	73/53/pc	77/60/c
Jackson, MS	73/61/0.00	71/49/c	72/55/sh	St. Louis	66/28/0.00	54/35/c	60/39/s
Juneau	41/38/0.03	39/35/sn	38/32/sf	Syracuse	33/28/0.02	25/8/sf	27/22/c
Kansas City	54/28/0.00	53/32/c	59/42/pc	Tampa	73/56/0.00	74/57/pc	76/58/s
Las Vegas	65/58/0.00	65/52/pc	68/46/s	Wash., DC	46/36/0.00	40/26/pc	42/31/pc

WORLD

City	Tue.	Today	Fri.	City	Tue.	Today	Fri.
	Hi/Lo/Precip	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/Precip	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Mexico				Mexico			
Acapulco	87/73/0.00	88/73/pc	88/72/pc	Buenos Aires	90/76/0.00	80/65/pc	79/66/s
Cancun	81/70/0.00	82/61/sh	82/64/pc	Rio	86/79/0.04	89/77/pc	90/77/s
Chihuahua	67/48/0.00	74/56/c	77/48/pc	Asia			
Cozumel	81/71/0.00	81/67/pc	82/68/pc	Beijing	53/22/0.00	57/27/c	61/27/s
Los Cabos	78/61/0.00	82/60/pc	81/62/s	Seoul	40/30/0.11	48/32/pc	53/33/pc
Mexico City	81/49/0.00	80/48/pc	80/51/pc	Tokyo	52/40/0.00	52/37/pc	55/36/pc
Monterrey	77/58/0.00	81/59/pc	85/59/pc	Europe			
P. Vallarta	85/65/0.00	84/64/pc	84/65/pc	Amsterdam	46/45/0.12	48/36/sh	39/30/sn
Veracruz	79/64/0.00	78/65/sh	80/66/pc	Berlin	44/34/0.00	45/36/r	39/29/r
South America				London	53/48/0.21	50/39/r	44/32/r
Buenos Aires	90/76/0.00	80/65/pc	79/66/s	Moscow	18/5/0.10	31/29/c	35/30/sn
Rio	86/79/0.04	89/77/pc	90/77/s	Paris	54/50/0.06	54/44/r	49/35/r
Asia				Rome	57/48/0.00	59/46/c	62/52/pc
Beijing	53/22/0.00	57/27/c	61/27/s	Middle East			
Seoul	40/30/0.11	48/32/pc	53/33/pc	Jerusalem	64/50/0.00	66/53/pc	72/51/pc
Tokyo	52/40/0.00	52/37/pc	55/36/pc	Riyadh	89/62/0.00	92/64/pc	92/66/s
Europe				Africa			
Amsterdam	46/45/0.12	48/36/sh	39/30/sn	Cape Town	81/68/0.00	77/62/s	74/60/pc
Berlin	44/34/0.00	45/36/r	39/29/r	Nairobi	86/55/0.00	86/60/s	86/63/pc
London	53/48/0.21	50/39/r	44/32/r	Canada			
Moscow	18/5/0.10	31/29/c	35/30/sn	Calgary	45/28/0.00	51/32/pc	46/28/pc
Paris	54/50/0.06	54/44/r	49/35/r	Montreal	21/18/0.09	26/7/c	24/19/pc
Rome	57/48/0.00	59/46/c	62/52/pc	Toronto	36/30/0.02	26/8/pc	33/28/sn
Middle East				Vancouver	52/34/0.00	50/43/c	47/38/sh
Jerusalem	64/50/0.00	66/53/pc	72/51/pc				
Riyadh	89/62/0.00	92/64/pc	92/66/s				
Africa							
Cape Town	81/68/0.00	77/62/s	74/60/pc				
Nairobi	86/55/0.00	86/60/s	86/63/pc				
Canada							
Calgary	45/28/0.00	51/32/pc	46/28/pc				
Montreal	21/18/0.09	26/7/c	24/19/pc				
Toronto	36/30/0.02	26/8/pc	33/28/sn				
Vancouver	52/34/0.00	50/43/c	47/38/sh				

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 12, 2026
FROM: Hurst-Euleless-Bedford
Independent School District
SUBJECT: 2025-2026 District Annual Report
The Hurst-Euleless-Bedford Independent School District will hold a Public Hearing for the discussion of the Annual Report that includes the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR), PEIMS financial standard report, district accreditation status, campus performance objectives, Special Education determination status, a report of violent or criminal incidents, and student performance in postsecondary institutions, as received from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
District and campus TAPR reports are available on the Hurst-Euleless-Bedford ISD website, www.hebisd.edu. Additional copies of the report may be requested in writing through the Public Relations and Marketing Department of the Hurst-Euleless-Bedford Independent School District, 1849 Central Drive, Bedford, Texas 76022, or you may call 817-283-4461, ext. 2025.
This Public Hearing will be held on February 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., at the Hurst-Euleless-Bedford District Administration Building, 1849 Central Drive, Bedford, Texas 76022.
IPL0306048
Feb 12 2026

CROWLEY ISD PUBLIC NOTICE FOR THE DISTRICT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Crowley Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District's Annual Report on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Crowley ISD Administration Building, located at 1900 Crowley Pride Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76036. If you have questions regarding the District's Annual Report, please contact C.J. Hill at christopher.hill1@crowley.k12.tx.us.
IPL0310926
Feb 12 2026

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

It is the intention of Rolling V Ranch Water Control and Improvement District No. 4 of Wise County (the "District") to hold an election on May 2, 2026, without providing a voting station that meets the requirements for accessibility under 42 U.S.C. Section 15481(a)(3) on election day and during the period for early voting by personal appearance. The District invokes an exemption from the acquisition, lease, or use of an electronic voting system for the election.
Any voter in the District may request the use of a voting station that meets the accessibility requirements for voting by a person with a disability by contacting the person below. The request must be received no later than the 45th day before Election Day in accordance with Section 49.111(d) of the Texas Water Code. Please include the requesting voter's name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if applicable). Send request to: Rolling V Ranch Water Control and Improvement District No. 4 of Wise County, Robyn German, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027, (713) 800-8471, (713) 800-8471, (facsimile), elections@abhr.com.
AVISO DE EXENCIÓN
Es la intención del Distrito de Control de Agua y Mejoras Nro. 4 del Rolling V Ranch del Condado de Wise (el "Distrito") realizar una elección el 2 de mayo de 2026 sin proveer una estación de votación que cumpla con los requisitos de accesibilidad de la Sección 15481(a)(3) del 42 U.S.C. el día de la elección y durante el periodo de votación anticipada en persona. El Distrito invoca una exención para la adquisición, el arrendamiento o el uso de un sistema de votación electrónica para la elección.
Cualquier votante en el Distrito podrá solicitar el uso de una estación de votación que cumpla con los requisitos de accesibilidad para que una persona con una discapacidad pueda votar si se comunica con la persona mencionada abajo. El pedido debe ser recibido no más tarde del 45to día anterior al Día de Elección de acuerdo con la Sección 49.111(d) del Código de Agua de Texas. Recuerde incluir el nombre, la dirección, el número de teléfono y la dirección de correo electrónico (si corresponde) del votante que realiza el pedido. Envíe la solicitud a: Rolling V Ranch Water Control and Improvement District No. 4 of Wise County, Robyn German, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027, (713) 800-8471, (713) 800-1171 (facsimile), elections@abhr.com.
IPL0312278
Feb 12 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine Only Package Store Permit by Westland Holdings Inc. dba Westland Market, to be located at 7493 Rendon Bloodworth Rd, Mansfield, Tarrant County, Texas, 76063. Officers of said corporation are Gurpreet Singh and Jagjit Singh.
IPL0313322
Feb 12-13 2026

RFB 19-26 REQUEST FOR BID FOR TREES AND SHRUBS

The City of Grapevine is soliciting sealed bids from qualified vendors for a fixed priced annual contract for trees and large shrubs on an as needed basis for the Parks and Recreation Department for an initial one-year period with options to renew for nine additional one-year periods. The annual contract start date will be sometime after City Council approves the award which will be in April 2026.
The bid will be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder meeting or exceeding specifications. The intent is to award a primary and secondary contract for the bid that meets or exceeds specifications in accordance with the provisions of the current Texas Local Government Code Title 8.
The RFB documents may be viewed and obtained by registering online through the City's eBid system found on the Grapevine Purchasing webpage: <https://grapevinetexas.gov/111/Purchasing>.
The RFP closing date and time is March 12, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. local time. RFP responses are due prior to the RFP closing date and time. Responses received after the above time will not be permitted. Submit your bid documents electronically through the eBid Procurement system and include all required document submittals.
RFB submittal results will be presented to the City Council at which time the City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all responses and to waive any informality in the RFB responses
IPL0313360

Bondi faces anger from lawmakers over handling of Epstein files

GLENN THRUSH

WASHINGTON - Attorney General Pam Bondi refused to apologize to survivors of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein who were seated in the House Judiciary Committee room Wednesday -- and instead demanded that Democrats apologize to President Donald Trump.

Bondi, imitating Trump's tactic of going on the attack when facing tough questions, offered few detailed answers, no admissions of fault but many expressions of fealty and admiration for a president who has exercised direct control over her department's actions.

The bitter back-and-forth, during a four-hour hearing before lawmakers, demonstrated the extent to which the Epstein files, once relegated to the conspiratorial outskirts of American politics, have become a defining issue for Bondi. The topic at times overshadowed her role in subordinating her department into an extension of Trump's will and retribution agenda.

While Bondi fielded questions on an array of controversies -- including about the department's unsuccessful ef-



Survivors of Jeffrey Epstein wearing white T-shirts calling for a full release of the Epstein files raise their hands in response to a committee member's question as Attorney General Pam Bondi, foreground right, testified at a House Judiciary Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday

fort a day earlier to prosecute six Democratic lawmakers who posted a video that enraged Trump -- the focus almost always snapped back to the Epstein scandal.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, the top Democrat on the panel, delivered a salvo of disgust in his opening statement. He started by criticizing Bondi's handling of the release of the investigative files involving Epstein.

"You're siding with the perpetrators, and you're ignoring the victims," said Raskin, of

Maryland. "That will be your legacy, unless you act quickly to change course. You're running a massive Epstein cover-up right out of the Department of Justice."

Bondi seemed unmoved. But she had a harder time evading the visuals in the hearing room, embodied by Epstein survivors who sat solemnly behind her in the gallery. She declined to apologize to them and only briefly cast eyes in their direction.

A particularly uncomfortable

moment came when Rep. Pramila Jayapal, a Washington Democrat, made an emotional appeal for Bondi to tell the women she was sorry for the slapdash, sluggish release of the Epstein documents, which inadvertently included the disclosure of victims' names that were supposed to be redacted.

Bondi appeared momentarily at a loss for words. Then something clicked, and she began to counterattack, her voice swelling to a near shout, accusing Jayapal of "theatrics" and of dragging the hearing "into the gutter."

She fiercely defended her actions in the Epstein case from the start, and placed blame for missed opportunities in the investigation on her Biden-era predecessors.

"I'm a career prosecutor," she said during her opening remarks, adding, "I have spent my entire career fighting for victims, and will continue to do so."

But she did not linger long on defense. Bondi taunted several of the committee's Democrats, including Raskin and Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York, for spearheading Trump's impeachments.

"Have you apologized to President Trump?" asked Bondi, who has been eager to ingratiate herself to a White House that has been less than impressed by some of her actions, particularly on the Epstein matter.

"You sit here and you attack

the president, and I am not going to have it," added Bondi, who then pointed to the state of the stock market, eliciting derisive laughter from Democrats.

"You don't tell me anything, you washed-up loser lawyer. You're not even a lawyer," she said in one exchange with Raskin, a Harvard-trained lawyer.

The last time Bondi appeared before a congressional panel was in October, when she stonewalled Democrats for four hours and read from a list of scripted insults in response to their questioning of her conduct.

But Democrats, led by Raskin, prepared to counter that stall-and-brawl strategy, much to Bondi's annoyance.

"We saw your performance in the Senate, and we're not going to accept that," Raskin said.

And he seemed to have an ally, at least procedurally, in the committee's Republican chair, Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, who gingerly but firmly directed the agitated witness not to shout at or interrupt her questioners.

The Epstein case, once an obsessive focus of the right, has now become a powerful political weapon wielded by Democrats in attacking Trump and his appointees in the Justice Department and the FBI.

For Republicans, the never-ending Epstein fiasco has defined Bondi's tenure in much the same way that her willingness to execute Trump's commands has tarnished her in the

eyes of Democrats.

The atmosphere was different -- and chillier -- than the one during her testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee last fall, when Republicans rallied to Bondi's defense in the face of withering questioning from Democrats.

Their defense of her Wednesday was notably muted, and instead of engaging directly with Democrats, many sought to steer the discussion away from Epstein and onto safer ground: the department's efforts to combat street crime. Many of them simply ceded time reserved for questions to Bondi, allowing her to extend her criticisms of Democratic questioners.

One Republican critic of the Trump administration joined Democrats on the attack. Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., has frequently criticized Bondi and her top deputy, Todd Blanche, over the handling of the files, accusing them of slow-walking or blocking the release of some material.

On Wednesday, Massie and Bondi clashed over the Justice Department's inadvertent release of victims' identities and the redactions of a purported co-conspirator's identity.

"Who is responsible?" asked Massie, who helped write the law requiring the department to release the Epstein files. "Who in your organization made this massive failure?"

Bondi responded by accusing Massie of "Trump derangement

syndrome,” and called him “a failed politician.”

Oversight hearings have always had elements of political theater. But the approach taken by Bondi and FBI Director Kash Patel has been different from that taken by their predecessors. It has been characterized by a refusal to even cursorily address questions they might view as inconvenient, and by the use of prepared attacks against Democrats to change the subject and drown out criticism.

That approach did not work as well on Wednesday, and Democrats appeared to be prepared to offer a few ambushes of their own.

Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt., questioned Bondi intensely about the relationship between three senior Trump administration officials and Jeffrey Epstein.

At one point, she asked Bondi if she planned to scrutinize Howard Lutnick, the commerce secretary, over his relationship with Epstein.

Bondi icily replied that Lutnick had “addressed those ties himself.”

When Balint mistakenly referred to Bondi as “secretary,” Bondi cut in to say, “I am attorney general.”

Without missing a beat, Balint shot back: “My apologies, I couldn’t tell.”

There was, at least, one unexpected moment of bipartisan comity.

Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Calif. -

-- a frequent Trump critic -- appealed to Bondi to investigate people who had made threats against him and his family.

“I’m just asking for your help to protect life, because life is at risk with the environment we’re in right now,” he said.

“They are being looked into,” Bondi replied. “None of you should be threatened, ever. None of your children should be threatened. None of your families should be threatened, and I will work with you.”

This article originally appeared in [The New York Times](#).

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Federal debt to hit record levels, Budget Office warns

ANDREW DUEHREN

WASHINGTON - In the first year of his second term, President Donald Trump has tried to radically reshape the U.S. economy. He has slashed taxes, raised tariffs to their highest levels in almost a century, unilaterally canceled federal spending, pushed down immigration and pressured the Federal Reserve to sharply lower interest rates.

When it comes to the overall federal budget, though, the effect of these dramatic changes has nearly been a wash. The country is still on track to borrow what economists consider an alarming amount of money in the coming years. But the situation, on paper at least, has gotten only somewhat worse, but not significantly, under Trump's unorthodox policy mix.

Those were the findings of the Congressional Budget Office, the nonpartisan scorekeeper, in its annual benchmark forecast for the federal budget released Wednesday. Compared with its projections from January 2025, before Trump took office, the federal government is now expected to run a \$23.1 trillion shortfall over the next nine years, rather than a \$21.8 trillion one, a \$1.4 tril-



The federal debt is expected to grow by about \$1.4 trillion over the next nine years due to President Donald Trump's policies, the Congressional Budget Office said in its latest forecast released Wednesday.

lion wider gap.

The CBO said that the amount of debt held by the public is expected to become much larger than the annual output of the economy, reaching 120% of gross domestic product in 2036. That would surpass levels reached in the aftermath of World War II and put the world's most important economy at risk of a destabilizing debt crisis.

"Our budget projections continue to indicate that the fiscal trajectory is not sustainable," said Phillip Swagel, the director of the budget office.

There is reason to expect

that the fiscal situation could become even more precarious, despite the fact that the budgetary effects of Trump's economic policies appear, for now, to almost cancel one another out.

The most expensive policy change made so far by Republicans and Trump has been the broad income tax cuts they passed last year. That law, which provided its biggest benefits to the rich as it also cut spending on programs for the poor, came in at a total cost of roughly \$4.7 trillion over the next nine years, the CBO said. The biggest source of new

money, Trump's tariffs, is projected to raise roughly \$3 trillion over that same time frame.

In reality, though, the cost of the tax cuts could end up far exceeding the revenue generated by the tariffs. When they passed the tax cuts, Republicans took the unprecedented procedural step of locking many of them in permanently, meaning the cuts would require another act of Congress to reverse them, an unlikely event. Indeed, some of the tax cuts Republicans passed last year are only temporary, and lawmakers may renew them in the future, further reducing revenue.

Many of Trump's tariffs are mired in deep legal and political uncertainty. The Supreme Court could soon throw many of them out. If the tariffs survive the legal challenge or Trump replaces them with different levies, a future president could, with a stroke of the pen, immediately slash the remaining import taxes.

That would leave the federal government with a far more meager revenue source, just as the country confronts the budget crunch created by Social Security, the most expensive federal program. For years, as the population has aged, the amount of money spent on the retirement program has outpaced the amount of tax paid into it by younger working Americans, driving wider deficits.

Social Security's flagship trust fund, paper savings built

up when tax revenues for the program exceeded costs, is now expected to run out in 2032, a year earlier than previously expected, the CBO said. The exhaustion of the trust fund will force Congress to decide on a new way of financing Social Security to avoid a deep, across-the-board cut to benefits.

At the same time, Trump's crackdown on immigration is also putting pressure on America's fiscal situation, the CBO said. The budget office expects the U.S. population to have 5.3 million fewer people in 2035 than it previously expected, reducing projected tax revenue, with an overall budget hit of roughly \$500 billion over that time frame.

The ultimate arbiter of Washington's spending habits is the bond market, where investors buy and sell the government's debt. The risk is that investors begin to doubt that the United States will pay back its debts and start demanding higher interest rates, stunting borrowing across the economy. Larger debts and higher interest rates also increase spending, forcing the government to borrow even more.

At nearly \$1 trillion last fiscal year, the net cost of interest on the debt ranks with Social Security and Medicare as one of the government's biggest expenses. The United States already spends more financing its debt than it does on its military. By 2036, the budget office pro-

jected that interest costs could nearly match the total discretionary spending approved by Congress every year.

Trump has agitated for the Federal Reserve to lower short-term interest rates to reduce the government's borrowing costs, part of a broad attack on the central bank's independence. "We are again the strongest Country in the World, and should therefore be paying the LOWEST INTEREST RATE, by far," he wrote in a social media post Wednesday. "This would be an INTEREST COST SAVINGS OF AT LEAST ONE TRILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR -- BALANCED BUDGET, PLUS. WOW!"

But the Fed sets interest rates to hold down inflation and keep employment stable, not to reduce borrowing costs for the federal government. If investors started to believe that the Fed instead set short-term interest rates in response to demands from the White House, that could actually raise long-term interest rates, further adding to the government's borrowing costs.

"The perception of a less independent central bank could lead to greater uncertainty in expectations of monetary policy, or expectations of higher inflation, and that would translate into higher long-term interest rates," Swagel said at a news conference. "We don't have that in our forecast."

While the budget office expects long-term interest rates to

be slightly higher than it previously forecast as a result of the additional borrowing, Swagel said the outlook was still “benign.”

This article originally appeared in [The New York Times](#).

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House passes revamped citizenship and voter ID bill

NINA HELLER

After weeks of pressure from rank-and-file Republicans, the House on Wednesday passed a bill aimed at creating a federal voter ID mandate.

Dubbed the SAVE America Act, it would require Americans to prove their citizenship when registering to vote and present photo identification when casting a ballot. It would also require states to submit their voter rolls to the Department of Homeland Security for vetting of citizenship status. The proposal is a more expansive version of a previous iteration known as the SAVE Act, which the House [passed](#) in April.

Texas Republican Rep. Chip Roy, the lead sponsor of the bill, described it as an effort to safeguard the country's elections and dismissed the idea that it would make it harder for Americans to vote.

"In this age of progressive suicidal empathy, basic concepts such as voter ID and proof of citizenship have been attacked as suppression," he said Wednesday on the floor.

Republicans were united in backing the measure, with a final tally of 218-213. Just one Democrat, Rep. Henry Cuellar of Texas, crossed party lines to



Surrounded by Republican caucus members, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), center, speaks during a news conference about the passage of the SAVE America Act, an election bill passed by the chamber on Wednesday that would require proof of citizenship to register to vote and require photo identification at the ballot box.

vote in favor.

Introduced [last month](#), the bill was fast-tracked to the floor without being marked up in the House Administration Committee, which has jurisdiction over federal election matters. Leaders tapped an unrelated measure to serve as the [legislative vehicle](#).

Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer said the legislation would be "dead on arrival" in the Senate.

"The SAVE Act would introduce the 21st century equivalent of a democracy that tolerates literacy tests and asks

people to guess the number of jellybeans in a jar. And for what reason? Because Donald Trump to this day lies about the 2020 election," he said on the Senate floor, dismissing the president's efforts to paint American elections as rife with fraud.

House Republicans took up the bill after pressure from Roy and Florida Republican Rep. Anna Paulina Luna, who has been [publicly lobbying](#) the Senate to use a so-called talking filibuster to sidestep a 60-vote threshold.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., appeared to rule

out that idea, saying the strategy could eat up precious floor time.

“You ought to be able to prove that you’re a citizen of this country in order to be able to vote. How we get to that vote remains to be seen,” Thune told reporters this week.

House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., said he expected to see “a lot of public pressure on the Senate to move that bill to the president.” Billionaire Elon Musk has used his social media platform to post repeatedly in favor of the bill, and conservative influencer Scott Presler has [made the rounds](#) on the Hill this week to back it.

Noncitizens are already barred from voting in federal elections, and documented cases of voter fraud are [rare](#). The measure’s photo ID requirement would take effect immediately following the bill’s enactment, with the changes applying to all federal elections.

The measure would require states to submit voter registration lists to the Homeland Security Department to be compared to its database of citizens. It would allow noncitizens found to be on the voter list to be investigated for potential deportation.

It would also allow private individuals to sue election officials for registering people to vote who have not presented documentary proof of citizenship.

Democrats have criticized the bill for its limits on ac-

ceptable forms of ID for registration, which they say would make it difficult to vote for people who can’t afford a passport or who have changed their last names, as many married women do not change their birth certificates to match. The bill would require those who have changed their names to provide additional documentation to establish citizenship, including the option to sign an affidavit.

Virginia Democratic Rep. Jennifer McClellan described the measure as a “modern-day poll tax,” citing the cost of various forms of ID and recalling how members of her family “fought tooth and nail” for voting rights.

“My great-grandfather at the turn of the 19th century - in the name of making sure that citizens voted and election integrity - had to take a literacy test and find three white men to vouch for his character,” she said during Wednesday’s floor debate. “History may not repeat itself, but it sure does rhyme.”

Savannah Behrmann and Valerie Yurk contributed to this report.

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Border officials said to have caused El Paso closure by firing anti-drone laser

KAROUN DEMIRJIAN, ERIC SCHMITT,
KATE KELLY AND HAMED ALEAZIZ

WASHINGTON -- The abrupt closure of the airspace of El Paso, Texas, late Tuesday was precipitated when Customs and Border Protection officials deployed an anti-drone laser on loan from the Department of Defense without giving aviation officials enough time to assess the risks to commercial aircraft, according to multiple people briefed on the situation.

The episode led the Federal Aviation Administration to abruptly declare that the nearby airspace would be shut down for 10 days, an extraordinary pause that was quickly lifted Wednesday morning at the direction of the White House.

Top administration officials quickly claimed that the closure was in response to a sudden incursion of drones from Mexican drug cartels that required a military response, with Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy declaring in a social media post that “the threat has been neutralized.”

But that assertion was undercut by multiple people familiar with the situation, who said that the FAA’s extreme move came



Passengers check in at the American Airlines counter at El Paso International Airport after the airport reopened in El Paso, Texas, on Wednesday. The abrupt closure of the airspace over the city was precipitated when Customs and Border Protection officials deployed an anti-drone laser on loan from the Department of Defense without giving aviation officials enough time to assess the risks to commercial aircraft, according to sources.

after immigration officials this week used an anti-drone laser shared by the Pentagon without coordination with the FAA. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

CBP officials thought they were firing on a cartel drone, the people said, but it turned out to be a party balloon. Defense Department officials were present during the incident, one person said.

The Defense Department and the Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The FAA declined to comment.

The military has been developing high-energy laser technology to intercept and destroy drones, which the Trump administration has said are being used by Mexican cartels to track Border Patrol agents and smuggle drugs into the United States.

The airspace closure provoked a significant backlash

from local officials and sharp questions by lawmakers on Capitol Hill, including some Republicans, who expressed skepticism about the administration's version of the events.

"At this point, the details of what exactly occurred over El Paso are unclear," Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, chair of the Senate Commerce Committee that oversees the aviation agency, told reporters Wednesday after attending a closed-door briefing with Bryan Bedford, the FAA administrator.

Cruz and Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, both said they wanted a classified briefing on the incident from the FAA and the Defense Department.

Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island, the top Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, also rejected the administration's explanations.

"A 10-day shutdown of a major U.S. air corridor is an extraordinary step that demands a clear and consistent explanation," Reed said in a statement. "The conflicting accounts coming from different parts of the federal government only deepen public concern and raise serious questions about coordination and decision-making."

According to four people briefed on the situation, Pentagon and FAA officials were set to meet Feb. 20 to discuss the safety implications of deploying the military's new anti-drone technology, which

was being tested. But the FAA's urgency intensified after CBP officials deployed the technology.

It was not clear if that incident alone prompted the FAA's decision to close the airspace over El Paso. FAA officials did not respond to questions about the claims by Duffy and other administration officials that a subsequent drone incursion had necessitated the closure of the airspace starting at 11:30 p.m. local time. A Transportation Department spokesperson did not respond to inquiries about whether a party balloon had been fired upon this week.

But according to the people briefed on the matter, at the time FAA officials closed the airspace, the agency had not yet completed a safety assessment of the risks the new technology could pose to other aircraft. Two of the people added that FAA officials had warned the Pentagon that if they were not given sufficient time and information to conduct their review, they would have no choice but to shut down the nearby airspace.

The FAA's initial closure announcement late Tuesday, which cited "special security reasons," barred all aircraft from flying in the area around El Paso below 18,000 for 10 days – until one day after the Feb. 20 meeting had been scheduled to take place.

They did not alert the White House or the Pentagon ahead of time that they were shutting

down the airspace, a senior administration official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The move also blindsided El Paso officials.

"I want to be very, very clear that this should've never happened," El Paso Mayor Renard Johnson said in a news conference Wednesday morning. "You cannot restrict airspace over a major city without coordinating with the city, the airport, the hospitals, the community leadership."

"That failure to communicate is unacceptable," he added.

Federal agencies largely stayed mum on the controversy, even in its aftermath. Bedford, the agency's administrator, declined to answer reporters' questions following a closed-door briefing with senators at the Capitol on Wednesday evening. Earlier Wednesday, a Pentagon spokesperson repeated the military's assertion that it had responded to a drone incursion.

A senior administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to address the dispute, challenged the claim of a failure of communication, saying that the Pentagon and the Department of Transportation had been coordinating with the aviation agency for months and that it had been assured that there was no threat to commercial air travel.

The official also said this was not the first time that cartel drones at the border had been

disabled by military and immigration enforcement personnel acting jointly, describing their roles as two parts of an “ongoing interagency operation.”

The Trump administration has been vocal about its plans to fight Mexican drug cartels and neutralize the drones some are using as part of their operations, even as Mexico’s leaders reject claims that they have been involved in cross-border incursions.

“There is no information about the use of drones at the border,” President Claudia Sheinbaum of Mexico said in a morning news conference, shortly after news broke about the temporary closure of the El Paso airspace.

In July, Steven Willoughby, deputy director of the counter-drone program at the Homeland Security Department, testified before Congress that 27,000 drones had flown within 500 meters of the border over six months in 2024, piloted by organizations hostile to law enforcement.

Those drones can cause major disruptions to American infrastructure, Willoughby said, adding that his program works with the FAA “to properly coordinate the use of each piece of equipment at specific locations and times to ensure that impacts to the national airspace system are minimized.”

The day after Willoughby’s testimony, Sheinbaum disputed his assertion, saying in a news conference that Mexican of-

ficials had observed the cartels using drones against one another inside Mexican territory, but not at the border. Speaking at the same news conference in July, Raymundo Pedro Morales Ángeles, Mexico’s navy secretary, insisted that the cartels’ drones “have not been detected at the border.”

In the United States, where many officials accept cartel drone incursions as established fact, some wondered why this particular incident would have prompted such an uncommonly sweeping response from the FAA.

“There have been drone incursions from Mexico going back to as long as drones existed,” Rep. Veronica Escobar, the Texas Democrat representing El Paso in Congress, said at a news conference. “This is not unusual, and there was nothing extraordinary about any drone incursion into the U.S. that I’m aware of.”

In general, the FAA goes to great lengths to avoid closing airports to traffic, because unplanned closures, even when they happen for just a few hours, can wreak havoc on air travel. Even in a high-risk security situation, FAA airspace closures are usually limited.

On Jan. 3, for example, when the U.S. military captured Nicolás Maduro, the Venezuelan leader, and his wife, the FAA issued emergency orders barring U.S. flights from operating in the region around Venezuela and closing U.S.-controlled air-

space in other parts of the Caribbean for only 24 hours.

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House lawmakers spar over harms of potential DHS shutdown

CHRIS JOHNSON

WASHINGTON - Republicans and Democrats sparred Wednesday on the potential real-world harms of a partial shutdown for the Department of Homeland Security, as Congress marched toward a funding deadline for the agency amid a dispute over immigration enforcement policies.

The House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee held a hearing with officials from five national security and emergency management agencies to highlight what would happen if a continuing resolution expires Saturday without further action from Congress.

The subcommittee's chairman, Mark Amodei, R-Nev., said that "a shutdown has gone from a distinct possibility to a probability" and noted that the missions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection "will largely not be affected by a shutdown" because it is funded by last year's budget reconciliation law.

Instead, the pain will be felt by employees at the Trans-



On Wednesday, House Republicans said that a failure to pass Department of Homeland Security funding would hurt employees at the Transportation Security Administration, Secret Service and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, who will have to work without a paycheck. Disaster relief would be reduced just weeks after a massive winter storm affected wide swaths of the country.

portation Security Administration, Secret Service and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency who will have to work without a paycheck, he said, and disaster relief would be reduced just weeks after a massive winter storm affected wide swaths of the country.

"The good work that the department does outside of immigration enforcement will come to a screeching halt," Amodei said.

House Appropriations ranking member Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., said at the hearing she would not provide another penny for immigration enforcement without policy changes, but she said Republican leadership "will bear the responsibility for the impacts that we will hear about today."

DeLauro introduced a bill Wednesday that would provide full-year funding for every agency covered under the Homeland Security bill for a full

year, except ICE and CBP. That includes the Federal Emergency Management Agency, CISA, Coast Guard, TSA and the Secret Service, along with other programs covered by the bill.

"The Republicans want to continue to defend a rogue, lawless agency that is terrorizing people," DeLauro said. "That's going to be a long negotiation. We shouldn't hold these other agencies hostage."

Asked about the prospects for a DHS bill minus ICE and CBP funds, Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., appeared skeptical but declined to rule out the possibility.

"Why would we prohibit funding for a very important function of the U.S. government?" he told reporters. "I think that's something they've got to determine, and it's up to the White House."

While most Democrats have said they don't support another temporary extension, House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee ranking member Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, said he would be open to a stopgap measure.

"I can't speak for anybody [else], but I'm willing to do a short CR so we can work this out," Cuellar said.

He noted that the top four leaders of the Appropriations committees had reached an agreement on the fiscal 2026 Homeland Security spending bill, which passed the House before a second fatal shooting in Minneapolis by immigration

enforcement agents.

The primary legislative action is a vote on Thursday in the Senate, where negotiations did not show outward signs of progress. Democrats have insisted on a variety of policies they want to include in the bill to rein in what they say are the department's abuses.

"We're 3 days away from a DHS shutdown and Republicans have not gotten serious about negotiating a solution that reins in ICE and stops the violence. Democrats will not support a CR to extend the status quo," Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., said on social media.

Agency impacts

During the subcommittee hearing, Madhu Gottumukkala, acting director of CISA, estimated that one-third of crucial workers would have to continue working without pay "even when the nation-state actors intensify efforts to exploit the systems that Americans rely on."

"A shutdown would degrade our capacity to provide timely and actionable guidance to help partners defend their networks," Gottumukkala said. "Operations would be constrained and service delivery delayed in core mission areas such as cyber response, security assessments, stakeholder engagements, training exercises and special event planning."

Ha Nguyen McNeill, acting administrator of TSA, recounted the experience of her workers

during the last government shutdown, recalling increased rates of unscheduled absences and localized spikes in wait times for flights.

"The mental and emotional toll that it takes on our workforce cannot be understated," McNeill said. "We saw a lot of folks have to take on second jobs, making for extremely long workdays."

McNeill said TSA experienced a 25 percent increase in its workforce attrition rate during the last shutdown compared with the same period in the previous year, which she said "is quite concerning if we're looking at another potential shutdown."

Matthew Quinn, deputy director of the Secret Service, said a shutdown would complicate efforts to acquire new counter-drone technology the agency needs to purchase now in anticipation of future events, such as the World Cup in 2026 and the presidential election in 2028.

"Supply chain issues are - they're terrible," Quinn said. "Within that particular capability, we're looking at sometimes six months. If we aren't ordering today, we're looking at not having specific amounts of gear to be able to support the mission, not to mention what we're looking forward to in 2028 and beyond."

Gregg Phillips, associate administrator of the Office of Response and Recovery at FEMA, said there would be difficulties coordinating with state

and local officials during a shutdown as well as providing payments under the Disaster Relief Fund, even though those actions would continue on an emergency basis.

"Make no mistake that our ability to process any payments under the DRF is going to be diminished when, if there is a lapse," Phillips said.

Adm. Thomas Allan, the acting vice commandant of the Coast Guard, estimated a shutdown would halt pay for 56,000 active-duty reserve and civilian personnel, in addition to halting planned activities and maintenance needed for readiness.

"Our cutters, aircraft and boats further degrade as scheduled maintenance is deferred and the flow of spare parts is cut off," Allan said. "This results in grounded aircraft, static cutters and a multimillion-dollar part backlog that takes time to fix."

Aidan Quigley and Valerie Yurk contributed to this report.

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6 House Republicans defy Trump, join Dems to end Canada tariffs

ALICIA DIAZ AND ERIK WASSON

WASHINGTON - The Republican-led U.S. House passed legislation aimed at ending President Donald Trump's tariffs on Canada, signaling a growing anxiety over the White House's economic agenda before midterm elections focused heavily on affordability.

Trump has threatened to veto similar measures, making it unlikely the legislation will ever become law. But defections from six Republicans, alongside opposition from nearly all Democrats, underscore Trump's increasingly tenuous hold on the narrow House majority.

The vote represents an increase in political pressure to change course just months before the elections, including by forcing swing-district Republicans affected by the tariffs to weigh when or if to cross the president by voting against his agenda.

The measure's passage comes as Trump privately weighs quitting the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade pact he signed during his first term, a decision that would worsen trade tensions in North America. About 80% of goods



The Republican-led U.S. House passed legislation aimed at ending President Donald Trump's tariffs on Canada, signaling a growing anxiety over the White House's economic agenda before midterm elections focused heavily on affordability.

imported from Canada meet USMCA criteria and are exempt from tariffs.

Republicans are fighting to maintain control of both the House and Senate this November, a job made more difficult by the president's slipping approval in polls on the economy and immigration.

Democrats have outperformed expectations in a series of elections over the last several months, including the Miami mayoral race and the New Jersey and Virginia governor's races. In recent weeks, a solid

Republican Texas state Senate seat flipped blue in a 31-point swing toward Democrats.

Primary election threat

Before the elections in November, though, will come a series of House and Senate primary races, in which voters decide which candidates will represent their parties. Trump, whose primary endorsements weigh heavily, made clear even as the votes were being cast on Wednesday evening that there would be political consequences for any Republicans who

crossed him on the issue.

“Any Republican, in the House or the Senate, that votes against TARIFFS will seriously suffer the consequences come Election time, and that includes Primaries!” Trump wrote in a social media post. “TARIFFS have given us Economic and National Security, and no Republican should be responsible for destroying this privilege.”

Republicans Thomas Massie of Kentucky, Don Bacon of Nebraska, Kevin Kiley of California, Jeff Hurd of Colorado, Dan Newhouse of Washington state and Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania sided with Democrats.

Newhouse told reporters later that “the trading relationships between Canada and the state of Washington is pretty intertwined with a high value of exports and imports. There are a lot of Canadian employers in my district that employ a lot of people.”

That Wednesday’s vote happened at all represented a blow to House Speaker Mike Johnson, a top Trump ally who had spearheaded a block on bringing tariff-related bills to the floor for months. That ended Tuesday when three Republicans joined Democrats in rejecting another extension of the blockade.

Afterward, Johnson said he had met with Trump earlier Wednesday and that he understood that he could veto the measure if it were ever ap-

proved by the Senate. “It doesn’t really affect the trajectory of what he’s doing,” Johnson added. “There’s proof that his trade policy is working.”

The speaker had argued the chamber should keep the ban in place until the Supreme Court ruled on whether Trump’s global tariffs, which he put in place citing an emergency, are legal. That opinion could be released as soon as Feb. 20.

Chuck Schumer, the Senate Democratic leader, said, “Both chambers have now rejected his phony ‘emergency’ and his fabricated trade war. The Supreme Court should take notice.”

Trump has long held that tariffs are not just a tool in and of themselves; they also strengthen his hand in negotiations with other nations when making trade deals.

“Canada has taken advantage of the United States on Trade for many years. They are among the worst in the World to deal with, especially as it relates to our Northern Border. TARIFFS make a WIN for us, EASY. Republicans must keep it that way!” Trump said.

The Republican-controlled Senate has also voted to abandon Trump’s Brazil tariffs and emergency global duties, in addition to the Canada tariffs.

Political pressure

However, since joint resolutions must be signed by the president to become law, or passed overwhelmingly to over-

ride a veto, it’s unlikely lawmakers can force him to abandon his signature economic policy through legislation alone.

Representative Gregory Meeks, a New York Democrat, is expected to force other tariff-related legislation onto the floor, including measures to end the White House duties on Brazil and Mexico.

“It’s time we end the so-called national emergency, because the only emergency here is the economic one created by Trump’s tariffs,” Meeks said Wednesday. “Americans are paying more for health care and their daily essentials during an affordability crisis, all because of a manufactured emergency and one man’s ego.”

With assistance from John Harney.

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Agents scour hills near Guthrie home after man questioned, released

NICHOLAS BOGEL-BURROUGHS

TUCSON, Ariz. -- FBI agents were scouring roadways in the foothills near Nancy Guthrie's home north of Tucson, Arizona, on Wednesday, hours after the release of a man who was detained during a traffic stop near the Mexican border and questioned in relation to her disappearance.

The man's release, hours after chilling video footage of a suspect was provided to the public, appeared to leave investigators no closer to solving the case that has mesmerized much of America since the 84-year-old mother of "Today" show host Savannah Guthrie vanished 11 days ago.

A sheriff's department spokesperson said the man was apprehended late Tuesday by deputies following up on "incoming leads." In an interview early Wednesday after he was released by authorities, the man, who identified himself only as Carlos, said he had not heard about the Nancy Guthrie case. "I hope they get the suspect, because I'm not it," he said, speaking on the doorstep of his home in Rio Rico, Arizona, about an hour's drive



An image captured by a doorbell security camera at Nancy Guthrie's house in Tucson, Ariz., on the morning of her disappearance. New images and videos released on Tuesday showed a masked, armed person at Nancy Guthrie's doorstep on the night the 84-year-old was abducted.

south of Nancy Guthrie's suburban home just outside of Tucson.

Footage released by law enforcement authorities on Tuesday revealed a masked person on Guthrie's porch about the time that she is believed to have vanished from her neighborhood early on Feb. 1. The person is wearing a ski mask, gloves and a backpack, and appears to be armed with a pistol.

Authorities have said they are investigating Guthrie's disappearance as a kidnapping, and Savannah Guthrie and her

siblings have released a series of videos pleading with whoever is involved to reach out to them. They said they were prepared to listen to ransom demands.

Here's what else is happening:

Rio Rico search: The FBI and the Pima County Sheriff's Department carried out what they described as a "court-authorized search" in Rio Rico, which had been completed by early Wednesday morning. A woman at the home being searched said that her son-in-law, the man detained for ques-

tioning in the case, had been delivering food when he was stopped by police.

Chilling video: The 44 seconds of silent, black-and-white surveillance footage released Tuesday shows a masked figure approaching Guthrie's house and raising a gloved hand to block a Nest doorbell camera. The camera was eventually disabled, making the footage initially inaccessible until it could be recovered from backups.

Timeline: Guthrie's older daughter, Annie, and her son-in-law, Tommaso Cioni, were the last people to see her before she vanished. Cioni drove Guthrie home from dinner on Jan. 31. Hours later, around 1:47 a.m., the front door camera was disconnected. Investigators believe that she was most likely taken soon after.

Ransom demand: Authorities had said last week that they were reviewing a message sent to a Tucson television station, but did not confirm that it was related to a purported ransom note sent earlier, which demanded millions of dollars in bitcoin.

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Trump: 'Nothing definitive' came out of meeting with Netanyahu on Iran

AARON BOXERMAN

President Donald Trump said he told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel on Wednesday that he “insisted that negotiations with Iran continue” over a possible deal over the country’s nuclear program, as the Middle East remained on edge over American threats to attack.

Trump said in a post on social media that “nothing definitive” came out of his meeting with Netanyahu at the White House. He said he told the Israeli leader that he preferred a deal with Iran but warned that without one, “we will just have to see what the outcome will be.”

Trump and Netanyahu have met repeatedly since Trump began his second term, reflecting the extent to which cascading crises in the Gaza Strip, Israel and Iran have commanded the president’s attention. During a 12-day war between Israel and Iran last year, Trump ordered stealth bombers to join Israel in attacking Iran’s nuclear facilities.

Tensions in recent weeks have spurred fear of renewed conflict: After anti-government



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrives at the White House for a closed-door meeting with President Donald Trump in Washington on Wednesday. Netanyahu said that the top priority in his talks with Trump would be the ongoing negotiations with Iran, as he presses for a tougher U.S. approach to Tehran's ballistic missile program.

protests in Iran prompted a brutal crackdown that killed thousands, Trump ordered a buildup of U.S. forces in the region and threatened to attack unless Iran cut a deal with Washington.

Netanyahu had initially planned to travel to Washington later this month. But he announced last week that he would move up his visit to discuss Trump’s continuing negotiations with Iran over its nuclear and weapons program, which Israel considers an existential threat.

While Trump has mostly emphasized that Iran must agree to “no nuclear weapons,” Israel is also concerned about Iran’s stockpiles of ballistic missiles. Iranian forces fired scores of missiles at Israel during their war last year, some of which landed in densely populated cities despite the country’s sophisticated aerial defenses.

In a statement after his meeting with Trump on Wednesday, Netanyahu said he had “emphasized Israel’s security needs in the context of the

negotiations” with Iran without providing specifics.

The crisis in Iran began late last year, when economic protests prompted by spiraling inflation escalated into a mass movement challenging the country’s authoritarian government. Iranian leaders began a brutal crackdown that left thousands dead and quelled the demonstrations.

In response, Trump sent an aircraft carrier and other U.S. forces to the Middle East. He has since vacillated between threatening to attack Iran and seeking a favorable diplomatic settlement.

Last week, senior officials from the United States and Iran met for talks in Oman, the Gulf country that has often served as a mediator between the two adversaries. But the sides did not appear to have made much progress.

U.S. officials have demanded an end to Iranian nuclear enrichment, restrictions on the construction of ballistic missiles and for Iran to stop sponsoring armed groups like Hezbollah across the Middle East. Iran has insisted that the talks be confined to its nuclear program and that its ballistic missile arsenal cannot be negotiated away.

Netanyahu has called for a broad deal with Iran, saying last week that the talks must include restricting Iranian missiles and proxy militias. He was fiercely critical of the Obama-era 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, from which Trump later withdrew.

Trump has suggested that he could take military action against Iran should the talks break down, as they did in June during the Israel-Iran war. While Trump initially claimed that the Iranian nuclear project had been obliterated, U.S. intelligence later determined that it had been damaged, not destroyed.

“Time is running out,” Trump wrote on social media in late January, adding that “the next attack will be far worse” than last year’s assault.

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How hate groups, terrorists use gaming platforms to recruit young children

PRANAV BASKAR

Taking a page from the child molesters' playbook, hate groups and terrorist organizations are exploiting games such as Minecraft and Roblox and other popular online platforms to recruit a new generation of extremists, researchers say.

Across Europe and North America, children now account for 42% of terrorism-related investigations -- a threefold rise since 2021, according to the United Nations' Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, an agency that identifies emerging terrorism trends. In Europe, from 20% to 30% of the counterterrorism workload now involves minors as young as 12 and 13, according to unpublished data compiled by the International Center for Counter-Terrorism, a research group in The Hague.

"It's a trend that has been taken to the extreme," said the organization's director, Thomas Renard. He called the numbers "shocking" and like "nothing we have ever seen before."

Violent ideological groups from across the political spectrum, attuned to the online era, are finding new members faster



Arno Michaelis, a former neo-Nazi who now helps families affected by extremism, at a talk with high-schoolers in Boca Raton, Fla., on Feb. 4. Hate groups are increasingly using games and other online platforms to draw children to their causes. "It's a big concern to me that the recruitment has moved outside of social media through platforms that parents would think are more innocuous," Michaelis said.

than governments are devising strategies to respond, U.N. investigators say.

As extremists' recruitment evolves, the age of people entering their fold has been rapidly lowering in the West, according to more than two dozen radicalization experts, youth counselors and people affected by extremism interviewed by The New York Times.

Intelligence agencies in the United States and Australia, for example, have warned of ex-

tremists using video games, including Roblox, and social networking communities such as Discord to recruit and train new conscripts. Researchers have documented digital worlds in games on Minecraft and Roblox where players can simulate terrorist violence and mass shootings, like the 2019 attack on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, in which 51 people were killed.

"Extremists are able to create these games themselves, and if

they make it something children are interested in, they can get a certain profile of child to join,” said Jean Slater, who researches violent extremist movements, with a focus on Roblox. “People just assume regulators have taken care of this, because there’s no way a platform would allow an adult to talk to a 9-year-old.”

Roblox, in a statement to the Times, said content that glorifies hate “has no place” on the platform, and said it used a variety of measures, such as AI detection and monitoring teams, to identify users promoting extremism. “No system is perfect, so we work every day to improve our systems, and we encourage parents to talk to their children about online risks,” it said.

Minecraft, which offers similar creative freedom to host private servers and design maps, has been used to build “propaganda-filled environments, memorialize violent events and embed hate speech,” according to a report by the Global Network on Extremism and Technology, a research group affiliated with King’s College London.

In a statement, Microsoft, which owns Minecraft, wrote that it “prohibits extremist content” and uses “proactive detection technologies” to ensure safety. The company said it uses chat filtering, in-game reporting and parental controls on official servers, and applies “enforcement mechanisms as

needed” on private servers.

Terrorism proceedings involving minors are often shrouded from the public because of the defendants’ ages, making it more difficult to understand how they became radicalized. But in recent years, some high-profile cases have led experts to point to online platforms.

In Britain, in 2022, a 15-year-old girl groomed by a neo-Nazi in Texas became one of the youngest people arrested on terrorism charges after she downloaded bomb-making guides and posted about blowing up a synagogue. She later died by suicide.

In Estonia, a 13-year-old-boy was found in 2020 to be the commander of a self-styled global neo-Nazi group plotting attacks in Western cities through a Telegram channel.

Whether the ideas being instilled in young people now will one day result in acts of violence is impossible to predict, but authorities say they are puzzled by the sudden spike in recruitment. Much of the increase has come in the last year and a half, according to the International Center for Counter-Terrorism, though the rise of extreme content online long precedes that.

In many cases, minors swing between competing belief systems -- from white power to jihadism -- which some argue suggests the problem stems more from loneliness than ideology.

“We can’t always put our finger on why there seems to be a turning point,” Renard said. “Part of it is a bit of a snowball effect. Perhaps what is happening is we are now confronted with several things that come together quite nicely: the first digital generation, young people who grew up with smartphones in their hands and parents who were quite permissive.”

Radical groups across the ideological spectrum have adapted to those generational changes.

Video games are not their only tool. Children are also being radicalized through what U.N. investigators call “sophisticated funnel strategies.” These guide young people from mainstream platforms such as TikTok and X to more extremist communities on channels, including Discord or Telegram, that are less moderated.

Both the FBI and authorities in Canada have also raised alarm recently over so-called com networks, transnational groups of loosely organized nihilist extremists who target children online. Sometimes, they pressure children to film themselves engaging in self-harm or sexually explicit or violent acts, and then use the video as blackmail, according to the FBI.

“For a long time, your typical contact point would be social media,” said Arno Michaelis, a onetime neo-Nazi who now works with Parents for Peace, a U.S.-based group that helps families affected by extremism

across North America. “But it’s a big concern to me that the recruitment has moved outside of social media through platforms that parents would think are more innocuous.”

The far right in particular has made efforts to become more appealing to boys and young men, and less visible to authorities.

One way is through so-called active clubs, all-white combat groups that train young men for the race war they believe is coming. The model has spread across 27 countries, and a quarter of the newly founded groups are “youth clubs” aimed at boys aged 15 to 17, according to the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism.

“It took me a few months to realize I was in it,” said one young Swede who ultimately left the club. “You first believe that people from the Third World don’t belong here. Then you start to believe racial theory.” He spoke on the condition of anonymity because he fears reprisals by members of the club. His account was verified by his counselor.

“At rock bottom,” he said, “I would say if you would ask me then if Hitler did anything wrong, I would have said ‘no.’”

Potential recruits often demonstrate traits that make them seem more vulnerable than other people or socially lost, said Allizandra Herberhold, who works with families and individuals, particularly young women, at Parents for Peace.

“If the fact that you’re white trumps any other achievement, you’re going to cling onto that,” Herberhold said. “It’s the one thing that gives you a sense of purpose and not feel like a total failure.”

Child radicalization has torn some families apart, and there is little escaping it.

In a small coastal town in British Columbia, a 15-year-old girl began chatting online with a man who tagged himself on Discord as a “national socialist groomer,” according to her parents, Ann and Shawn, who asked to be identified only by their middle names to protect their daughter’s privacy. Over the next two years, they said, she became obsessed with Nazism and began cutting herself more intensely, encouraged by an online community of extremists who advised her to resist her family’s help.

“They’re telling her: Don’t take the medication or listen to your parents. Get out of there,” Shawn said. “Those guys were able to emotionally bond her to an ideology -- to this day, she feels like it saved her.”

Now, their daughter lives in a group home and refuses to come home. Her parents, who describe themselves as on the political left, are shocked.

“It’s just completely shattered our world. It’s heartbreaking,” Ann said. “If it can happen in our household, it can happen anywhere.”

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Police identify suspect in mass shooting in Canada

MATINA STEVIS-GRIDNEFF AND VJOSA ISAI

Canadian authorities on Wednesday identified the suspect in a mass shooting in a remote community in British Columbia as an 18-year-old who killed her mother and stepbrother before fatally shooting several others at a local school.

Dwayne McDonald, a deputy commissioner at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in British Columbia, said most of the victims in the small town of Tumbler Ridge were 12- or 13-year-old students killed in their school library. In all, police said, the shooter killed eight people; they had earlier given a mistaken death toll of nine. They also said she had shot and killed herself.

McDonald said the suspect, Jesse Van Rootselaar, was biologically born male and began transitioning to female six years ago. He added that police would continue identifying her as a female. He said authorities were not yet able to say why the suspect had carried out the killing spree, one of the worst in Canadian history.

Van Rootselaar and her family were known to authorities, McDonald said, adding that police had last visited the home in



Police officers and investigators work outside the high school building where a mass shooting took place in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, on Wednesday. Canadian police said an 18-year-old carried out the shooting in a remote mining town, killing six people at a local school after slaying her mother and stepbrother, then killing herself.

the spring for mental health issues that included self-harm.

“Police had attended that residence on a number of occasions over the last several years dealing with concerns of mental health with our suspect,” McDonald said, referring to the home where the suspect’s mother and stepbrother were found dead. On one of those occasions, he said, “firearms were seized.”

He added that the police, who arrived at the school while the suspect was still shooting, had recovered a long gun and a modified handgun from the

scene.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said Tuesday afternoon that nine bodies had been recovered: those of six victims and the suspected shooter at the local secondary school, and two others at the private residence.

In addition, police said, two people were severely wounded and airlifted to a hospital, where they were in critical but stable condition. Officials had earlier said at least 25 people were wounded, but police clarified Wednesday that 25 people were assessed for possible in-

juries, but the majority were not physically hurt.

“This morning, families in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, woke to a different world,” Prime Minister Mark Carney said Wednesday, speaking in Parliament. “Parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters began this day as their first day on earth without someone they loved dearly.”

Switching to French, Carney, who teared up earlier speaking to reporters, said, “parents in Tumbler Ridge sent their children off to school on Tuesday, and some will never be able to hug their children again.”

Pierre Poilievre, leader of the Conservative Party and of the parliamentary opposition, said: “No parent should ever have to fear that their child will not return home from school. No parent should ever bury their own child.”

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said the suspect died of a self-inflicted wound.

The scale of the shooting is devastating for the remote town of just 2,400 people, on the eastern flank of the Rockies, where few people are strangers. Tumbler Ridge boomed and then declined in the last century along with the local coal mining industry, and has been attempting a comeback based on outdoor tourism.

“It’s a town of miners, teachers, construction workers, families who have built their lives there, people who have always shown up for each other,”

through recessions, wildfires and other crises, Carney said.

“Tumbler Ridge represents the very best of Canada: resilient, compassionate and strong.”

Here’s what else to know:

Canadian leader: Carney suspended his planned travel to Germany, where he was scheduled to give a speech Friday at the Munich Security Conference, an annual global defense and foreign policy forum. Messages of support and condolences poured in from global leaders.

Royal reaction: King Charles III, who is the head of state of Canada, issued a statement on Wednesday together with his wife, Queen Camilla: “We can only express our deepest possible sympathy to the families who are grieving the unimaginable loss of their loved ones and those awaiting news from (the) hospital,” they said.

Rare mass shooting: The violence in Tumbler Ridge was the second mass casualty event in British Columbia in the past 12 months but a rare mass shooting for Canada. The deadliest in the country’s history took place in Nova Scotia in 2020, when a gunman killed 22 other people in multiple locations, then killed himself.

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Democrats push for transparency on Venezuelan oil money controlled by US

CARL HULSE AND ROBERT JIMISON

WASHINGTON -- Congressional Democrats are escalating their efforts to ensure more oversight of hundreds of millions of dollars in Venezuelan oil proceeds being controlled by the Trump administration in what they say is an unregulated and opaque arrangement susceptible to corruption.

Top Senate Democrats introduced legislation Wednesday calling on the White House to submit to independent accounting of the funds and their uses after lawmakers unsuccessfully pressed Cabinet officials for justification for the administration's approach. Democrats said their goal was to force the administration to close offshore accounts holding the money and instead use domestic financial institutions that would be subject to congressional oversight.

They said President Donald Trump's plan for the money, which he asserted in a social media post last month would be "controlled by me," was his latest attempt to make an end run around Congress and the law.

"The American people de-



A refinery in Punto Fijo, Venezuela, on Dec. 29, 2021. Congressional Democrats are escalating their efforts to ensure more oversight of hundreds of millions of dollars in Venezuelan oil proceeds being controlled by the Trump administration in what they say is an unregulated and opaque arrangement susceptible to corruption.

serve to know what's happening with the money received from these Venezuelan oil payments and where -- and to whom -- they are going," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., the minority leader, who proposed the measure along with Sen. Adam Schiff, D-Calif.

He added, "There is no reason that Trump should be circumventing the U.S. banking system and lining the pockets of his big oil buddies rather than driving down costs for hard-working Americans."

The legislation comes after Democratic members of the House and Senate were not satisfied with explanations from administration officials about how they were handling the supervision and disbursement of as much as \$500 million in proceeds from the sale of Venezuelan oil under U.S. authority. Officials said the money is being held in a Qatari account.

During recent testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary

of State Marco Rubio framed the approach as an emergency arrangement to avert chaos and ensure stability through a transition period after the United States removed Venezuela's leader, Nicolás Maduro. Rubio repeatedly promised that audits would be conducted, but he acknowledged that major elements of the arrangement were still being established.

Rubio's assurances were thrown into doubt just days later during a House hearing with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. Bessent said he was not aware of a finalized agreement governing the Venezuelan oil funds and confirmed that no audit agreement was in place. When asked repeatedly under what statutory authority the Treasury Department was exercising custody and control over the money, Bessent cited the International Emergency Economic Powers Act but struggled to explain how it applied. He promised to "get back" to lawmakers with a written explanation.

Democrats who participated in the hearings said it appeared there was no legal underpinning for how the administration was collecting, banking or disbursing the money.

"Neither I nor any of my colleagues have any idea under what legal authority the United States is claiming title to the sovereign assets of another country," said Rep. Sean Casten, D-Ill., who questioned Bessent on the issue. He noted

that comparable cases of the United States seeking to control foreign oil, such as in Iraq, were backed by congressional authorization and U.N. Security Council approval.

Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, also raised questions about the legality of the system after he questioned Rubio.

"It is not obvious to me that they have permission to just establish an overseas account," Schatz said.

He and other lawmakers said the administration was operating outside the appropriations process and federal law that requires it spend only money appropriated by Congress or deposit excess dollars it collects into the Treasury under the control of Congress.

"If it were to be expended, then I think it is subject to something called 'miscellaneous receipts,' and the money would have to be appropriated," Schatz said in an interview, referring to the law that requires federal officials to hand over any money to the Treasury unless they are explicitly authorized by another statute not to. "I don't think they know what their plan is."

Administration spending to advance foreign policy objectives outside congressional scrutiny has led to trouble in the past. The Iran-Contra scandal of the mid-1980s occurred when the Reagan administration diverted proceeds from secret arms sales to Iran to support anti-communist rebels in

Nicaragua despite a congressional prohibition on doing so.

The administration says its handling of the oil money is intended to prevent creditors who are owed huge sums by Venezuela from trying to seize the funds. That framework is backed by an executive order from January declaring the oil revenue to be the "sovereign property of the government of Venezuela held in custody by the United States, and not as the property of the United States," while authorizing the U.S. Treasury to release it as directed by the secretary of State.

Casten warned that without clear legal authority and formal controls, the arrangement could amount to a "fraudulent conveyance" or illegal transfer of property to avoid creditors, especially given both Qatar and Venezuela's history of corruption and the involvement of oil traders previously accused of bribery. The administration has countered that the money never technically enters U.S. hands, a distinction Rubio repeatedly emphasized at his hearing.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, the top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, warned that "America's dollars are still going to drug runners and to significant organizations who we don't want to have benefit from the funding."

Rubio conceded that U.S. officials were "dealing with individuals that have been involved in things that in our system

would not be acceptable,” but insisted the arrangement was temporary.

“We are in the transition and stabilization phase,” he said. “By no means is our policy to leave in place something permanent that’s as corrupt as you’ve described.”

Whether the new legislation can attract any GOP backing is in question, but some Republicans have privately questioned the legality of the Trump administration’s handling of the oil money. The proposed legislation calls for the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office to begin an audit within 30 days of its approval and to issue its findings to Congress within 90 days of completing its work. It is also to report to Congress if the administration obstructs its efforts.

“The American people deserve to know more about this scheme and where the money is going,” Schiff said. “This independent audit would help deliver answers.”

In related news, Energy Secretary Chris Wright met Venezuela’s acting President Delcy Rodríguez in Caracas on Wednesday, according to the U.S. agency.

Wright said Trump was committed to fundamentally reshaping relations between the two countries. The visit is intended to advance “prosperity, safety, and security for Venezuela, the United States, and the entire Western Hemisphere.”

During the trip, Wright is also expected to meet Venezuelan business leaders and visit some of the country’s oil fields.

Rodríguez has been acting president since early January, after U.S. special forces captured Maduro. She previously held the vice presidency.

German press agency dpa contributed to this report.

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NATO launches Arctic mission after Trump's Greenland threats

ANDREA PALASCIANO

NATO will boost its Arctic presence with a new mission after U.S. President Donald Trump prompted an alliance crisis over his attempts to take Greenland.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization announced the mission, dubbed “Arctic Sentry,” on Wednesday, a day before the group’s defense ministers gather in Brussels.

The move comes just weeks after Trump brought the transatlantic partnership to the brink of rupture with his claims over Greenland, a territory of NATO-ally Denmark. Trump ultimately relented, for now, after a meeting with alliance Secretary General Mark Rutte.

NATO said Arctic Sentry builds on that meeting and will allow the alliance to better coordinate its actions in the region.

The subject will inevitably come up during the Thursday meeting.

NATO has been working to reinforce its Arctic presence since Trump started insisting in January that he be allowed to annex Greenland, a largely ice-covered island growing in strategic importance as global warming opens up more territory and shipping routes.



NATO will boost its Arctic presence with a new mission after President Donald Trump prompted an alliance crisis over his attempts to take Greenland.

NATO launched a similar Eastern Sentry mission in 2025 after numerous Russian drones and even jets violated the alliance’s airspace. Like that endeavor, the Arctic Sentry mission will mainly reorganize existing assets.

The alliance’s Arctic members, including recent joiners Sweden and Finland, have long been calling for NATO to take the northern region more seriously.

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News in brief

Report: Zelenskyy could schedule presidential election by May 15

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is planning to schedule a presidential election and a peace referendum by May 15 under pressure from the United States, the Financial Times reported on Wednesday.

The British newspaper cited Ukrainian and Western officials familiar with the matter but did not quote Zelenskyy himself.

According to the report, Zelenskyy could announce the election on Feb. 24, the fourth anniversary of the Russian invasion. Then there would be a vote by mid-May to elect a president and to approve a peace agreement with Russia.

The Ukrainian president has already tasked the parliament with preparing the necessary legal changes for an election during wartime. He also reported last week of pressure from the Trump administration to end the war by June.

The U.S. will only provide security guarantees if Kyiv concedes by then, the Financial Times reported. Furthermore, Washington is demanding that Ukraine relinquish the part of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions it still controls.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is planning to schedule a presidential election and a peace referendum by May 15 under pressure from the United States, the Financial Times reported on Wednesday.

The demand for a presidential election in Ukraine originally came from Moscow, because it says Zelenskyy is no longer a legitimate interlocutor after his initial term in office expired. Trump has adopted this demand.

Kyiv has so far pointed out that an election cannot take place due to the martial law imposed as a result of Russia's war. Moreover, it said that organizing a vote under Russian attacks, with hundreds of thousands of men at the front and millions of refugees at home and abroad, is not feasible.

dpa

White House opens meeting to Democratic governors after snub

President Donald Trump is inviting all U.S. governors to meet with him after the White House had sought to keep Democrats out of the annual bipartisan gathering, the National Governors Association said.

The change announced Wednesday came after Oklahoma Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt, the NGA's chairman, held talks with Trump and the White House. The group previously said it would not facilitate the meeting if it remained open to only Republican governors.

Still, Trump on Wednesday said that he still planned to block Wes Moore and Jared Polis, the Democratic governors of Maryland and Colorado, from a dinner scheduled at the White House. He also attacked Stitt as a “RINO” — short for a Republican in Name Only — and said it was “false” that he sought to limit invitations to the events to just his fellow Republicans.

Nevertheless, the broader invitation for the meeting suggests the annual tradition is likely to continue. Stitt informed the governors of the change on Wednesday in a written message, saying that the meeting is scheduled to take place on Feb. 20. He wrote that it was “always” Trump’s intent to invite all governors and described the initial problem as a “misunderstanding in scheduling.”

The initial plan to welcome only Republicans to a traditionally bipartisan annual gathering at White House caused an outcry from Democrats. On Tuesday, 18 Democratic governors said they would boycott the dinner with Trump if all were not welcome.

Trump defended his decision not to invite Moore and Polis to the meal.

“The invitations were sent to ALL Governors, other than two, who I feel are not worthy of being there,” the president posted on social media. “I look forward to seeing the Republican Governors, and some of the

Democrats Governors who were worthy of being invited, but most of whom won’t show up.”

The yearly meeting in Washington has served as a rare bipartisan get-together in the nation’s capital, but recriminations over the plan to exclude Democrats had thrown the conference into chaos.

Bloomberg News

Hegseth cancels participation in NATO meeting

The United States will not be represented at the top level for the second consecutive time at a NATO ministerial meeting this week.

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte confirmed at a news conference in Brussels on Wednesday that, instead of Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Deputy Secretary Elbridge Colby will attend the NATO defense ministers’ meeting on Thursday.

In December, Secretary of State Marco Rubio canceled his participation in a long-planned NATO meeting in Brussels.

It is highly unusual for top U.S. officials not to attend a formal NATO meeting in person.

Rutte, however, downplayed Hegseth’s decision. He said his contacts with top politicians in the White House, the Pentagon and the State Department were as intense as ever.

Of course, NATO is important, but the U.S. side also has to take care of the Pacific region, Rutte said, adding that he fully accepts that the highest-

-ranking ministers cannot always be at meetings in person.

dpa

McConnell released from hospital after ‘flu-like’ symptoms scare

After more than a week in the hospital, U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has been discharged and is working from home for the week, according to a Wednesday statement from a McConnell spokesperson.

The spokesperson wrote that McConnell was released from the hospital Tuesday, eight days after he was initially admitted with “flu-like symptoms.”

“Senator McConnell was discharged from the hospital yesterday and is grateful for the outstanding care he received. He is feeling better and will be working from home this week on the advice of his doctors,” the spokesperson wrote.

McConnell’s hospitalization was the latest in a string of public health scares dating back to at least March 2023, when McConnell tripped at a dinner event in Washington, D.C., and was admitted and then discharged from the hospital several days later.

In 2023, he twice froze for prolonged periods in front of cameras.

A polio survivor, McConnell, 83, also fell in public once in 2024 and twice last year.

Lexington Herald-Leader

New landmine blast tests Thailand-Cambodia ceasefire

A landmine explosion wounded three Thai soldiers near the Cambodian border, in an incident that risks undermining a fragile ceasefire between the two Southeast Asian neighbors.

One soldier lost a leg and two others sustained minor injuries in the blast on Wednesday in Si Sa Ket province, which borders Cambodia, the Thai army said in a statement.

The soldiers were surveying the border area when the landmine exploded and were rushed to the hospital for treatment, according to the army.

The explosion comes after weeks of relative calm following a Dec. 27 ceasefire, reached after renewed clashes along the two countries' 500-mile frontier. Fighting in July and again in December killed dozens and forced hundreds of thousands of residents to flee their homes.

The latest incident could complicate efforts to stabilize one of Southeast Asia's most volatile border disputes. Both sides have repeatedly accused each other of violating truce terms.

Bloomberg News

Easing unemployment supports Fed extending pause on rate cuts

COLBY SMITH

Strong monthly jobs growth and easing unemployment have pushed back expectations about when the Federal Reserve will lower interest rates again, suggesting the central bank is poised for an extended pause.

Data released Wednesday by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed monthly jobs growth of 130,000 positions, almost double what economists had forecast, and the unemployment rate ticking down to 4.3%. That is down from a recent peak of 4.5% in January and slightly lower than December's level.

The unemployment rate has become a focal point for the Fed as it assesses the health of the labor market in the wake of immigration restrictions imposed by President Donald Trump. The crackdown, which has led to a sharp slowdown of migration into the country, has decreased the supply of new workers available for hire. The number of new jobs the economy needs to keep the unemployment rate stable has dropped as a result, with research suggesting it could turn negative by this year. In 2024, the so-called monthly breakeven rate was estimated to be well above 100,000 positions.



A grocery shopper in Seattle on Dec. 29, 2025. Employers added 130,000 jobs in January, the Labor Department reported on Wednesday, in a report delayed by a short government shutdown. The unemployment rate fell to 4.3 percent from 4.4 percent a month earlier.

Financial markets shifted sharply on Wednesday after the jobs report was released, with traders pushing back the timing of the next cut to July from June.

"The window to see a material weakening in the labor market is probably closing," said Stephen Juneau, an economist at Bank of America. "It seems like we have more momentum building in the economy rather than the reverse of that."

The Fed is trying to safeguard the labor market while also ensuring that rates are high enough for inflation to fall back to the central bank's target of

2%. Price pressures have mounted as Trump's tariffs have taken effect, although the overall impact has been more muted than initially expected. Officials at the Fed broadly expect the peak impact from those levies to hit in the first quarter of this year before inflation begins to decelerate again.

January's consumer price index report, set to be released Friday, will give policymakers insight into whether that forecast is bearing out. Economists expect annual inflation to tick down to 2.5% after a 0.3% increase in monthly prices. "Core" inflation, which strips

out volatile food and energy items, is expected to stay sticky at 2.5%, only slightly lower than the previous 2.6% annual pace.

But in a sign that labor-related price pressures remain muted, the employment cost index, a quarterly measure from the Labor Department that tracks changes in wages and benefits, unexpectedly slowed in the final three months of 2025.

Economists at Evercore ISI said that data, which came out Tuesday, confirmed their view that the “economy is cooling under the hood, even though we face up to another six months of elevated tariff pass-through.”

Beyond the impact of tariffs, the Fed is also contending with the prospects of stronger growth in the coming quarters as Americans receive larger refunds as a result of Trump’s new tax cuts. The ongoing boom in artificial intelligence investments is also expected to fuel economic growth. Bank of America’s Juneau described the tax refunds as a “jolt for consumption over the next few months.” He said that, coupled with a likely easing of trade uncertainty ahead of the midterms, could imbue companies with the confidence to hire and invest more in the economy.

“This year, with the midterms, you’re not going to see tariffs really ratcheted up again,” he said.

At the Fed’s meeting just last month, Jerome Powell, the chair, struck a more upbeat tone about the economic outlook. He described the labor market as “stabilizing” after a period of weakness last year and noted that consumer spending and business fixed investment remained strong, even as Americans had grown less confident about the economy.

“The economy has once again surprised us with its strength, not for the first time,” Powell said.

That shift helped to justify the central bank’s decision at that meeting to pause rate cuts after a series of reductions last year. Between September and December, the Fed lowered rates by an aggregate three-quarters of a percentage point to a range of 3.5% to 3.75%.

By the December meeting, the Fed’s policy decisions had become increasingly fraught, reflecting a fissure between policymakers over how to weigh concerns about the labor market versus inflation. Those divisions have lessened, but even January’s vote to hold rates steady was not unanimous.

Stephen I. Miran, who has dissented at every meeting since he joined the Fed in September, voted in favor of a quarter-point cut. He was joined by Christopher J. Waller, a governor who was a finalist to replace Powell as chair when his term is up in May. A few days after that meeting, Trump tapped Kevin M. Warsh, a

former Fed governor, for the job.

In explaining his dissent, Waller said that revisions to the jobs data would likely show no growth in employment last year.

“Zero. Zip. Nada,” Waller said in a statement. “This does not remotely look like a healthy labor market.”

Further cuts appear to hinge on the labor market breaking out of its current “low hire, low fire” state and layoffs beginning to pick up in a more broad-based way, or inflation significantly slowing. Powell last month stopped short of signaling any timeline for future moves, reiterating that the central bank is “well positioned” for the moment and to address any economic challenges. He did, however, downplay the possibility of a rate increase this year.

“We don’t take things off the table, but it isn’t anybody’s base case right now,” Powell said.

Traders still expect rates to fall toward 3% by year-end, but to get there more slowly than before. Many officials believe that 3% rates would shift policy to a “neutral” setting that neither stimulates nor restricts growth. Trump, who said his support of Walsh was contingent on his pushing for lower borrowing costs, has argued for rates to be closer to 1%.

In a social media post on Wednesday after January’s report was released, Trump again called for the country to be paying the lowest interest rate in

the world and said it would lead to cost savings of at least \$1 trillion a year related to payments to service the national debt.

But the Fed does not take into consideration interest payments on the debt when setting policy. It is congressionally mandated to pursue low, stable inflation and a healthy labor market.

“If you’re somewhat in the neutral camp and inflation is above target, then it’s harder for them to make the case to cut,” Priya Misra, a portfolio manager at J.P. Morgan Asset Management, said of the Fed. “They need a clear emergency message from the labor market.”

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Instagram chief says social media not 'clinically addictive' in trial

ELI TAN AND CECILIA KANG

LOS ANGELES --

Instagram's chief executive said Wednesday that social media was not "clinically addictive," disputing claims that the platform prioritized making money over the mental health of young users in a landmark tech addiction case.

The CEO, Adam Mosseri, described Instagram, which is owned by Meta, as a steward of strong safety protocols for teenagers. Social media could cause some harm, he said, but the company is careful to test features used by young people before releasing them. He added that people could be addicted to social media in the same way that they could be addicted to a good television show, but that did not mean they were "clinically addicted," which was more serious.

"There's always trade-off between safety and speech," said Mosseri. "We're trying to be as safe as possible and censor as little as possible."

Mosseri, 43, who has led Instagram since 2018, was the first executive to testify in the bellwether case against Meta and YouTube. The case is part of a flood of lawsuits filed by teenagers, schools and state at-



Instagram CEO Adam Mosseri arrives at the Los Angeles Superior Court before testifying on Wednesday. A 20-year-old California woman sued Meta and YouTube, accusing them of building addictive platforms causing harm to children.

torneys general that claim social media use can lead to addiction comparable to slot machines at casinos and cigarettes.

The tech companies have argued that there is no scientific evidence proving that their platforms cause addiction. They have also pointed to a federal law that protects them from liability for what their users post online.

A win by the plaintiff in this trial, a 20-year old California woman known as K.G.M., or Kaley, could open the door to significant monetary damages in similar lawsuits. The companies may also be forced to change

the designs of their apps.

K.G.M. sued YouTube, TikTok, Snap and Meta, which owns Facebook, in 2023. She accused them of engineering their apps to create compulsive use, leading to body dysmorphia, anxiety and depression.

She settled with Snap and TikTok for undisclosed terms before the trial. Those companies remain defendants in other suits.

In opening statements Monday, her lawyer, Mark Lanier, argued that Instagram and YouTube's apps were akin to "digital casinos." He pointed to internal documents at Meta

and Google, which owns YouTube, that compared the companies' technology to gambling and Big Tobacco.

In its opening statement, Meta argued that K.G.M.'s mental health issues had been caused by familial abuse and turmoil, not social media. The company also presented medical records to show that social media addiction was not a focus of her therapy sessions.

YouTube said it was not a social media company and that its features were not designed to be addictive.

The trial has attracted representatives from tech policy and child safety groups, who filled out the crowded benches in the back of the courtroom. A handful of parents suing Meta and YouTube in separate cases slept overnight outside the courtroom steps to reserve spots in the front row of the gallery.

Wednesday, Lanier grilled Mosseri about Instagram features like beauty filters and infinite scroll, and his annual stock compensation. He asked Mosseri about Meta's old slogan -- "Move fast and break things" -- and contrasted it with how the company framed its safety research. Mosseri said he now used a new slogan, "Slow is smooth, and smooth is fast."

Lanier also presented internal documents from 2019, when Mosseri and the Facebook chief executive, Mark Zuckerberg, considered lifting a ban on beauty filters that mimicked plastic surgery. Other ex-

ecutives implored them to reconsider because the filters could cause body dysmorphia in young users, according to the documents.

"We would rightly be accused of putting growth over responsibility," Nick Clegg, then an executive at Meta, wrote to Mosseri about reversing the ban on beauty filters.

Mosseri and Zuckerberg ultimately chose to reverse the ban.

Lanier also asked Mosseri about his three sons and showed him an internal Meta research report that said children who faced hardship were more likely to be harmed by social media. Lanier asked if companies like Instagram should take extra precautions with children who have traumatic childhoods.

"We do," Mosseri said. "We try to identify all different types of risks."

Answering questions from Phyllis Jones, Meta's lawyer, Mosseri listed some new features that Instagram had created to protect young users, including restricting adult-rated content from teenagers' accounts and muting notifications at night. He rejected the idea that Instagram had to choose between safety and profits, and said keeping users safe aligned with the platform's long-term business goals.

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Meta, TikTok and others agree to teen safety ratings

QUEENIE WONG

Meta, TikTok and Snap will be rated on their teen safety efforts amid rising concern about whether the world's largest social media platforms are doing enough to protect the mental health of young people.

The Mental Health Coalition, a collective of organizations focused on destigmatizing mental health issues, said Tuesday that it is launching standards and a new rating system for online platforms. For the [Safe Online Standards](#) (S.O.S.) program, an independent panel of global experts will evaluate companies on parameters including safety rules, design, moderation and mental health resources.

TikTok, Snap and Meta - the parent company of Facebook and Instagram - will be the first companies to be graded. Discord, YouTube, Pinterest, Roblox and Twitch have also agreed to participate, the coalition said in a news release.

"These standards provide the public with a meaningful way to evaluate platform protections and hold companies accountable - and we look forward to more tech companies signing up for the assessments," Antigone Davis, vice president and global head of safety at Meta, said in a



Meta, TikTok and Snap will be rated on their teen safety efforts amid rising concern about whether the world's largest social media platforms are doing enough to protect the mental health of young people.

statement.

TikTok and Snap executives also expressed their commitment to online safety.

Parents, lawmakers and advocacy groups have criticized online platforms for years over whether they're protecting the safety of billions of users. Despite having rules around what content users aren't allowed to post, they've grappled with moderating harmful content about self-harm, eating disorders, drugs and more.

Meanwhile, technology continues to play a bigger role in people's lives.

The rise of

[artificial intelligence-powered chatbots](#) has heightened [mental health](#) concerns as some teens are turning to technology for companionship. Companies have also faced a flurry of lawsuits over online safety.

This week, a highly watched trial over whether tech companies such as Instagram and YouTube can be held liable for allegedly promoting a harmful product and addicting users to their platforms kicked off in Los Angeles.

TikTok and Snap, the parent company of disappearing-messages app Snapchat, settled for undisclosed sums to avoid the

trial.

In opening statements, one of the lawyers representing the California woman who alleges she became addicted to YouTube and Instagram as a child said the products were designed to be addictive.

Tech companies have denied the allegations made in the lawsuit and say internal documents are being twisted to portray them as villainous when there are other factors, such as childhood trauma, leading to the mental health issues of some of their users.

Meta Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg is expected to testify at the Los Angeles trial. Another trial over a lawsuit that alleges Meta failed to protect children from sexual exploitation and violated New Mexico's consumer protection laws also kicked off this week.

The new ratings were also announced on Tuesday on Safer Internet Day, a global campaign that promotes using technology responsibly, especially among young people. Companies on Tuesday, such as Google, outlined some of the work they've done around safety, including parental controls to set time limits for scrolling through short videos.

The ratings will be color-coded, and companies that perform well on the tests will get a blue shield badge that signals they help reduce harmful content on the platform and their rules are clear. Those that fall short will receive a red rating,

indicating they're not reliably blocking harmful content or lack proper rules. Ratings in other colors indicate whether the platforms have partial protection or whether their evaluations haven't been completed yet.

"By creating a shared framework for accountability, S.O.S. helps move us toward online spaces that better support mental health and well-being," Kenneth Cole, the fashion designer who founded the Mental Health Coalition, said in a statement.

A website for S.O.S. states that technology companies didn't influence the development of the new standards and they aren't funding the project. The Mental Health Coalition, though, has teamed up with Meta in the past on other initiatives. Meta and Google are also listed as "creative partners" on the coalition's website.

The coalition, which is based in New York, didn't immediately respond to an email asking about its funding.

Companies have published their online rules and data on content moderation. Those that are interested in participating in the project voluntarily hand over documents on policies, tools and product features.

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Get more electricity from coal, Trump tells Defense Department

HAYLEY SMITH

President Donald Trump on Wednesday issued an executive order directing the Department of Defense to buy electricity from coal-fired power plants. He also announced new funding to restart and upgrade coal plants in several states.

The executive order directs Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and Secretary of Energy Chris Wright to enter into long-term contracts with coal-fired plants to serve military installations and facilities. The order will “ensure military installations and critical defense facilities have uninterrupted, on-demand baseload power,” the White House said.

The Department of Energy will also award \$175 million for six projects to “extend the useful life of coal-fired power plants” in rural and remote communities, including West Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina, Kentucky and Ohio, the agency said.

Hundreds of coal plants have closed in the United States in recent years as inexpensive and cleaner natural gas and renewables became super-abundant. Coal is relatively inexpensive to produce but is the dirtiest fossil fuel, releasing considerable par-



President Donald Trump hands out pens after signing an executive order during an event on the use of coal in the East Room of the White House in Washington on Wednesday.

ticulate air pollution, sulfur dioxide and mercury, and nearly twice the planet-warming carbon dioxide as natural gas.

Trump announced the initiatives at a White House event where he also received an “Undisputed Champion of Coal” award from the Washington Coal Club, a pro-coal group.

The actions continue the administration’s efforts to turn back the clock on the transition to cleaner energy and reverse efforts to address climate change. In 2025, coal was down to roughly 17% of the country’s electricity generation,

from about 50% in 2000, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

The announcement comes on the eve of the administration’s expected repeal of the endangerment finding—the U.S. government’s longstanding scientific affirmation that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare.

It also comes as Trump takes steps to block electric vehicle initiatives and the development of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar—including ongoing legal battles over offshore wind projects on

the East Coast and challenges to California's authority to set strict tailpipe emission standards.

During Wednesday's event, Trump credited coal with keeping the power on during recent winter storms while "solar and wind totally collapsed."

"I'm not a fan of those crazy windmills that are all made in China," Trump said.

But energy costs are rising across the U.S., and renewables represent the fastest, cheapest and cleanest resources available, said Julie McNamara, associate policy director of the climate and energy program at the nonprofit Union of Concerned Scientists. She described the president's order as a "staggering, staggering waste of money, time and opportunity."

"Forcing the use of increasingly unreliable and relentlessly uneconomic coal plants will risk outages and send high electricity costs higher," McNamara said. "Recklessly slashing health, safety and environmental standards will harm people's health and the environment. Communities that produce coal she said, need "actual, durable transition solutions."

Ted Kelly, director and lead counsel for U.S. Clean Energy at the nonprofit Environmental Defense Fund, said the administration's efforts are "focused on the coal industry's profits, not the costs to American families and businesses."

"This absurd misuse of pub-

lic funds will lead to more air pollution, more asthma and higher electricity bills — all for ancient coal plants that barely work," Kelly said. "At the same time, the Trump administration is blocking and canceling the cleanest, most affordable energy options from the grid, driving up costs even higher."

Kelly noted the costs of coal are increasing: 99% of coal plants cost more to run than would it cost to replace them with renewable energy, according to an analysis from the non-partisan think tank Energy Innovation. A separate analysis from the consulting firm Grid Strategies found that forcing the continued operation of coal plants slated to retire could cost ratepayers more than \$3 billion per year.

Some representatives from the coal industry were appreciative of the new order.

"As demand increases and our lives become increasingly electrified, America needs to generate more electricity, not less," said Kayla Blackford, a worker at Bear Run Mine in Cougar, Indiana, during Wednesday's event. "For years, coal miners have felt the weight of policies that made our future uncertain. Over the past year that weight has begun to lift."

But even some within the industry have questioned the administration's efforts. Last month, the owners of the Craig Generating Station in Colorado said the Department of Energy violated their Constitutional

rights when it ordered them to continue running a coal-fired generator that they had been planning for more than a decade to retire.

The unit has become uneconomical to run, its owners said, and the cost of compelling it to remain online will ultimately fall on ratepayers in the area.

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Jury orders Conagra to pay \$25M in lawsuit alleging Pam cooking spray caused lung disease

ROBERT CHANNICK

A jury awarded a Los Angeles man \$25 million in a lawsuit against Chicago-based Conagra alleging its butter-flavored Pam cooking spray caused a rare chronic lung disease that will require a double lung transplant.

The verdict last week in the Superior Court of Los Angeles found that Conagra did not adequately warn consumers about the potential dangers of inhaling fumes from Pam cooking spray containing diacetyl, a butter-flavored chemical linked to respiratory illness.

During the trial, Conagra said it removed the ingredient from its Pam formulation in 2009.

Roland Esparza, 58, who had used butter-flavored Pam regularly since the 1990s, filed the lawsuit in 2022, alleging the since-discontinued ingredient is responsible for his condition, according to his Chicago-based attorney.

“He was a big health nut, bodybuilder, martial artist,” his attorney, Jacob Plattenberger, said Tuesday. “He was eating a lot of protein, eating a lot of eggs, and he cooked everything



A jury awarded a Los Angeles man \$25 million in a lawsuit against Chicago-based Conagra alleging its butter-flavored Pam cooking spray caused a rare chronic lung disease that will require a double lung transplant.

on his stove top. And so he was using it multiple times a day.”

Esparza was diagnosed with bronchiolitis obliterans, a severe and progressive respiratory disease better known as “popcorn lung.” The disease was first identified in workers at a microwave popcorn plant who inhaled the butter-flavored chemical diacetyl during the manufacturing process.

While there have been several successful consumer cases brought against microwave popcorn manufacturers, this is the first popcorn lung verdict

against a cooking spray manufacturer, Plattenberger said.

Conagra intends to challenge the potentially precedent-setting \$25 million award.

“We disagree with and are disappointed with the jury’s verdict,” Conagra said in a statement Tuesday. “PAM Butter Flavor cooking spray is safe and has been diacetyl-free for nearly two decades. We intend to pursue all available legal avenues to contest the verdict.”

The use of diacetyl as a butter flavoring came under greater scrutiny in the new millennium

after workers at several Midwest popcorn plants became ill. In 2004, Eric Peoples, who worked in a Missouri plant, won a \$20 million judgment against the makers of the butter-flavored chemical he alleged caused his lung disease.

In 2012, Wayne Watson of Colorado, a microwave popcorn consumer, was awarded \$7 million in a lawsuit against manufacturer Gilster-Mary Lee Corp. and several retailers after alleging he developed popcorn lung from years of inhaling the butyry chemical.

Diacetyl's use has been curtailed in many products, but the American Lung Association warns that the chemical and its substitutes may be present in e-cigarettes, potentially a vector for connecting vaping and popcorn lung.

Created by Chicago ad executive [Arthur Meyerhoff](#), Pam nonstick cooking spray became a kitchen staple in the 1960s.

Conagra acquired Pam as part of its \$2.9 billion purchase of International Home Foods in 2000.

In 2019, Conagra was hit with a [flurry of lawsuits](#) alleging that cans of Pam cooking spray burst into flames, severely burning users. In 2023, an Illinois jury [ordered Conagra to pay](#) \$7.1 million to a Pennsylvania woman who was burned in a 2017 kitchen fire ignited by a can of Pam.

Now Conagra has been ordered to pay Esparza \$25 million after years of inadvertently

inhaling diacetyl from the previous formulation of butter-flavored Pam. Esparza is hoping to make the list for a lung transplant "soon," but time may be running out, Plattenberger said.

"We feel that it was a correct verdict," Plattenberger said.

"Our client's a really good guy who didn't do anything wrong and got a raw deal, and hopefully this helps. Nothing will give him his health back, and even if he gets the transplant, it's not a great life, but it will give him a few more years."

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QVC, HSN facing Chapter 11 bankruptcy

DANIEL KLINE

Back in the 1990s and 2000s, it seemed like nearly every American had cable.

That wasn't true. The cable television market peaked at just under 100 million homes in the late 2010s, while the [census report](#) showed roughly 129 million total households.

Still, for most Americans, for many years, a cable television subscription was table stakes. That was very good for a business where most channels got a few cents, sometimes more, from every subscriber.

That created a system where niche channels survived because people did not have the option to not pay for the Cooking Channel or the entire ESPN bundle. You kind of got what Comcast, Charter, or another cable company gave you, and your subscription supported channels you watched, and many you didn't.

This period, especially before the internet became a successful home for retailers, was also a golden age for home shopping. Both QVC and HSN, now owned by the same company, but once rivals, commanded good spots on the cable dial, so to speak, allowing them a platform to sell to nearly 100 mil-



A QVC show is filmed in West Chester, Pennsylvania, in 2023. Its parent company is considering filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, according to a Bloomberg report.

lion American homes.

As cord-cutting has taken hold, the audience for QVC and HSN has fallen, leaving QVC Group Inc., the owner of both home shopping networks, on the verge of a [Chapter 11 bankruptcy](#) filing.

QVC and HSN face Chapter 11 bankruptcy

From its height of nearly 100 million households, the cable television universe has fallen to under 70 million subscribers, according to data from [Cord Cutters News](#).

"What's driving this mass defection? Cost is king. Cable bills

ballooned from \$96 monthly in 2019 to \$147 by 2022, while streaming giants like Netflix (\$15.49/month) and [Disney](#) + (\$13.99/month) offer on-demand riches for a fraction of the price," wrote industry expert Luke Bouma.

It's an exodus that has been devastating for home shopping channels. Where QVC and HSN used to have tens of millions of people simply flip by their channels, giving both a chance to captivate them with their wares, about a third of that audience has cut the cord.

In addition, the rise of the internet has given shoppers

many more options. That has put QVC Group, on the brink of bankruptcy, according to a report from [Bloomberg](#).

“QVC Group Inc. is negotiating a voluntary debt restructuring agreement with its creditors that could be implemented as part of a Chapter 11 bankruptcy process, as the television shopping network grapples with viewer declines and a heavy debt burden,” the news organization reported.

QVC Group is losing money

QVC Group CEO David Rawlinson tried to put a positive spin on the company’s struggles in its third-quarter [earnings report](#).

“We are early in our WIN growth plan, but continue to make progress. We reduced the year-over-year rate of revenue decline in our QxH segment despite the decline in linear television viewership, driven by revenue growth in our social and streaming platforms.”

Rawlinson said. “Although we are encouraged by the progress we are making, deleveraging from our total revenue decline, tariffs, and other critical investments, pressured our adjusted OIBDA.”

The company has seen drops in revenue.

- QVC Group revenue decreased 6% in US Dollars and 6% in constant currency
- Generated [operating income](#) of \$60 million.
- Operating income decreased 61% in US Dollars

and decreased 62% in constant currency.

- Adjusted OIBDA decreased 32% in US Dollars and decreased 34% in constant currency.

“Though declining linear TV viewership has put pressure on our business, we are executing well on the second phase of our transformation as we continue to manage costs, address our capital structure, and invest in social and streaming,” Rawlings said during his company’s [Q3 earnings call](#).

Those results have left the company on the brink of a Chapter 11 filing.

“The company and its lenders have held confidential talks aimed at resolving a complex [balance sheet](#) and burdensome debt load, according to people familiar with the matter. Terms haven’t been set and no final decision has been made about filing for bankruptcy, the people said, asking not to be identified discussing private information,” shared Bloomberg.

Cord-cutting has taken hold

- Cable TV subscribers in the U.S. have declined sharply since 2017, falling from about 96.3 million to 68.7 million by 2024, a drop of over 27.6 million subscribers (almost 29%).
- Year-by-year losses show consistent declines, with cable households dropping each year from 2017 through 2024; in 2024 alone cable companies lost over 5 million

subscribers.

- Cord-cutting dynamics are accelerating, with the total number of U.S. cord-cutting households projected to reach 77.2 million in 2025, up from 37.3 million in 2018.

- Traditional pay-TV penetration has plunged from about 88% of U.S. households in 2010 to an expected 42% by 2026, reflecting how cord-cutting has reshaped viewing habits.

- Major cable providers lost millions of video subscribers in 2023, with top pay-TV operators shedding roughly 3.8 million video subscribers and Comcast alone losing over 2 million video customers that year.

- The trend isn’t just TV. Cord-cutting 2.0 saw over 1 million Americans cancel their cable TV-provided internet subscriptions in 2024, signaling a deeper shift away from traditional cable bundles. Sources: Cord Cutters News, Pew Research

Daniel Kline has covered the cable industry and cord-cutting for over 30 years.

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COMMENTARY

Abby McCloskey

The Heritage Foundation sees the family crisis - but not the fix

"What happens to a nation when its citizens largely stop having children and, when they do, eschew marriage?" asks the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think tank. The size of its 164-page report "Saving America by Saving the Family" is outdone only by the 60-by-30-foot banner draped across the outside of its building. Quoting the late Charlie Kirk, it reads: "Get married. Have children. Build a legacy."

Let me start by saying that I'm heartened by the right's recent attention to family policy. I really am. I started writing about paid parental leave and child care more than a decade ago while at the conservative-leaning American Enterprise Institute. At the time it was the kind of thing that got you labeled as a RINO or relegated to the policy fringes while the big boys worked on tax and reg policy. Family policy has always deserved a seat at the adult table. It's good to see the GOP is pulling up some chairs.

And we need some new thinking in this area. It's not like progressives have had a family policy feast going. They have struggled to pass federal reforms and to present the issues in ways that reach traditionally-minded Americans. And some of the proposals they have enacted have had wide-ranging unintended consequences; for example, achievement gaps that have grown for four-year-olds - not closed - following New York City's introduction of a universal preschool program.

But addressing the problems families face will require more and different approaches than what's on offer in the Heritage report. Or on offer from the GOP more broadly, for that matter. The report highlights enormous challenges facing families, but the rhetoric and policies don't ladder up to solutions.

The report starts by noting that "the Founding Fathers were, quite literally, fathers" with an average of six children each, which is about as relevant to raising children in 2026 as the Founders' wooden teeth.

From there, the report zigzags from porn to IVF to stay-at-home parenting to apprenticeships. Housing, child care, student loans; you name it, it's in there. This breadth speaks to one of the many tensions inherent in family policy: Family policy can theoretically encompass the entirety of domestic policy. But by biting off so much, the report makes specific challenges harder to solve.

Another tension: Unsurprisingly for the architects of Project 2025, the Heritage report lays much of the blame for American families' troubles on government overreach. There are select cases to be made here, in particular around reducing marriage penalties in the social safety net and tax structures, which are well-documented, or local zoning requirements that drive up housing costs. But much ink is spilled on the War on Poverty and how its programs rewarded unmarried, nonworking parents. Many of those issues were addressed by GOP-led welfare reforms in the 1990s.

In the 21st century, there's a stronger case to be made that the government hasn't done enough to protect kids and families. Where is the federal law with age limits on social media? How is it that one in four women return to work within two weeks of giving birth, without paid leave? Why are public schools failing to deliver upward academic achievement? The government has struggled to even cover these basics, even though there are tried-and-true state-level policies that could be used as models, from social media age limits and classroom bans, to public paid parental leave programs, to a focus on early literacy in schools.

Instead, Heritage turns to untested, government-engineered social and cultural change.

One of the biggest line items in the report - NEST accounts - would encourage marriage by depositing \$2,500 into an account that could be accessed only if the person marries before age 30. Otherwise, that money is locked up until retirement. I'm not sure this one is thought through. For one, I doubt it moves the marriage needle much - as Heritage itself notes, young people don't value marriage as much as young people once did. And if it does move the needle, do we really want to encourage 18-year-olds to marry someone who might not be right for them to get a cash bonus? And what about people over 30 who would love to get married, but just haven't met their person? Is it fair to make them wait until retirement for their cash infusion?

There's also the tension of offering a cash bonus for marriage when married people are already likely to have higher income levels and more upward mobility. Should government support primarily reward the people already on the right track, while excluding people who've fallen on hard times? That's a tough one politically. It's also a tough one for pro-lifers. The vast majority of women seeking an abortion are unmarried mothers, many of whom say they can't afford another child. To them, these policies wag a finger and turn away.

Still another divide: The report feels torn between supporting mothers who work and supporting mothers who stay home. "Work is one of the main ways that people create value. It can also connect them and give them meaning and fulfillment. Work provides people with financial stability," the report reads. But few ideas are offered for improving the lives of working mothers. For example, the report underscores how important parental care is in the early months and years of a child's life. But its only solution is to "encourage" companies to provide paid leave. It offers no incentive for them to do so. If parental care is so important - and I agree that it is, especially for the youngest children - then I would expect to see a stronger plan for creating a generous paid parental leave policy.

I'm assuming it wasn't included so as to not "favor" working parents over their stay-at-home peers. But in doing so, it fails to deliver what could be significant gains for most families. It also does nothing to address the negative tax treatment that dual-earner families already face relative to families with a stay-at-home parent.

Another half-baked idea: the report proposes that stay-at-home parents be able to access the same child-care subsidies as working parents. But the plan would partly draw from the Child Care and Development Fund, which is so chronically underfunded that fewer than 1 in 10 eligible low-income working families can use it. We shouldn't expand a program that is already so overstretched. A better idea would be to adjust the Child Tax Credit so that families could choose to have the money frontloaded to the early years of a child's life - for child-care costs or supplementing a sole breadwinner's salary - without impacting the financial integrity of the program, taking resources away from low-income families, or increasing government spending.

Yes, families need more support for many of the reasons that the Heritage report highlights. It's good that conservatives are talking about these things, which is a big shift in just the last decade. But the Heritage report identifies (and arguably would create) more problems than it solves.

This column reflects the personal views of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

Abby McCloskey is a columnist, podcast host, and consultant. She directed domestic policy on two presidential campaigns and was director of economic policy at the American Enterprise Institute.

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COMMENTARY

Matt K. Lewis

Our era really is like the Civil War in one key way

We're one year in, and President Donald Trump's second term has already produced a parade of problematic historical analogies. Critics have invoked King George III and the Revolutionary War ("No Kings!"), flirted with comparisons to Nazi Germany (subtlety has never been our strong suit as Americans) - and lately have escalated to invoking the Civil War.

For years, I treated casual talk of an impending "civil war" the way one treats urgent predictions of the second coming: colorful, misguided and unlikely to ruin my weekend plans.

Besides, for Americans, the Civil War evokes specific imagery: blue and gray uniforms, epic mustaches, and a tidy geographic split between the North and South. It's harder to imagine how that template translates to a 21st century America.

Lately, though, the rhetoric has begun to feel less far-fetched. Perhaps that helps explain why a 2024 film titled "Civil War" found an audience (or, at least, got greenlit).

And since that movie's debut, the civil war analogy has only grown more plausible.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, for example, recently compared ICE-related protests in Minneapolis - marked by violence that resulted in the deaths of two American citizens - to Fort Sumter, the flashpoint that turned America's most profound moral disagreement into outright war.

Perhaps Walz was engaging in hyperbole, but the Civil War comparison reflects something real: Americans are increasingly and fundamentally divided over rival visions of identity, patriotism and national character.

These grand narratives aren't merely campaign talking points, meant for public dissemination. Their real potency lies in the private mythologies activists tell themselves. Such stories offer moral certainty, historical purpose and the intoxicating sense that members of a movement are playing a starring role in a grand historical drama.

For example, on parts of the American right - particularly among younger men - a romantic mythology has emerged, built from antique ideas of honor and masculinity and a conviction that the nation has squandered its inheritance ("this is what they took from us").

It is politics powered by grievance and nostalgia for an imagined past, often casting immigrants as convenient antagonists in a drama about national decline.

Naturally, powerful narratives produce equally powerful counternarratives.

I'm writing this just outside Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, where abolitionist John Brown launched his 1859 raid on a federal armory as part of a plan to free enslaved people.

Brown remains one of the most complicated figures in American history - a man admired for recognizing slavery's moral evil - and condemned for attacking federal property after playing a role in the murder of five pro-slavery men in Kansas.

Even in these parts, Americans still debate whether Brown was a heroic "freedom fighter" or (as Kristi Noem, the secretary of Homeland Security, might put it) a "domestic terrorist." Possibly he was both, in that grand American tradition of multitasking.

Most abolitionists in the runup to the Civil War, it should be noted, managed to oppose slavery without raiding federal armories or killing anyone. They were people who cared deeply about ending a savage and immoral practice. And along those lines, modern protesters are increasingly being compared to 19th century abolitionists.

The analogy isn't purely rhetorical, even though some protesters quite literally want to *abolish* ICE. The parallels have to do with morals and tactics. Adam Serwer of the Atlantic has suggested that activism in Minneapolis resembles protest movements "we haven't seen maybe since the 1960s, maybe not since the abolitionists."

The comparison grows more intriguing when one considers the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which empowered federal authorities - and even private citizens - to capture people thought to be fleeing slavery and return them to bondage.

As writer Ta-Nehisi Coates has noted, many "white people were willing to put their bodies on the line" to physically protect their neighbors.

Which raises an uncomfortable possibility: Walz may simply have the wrong historical timestamp. Instead of harking back to the 1861 battle at Fort Sumter, the better analogy for Minneapolis might be the more chaotic and combustible 1850s that made Fort Sumter possible.

Jeff Mayhugh, the president of No Cap Fund, a group dedicated to improving representation by uncapping the number of lawmakers in the House, believes that beneath the shouting, tear gas and viral videos, the unrest in Minneapolis is about power.

"The argument from the right," Mayhugh says, "is that since immigrants are counted for purposes of apportionment in the House, sanctuary cities inflate representation in blue states."

Viewed through that lens, Minneapolis echoes antebellum flashpoints like Bleeding Kansas, where national divisions (with national consequences) erupted into local guerrilla warfare.

Years from now, will we look back at Minneapolis and see our era's Bleeding Kansas, or will this too pass? It's too soon to say whether the Civil War analogy is illuminating or overheated.

We can all hope it's the latter.

What is clear, however, is that Americans are no longer debating conventional public policy. We are debating identity - what America is, who it belongs to and whose story will be taught to our grandchildren.

Matt K. Lewis is the author of "Filthy Rich Politicians" and "Too Dumb to Fail."

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COMMENTARY

David M. Drucker

How Trump squandered his most potent political asset

Republicans who minimize President Donald Trump's sliding job approval ratings typically emphasize that his agenda contains many popular policies. Those arguments misunderstand what makes for successful political leadership.

Even though some White House policies are popular, policy is but one leg of the three-legged stool of political leadership. Rhetoric also matters. So, too, does implementation, especially at the executive level. Without its full complement of limbs, this three-legged stool is prone to tip over and shatter.

"Communication about public policy is as important as the public policy itself," Jeffrey Brauer, a political scientist at Keystone College, near Scranton, Pennsylvania, told me. "This is something many political leaders in the U.S. on both sides of the aisle often forget or often don't realize in the first place." How a policy is carried out, Brauer added, impacts voters' "perception of policy success."

"This explains the wide gap between the initial, extensive support of the administration's immigration policy and the current major downturn in the polls," he said. "Most Americans don't agree with the implementation, particularly with the tactics being used." About that.

Trump's most potent political asset has almost always been immigration. During the 2016 campaign, the president vowed to secure the Mexican border. He delivered. After illegal immigration spiked under President Joe Biden, voters turned to Trump (again) to address the problem. Aside from their frustration with inflation, voters picked the 45th president over Democratic nominee Kamala Harris, the sitting vice president, and made him the 47th president, because they saw border security as a serious problem and trusted him to stem illegal immigration and deport criminal aliens.

In the year since Trump's return to the White House, his administration has overseen a dramatic drop in illegal border crossings from Mexico and undertaken a massive deportation program to repatriate criminal aliens. And yet as of this week, Trump's job approval rating on immigration is 8 percentage points underwater in the RealClearPolitics average of recent surveys (44.4% positive, 52.4% negative). What happened? Rhetoric and tactics; that's what happened. That's what's still happening.

The polling shows voters have soured on Trump's immigration agenda, broadly speaking, because of the aggressive tactics wielded by the Department of Homeland Security. One example: American citizens who are Hispanic (and haven't committed any crime, not that that should matter) have been forced to "show their papers" - in other words: produce proof of citizenship or risk arrest and detention by federal authorities. Another example: The constitutionally questionable and violently belligerent behavior of Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Minneapolis, to say nothing of the shooting deaths of Twin Cities protesters Renee Good and Alex Pretti.

Then there's the third leg of the stool: rhetoric.

Although the president belatedly called the Good and Pretti killings tragic and has now said so more than once, he continues to step on that message by denigrating these two dead Americans and subtly suggesting the shootings, though unfortunate, were understandable, if not justified. "He was not an angel, and she was not an angel," Trump told NBC News in an interview. It's this attitude that now has voters who supported the president's immigration enforcement agenda reevaluating.

And to be clear: When Trump's job approval ratings on immigration flip upside down in the course of a year, from plus-8 points in January of 2025 to negative-8 points today, that's evidence of voters doing some major reevaluating.

Which is why it doesn't really matter that, as Republicans point out, a majority of voters "prefer Trump's immigration policies over Biden's." Voters aren't comparing Trump to Biden. The 2024 election is long since over. They're judging the current president on his policy, his implementation and his rhetoric - and find him lacking on two out of three.

"A majority of Americans want to deport undocumented criminals, and they want to deport undocumented people who came here during the Biden years. But not if that means murdering American citizens; scenes that look like kidnappings, stories about children ripped away from parents; cars left running in the street as people are snatched away," said Brian Rosenwald, a scholar in residence at the Partnership for Effective Public Administration and Leadership Ethics at the University of Pennsylvania. "The cost is too high and flips public opinion on the issue."

Trump and the Republicans are hardly alone in failing to understand the importance of the three-legged leadership stool. Recall President Barack Obama saying all of the right things after Russia forcibly annexed Crimea in what amounted to the first phase of Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, yet declining to provide Kyiv weapons and ammunition to guard against further aggression from Moscow. It's an interesting case of a politician getting the rhetoric right but blowing the policy. (Guess who did greenlight U.S. weapons for Ukraine. Trump, during his first presidency.)

Republicans can soothe themselves all they want with issue polling that shows voters would choose Trump over Biden (and Harris) on a given policy, be it immigration, the economy or anything else. It's unlikely to matter one whit unless they get Trump and his lieutenants in the administration to make necessary adjustments to tactics and rhetoric.

But Democrats beware, particularly those eyeing a 2028 White House bid: Getting the rhetoric right won't trick voters into backing a candidate whose policies they find unacceptable or insufficient. Oh, and there's no such thing as getting the tactics right if the policy is wrong.

This column reflects the personal views of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

David M. Drucker is a columnist covering politics and policy. He is also a senior writer for The Dispatch and the author of "In Trump's Shadow: The Battle for 2024 and the Future of the GOP."

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COMMENTARY

Martin Schram

Do-it-yourself fact checking made easy

Newspaper billionaire deciders are demolishing their news media hobbies like bored kids disassembling the electric trains they've outgrown.

And TV news-CEOs have already scrapped most of their professionally reported, scripted, edited, soundbite-packed news packages not because they got bored, but because of quality costs. So they've mostly replaced these video news packages, 24/7, with much-cheaper talking-heads.

We see them sitting in little squares strewn across our news screens, as they tell us what they think and how they feel about news that is being made somewhere they haven't been, but know about because they used to be there, once upon a time.

So news consumers now end up having to do what reporters in the field always did. We journalists spent hours interviewing officials and informed sources. Then we'd pick out several key quotes (and often helpful insights) and pass them along to our readers and viewers.

But now you have ended up also having to listen for hours to the ramble of talking heads – hoping to discover the few key things you really need to know so you can end up informed – and not conned – when you vote for our democracy's new leaders.

Which brings us to the problem about those cutbacks in the news business and your ever-increasing need to figure out when pols and tech-savvy manipulators are distorting, deceiving and downright lying to you. For news organizations are increasingly cutting back on professional fact-checking and editing – just when we need them most.

For decades, we journalists liked to remind each other of our craft's ultimate wisdom – the oft-quoted line of The New Yorker magazine's A. J. Liebling: "Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one." Today you don't need to own a big inky press or a TV studio to start spreading the news. You just need a laptop or smartphone to start reporting your slant on what just happened, or the slant of the special interest or political wingers who are paying you. Oh-oh.

That's why, today, democracy's most responsible voters need to become their own news fact-checkers. It doesn't have to be as hard as my colleagues want you to think. Today, we are going to end with a brief, but tuition-free, class on the basics of how you too can become a democracy-safeguarding, do-it-yourself news fact-checker, and catch, in the act, even the most highly-placed prevaricator-in-chief.

Journalism 101: AI vs. AOI (Translation: artificial intelligence versus the crafty art of official intelligence). Throughout the first year of his second presidency, Donald Trump has been regaling audiences with speeches that have grown in length, meanderings, repetitions and (as you'll see) distortions. But whether he's talking to world leaders, religious leaders, soldiers, farmers or journalists, Trump recycles his famous hit-list of volcanic vexations. These include name-calling attacks about having inherited the world's worst economic disaster from Crooked or Sleepy Joe Biden.

In his rambling speech to the world's leaders at the recent economic forum in Davos, Trump said: "Biden and his allies destroyed our economy and gave us perhaps the worst inflation in American history... He has to be rated as the worst president we've ever had by far... We inherited a mess, but we've done a hell of a job in 12 months."

In the hall, the world's leaders knew better – and now you can, too. Just turn on your computer's Google machine, and type in a search question, such as: "How did Biden's economy compare with other world economies in rebounding from the global economic shutdown during the pandemic?"

Now A.I. will respond instantly: "The U.S. economy, under the Biden administration, experienced a faster, stronger recovery from the pandemic-induced shutdown compared to other G7 nations and advanced economies.

"Fastest recovery: The U.S. showed the strongest recovery among comparable advanced economies, with real GDP exceeding pre-pandemic levels (Q4 2019) faster than other G7 nations.

"Stronger output: U.S. real GDP grew to be 5.4% higher than at the end of 2019, while other G7 nations generally lagged in their recovery.

"Inflation management: Despite high initial growth, the U.S. managed to bring core inflation lower than many other major advanced economies as the recovery continued."

Of course, as we know, A.I. could be wrong. But here it footnotes its statements and cites studies from famous think tanks of various political orientations. That's how your fact-checking tells you Trump was blatantly misleading you.

You'll also discover another of Trump's most famous claims is false: his repeated insistence that he brought America \$18 trillion in new investments. You'll see the claim is universally rejected by experts of the left, center and right. And one more source even Trump can believe – Trump's White House website lists the investment figure at just \$9.6 trillion.

We have long believed what The Washington Post still proclaims: "Democracy dies in darkness." But after the massive abdications of responsibility by journalism's owners – most recently at Jeff Bezos's Washington Post – we are sensing our democracy's new reality: Nothing can be darker than the glare of a news screen that keeps flashing falsehoods politically crafted to con and deceive people who only want to know what is true and who they can trust.

In this election year, American voters may be forced to vote in the glaring darkness for the new leaders they hope can save our truly troubled democracy.

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Gadgets | Safe portable power

GREGG ELLMAN

Safe portable charging isn't optional; it's essential. That is exactly what you get with BMX's new SolidSafe portable power line featuring advanced magnetic solid-state battery packs built with safety at the core.

Inside each battery is what SolidSafe calls next-generation solid-state cells, not traditional lithium-ion batteries. SolidSafe states that the new design eliminates flammable liquid electrolytes, thereby reducing fire, overheating and swelling risks associated with other portable batteries. This new battery style will give you up to twice the lifespan of other batteries.

To demonstrate the safety features, unique BMX testing of the new batteries included engineers drilling a fully charged SolidSafe unit straight through the battery, with no smoke, swelling or ignition. The drilling, cutting and bending demonstration was stated to underscore the resilience of solid-state chemistry, which resists overheating, leaking, and swelling even when subjected to physical damage.

BMX stated on their site that SolidSafe batteries have significantly less liquid electrolyte than traditional lithium-ion power banks. This will reduce conditions that can lead to

BMX stated on their site that SolidSafe batteries have significantly less liquid electrolyte than traditional lithium-ion power banks. This will reduce conditions that can lead to thermal runaway and fire.

thermal runaway and fire.

Testing showed that the stress that would normally cause lithium-ion batteries to ignite did not occur with the new design.

Among the new batteries is the SolidSafe 5K (5,000 mAh), with a single USB-C port and Qi2 magnetic (wireless) charging for Qi-enabled devices. You'll get up to 15 watts of charging from the Qi2 and 30 watts with the in/out USB-C port. Two devices can be charged at once, and it is rated for over 1,000 charging cycles.

There is a full-color LCD display at the bottom of the SolidSafe 5K (\$79), showing the output power and the remaining

power in the battery. An attached USB-C lanyard is included for charging your devices or recharging the battery, and the battery supports pass-through charging. The slim, 0.46-inch body is built with an aluminum housing, designed for natural heat dissipation and durability.

The new line of batteries also includes a 10K (\$99) and 10K+ (\$129) model, all with 15-watt Qi2 magnetic wireless charging, 30W USB-C fast in/out, an LCD display, and a USB-C lanyard cable. Qi2 (15 watts) is up to twice as fast as Qi1 (7.5 watts) models. The 10K+ model has a built-in microSD memory card port.





Tessan's AC-powered TS-CS03 9-in-1 desktop charging station charges all your devices simultaneously and is designed for vertical, space-saving use.

BMX says on their site that the new SolidSafe portable batteries meet TSA power bank regulations to carry on airplanes. The products are covered by a 2-year limited warranty.

<https://www.heybm.com/collections/solid-state-power-banks> available in black, blue, orange, or silver

Tessan's AC-powered TS-CS03 9-in-1 desktop charging station charges all your devices simultaneously and is designed for vertical, space-saving use.

The high-speed charger is built like a mini tower with ports on the sides, including three AC outlets, three USB-A ports, and three USB-C ports. It can supply up to 100 watts of power delivery, and with USB-C, it will deliver 65-watt fast charging up to five times faster than a regular USB port. Tessan testing shows it charges a cell phone to 80% in as little as 30

minutes.

It is built with GaN III technology (Gallium Nitride) to ensure a safe, energy-efficient charge with dynamic temperature sensors for heat management. Protective safety features include protection against overcharging, overcurrent, over-voltage and over-amperage. The body of the TS-CS03 is built with flame-retardant material.

The portable charging tower stands about five inches high and has a flat base that fits in the palm of your hand. It includes anti-slip rubber feet to keep it in place. A five-foot AC adapter is included to power the charging station for phones, laptops, tablets, game controllers, digital cameras or anything that needs a boost. The Tessan site has an extensive chart showing power distribution by the ports you are using.

These AI dreamers don't fit the stereotype

GUY TREBAY

SAN FRANCISCO --

Marshall Kools shares an apartment in the NoPa neighborhood of San Francisco with two roommates, sleeps Harry Potter-style in a nook-like room beneath the stairs, owns no designer clothing beyond a dress shirt from Giorgio Armani and plays Sade's "Love Deluxe" on repeat.

Sade's multiplatinum album was released in October 1992, a month or so before the introduction of a device generally considered the progenitor of the smartphone. Back then, the marketing of advanced computation as a form of anthropomorphized sentience did not exist. Neither, for that matter, did Marshall Kools.

At 24, he -- like a great many of his generation at this moment in this city -- is a prospector in the field of artificial intelligence. A co-founder of a startup, he hopes to use AI to "streamline" white-collar administrative work and, in the process, may eliminate your job.

Spend an hour in this city, and you are bound to hear the talk. In the Marina *boîtes* like Céleste and Roaming Goat, in the driverless Waymos that glide through the hills like car-



A hat belonging to Arzana co-founder Marshall Kools at his apartment in San Francisco on Jan. 27. Young tech entrepreneurs in San Francisco are hoping to cash in, even as they wonder how artificial intelligence will affect society.

toon conveyances, the main subject of discussion is AI. This makes sense given that the boom has already produced digital jackpots equivalent to the richest veins at Sutter's Mill in the days of the gold rush.

Take Matt Deitke, a researcher born the same year as Kools. He was hired last year -- on a four-year \$250 million contract -- to work at the Meta Superintelligence Lab, part of the company's \$14.3 billion investment in Scale AI.

Other rising stars in the field include Alexandr Wang, a co-founder of Scale AI and a self-made billionaire, and Ruoming

Pang, Apple's former head of foundation models, whom Meta signed to a multiyear deal said to exceed \$200 million.

"It's a cowboy era," Kools said one recent morning. "You hope your proposition hits and you get that valuation and then you can ride that rocket ship."

For now, Kools and his business partner William Alexander are scraping by on salaries in the low five figures. "I probably paid myself about \$10,000 last year," Kools said. Still, he added, "there is not a day that I don't wake up and work without the expectation that this will be impactful and make a bunch of

money.”

The odds, he knows, are stacked against him. “Statistically, there is a very good chance this will not work,” Alexander, 21, said of their startup, Arzana. “Any of us could get a consulting job at Bain and make a lot of money.”

Alexander grew up hunting and fishing in Okoboji, Iowa. He taught himself Mandarin Chinese during a semester in Hong Kong and Italian through the Duolingo app. He learned to throw the discus well enough to achieve state ranking by watching videos on YouTube. When he met Kools, they were classmates at Stanford, and neither one had a background in tech.

“I took, like, one coding class in my life,” Alexander said. Despite that, the lure of once-in-a-lifetime payouts proved too potent to resist. “There is no Plan B, because that assumes you will fail,” he added. “We’re going to do the startup thing until we die.”

Or until the boom goes bust. “Founders are everywhere,” said Isobel Porteous, who works at a space computing startup that installs “neuromorphic” AI chips on satellites, with the ultimate goal of bypassing the technological shortcomings of current global positioning.

“Right now, the whole city is full of young founders building frontier tech companies quickly, and it’s a very ambitious culture,” Porteous, 24, said one afternoon in a paved park outside Ritual Coffee, a popular caf-

feine pit stop in the Hayes Valley neighborhood. “People are embracing higher-risk paths, whereas they might otherwise have gone into consulting, finance, law or safer traditional industries.”

The reasons are self-evident. “It’s a once-in-a-century moment to ride the AI wave,” she said. “And to build tech that will define the future.”

During the tech boom of the 1990s, before smartphones and the rise of social media, entrepreneurs promised innovations meant to improve daily life. Scientific studies and the lived experience of the digital age have demonstrated that has not always proved to be the case.

Many of the fledgling AI companies coming out of heavily capitalized startup accelerators like Y Combinator are in the business of targeting inefficiencies. Few bother to pretend these will not come at the cost of jobs. “Upskill” is a word often heard to describe what workers should do when AI makes them redundant.

“My friends and I could talk for 200 hours about whether AI’s impact will be good or bad,” said Kools, who often debates the subject with his third roommate, Oliver Gomez, who has a startup of his own.

In 2024, Gomez, 21, and his former Stanford roommate Jarren Reid, 22, came up with a startup idea aimed at hacking problems in the vast federal bureaucracy and later developed under the aegis of Y Com-

binator. It was their third attempt at breaking into the elite funding program that produced internet success stories including Airbnb and DoorDash, and the AI startup was created during a deadline all-nighter fueled by Red Bull.

That startup, Usul, is meant to help vendors navigate the contracting labyrinth of the Department of Defense, which is one of the world’s largest employers. “Like Amazon for government” is how Reid described it.

Asked why, in his early 20s, he would found a company -- which has a staff of 10 -- to service a government agency whose core pillar is “restoring a warrior ethos,” he answered flatly: “The money.” But, he added, “there is also less the goal of making \$20 billion than solving a problem that affects millions of people.”

On a brisk morning, Gomez and Reid were seated on a bench in South Park, a leftover centerpiece of a planned urban settlement created in the 19th century for San Francisco’s gentry. Evolving over the decades, South Park settled into its current guise as a tech industry hub.

Usul headquarters is, appropriately, located in this gentrifying though still scruffy part of town. As Reid and Gomez sat for an interview, a man from an encampment under a nearby freeway wandered about with his belongings stuffed into a Safeway cart.

Reid grew up in Washington, D.C., the son of a bureaucrat employed by government sub-contractors and a health care worker specializing in dementia. “On my dad’s side, the family emigrated from Ukraine during World War II, and my mom’s side, historically, was slaves,” he said. “We didn’t have luxuries growing up. We didn’t have TV. Our parents’ approach was, ‘Go play in the woods and fall out of a tree.’”

Both men were early to financial self-sufficiency, they said. Neither conformed to the stereotypes of tech bros raised in privilege. “I paid for Stanford myself,” Reid said, adding that he had dropped out after his second year to join the AI gold rush.

Gomez, for his part, was raised by parents who emigrated to the United States several decades ago from Central America. “My mom is from El Salvador and lived in a dirt-floored house with seven other siblings,” he said. “It was, basically, horrible poverty.”

Settling originally in Los Angeles, Gomez’s mother eventually divorced his father, remarried and transplanted her family to a small town outside Oklahoma City. “Edmonton was like living in the most anti-tech place you can think of, where everyone grows up to become a welder or work on a golf course,” Gomez said. “And our high school had, like, one computer.”

His goal in attending Stan-

ford, he said, “was to give my mother a different kind of life.” Like Reid, he left university after his sophomore year, anxious about missing out on a jackpot. “There’s over a trillion dollars being poured into the top funds,” he said. “Normal guys I know are now worth a couple billion dollars each.”

It’s probably worth remembering that the greatest wealth from the original gold rush went not to the miners but to the merchants who sold hardgoods at markup -- men like California’s first millionaire, the canny Mormon elder Samuel Brannan, who hawked gold pans and pickaxes, or Levi Strauss, who created the riveted denim trousers not yet marketed as dungarees (or bluejeans).

As in 19th-century San Francisco, the boom has drawn young prospectors looking for gold in places and ways no one yet knows how to anticipate.

“Not at any time in history have we seen so much capital mobilize in one direction,” Kools said. “You’d be crazy not to want to get in on that.”

This article originally appeared in [The New York Times](#).

Hidden phone setting turns sister's screen into a 'photo negative'

JIM ROSSMAN

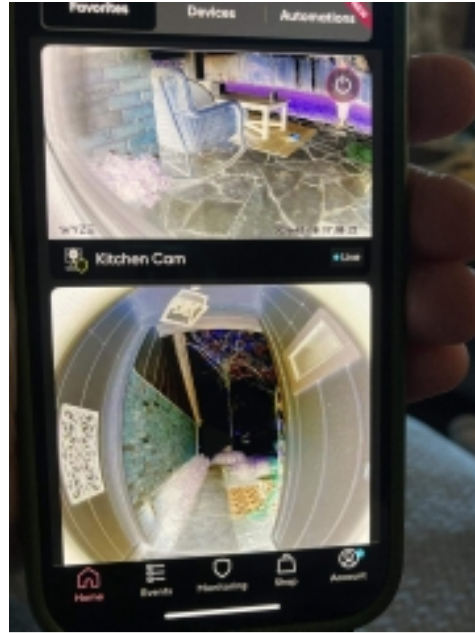
My family is a great resource for my column topics.

Usually, I write about an issue brought to my attention by my mom or my mother-in-law, but this week it was my sister who called with a phone problem.

We'd talked earlier in the week and she told me her phone screen looked strange: the background was black and the text was white in some of her apps, like Messages.

To me, this sounded like her phone had switched into dark mode, which inverts the text and background colors, as she described. I had to get off the phone, so I told her how to check the setting and to reboot her phone and let me know if the problem persisted.

She didn't call me back that night, so I thought her problem was fixed. But when I talked to her later in the week, she mentioned it was still happening, and that in some apps, photos and videos looked like a negative image, where all the colors were inverted. She sent along a screen shot of her Wyze app and sure enough, the thumbnail images were reversed.



Smart Invert reverses the colors of the display except for images, media and some apps that use dark color styles.

This is something I've seen before. It is an Accessibility setting, but it was usually set that way on purpose.

I told her to open her phone's settings and then open Accessibility and then open Display & Text Size setting.

I asked her to tell me if any setting on that page was turned on, and she told me Smart Invert was turned on. I was hoping that was the case.

Smart Invert reverses the colors of the display except for images, media and some apps that use dark color styles.

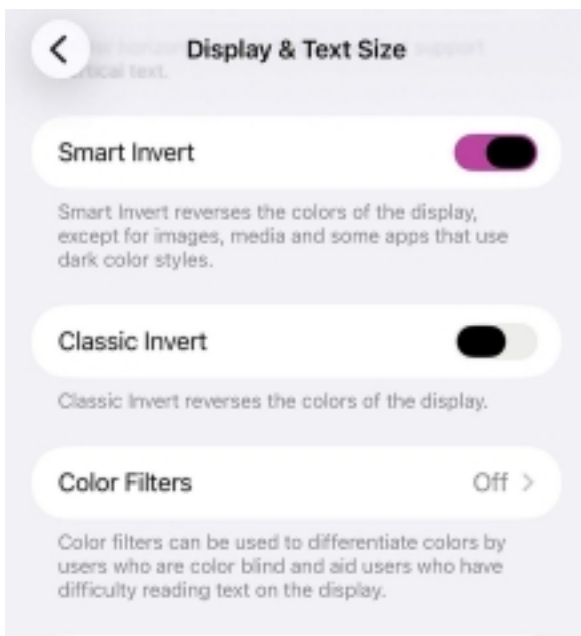
Turning off Smart Invert

fixed my sister's issues, but I was at a loss to tell her how that setting had turned itself on.

The iOS operating system does let a user set up an "accessibility shortcut" that will turn on or off one of the accessibility settings by triple-clicking the sleep/wake button. I suppose it is possible smart invert was set to activate with a triple click and that she'd never triple clicked before.

I showed her how to check the setting if the problem should ever come back.

This is a good time to mention iOS and Android both have



Smart Invert reverses the colors of the display except for images, media and some apps that use dark color styles.

a plethora of accessibility settings for people who need assistance with vision (text magnification or better contrast) or hearing issues (live captions) or who need assistance using the touch screen accurately or some other issues.

If you haven't looked through your phone's accessibility settings, I recommend it. Familiarize yourself with what's available, even if you don't have a current need. It might help you or a family member in the future.

Amplify your cycling experience with this handy Coros GPS bike computer

JEFF BANOWETZ

Now that phones and smart-watches feature navigation software, you no longer need a bike computer, right? Think again. A bike-mounted computer lets you easily access data and maps in real time. Gaze down to follow preprogrammed routes or know your speed or power output.

The Dura Solar GPS Bike Computer from Coros is one of the best, with an astounding 120 hours of ride time (with full GPS support) in a single charge. Solar panels give you an additional two hours of run time per hour of riding in sunny conditions, which makes it even harder to run out of juice. The customizable touch screen is large enough to read while riding, and the dual-frequency GPS satellite chipset provides accurate readings even under tree cover or amid high-rises. Create routes in the Coros app or download them from other training programs, such as Strava or Komoot. If you miss a turn, the computer will reroute you back using real-time route conditions from Google Maps. It even provides safety alerts to an emergency contact if a crash is detected. Plus, it has all the



The Coros Dura Solar GPS Bike Computer

key fitness metrics any cyclist could want, including compatibility with Shimano and SRAM electric shifting.

Whether you're looking for the ultimate in athletic measurements or simply a better way to make sure you're on the right path, the Dura is a welcome tool for any cyclist.

Price: \$249, us.coros.com

New technologies are stepping up the global fight against wildlife trafficking

EVE BOHNETT, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

In late 2025, Interpol coordinated a global operation across 134 nations, [seizing roughly 30,000 live animals](#), confiscating illegal plant and timber products, and identifying about 1,100 suspected wildlife traffickers for national police to investigate.

Wildlife trafficking is one of the [most lucrative illicit industries](#) worldwide. It nets [between US\\$7 billion and \\$23 billion per year](#), according to the Global Environment Facility, a group of nearly 200 nations as well as businesses and nonprofits that funds environmental improvement and protection projects.

People buy and sell a wide range of items, including live animals, plant powders and oils, ivory carvings and musical instruments.

Historically, enforcement has been largely reactive. There is so much global trade that [fewer than 1 in 10 international cargo shipments](#) of any kind are physically inspected. [Traffickers also avoid detection](#) by using false or generic names instead of proper species identification, employing coded language in online



A baby orangutan was seized by Thai police in an anti-trafficking operation in May 2025.

listings, rerouting shipments and shifting to different messaging platforms when enforcement pressure increases. Emerging digital tools are helping authorities link online monitoring, legal reference tools and on-the-ground investigations.

As [a researcher](#) at the University of Florida working at the intersection of conservation science and applied technology, I observed these advancements firsthand at an international meeting of governments and partner organizations under the

[Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#), often known by its acronym, CITES. This treaty – the cornerstone for international regulation of trade in endangered plants and animals – is enforced by national customs and wildlife agencies.

AI and digital tools for inspection

A huge challenge for officials seeking to prevent wildlife trafficking is knowing where to look – and then figuring out what they've found.

Cargo screening: Advanced

X-ray screeners, similar to those used in airport security but designed for cargo, are being paired with software that helps [spot unusual shapes or materials](#) inside packages.

Trials conducted at major ports and mail processing centers in Australia have [detected animals concealed in various kinds of shipments](#). The software does not identify species but highlights anomalies, helping inspectors decide which packages deserve closer inspection.

Assisted identification: A software program supported by the Chinese Academy of Sciences uses [artificial intelligence to help identify the species of animals](#) or animal parts found in shipments. Inspectors can use chatbot-style interfaces to describe what they have found to a system trained on technical documents with detailed descriptions of a wide range of species.

This type of work can help inspectors tell the difference between closely related species whose legal protections differ. For example, trade of African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) is strictly regulated. There are different, often less stringent protections for similar-looking species, such as the Timneh parrot (*Psittacus timneh*) and the brown-necked parrot (*Poicephalus fuscicollis*).

Portable DNA testing: Enforcement efforts don't always happen in offices and labs. One company aims to provide

[small, handheld kits](#) that can detect up to five species in about 20 or 30 minutes [without needing traditional lab equipment](#). The kits show their results on a simple strip that changes color when the DNA of a particular species appears in a sample. Conceptually, it's [similar to a pregnancy test](#), which changes color when a hormone is detected.

Timber identification: [Handheld scanners use software](#) to quickly identify timber species by examining the internal cellular structure of the wood. This can help to distinguish protected hardwoods from legal alternatives in regions where illegal logging is widespread, such as South America, Southeast Asia and Africa.

Background research and risk profiling

Even before wildlife-related items appear at national borders, there can be signs of illegal trafficking that technology can help identify.

Monitoring online trade: Large volumes of wildlife trafficking now occur through online transactions. To avoid detection, sellers often use [vague descriptions or coded language](#), such as listings that omit species names entirely or use emojis instead of words. Others hide key details in images or brief text that say little about what is being sold, even just showing a photo with no description.

Anti-trafficking organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund collaborate with tech companies to scan online listings using AI and content moderation tools. Between 2018 and 2023, the tech companies blocked or removed [more than 23 million listings and accounts related to protected species](#), including live reptiles, birds and primates, and elephant products.

Early warnings from paperwork: Shipping documents often provide early warning signs of illegal trade. Wildlife enforcement officers, transport sector personnel, government tax officers and others are using new software tools to [analyze millions of manifests and permits](#), looking for species names that aren't usually traded on particular routes; shipments that are unusually heavy or underpriced; and complex routing through multiple transit countries. Instead of inspecting shipments at random, these systems help enforcement agencies identify the consignments most likely to contain illegal materials.

Navigating wildlife trade laws: Enforcement officers have to navigate [vast legal complexity](#). New tools seek to [compile laws from multiple countries](#), helping inspectors understand regulations across [export, transit and destination nations](#).

Using trade data to identify other species to monitor: Researchers at the University of Oxford have developed a method that uses wildlife trade records to identify

thousands of highly vulnerable endangered species that could benefit from stricter international trade protections and stronger law enforcement to limit exploitation.

Taken together, these devices and systems extend – but do not replace – human expertise. They help officers decide which shipments or sites to focus on, identify what they find, and share information internationally. No single technology will end wildlife trafficking, but these digital tools can enable a shift from reactive enforcement toward proactive, coordinated action, helping authorities keep pace with adaptive criminal networks.

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Netflix's 'Star Search' revival taps into nostalgia, star judges and a swath of talent

ITZEL LUNA

LOS ANGELES - An orange hue illuminated an otherwise dark stage nestled in a CBS lot in Studio City.

Yair Keydar extended his arms toward the live audience, a smile overtaking his face as the 12-year-old reached the chorus of the "Wizard of Oz" classic, "Over the Rainbow."

It's the second week of Netflix's "Star Search," which kicked off Jan. 20. The live variety talent competition show is a reboot of the syndicated [series helmed by Ed McMahon that premiered](#) in 1983 and became a launching pad for some of the biggest stars of the past few decades, including Britney Spears and Beyoncé.

Keydar let the song's last high note linger in the air, his voice nearly floating as it brought the packed room to a pause. The celebrity judges - [Chrissy Teigen](#), [Jelly Roll](#) and [Sarah Michelle Gellar](#) - rose to their feet, tears dancing in their eyes.

It was the young singer's first time performing for a live studio audience and to a global audience on one of the world's [biggest streaming platforms](#).



Duo Vespertilio, Harry Merlin Piper, H3rizon, JR De Guzman, Anthony Anderson, Yair Keydar and Movement 55 in "Star Search."

"I don't know what's gonna happen with the world, but you're gonna be a star," said [Grammy-winning](#) singer Jelly Roll, his voice nearly drowned by a chorus of applause from the audience.

Performances like Keydar's are what the revival was meant for, the judges said.

Launching a new show can be challenging, so Netflix leaned into the nostalgia that made the original memorable for earlier generations while also adding modern twists to attract a new audience, said David Friedman, one of the tal-

ent competition's showrunners.

"Saying that there's some built-in nostalgia and memories that you can remember with your family ... that's what made it really exciting," he said.

The show, airing live on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for a five-week run that concludes Feb. 17, is a novel undertaking for the streaming giant. It also introduced new technology that allows for live voting straight from the Netflix app.

Similar competition series, including "America's Got Talent" and "American Idol," have utilized audience voting to

help decide winners, but the ease of voting is one element the show is banking on to keep viewers hooked. The first three weeks of voting on “Star Search” have gone off without any major technical issues, Friedman said.

“Star Search” is Netflix’s latest foray into livestreaming events, which have seen their share of hiccups as the streamer works to scale demand. Previous attempts at live broadcasting, like [the Jake Paul-Mike Tyson fight](#) in 2024, resulted in buffering issues. But as the company continues to invest in livestreaming events, the issues have become less pronounced. Netflix recently livestreamed “Skyscraper Live,” in which climber [Alex Honnold scaled Taipei 101](#), and has plans to stream BTS’ comeback concert in March.

The series, which is hosted by Anthony Anderson, debuted at No. 5 on Netflix’s U.S. charts but has dropped off the top 10 since. Nonetheless, Friedman and others on the show remain hopeful the show will find its footing and resonate with viewers with its voting system and unique format.

Amid a sea of new titles constantly fighting for people’s attention, Friedman said he hopes viewers give the show a chance.

“I just hope people find it,” he said. “Awareness is the hardest thing in this day and age. There’s just so much content on your phone, on different platforms. I think people, if they

find this, I think there’s something special going on here.”

The show includes eight categories - junior music is one them. Keydar was up against Eric Adrien Williams, a 10-year-old gospel soul singer who beat a young country singer in Week 1.

Keydar’s performance was the first to receive a perfect score - five stars from all three contestants - higher than Williams. But the scores still awaited results from the show’s fourth judge: the audience.

Viewers had 60 seconds to cast their votes. A spokesperson for Netflix said viewers from more than 160 countries voted, though they did not share the exact number of votes cast.

Keydar received a higher average, beating Williams and becoming the new category champion. He later defended his title during the third week. Now, the Florida native will fight for a spot in the finale during Week 4.

How the categories, judging and voting work

As is true in show business, contestants are only as good as their last “Star Search” performance, Friedman said.

Each week, a champion is crowned in each category. They then go up against a challenger the following week and must fight to keep their title until the finale. The show requires extensive script changes and dress rehearsals ahead of the taping in the evening, and contestants are

building out their acts throughout the week.

In order to vote, viewers have to watch the show live and cast their vote 60 seconds after a performance, giving each act one to five stars. The average score given by the audience, referred to as the fourth judge, is half of the contestant’s overall score.

Sixteen contestants perform across eight categories within two days of taping each week. Categories include junior music, solo music, musical group, dance, comedy, magic variety, junior variety and a catch-all variety category. Judges don’t see any of the contestants until the live performance.

However, unlike the original show, which featured a winner in each category, the Netflix reboot will crown one single winner in the finale, which Gellar said has shifted her judging philosophy.

“I do have to think about everything, like, can this person be the sole ‘Star Search’ winner? So to me, that elevates what kind of star we’re looking for,” Gellar said.

The live vote holds more importance than before in the reboot and is crucial because the audience, both live and at home, “are the people that are going to be sitting in the theater seats watching these people,” Anderson said.

“They’re going to be the ones sitting in front of the television or in the stadiums, or buying the albums, or watching

the concerts,” he said. “It’s great that they have an opportunity to have a say so.”

Some contestants, like Bear Bailey, a 34-year-old Southern R&B and country singer, were particularly hard to see go, the judges said. Bailey blew the judges away during Week 1 with his soulful rendition of “Hard Fought Hallelujah,” bringing Jelly Roll to tears in the show’s first heartfelt moment of the season.

He returned for Week 2 but was bested by Sophia Saylor, an 18-year-old who gave a raw performance of Billie Eilish’s Grammy-winning song, “What Was I Made For.” The young singer from Michigan, who shared her experience living with a visual impairment, “gave her blood” in her performance, Gellar said.

The show’s format “symbolizes what it’s like to be in the entertainment business as a whole,” Friedman said.

“If you’re No. 1 on the charts, there’s always someone coming for your spot. If you’ve got the No. 1 box office movie, someone’s coming for you,” he said. “If you’re any aspect of entertainment, it’s always about keeping your spot at the top.”

Part of the live show’s success hinges on the ever-evolving setup of the two stages in the lot, which stage crews have to build and dismantle in mere seconds. Netflix also doesn’t hold commercial breaks during the show, which is typically crucial time on broadcast shows to

address any issues, Friedman said.

“When you’re on Netflix, you’re basically going live without a net,” he said. “You’re just sprinting right to the final.”

Why the show was revived

“Star Search” had been in the works for years since Netflix became the owner of the intellectual property. It took longer for the streaming giant to perfect the live voting technology, Friedman said.

The original show aired from 1983 to 1995 and platformed artists like a 10-year-old [Spears](#) and [the Backstreet Boys](#). (In Week 2, AJ McLean made an appearance on the show.) Comedians [Adam Sandler](#) and Jeff Ross also got their start on the show.

Most of the stars who appeared on the show and later became household names didn’t win the competition, but the platform helped set them up for storied careers by giving them exposure.

“All of those people ... didn’t make it to the final round or didn’t win, and we look at the careers that they’ve had since then,” Anderson said. “It’s pretty amazing what this show has been able to do for talent.”

And Friedman didn’t want to change the formula too much. The original show “wasn’t broken,” Friedman said. “We didn’t say we’re gonna do it completely different. I think we really embraced what it was, because people loved watching

it.”

For Anderson, who grew up watching the original series, he didn’t think twice when asked to host the “Star Search” revival, he said.

The “[black-ish](#)” actor has prior experience hosting game shows like ABC’s “To Tell the Truth” and Fox’s “We Are Family.” But it was the love of the original show that drew him to “Star Search.”

The Compton-raised artist recalls begging his mom “to put some gas in the car and get to Hollywood” so he could audition in the acting category, he said.

“Unfortunately, that never happened for me. But here I am as the host. I get to see it on the other side now,” Anderson said. “I’m standing on stage next to our biggest stars on deck. I’m excited about that.”

Some of the judges had ties to the original show, both Gellar and Teigen’s husband, singer [John Legend](#), had once auditioned for the show and were rejected.

The judging trio, who hadn’t worked together before the show, have built a chemistry that can’t be fabricated, Tiegen said, and it’s only strengthening as the weeks go on.

“We’re playing off each other so much. Now, there’s moments where Anthony doesn’t even have to kick it to somebody,” Jelly Roll said. “We’ll start and the other ones just kind of chime in and get it down the line. It’s getting cooler and cool-

er.”

Gellar, who became a cult icon as the lead in “[Buffy the Vampire Slayer](#),” was the first to sign onto the project, after deciding late last year that she wanted to venture into unscripted TV. She was drawn to the show’s live voting feature. The actor and self-proclaimed dance mom often gives the harshest critiques and seldom hands out a perfect five-star score.

Jelly Roll, who was the last to sign onto the project, has delivered some of the show’s most heartfelt moments, and is known to hand out higher scores than his counterparts. Tiegen, a former model turned TV personality, is a balancing act between the two, often giving pointed critiques.

“We really have to think about speaking eloquently, being concise, all those things, because we don’t get a second take,” Gellar said. “There’s no one in our ear giving us jokes. We’re out there, sort of going for it.”

The variety category performances are often the hardest to judge because of its diversity, the judges said. The first three weeks saw an 8-year-old aerialist, a 74-year-old comedian, a laser-performing duo from Vietnam and a Las Vegas magician who hung from the ceiling in a straitjacket.

“Other shows have missed at variety,” Jelly Roll said. “We’ve watched dudes fight with lasers. We’ve seen an 8-year-old swing

from a ceiling. We got a couple right now that almost dies every week. We’ve seen it all.”

The showrunner and judges hope the show brings much-needed light amid darkness in the country. Some contestants, like Las Vegas-based magician TJ Salta, have used their time on stage to spread messages of unity.

“There’s a lot on the air right now and the news and stuff that is hard. There’s things that don’t make our days that fun,” Friedman said. “If we can add some fun, I think that is a big thing for us.”

Birthdays: February 12  Britannica	
On this date: February 12  Britannica	
People in the News How many people watched Bad Bunny’s Super Bow...	
Mick Jagger’s fiancée claims she was ‘physically attacked’ ...	
Kid Rock posts video explaining why his Turning Point halftim...	
Margot Robbie shares ‘nachos’ recipe, leaves audience baffled	
Speed skater Francesca Lollobrigida celebrates Olympics...	

How many people watched Bad Bunny’s Super Bowl 2026 halftime show?



NEILSON BARNARD · GETTY IMAGES

Bad Bunny performs onstage during the Apple Music Super Bowl LX Halftime Show at Levi's Stadium on Sunday in Santa Clara, California.

RYAN HUDGINS

[Bad Bunny](#) took center stage during the [Super Bowl 2026](#) halftime show and won the hearts of hundreds of millions of viewers across the country (and world) while doing it.

According to a Tuesday, February 10, press release from [NBC Sports](#), total social media consumption of the performance - which is inclusive of fans, owned platforms, broadcast partners, influencers and more - set a record of four billion views after the first 24 hours, which is a 137 percent increase YoY.

As for overall views in the United States, Bad Bunny, 31, averaged 128.2 million viewers from 8:15-8:30 p.m. ET - only slightly less than **Kendrick Lamar’s** record-breaking viewership numbers of 133.5 million in 2025. Per the outlet, which cited Ripple Analytics, global viewership numbers will be available early next week.

During the Sunday, February 8, performance, Bad Bunny (real name Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio) took the opportunity to honor his Puerto Rican heritage and began the show in a sugarcane field set.

The rapper then transitioned to a front porch, where he was joined by several celebrities including **Pedro Pascal**, **Jessica Alba** and **Alix Earle**.

Bad Bunny [also surprised viewers](#) when **Ricky Martin** and **Lady Gaga** appeared as surprise guests, before concluding his set with the message, “The only thing more powerful than hate is love.”

The words, which appeared on the stadium scoreboard, were [a nod to Bad Bunny’s acceptance speech](#) at the 2026 Grammy Awards. (Bad Bunny took home the trophy for Album of the Year award for his *Debí Tirar Más Fotos* album at the time.)

Bad Bunny was announced as the headliner for the game - where the Seattle Seahawks ultimately beat the New England Patriots by a 29-13 final score - in September 2025.

“What I’m feeling goes beyond myself,” he said in a statement at the time. “It’s for those who came before me and ran countless yards so I could come in and score a touchdown ... this is for my people, my culture and our history. Ve y dile a tu abuela, que seremos el HALFTIME SHOW DEL SUPER BOWL.”

The announcement was met with some criticism from fans, NFL players and political figures - but was supported by NFL commissioner **Roger Goodell**, who defended the choice in October 2025.

“He’s one of the leading and most popular entertainers in the world,” Goodell, 66, told reporters during a news conference at the time. “That’s what we try to achieve. It’s an important stage for us. It’s an important element to the entertainment value, and it’s carefully thought through.”

Goodell explained that the league has faced backlash in the past for some of their decisions for performers.

“I’m not sure we’ve ever selected an artist where we didn’t have some blowback and criticism,” he said. “It’s pretty hard to do when you have literally hundreds of millions of people that are watching.”

Goodell stated that the NFL was “confident” Bad Bunny would put on a “great” show, adding, “He understands the platform that he’s on, and I think it’s going to be exciting and a united moment.”

Bad Bunny, meanwhile, insisted that English-speakers would enjoy his performance despite previously joking that they had “four months” to learn Spanish.

“They [don’t even have to learn Spanish](#),” he said Thursday, February 5, during the Apple Music Super Bowl LX Halftime Show Press Conference. “It’s better they learn to dance. There’s no better dance than the one that comes from the heart. That’s the only thing that they need to worry about.”

He added, “I just want people to have fun.”

Birthdays: February 12



On this date: February 12



People in the News

How many people
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Bunny's Super Bow...

Mick Jagger's fiancée
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'physically attacked' ...

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explaining why his
Turning Point halftim...

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'nachos' recipe, leaves
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Speed skater
Francesca Lollobrigida
celebrates Olympics...

Birthdays: February 12

*Biographical information from February 12 is from
Encyclopaedia Britannica. Explore more at [britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com).*

Ray Kurzweil, American computer scientist and futurist (b. 1948).

Bill Russell, American basketball player (b. 1934).

Omar Bradley, United States general (b. 1893).

Alice Roosevelt Longworth, American politician and
socialite (b. 1884).

Charles Darwin, British naturalist (b. 1809).

Abraham Lincoln, president of United States (b. 1809).

**Birthdays: February
12**



**On this date:
February 12**



People in the News

How many people
watched Bad
Bunny's Super Bow...

Mick Jagger's fiancée
claims she was
'physically attacked' ...

Kid Rock posts video
explaining why his
Turning Point halftim...

Margot Robbie shares
'nachos' recipe, leaves
audience baffled

Speed skater
Francesca Lollobrigida
celebrates Olympics...

On this date: February 12

Historical events from February 12 are brought to you by Encyclopaedia Britannica. Explore more at [britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com).

2019: As per the terms of the Prespa Agreement (2018), the Republic of Macedonia formally changed its name to the Republic of North Macedonia.

2002: Slobodan Milošević, president of Yugoslavia in 1997–2000, went on trial for war crimes in The Hague, at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia; he died four years later, before the trial had ended.

1994: Thieves broke into the National Gallery in Oslo and stole *The Scream* (later recovered), one of several versions Norwegian artist Edvard Munch made of his most famous painting.

1934: American basketball player Bill Russell, one of the greatest defensive centres in NBA history and the first Black coach of a major professional American sports team (the Boston Celtics), was born.

1909: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded.

1851: Gold was discovered in east-central New South Wales, sparking Australia's first gold rush.

1818: Although the decisive victory over the Spanish did not come until April at the Battle of Maipú, Chile formally declared independence from Spain on this day in 1818, the first anniversary of Chile's victory at Chacabuco.

1809: Born this day in 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th U.S. president (1861–65), preserved the Union during the American Civil War, brought about the emancipation of slaves, and was an eloquent spokesman for democracy.

1809: British naturalist Charles Darwin, who developed the theory of evolution by natural selection, was born.

1554: At age 16 Lady Jane Grey, titular queen of England, was executed in London by order of Mary I.

Birthdays: February 12  Britannica
On this date: February 12  Britannica
People in the News How many people watched Bad Bunny’s Super Bow...
Mick Jagger’s fiancée claims she was ‘physically attacked’ ...
Kid Rock posts video explaining why his Turning Point halftim...
Margot Robbie shares ‘nachos’ recipe, leaves audience baffled
Speed skater Francesca Lollobrigida celebrates Olympics...

Mick Jagger’s fiancée claims she was ‘physically attacked’ in London



BEN STANSALL · AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

British singer Mick Jagger, left, and U.S. author Melanie Hamrick pose on the red carpet upon arrival at the 2025 Fashion Awards at the Royal Albert Hall in London on Dec. 1,...

YANA GREBENYUK

[Mick Jagger](#)’s fiancée, **Melanie Hamrick**, claimed she was “physically attacked” outside of a club in London.

In a since-deleted Instagram Story, [Hamrick, 38, alleged she was](#) “grabbed” by two people “from behind” at the private members club Annabel’s in Mayfair.

“This is incredibly hard to share - but I was physically attacked at @annabelsmayfair tonight,” she wrote, according to multiple outlets. “I’m so thankful to my friends for protecting me.”

Hamrick continued: “Two people grabbed me from behind and thank god for good people who stepped in to help me. I’m shaken, sad and heartbroken that people can treat each other this way.”

According to the U.K.’s *The Sun*, a spokesperson for the Metropolitan Police addressed the incident, encouraging the victim to file a report.

“The Met is committed to tackling crime in the West End, including violence against women and girls, and recognise the traumatic impact incidents of this nature can have on victims,” the spokesperson continued. “By increasing visible patrols in identified hotspots, we have already reduced theft in the area by 30 percent since last April, while personal robbery is down by 20 percent, meaning thousands fewer victims.”

Hamrick met Jagger, 82, in 2014 when she was performing in Tokyo alongside the American Ballet Theatre. The couple began dating in 2015, drawing public interest [for their 44-year age gap](#).

“I don’t think about it. Everyone’s going to have their opinion. If you think about others’ opinions, no matter where you are in life, you’re going to have a problem and you’re going to analyze it,” Hamrick told The Sunday Times in September 2024. “I put the blinders on. Am I happy? Yes. Are the people in my life happy? Yes. Am I hurting anyone? No. OK, they can mind their own business.”

At the time, Hamrick recalled not being fazed by Jagger’s superstardom when they met.

“Ballet dancers meet some of the biggest stars and act like, ‘Who are you?’” she added. “Because, to us, ballet dancers are the gods. That’s who you study and look up to. You’re so in your world.”

The couple [expanded their family in 2016](#) with the arrival of son Deveraux, who is Jagger’s eighth child and Hamrick’s first. The musician is also the father of daughter Karis, 55, with ex **Marsha Hunt**, daughter Jade, 53, with ex-wife **Bianca Jagger**, daughters Elizabeth, 41, and Georgia May, 34, and sons James, 40, and Gabriel, 28, with ex **Jerry Hall** and son Lucas, 26, with ex **Luciana Gimenez**.

Mick and Hamrick recently made a rare public appearance at the British Museum Ball in London in October 2025. Earlier that year, shortly after confirming her engagement to the Rolling Stones icon, Hamrick spoke exclusively to *Us Weekly* about her decision to [keep her private life out of the spotlight](#).

“I think family is so personal, and it’s a bubble,” she shared at the New York City Ballet’s Spring Gala in May 2025. “It’s nice to share things, but it’s like the ballet: there needs to be a mystery or people are going to get sick of you.”

Hamrick also offered insight into the pair’s wedding plans, saying, “Maybe one day we’ll marry, maybe not. We are so happy in our current life that I would be too afraid to change anything.”

Birthdays: February 12  Britannica
On this date: February 12  Britannica
People in the News How many people watched Bad Bunny’s Super Bow...
Mick Jagger’s fiancée claims she was ‘physically attacked’ ...
Kid Rock posts video explaining why his Turning Point halftim...
Margot Robbie shares ‘nachos’ recipe, leaves audience baffled
Speed skater Francesca Lollobrigida celebrates Olympics...

Kid Rock posts video explaining why his Turning Point halftime show sounded bad



CHIP SOMODEVILLA · GETTY IMAGES

Musician Kid Rock performs at the Republican National Convention at the Fiserv Forum on July 18, 2024, in Milwaukee.

DANIEL TRAINOR

[Kid Rock](#) is determined to explain that the poor audio quality of his [Turning Point USA halftime show](#) performance wasn’t his fault.

In a five-minute video posted [via social media](#) on Tuesday, February 10, Kid Rock, 55, addressed the “fake news media and all the trolls that are piling on trying to say I was lip-synching on the Turning Point USA halftime.”

Many on social media speculated that [Kid Rock was lip-synching](#) during his performance of his song “Bawitdada” during the halftime show, which aired on Sunday, February 8.

When Kid Rock saw the first cut of the performance, [which was pretaped](#), he complained that “the sync was off.”

“It was very difficult for them because obviously somebody wasn’t super familiar with the song,” he said.

Kid Rock and his DJ, **Freddie “Paradime” Beauregard**, then launched into an impromptu performance of “Bawitdaba,” attempting to show that they didn’t need to rely on lip-synching to get the job done.

“I know those guys had a difficult time getting that sync together, but I have nothing but good things to say, not only about Turning Point, but the production team that they worked with on this and other events they’ve done is top-notch, first class on the way,” Kid Rock said. “Nobody’s perfect and gets it right every time.”

Kid Rock then flashed a middle finger to the camera “for the haters and the trolls out there.”

“By the way, most of you know this if you have any inclinations [about] the entertainment world,” Kid Rock said of the alleged audio snafu. “You could look at that and be like, ‘Oh, the sync’s off.’ But no, they had to lie and say, ‘Oh, he was lip-synching.’ The problem is, people amplify this all over the internet. I know most people don’t even care. But there’s certain people that keep repeating it so people think it’s a fact.”

The Turning Point USA All-American Halftime Show was organized as alternative programming to **Bad Bunny**, who performed the Super Bowl LX halftime show on Sunday, February 8.

Kid Rock gave his review of the Puerto Rican rapper’s performance during an interview on Monday, February 9, telling Fox News he “didn’t understand any of it.”

“I saw there’s a lot of dancers and a lot of big to-do stuff,” he said on *The Ingraham File*. “And, you know, he said he wanted to have a dance party. It looked like he had one.”

Kid Rock continued, “Not my cup of tea, but I don’t fault that kid for doing the Super Bowl, getting in front of a global audience. I fault the NFL for putting him in that position and Turning Point for having to come out and have an alternative for people to watch. You know, it’s just ... poor kid.”

Bad Bunny’s halftime show averaged 128.2 million viewers, the fourth-most halftime show viewers in history, behind just **Kendrick Lamar** in 2025, **Michael Jackson** in 1993 and **Usher** in 2024.

Birthdays: February 12  Britannica
On this date: February 12  Britannica
People in the News How many people watched Bad Bunny’s Super Bow...
Mick Jagger’s fiancée claims she was ‘physically attacked’ ...
Kid Rock posts video explaining why his Turning Point halftim...
Margot Robbie shares ‘nachos’ recipe, leaves audience baffled
Speed skater Francesca Lollobrigida celebrates Olympics...

Margot Robbie shares ‘nachos’ recipe, leaves audience baffled



NEWSWEEK

Margot Robbie

LYDIA PATRICK

Margot Robbie has revealed her unconventional take on “nachos” - and viewers are absolutely here for it.

The Australian actor, 35, appeared on [the British podcast Table Manners](#), where guests sit down to eat with pop star Jessie Ware and her mother, Lennie Ware. During the episode, Robbie shared her very personal - and very Australian - interpretation of the [Tex-Mex classic](#).

While discussing the dish, Robbie explained what she calls “Bogan nachos.” In Australia, Bogan is a slang term often used to describe someone proudly unrefined or working-class - similar to “redneck” or “trailer trash” in the U.S., though often used affectionately or self-deprecatingly.

Her version of nachos, which she pronounces “narchos,” is made with a packet of Doritos laid out on aluminum foil, topped with a tin of baked beans and finished with melted cheese.

“That’s what I thought nachos was like,” she said. “That is Bogan nachos, and it is banging,” she added.

Robbie was born and raised in Dalby, a rural town in Queensland, Australia, before moving to Melbourne to pursue acting. She first gained recognition on Australian television in *Neighbours* before breaking into Hollywood with *The Wolf of Wall Street* in 2013.

Since then, she has starred in a wide range of films, including *I, Tonya*, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, *Suicide Squad*, *Babylon*, and *Barbie*.

Robbie is currently promoting her upcoming film [Wuthering Heights](#), in which she stars alongside [Jacob Elordi](#). The movie is a new adaptation of Emily Brontë’s classic novel, directed by Emerald Fennell, with Robbie playing Catherine Earnshaw and Elordi portraying Heathcliff. The movie is in theatres on 13 February.

The actor also shared details about her dream last meal, revealing it would include a European cheese board paired with a white Burgundy wine, her husband’s spaghetti Bolognese, or a full Christmas dinner - complete with smoked ham, mashed potatoes, and ice cream from Salt & Straw. Her flavor of choice is sea salt caramel, served in a waffle cone.

Robbie also revealed her go-to karaoke song is Cher’s “Believe.”

Following the episode, TikTok viewers flooded the comments with reactions - many eager to try the dish for themselves.

“Yeah, I’m trying Bogan Nachos!” said one user.

“As an Australian – tin foil, corn chips, salsa, grated cheese into the oven and then out with sour cream,” said S.

“She’s bogan at heart we love her,” wrote Krystna.

“Best episode in ages! Love love love her!!” added another viewer.

“Oh I eat bogan nachos all the time (exactly how she described it but I also add corn kernels) so good,” said Cerah Maggie.

“Yeah as a Aussie I do that too but in a bowl and in the microwave instead of the oven,” commented another user.

“I’m going to try Bogan Nachos,” shared another viewer.

“Aussie girl here can confirm especially putting sour cream once out of the oven,” said Claire.

“Naurchos,” joked another user.

Birthdays: February 12  Britannica
On this date: February 12  Britannica
People in the News How many people watched Bad Bunny’s Super Bow...
Mick Jagger’s fiancée claims she was ‘physically attacked’ ...
Kid Rock posts video explaining why his Turning Point halftim...
Margot Robbie shares ‘nachos’ recipe, leaves audience baffled
Speed skater Francesca Lollobrigida celebrates Olympics...

Speed skater Francesca Lollobrigida celebrates Olympics with 2-year-old son



DEAN MOUHARTOPOULOS · GETTY IMAGES

Gold medalist Francesca Lollobrigida of Team Italy poses for a photo after the medal ceremony following the Speed Skating Women's 3000m at the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic...

KRISTIE LAU-ADAMS

Italian speed skater **Francesca Lollobrigida** shared her Olympic victory with her adorable two-year-old son, Tommaso.

After securing a gold medal at the [2026 Winter Olympics](#) on Saturday, February 7, Lollobrigida, 35, spoke to members of the press while caring for her child in front of the cameras.

During one post-win interview, shared via [X](#) on Sunday, February 8, Tommaso wrapped his arms around Lollobrigida and repeated “Mama” while attempting to stop her from speaking into a microphone.

In one adorable moment, the child tried to hold Lollobrigida’s mouth closed as she struggled to avoid his grasp, leading Tommaso to hold a finger up to his own mouth to indicate that he wanted silence from her. As the athlete continued speaking, the boy turned his attention to his mom’s headband and removed it from her head.

The video captured further toddler behavior from Tommaso, including him batting the microphone away from his mom’s face and playing with her gold medal.

A *New York Times* [interview](#) with Lollobrigida, published on Sunday, February 8, saw Lollobrigida reflect on her juggling of parenthood and a career. “The message I want to show is I didn’t choose between a family, being a mom [and being a speed skater],” she told the outlet.

The article also noted that Lollobrigida’s win in the women’s 3000-meter race coincided with her birthday. “I think it’s the perfect day ... it’s incredible, the dream of my dreams,” she told the outlet.

The interview also delved into the challenges of reaching her Olympic dreams. “This (medal) is for myself, the people who believed in me, and the people who said, ‘Maybe she can’t do it, you know?’ They gave me the power to prove myself,” she told the outlet.

Lollobrigida also spoke about what she hopes for Tommaso, who was born in May 2023, telling the outlet that she “hopes one day he can watch Saturday’s race and understand what she accomplished.”

The Winter Olympics are providing multiple heart-warming mom-and-child moments, with retired figure skater **Tara Lipinski**, who was engaged by NBC Sports to commentate during this year’s figure skating competitions, [defending](#) her choice to bring her two-year-old daughter to Milan-Cortina, Italy with her.

Taking to her Instagram Stories on Friday, February 6, Lipinski, 43, wrote, “Maybe I don’t want to choose. For so long, women weren’t given that option. I want my daughter to see a mother who chases her dreams and shows up fully for her.”

She continued at the time, “I can do both. In my own way at the same time.”

The post included a photo of Lipinski carrying her two-year-old daughter, Georgie, on her shoulders as the duo explored the Italian city together.

Additionally, six-time Olympic competitor **Sarah Schleper** of Mexico will compete in two alpine skiing competitions with her son, **Lasse Gaxiola**, 18. The first event will take place on Thursday, February 12, and the second is scheduled for Sunday, February 15.

According to the [Associated Press](#), the pair’s entry into the Winter Olympics will mark the first time that a mother and son have ever competed together.

Dear Annie | Standing up to family dysfunction

ANNIE LANE

Dear Annie: My wife and I have been married for nearly half our lives, and we've always had a strong relationship. The problem we're facing now is her family — specifically her younger brother and his household.

Her brother has never been particularly motivated, and although we've always been cordial, we've never seen eye to eye. Early in my relationship with my wife, he spread hurtful rumors about my family and even referred to me as a “dirt-bag construction worker.” Despite this, my wife has always felt sorry for him, so I've tolerated him for her sake.

About six years ago, he married a woman he met online after less than a year of dating. They had a baby shortly after. From the beginning, her parenting has been concerning. She didn't introduce solid food until the baby was nearly a year old, claiming the doctor “never told her,” despite my wife and mother-in-law advising her. When the baby began crawling, they put him in front of the TV for hours because he was “too much to deal with.”

Over the years, their issues have only grown. They now



have two children, both with health and behavioral problems tied to poor diet and lack of structure. Their oldest, now 6, has been removed from four schools for behavioral issues. The mother has threatened to leave the marriage multiple times.

Now the grandparents are being used as unpaid child care. They drive one child to and from a school 20 minutes away every day and then babysit until evening. My brother-in-law and his wife also go out at least once a week, leaving the kids with the grandparents, claiming their therapist told them they “need alone time.”

I struggle to be around this family. The parents are irresponsible, and the children are

extremely difficult. Their oldest has physically assaulted both of my daughters multiple times. My kids don't enjoy being around him, and I don't blame them.

The real conflict is with my wife and her family. They constantly make excuses for her brother, blame everything on his wife and refuse to hold him accountable. They baby the kids and expect my children to tolerate their behavior, which is unsafe and disruptive. When my daughters don't want to play with their cousins, my wife gets upset with them — and with me.

Now my wife is angry that I don't want to spend time around her family at all. I'm frustrated that she prioritizes

protecting her brother's feelings over protecting our children's wellbeing and our peace at home.

I don't know how to move forward. I love my wife deeply, but I'm exhausted by the constant drama, the lack of boundaries and the pressure to expose my kids to a situation that is clearly unhealthy. How do I support my marriage while also protecting my family from this chaos? — Feeling Stuck

Dear Feeling Stuck: Your instincts are sound. Protecting your children is not disloyalty; it's your first responsibility as a parent.

Your wife is trying to shield her brother from consequences, but that shouldn't come at the expense of your daughters' safety or peace.

Reframe the issue as your shared duty as parents, not you rejecting her family. Tell your wife that you love her and want harmony, but you will not place your children in situations that are distressing. That line must be firm.

Compassion doesn't mean endless tolerance. And marriage doesn't require you to sacrifice your children's wellbeing to keep the peace.

“Out of Bounds: Estrangement, Boundaries and the Search for Forgiveness” is out now! Annie Lane’s third anthology is for anyone who has lived with anger, estrangement or the deep ache of being wronged — because forgiveness isn’t for them. It’s for you. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information.

Follow Annie Lane on Instagram at @dearannieofficial. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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Dear Abby | Old friend seeks to control the narrative about couple

JEANNE PHILLIPS

DEAR ABBY: Last year, after several years overseas, my husband and I returned stateside and moved to my hometown. It has been a lonely transition. One of my friends from school, "Skip," has helped, but more and more, he dominates social situations by framing what people first learn about me and my husband. It is usually unflattering or one-dimensional, or he'll include me in a one-time event story but make it sound like it was my whole life, which it isn't.

Skip also dominates a conversation and always has to be right. This interferes with our meeting other people, and it leaves my husband feeling alienated and even more alone. He would like to meet and have conversations with new people, but Skip doesn't take it well when I try to explain that his behavior is stifling.

Should I pull back, or try to broach the subject of allowing my husband and me to interact with new people without Skip framing who we are before we meet them? --

MISREPRESENTED IN THE
MIDWEST



DEAR MISREPRESENTED:

Carve out time for you and your husband to socialize independently from your old "friend," who does not seem like much of a friend from where I'm sitting. Use that time to look into volunteering opportunities for yourself and your husband, separately if necessary, and joining other social or special interest groups. If you do, those folks will have the opportunity to meet the real you, and your husband may begin to feel less isolated. Please don't wait to start, because if you do, your husband may become depressed from the continued social isolation.

DEAR ABBY: My husband has

two grown children from his first marriage and two grandchildren. When I met him, he was still in what he described as a very unhappy and unhealthy marriage of 30 years. Because of this, his family has labeled me a homewrecker. While his children are polite and cordial, we don't have any kind of relationship with each other. My husband feels that for every holiday, we must host his children for some portion of the day, after which they can go be with their mother and other family. I don't think I should have to open up my home and cook for people who don't like me. Could you please provide me with some guidance? --

LOOKING FOR WHAT'S FAIR

DEAR LOOKING: Please consider a change in attitude. You stated that your husband's children are polite and cordial with you. They may not dislike you as much as fear that getting too close to you might alienate their mother. Your husband should be able to invite his children into the home you share if he wishes, and the atmosphere should be as warm and welcoming as you can manage. ("Kill them with kindness.") If there is a lot of work involved, your husband should help you with it if he can. If you can manage to do this, you may be able to improve the relationship you have with your stepchildren, which will benefit everyone.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 446, Kings Mills, OH 45034-0446. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Carolyn Hax | Does coddling a dog translate to spoiling future kids?

CAROLYN HAX

Originally published Feb. 12, 2023.

Dear Carolyn: My girlfriend loves her dog and takes extremely good care of it. I mean extremely. The dog has a schedule, including breakfast, walks, naps, playtime, dinner and bedtime. She cooks for the dog. The dog gets filtered (not tap) water. The dog has more toys and sweaters than your average toddler. The dog goes to day care on the days my girlfriend has to work on-site. My girlfriend spends a lot of money on the dog.

The dog is cute. I like the dog. But we are thinking of marrying, and I worry that the way she treats this dog will set a precedent for how she might treat our children. I think as much as she loves the dog, if she treated a child this way, it would be too much. Too much hovering, too much spending, too much controlling.

She is a great girl in every other way. Even in this way, even if that sounds weird, because boy, is that dog loved. But I still worry because I am less hands-on with my pets. They are fed, walked and



cuddled, but they are not treated like royalty. Would it be a mistake to marry this wonderful girl?

- Worried

Worried: If you call her a “girl” one more time, so help me, I’ll have to walk off my rage with my unsweatered pets. While that is my issue for sure, I suspect it’s also relevant to yours.

The combination of calling her “this wonderful girl,” and not really having any idea whether she’s emotionally flexible enough to make a good parent, because you apparently haven’t talked about it - while also suggesting you’re serious enough to be weighing mar-

riage? - has me asking how well you really know her, and, subsequently, how much equality and transparency you expect a life partnership to have.

(It’s one train of thought, so it got one sentence. Humor me.)

This is the obvious point of entry: Next time you gaze upon the filtered water, you can ask her whether she’s thought about how she’d approach raising children. Does she want to have them? Has she thought about how she’d treat human kids versus fur kids? Were her parents nurturing? Is her meticulous caregiving a reflection of her childhood, a reaction to it, just a hobby you’d both do well not

to overthink? Go get all the answers you need, and more.

That you haven't had these kinds of deep-courtship conversations just seems odd to me - and to have them is so obvious a solution that I suspect "Just talk to her, please" is too superficial an answer for the situation.

The second most obvious point of entry is context. Is everything in her life as carefully scheduled as her dog? Does she flow or flip out when plans start to unravel? Is spontaneity ever a thing?

But this, too, seems too obvious to be up to the task, because you'd have done it by now.

So, back to the great-and-wonderful. My hunch, which I will happily apologize for if I'm grievously far off, is that you're more in a role than a relationship. Find "great girl," date, marry, have children, have grandchildren, sheet-cake party for 50th, *The End.*

With two kind people, a little luck, and a deep mutual commitment to the roles and institutions, this can serve you well. (I'm not a complete cynic.)

But people who have started asking questions rarely stop - and you've come up with an excellent one to which you don't feel empowered, for whatever reason, to chase down an answer yourself.

So that's my advice: to empower yourself. To understand that if you believe compatibility and shared philosophy and like-

-minded parenting are nonnegotiable in a marriage, then it's time to lose the role-think and get comfortable with uncomfortable conversations. Channel some of the energy of people who'd ask her outright, immediately on seeing the whole kooky dog-care show: "What is up with that?!"

Better late than, "Oh, dog, what have I done ..."

Dear Carolyn: Our oldest is marrying soon. We are paying for everything. No budget. She has booked a venue that holds half of the number we desired, knowing we wanted to include all their friends and ours. It's the first wedding for both families. They are outgoing, popular 30-somethings. Should we have some say?

- Disheartened

Disheartened: No. Not now, at least. If you saw your money as buying a vote, then you needed to make your conditions clear to the couple when you offered it. That way, they could either have agreed to cash with strings or no strings, no cash.

Insisting on that now, without warning, would be a bait-and-switch, which jeopardizes your relationship with this couple - whereas just having to say no to yourself on inviting "all" your own friends is something you can handle emotionally in-house.

Besides - it's an exciting milestone, yes! But also their marriage, so it's their wedding. Using it as a vehicle for you and

your friends to celebrate is a good idea only when the couple getting married agrees with you that it is.

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon Eastern time each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

Horoscopes for February 12

EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Take the high road. No matter who you are dealing with or what you try to achieve this year, you'll gain if you are direct and follow through with your plans. Your ability to create and manifest the right balance in your life is doable if you maintain discipline and refuse to let anyone throw you off target. Think big, but filter through what's necessary and what isn't, and you'll gain ground. Your numbers are 3, 11, 23, 29, 32, 34, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Fact-check. Confusion is prevalent and can be emotionally and financially costly if you bypass research. Reach out, talk to experts and get the lowdown before you make a move that can affect your lifestyle or livelihood. Too much of anything will set you back. Choose modesty, simplicity and minimalism. 5 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Avoid impulsiveness. The best results come from hard work, time, patience, dedication and desire. If you want to reach your objective, do so in an environment conducive to achieving, not one that is distracting. Your mental and physical attributes will shine through, at-



tracting input from both helpers and disrupters. Choose carefully who you listen to and deal with. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Money talks. Prepare to dedicate your time to the budget and a step-by-step guide to putting your plans in motion if you want funding, financing or permission to complete your mission. Refrain from spending time on items that promise the impossible. Recognize when someone is taking advantage of you and refrain from sharing private information. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Look at the big picture and the possibilities, and don't rule something out because you cannot grasp the idea of change. It's time to grow and to try

something new and exciting. Schedule meetings, visit people or go to places that provide guidance and fulfill your expectations and needs. Take on the task of physical and emotional growth. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You'll receive mixed emotions from whoever you try to get information from. Do your research online, and verify what you discover before you move forward with your plans. Acting in haste will lead to setbacks. It's better to arrive late and fully prepared than to show up early without a clue regarding what others expect of you. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Size up situations, what's available and what's within your price range. Don't mix money

and emotions. Overspending to win favors will not turn out well. Focus on connections that strive for equality, and you will find it easier to get help achieving your goals while also being supportive. Social events will bring you closer to someone you love. 5 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Put your energy into something you enjoy doing. The time you spend working to perfect something you enjoy will encourage you to rearrange your schedule to include more fun time. Social events, physical activity and spending time rearranging your space to house something you enjoy doing are in your best interests. Stop dreaming and start doing. 2 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Take a break, rethink your plans and direct your energy accordingly. Let your intuition, intelligence and imagination guide you forward. It's time to explore what moves and motivates you most and to discard what drags you down. Hit the reset button on your life, and go with the flow. Let your thoughts turn into action. 4 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Balance your budget and see what's left. Once you set a budget for something you want, it will shape your outlook and help you move forward with your plans. Refuse to let

someone's ill intentions override your plans. Know when to say no and walk away from people trying to dictate what you can and cannot do. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Set goals that excite you. Whether it's about money, health or entertainment, it will give you something to work toward. Travel, educational pursuits and reuniting with people you enjoy being around will motivate you to take an active part in changing your life and manifesting your dreams. Personal growth, commitment and romance are on the rise. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Direct your energy in a positive direction, and the returns will be satisfying. A genuine response or a helping hand will buy you time and give you the leverage you need to reach your objective. Play the straight-and-narrow game with honesty, integrity and openness to carry you to victory. What you offer others, you'll get back twofold. 4 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Take a moment to reflect before you act. Emotions can twist your perception, leaving you vulnerable if you act in haste. Look inward and work on self-improvement instead of trying to change others. Personal growth will attract the attention of those you want to impress. Love will have a positive impact on your domestic environment

and intimate relationship. 2 stars

Birthday Baby: You are unpredictable, playful and giving. You are outgoing and entertaining.

1 star: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. 2 stars: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. 3 stars: Focus and you'll reach your goals. 4 stars: Aim high; start new projects. 5 stars: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

With compassion and grit, Mikaela Shiffrin is carrying the US in more ways than one

PAT FORDE

CORTINA d'AMPEZZO, Italy
- In accordance with her superstar status in the skiing world, Mikaela Shiffrin has some heavyweight sponsors. Some of them had signage ready for her press conference ahead of her Milan Cortina debut.

When Shiffrin sat down at the podium, a Visa-branded photo to her right showed her in action from the Beijing Olympics in 2022.

"It's a very cool picture," Shiffrin noted. "Like pulling the picture where I was on my feet."

She waited a beat, then added, "Sorry. That deserved a bigger laugh."

It was a deft moment of self-deprecation, an acknowledgment of the amount of time she spent splattered in the Chinese snow in an Olympics gone all wrong. The [most accomplished World Cup skier](#) in history [brutally bombed in Beijing](#), crashing three times in six races and failing to win a single medal. It was like watching Michael Jordan go scoreless in an NBA Finals game or Tom Brady throw five interceptions in a Super Bowl.



After a disastrous Beijing Olympics, Team USA's slalom superstar Mikaela Shiffrin, seen here on Tuesday, is back at the Winter Games with a refreshing dose of perspective and the medal podium in sight.

At the time of the Beijing debacle, Shiffrin told NBC that it "makes me second-guess the last 15 years, everything I thought I knew about my own skiing and slalom and racing mentally."

The frustration for Shiffrin is that her stunning failure was just a blip in a continuum of excellence stretching more than a decade. She's been the best ever, but so much of that has happened when mainstream sports fans weren't paying attention. That's the unyielding reality that Olympic athletes

must deal with.

The 30-year-old Colorado native has experienced Olympic success—gold medals in 2014 and '18, plus a silver in '18 as well—but the most recent five-ring experience was disastrously bad. Skiing on an unfamiliar mountain, on artificial snow, amid a still-stringent COVID-19 lockdown in Asia, the circumstances piled up and she went down.

That was the elephant in the room at her Saturday press conference, and it's the pachyderm that will accompany her up the

mountain for these Winter Games. With three events on tap—the team combined, giant slalom and slalom, the first of which is contested Tuesday—she's ready to carry the weight.

"I think it'd be impossible not to take my experiences from previous Olympics, including Beijing, and sort of have those be somehow relevant in this Games," she said. "But I feel like sitting here right now, I feel so much gratitude to be here. It's like excitement, there's adrenaline, I'm certainly nervous at times, but really a lot of a sense of gratitude. I'm excited to take that with me for the entire time that we're here."

Shiffrin is a thinker. She pauses as she talks, considering her words. She carries a high degree of awareness with her, which has assuredly helped her [win a record 108 World Cup races](#) but might also be an occasional nemesis. She came back successfully from Beijing, but then disappeared down a dark hole after a serious injury in Killington, Vt., in November 2024.

A crash in a Super-G run there left her with a [puncture wound in her abdomen](#), one that came within a millimeter of perforating her colon. She described the ordeal in detail in [The Players Tribune](#) last May, including the post-traumatic stress disorder that accompanied her recovery.

Expecting to power through rehab and bounce back quickly in competition, Shiffrin wrote

that she instead encountered a strange sort of disconnect between mind and body. She felt like she was living out the familiar nightmare scenario of being stuck in a quagmire that prevents a person from moving quickly, when speed is needed.

"Molasses, basically," she wrote. "... It was almost like I was no longer in control of my body."

Through counseling, Shiffrin said she was diagnosed with PTSD from her crash and injury. That helped her understand what was happening, and in turn provided a baseline for crawling out of the hole she was in. One key: simple repetition. Going back up the mountain and back into the start gate and working through practice runs without chasing perfection.

Two months later, she was back in competition. Shortly thereafter, she was back on the podium. On Feb. 23, 2025, she became the [first skier to record 100 career World Cup victories](#). The wins have continued to pile up this season.

Asked about the PTSD journey Saturday, Shiffrin gave a nuanced response. (Remember: thinker.) She did not want to equate her trauma with what soldiers and others experience in warfare.

"When people talk about PTSD, I think oftentimes the cases are referring to really war veterans and that's the context we know it in for the most part," she said. "I do want to be careful—there are a lot of eyes

on this event and I want to be aware to not say that my experiences are anything like that. ... Having said that, I also believe that a lot more people experience this kind of a trauma response than you might imagine. If even teammates who didn't necessarily have words to it, have sort of brought that up and said, 'This encouraged me to go and explore my own [traumatic] experience.' "

Shiffrin can get granular about transferring the mental work into the technical process of skiing. In the mostly turn-dominated slalom world, as opposed to the bomber approach of downhill, going through gates with proper weight distribution is vital. What Shiffrin didn't do well enough in Beijing is something she might have done too well in Vermont.

"I would like to be more committed to my outside ski," Shiffrin said. "In skiing, outside ski is the boss. If you're on your outside ski, you're in the driver's seat. And that has been an ongoing task for me because it's also one of the things that played a role in my crash in Killington. And I will tell you, I would take Beijing any day over crashing in Killington and getting a puncture wound to the abdomen. So there are many reasons to be on the outside ski, but that is one of the sole purposes of my skiing every single day when I go out on the mountain."

While concentrating on the details, Shiffrin is well aware of

the larger context of athletic performance within the Winter Games. Media representatives from around the world care less about her outside ski than her innermost thoughts-specifically about representing the United States at a time when the country is arguably at its [lowest level of popularity globally](#).

It's a tricky line to walk, and most athletes here are responding to questions as opposed to volunteering their opinions. There aren't a lot of easy answers in a [heightened political climate that can be a tinder box of anger ready to catch fire](#). Nobody wants to be the next American athlete castigated by Donald Trump on social media for insufficient patriotism, but a lot of them have opinions they're willing to share.

Like a skier plotting the path through a set of gates, Shiffrin chose a nuanced line of approach. She was ready for the question.

"It's always an honor and privilege to represent Team USA and to represent your country," Shiffrin said. "And then in our sports, to be able to come together in this Olympic venue and spirit, that's quite a gift and it's truly an honor to be here. I think there's a lot of hardship in the world globally and there's a lot of heartbreak, there's a lot of violence. It can be tough to reconcile that when you're also competing for medals in an Olympic event."

At that point she reached for her phone and referred to notes

she had typed before arriving in Cortina. Shiffrin noted what actress Charlize Theron said [at the opening ceremony](#) in quoting Nelson Mandela: "Peace is not just the absence of conflict, peace is the creation of an environment where we can all flourish regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender, class, cast or any other social markers of difference."

Then she provided her own perspective: "For me, as this relates to the Olympics, I'm really hoping to show up and represent my own values-values of inclusivity, values of diversity and kindness and sharing, tenacity, work ethic, showing up with my team every single day. I'm hoping to represent those who have been supporting me this entire time and I'm really thankful to be here, and my greatest hope for this Olympic Games from a broader perspective is that it is a beautiful show of cooperation and of competition."

More Winter Olympics on Sports Illustrated

- [Jordan Stolz Crushes Olympic Record in Gold Medal-Winning 1000m Speedskating Race](#)
- [Lindsey Vonn Shares Positive Update From Hospital Bed After Third Straight Surgery](#)
- [Team USA Men's Olympic Hockey Schedule: Full List of Games at Milan Cortina Olympics](#)
-

10 Burning Questions with Chloe Kim

- [Chloe Kim Dropped Most Confident Line After Qualifying for Women's Halfpipe Final](#)

This article was originally published on [www.si.com](#) as [With Compassion and Grit, Mikaela Shiffrin Is Carrying the U.S. in More Ways Than One](#).

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US speed skater Jordan Stolz grabs gold with Olympic record

ALEX BUTLER

Feb. 11 (UPI) -- American speed skater Jordan Stolz surged by rival Jennings de Boo in record fashion for gold Wednesday in his 2026 Winter Olympics debut, the 1000-meter final.

Stolz, who owns the world record (1:05.37) in the distance, clocked a new Olympic record time of 1:06.28 on Wednesday in Milan. The time was 0.50 ahead of his Dutch rival.

Stolz's time was nearly a second faster than the previous Olympic record of 1:07.18, which was set in 2002 by Gerard van Velde of the Netherlands.

Stolz trailed early on in his matchup with de Boo. He exchanged the lead with de Boo, but fell behind again before the last lap. Stolz then traveled nearly 40 MPH to overcome a deficit of nearly a full second, ripping through the final inside corner and scorching to the finish line.

Stolz set a record for the largest margin of victory in the event at the Olympic level since 1984. China's Ning Zhongyan was third, with a time of 1:07.34.

Americans Conor Mc-



Team USA's Jordan Stolz celebrates winning gold and breaking the Olympic record after the speed skating men's 1000m during the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games at Milano Speed Skating Stadium in Milan on Wednesday.

Dermott-Mostowy and Cooper McLeod placed 9th and 19th, respectively.

Stolz, who is the favorite to win at least three gold medals at Milan-Cortina, will continue that quest with the 500-meter final Saturday in Milan. He also plans to compete in the Feb. 19 1,500-meter finale and the Feb. 21 mass start.

With two more victories, Stolz would match Eric Heiden as the only American in any sport to win at least three gold medals at a single Winter Olympics.

Holden won a still-standing record five gold medals at the

1980 Winter Olympics. Those wins came in the 500-, 1,000-, 1,500-, 5,000-, and 10,000-meter distances.

The men's 500-meter final will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday in Milan. The race will air on NBC.

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Elizabeth Lemley wins gold, Jaelin Kauf nets silver in women's moguls

LIVIGNO, Italy -- American freestyle skier Elizabeth Lemley won a surprise gold medal in moguls with two neat and quick runs at the Winter Games on Wednesday.

Her victory put an end to 2022 champion Jakara Anthony's bid to become the first Australian to successfully defend a title at a Winter Games.

Anthony, who has dominated the discipline for the last four years, led from silver medalist American Jaelin Kauf after the first run but wobbled out of line on her second to finish eighth and last.

Kauf, who also finished second in Beijing four years ago, won her second silver with a score of 80.77, and Pyeongchang 2018 champion France's Perrine Laffont clinched bronze with 78 points.

In her first run of the finals, under a bright and sunny afternoon sky in the narrow valley of Livigno, Lemley was in firm control of her skis, always pinned one to the other, and landed well after two big jumps.

In the second run -- also known as the superfinal -- the skier pushed on the speed,



Gold medalist Elizabeth Lemley of the United States celebrates during the freestyle skiing women's moguls final during the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games at Livigno Aerials & Moguls Park on Wednesday in Livigno, Italy.

keeping her skis tight together and showing off great technique around the moguls and with a big grab on the bottom jump.

"I was trying to focus on trusting myself. I've been working on that this whole season ... and right when I pushed out of the gate, I said to myself, 'Let's go!'" Lemley told a press conference after the medal ceremony.

Like other athletes at the Winter Games, Lemley's medal fell apart as she was celebrating on the top of the podium just after she received it from Aus-

tralian Olympic Committee President Ian Chesterman, who would have been hoping for a different outcome.

Anthony had a first fast, clean run for the finals, with smooth turns and a big grab on the bottom jump, but in the second she lost control in the middle section of the moguls, leaving her fall line, the straightest path down the hill.

Her 83.96 score on the first run would have been enough for gold had she reproduced it in the second, but only the final score counts and Lemley's

82.30 secured the American her first global title.

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Kauf, who got through to the final only hours before in the second qualifying round, delivered a fast first run down the hill, with tidy skiing through the moguls and strong jumps.

In the superfinal she was strong and quick, with a big top jump, crushing through the moguls and performing a grab in the bottom air.

“I definitely didn’t take the easy route into the finals... but I think everything happens for a reason,” Kauf said.

Despite scraping through to the second final round with a stylish technique but not so clean jumps, Laffont set a very high bar in the second run, showing off great precision and performing two big jumps with grabs.

Japan’s Hinako Tomitaka also scored 78 but Laffont took the bronze as she was awarded a better score -- 42.6 to 42 -- for her turns in the final run.

Asked what went through her mind when she saw her score was the same as Tomitaka’s, Laffont said: “Today was a real roller coaster. It is pretty hard to remember what I was thinking.”

Anthony was disappointed but was already looking ahead.

“I’m pretty bummed, to be honest,” Anthony said. “I definitely had what it took, but it is just not my day today sadly. Maybe in another four years’ time.”

Von Allmen wins 3rd gold of Games in Super-G, American Cochran-Siegle claims silver

BORMIO, Italy -- Switzerland's Franjo von Allmen joined a very exclusive club of Alpine skiers as he powered to his third gold medal of the Milan Cortina Olympics with a super-G masterclass down the Stelvio on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old followed his gold in the downhill and team combined with another full-throttle blast down the iconic Bormio track to win by 0.13 seconds from American Ryan Cochran-Siegle.

He is the first male Alpine skier since French great Jean-Claude Killy in Grenoble in 1968 to win three golds at the same Olympics -- Killy doing it in downhill, slalom and giant slalom.

Austria's Toni Sailer managed the same treble in 1956 in Cortina, while the only female skier to win three golds in one Games was Croatia's Janica Kostelic at Salt Lake City in 2002.

"For the moment I feel like I am dreaming. I hope I don't wake up, it's completely surreal what's going on today and the whole Olympics," a beaming Von Allmen told reporters.

"I was sure I wasn't up for



Swiss gold medallist Franjo von Allmen, center, celebrates on the podium with American silver medallist Ryan Cochran-Siegle, left, and Swiss bronze medallist Marco Odermatt after the men's alpine skiing super G race during the Milano Cortina Olympic Winter Games on Wednesday at Stelvio Ski Centre.

gold. Maybe today I had a little bit of luck with the slope, with the snow, with the early bib (start). Maybe it was a little bit slower after me."

Von Allmen once again left his teammate Marco Odermatt in the shade. Odermatt has been the dominant male skier for five years and was tipped for multiple golds but had to settle for a bronze medal to add to his team combined silver.

Odermatt gave it everything but was ragged in the closing stages where Von Allmen was

smooth, and came up 0.28 seconds short. His last chance for gold will be Saturday's giant slalom.

"I won bronze. You have to be happy if you win an Olympic medal but I wanted a little bit more. I wanted the gold," the 28-year-old said. "On the bottom I made some little mistakes, two or three times. That's where I lost the gold medal."

Cochran-Siegle was third starter and took advantage of the firmer early conditions on a mild morning, repeating the sil-

ver medal he took in super-G at the 2022 Beijing Games

ON THE LIMIT

Seventh man out of the start gate, Von Allmen produced a typically aggressive run on a course that was 800 meters shorter than the one on which he won Saturday's downhill.

He nailed the upper sections and was on the limit in the lower section as no other skier could match his speed.

Von Allmen looked almost apologetic when Odermatt crossed the line with a slower time, but as the late runners came down, the reality of what he was achieving began to dawn.

Sitting next to Odermatt in the finish area, he held up three fingers to the TV cameras as the red-and-white-clad fans in the grandstand serenaded the new superstar of Swiss skiing.

While it was a joyous day for the Swiss, there was heartbreak for Italy's veteran Stelvio king Dominik Paris on what was likely his final Olympic run.

The crowds roared when he started his run but gasped when one of the 36-year-old's skis came off early in his run. Thankfully he avoided any physical damage.

"I don't know what happened, because it's a ski I always used in the races and it was always good," Paris, who got his first Olympic medal with bronze in the downhill, said.

"I'm really happy with (the Olympics). Finally, I have my

dream."

Fellow Italian Giovanni Franzoni, second in the downhill behind emerging rival Von Allmen, could only finish sixth but was full of praise for his fellow 24-year-old.

"Congrats to Franjo. What an amazing week he has had. And he is such a great guy and athlete. He's just so smooth," he said.

The men's Alpine skiing program continues with Saturday's giant slalom and concludes with Monday's slalom.

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Americans Chock, Bates settle for silver in surprise ice dance finish

THUC NHI NGUYEN

MILAN - A single tear rolled down Madison Chock's face. A silver medal hung around her neck. It was a bittersweet prize.

Chock and Evan Bates, the three-time world ice dance champions, settled for second place in their fourth Olympics together, falling 1.43 points behind France's Laurence Fournier Beaudry and Guillaume Cizeron on Wednesday at Milano Ice Skating Arena. Cizeron has won back-to-back Olympic titles with different partners after climbing the podium in Beijing with Gabriella Papadakis.

While Chock and Bates have skated together for 15 years and got married in 2024, Fournier Beaudry and Cizeron shot to the top of the sport after just 11 months together. When the winning score was announced Cizeron hugged his coach and covered his face while crying. Chock and Bates, sitting next to the kiss-and-cry in white arm chairs reserved for the current leaders, clapped politely.

This gold medal would have been a perfect ending to their accomplished career.

The three-time world champions and seven-time U.S.



Americans Madison Chock and Evan Bates compete during the ice dancing free skate competition at the Winter Olympics in Milan on Wednesday. The pair narrowly missed winning the gold medal.

champions claimed their first individual Olympic medal but were favored to win gold in what is likely their final competitive season. On an Olympic team with only one other athlete with previous Games experience - 20-year-old Alysa Liu skated in Beijing as a teenager - Chock and Bates became the unofficial parents to their younger teammates, including Emilea Zingas and Vadym Kolesnik, who finished fifth, and 11th-place finishers Christina Carreira and Anthony Ponomarenko.

"I call them Mr. and Mrs. America," U.S. teammate Amber Glenn said this week.

Chock and Bates helped win team gold medals in 2022 and 2026. They were the steadiest contributors of this year's team Olympic championship, winning both dance programs to keep the United States ahead in a competition that came down to a single point.

But performing four times in six days required more mental strength and discipline than ever, Bates said. Both programs in the team competition earned

the season's best scores. After another season high Wednesday, Bates lowered his forehead to the ice and exhaled deeply. On his knees, he wrapped his arms around his wife's waist and held on tight.

"It was our gold medal performance," Bates said. "It was the best that we could skate."

An injury in 2018 and an uncharacteristic slip in 2022 kept them off the individual podium during the last two Olympics. But they haven't missed a podium since the stumble in Beijing. They were undefeated this season, placing first for both the rhythm and free dance portions of every competition.

Until the individual Olympic short dance.

Fournier Beaudry and Cizeron, who paired together last year only after Fournier Beaudry's longtime skating partner was suspended for sexual assault allegations and Cizeron parted ways with Papadakis, inched ahead by 0.46 points after Monday's rhythm dance. It was a reversal from the team event, where Chock and Bates led the qualifying round 91.06-89.98 over the French pair.

After the rhythm dance score for Chock and Bates flashed across the screen, her eyebrows shot up in surprise. Their coach Patrice Lauzon's mouth dropped open. He furrowed his brow and cocked his head in confusion. While Chock and Bates smiled and waved to the crowd, Lauzon, who is also on the

coaching team for Fournier Beaudry and Cizeron, looked on with suspicion.

Chock and Bates did their best to leave no doubt Wednesday. Their enthralling matador and bull program set to "Paint it Black" brought U.S. fans to their feet. Stars and stripes waved in every corner of Milano Ice Skating Arena.

"I feel like in life, sometimes you can feel like you do everything right and it doesn't go your way," Bates said of judging disputes. "That's life, and that's sport. And it's a subjective sport. It's a judged sport. But one fact that is indisputable is we delivered our best. ... The rest is not up to us."

While Fournier Beaudry and Cizeron skated, Chock and Bates held hands sitting next to the kiss-and-cry. They gazed into each other's eyes and spoke softly to each other.

"We just told each other that we're proud of each other, we love each other, and there's nothing more we could have done," Chock said, "and nothing that we would change."

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Picabo Street gave Lindsey Vonn her gloves, but still 'cried all night' before fateful race

SAM FARMER

MILAN - There's a lot of love in those gloves.

Before her fateful downhill run Sunday - one that ended with a violent crash after 13 seconds - Lindsey Vonn pulled on a pair of out-of-production gloves from her childhood skiing idol, Picabo Street.

The gloves are weathered and white, their brightness dulled by the decades, with the brand name "reusch" across the knuckles and a big, plum-colored sun on top. On the wrist straps are Street's initials, scrawled in marker.

Vonn didn't announce the gesture, nor did NBC, which employs Street as a color commentator. Street was at the starting gate of the Olimpia delle Tofane course for Sunday's coverage.

Street confirmed to The Los Angeles Times that the two longtime friends made the glove exchange before the Olympics.

"When she saw a picture of me in those gloves, she was like, 'Oh, those would be cool,'" Street told The Times. "And I caught wind of it, and was like, 'Well, I just happen to have them.'" "



Lindsey Vonn of Team United States crashes during the Women's Downhill on day two of the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics at Tofane Alpine Skiing Centre on Sunday in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

Those gloves are especially meaningful to Street because they are immortalized on the bronze statue of her in Sun Valley, Idaho. The sun across the top is visible in the sculpted detail.

"It was just my way of being able to show her that, you know, I love you and I believe in you," Street said. "And wear these, they'll be fun."

The two were on the U.S. Ski Team together - Street at the end of her career, Vonn at the beginning - and have been close friends for years. Vonn co-

-produced the documentary "Picabo," and in it tells Street, "You are my hero."

Street, whose skiing and who's first name helped make her a pop-culture sensation during her Olympic career is a huge fan of Vonn. In speaking to The Times, she said on multiple occasions, "I'm not the story here, so this isn't about me."

Still, there are some uncanny coincidences. For instance, Vonn was the 13th skier in Sunday's lineup and her run lasted 13 seconds before her

fall, in which she broke her left leg. Late in her career, Street suffered a broken left leg in a race that took place on Friday the 13th in Crans Montana, Switzerland, where Vonn sustained a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in a fall at the end of January.

Street had an emotional reaction when she learned what bib number Vonn would be wearing.

“I about puked when I saw number 13,” Street said. “I got very little sleep. I cried all night long, and I cried in the morning. I couldn’t shake it.”

She said her main concern now is her friend’s return to health, not for competitive skiing but for life.

“I want her leg to work for her,” Street said. “I want her nerves to work for her. I want her to have function of her whole body again, and in case she wants to have a family, she can play with her kids.”

The gloves weren’t the first piece of equipment Street loaned to Vonn.

“I remember when I raced in Salt Lake, and I retired, and I was packed up and leaving the house we were staying in,” Street said, referring to the 2002 Winter Olympics. “She came into the house, and I remember giving her a huge hug and giving her a couple of items - one of which she wore in those Games - which was a sleeve around her braid, because we both have really long hair.

“I wore a red, white and blue American-flag neoprene sleeve around my hair, and she wore one as well. I handed her that there and was like, ‘Here you go. Go get ‘em.’ “

After Vonn’s crash Sunday, Street told her own mother about loaning the gloves.

“I said, ‘Oh God, mom, she was wearing my gloves,’ “ she said, her voice catching with emotion.

“At first my mom said, ‘Oh, honey,’ and then she goes, ‘OK, let’s flip this. Maybe the gloves kept her from getting injured worse.’ “

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Lindsey Vonn reveals third leg surgery since downhill crash

American skiing star Lindsey Vonn revealed in a social media post on Wednesday that she underwent a third surgery since breaking her left leg in a violent crash during the Olympic downhill Sunday and said she will be “ok.”

“I had my 3rd surgery today and it was successful,” Vonn said in an Instagram post that included a picture of her in a hospital bed with her leg in a brace. “Success today has a completely different meaning than it did a few days ago. I’m making progress and while it is slow, I know I’ll be ok.”

“Thankful for all of the incredible medical staff, friends, family, who have been by my side and the beautiful outpouring of love and support from people around the world.”

Vonn, 41, made a return in December 2024 after a history of knee injuries and was leading the World Cup downhill standings this season with seven podium finishes heading into the Milan Cortina Games. But in a training run just over a week before the Olympics began, she tore the ACL in her left knee during a crash while on a training run.

Even with the ACL injury, Vonn elected to compete in the



Lindsey Vonn of the United States in the finish area during women's downhill training during the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games at the Tofane Alpine Skiing Centre on Feb. 6 in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

Olympics but crashed 13 seconds into her downhill run Sunday when her right arm got caught in a gate, sending her airborne. She was airlifted from the mountain with a broken leg.

Despite her disappointment, and the multiple medical procedures she has undergone in a matter of days, Vonn has been keeping an eye on the competition at the Olympics.

“Also, huge congrats to my teammates and all of the Team USA athletes who are out there inspiring me and giving me something to cheer for,” Vonn said in her post.

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Sweden overcomes Italy fight, Slovakia stuns Finland on Day 1 of men's hockey

MILAN, Italy -- Underdog Italy made podium-contending Sweden work for its 5-2 win in the men's ice hockey group stage on Wednesday and Slovakia stunned defending champions Finland 4-1, as the Olympic tournament delivered thrills on its opening day.

The two Nordic titans were expected to notch routine wins in their respective Group B affairs, with NHL-laden teams in the top-flight professional league's highly anticipated return to the Games after a 12-year absence.

Instead, Slovakia sent Finland searching for answers and the hosts left the packed Santagiulia Arena with pride two days after Italy's women's team booked a Cinderella trip to the knockout stages.

"I don't think the expectations were high from anybody but us," said Italy's captain Thomas Larkin. "Our goalies played fantastic tonight and gave us a chance and we were in it 'til the end."

ITALY PUT UP A FIGHT

Sweden won gold the last time Italy hosted the Games 20 years ago and worked out its



Juraj Slafkovsky of Slovakia celebrates scoring their third goal with teammates during a men's ice hockey Group B game against Finland on Wednesday at Milano Santagiulia Ice Hockey Arena in Milan. Slovakia beat the defending champs 4-1.

early kinks as captain Gabriel Landeskog, defensemen Gustav Forsling and Victor Hedman and forwards William Nylander and Mika Zibanejad each scored.

Swedish goaltender Filip Gustavsson lost his stick as he was coming out to play the puck in the fifth minute and Italy's Luca Frigo leaped on the loose puck and rifled it into the net as the home crowd erupted in utter joy.

Landeskog quieted the cheers when he leveled the game on the power play before Forsling

ripped a vicious slapshot past the Italian goalie to grab the lead before the first intermission.

But the Italians made it 2-2 with a bit of trickery early in the second, as Dustin Gazley snuck behind the net and fed the puck to Matt Bradley, who rifled it past the Swedish goalie's glove, again sending the sea of home fans into a frenzy.

Nylander tapped in a rebound late in the second period to take back the lead and New York Rangers center Zibanejad directed the puck into the top-

-right corner late in the third before Hedman sent one into the empty net to close out the scoring.

Goalie Damian Clara, Italy's homegrown Anaheim Ducks prospect, went off limping midway through the third period, clouding an otherwise dream Olympic debut for the 21-year-old, who turned away 46 shots. Sweden ultimately outshot Italy 60-22.

SLAFKOVSKY SHINES FOR SLOVAKIA

Finland outshot Slovakia 40-25 but was left frustrated by missed chances as goalie Samuel Hlavaj turned away 39 shots in a chippy affair earlier on Wednesday.

Juraj Slafkovsky, Slovakia's Olympic scoring leader four years ago, found the back of the net in the first and third periods, while forward Dalibor Dvorsky scored in the second and center Adam Ruzicka sent one into the empty net late in the Group B clash.

Both teams next play on Friday, with Slovakia taking on host Italy as Finland faces Nordic rival Sweden.

"It wasn't about the one, two, or three players, it was about the 22 guys who battled today," said Slovakia coach Vladimir Orszagh.

Fans wearing NHL jerseys crowded in with the flag-waving crowd, who cheered wildly as the Montreal Canadiens' 21-year-old winger Slafkovsky got Slovakia on the board with a

fine solo effort that ricocheted in off the post in the eighth minute.

A skirmish near the Slovak net ahead of the intermission saw Finland forward Joel Armia in the penalty box for the first two minutes of the second period on a roughing penalty, but the Slovaks could do nothing on the power play.

Once out of the box, Armia fed the puck perfectly to Eeli Tolvanen and the Seattle Kraken winger whipped it past the Slovak goalie to level the contest.

Old NHL grudges spilled onto the Olympic ice as Finnish defenseman Niko Mikkola, who plays for the Stanley Cup champion Florida Panthers, got into it with the Tampa Bay Lightning's Erik Cernak at the end of the second, but both sides regained their composure.

Dvorsky put Slovakia ahead when he flipped the puck over Finnish alternate captain Sebastian Aho, who had fallen onto the ice in front of the net.

Slafkovsky added an insurance goal on a power play and Ruzicka scored into the empty net after Finland pulled its goalie for an extra skater late in the third.

The men's Olympic ice hockey tournament continues on Thursday, beginning with Switzerland vs. France and Czech Republic vs. Canada, both Group A games.

Group C teams play later on Thursday, as the United States face Latvia and Germany plays

Denmark.

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Italy's national mint to repair broken Olympic medals

After multiple athletes reported issues with damaged medals, Milan Cortina Olympic organizers confirmed Italy's national mint will repair any faulty medal fixings for athletes at the 2026 Games.

Olympic organizing committee spokesman Luca Casassa said a "targeted intervention" was agreed to with the producer of the medals, Rome's Zecca dello Stato (state mint), to resolve the problems, which reportedly involve ribbons and clasps, not the medal designs themselves.

"Athletes who have medals with problems are invited to give them back through the appropriate channels so that they can be immediately repaired," Casassa said.

American skier Breezy Johnson displayed a cracked and chipped gold medal after her win in the women's downhill Sunday. "I was jumping up and down in excitement, then it just fell off," Johnson told reporters Sunday. "Don't jump in them. ... I'm sure somebody will fix it. It's not crazy broken, but a little broken."

German biathlete Justus Strelow also had his medal fall off his neck as he was celebrating a mixed relay bronze win



A close-up view of a gold medal held by Breezy Johnson during the medal ceremony after the Women's Downhill on Sunday in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. Shortly after the presentation, Johnson's medal became cracked and chipped.

with his teammates. Swedish cross-country skier Ebba Andersson also reportedly saw damage on her silver medal from the women's skiathlon.

Andrea Francisi, the chief games operations officer for the Milan Cortina organizing committee, had responded to the damaged medal reports Monday promising a swift resolution.

"... Obviously we are paying maximum attention to this matter, as the medal is the dream of the athletes, so we want that obviously in the moment they are given it that everything is absolutely perfect, because we really consider it to be the most

important moment," Francisi said Monday.

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What Olympians can teach us about disappointment

GLORIA LIU

Every Winter Olympics, Lindsey Jacobellis was forced to relive her most public failure. At the 2006 Games in Torino, Italy, the snowboard cross star was only 20 years old when she attempted a stylish grab in the final stretch of a race and crashed, losing her significant lead -- and the gold medal.

At the next three Olympics, Jacobellis couldn't forget her devastating blunder -- and others wouldn't let her either. Reporters asked about it in press conferences. Strangers, not knowing who she was, brought up the woman who "totally blew it" in snowboard cross. In 2010 and 2014, she didn't even make the finals.

Today, Jacobellis still has a hard time watching any sports competition, even the Super Bowl. When the camera pans over the ecstatic winner, she said, "I immediately feel for that other individual."

For every victory at the Games, there are many more heartbreaks. A majority of athletes don't earn a medal, and even those who do, but fail to win gold, can experience profound disappointment.

"They have a dream that many of them have had since



Shani Davis of the U.S. competes in the men's 1000-meter speedskating event during the 2010 Winter Olympics in Richmond, Canada, Feb. 17, 2010. "I see people celebrating their Olympic medals, all euphoric, and I'm like, man, I wish I could have had that feeling," said Davis.

childhood, and in some cases it dies right in front of the world," said Michael Gervais, a psychologist who coaches Olympians and other elite athletes. But "the best have a framework to move through it," he added.

Learning Resilience

For top athletes, grappling with failure is a job requirement, said David Fletcher, a professor of human performance and health at Loughborough University in Britain. A key difference between the best athletes and the rest of us is that they see challenges as opportunities for

growth rather than threats, he said.

While being naturally optimistic or conscientious helps, researchers say that to some extent, resilience can be learned. What we might perceive as mental Teflon in top athletes is also the result of a lifetime of practice.

Today, sports psychology and mental skills training are increasingly common in elite competition, and much of the work to bolster an athlete's psychological hardiness happens long before the Games.

Just as psychologists have athletes visualize their wins,

they also ask them to imagine all the things that could go wrong, and how they'll respond, said Jessica Bartley, senior director of psychological services for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee.

Athletes also use self-talk to overcome disappointment and regain composure, especially during competition. Gervais has his athletes prepare ahead of time by writing down their self-talk -- "I'm a tough competitor," for example -- as well as three experiences that have proved that self-talk. "It needs to be believable," he said.

The Power of Purpose

Research suggests that people who have a sense of purpose in life deal with stress more effectively. Gervais has athletes identify their goals beyond winning, such as achieving personal growth or representing a marginalized group. When an athlete's motivations feel anchored to something bigger than medals, he said, "disappointment is painful, but it's not terminal."

Having multiple bars to measure success can help athletes to hedge against disappointment, Fletcher said, adding that the best athletes set what are known as process-oriented goals, meaning those within their control, as opposed to just performance-oriented goals, which are based on results. If they lose a race, they can still say they achieved other goals, like improving their technique,

pacing or fueling strategy.

As part of identifying purpose, psychologists like Gervais also have athletes make plans for their life after competition.

Two-time gold-medalist skier Ted Ligety said that his work managing an eyewear and helmet company during his racing career, and his plan to do so full time after retirement, gave him something else to focus on beyond his sport.

"It showed me there were other cool things out there," he said. He said his plans helped him eventually transition into what he called "the civilian world" after a disappointing 15th-place result at the 2018 Olympics.

Grit as a Team Effort

A person's environment and support system are important elements of grit, said Michael Ungar, a professor of social work and director of the Resilience Research Center at Dalhousie University in Canada.

An athlete overcoming an injury, for example, might have a support system of physical therapists, family and friends who drive them to appointments and sponsors who continue to pay them.

Fletcher emphasized that an athlete's perceived social support, rather than actual, is most important. He asks athletes to list the people or support systems they have in their lives, along with how often they've relied on them recently. This not only boosts their perception of

the help they have available but illuminates where they could ask for more.

It's also critical to have supporters who care about the athlete as an individual, not just a performer, said Lauren Loberg, a mental performance coach who works with Olympians.

In 2002, speedskater Shani Davis qualified for his first Olympics, then immediately endured months of scrutiny and unwanted media attention when another skater accused him of colluding with teammates to fix the race. At the 2006 Winter Games, he was disparaged for skipping the team skating event to focus on his individual races. (Davis is Black and some suggested the criticism was racially fueled.) Controversy continued to follow Davis through his Olympic career, though he went on to win four medals. Support from childhood friends helped him handle these challenges, he said.

"My identity wasn't just tied to being a speedskater, but having real-life friends I grew up with who really know who I am as a person," Davis said.

Acceptance Is the Goal

For all of these athletes, their Olympic disappointment still hurts. One said her experience remains a "sorrow-inducing memory." Another described his feeling as akin to losing a loved one.

Disappointment can activate the same parts of the brain that "light up" during grief, Gervais

said. And like grief, Loberg said, an Olympic disappointment can take years to process.

Today, these athletes appear to have arrived at some semblance of acceptance. If coming in 9th or 15th in the Olympics is "a low, you've got to put things in perspective," Ligety said.

But Loberg pointed out that these athletes all had generally luminous careers, which may have made it easier for them to reframe and process their experiences enough to share their stories at all. Some Olympians, she said, end up suffering from depression or substance abuse. "Unfortunately, the ones who go into that dark space, who can't say 'that's life,' we don't know about them, right?"

Psychologists fall on a spectrum of how much they believe resilience is rooted in personality, as opposed to learned skills. But for most of us, almost any deliberate practice -- using techniques like meditation, visualization or self-talk -- could make a real difference, Gervais said.

After Jacobellis' disappointing results in 2010 and 2014, she and her coach determined that they had exhausted every avenue of physical conditioning. In 2016, she began mental skills training. In the 2018 Games, she reached the finals for the first time since 2006. Four years later, at 36, she won not one gold medal but two.

After every Olympics, she considered retiring. But know-

ing the season immediately after the Games was always fun and relaxed, she'd resolve to compete for one more year; if she stopped enjoying herself, she'd quit.

"And by the end of that season," she said, "I'd be like, 'I still have the fire.'" So she just kept going.

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COMMENTARY

Sam Vecenie / The Athletic

With little to stop it, a race to the bottom like never before

The perfect tanking storm has come to the NBA's shores, and it's arriving in the face of scrutiny regarding gambling and competition balance.

That was my takeaway from the chaos of this year's trade deadline. Over the next two months, a race to the bottom will ensue, the likes of which the NBA has not seen, because of a confluence of events that has become stark.

First and foremost, the 2026 NBA draft has multiple elite prospects at the top. Brigham Young wing A.J. Dybantsa, Kansas guard Darryn Peterson and Duke forward Cameron Boozer are projected as top prospects who have a significant chance at eventually becoming All-NBA players. Illinois guard Keaton Wagler, Houston guard Kingston Flemings and North Carolina forward Caleb Wilson project as perhaps future NBA All-Stars.

Second, the two draft classes after that are not viewed as strong. In the 2027 class, prospects like Jordan Smith Jr., Bruce Branch III and Tyran Stokes are terrific, but they're not on quite the same level as Dybantsa, Peterson and Boozer.

Teams seem to have made decisions at the trade deadline with tanking in mind, despite the league so desperately wanting to expunge that tactic. I count no fewer than 10 teams that have very little incentive to win games the rest of the season. Let's look at how dire the final two months of the season could get.

The Sacramento Kings are out of the play-in tournament picture in the Western Conference. The Kings' lone trade this deadline was consummated, in part, to give rookie Nique Clifford some on-ball reps. They require the kind of elite talent a top pick in this 2026 draft would provide.

The New Orleans Pelicans have no incentive to tank, as they traded away their first-round pick in an ill-conceived swap at the draft last year to select Derik Queen. But the Pelicans want to play Queen and rookie guard Jeremiah Fears, and the team's lineups tend to tank when either of those two is on the court.

The Indiana Pacers strongly incentivized themselves to tank the rest of the way by acquiring Ivica Zubac from the Los Angeles Clippers last week and including a creatively protected draft pick. The Pacers will keep their 2026 first-round pick if it lands in the top four, will trade it to the Clippers if it ends up in the No. 5 to 9 range and will keep it if it ends up outside the top 10. The Pacers will, at best, have a 52% chance to keep it by staying in the bottom three of the standings. Having a 50-50 shot to keep their pick versus a 37% chance to keep it if they drop down to sixth worst in the standings should tell you where their priorities will lie.

The Brooklyn Nets desperately need a player whom they can start building around as a true No. 1 option. Lottery pick Egor Demin has been good and looks like a building block, but he does not look like a future top option.

The Washington Wizards acquired Trae Young and Anthony Davis before the deadline but have little incentive to win games. Young has not yet played for the Wizards despite being acquired a month ago, and Davis is out with a left hand injury. The Wizards owe their draft pick to the New York Knicks if it falls out of the top eight.

The Utah Jazz also made a buy-now move to get Jaren Jackson Jr., but they are in a similar position to the Pacers. The Jazz's pick will go to the Oklahoma City Thunder if it falls outside the top eight, but future obligations to the Thunder go away if Utah keeps the selection. Some NBA executives have jokingly wondered what kind of mysterious malady Jackson will come down with during the All-Star break.

The Dallas Mavericks are rebuilding around Cooper Flagg after the Davis trade. They don't have access to their own draft pick from 2027 to 2030. This is potentially the last time they might have a high draft pick during Flagg's rookie contract.

The Memphis Grizzlies just traded Jackson and are also rebuilding now around Zach Edey and Cedric Coward. They need to find a No. 1 option in the draft and are equally incentivized to lose.

The Milwaukee Bucks did not trade Giannis Antetokounmpo and are just outside the play-in tournament. But Antetokounmpo is out for the foreseeable future with a right calf injury, and the team is 5-14 in games he has not played this season. The Bucks might find themselves out of the play-in picture by the time he gets back. They should also want the highest draft pick possible to either build around him, move forward without him this offseason or offer it in a trade for a star to persuade him to sign the four-year, \$275 million extension they can offer him in October.

Finally, while the Portland Trail Blazers and Charlotte Hornets are trying to win, the Chicago Bulls just did a fire sale even though they currently have a good chance at the play-in. The team has two healthy bigs (Guerschon Yabusele and Jalen Smith), neither of whom is taller than 6 feet 8. They desperately need to find a centerpiece to build around Matas Buzelis and Josh Giddey.

We will see games in March and April featuring players who even the most ardent NBA fans did not know were in the league. We're going to get games in which the Kings experiment with Maxime Raynaud as the featured option and games in which the Nets empower Demin to really explore the studio space as a lead guard.

I'm not sure we've ever seen this many teams in February that might push the tanking boundaries.

The real question is how the league will respond. At December's Board of Governors meeting, the NBA sounded out teams on ideas about how to modify the rules regarding tanking. Will the league aggressively investigate and pursue sanctions with fines for teams that sit players out? One NBA executive asked this question: Will teams even care if they are fined? The NBA also presented ideas to combat tanking that will be stress-tested during this final two-month period. One of them was limiting pick protections to either the top four or Nos. 14 and higher. That would have prevented the Pacers and Clippers from meeting in the middle of the lottery in their creative deal. Another possible solution was to lock the lottery order after March 1, so that teams would tank until then.

I've spoken to about a dozen NBA executives about tanking reform in the last month and a half, and opinions are split on the idea.

Some executives are strongly in favor of the league's actions. The idea of competitive balance for teams vying for playoff spots and how schedule imbalances can affect those races are obviously brought up. Several executives have also noted that games in March and April are sometimes difficult to evaluate properly because of the level of talent and the experimentation that coaches are employing. No one ever accuses players of not playing hard, but the games just tend not to resemble early and midseason NBA action. Among league sources I've spoken with, locking the lottery on a certain date -- be it March 1, March 15 or even at the trade deadline itself -- tends to be the most popular solution.

And yet other executives think things should stay as they are. It's not that they don't see the problem; it's rather that they worry about unforeseen side effects of potential solutions. They worry, for example, that more teams will simply tank to start the season and choose not to field competitive teams from the outset. These executives also appreciate the flexibility and creativity required to come up with deals involving draft capital.

More than anything, some executives do not believe there is a real solution. They say that acquiring elite players in the draft and having them locked under often under-market contracts for nearly a decade is simply too valuable. Because basketball is such an individually driven sport, players like recent No. 1 picks Cade Cunningham, Anthony Edwards and Victor Wembanyama bring too much value to an organization, and teams will always work within whatever constraints the rules present to land such players.

Lottery reform has, in some ways, worked as intended. But in other ways, it has created more problems. Because it's so hard to win the lottery now, teams like the Jazz, Wizards and Nets have embarked upon multiyear tanks because they have gotten so unlucky with lottery position. Meanwhile, teams like the Houston Rockets and San Antonio Spurs continually get lucky and move up. Multiple years of noncompetitive play wear down fan bases while not actually changing the behavior of teams all that much.

Regardless, we're about to see one of the greatest races to the bottom. Whether the league seeks safety from the storm will be a significant question for Commissioner Adam Silver to answer.

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Jazz send Kings to franchise record-tying 14th straight loss

Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 23 points while Lauri Markkanen added 19 points and seven rebounds to lead the Utah Jazz to a 121-93 victory over the Sacramento Kings in Salt Lake City on Wednesday night.

With their 14th consecutive loss, the Kings equaled the franchise mark set by the Cincinnati Royals in 1959-60 and matched by the Royals in 1971-72.

Isaiah Collier tallied 12 points and 14 assists to help the Jazz win their second straight. Brice Sensabaugh chipped in 19 points off the bench.

Jackson made his home debut after being traded to Utah from Memphis on Feb. 3. He has scored at least 20 points in all three games with the Jazz.

Utah was potent offensively over four quarters. The Jazz shot 54.7% from the field and made 15 3-pointers. They outscored Sacramento 58-42 in the paint and 25-6 on fastbreak points.

DeMar DeRozan led the Kings with 20 points and Devin Carter added 19. Sacramento trailed by double digits for 40 minutes and went 7 of 33 from 3-point range.

Markkanen and Sensabaugh combined to score five straight baskets to power a 24-3 run



Sacramento Kings guard Devin Carter, center, gets double-teamed by Utah Jazz guards Isaiah Collier, right, and Ace Bailey, left, during the first half of Wednesday's game at Delta Center in Salt Lake City. The Jazz won 121-93 to hand the Kings their 14th straight loss.

that gave Utah a 39-15 lead with 35 seconds left in the first quarter.

The Jazz held Sacramento without a basket for nearly six minutes, and the Kings shot 7-of-29 (24.1%) from the floor over the first 12 minutes. Utah, meanwhile, scored on seven straight possessions during its run.

Back-to-back baskets from Daeqwon Plowden and DeMar DeRozan over the first quarter's final 11 seconds ended Sacramento's shooting drought.

Utah did not ease off the gas pedal over the final three quarters. The Jazz built a 71-44

halftime lead. They extended it to 34 going into the fourth quarter after Sensabaugh made back-to-back layups -- beating the buzzer on the second one -- to put Utah up 100-66.

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De'Aaron Fox, Spurs overtake Warriors for 6th straight win

De'Aaron Fox led a balanced attack with 27 points, five reserves combined for 57 points on the second night of a back-to-back, and the San Antonio Spurs rallied from 16 down to overtake the Golden State Warriors 126-113 in San Francisco on Wednesday.

Victor Wembanyama backed Fox with 26 points for the Spurs, who swept the Los Angeles Lakers and the Warriors on consecutive nights to take a six-game winning streak into the All-Star break.

After the Warriors exploded for 38 points in the first period, the San Antonio defense tightened the screws and limited the hosts to progressively fewer points -- 29, 27 and 19 -- over the final three periods while erasing a double-double deficit and gradually pulling away.

Seeking a second straight win without Stephen Curry, Jimmy Butler III and Kristaps Porzingis, the Warriors led 86-70 after a Gui Santos hoop just prior to the midpoint of the third quarter.

However, Keldon Johnson helped turn the game in the Spurs' favor by scoring seven straight points to ignite a 24-8 period-ending run that drew the visitors into a 94-all tie.



De'Aaron Fox, seen here driving past Golden State's Moses Moody, scored 27 points to help the San Antonio Spurs beat the Warriors 126-113 on Wednesday at the Chase Center in San Francisco.

The break between quarters didn't stall San Antonio's momentum, as Harrison Barnes threw down a dunk and Johnson and Wembanyama combined for three free throws, a five-point spurt that gave the visitors the lead for good.

Fox shot 11-for-16 for the Spurs, who outshot the hosts 49.5% to 46.2%.

Wembanyama also found time for a team-high nine rebounds and four assists for the Spurs, while Fox shared team-high assist honors with Dylan Harper with eight to complement three steals.

Harper (14 points) was part

of San Antonio's difference-making bench crew with Johnson (21), Barnes (10), Carter Bryant (eight) and Luke Kornet (four). The Spurs' reserves outscored their Golden State counterparts 57-44.

Draymond Green, De'Anthony Melton and Moses Moody had 17 points apiece for the Warriors, who lost despite outscoring the Spurs 48-30 from beyond the arc. Fifteen of Melton's points came on five long-range hoops.

Green was the game's leading rebounder with 12, and he added a team-high eight assists.

Brandin Podziemski finished

with 16 points, Quinten Post 12 and Gary Payton II 10 for Golden State, which had won its first two games against the Spurs this season. Santos had four steals to go with nine points, six assists and five rebounds.

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NBA Roundup: Jalen Williams, sharpshooting Thunder demolish Suns

Jalen Williams scored 19 of his 28 points in the third quarter and the Oklahoma City Thunder routed the short-handed host Phoenix Suns for the second time this season in a 136-109 victory on Wednesday.

Reserve Isaiah Joe had 21 points, tying a season high with six 3-pointers, and Kenrich Williams added 15 points off the bench for the Thunder, who built a 29-point lead in the second quarter and led 103-66 late in the third.

Dillon Brooks scored 23 points and Royce O'Neale scored 12 on four 3-pointers for the Suns, who have lost four of six.

Williams, playing his second game after missing the previous 10 with a hamstring injury, was 11 of 12 from the field and had five assists and four rebounds.

He left the game after missing a driving layup with four minutes remaining in the third quarter and did not return.

The Thunder had seven players score in double figures and shot 58.4% from the field. They made 15 of 36 3-pointers.

Oklahoma City handed the Suns their worst loss in franchise history, 138-89, in the



Jalen Williams went wild in the third quarter to help the Oklahoma City Thunder demolish the Phoenix Suns 136-109 at Mortgage Matchup Center on Wednesday in Phoenix.

quarterfinals of the NBA Cup on Dec. 10. The teams will meet again on the final day of the regular season in Oklahoma City.

The Suns played without leading scorer Devin Booker (ankle injury management), Jalen Green (hamstring injury management) and Grayson Allen (knee).

Oklahoma City is 2-2 without reigning MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, who has missed the last four games with an abdominal injury and is to be reevaluated after the All-Star

break.

The Thunder had 74 bench points, with Joe and Kenrich Williams leading the way. Jaren McCain and Aaron Wiggins had 12 points apiece and Jaylin Williams had 11.

Nuggets 122, Grizzlies 116

Nikola Jokic had 26 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists to counter his nine turnovers, Jamal Murray finished with 23 points, and the host Denver Nuggets held off the Memphis Grizzlies 122-116.

It was Jokic's 20th triple-

-double this season and 184th of his career.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 21 points, Christian Braun had 14 points, Julian Strawther contributed 11 and Bruce Brown had 10 for Denver, which enters the All-Star break third in the Western Conference.

GG Jackson scored a season high with 21 points, Ty Jerome added 19 points, Jaylen Wells scored 17, Olivier-Maxence Prosper had 14 points and Taylor Hendricks 10 for Memphis.

The Grizzlies have lost four in a row.

Hornets 110, Hawks 107

Brandon Miller scored 31 points and the short-handed Charlotte Hornets defeated the visiting Atlanta Hawks 110-107 in the final game for both teams prior to the All-Star break.

LaMelo Ball provided 24 points and six assists as the Hornets won for the 10th time in 11 games.

Charlotte played the first of four games without center Moussa Diabate and forward Miles Bridges, who were suspended by the NBA for their roles in a Monday night brawl with the Detroit Pistons. Grant Williams and Ryan Kalkbrenner moved into the starting lineup, and they scored seven and five points, respectively.

Kon Knueppel contributed 18 points and PJ Hall, who hadn't played in an NBA game in more than a month, turned in 11 points and 10 rebounds in

17 minutes as Charlotte won despite sputtering on offense over the final 5 1/2 minutes.

Dyson Daniels led the Hawks with 21 points, Jalen Johnson posted 19 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists, Onyeka Okongwu had 18 points and CJ McCollum supplied 17 points.

Clippers 105, Rockets 102

Kawhi Leonard completed a tiebreaking three-point play with two seconds remaining to lift the visiting Los Angeles Clippers to a 105-102 comeback victory over the Houston Rockets.

Leonard scored 19 of his game-high 27 points in the fourth quarter to lead the rally from a 15-point deficit. His spinning fadeaway came despite a foul from Jae'Sean Tate and gave the Clippers their final lead in a back-and-forth closing period. Tari Eason missed a corner 3-pointer at the buzzer for the Rockets.

Leonard, who added a team-high 12 rebounds plus a game-high four steals, paced six Clippers in double figures. Kris Dunn and Bennedict Mathurin scored 16 points apiece while Brook Lopez had 15. John Collins and Derrick Jones Jr. chipped in 12 points each for the Clippers, who outscored the Rockets 22-2 in fastbreak points and converted Houston's 21 turnovers into 23 points.

Kevin Durant led Houston with 21 points while Reed Sheppard added 17 points and five 3-pointers off the bench.

Jabari Smith Jr. (16 points, 12 rebounds) chipped in a double-double while Alperen Sengun posted 16 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Sengun missed a free throw with 7.2 seconds left that would have given the Rockets the lead.

Timberwolves 133, Trail Blazers 109

Julius Randle scored 41 points on 14-for-24 shooting, and the Minnesota Timberwolves pulled away for a 133-109 win over the Portland Trail Blazers in Minneapolis.

Jaden McDaniels added 21 points on 7-for-13 shooting for Minnesota, which enters the NBA All-Star break with back-to-back victories. Rudy Gobert finished with 17 points and eight rebounds, and Anthony Edwards scored 14 points.

Jrue Holiday scored 23 points and made five 3-pointers to lead Portland, ending their three-game winning streak. Scoot Henderson added 18 points, and Vit Krejci contributed 17 points.

The Timberwolves shot 51.1% (45 of 88) from the field and 41.2% (14 of 34) from 3-point range. The Trail Blazers shot 42.6% (40 of 94) overall and 35.6% (16 of 45) from long distance.

Heat 123, Pelicans 111

Bam Adebayo scored 27 points and grabbed 14 rebounds as the visiting Miami Heat continued their dominance over the New Orleans Pelicans with a

123-111 victory.

Jaime Jaquez Jr. scored 23 points off the bench and Kel'el Ware had 16 points and 12 rebounds for Miami, which has won four straight against New Orleans and 11 of the past 12 meetings.

Simone Fontecchio scored 15 points, Kasparas Jakucionis had 11 and Myron Gardner grabbed 10 rebounds as the Heat won for the second time in three games overall.

The short-handed Heat played without Norman Powell (back tightness), Pelle Larsson (right forearm strain) Andrew Wiggins (toe inflammation) and Tyler Herro (ribs).

Miami used its 20th different starting lineup of the season to defeat New Orleans, which had its two-game winning streak snapped. Zion Williamson led the Pelicans with 25 points on 12-of-19 shooting.

New Orleans guard Trey Murphy III added 19 points and six assists before exiting late in the third quarter with right shoulder soreness. Saddiq Bey scored 14 points; Jeremiah Fears had 13 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists; and Bryce McGowens and Derik Queen added 12 points apiece.

Knicks 138, 76ers 89

Jose Alvarado made eight 3-pointers and scored a season-high 26 points as the visiting New York Knicks rolled to a 138-89 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers in both teams' final game before the

All-Star break.

Mikal Bridges added 22 points for New York, which led by as many as 52 in closing the first half of the season with its 10th win in 12 games. Karl-Anthony Towns chipped in with 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Knicks.

With Joel Embiid (knee) and Paul George (suspension) sitting out, Tyrese Maxey was the lone star on the court for Philadelphia. He scored 32 points, while VJ Edgecombe added 14 and Dominick Barlow contributed 13 for the Sixers, who fell to 1-3 in their last four games.

Pacers 115, Nets 110

Rookie Kam Jones hit a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 16.8 seconds left as the Indiana Pacers stormed back from an 18-point deficit and earned a 115-110 victory over the Brooklyn Nets in New York.

The Pacers eked out their second straight close victory and improved to 9-9 in their past 18 following a 6-31 start.

After Brooklyn's Day'Ron Sharpe stole the ball from Jones and hit a tying layup with 38.3 seconds left, the Pacers took the lead late in the shot clock. Kobe Brown found Jones at the right side and the guard released a 3 that cleanly went in just before Brooklyn's Terance Mann could defend.

Following Jones' shot, Brooklyn rookie Nolan Traore was blocked by Jay Huff at the rim with 8.1 seconds left. After

getting the offensive rebound and calling a timeout, Egor Demin saw his 3-point try go long with 4.1 seconds left and Micah Potter hit two free throws with 1.6 seconds left.

Jarace Walker led Indiana with 14 of his 23 in the second half. Potter added a career-high 19 points and 12 rebounds, Ethan Thompson chipped in 15 and Taelon Peter contributed 14.

Pistons 113, Raptors 95

Cade Cunningham scored 18 of his 28 points in the second quarter and the visiting Detroit Pistons defeated the Toronto Raptors 113-95.

Cunningham, who hit 6 of 11 3-point attempts, added seven rebounds, nine assists and three steals for the Pistons, who have won three straight and eight of their last 10.

The Pistons never trailed as Paul Reed added 22 points and four blocked shots and Tobias Harris had 12 points and 11 rebounds. Duncan Robinson posted 13 points.

Immanuel Quickley scored 18 points for the Raptors, who ended a 3-2 homestand. Scottie Barnes scored 17, RJ Barrett had 16, Brandon Ingram added 13 and Gradey Dick chipped in 10.

Toronto's Jakob Poeltl played for the first time since Dec. 21 after being out with a strained back and scored nine points with six rebounds.

Cavaliers 138, Wizards 113

Sam Merrill scored a career-high 32 points and made nine 3-pointers, and Donovan Mitchell had 30 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers led from wire to wire in a 138-113 victory over the visiting Washington Wizards.

James Harden posted 13 points and 11 assists in his home debut for Cleveland, which won its fifth straight and is 10-1 since Jan. 21 to move into fourth place in the Eastern Conference. Jarrett Allen added 21 points and made all eight of his field-goal attempts.

Merrill was 9-for-9 shooting, including seven 3-pointers, and made his only free throw in a 26-point first-half explosion. The Cavaliers led by 27 in the fourth quarter and have scored a total of 416 points in three games against Washington this season.

Kyshawn George scored 17 points and Jamir Watkins had 16 for the Wizards, who have lost three in a row and 14 of their last 18 games. Sharife Cooper came off the bench with 11 points, six rebounds and five assists.

Mitchell, who will compete in the All-Star Game and 3-Point Contest this weekend, had 19 points in the second half. Merrill's nine makes beyond the arc established another career best and he finished 11-for-12 overall.

Bucks 116, Magic 108

Cam Thomas scored 34 points off the bench as the vis-

iting Milwaukee Bucks snapped the Orlando Magic's three-game winning streak with a 116-108 victory.

Thomas hit 4 of 6 from 3-point range in just 25 minutes. Kevin Porter Jr. paired 18 points with 11 assists, Ousmane Dieng contributed 17 points and Jericho Sims posted a career-high 17 points to go with 11 rebounds.

Orlando's Desmond Bane scored 20 of his 31 points in the first half while equaling his career best with eight 3-point makes on 11 attempts.

Paolo Banchero added 17 points, and Jalen Suggs combined 16 points with 10 assists.

The Magic hit a season-high 20 3-pointers on 47 attempts, while Milwaukee went 24-of-24 from the free-throw line.

Celtics 124, Bulls 105

Payton Pritchard came off the bench to score a game-high 26 points and Nikola Vucevic added 19 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Boston Celtics to a 124-105 victory over the visiting Chicago Bulls.

Vucevic was traded to Boston last week in a deal that sent Anfernee Simons from the Celtics to the Bulls. Simons had seven points and five rebounds in the loss.

Pritchard added eight assists and five rebounds for Boston, which shot 51.6% from the field. The Celtics, who shot 40% (18 of 45) from 3-point territory, received 24 points from Jaylen Brown.

Jordan Walsh (16), Sam Hauser (12) and Baylor Scheierman (10) also scored in double figures for the Celtics.

Rob Dillingham scored a team-high 16 points for the Bulls. Chicago's Matas Buzelis had 15 points, eight rebounds, four assists and two blocked shots.

Collin Sexton tossed in 15 and Guerschon Yabusele finished with 13 for Chicago, which was outrebounded 48-34.

The loss stretched Chicago's losing streak to six games. The Bulls have lost nine of their last 10.

Josh Giddey, Chicago's leading scorer among players it has had all season (18.6 ppg), missed his eighth consecutive game with a left hamstring strain.

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Blake Griffin, Doc Rivers among Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame finalists

First-time candidates Blake Griffin and Candace Parker, as well as returning candidate Doc Rivers, are among the 21 finalists for election to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame as part of the 2026 class.

The organization announced its list of finalists, reduced from a larger candidate pool, on Wednesday.

Amar'e Stoudamire, Elena Della Donne and Kevin Johnson are additional player nominees, along with the entire 1996 United States Women's National Team.

In addition to Rivers, coach finalists include Mark Few, Kelvin Sampson and Mike D'Antoni, who is being considered by the contributors committee. Joey Crawford, who was an NBA referee from 1977-2016, is the lone non-player/coach still in consideration.

The list of candidates who were not selected as finalists includes Rick Barnes, Anfernee Hardaway, Robert Horry, Bill Laimbeer, Shawn Marion, Marian Washington, Mike Fratello, Curly Neal and Marc Gasol.

The Hall of Fame's honors



Former superstar forward Blake Griffin, seen here on Feb. 2, 2019, was named a finalist for the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in his first time on the ballot.

committee will vote on the finalists, with the inductees set to be announced during Final Four weekend on April 4.

North American Committee Finalists (in alphabetical order)

Joey Crawford (Referee)
Mark Few (Coach)
Blake Griffin (Player)
Kevin Johnson (Player)
Gary McKnight (Coach)
Dick Motta (Coach)
Doc Rivers (Coach)
Kelvin Sampson (Coach)
Amar'e Stoudemire (Player)
Jerry Welsh (Coach)
Buck Williams (Player)

Women's Committee Finalists

1996 United States Women's National Team

Jennifer Azzi (Player)
Elena Delle Donne (Player)
Chamique Holdsclaw (Player)
Candace Parker (Player)

Women's Veterans

Committee Finalist

Molly Bolin-Kazmer (Player)

International Committee

Finalist

Dusan Ivkovic (Coach)

Contributors Committee

Finalists

Tal Brody
Mike D'Antoni

Veterans Committee Finalists

Marques Johnson

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Mavs F Cooper Flagg (foot) out through All-Star break

NBA Rookie of the Year front-runner Cooper Flagg of the Dallas Mavericks has a left mid-foot sprain and will be sidelined through All-Star weekend, the team announced Wednesday.

Flagg, 19, sustained the sprain against the Phoenix Suns on Tuesday, with an MRI on Wednesday revealing the injury, the Mavericks announced.

Per ESPN, the former Duke star is expected to return to the lineup when the Mavericks open the second half on Feb. 20 against the Minnesota Timberwolves in Minneapolis.

Flagg, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2025 NBA Draft, will miss Dallas' Thursday road game against the Los Angeles Lakers and the Rising Stars Game on Friday, part of All-Star weekend in Inglewood, Calif.

Flagg leads all rookies with an average of 20.4 points per game and also is producing 6.6 rebounds and 4.1 assists in 34.1 minutes per contest over 49 games this season.

His 49-point performance in a road loss to the Charlotte Hornets on Jan. 29 broke the NBA record for the highest-scoring outing by a teen.

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Dallas Mavericks rookie forward Cooper Flagg, seen here on Feb. 5, suffered a midfoot sprain during Tuesday's loss to Phoenix.

Pistons' Isaiah Stewart banned 7 games, 3 others punished after brawl

Detroit Pistons forward-center Isaiah Stewart was suspended seven games by the NBA on Wednesday for leaving the bench area, aggressively entering an on-court altercation and fighting.

Per the league, the length of Stewart's suspensions is based, in part, on his repeated history of unsportsmanlike acts. He has now been suspended five times in his six seasons in the league.

The 24-year-old received a two-game ban for an on-court brawl versus the Minnesota Timberwolves last March, two months after his flagrant-2 versus the Indiana Pacers triggered an automatic one-game suspension. He also was banned three games for punching Phoenix Suns center Drew Eubanks hours before their game in February 2024, and Stewart received a two-game suspension in November 2021 after he had to be restrained following an altercation with Lakers star LeBron James.

Also, Charlotte Hornets forwards Miles Bridges and Moussa Diabate received four-game bans for fighting and escalating the altercation, while Pistons All-Star center Jalen



Charlotte Hornets forward Brandon Miller (24) and forward Grant Williams (2) hold back head coach Charles Lee after his ejection during the second half against the Detroit Pistons at Spectrum Center on Monday in Charlotte, N.C.

Duren was suspended two games for initiating the altercation and fighting.

All four players will begin serving their suspensions on Wednesday night, with the Pistons visiting the Toronto Raptors and the Hornets hosting the Atlanta Hawks.

The incident in question occurred midway through the third quarter on Monday night in Charlotte, resulting in four ejections and a lengthy delay.

Diabate committed a defensive foul on Duren in the lane, prompting the latter to turn and

square up the former. When that scrap wound down, another broke out near midcourt as Bridges came off the bench to tangle with Stewart.

All four players were assessed technical fouls and ejected from the game.

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Men's Top 25 Roundup: No. 2 Michigan overcomes season-high 16-point deficit to down Northwestern

L.J. Cason scored 18 points and Yaxel Lendeborg notched a double-double of 15 points and 12 rebounds to help No. 2 Michigan rally for an 87-75 victory against Northwestern on Wednesday in Evanston, Ill.

Michigan faced its largest halftime deficit, nine points, and trailed by a season-high 16 when the Wildcats' Angelo Ciaravino hit a jumper in the paint to cap an 8-2 run with 14:22 left.

The Wolverines (23-1, 13-1 Big Ten) regrouped behind torrid shooting. Trey McKenney drilled a 3-pointer to put Michigan ahead 68-67 with 7:14 to go for its first lead since 10-8.

Northwestern's Jayden Reid responded with a jumper the next time down the floor, but Michigan had the answer, never relinquishing the advantage after the 5:51 mark and leading by as many as 12 points.

Michigan shot 55.2% in the second half compared to 30.8% for Northwestern. The Wolverines closed the game on a 27-8 run.



Michigan center Aday Mara dunks for two of his 12 points to help the No. 2 Wolverines come from behind to beat Northwestern 87-75 on Wednesday at Welsh-Ryan Arena in Evanston, Ill.

Aday Mara had 12 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for Michigan. Morez Johnson Jr. contributed 12 points and nine rebounds and McKenney scored 12 points.

Northwestern (10-15, 2-12) forced 12 turnovers and held the edge in fastbreak points but couldn't sustain a hot start from the field or on the glass.

Reid paced the Wildcats with 20 points. Nick Martinelli had 18 points and eight rebounds

and Arrinten Page scored 11 points.

No. 6 UConn 80, Butler 70

Solo Ball scored 24 points to lead No. 6 UConn to a hard-fought 80-70 Big East victory over Butler in Indianapolis.

Tarris Reed Jr. added 16 points along with 10 boards and seven assists for UConn (23-2, 13-1 Big East), which bounced back from its first loss in nearly three months. Braylon Mullins

added 15 points and Silas Demary Jr. scored 11 with 10 assists as the Huskies shot 50.8% from the field.

Drayton Jones scored 15 points to lead Butler (13-12, 4-10), which has lost five in a row. Yohan Traore added 14 with five boards while Evan Haywood scored 12.

No. 14 Florida 86, Georgia 66

Led by Xaivian Lee's 18 points, No. 14 Florida put five players in double figures and rolled to an 86-66 win over Georgia in Athens, Ga.

Florida retained first place in the Southeastern Conference with its fourth straight victory. The Gators have won five straight road conference games, their longest such streak since 2014.

The Gators swept the two-game season series, also winning 92-77 in Gainesville on Jan. 6. Florida has won 14 of the last 15 meetings with Georgia.

Lee was 7-for-14 from the floor, including three 3-pointers, and had seven assists. Florida (18-6, 9-2 SEC) also got 15 points from Boogie Fland, 12 points each from Isaiah Brown and Alex Condon, and 11 points from Thomas Haugh. Rueben Chinyelu had 20 rebounds, one shy of matching his season high.

Georgia (17-7, 5-6) got 17 points and 11 rebounds from Blue Cain for his second double-double of the season, 15 points from Marcus "Smurf"

Millender and 11 points from Kanon Catchings.

The Bulldogs, who have lost four of their last five, were playing without leading scorer Jeremiah Wilkinson (17.1 points), who was sidelined with a shoulder injury.

No. 16 Texas Tech 78, Colorado 44

Texas Tech bolted to a big lead quickly against Colorado in a 78-44 victory, which had a familiar feel to it.

What didn't transpire was the other subplot to the first meeting against the Buffaloes as the 16th-ranked Red Raiders ran away and hid in the second half on the way to a rout in Lubbock, Texas.

In a dominant tune-up for a national showdown at No. 1 Arizona on Saturday, Texas Tech (18-6, 8-3 Big 12 Conference) snatched the lead for good barely three minutes in and wasted no time extending the lead the rest of the half.

That was similar to the first meeting with Colorado (14-11, 4-8) on Jan. 10 when the Red Raiders bolted to a 24-point second-half lead, then had to hold on for dear life and prevailed 73-71 when a last-second Buffaloes 3-pointer was off the mark.

History did not repeat itself Wednesday with a familiar recipe working well for the Red Raiders on the way to their most lopsided win this season and widest margin of victory in a Big 12 game since they beat

Oklahoma State 93-55 last Feb. 15.

Instead, Texas Tech produced identical 39-22 scores in each half with the familiar cast of characters leading the way.

J.T. Toppin dominated the interior with 16 points and 18 rebounds, Christian Anderson scored 14 points and dished out seven assists and the biggest offensive spark came from sharpshooting Donovan Atwell, who led the Red Raiders with 20 points, bolstered by 6-of-10 shooting from 3-point range.

Isaiah Johnson led the Buffaloes with 13 points and was one of two Colorado players who shot 50% or higher from the floor. He was 5 of 9, while Ian Inman was 4 of 7, all four shots he hit coming from 3-point territory in the first half.

Virginia Tech 76, No. 20 Clemson 66

Jailen Bedford had 23 points and four 3-pointers and Virginia Tech took a big step off the NCAA Tournament bubble with a 76-66 road win over No. 20 Clemson.

The Hokies (17-8, 6-6 ACC) shot 52% from the floor, 52.4% from 3-point range and racked up the second-most points Clemson has allowed in ACC play. The Tigers (20-5, 10-2) lost a four-game winning streak.

Ben Hammond had 19 points and three 3-pointers for Virginia Tech, which made all 13 of its free throw attempts.

Clemson, which shot 45.5% from the floor and 31.3% from

beyond the arc, was led by
Carter Welling's 19 points, and
Ace Buckner and Nick Davidson
each had 16 off the bench.

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Women's Top 25 roundup: Lauren Betts, No. 2 UCLA down Michigan St.

Lauren Betts went 10-for-14 from the floor, scoring 22 points, leading No. 2 UCLA to an 86-63 blowout of No. 13 Michigan State on Wednesday in East Lansing, Mich.

Kiki Rice added 18 points, Gabriela Jaquez recorded 13 and Gianna Kneepkens had 12 for the Bruins (24-1, 14-0 Big Ten), who extended their winning streak to 18 games. Rice and Betts each posted seven rebounds and five assists.

Jaquez scored eight points in the first quarter as the Bruins jumped out to a 23-9 lead, and the margin grew to 44-20 by halftime. Overall, UCLA shot 56.5% from the floor and made 7 of 18 3-point attempts (38.9%) while limiting Michigan State to 30.9% field-goal shooting and 9-of-26 accuracy (34.6%) from beyond the arc.

Rashunda Jones finished with 15 points as the Spartans (20-5, 9-5) lost for the third time in four games. Emma Shumate tallied 12 while Kennedy Blair amassed 10 points and six assists.

No. 1 UConn 94, Creighton 44
Allie Ziebell came off the



Lauren Betts, seen here on Feb. 1, used 22 points to help the No. 2 UCLA Bruins cruise past the No. 13 Michigan State 86-63 on Wednesday in East Lansing, Mich.

bench to sink five 3-pointers and score 20 points as the unbeaten Huskies trounced the Bluejays in Storrs, Conn.

Azzi Fudd put up 19 points, Sarah Strong added 16 and Ashlynn Shade contributed 13 for UConn (26-0, 15-0 Big East), which has produced a winning margin of 30-plus in all but four games this season. The Huskies shot 57.1% from the floor and 53.8% (14 of 26) from 3-point range.

Elizabeth Gentry topped Creighton (12-13, 8-8) with 12 points, and Kennedy Townsend

scored 10. The Bluejays hit just 22.6% of their field-goal attempts and 26.3% (10 of 38) from long distance.

No. 15 Iowa 65, No. 25 Washington 56

An 11-0 run to open the second quarter sparked the Hawkeyes to a victory over the Huskies in Iowa City.

Washington led 25-19 after one quarter before Hannah Stuelke and Chazadi Wright combined for nine of the points in the surge that gave Iowa (19-5, 10-3 Big Ten) the lead for

good. Wright finished with 21 points while Stuelke amassed 14 points and 16 rebounds as the Hawkeyes snapped a three-game losing streak.

The Huskies (18-7, 8-6) got 19 points from Elle Ladine and 14 from Sayvia Sellers.

Washington was hurt by committing 19 turnovers to Iowa's nine.

No. 19 West Virginia 106, UCF 56

Reserve Riley Makalusky scored 20 points in 20 minutes as the Mountaineers posted their second-highest point total of the season in a rout of the Knights at Morgantown, W.Va.

Kierra Wheeler chipped in 18 points and nine rebounds for West Virginia (21-5, 11-3 Big 12), who won their fourth game in a row. Jordan Harrison logged 12 points and eight assists, Gia Cooke also had 12 points, and Sydney Shaw registered 10 points and nine rebounds.

Mahogany Chandler-Roberts totaled 12 points and seven rebounds for UCF (10-14, 2-11), which dropped its sixth consecutive game.

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Chris Gotterup staying grounded through sudden career surge

Chris Gotterup fondly remembers his first time playing the Pebble Beach Golf Links course.

He made a bet with his father that they would play the iconic public course together when he broke par for the first time. When Gotterup accomplished the feat at 13 or 14 -- he can't remember which -- the pair, along with Gotterup's brother, played Pebble Beach.

His return trip to Pebble Beach, Calif., this week to compete in his first AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am event, although maybe not as sentimental, is undeniably more important.

Gotterup arrives as the hottest player on the planet, winning last week's WM Open to claim his second PGA Tour win in three events he's competed in early this season.

"It's fun. You know, everyone at home, I haven't been home in a while so it's nice to hear from everyone," Gotterup said at his press conference Wednesday. "I think my parents are coming out today. Yeah, it's been fun to share it with everyone. At some point when we get some time off, I'll go home and celebrate with everyone."

Gotterup's surge has come quite out of left field. He was an incredibly successful collegiate



Chris Gotterup, seen here on Wednesday, enters this week's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am as the hottest player on the planet, winning last week's WM Open to claim his second PGA Tour win in three events he's competed in early this season.

golfer at Oklahoma, winning the Haskins and Jack Nicklaus awards in 2022. But he won just two of his first 68 PGA events over his first four seasons competing on the tour.

After winning the season-opening Sony Open in Honolulu Jan. 18 and finishing tied for 18th in the Farmers Insurance Open, Gotterup took advantage of a few stunning late mistakes by Japanese competitor Hideki Matsuyama to win the WM Open in a playoff.

In each of his two victories this season, he shot 64s in the final round to position himself incredibly well.

Gotterup, 206th in the OWGR rankings at this time last year, surged all the way up to fifth with last week's win. Out of seemingly nowhere, he's the second-highest-ranked American behind only No. 1 Scottie Scheffler.

Gotterup said that even Scheffler has started to pay attention to what he's doing in the wake of his remarkable season start.

"I think everyone understands out here how hard it is to win. We were joking around, Scottie was following me at lunch and he's like, 'I'm just going to eat what you're eating,'"

Gotterup said. “I was like, ‘Yeah, he’s doing pretty good on his own so I’m not too worried about him.’”

Gotterup’s surging start has him comfortably atop the FedEx Cup standings four events into the season. He’s at 1,046 points, well ahead of Scheffler (625) in second and Ryan Gerard (542) in third.

He says he’s trying not to spend attention on big-picture things, expressing gratitude for a circle of family, friends and coaches who are keeping him grounded through this sudden trajectory shift.

“I don’t think I get too caught up in it all. I try to focus on what’s in front of me and this week obviously is a big week for everyone,” Gotterup said. “But all that stuff is very cool, like there’s no denying that, but it doesn’t stop what we’re trying to do.

“My coach texted me, he was saying, he’s like, ‘Obviously enjoy Sunday but I want you to get out there and do some combines and send me some texts and make sure you’re doing your stuff still and not get too caught up in everything.’ Everyone keeps me in check and I try to keep myself in check for the most part, too.”

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Rory McIlroy starts search for consistent excellence at Pebble Beach

The start of the PGA Tour's signature event schedule attracts the likes of Rory McIlroy, Tommy Fleetwood and more to make their season debuts state-side at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, beginning Thursday in Pebble Beach, Calif.

The tour usually kicks off each season with the Sentry (formerly Sentry Tournament of Champions) on Maui in January, but that event was scrapped this year due to drought conditions on the island.

Thus, the first \$20 million purse of the season is up for grabs at Pebble Beach Golf Links and Spyglass Hill Golf Course. The elite field of 80 will play one round apiece on each course before Pebble Beach hosts the Saturday and Sunday rounds.

This is where McIlroy won his first title in 2025, which vaulted the Northern Irishman into a memorable year that saw him take The Players Championship, end his 11-year major drought at the Masters and prevail with Team Europe at the Ryder Cup.

Now McIlroy is searching for a more consistently great year, the kind Scottie Scheffler was



Rory McIlroy, seen here on Dec. 17, 2025, is looking to build off of a memorable 2025 starting at this week's Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

able to put up in 2025.

"If I had a critique of myself last year, (it's) that I didn't bring the consistency that I maybe would have wanted post the Masters," McIlroy said. "I think some of that is, you know, sort of understandable, but Scottie just had his 17th top-10 in a row. He brings -- even you look at him last week, he shoots 2 over in the first round and he just pieces it together again, finds a way, has a chance to win on Sunday. He's relentless.

"I've had nice runs like that, but I've always been a little more up and down. I think any-

one that wants to catch Scottie or get anywhere close is going to have to consistently bring that sort of game week in and week out like he does."

Scheffler and McIlroy, the top two players in the world rankings, will share a field this week for the first time since the Tour Championship last August. McIlroy stayed busy, playing in India for the first time and adding the Australian Open to his schedule before the DP World Tour's two-week Dubai run more recently.

Scheffler won The American Express in his first start of 2026

and tied for third at the WM Phoenix Open last week despite opening with a 73. His 66 consecutive made cuts is the longest active streak on tour.

FedEx Cup champion Tommy Fleetwood of England makes his first tour start in the U.S. since the Tour Championship, which marked his first time winning on American soil.

“You take confidence from the golf that you’ve played. It was an amazing period of golf for me. I said at the time that I’m kind of hopeful that’s how I play golf from this point on,” Fleetwood said.

“There’s still plenty of things that I haven’t achieved that I want to in the game, so they keep you focused and they keep you going and they keep you motivated. I think I’m not as good of a golfer, still, as I’d like to be, so that’s still there.”

Among the more well-established PGA Tour stars is a new name who has rocketed to fifth in the world rankings.

Chris Gotterup, 26, leads the FedEx Cup standings thanks to two wins in his first three starts of the season. After capturing the season-opening Sony Open in Hawaii, he beat Japan’s Hideki Matsuyama in a playoff last Sunday in Phoenix.

The former college golf star has won four times on tour in a short span, including head-to-head against McIlroy at last year’s Scottish Open. This is his first time playing the Pebble Beach event.

“I think everyone understands out here how hard it is to win,” Gotterup said. “We were joking around -- Scottie was following me at lunch and he’s like, ‘I’m just going to eat what you’re eating.’ I was like, yeah, he’s doing pretty good on his own so I’m not too worried about him.

“At some point when we get some time off I’ll go home and celebrate with everyone. Yeah, it’s been a lot of fun.”

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Kyle Busch wins pole for Daytona 500 in 21st attempt

BY HOLLY CAIN, NASCAR WIRE SERVICE

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. -- Kyle Busch delivered the best Daytona 500 qualifying effort of his championship NASCAR career Wednesday night at Daytona International Speedway, claiming his first ever pole position for the Great American Race (Sunday, 2:30 p.m. ET, FOX, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

Busch's No. 8 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet was quickest in first-round qualifying and answered the work resoundingly with an even faster lap (183.651 mph) in the 10-car final round -- besting Joe Gibbs Racing's Chase Briscoe by only .064 mph to set the front row.

Busch, 40, and Briscoe, 31 -- the 2025 Daytona 500 polesitter -- locked into the 41-car field along with 23XI Racing's Corey Heim and JR Motorsports' Justin Allgaier, who claimed the two open positions up for grabs Wednesday. The remainder of the field will be settled Thursday in the America 250 Florida Duel at Daytona races (7 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio) with the 500 starting positions to be based on the Duels' finishing order.



Kyle Busch, right, and Chase Briscoe share a laugh during qualifying for the NASCAR Cup Series Daytona 500 on Wednesday at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla. Busch earned his first Daytona 500 pole in 21 tries and will start next to Briscoe in Sunday's race.

This will mark Busch's 21st start in the Daytona 500 -- and no previous driver has won the race with more than 20 starts. The late NASCAR Hall of Famer Dale Earnhardt scored his only Daytona 500 victory in his 20th start for Busch's team owner, NASCAR Hall of Famer Childress.

"Certainly, here on a Wednesday night, being able to qualify on my first pole for the Daytona 500, that's pretty special," said a grinning Busch. "I've had one other speedway pole down here in Daytona for the summer race. This feels good. Feels really good for RCR

as a group.

"Just a valiant effort by everybody here," the two-time series champion added. "It would be really nice to be doing an interview like this about being No. 1 come Sunday night."

Briscoe was encouraged by his showing as well, noting with a laugh that more typically it's the Hendrick Motorsports team that has dominated Daytona 500 front row qualifying in recent years.

"It's cool for sure to be able to consistently (perform) two years in a row now," said Briscoe, who drives the No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota. "It's

really a testament to the folks back at JGR. We've made so many improvements on our superspeedway program. This race really comes down to, at least in qualifying, attention to detail, just doing every little thing....

"It's the kid in me. ... Being in the front row for two years in a row at the Daytona 500, it's a really big deal."

It was certainly a thrilling start to the 2026 NASCAR Cup Series points season, the qualifying session featured a great battle among all three series manufacturers -- with four Chevrolets, three Fords and three Toyotas making up the final round. Nine of the 10 cars that advanced bettered the pole speed from a year ago.

Last week's Clash preseason-opening race winner Ryan Preece was third fastest in the No. 60 Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing Ford with Joe Gibbs Racing's Denny Hamlin, a three-time Daytona 500 winner, fourth quickest followed by Heim, the only one of eight "open" cars to make the 10-car final round.

"Just kind of nerve-wracking for sure to say the least," the 2025 NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series champion Heim conceded of earning his first ever Daytona 500 start in the No. 67 23XI Racing Toyota.

Front Row Motorsports driver Noah Gragson had his qualifying lap disallowed after he used his hand to affect airflow, violating a new NASCAR rule that took effect this year.

He will start last in his Duel race.

"I completely forgot about that rule," Gragson said, "That one's on me."

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NASCAR Notebook: Hamlin working his way into 2026 season ahead of Daytona 500

NASCAR WIRE SERVICE

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - Denny Hamlin hasn't lost his competitive edge. Simply put, it has been dormant for a few months-and understandably so.

In 2025, Hamlin, 45, made a wholehearted effort to win the NASCAR Cup Series championship. His preparation was superb, and so was his performance in the title event at Phoenix Raceway.

Hamlin led 208 of 319 laps, won the second stage and was three laps away from a dominant victory when the championship was snatched from his grasp by an untimely caution.

After that disappointment came heartache, when Hamlin's father, Dennis Hamlin, died from injuries sustained in a house fire on Dec. 28. His mother, Mary Lou Hamlin, was severely injured in the blaze.

As a consequence, Hamlin is working his way into the current season, but he's confident he'll be ready by the time the new 10-race Chase championship format arrives in September.

"We're kind of getting back into the swing of things," Hamlin said Wednesday during DAYTONA 500 Media Day in-



Denny Hamlin speaks to the media during Media Day for the NASCAR Cup Series Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway on Wednesday in Daytona Beach, Fla. Hamlin is working his way into this season after a disappointing finish last year, followed by his father dying and his mother being severely injured in a house fire in December.

interviews at Daytona International Speedway.

"Certainly, would be lying if I said I was as highly motivated as I have been in years past, but I think that-I said it last week-it would just take some time.

"And I think that every day at the race track is certainly getting there. I know I'm way too competitive to just go through the motions. So, as we get on the racetrack, go through practices and qualifying, we're slowly getting there."

Recently, Hamlin has leaned

heavily on team owner Joe Gibbs-never more so than the night his father died.

"I mean, Joe beat me to the hospital the night of," Hamlin said. "The guy is just unbelievable in how he is as a leader, and obviously he has been through it (with the loss of sons J.D. Gibbs and Coy Gibbs).

"So, my connection really on that personal level is more so with Joe, and it's always been that way since he kind of took over as my at-track dad."

No doubt Hamlin's com-

petitive nature will kick in on Sunday when he tries to win his fourth DAYTONA 500, a number only Richard Petty (seven victories) and Cale Yarborough (four victories) have accomplished.

Connor Zilisch aware of high expectations in DAYTONA 500 debut

Connor Zilisch has won in every kind of car he's competed in-a road racing phenom who hoisted a 24 Hour of Daytona class winner's trophy before he could get his legal driver's license.

Last year, he transitioned to being a full-time NASCAR racer, won a NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series-best 10 races and set a record with 18 consecutive top-five finishes, capping the season with Sunoco Rookie of the Year honors as the championship runner-up.

It's quite a lead-in to 2026, when Zilisch will now contend in his rookie NASCAR Cup Series season driving the No. 88 Trackhouse Racing Chevrolet. He makes his full-time debut in Sunday's DAYTONA 500 at Daytona International Speedway, a place he recalls coming four years ago as a fan, not even knowing anyone in the garage area well enough to secure a pit pass.

A generational-talent, Zilisch faces not only the challenge of competing in the sport's greatest race against its greatest talents, but he also competes under high and heavy expectations that come with all his past suc-

cess.

But the perpetually good-natured 19-year-old Charlotte native smiles gratefully and promises his goal is to finish all the laps and hopefully come away with a top-10 in his debut in the Great American Race. Should he win, Zilisch would become the youngest winner in DAYTONA 500 history.

"I appreciate the excitement, I think it's really cool that there's a lot of people excited to watch how I'm going to do this season, whether it's fans or media," said Zilisch, who finished 27th in the 2025 NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series season opener at Daytona, after being collected in a late-race multi-car accident.

"I do think it sometimes gets a little outlandish... a lot of people maybe expecting a lot of me in my first year. I don't think people realize how big of a jump it is from Saturday to Sunday. But I try not to pay too much attention to it. I know what my personal goals are throughout the year. I know what I want to accomplish and my long-term goals. I find it cool mostly."

Chase Elliott: New NASCAR championship format is aptly named

Count Chase Elliott among the NASCAR Cup Series drivers who are thrilled by the return to the 10-race Chase to determine the champion-and not because his name happens to match the name of the format.

"Motorsports is just a little different, and I think we've spent an awful lot of time trying to be like everybody else," Elliott said on Wednesday during DAYTONA 500 Media Day at Daytona International Speedway. "I'm really proud of leadership of saying, 'Hey look, let's be us and let's go do our own thing.'"

"The Chase format was really unlike anything else in sports that I could remember at that time when it came out. Very genuine, very original. I think it fits. It never felt like a playoff to me, and not because of my name, but 'The Chase' does sound good. It sounds like racing. It sounds like a racing term."

Kyle Busch ready for challenge in 21st DAYTONA 500 start

Kyle Busch is a two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion who has won more races in the sport's three national series (232) than any driver in history. But the 40-year-old Las Vegas native lines up for his 21st green flag in Sunday's DAYTONA 500 amazingly still looking for his first win in the Great American Race.

His statistics at the 2.5-mile speedway are certainly good enough. He's won in all three major series-the NASCAR Cup Series (summer, 2008), the O'Reilly Auto Parts Series (2007) and the CRAFTSMAN Truck Series (2014).

He's had five top-10 finishes in all, including a third-place

showing in 2016-a race also won by his then-Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Hamlin.

“Coming to Daytona, as you’re coming in (to your career) maybe four, five years in, you’re a young guy, you’re pumped up and amped for the DAYTONA 500,” Busch said. “As you go on through the years, you’ve got to figure out a way to be in the right ‘mind place’ and figure out how to go out there, excel and be in the right place at the right time (to win).

“We’ve seen it here the last couple years. You can be leading coming off Turn 2 and not make it back to the start-finish line. You can be running fifth, or seventh or 11th and be the one that wins the race. It’s just a matter of having it be your way.

“Being able to win Daytona, that’s obviously sort of the last box to check in my career, and getting that done would be a lot of fun,” he added, breaking into a wide grin. “We’d celebrate that really, really big.”

So far, so good for Brad Keselowski’s return from broken leg

Brad Keselowski arrived for his DAYTONA 500 Media Day interviews walking with a cane to support his right leg, which has been healing from a broken femur.

It wasn’t just any cane, mind you. This one bore sponsorship stickers relating to his No. 6 Roush Fenway Keselowski Ford.

“I knew I was probably going to get picked on a little bit,” said Keselowski, who was cleared on Feb. 9 to race in the DAYTONA 500 after skipping the Cook Out Clash at Bowman Gray Stadium. “So, I might as well just at some point own it. I won’t say it (the decals) was my idea, but I actually thought it was a good one.”

Keselowski broke his leg by slipping on ice during a family ski vacation in mid-December. He explained that the injury was far more severe than the broken ankle he sustained in a wreck at Road Atlanta in 2011.

As he was lying on the ice after the recent accident, Keselowski was beset with a grim thought.

“When I was laying on the ground and I was completely immobile immediately after I broke my leg, what was going through my mind was like, ‘Oh my God.’ Like, think about the soldiers in the Civil War,” Keselowski said. “Like, they just would cut their leg off right here.

“And I understood why they would do it, because it hurt so bad. It was by far the worst pain I’ve ever went through. I get why they would bring out the hacksaw. There was a part of me that was like, that might actually feel better.”

Keselowski expects to be able to drive at Daytona, though David Ragan will stand by as a relief driver. Less certain is whether he can handle the rigors of the Circuit of The Amer-

icas road course on Mar. 1.

As a consequence, sports car star Joey Hand already has been enlisted as a backup for that race.

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What is a hamate bone? The injury sidelining MLB stars during spring training

TIM CAPURSO

In just the past couple of days, three of MLB's most prominent players-five-time All-Star Francisco Lindor of the Mets, [two-time All-Star Corbin Carroll of the Diamondbacks](#) and budding star Jackson Holliday of the Orioles-have been sidelined due to a hamate bone injury.

The news begs the question: What in the world is a hamate bone and how long does it take for such an injury to heal?

What is the hamate bone and where is it located?

The hamate bone is one of eight carpal bones that form part of the wrist joint. Specifically, the hamate bone is a small, hook-shaped bone that can be found on the medial side of the wrist, or on the palm just underneath the pinky.

How common are hamate bone injuries in baseball?

For the average person, not very common at all. According to research conducted by the National Institute of Health in 2024, hamate bone fractures occurred in [2-4% of all carpal bone fractures](#), making it a re-



Francisco Lindor, left, and Corbin Carroll have suffered hamate bone injuries.

latively rare injury.

However, injuries to the hamate bone are much more common in athletes who play sports in which a firm grip is required, such as baseball. Hamate bone fractures are caused either by acute trauma or chronic repetitive stress, the latter of which is the most common cause among competitive baseball players.

A study conducted by the NIH focused on eight competitive baseball players who suffered hamate bone fractures, and determined that the direct cause of the injury was attributed to batting, specifically [repetitive swinging of the bat](#).

That checks out, as both Carroll and Holliday broke the hamate bones in their right hands during batting practice sessions.

Conversely, Lindor is dealing with a stress reaction in the hamate bone of his left hand. A stress reaction is essentially a precursor to a fracture and often requires surgery. And indeed, after being evaluated, [Lindor will undergo surgery](#), according to Anthony DiComo of MLB.com.

Hamate surgery recovery time

Recovery from surgery is generally anywhere from four to six weeks, but can vary.

However, a return to play doesn't necessarily also mean a return to full health. Hitters who undergo surgery to repair fractures to the hamate bone can sometimes experience reduced power in their swings, perhaps correlated to a [reduction in grip strength](#).

What does this mean for Carroll, Lindor and Holliday?

Lindor was given a six-week recovery timeline, while Orioles president of baseball operations shared that Holliday's timeline is likely to be measured in "weeks." Meanwhile, no timetable for recovery was given for Carroll, though it's likely that he'd be somewhere in a similar range as Lindor and Holliday.

A four-to-six week recovery timeline would result in all three players missing the bulk of spring training-and all of the World Baseball Classic in Carroll's case. While the likes of Lindor, Carroll and Holliday could be ready for Opening Day, such a timetable would certainly at least put their respective statuses for the first game of the regular season in question.

More MLB on Sports Illustrated

- [Corbin Carroll's Status for Diamondbacks Opening Day in Jeopardy Due to Hand Injury](#)
- [Spring Training Signing Roundup: Takeaways From Late Free Agent Additions](#)
-

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This article was originally published on www.si.com as [What Is a Hamate Bone? The Injury Sidelineing MLB Stars During Spring Training](#).

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Nearly 1M pack Seattle streets for Seahawks' Super Bowl LX parade

DEREK HARPER

SEATTLE -- The "12s" flew in from Alaska, drove hours over the snowy mountain passes and camped overnight to take part in the celebration.

An estimated crowd of nearly one million Seahawks fans -- affectionately known as the 12s -- packed the streets of downtown Seattle to catch a glimpse of the Super Bowl LX championship parade on Wednesday.

The celebration began at a packed Lumen Field, where the doors opened at 8:30 a.m. PST for an event that was scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. General manager John Schneider, coach Mike Macdonald and several players addressed the sold-out stadium from a stage filled with adult beverages and beer kegs.

"This is why we do what we do. To bring people together," Macdonald said. "That's why football is the best sport in the world. Having a football team is just the best thing going, man. All these guys are from different backgrounds, different histories, different stories. All coming together towards a common goal.

"Shows you the power of '12 as one.' I just want to say we love the 12s. You guys are the best in the world. And now we're the best football team in



Seattle Seahawks fans at Lumen Field react during the Super Bowl LX parade on Wednesday in Seattle.

the world. World champs!"

An emotional Schneider paid tribute to his father, who passed away in October, along with the fathers and family members of several players who passed during the season. He closed by looking to the sky in tribute to late Seahawks owner Paul Allen and thanking Allen's sister, Jody, for her leadership as team chair since her brother's death in 2018.

"We had a lot of angels this year. With those angels, we know that Paul Allen has watched over us," Schneider said. "To Paul Allen! And Jody, Paul would be so proud of you. The way you've led this or-

ganization, and allowed us to be where we are. To Jody Allen... let's go!"

Linebacker Earnest Jones IV, who has been an outspoken supporter of oft-criticized quarterback Sam Darnold, issued a version of a speech he made to reporters after a Week 11 loss to the rival Los Angeles Rams.

Proclaimed Jones: "Quite frankly, if you got anything to say about my quarterback, you got anything to say about my defense, you got anything to say about our O-line, and you got anything to say about the city of Seattle. I got two words for you: F--- you!"

About a half-hour late, the

parade finally commenced through the streets of Seattle, where fans began lining up overnight. Others arrived in the wee hours of the morning, and barricades quickly filled up when they were put in place at 7 a.m.

By 10 a.m., the crowds along the 2-mile route were more than a 100 feet deep, with fans standing on street signs, hanging from trees and sitting on top of bus stops to catch a clear look.

Many of those in the crowd were too young to attend the franchise's first Super Bowl title parade 12 years ago, while others weren't even born yet.

"You had to be there to just know. Because it's not the same then as it is now. But it's fun being able to bring my son here now so he can experience it," Seahawks fan Jade, who took her son Jeremiah out of school, told local television station Kiro 7. "Even though it might not be the same, it's still fun. It wasn't even an option really. 'You're going.' Because if I went, you're going."

After the city struggled to handle the estimated crowd of 700,000 a dozen years ago, officials and law enforcement attempted to plan ahead this time. The Seattle police department posted the parade route on social media and closed streets Tuesday along with a plea to use public transportation.

Even schools in the surrounding suburbs had no-

ticeably fewer students in attendance Wednesday morning. For the majority who weren't able to attend Super Bowl LX in person at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif., taking part in the victory parade was the next best thing.

The franchise's first title parade saw 13,000 absences in Seattle public schools -- nearly a quarter of the district's entire enrollment. That year, the Sound Transit public-transportation system sold 71,000 one-way tickets while the Sounder commuter rail reported 38,000 customers.

"I mean, honestly, now I can say this without superstition, but how much in advance we were planning actually," Seattle mayor Katie Wilson told Kiro 7. "I think a lot has been learned since the 2014 Super Bowl parade.

"There weren't any kind of barriers and so there's people spilling out into the street. It just seemed like a very dangerous situation, like people were surprised that no one died during that parade. I hope (Wednesday) goes off without a hitch and that we can accommodate a million people in downtown Seattle.

"I think it will be fine. And it's just exciting to see everyone brought together around our team."

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NFL Mailbag: How the Bills can help Josh Allen in free agency

ALBERT BREER

I'm back home after Super Bowl LX, and we have a lot of questions to get to. So here we go ...

Buffalo Bills

From **Ryan** (@RJNYO): *What do the Bills do to address the WR room? Could a draft trade up be in the cards?*

Ryan, at this point, I presume the Cowboys will tag George Pickens. That leaves two players who would top my list, if I were a contending team like the Bills looking for receiver help in free agency.

One would be 27-year-old Seahawks receiver Rashid Shaheed, who may be a match made in heaven for Josh Allen—a deep threat who could weaponize Allen's ability to push the ball downfield. Shaheed's never had a season with 60 catches or 750 yards, but the potential tied to his game-breaking ability is tantalizing. And until he joined the Seahawks midseason this year, he never had much stability at quarterback.

The other would be 25-year-old Colts receiver Alec Pierce, who had 47 catches, 1,003 yards (that's a 21.3-yard average) and six touchdowns this



The Bills will likely look to add some weapons around Josh Allen this offseason.

year in 15 games. That was after a 37-catch, 824-yard (22.3-yard average), seven-touchdown season in 2025, with a really challenging quarterback situation. Add Pierce's 6'3", 211-pound frame to the equation, and how he would fit alongside Khalil Shakir and Dalton Kincaid, and he'd be the one for me.

We'll see what happens, but add Pierce to Shakir, Kincaid, Keon Coleman, Dawson Knox and James Cook, and I think Allen would be positioned for a real run.

Atlanta Falcons

From **Rahtid** (@blood-

claat416): *What happens with James Pierce Jr. next year? Do the Falcons keep Kyle Pitts? Where does Tyler Allgeier end up? Does Kevin Stefanski bring David Njoku to ATL????*

Rahtid, the [details of Pierce's arrest](#) are awful. He'll have his day in court, of course, but given the information we have now on his five felony charges, I think the Falcons have to operate as if they won't have him for quite some time. And while we haven't had the chance to hear his account, Pierce was off a lot of teams' boards last April due to a slew of character questions, which is part of why the Falcons picked squeaky-clean Jalon

Walker before him.

Kyle Pitts had a terrific, breakout season-going for 928 yards and five scores on 88 catches-that very few people saw coming. There will be teams after him. He could be a nice replacement for Travis Kelce in Kansas City if the veteran tight end retires. The Giants could bring him in as a gift to Jaxson Dart, and that Kelce role would exist for him in Matt Nagy's offense. The Buccaneers could be an interesting destination as well, with ex-Atlanta OC Zac Robinson now there. And if Pitts gets too pricey, then, sure, David Njoku would be an option.

As for Tyler Allgeier, I'm presuming he's gone and will get a nice payday somewhere. And it's not that the Falcons don't like Allgeier, but there's a mega-contract on the horizon for Bijan Robinson. I think it's difficult to forecast a landing spot for him, though, because I'd put him behind Breece Hall and Kenneth Walker III in the free-agent running back pecking order.

New York Giants

From **Spinal** (@GucciSpinal): *how much pressure is on John Harbaugh to fix the Giants' offense immediately with Jaxson Dart?*

Spinal, I don't think it's an unheard of amount of pressure. He isn't the guy who picked Dart, so there's a little leeway there. That doesn't mean he doesn't want to develop Dart, or

that Dart hitting wouldn't be best for him. He does, and it would be. It's just that it's a bit different when the player wasn't your pick.

I do like how the staff that will work to develop the young quarterback is coming together. There *is* pressure on Matt Nagy as a play-caller, of course. But his pass-game expertise, combined with what ex-Titans coach Brian Callahan will bring to the table, and Greg Roman's run game, there's potential for some pretty cool stuff. To get an idea of what this will look like, you could check out Alex Smith and the 2017 Chiefs.

My guess would be that Dart has a nice sophomore year.

Los Angeles Chargers

From **M** (@MattOfTheSouth): *Rashawn Slater's injury was a notorious one to come back from, what do we think his chances are of coming back at his best and will he be ready for training camp?*

First of all, M, yes, a ruptured patellar tendon is a bad injury for a big man. It affects your power, explosiveness and ability to push off the leg. So it's not just coming back, but getting all the way back that will be the question for Slater. Chiefs rookie Josh Simmons had a pretty unbelievable comeback from the injury last year. He incurred the injury in mid-October of his final year at Ohio State, then did not miss a day of training camp before starting Week 1, but he was considered

an outlier. It generally takes a full year for guys to come back from this one.

The good news is that Slater's injury happened so early on-he went down on Aug. 7 of last summer-that he should have a chance to be at or near full strength for camp. So with respect for how serious the injury is, it's alright to be cautiously optimistic that the Chargers will have a fully healthy tackle tandem of Slater and Joe Alt ready for opening day.

Cincinnati Bengals

From **George Hiotis** (@Hiotis4Life): *What do you expect the Bengals to do with Trey Hendrickson and will they go after tier 1 free agents on defense?*

George, I'd be pretty surprised if Hendrickson ended up back in Cincinnati next year. The Bengals gave him a big raise, up to \$29 million last year, and only got seven games out of him, and there were real questions on how much he did to push through injuries. (Particularly when juxtaposed with how maniacal Joe Burrow was in trying to return from his toe injury ahead of schedule.)

And yes, I could see the Bengals aggressively pursuing free agents on defense. Should Hendrickson depart, landing someone like Eagles free-agent Jaelan Phillips would make a lot of sense. A free-agent safety, like Seattle's Coby Bryant or Kansas City's Bryan Cook,

would, too. We'll see if they get the commitment from ownership to spend to add to a unit with some promising young pieces (Shemar Stewart, DJ Turner II and Demetrius Knight Jr.).

Pittsburgh Steelers

From **Burghie**
(@houseofburgh412): *What does the Steelers' offseason look like?*

I'd say the first thing the Steelers need to do is to determine their overall course and whether it's time to start the teardown. Some took the hiring of Mike McCarthy as a sign that the Rooneys don't want to undergo a rebuild, or at least not one now, which would color decisions on their raft of older players, and perhaps create some urgency in how they put together the 2026 team.

Along those lines, the first order of business for Pittsburgh will be getting a decision from Aaron Rodgers on his plans for this year. If he's not returning, finding a quarterback is obviously at the top of the list. If he is, it might make sense for the Steelers to land a running back like Hall or Walker, and maybe a corner.

Las Vegas Raiders

From **Raiders Got Fernando**
(@Raidersareback2): *Raiders coaching staff names?*

On offense, my guess is that Klint Kubiak will bring Seahawks quarterbacks coach Andrew Janocko with him.

Janocko has been the QBs coach at all three of Kubiak's stops as an offensive coordinator, and has earned his shot to be an OC. The only thing I see preventing that move is if Mike Macdonald offered Janocko the chance to call plays in Seattle. In that case, my guess is Kubiak would turn to Seahawks line coach John Benton to be his coordinator in Vegas.

It's a little more complicated on the defensive side of the ball. The Raiders have sniffed around on Jim Schwartz, but it seems Schwartz might be content to sit out a year, with the possibility that Vic Fangio retires after 2026, which would open the Eagles' DC job in '27.

Assuming Schwartz isn't available, Chiefs defensive line coach Joe Cullen, Seahawks pass-game coordinator Karl Scott, Browns linebackers coach Jason Tarver and Vegas's own defensive backs coach Joe Woods (whom I've heard is likely to stay in some capacity) are DC names on Kubiak's radar.

Texans secondary coach Dino Vasso was on the list, too, before signing a new deal in Houston.

From **BurnieWilliams**
(@BurnieWilliams):

I don't want to trade Maxx Crosby but if he wants out wouldn't the Rams make the most sense? Maxx for pick No. 13 and 61? Rams would keep pick No. 29. Rams trying to make one last run with Matt Stafford. Maxx has built his dream home in Vegas and going to L.A. would keep him close.

I'm not sure the Rams make sense. They have a decision to make on paying Byron Young this year. He had 12 sacks, is headed into his fourth year and he plays opposite star edge rusher Jared Verse, who'll be eligible to do a massive second deal with the Rams in a year. So while you never say never, I'd guess the Rams have other areas (like corner) that they want to attack first.

That said, there are a *lot* of teams that make sense as Crosby suitors. Including both Super Bowl teams. And you're right to think he'll cost a first-rounder and then some.

Chicago Bears

From **BunchaNumbers**
(@Gusdabearzfam): *Who starts at left tackle for the Bears next year?*

Buncha, it's pretty complicated. Do you re-sign Braxton Jones? Do you make a run at someone like Rasheed Walker in free agency? The unfortunate thing is that Ozzy Trapilo should be the easy answer to the question. The 2025 rookie performed well enough that he could at least have been penciled in as the placeholder, and

maybe even the long-term answer at left tackle, before rupturing his patellar tendon.

Now? Well, you can refer back to what we said above about Slater. That injury is a tough one, and, since he was hurt in January, it'd be tough to count on getting a lot from Trapilo in his second season.

Given all this, the Bears' best bet may be finding a left tackle with the 25th pick in the draft.

Washington Commanders

From **brandon** (@JayDanielsMVP): *Do you see the Commanders being aggressive spenders in free agency considering they want to get younger?*

Yes, Brandon, I expect the Commanders to be active. They have a lot of free agents, plenty of older players who could be on the way out, Jayden Daniels is midway through his rookie contract and there's pressure on a coaching staff that went through a lot of turnover at the end of the 2025 season.

The defense, with new coordinator Daronte Jones aboard and a lot of key players up, will likely look markedly different.

New York Jets

From **Paul Andrew Esden Jr** (@BoyGreen25): *Is a Derek Carr-Bill Musgrave reunion with the Jets on the table? If so, what would NYJ have to give up in trade compensation to acquire him? What's the timeline for this potential thing?*

I don't know what the trade

comp would be, but it would probably happen between now and the beginning of the new league year in March. Carr's leverage in forcing a trade would be that his return from retirement would have serious cap implications, and that alone, I think, would force the Saints to play ball with him on a move.

I also don't think Carr will do it for just any team. Getting him to go to the Jets might take some convincing, though he was right there at the top of the Jets' list in 2023 and might have gone there had Rodgers not.

New England Patriots

From **Dave Del Rio** (@CelticsBeam): *Will NE move Will Campbell to LG, draft or sign a new LT and move Jared Wilson to C?*

I think Wilson is probably moving to center. I also think the Patriots will move forward with Campbell at left tackle, though my guess is they'll stay loose on any potential options at the position. Campbell's a good player, but the reality is a lot of people have seen him as a guard dating back to before last year's draft. Can he be a Jake Matthews type of left tackle? Sure. And that gives New England some flexibility.

They can move forward with Campbell there and upgrade at guard. Or they can go big-game hunting and get a left tackle, and move Campbell inside (and a lot of those folks who think

he's a guard believe he has All-Pro potential at that position). My guess is how they go long-term will be dictated by what opportunities they're presented with. Which is the right way to approach it.

More NFL on Sports Illustrated

- [What Christian Gonzalez Said About Future With Patriots Entering the Offseason](#)
- [Seahawks Players Wearing Provocative Smoking Sam Darnold Shirts to Super Bowl Parade](#)
- [Lions Hiring Fan-Favorite Ex-Lineman As New Assistant Coach: Report](#)
- [Joey Porter Rips Ben Roethlisberger as Bad Teammate, Bad Person](#)
- [Compiling the 10 Strangest Plays of 2025 NFL Season: The Weird, Wacky and Unforgettable Bloopers](#)

This article was originally published on www.si.com as [Albert Breer's Mailbag: How the Bills Can Help Josh Allen in Free Agency](#).

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Eight lessons we learned during the 2025 NFL season: Defense reigns supreme

GILBERTO MANZANO

It was refreshing to see the Seahawks think outside the box with [all the drastic decisions](#) they've made the past two seasons to help them win Super Bowl LX.

But bold moves that become successful just restart the copy-cat cycle in the NFL. Defense is all the rage again, but creativity is still lacking, especially after what we saw from the recent hiring cycle.

Maybe we'll see less trades for big-name players because the Seahawks won the Super Bowl after sending Geno Smith to Las Vegas and DK Metcalf to Pittsburgh. I wonder what those two players, and the teams that acquired them, are thinking after seeing Seattle hoist the Lombardi Trophy following the win over New England.

Perhaps the Seahawks' moves will give the Raiders more incentive to trade edge rusher Maxx Crosby. Then again, teams might not be willing to be buyers with all the trades that backfired for the ones acquiring star players.

Let's get to some of these topics in what we learned during the 2025 season.



The Seahawks dominated defensively en route to Super Bowl LX, suggesting defenses may have gained the upper hand on offenses during the 2025 season.

It was all about the defense in 2025

The teams that invested in defense over the past few years saw plenty of return this season.

In 2023, the Seahawks used a top-five pick on All-Pro cornerback Devon Witherspoon, who recorded a sack and forced Drake Maye into a pick-six in Super Bowl LX. In that same draft, the Texans relinquished a future first-round pick to the Cardinals to select star edge rusher Will Anderson Jr. with

the No. 3 pick.

Those are just two of many examples of defensive moves paying off in 2025, but defensive free-agent signings also have worked out. For example, the Broncos added defensive tackle Zach Allen in '23 and safety Talanoa Hufanga last off-season and both made All-Pro teams in '25 for Denver's stacked defense.

As for more evidence as to why it's wise to invest on the defensive side, the Seahawks, Texans, Broncos and Patriots were the top four teams in scor-

ing defense, and all four advanced to the divisional round. Three of those teams made it to championship Sunday. And, of course, the Seahawks [won Super Bowl LX](#) behind a dominant defensive performance.

Defenses have now regained the advantage over offenses after the rules were tweaked to benefit quarterbacks and encourage more points. Don't be surprised if more teams begin to prioritize the defensive side this offseason.

Patience is needed for all types of QB situations

[Sam Darnold winning the Super Bowl](#) while on his fifth team is the ultimate example of why teams need to have more patience with their promising quarterbacks regardless of the situation.

First-round picks are often asked to produce fast results, which didn't occur for Darnold as the 2018 No. 3 pick with the Jets, who then ditched him after three seasons. But if surroundings aren't ideal, quarterbacks should be given more time to develop while the roster improves. It's not a coincidence that Bryce Young took a step forward in his third season now that Panthers coach Dave Canales has had two years to improve one of the worst rosters in the NFL.

The same can be said for Caleb Williams, who was criticized for not doing what Jayden Daniels did in his rookie year in Washington. The hiring of

coach Ben Johnson made a difference in Williams's drastic development in his second season with the Bears.

What Darnold has done can also apply to veteran quarterbacks. The Vikings are kicking themselves for not realizing that they had the option of committing to two quarterbacks at the same time. Minnesota could have re-signed Darnold and made him the starter for a season or two while 2024 first-round pick J.J. McCarthy developed and waited his turn.

It's strange that more teams don't consider these kinds of options, similar to when the Chargers had Philip Rivers wait two seasons behind Drew Brees, despite Rivers being a high first-round pick. Teams expect too much, too soon for first-round selections and rarely consider what an experienced veteran could do under the right circumstances.

The Vikings knew better than anyone else that McCarthy was still not ready to be a full-time starter and allowed Darnold to leave the building.

Tom Brady got plenty wrong in Year 1 with the Raiders

Raiders fans probably scoffed after reading what I wrote above about veteran quarterbacks needing more attention. Yes, Las Vegas opted for experience when it traded for Smith, but this team had no business attempting the quick-fix route.

This is why circumstances matter, and minority owner

Tom Brady failed to read the room on multiple occasions during his first full season with the team.

Brady missed the giant red flags for why Seattle fired coach Pete Carroll and was willing to trade Smith. After striking out in their pursuits of Johnson and quarterback Matthew Stafford, the Raiders settled on Carroll and Smith and endured a 3-14 season. They at least did something right by landing the No. 1 pick in April's draft.

Now, here the Raiders are again, hoping someone with ties to the Seahawks can help them climb back to relevancy after hiring Klint Kubiak as their new head coach. Maybe this time it will be different because, technically, the Seahawks weren't trying to get rid of their offensive coordinator.

Trading for star players wasn't fruitful

The Raiders weren't the only ones who were burned for acquiring notable players via trades.

The Commanders opened the 2025 offseason with the trade for wide receiver Deebo Samuel and followed a few weeks later by making the splash move for left tackle Laremy Tunsil. But those decisions backfired for a team that had its lack of depth exposed throughout a 4-13 season, and now Washington has to retool the roster with the depleted amount of draft picks left because of the two trades.

The Steelers traded for Metcalf, another Seahawks outcast, and immediately handed him a four-year, \$132 million contract. Metcalf only had 59 catches for 850 yards and six touchdowns in his first season in Pittsburgh and was suspended two games for a physical altercation with a Lions fan.

To make matters worse for the Steelers, they traded away George Pickens to Dallas and saw him turn into a second-team All-Pro. Still, Pickens's prolific numbers didn't help the Cowboys make the postseason because their defense got drastically worse after the trade that sent Micah Parsons to the Packers.

Parsons was a difference-maker for the Packers, but he sustained a season-ending knee injury in December that derailed the team's hope of competing for a Super Bowl. It's not a given that the player Green Bay gave up two first-round picks for will be ready in time for the start of the 2026 season.

The Cowboys were involved in a second trade for a star defender after landing defensive tackle Quinnen Williams from the Jets. Williams's arrival helped Dallas's defense improve, but this unit still lacks an impactful edge rusher and Williams is due for a new contract, which makes you wonder whether this team would have been better off just keeping Parsons.

And then there's the Sauce

Gardner trade to the Colts that was supposed to turn them into legitimate Super Bowl contenders after an 8-2 start. Gardner dealt with injuries and Indianapolis lost its final seven games to miss the postseason.

NFL teams still don't get it when it comes to hiring coaches

I think NFL teams missed the biggest reason why the Seahawks were so successful with the hiring of Mike Macdonald in 2024.

The Seahawks didn't follow the trend of hiring an offensive coach or someone from Sean McVay's coaching tree. They were the trendsetter and not the copycat. But now teams are following Seattle's path and missing the point of thinking outside of the box for themselves.

Teams searched for the next Macdonald, with the Dolphins (Jeff Hafley), Titans (Robert Saleh) and Ravens (Jesse Minter) all hiring head coaches with defensive backgrounds. We got a pair of obvious big-name hires with John Harbaugh and the Giants, and Kevin Stefanski and the Falcons. Also, a few safe, and somewhat uninspiring, choices with Mike McCarthy going to the Steelers and Joe Brady being promoted from offensive coordinator to head coach with the Bills.

Oh, and we even got another coach from McVay's tree being hired, with the Cardinals hiring Mike LaFleur.

And, to no surprise, only one minority hired from the 10

head coaching vacancies. This league favors the bold, but we still get a ton of safe and familiar decisions throughout the offseason. Sigh.

Browns continue to be a flaming mess

The Browns also had a coaching vacancy and they had one of the strangest hiring processes in recent memory.

Maybe forcing candidates to take written tests was Cleveland's way of being creative, but that only made some of its top coaching options withdraw from consideration. Then there were reports of the Browns pushing their next head coach to retain defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz, to the point that might have convinced Schwartz that it was his job to lose.

Instead, Cleveland went with Todd Monken after many candidates dropped out and still managed to lose Schwartz, who recently parted with the team due to frustration from not getting the job. This is just one of many poorly handled situations by the Browns this century.

AFC South race was surprisingly entertaining

The NFC West was the best division in football this season, but the AFC South wasn't too far behind with how competitive the Jaguars, Texans and Colts got down the stretch.

Indianapolis flamed out in the final month, but we still watched because of the un-

expected return of Philip Rivers. The Colts needed a quarterback after Daniel Jones and Anthony Richardson were sidelined with injuries and Rivers, after being retired for five years, nearly beat the eventual Super Bowl champions in Seattle for his comeback game in Week 15.

The Jaguars had an exciting offense with the improvements Trevor Lawrence made under the guidance of first-year coach Liam Coen. And the Texans brushed off an 0-3 start with a dominant defense that helped them win their final nine games to close out the regular season.

If Cam Ward can take the next steps under Saleh and new offensive coordinator Brian Daboll, there could be another competitive race for a division that has often been overlooked.

49ers, Bills, Ravens may have missed their Super Bowl window

With the Seahawks winning the Super Bowl and the emergence of new contenders in 2025, it seems the 49ers, Bills and Ravens missed their window to win a Super Bowl in the foreseeable future.

Those three teams have been in the mix for the better part of a decade, but kept running into the Chiefs, who won three Super Bowls and made five Super Bowl appearances in a six-year span before missing the playoffs this season.

Without the Chiefs in the way, the Bills fell to the Broncos in a thrilling divisional matchup

and the Ravens missed the postseason after rookie kicker Tyler Loop went wide right in a winner-take-all Week 18 matchup against the Steelers. San Francisco had a surprising run to the divisional round during what was supposed to be a reset year, but got crushed by Seattle in the postseason.

The 49ers now have to deal with the Rams and Seahawks just to win the division. The Bills are no longer the top dog in the AFC East with the Patriots winning the division and advancing to another Super Bowl, something Josh Allen has still never done. Plus, Buffalo now is relying on the inexperienced Brady after the surprising firing of Sean McDermott. The Ravens also made a drastic decision out of pressure for not getting Lamar Jackson to the Super Bowl, firing Harbaugh and hiring Minter.

More NFL on Sports Illustrated

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- [Myles Garrett, Micah Parsons Explain Why They Think QBs Always Win NFL MVP](#)
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Compiling the 10 strangest plays of 2025 NFL season: The weird, wacky and unforgettable bloopers

EVA GEITHEIM

Each year, the NFL produces some incredible highlights.

From awe-striking throws, jaw-dropping catches to exhilarating comebacks, there are memorable plays every season—along with some comical bloopers.

As the credits roll on the 2025 campaign, it's time to take a look back at the strangest plays of the season. Here's hoping your team wasn't on the wrong end of these moments.

Week 2: Kaleb Johnson's special teams gaffe

OH MY

Kaleb Johnson with the miscue on special teams, leading to the Seahawks TD

: FOX

pic.twitter.com/2SBQz5OyIX

- FOX Sports: NFL

(@NFLonFOX) [September 14, 2025](#)

Steelers rookie Kaleb Johnson made one of the biggest errors of the season in Week 2. When the Seahawks kicked off the football, he touched the ball before letting it bounce into the



Trevor Lawrence's touchdown run vs. the Chiefs was one of the strangest plays of the season.

end zone. Rather than going to pick up the football, Johnson appeared to assume the play was over. The Seahawks ran to the end zone and recovered the football for an easy touchdown, helping the eventual champs secure their first win of the season.

Week 5: Titans recover fumbled interception for touchdown

It took [a number of odd plays](#) for the Titans to earn their first win of the season, but none

was stranger than when Cardinals safety Dadrion Taylor-Demerson intercepted Cam Ward and fumbled the football without being contacted. The ball then bounced around before Tyler Lockett recovered it in the end zone for a touchdown that helped Tennessee pull off the improbable 22-21 comeback win.

Week 6: Trevor Lawrence's stumble-touchdown

Slip 6 in all it's glory

@Jaguars | @TrevorLawrence
pic.twitter.com/OwPf49uMVj

- NFL Films (@NFLFilms)
October 7, 2025

In a prime-time victory over the Chiefs, Trevor Lawrence perfectly encapsulated the highs and lows of his career with his game-winning touchdown run. Lawrence began the play stumbling to the ground before getting up and running into the end zone.

Lawrence described the moment best, [saying he felt “sheer panic”](#) when he initially fell to the ground.

Week 13: Younghoe Koo’s failed field goal attempt

Younghoe Koo completely missed the ball and kicked the turf, Jaxson Dart can’t believe it
pic.twitter.com/OyxcBs46IX

- CJ Fogler (@cjzero)
December 2, 2025

As Younghoe Koo tried to kick a field goal that would have brought the Giants within one score of the Patriots, he made one critical mistake: He missed the football. In a perhaps unprecedented failed field goal attempt, Koo’s foot hit the turf before reaching the football and he wasn’t even able to get the kick off. Oof.

Week 14: Aaron Rodgers’s interception is overturned

Did Aaron Rodgers catch this deflection and get his knee down or should this be ruled an interception?

pic.twitter.com/42aLVbCP7W

- Rate the Refs
Back to NFL

(@Rate_the_Refs) December 7, 2025

There were a [couple controversial calls](#) in the Steelers’ first win over the Ravens, including a fortunate break for Aaron Rodgers on an interception.

Rodgers’s attempted pass was deflected back to him, and he fought with Ravens’ Teddye Buchanan for control of the football. Buchanan initially had the interception, but the call was overturned and ruled that Rodgers had control of the football.

Week 14: Jalen Hurts turns the ball over twice in one play

no idea what happened here but our ball

|
@espnpic.twitter.com/sdvwsI7R11

- Los Angeles Chargers
(@chargers) December 9, 2025

Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts did a good job of avoiding turnovers until the team’s Week 14 game against the Chargers, when the dam broke. Hurts threw a pick to Chargers defensive tackle Da’Shawn Hand, who then fumbled the football. [Hurts picked up the ball](#), but fumbled and the Chargers recovered. He committed a total of five turnovers on the night as Los Angeles won 22-19 in overtime.

Week 16: Zach Charbonnet’s bizarre two-point conversion

The most ridiculous two-point conversion ever results in the Seahawks tying it up vs the

Rams.

Rules analyst Terry McAulay was all over it for Prime Video.
[#NFL#TNFpic.twitter.com/BI8HEGwt1c](#)

- Awful Announcing
(@awfulannouncing) December 19, 2025

What appeared to be a standard deflected pass turned into a successful two-point conversion when it was ruled that Sam Darnold threw a backwards pass and running back Zach Charbonnet happened to pick up the football in the end zone. In a pivotal Week 16 divisional matchup between the Seahawks and Rams, Seattle had luck on its side, securing the two points needed to tie the game and force overtime.

Wild-card round: Packers OL fumble

here’s the Darian Kinnard catch, run, and ensuing fumble scrum aka the funniest play of the season. good night.

pic.twitter.com/nya3HOlyO7

- Nate Tice (@Nate_Tice)
January 16, 2026

It’s always fun when the big guys get the ball in their hands ... until they jeopardize the future of all big-man trick plays.

In the Packers’ wild-card loss to the Bears, Jordan Love threw to tackle Darian Kinnard, who pushed past a couple tacklers before losing the football. His foot accidentally kicked the ball forward and multiple players attempted to scrounge up the football before it fortunately landed out of bounds for Green

Bay.

Divisional round: Josh Allen's fumble before the half

Fumble: [#Bills](#) QB Josh Allen with a awful fumble right before the half.

YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!![#Denver](#) gets 3 more 20-10 lead.

pic.twitter.com/xLNq7vJyfc

- FirstDownMedia (@FirstDownMediaa) [January 17, 2026](#)

With just 16 seconds remaining in the first half, the Bills decided to try and add a field goal over kneeling to end the half. The results proved disastrous. Quarterback Josh Allen ran for a first down, but was bizarrely careless with the football and lost control of the ball in his own territory. The Broncos pounced on the football and added a field goal to their lead going into the half-three points that would come back to haunt the Bills later in the game.

AFC championship game: Patriots recover Jarrett Stidham's backwards pass

Jarrett Stidham throws a backward pass and it's [#Patriots](#) ball.

The refs blew it dead, so the touchdown doesn't count...

Should've let the play finish. That's brutal...

pic.twitter.com/OEO6liyKBz

- Arye Pulli (@AryePulliNFL) [January 25, 2026](#)

After leading the Broncos to a solid start while replacing an injured Bo Nix, Jarrett Stidham

made an error that likely cost Denver a trip to the Super Bowl. Leading 7-0 and under pressure, Stidham kept backpedaling before finally attempting to throw the football away. The Patriots picked up the football and ran it into the end zone, but the play was initially called an incomplete pass. Upon further review, the call was overturned and ruled a backwards pass, but the touchdown didn't count because the whistle had already blown the play dead.

More NFL on *Sports Illustrated*

- [2026 NFL Free Agency: Every All-Pro Set to Hit Free Agency](#)
- [Fab's Five Way-Too-Early Fantasy Football Running Back Sleepers For 2026](#)
- [Eight Lessons We Learned During the 2025 NFL Season: Defense Reigns Supreme](#)
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2026 NFL free agency: Every All-Pro set to hit free agency

KARL RASMUSSEN

Now that the Super Bowl has come and gone, [NFL](#) teams are turning their attention toward free agency, which will open up in March. The new league year begins on March 11 with free agency officially getting underway at 4:00 p.m. ET.

There will be plenty of talent potentially hitting the market this offseason, including a handful of players who were recognized as [All Pro's in 2025](#). In total, eight players who earned All-Pro honors this season are on expiring contracts, though not all of them will end up reaching free agency as teams still have time to place the franchise tag on players, or even sign them to a long-term extension. The franchise and transition tag window opens on February 17 and will remain open until March 3.

2025 offensive NFL All-Pro's set to hit free agency

FB Patrick Ricard - Ravens

Ricard is one of the last true fullbacks in the NFL, and he's now earned All-Pro honors in consecutive seasons. He was a First Team All-Pro last year and was on the Second Team in 2025, while also making his



Cowboys wide receiver George Pickens was a Second Team All-Pro in 2025.

seventh Pro Bowl. He signed a one-year deal to remain in Baltimore in March of 2025.

He'll be 32 next season, but he remains one of the top-tier run blockers.

WR George Pickens - Cowboys

It's highly unlikely that Pickens actually hits the open market this offseason, though you [can't be too sure of anything](#) when Jerry Jones is at the negotiation table. In all likelihood, the Cowboys will place the franchise tag on Pickens and potentially try to work out a long-term deal beyond that. Pickens was an All-Pro Second Team selection in his first season in Dallas after catching 93

passes for 1,429 yards and nine touchdowns.

TE Kyle Pitts - Falcons

Pitts made the All-Pro Second Team this season and finally began to look like the player fans expected when the Falcons drafted him with the fourth pick in the 2021 draft. He was targeted 117 times and made a career-high 88 receptions for 928 yards and five touchdowns. His rookie contract is expiring after this season, but there's a good chance Atlanta will place the franchise tag on him and keep him out of free agency.

2025 defensive NFL All-Pro's set to hit free agency

LB Devin Lloyd - Jaguars

Lloyd made the Pro Bowl and the All-Pro Second Team in 2025, his fourth year in the NFL. The 27-year-old had five interceptions, including one pick six, 81 tackles, six tackles for loss and 10 QB hits this year. Lloyd reportedly prefers to remain in Jacksonville, but [the two sides haven't opened up contract negotiations](#), according to Kevin Patra of NFL.com.

2025 special teams NFL All-Pro's set to hit free agency

LS Andrew DePaola - Vikings

Long snapper Andrew DePaola has been an All-Pro on special teams four years in a row. In 2025, he made his second appearance on the All-Pro Second Team. He's spent the last six seasons in Minnesota, and if he continues playing into his age-39 season, the Vikings would almost certainly welcome him back. If not, however, he'd become an unrestricted free agent.

EDGE Del'Shawn Phillips - Chargers

Phillips had a strong first season with the Chargers, where he was a key player on special teams and occasionally saw the field with the defense. Phillips had 37 tackles, a fumble recovery, one sack and played on 80% of L.A.'s special teams

snaps. That was enough to land him on the All-Pro Second Team, which could potentially enhance his value in free agency.

S Devon Key (ERFA) - Broncos

Key has emerged as an important special teams asset for the Broncos, and was named to the All-Pro First Team in 2025. Unlike the other All-Pro players who could hit free agency this offseason, Key is an exclusive rights free agent, which means he'd have to remain in Denver if the team tendered him a one-year contract.

P Jordan Stout - Ravens

Stout was a Pro Bowler and a First Team All-Pro in 2025, his fourth season in the NFL. The Ravens punter averaged a career-high 50.1 yards per punt and 24 of his 53 punts pinned opponents down within the 20-yard line. He's in line to be an unrestricted free agent this offseason with his rookie deal expiring.

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Report: Giants hire Brian Callahan as QBs coach

Former Tennessee Titans head coach Brian Callahan is being added to John Harbaugh's coaching staff as the quarterbacks coach and passing game coordinator for the New York Giants, ESPN reported Wednesday.

Callahan, 41, was fired by the Titans last October after a 1-5 start. Tennessee posted a 4-19 record under Callahan, who was hired by the Titans after five seasons as the Cincinnati Bengals' offensive coordinator that included a three-point loss in Super Bowl LVI.

ESPN reported Callahan also interviewed with the Giants for the offensive coordinator position, which ultimately went to Matt Nagy. The latter was a former offensive coordinator for the Kansas City Chiefs and head coach of the Chicago Bears.

Callahan, who will be coaching former first-round pick Jaxson Dart in his second season in the league, has extensive experience developing quarterbacks. He was the offensive coordinator for four seasons for Joe Burrow with the Bengals, was the quarterbacks coach in 2018 for Derek Carr with the Las Vegas Raiders and for two seasons for Matthew Stafford



Then-Tennessee Titans head coach Brian Callahan exits the field after a game against the Indianapolis Colts at Nissan Stadium in Nashville on Sept. 21, 2025.

with the Detroit Lions.

In addition to Dart, Callahan will be working with veteran quarterback Jameis Winston.

Callahan and Nagy are part of an offensive staff that also includes former Rice University head coach Mike Bloomgren as offensive line coach and former offensive coordinators Greg Roman as senior offensive assistant and Tim Kelly as tight ends coach.

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SPORTS STATS

 **NOTE:** *All times listed are in Eastern time zone. Subtract one hour for Central, two hours for Mountain and three hours for Pacific.*

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

NBAGLANCE

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	35	19	.648	—
New York	35	20	.636	—
Toronto	32	23	.582	3½
Philadelphia	30	24	.556	5
Brooklyn	15	38	.283	19½
Southeast	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	28	25	.528	—
Miami	29	27	.518	½
Charlotte	26	29	.473	3
Atlanta	26	30	.464	3½
Washington	14	39	.264	14
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	40	13	.755	—
Cleveland	34	21	.618	7
Chicago	24	31	.436	17
Milwaukee	22	30	.423	17½
Indiana	15	40	.273	26
Western Conference	W	L	Pct	GB
Southwest				
San Antonio	38	16	.704	—
Houston	33	20	.623	4½
Memphis	20	33	.377	17½
Dallas	19	34	.358	18½
New Orleans	15	41	.268	24
Northwest	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	42	13	.764	—
Denver	35	20	.636	7
Minnesota	34	22	.607	8½
Portland	26	29	.473	16
Utah	18	37	.327	24
Pacific	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	32	21	.604	—
Phoenix	32	23	.582	1
Golden State	29	26	.527	4
L.A. Clippers	26	28	.481	6½
Sacramento	12	44	.214	21½

Wednesday's Games

Charlotte 110, Atlanta 107
Cleveland 138, Washington 113
Milwaukee 116, Orlando 108
Boston 124, Chicago 105
Indiana 115, Brooklyn 110
New York 138, Philadelphia 89
Detroit 113, Toronto 95
L.A. Clippers 105, Houston 102
Minnesota 133, Portland 109
Miami 123, New Orleans 111
Oklahoma City 136, Phoenix 109
Utah 121, Sacramento 93
Denver 122, Memphis 116
San Antonio 126, Golden State 113

Thursday's Games

Milwaukee at Oklahoma City,7:30 p.m.
Portland at Utah,9 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Lakers,10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Team Antetokounmpo vs Team Anderson, at Inglewood, CA,7 p.m.
Team Melo vs Team Austin, at Inglewood, CA,9 p.m.
Team Vince vs Team T-Mac, at Inglewood, CA,9:55 p.m.

NBA LEADERS

Scoring	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Doncic, LAL	42	437	356	1379	32.8
Gilgeous-Alexander, OKC	49	534	403	1558	31.8
Edwards, MIN	45	458	267	1334	29.6
Brown, BOS	48	525	261	1411	29.4
Mitchell, CLE	50	505	255	1448	29.0
Maxey, PHI	51	515	270	1471	28.8
Leonard, LAC	40	388	231	1116	27.9
Brunson, NY	49	478	243	1343	27.4
Durant, HOU	49	445	267	1270	25.9
Murray, DEN	49	447	212	1263	25.8
Avdija, POR	45	351	343	1147	25.5
Cunningham, DET	46	407	265	1163	25.3
Harden, CLE	46	337	347	1163	25.3
Booker, PHO	43	356	297	1083	25.2
Porter Jr., BKN	41	362	152	1026	25.0

FG Percentage	FG	FGA	PCT
Gobert, MIN	236	336	.702
Ayton, LAL	278	412	.675
Williams, PHO	241	363	.664
Antetokounmpo, MIL	314	487	.645
Queta, BOS	207	326	.635
Duren, DET	303	480	.631
Allen, CLE	240	390	.615
Zubac, IND	263	429	.613
Jokic, DEN	385	649	.593
Claxton, BKN	256	434	.590
Williamson, NOR	308	529	.582
Collins, LAC	270	477	.566
Holmgren, OKC	309	548	.564
Gilgeous-Alexander, OKC	534	964	.554
Johnson, SAN	269	492	.547

Rebounds	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Towns, NY	50	151	445	596	11.9
Clingan, POR	50	233	337	570	11.4
Gobert, MIN	53	199	396	595	11.2
Zubac, IND	43	148	325	473	11.0
Johnson, ATL	49	77	442	519	10.6
Duren, DET	44	161	296	457	10.4
Adebayo, MIA	47	97	364	461	9.8
Sengun, HOU	45	141	282	423	9.4
Ware, MIA	51	149	319	468	9.2
Vucevic, BOS	50	107	344	451	9.0
Mobley, CLE	42	97	271	368	8.8
Holmgren, OKC	47	87	322	409	8.7
Diabate, CHA	50	183	248	431	8.6
Bencharo, ORL	42	46	312	358	8.5
Ayton, LAL	46	117	272	389	8.5

Assists	G	AST	AVG
Cunningham, DET	46	443	9.6
Doncic, LAL	42	360	8.6
Johnson, ATL	49	400	8.2
Harden, CLE	46	373	8.1
Murray, DEN	49	373	7.6
Nembhard, IND	43	321	7.5
Ball, CHA	44	326	7.4
Collier, UTA	46	333	7.2
Mitchell, MIA	45	319	7.1
Castle, SAN	43	303	7.0
Maxey, PHI	51	349	6.8
Avdija, POR	45	302	6.7
Westbrook, SAC	52	342	6.6
George, UTA	48	313	6.5
Gilgeous-Alexander, OKC	49	314	6.4

SPURS 126, WARRIORS 113

San Antonio	Min	FG-A	FT-A	R	A	F	Pt
Jl.Champagnie	19:48	0-3	0-0	3	1	0	0
Vassell	28:28	2-8	3-3	4	2	1	8
Wembanyama	33:29	8-17	8-10	9	4	2	26
Castle	21:28	3-11	2-3	4	4	4	8
Fox	32:16	11-16	2-2	0	8	3	27
H.Barnes	21:45	4-8	2-2	5	3	1	10
C.Bryant	9:10	2-5	3-4	5	1	1	8
Harper	29:00	6-10	1-1	5	8	1	14
Kl.Johnson	29:19	8-13	3-3	6	2	2	21
Kornet	15:17	2-2	0-0	3	2	3	4
Totals	240:00	46-93	24-28	44	35	18	126

Percentages: FG .495, FT .857. **3-Point Goals:** 10-39, .256 (Fox 3-5, Kl.Johnson 2-6, Wembanyama 2-9, C.Bryant 1-3, Harper 1-3, Vassell 1-5, Castle 0-1, Jl.Champagnie 0-3, H.Barnes 0-4). **Team Rebounds:** 9. **Team Turnovers:** 8. **Blocked Shots:** 5 (Wembanyama 2, C.Bryant, Jl.Champagnie, Kornet). **Turnovers:** 9 (Castle 3, Fox 2, Vassell 2, Kl.Johnson, Wembanyama). **Steals:** 6 (Fox 3, Kl.Johnson, Kornet, Wembanyama).

Golden State	Min	FG-A	FT-A	R	A	F	Pt
Moody	35:00	6-12	2-2	4	2	5	17
Santos	29:46	4-11	1-2	5	6	5	9
D.Green	29:42	6-14	3-4	12	8	4	17
Melton	25:06	6-7	0-0	3	7	2	17
P.Spencer	30:38	4-11	1-2	4	4	1	9
Horford	26:24	3-7	0-0	4	1	1	6
Payton II	14:21	4-11	0-0	0	5	2	10
Podziemski	35:57	5-13	5-5	5	2	1	16
Post	13:06	4-6	1-2	3	2	3	12
Totals	240:00	42-92	13-17	40	37	24	113

Percentages: FG .457, FT .765. **3-Point Goals:** 16-48, .333 (Melton 5-6, Post 3-5, Moody 3-8, Payton II 2-7, D.Green 2-8, Podziemski 1-5, P.Spencer 0-2, Santos 0-3, Horford 0-4). **Team Rebounds:** 11. **Team Turnovers:** 10. **Blocked Shots:** 1 (Payton II). **Turnovers:** 11 (D.Green 2, Melton 2, Santos 2, P.Spencer 2, Horford, Payton II, Podziemski). **Steals:** 6 (Santos 4, Payton II, Podziemski).

San Antonio	31	32	31	32	— 126
Golden State	38	29	27	19	— 113

Att.—18,064 (18,064). T—2:27.

Officials—Cheryl Flores, Josh Tiven, Andy Nagy.

THUNDER 136, SUNS 109

Oklahoma City	Min	FG-A	FT-A	R	A	F	Pt
Holmgren	20:30	4-8	5-5	4	2	1	13
Jl.Williams	19:38	11-12	4-5	4	5	1	28
Hartenstein	17:37	3-3	2-2	4	6	1	8
Dort	23:42	4-6	0-0	0	1	2	9
C.Wallace	26:13	2-7	0-0	4	3	0	4
Boeheim	7:49	1-4	0-0	0	0	0	3
Caruso	7:50	0-1	0-0	1	0	0	0
Joe	18:09	6-10	3-4	1	1	1	21
McCain	22:18	5-8	0-0	4	1	0	12
Aa.Wiggins	25:03	6-13	0-0	3	2	0	12
Jy.Williams	28:10	4-8	2-2	6	5	2	11
K.Williams	23:01	6-9	1-1	6	2	0	15
Totals	240:00	52-89	17-19	37	28	8	136

Percentages: FG .584, FT .895. **3-Point Goals:** 15-36, .417 (Joe 6-8, Jl.Williams 2-2, McCain 2-3, K.Williams 2-3, Dort 1-3, Boeheim 1-4, Jy.Williams 1-5, Caruso 0-1, Holmgren 0-1, C.Wallace 0-3, Aa.Wiggins 0-3). **Team Rebounds:** 10. **Team Turnovers:** 8. **Blocked Shots:** 3 (Jy.Williams 3). **Turnovers:** 8 (McCain 2, Hartenstein, Holmgren, C.Wallace, Aa.Wiggins, J.Williams, K.Williams). **Steals:** 6 (McCain 2, Aa.Wiggins 2, K.Williams, Jy.Williams).

Phoenix	Min	FG-A	FT-A	R	A	F	Pt
Brooks	24:23	9-19	4-5	5	4	3	23
O'Neale	23:34	4-11	0-0	2	2	2	12
M.Williams	15:57	3-4	0-0	1	0	0	6
Gillespie	22:32	2-7	0-0	5	3	1	6
Goodwin	27:41	5-10	0-0	4	4	1	12
Bouyea	26:36	4-12	2-2	3	6	1	11
Brea	7:49	2-2	0-0	1	0	0	6
Coffey	20:08	3-8	2-2	5	2	1	9
R.Dunn	22:48	1-4	0-4	4	1	2	2
Fleming	19:43	3-7	0-0	3	2	1	8
Ighodaro	16:49	4-4	0-0	4	2	0	8
Maluach	12:00	3-4	0-0	6	0	0	6
Totals	240:00	43-92	8-13	43	26	12	109

Percentages: FG .467, FT .615. **3-Point Goals:** 15-42, .357 (O'Neale 4-11, Brea 2-2, Gillespie 2-4, Fleming 2-5, Goodwin 2-5, Bouyea 1-2, Coffey 1-4, Brooks 1-5, Maluach 0-1, R.Dunn 0-3). **Team Rebounds:** 5. **Team Turnovers:** 12. **Blocked Shots:** 5 (Bouyea, R.Dunn, Fleming, Ighodaro, Maluach). **Turnovers:** 10 (Brooks 3, Fleming 2, Bouyea, R.Dunn, Goodwin, O'Neale, M.Williams). **Steals:** 4 (Brooks 2, Goodwin, Ighodaro). **Technical Fouls:** (Brooks).

Oklahoma City	37	38	37	24	— 136
Phoenix	25	27	28	29	— 109

Att.—17,071 (18,422). T—2:07.

Officials—Dedric Taylor, James Williams, JT Orr.

NUGGETS 122, GRIZZLIES 116

Memphis	Min	FG-A	FT-A	R	A	F	Pt
G.Jackson	28:13	6-12	6-7	5	3	0	21
Mashack	21:50	4-11	0-0	3	2	3	9
Anderson	18:29	4-5	0-0	3	1	6	8
Jerome	20:58	4-11	8-9	1	7	2	19
Wells	24:18	7-9	1-1	1	0	4	17
Caldwell-Pope	26:10	2-8	0-0	3	2	0	5
Hendricks	19:55	4-8	0-0	2	1	5	10
Lovering	17:34	1-2	1-2	4	0	3	3
Pippen Jr	17:43	3-10	1-2	0	3	5	8
Prosper	22:58	6-7	0-0	5	0	4	14
C.Spencer	21:52	1-8	0-0	2	9	0	2
Totals	240:00	42-91	17-21	29	28	32	116

Percentages: FG .462, FT .810. **3-Point Goals:** 15-39, .385 (G.Jackson 3-5, Jerome 3-7, Prosper 2-3, Wells 2-3, Hendricks 2-4, Pippen Jr 1-4, Caldwell-Pope 1-5, Mashack 1-5, C.Spencer 0-3). **Team Rebounds:** 9. **Team Turnovers:** 6. **Blocked Shots:** 5 (G.Jackson, Jerome, Mashack, Pippen Jr, Wells). **Turnovers:** 6 (Hendricks 2, Pippen Jr 2, G.Jackson, Lovering). **Steals:** 12 (Caldwell-Pope 2, Lovering 2, Mashack 2, Anderson, Hendricks, Jerome, Pippen Jr, Prosper, C.Spencer).

Denver	Min	FG-A	FT-A	R	A	F	Pt
Ca.Johnson	28:48	2-7	0-0	4	1	3	5
Strawther	25:18	5-9	0-0	1	2	3	11
Jokic	33:54	8-17	10-14	15	11	2	26
Braun	39:08	6-8	2-2	7	6	3	14
J.Murray	33:06	7-18	8-8	6	7	2	23
B.Brown	29:05	4-6	0-0	3	2	2	10
Hardaway Jr	27:50	7-8	3-4	3	0	2	21
Pickett	8:41	1-3	0-0	1	0	0	3
Valanciunas	14:10	3-5	3-4	6	0	2	9
Totals	240:00	43-81	26-32	46	29	19	122

Percentages: FG .531, FT .812. **3-Point Goals:** 10-22, .455 (Hardaway Jr 4-5, B.Brown 2-3, Pickett 1-2, Ca.Johnson 1-3, Strawther 1-4, J.Murray 1-5). **Team Rebounds:** 15. **Team Turnovers:** 15. **Blocked Shots:** 1 (J.Murray). **Turnovers:** 14 (Jokic 9, Braun 2, J.Murray 2, Valanciunas). **Steals:** 2 (Ca.Johnson, Strawther).

Memphis	28	26	27	35 – 116
Denver	30	30	33	29 – 122



NOTE: All times listed are in Eastern time zone. Subtract one hour for Central, two hours for Mountain and three hours for Pacific.

MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

SCHEDULE

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

ALL TIMES EDT

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
THURSDAY, FEB. 12

EAST

Bryant (8-16) at Massachusetts Lowell (10-15),6 p.m.
NJIT (13-12) at New Hampshire (8-14),6 p.m.
UMBC (14-8) at Maine (6-19),6 p.m.
Vermont (15-10) at Binghamton (5-20),6:30 p.m.
Stony Brook (15-10) at Towson (13-12),7 p.m.
Monmouth-NJ (12-12) at Drexel (13-12),7 p.m.
William & Mary (15-9) at Northeastern (6-17),7 p.m.
Central Conn. St. (13-10) at New Haven (10-14),7 p.m.
Georgia St. (9-16) at James Madison (12-13),7 p.m.
Mercyhurst (12-13) at Le Moyne (12-13),7 p.m.
St. Francis (PA) (6-18) at Fairleigh Dickinson (9-16),7 p.m.
Marist (16-8) at Merrimack (16-9),7 p.m.
UNC Asheville (11-13) at Longwood (13-13),7 p.m.
LIU (16-8) at Wagner (8-14),7 p.m.
Tennessee St. (15-8) at Southern Indiana (5-19),8 p.m.

SOUTH

Middle Tennessee St. (11-12) at Kennesaw St. (14-9),6:30 p.m.
Hofstra (16-9) at Charleston (16-9),7 p.m.
Elon University (13-12) at UNC Wilmington (20-4),7 p.m.
Delaware (7-16) at Florida International (11-12),7 p.m.
Winthrop (18-8) at Gardner-Webb (3-22),7 p.m.
High Point (22-4) at South Carolina Upstate (11-14),7 p.m.
Presbyterian (12-13) at Charleston Southern (11-14),7 p.m.
Coastal Carolina (15-11) at UL Lafayette (9-16),8 p.m.
South Alabama (17-7) at Southern Miss (13-13),8:30 p.m.
Texas-Arlington (14-9) at Abilene Christian (10-13),9 p.m.
Northern Iowa (16-9) at Belmont (22-4),9 p.m.
Memphis (12-11) at North Texas (13-11),9 p.m.

MIDWEST

Northern Kentucky (15-11) at IU Indy (7-19),6:30 p.m.
Robert Morris (16-10) at Cleveland St. (10-15),7 p.m.
Stonehill (9-16) at Chicago St. (5-20),7 p.m.
Youngstown St. (12-13) at Oakland (14-11),7 p.m.
Detroit Mercy (10-13) at Wright St. (16-9),7 p.m.
Purdue Fort Wayne (14-11) at Green Bay (14-12),7 p.m.
Murray St. (18-8) at Indiana St. (10-15),7 p.m.
Valparaiso (13-12) at Illinois St. (16-9),7 p.m.
Tennessee Tech (10-15) at Morehead St. (13-12),7:30 p.m.
Illinois-Chicago (13-12) at Drake (12-14),7:30 p.m.
Kansas City (4-20) at Oral Roberts (5-20),8 p.m.
St. Thomas (MN) (20-6) at Nebraska Omaha (12-14),8 p.m.
Evansville (6-19) at Southern Illinois (11-14),8 p.m.
SE Missouri St. (15-10) at SIU Edwardsville (16-9),8:30 p.m.
Little Rock (9-16) at Western Illinois (5-20),8:30 p.m.
Tenn-Martin (19-6) at Lindenwood (15-10),8:30 p.m.
Louisiana Tech (13-10) at Missouri St. (13-10),8:30 p.m.

WEST

Sacramento State (9-14) at Northern Colorado (15-10),8 p.m.
Portland St. (16-6) at Northern Arizona (9-16),8 p.m.
California Baptist (18-6) at Southern Utah (8-16),8:30 p.m.
Idaho State (10-15) at Eastern Washington (7-17),9 p.m.
South Dakota State (11-14) at Denver (12-14),9 p.m.
Weber St. (12-13) at Idaho (13-11),9 p.m.
Utah Valley (18-6) at Utah Tech (14-11),9 p.m.
Oregon St. (13-13) at S.F. (14-12),9 p.m.
Hawaii (17-5) at CSU Bakersfield (8-17),9:30 p.m.
UC Irvine (16-8) at Cal Poly SLO (9-16),10 p.m.
UC Davis (15-9) at UC San Diego (16-9),10 p.m.
CSU Fullerton (12-13) at Long Beach St. (8-16),10 p.m.
UC Santa Barbara (16-8) at UC Riverside (8-17),10 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 13

EAST

Manhattan (10-16) at Niagara (6-18),6:30 p.m.
Quinnipiac (17-9) at Siena (17-8),7 p.m.
Mount St. Mary's (11-15) at Rider (3-20),7 p.m.
Iona (14-11) at Canisius (8-17),7 p.m.
Brown (7-14) at Harvard (13-9),7 p.m.
Columbia (14-8) at Pennsylvania (11-10),7 p.m.
Yale (18-4) at Dartmouth (10-11),7 p.m.
George Mason (21-4) at George Washington (14-11),7 p.m.
Cornell (11-10) at Princeton (8-15),7 p.m.
Saint Peter's (14-8) at Sacred Heart (10-16),7 p.m.

SOUTH

Hampton (12-13) vs. North Carolina A&T (9-14), at Inglewood, CA,11 p.m.

MIDWEST

Michigan St. (20-4) at Wisconsin (17-7),8 p.m.
Saint Louis (23-1) at Loyola-Chicago (6-19),8:30 p.m.
Massachusetts (15-10) at Akron (19-5),9 p.m.
Ohio (13-12) at Miami (OH) (24-0),9 p.m.

WEST

UNLV (12-12) at Boise St. (15-9),10 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 14

EAST

Navy (20-6) at Colgate (15-10),Noon
California (17-7) at Boston College (9-14),Noon
Fordham (13-12) at Rhode Island (14-10),Noon
UMBC (14-8) at New Hampshire (8-14),1 p.m.
Furman (16-9) at VMI (6-19),1 p.m.
LIU (16-8) at New Haven (10-14),1 p.m.
Chicago St. (5-20) at Le Moyne (12-13),1 p.m.
St. John's (19-5) at Providence (11-13),1 p.m.
Bucknell (8-18) at Boston U (10-15),1 p.m.
Mercyhurst (12-13) at St. Francis (PA) (6-18),2 p.m.
Bryant (8-16) at Vermont (15-10),2 p.m.
Elon University (13-12) at William & Mary (15-9),2 p.m.
Wagner (8-14) at Stonehill (9-16),2 p.m.
Central Conn. St. (13-10) at Fairleigh Dickinson (9-16),2 p.m.
Florida State (11-13) at Virginia Tech (16-8),2 p.m.
Southern Methodist (17-7) at Syracuse (13-11),2 p.m.
Army (10-15) at American U. (13-12),2 p.m.
Charleston Southern (11-14) at Radford (13-13),2:30 p.m.
NJIT (13-12) at Maine (6-19),3 p.m.
South Carolina Upstate (11-14) at Longwood (13-13),3 p.m.
Georgia St. (9-16) at Old Dominion (8-17),3:30 p.m.
Albany (8-17) at Binghamton (5-20),4 p.m.
Appalachian St. (17-9) at James Madison (12-13),4 p.m.
Lipscomb (15-10) at Queens University of Charlotte (14-11),4 p.m.
Tennessee Tech (10-15) at Southern Indiana (5-19),4 p.m.
Duquesne (14-10) at St. Bonaventure (14-10),4 p.m.
Maryland-Eastern Shore (8-17) at Howard (15-10),4:30 p.m.
Delaware State (6-17) at Norfolk State (11-14),4:30 p.m.
Albany (8-17) at Lafayette (8-17),5 p.m.
Columbia (14-8) at Princeton (8-15),6 p.m.
Cornell (11-10) at Pennsylvania (11-10),6 p.m.
Brown (7-14) at Dartmouth (10-11),6 p.m.
VCU (18-6) at Richmond (14-11),6 p.m.
Yale (18-4) at Harvard (13-9),6:30 p.m.
Georgetown (13-11) at UConn (22-2),8 p.m.

SOUTH

Samford (13-12) at East Tennessee St. (18-7),Noon
Clemson (20-4) at Duke (22-2),Noon
Mercer (15-10) at The Citadel (9-16),1 p.m.
Texas A&M (17-6) at Vanderbilt (20-4),1 p.m.
Stetson (8-17) at Florida Gulf Coast (10-15),2 p.m.
Liberty (20-3) at Texas-El Paso (9-15),2 p.m.
Louisiana Tech (13-10) at Florida International (11-12),2 p.m.
Pittsburgh (9-16) at North Carolina (19-5),2 p.m.
East Carolina (7-16) at Rice (10-14),2 p.m.
Presbyterian (12-13) at UNC Asheville (11-13),2 p.m.
High Point (22-4) at Gardner-Webb (3-22),2 p.m.
UL Monroe (4-21) at Texas State (15-11),3 p.m.
Southern Utah (8-16) at Texas-Arlington (14-9),3 p.m.
Kentucky (17-7) at Florida (17-6),3 p.m.
Florida A&M (9-13) at Jackson State (7-17),3:30 p.m.
Hofstra (16-9) at UNC Wilmington (20-4),4 p.m.
North Florida (6-19) at Jacksonville (9-16),4 p.m.
Tarleton State (12-12) at Abilene Christian (10-13),4 p.m.
Louisville (18-6) vs. Baylor (13-11), at Fort Worth, TX,4 p.m.
Stanford (15-9) at Wake Forest (11-12),4 p.m.
Miami-Florida (19-5) at NC State (18-7),4 p.m.
Bethune-Cookman (13-11) at Alcorn St. (5-18),4 p.m.
Arkansas-Pine Bluff (11-13) at Alabama St. (7-17),4 p.m.
Kansas State (10-13) at Houston (22-2),4 p.m.
Western Carolina (8-15) at Chattanooga (10-15),4:30 p.m.
Southeastern Louisiana (8-17) at Northwestern St. (7-18),4:30 p.m.
New Orleans (11-14) at Houston Christian (8-17),4:30 p.m.
Lamar (12-13) at Texas A&M-CC (13-12),4:30 p.m.
Coppin St. (4-21) at North Carolina Central (9-13),4:30 p.m.
Morgan St. (10-13) at South Carolina State (6-17),4:30 p.m.
Sam Houston St. (16-8) at Kennesaw St. (14-9),5 p.m.
New Mexico St. (11-12) at Jacksonville St. (13-10),5 p.m.
Wofford (17-8) at UNC Greensboro (10-15),5 p.m.
Grambling State (11-12) at Texas Southern (7-15),5 p.m.
Mississippi Valley State (1-23) at Alabama A&M (13-11),5 p.m.
Stephen F. Austin (22-3) at Texas Rio Grande Valley (14-11),5:30 p.m.
Bellarmine (11-13) at Austin Peay (17-6),5:30 p.m.
Southern (11-13) at Prairie View A&M (9-15),5:30 p.m.
McNeese St. (20-5) at East Texas A&M (10-16),6 p.m.
Louisiana State (14-10) at Tennessee (16-7),6 p.m.
West Virginia (15-9) at Central Florida (17-6),6 p.m.
Mississippi State (11-12) at Ole Miss (11-12),6:30 p.m.
Troy (17-8) at Southern Miss (13-13),8:30 p.m.
South Carolina (11-13) at Alabama (16-7),8:30 p.m.
Marshall (15-9) at Georgia Southern (14-11),8:30 p.m.

MIDWEST

Georgia Tech (11-13) at Notre Dame (11-14),Noon
Texas Christian (15-9) at Oklahoma State (16-8),Noon
UCLA (17-7) at Michigan (22-1),12:45 p.m.
Kansas (19-5) at Iowa State (21-3),1 p.m.
Northwestern (10-14) at Nebraska (21-3),1 p.m.
West Georgia (11-13) at Central Arkansas (15-10),2 p.m.
North Dakota State (20-6) at North Dakota (14-13),2 p.m.
Kent St. (17-7) at Ball St. (8-15),2 p.m.
Western Michigan (8-15) at Eastern Michigan (9-15),2 p.m.
Villanova (19-5) at Creighton (13-11),2:30 p.m.
South Alabama (17-7) at Arkansas St. (15-10),3 p.m.
Delaware (7-16) at Missouri St. (13-10),3 p.m.
Marquette (9-16) at Xavier (12-12),3 p.m.
Georgia (17-6) at Oklahoma (12-12),3:30 p.m.
Tennessee St. (15-8) at Morehead St. (13-12),3:30 p.m.
Tenn-Martin (19-6) at SIU Edwardsville (16-9),4:30 p.m.
SE Missouri St. (15-10) at Lindenwood (15-10),4:30 p.m.
Little Rock (9-16) at Eastern Illinois (10-16),4:30 p.m.
Toledo (12-12) at Bowling Green (14-10),5 p.m.
Northern Illinois (8-14) at Central Michigan (7-17),5 p.m.
Purdue (20-4) at Iowa (18-5),5 p.m.
Tulsa (20-4) at Wichita St. (15-9),7 p.m.
South Dakota State (11-14) at Oral Roberts (5-20),8 p.m.
St. Thomas (MN) (20-6) at Kansas City (4-20),8 p.m.
Middle Tennessee St. (11-12) at Western Kentucky (13-11),8 p.m.
Virginia (21-3) vs. Ohio St. (15-8), at Nashville, TN,8 p.m.
Auburn (14-10) at Arkansas (18-6),8:30 p.m.
Texas (15-9) at Missouri (16-7),8:30 p.m.

WEST

Penn St. (10-14) at Oregon (8-16),3 p.m.
Portland St. (16-6) at Northern Colorado (15-10),4 p.m.
Wyoming (13-11) at Colorado St. (14-10),4 p.m.
Colorado (14-10) at Brigham Young (18-6),4 p.m.
Weber St. (12-13) at Eastern Washington (7-17),5 p.m.
Long Beach St. (8-16) at UC Davis (15-9),5 p.m.
Nicholls State (10-15) at Incarnate Word (10-15),5 p.m.
Idaho State (10-15) at Idaho (13-11),5 p.m.
Air Force (3-21) at Fresno St. (11-13),5 p.m.
Grand Canyon (15-8) at San Jose St. (6-18),5 p.m.
Loyola Marymount (13-13) at Pepperdine (6-19),5 p.m.
Texas Tech (17-6) at Arizona (23-1),6:30 p.m.
UC Santa Barbara (16-8) at Cal Poly SLO (9-16),7 p.m.
Hawaii (17-5) at CSU Northridge (15-10),8 p.m.
Sacramento State (9-14) at Northern Arizona (9-16),8 p.m.
Memphis (12-11) at Utah St. (21-3),8 p.m.
Montana St. (14-11) at Montana (14-11),9 p.m.
California Baptist (18-6) at Utah Tech (14-11),9 p.m.
Minnesota (11-13) at Washington (12-12),9 p.m.
CSU Fullerton (12-13) at UC Irvine (16-8),10 p.m.
UC Riverside (8-17) at UC San Diego (16-9),10 p.m.
Nevada (17-7) at San Diego St. (17-6),10 p.m.
Gonzaga (24-2) at Santa Clara (21-5),10:30 p.m.
Saint Mary's (21-4) at Pacific (16-10),10:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 15

EAST

Maryland (9-14) at Rutgers (9-15),Noon
Manhattan (10-16) at Canisius (8-17),1 p.m.
Holy Cross (9-16) at Loyola (MD) (9-16),1 p.m.
Iona (14-11) at Niagara (6-18),2 p.m.
Siena (17-8) at Marist (16-8),2 p.m.
Oakland (14-11) at Robert Morris (16-10),2 p.m.
Merrimack (16-9) at Quinnipiac (17-9),2 p.m.
Fairfield (16-10) at Saint Peter's (14-8),2 p.m.
North Texas (13-11) at Temple (15-8),2 p.m.
Rider (3-20) at Sacred Heart (10-16),2 p.m.
Towson (13-12) at Monmouth-NJ (12-12),7 p.m.

SOUTH

Texas-San Antonio (4-19) at Charlotte (13-11),Noon
Tulane (13-10) at UAB (15-9),2 p.m.
South Florida (16-8) at Florida Atlantic (14-10),2 p.m.
Eastern Kentucky (9-16) at North Alabama (7-16),4 p.m.
Charleston (16-9) at Campbell (12-13),5 p.m.

MIDWEST

Utah (9-15) at Cincinnati (12-12),Noon
Youngstown St. (12-13) at Detroit Mercy (10-13),1 p.m.
Denver (12-14) at Nebraska Omaha (12-14),1 p.m.
Indiana (17-8) at Illinois (20-5),1 p.m.
Wright St. (16-9) at Cleveland St. (10-15),2 p.m.
IU Indy (7-19) at Purdue Fort Wayne (14-11),2 p.m.
Indiana St. (10-15) at Valparaiso (13-12),2 p.m.
Bradley (17-9) at Southern Illinois (11-14),2 p.m.
Green Bay (14-12) at Milwaukee (10-17),3 p.m.
Drake (12-14) at Northern Iowa (16-9),3 p.m.
Illinois St. (16-9) at Illinois-Chicago (13-12),3 p.m.
Davidson (15-9) at Dayton (15-9),4 p.m.
Seton Hall (16-8) at Butler (13-11),6 p.m.
Belmont (22-4) at Murray St. (18-8),6 p.m.

WEST

S.F. (14-12) at San Diego (10-16),6 p.m.
Oregon St. (13-13) at Seattle (15-10),8 p.m.

RESULTS

WEDNESDAY'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES

EAST

Austin Peay 95, Queens University of Charlotte 87
Boston U 85, Army 68
Colgate 74, Holy Cross 70
Lehigh 90, American U. 82
Loyola (MD) 68, Lafayette 54
Marshall 81, Old Dominion 79
Maryland 77, Iowa 70
Seton Hall 87, Providence 80
Stanford 70, Boston College 64
Syracuse 107, California 100 (20T)
VCU 77, La Salle 68

SOUTH

Alabama 93, Ole Miss 74
Appalachian St. 81, Georgia Southern 65
East Carolina 88, Texas-San Antonio 72
East Tennessee St. 73, Chattanooga 61
Florida 86, Georgia 66
Florida Gulf Coast 90, North Florida 81
Lipscomb 75, Eastern Kentucky 61
Mercer 69, Furman 64
Missouri 86, Texas A&M 85
Rice 81, Florida Atlantic 73
Samford 97, Wofford 80
Stetson 67, Jacksonville 62
Tennessee 73, Mississippi State 64
Texas State 74, Troy 62
Texas Tech 78, Colorado 44
Texas-El Paso 69, Jacksonville St. 64
Tulane 77, Temple 66
UNC Greensboro 92, VMI 71
Virginia Tech 76, Clemson 66
Wake Forest 83, Georgia Tech 67
West Georgia 82, North Alabama 73
Western Carolina 87, The Citadel 49

MIDWEST

Arkansas St. 103, UL Monroe 70
Bowling Green 68, Northern Illinois 52
Buffalo 63, Ball St. 53
Central Arkansas 84, Bellarmine 76
Cincinnati 91, Kansas State 62
DePaul 72, Creighton 71
Kent St. 95, Eastern Michigan 91
Michigan 87, Northwestern 75
North Dakota 72, South Dakota 71
Ohio St. 89, Southern California 82
South Florida 66, Wichita St. 58
Toledo 90, Western Michigan 79
UAB 68, Tulsa 63
UConn 80, Butler 70

WEST

Liberty 77, New Mexico St. 75
New Mexico 70, Grand Canyon 64
Pacific 65, Loyola Marymount 59
Penn St. 63, Washington 60
Saint Mary's 88, Pepperdine 60
Santa Clara 84, Seattle 72



NOTE: All times listed are in Eastern time zone. Subtract one hour for Central, two hours for Mountain and three hours for Pacific.

WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

ALL TIMES EDT

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

THURSDAY, FEB. 12

EAST

Texas-El Paso (10-12) at Liberty (11-11),5 p.m.
New Hampshire (8-15) at NJIT (14-10),6 p.m.
Massachusetts Lowell (7-17) at Bryant (16-8),6 p.m.
Binghamton (17-6) at Vermont (20-6),6 p.m.
Georgia St. (9-15) at Marshall (20-6),6 p.m.
Syracuse (19-5) at Pittsburgh (8-17),6 p.m.
Merrimack (13-10) at Marist (10-15),6 p.m.
Siena (11-12) at Quinnipiac (20-4),6 p.m.
Canisius (4-19) at Iona (14-11),6 p.m.
Tennessee St. (4-19) at Southern Indiana (16-7),6 p.m.
Saint Peter's (6-17) at Rider (5-18),6 p.m.
Howard (17-7) at Delaware State (4-19),6 p.m.
Norfolk State (11-12) at Maryland-Eastern Shore (14-11),6 p.m.
Maine (13-11) at UMBC (11-11),6:30 p.m.
Niagara (0-23) at Manhattan (5-18),7 p.m.
New Mexico St. (8-15) at Delaware (11-12),7 p.m.
Fairfield (20-4) at Mount St. Mary's (12-12),7 p.m.
Penn St. (8-16) at Maryland (19-6),7 p.m.

SOUTH

UL Monroe (11-12) at Southern Miss (12-12),6 p.m.
Southern Methodist (8-16) at North Carolina (20-5),6 p.m.
Boston College (4-22) at Florida State (8-16),6 p.m.
Furman (14-10) at Western Carolina (3-20),6 p.m.
Stetson (15-8) at Jacksonville (16-7),6:30 p.m.
Missouri (16-10) at Tennessee (15-6),6:30 p.m.
Morgan St. (3-21) at North Carolina Central (6-15),6:30 p.m.
UL Lafayette (3-21) at Troy (19-5),7 p.m.
New Orleans (2-21) at Incarnate Word (10-12),7 p.m.
Queens University of Charlotte (8-15) at Austin Peay (13-10),7 p.m.
Florida Gulf Coast (11-12) at North Florida (8-15),7 p.m.
Wofford (12-11) at UNC Greensboro (13-11),7 p.m.
Coppin St. (7-18) at South Carolina State (5-17),7 p.m.
Nicholls State (11-11) at Houston Christian (6-16),7 p.m.
Florida A&M (7-15) at Alcorn St. (12-10),7 p.m.
Texas Christian (21-4) at Baylor (21-4),7 p.m.
Bethune-Cookman (5-19) at Jackson State (7-16),7 p.m.
Grambling State (7-16) at Prairie View A&M (2-20),7 p.m.
Southern (11-11) at Texas Southern (9-14),7 p.m.
Mississippi Valley State (4-17) at Alabama St. (10-12),7 p.m.
Arkansas-Pine Bluff (9-12) at Alabama A&M (14-9),7 p.m.
McNeese St. (20-4) at Northwestern St. (11-11),7:30 p.m.
Lamar (14-8) at Texas Rio Grande Valley (15-9),7:30 p.m.
Southeastern Louisiana (4-18) at East Texas A&M (11-10),7:30 p.m.
Texas (23-2) at Vanderbilt (23-2),7:30 p.m.
Georgia (19-5) at Mississippi State (16-7),7:30 p.m.
Abilene Christian (17-7) at Texas-Arlington (11-12),7:30 p.m.
Missouri St. (15-8) at Sam Houston St. (14-7),7:30 p.m.
Jacksonville St. (12-11) at Middle Tennessee St. (12-11),7:30 p.m.
Florida International (14-8) at Louisiana Tech (17-5),7:30 p.m.
Texas State (10-13) at South Alabama (9-14),8 p.m.
Georgia Tech (11-14) at Clemson (17-8),8 p.m.
Stephen F. Austin (16-7) at Texas A&M-CC (4-18),8 p.m.
Arkansas (11-14) at Ole Miss (19-5),9 p.m.

MIDWEST

Northern Kentucky (11-14) at Milwaukee (8-18),Noon
Kennesaw St. (11-11) at Western Kentucky (5-17),Noon
Tennessee Tech (13-10) at Morehead St. (15-10),5 p.m.
SE Missouri (8-15) at SIU Edwardsville (10-14),6 p.m.
Little Rock (12-12) at Western Illinois (20-4),6 p.m.
Tenn-Martin (13-10) at Lindenwood (18-7),6 p.m.
Lipscomb (8-15) at Bellarmine (2-23),6:30 p.m.
Central Arkansas (14-10) at Eastern Kentucky (21-4),6:30 p.m.
Texas A&M (9-10) at Kentucky (18-7),6:30 p.m.
Wake Forest (13-12) at Louisville (22-4),7 p.m.
Wright St. (7-18) at Detroit Mercy (6-17),7 p.m.
Florida (15-11) at Oklahoma (17-6),7 p.m.
Indiana St. (8-15) at Northern Iowa (11-12),7 p.m.
Kansas City (7-17) at South Dakota (19-6),8 p.m.
North Dakota (7-18) at South Dakota State (18-6),8 p.m.
Nebraska (16-8) at Minnesota (18-6),8 p.m.
Michigan (20-4) at Northwestern (8-15),9 p.m.

WEST

Idaho (19-5) at Weber St. (7-18),8 p.m.
Utah Tech (6-15) at Utah Valley (10-12),8 p.m.
UC San Diego (17-6) at UC Davis (17-7),9 p.m.
UC Riverside (7-16) at UC Santa Barbara (16-6),9 p.m.
Eastern Washington (12-12) at Idaho State (16-7),9 p.m.
Cal Poly SLO (3-20) at UC Irvine (19-4),9 p.m.
Southern Utah (15-8) at California Baptist (16-8),9 p.m.
Portland (14-10) at Washington St. (5-21),9 p.m.
Santa Clara (18-7) at Oregon St. (17-8),9 p.m.
Pepperdine (15-9) at Loyola Marymount (15-8),9 p.m.
Gonzaga (18-7) at San Diego (9-17),9 p.m.
Northern Colorado (17-8) at Sacramento State (11-13),9:30 p.m.
Pacific (9-14) at Saint Mary's (14-11),9:30 p.m.
Long Beach St. (3-19) at CSU Fullerton (14-9),10 p.m.
Northern Arizona (8-17) at Portland St. (6-17),10 p.m.
Virginia (17-7) at California (15-10),10 p.m.
Virginia Tech (18-7) at Stanford (16-9),10 p.m.
Indiana (14-11) at Southern California (15-9),10 p.m.
CSU Bakersfield (7-16) at Hawaii (12-10),11:59 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 13

EAST

Elon University (11-12) at Drexel (13-9),6 p.m.
Harvard (13-8) at Yale (5-16),6 p.m.
Pennsylvania (13-8) at Cornell (8-13),6 p.m.
Princeton (19-2) at Columbia (15-6),6 p.m.
Charleston (19-3) at Northeastern (6-15),7 p.m.
Towson (13-10) at Hampton (8-14),7 p.m.
Stony Brook (13-10) at Monmouth-NJ (15-7),7 p.m.
Dartmouth (10-11) at Brown (13-7),7 p.m.

SOUTH

North Carolina A&T (9-13) at UNC Wilmington (5-17),7 p.m.
Hofstra (4-18) at Campbell (15-9),7 p.m.
Illinois-Chicago (11-12) at Belmont (14-9),7:30 p.m.
Wichita St. (5-20) at Rice (21-3),8 p.m.

MIDWEST

Valparaiso (0-24) at Murray St. (21-3),7 p.m.
Illinois St. (14-9) at Southern Illinois (9-13),7 p.m.
Bradley (16-8) at Evansville (6-18),8 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 14

EAST

Maine (13-11) at NJIT (14-10),Noon
Texas-El Paso (10-12) at Delaware (11-12),Noon
Miami (OH) (20-4) at Massachusetts (17-5),1 p.m.
Marist (10-15) at Rider (5-18),1 p.m.
Niagara (0-23) at Iona (14-11),1 p.m.
St. Francis (PA) (2-21) at Mercyhurst (8-15),1 p.m.
Fairleigh Dickinson (21-4) at Central Conn. St. (0-23),1 p.m.
New Hampshire (8-15) at UMBC (11-11),1 p.m.
James Madison (18-8) at Old Dominion (15-10),1 p.m.
Arkansas St. (20-5) at Marshall (20-6),1 p.m.
St. Bonaventure (14-11) at VCU (8-16),1 p.m.
American (6-17) at Army (18-5),1 p.m.
DePaul (6-20) at Seton Hall (15-8),1 p.m.
Cleveland St. (18-8) at Robert Morris (16-8),2 p.m.
Canisius (4-19) at Manhattan (5-18),2 p.m.
Sacred Heart (11-13) at Saint Peter's (6-17),2 p.m.
New Haven (7-16) at LIU (15-8),2 p.m.
Tennessee Tech (13-10) at Southern Indiana (16-7),2 p.m.
New Mexico St. (8-15) at Liberty (11-11),2 p.m.
Stonehill (8-15) at Wagner (11-12),2 p.m.
Loyola (MD) (10-13) at Holy Cross (14-9),2 p.m.
La Salle (13-11) at George Washington (13-12),2 p.m.
Duquesne (7-16) at Fordham (9-15),2 p.m.
Lehigh (12-11) at Lafayette (8-15),2 p.m.
Delaware State (4-19) at Norfolk State (11-12),2 p.m.
Maryland-Eastern Shore (14-11) at Howard (17-7),2 p.m.
Siena (11-12) at Merrimack (13-10),2 p.m.
Providence (11-14) at Georgetown (12-12),2 p.m.
Boston U (7-16) at Bucknell (9-14),2 p.m.
Colgate (6-17) at Navy (17-6),3 p.m.
Rhode Island (21-2) at George Mason (15-7),3 p.m.
Fairfield (20-4) at Quinnipiac (20-4),4 p.m.
Vermont (20-6) at Bryant (16-8),4 p.m.
Dartmouth (10-11) at Yale (5-16),5 p.m.
Princeton (19-2) at Cornell (8-13),5 p.m.
Pennsylvania (13-8) at Columbia (15-6),5 p.m.
Harvard (13-8) at Brown (13-7),5 p.m.
Binghamton (17-6) at Albany (12-12),7 p.m.

SOUTH

Coastal Carolina (11-14) at Georgia Southern (17-6),1 p.m.
Richmond (20-4) at Davidson (16-10),1 p.m.
Florida A&M (7-15) at Jackson State (7-16),1 p.m.
Wofford (12-11) at Western Carolina (3-20),2 p.m.
Furman (14-10) at UNC Greensboro (13-11),2 p.m.
Nicholls State (11-11) at Incarnate Word (10-12),2 p.m.
UL Monroe (11-12) at Troy (19-5),2 p.m.
Georgia St. (9-15) at Appalachian St. (10-13),2 p.m.
Southeastern Louisiana (4-18) at Northwestern St. (11-11),2 p.m.
Queens University of Charlotte (8-15) at Lipscomb (8-15),2 p.m.
Jacksonville (16-7) at North Florida (8-15),2 p.m.
Florida Gulf Coast (11-12) at Stetson (15-8),2 p.m.
Missouri St. (15-8) at Louisiana Tech (17-5),2 p.m.
Florida International (14-8) at Sam Houston St. (14-7),2 p.m.
Coppin St. (7-18) at North Carolina Central (6-15),2 p.m.
East Tennessee St. (12-12) at Chattanooga (16-6),2 p.m.
New Orleans (2-21) at Houston Christian (6-16),2 p.m.
Lamar (14-8) at Texas A&M-CC (4-18),2 p.m.
Morgan St. (3-21) at South Carolina State (5-17),2 p.m.
Bethune-Cookman (5-19) at Alcorn St. (12-10),2 p.m.
Tulsa (16-7) at Florida Atlantic (11-13),2 p.m.
East Carolina (18-7) at Temple (11-12),2 p.m.
Arkansas-Pine Bluff (9-12) at Alabama St. (10-12),2 p.m.
Longwood (16-6) at Winthrop (11-14),2 p.m.
Gardner-Webb (8-16) at Presbyterian (3-21),2 p.m.
Mercer (14-10) at Samford (10-16),3 p.m.
UL Lafayette (3-21) at South Alabama (9-14),3 p.m.
Stephen F. Austin (16-7) at Texas Rio Grande Valley (15-9),3 p.m.
West Georgia (15-8) at Austin Peay (13-10),3 p.m.
Abilene Christian (17-7) at Tarleton State (12-11),3 p.m.
Tulane (8-15) at North Texas (13-11),3 p.m.
Charlotte (11-13) at Memphis (8-15),3 p.m.
Southern (11-11) at Prairie View A&M (2-20),3 p.m.
Grambling State (7-16) at Texas Southern (9-14),3 p.m.
Mississippi Valley State (4-17) at Alabama A&M (14-9),3 p.m.
McNeese St. (20-4) at East Texas A&M (11-10),3:30 p.m.
UNC Asheville (9-15) at South Carolina Upstate (7-17),4 p.m.
Kennesaw St. (11-11) at Middle Tennessee St. (12-11),5

p.m.
Texas State (10-13) at Southern Miss (12-12),6 p.m.
Charleston Southern (8-16) at High Point (21-3),7 p.m.
South Florida (14-10) at Texas-San Antonio (12-11),7:30 p.m.
South Carolina (24-2) at Louisiana State (22-3),8:30 p.m.

MIDWEST

Bowling Green (13-11) at Ball St. (20-5),11 a.m.
Rutgers (9-15) at Purdue (11-13),Noon
Purdue Fort Wayne (15-10) at Detroit Mercy (6-17),1 p.m.
Kent St. (11-12) at Ohio (14-9),1 p.m.
Western Michigan (7-15) at Central Michigan (14-8),1 p.m.
Tennessee St. (4-19) at Morehead St. (15-10),1 p.m.
UConn (25-0) at Marquette (16-8),1 p.m.
Saint Louis (10-15) at Dayton (13-11),1 p.m.
Nebraska Omaha (3-23) at St. Thomas (MN) (11-13),2 p.m.
Wright St. (7-18) at Oakland (8-16),2 p.m.
Northern Kentucky (11-14) at Green Bay (20-5),2 p.m.
Akron (5-18) at Northern Illinois (5-19),2 p.m.
Eastern Michigan (11-12) at Toledo (12-10),2 p.m.
North Alabama (12-11) at Eastern Kentucky (21-4),2 p.m.
Central Arkansas (14-10) at Bellarmine (2-23),2 p.m.
Tenn-Martin (13-10) at SIU Edwardsville (10-14),2 p.m.
SE Missouri St. (8-15) at Lindenwood (18-7),2 p.m.
Little Rock (12-12) at Eastern Illinois (4-22),2 p.m.
St. John's (19-8) at Butler (9-15),2 p.m.
Le Moyne (7-18) at Chicago St. (8-17),2 p.m.
Kansas City (7-17) at South Dakota State (18-6),3 p.m.
Denver (9-15) at Oral Roberts (12-11),3 p.m.
Jacksonville St. (12-11) at Western Kentucky (5-17),3 p.m.
Indiana St. (8-15) at Drake (6-17),3 p.m.
Texas Tech (23-3) at Oklahoma State (19-7),3:30 p.m.
Houston (7-16) at Kansas (15-11),5 p.m.
Saint Joseph's (15-8) at Loyola-Chicago (12-11),7 p.m.

WEST

Arizona State (19-6) at Arizona (11-13),2 p.m.
San Jose St. (3-21) at Air Force (11-12),3 p.m.
Colorado St. (18-6) at New Mexico (16-8),3 p.m.
Brigham Young (17-8) at Colorado (15-9),3 p.m.
Montana St. (17-6) at Montana (7-16),4 p.m.
Eastern Washington (12-12) at Weber St. (7-18),4 p.m.
Utah Tech (6-15) at California Baptist (16-8),4 p.m.
Texas-Arlington (11-12) at Southern Utah (15-8),4 p.m.
Idaho (19-5) at Idaho State (16-7),4 p.m.
Boise St. (19-5) at Wyoming (8-15),4 p.m.
San Diego St. (18-4) at Nevada (7-16),4 p.m.
Cal Poly SLO (3-20) at UC Santa Barbara (16-6),5 p.m.
UC Davis (17-7) at Long Beach St. (3-19),5 p.m.
UC Irvine (19-4) at CSU Fullerton (14-9),5 p.m.
Northern Arizona (8-17) at Sacramento State (11-13),5 p.m.
Northern Colorado (17-8) at Portland St. (6-17),5 p.m.
Grand Canyon (9-15) at UNLV (16-7),5 p.m.
Seattle (5-19) at Saint Mary's (14-11),5 p.m.
Oregon St. (17-8) at Pacific (9-14),5 p.m.
Gonzaga (18-7) at Loyola Marymount (15-8),5 p.m.
UC San Diego (17-6) at UC Riverside (7-16),7 p.m.
Cincinnati (9-16) at Utah (16-8),7 p.m.
Santa Clara (18-7) at Portland (14-10),8 p.m.
Pepperdine (15-9) at S.F. (14-10),8 p.m.
CSU Northridge (8-14) at Hawaii (12-10),11 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 15

EAST

Miami-Florida (12-12) at Boston College (4-22),Noon
Stony Brook (13-10) at Northeastern (6-15),1 p.m.
Towson (13-10) at William & Mary (12-10),1 p.m.
Clemson (17-8) at Syracuse (19-5),2 p.m.
Charleston (19-3) at Monmouth-NJ (15-7),2 p.m.
Northwestern (8-15) at Penn St. (8-16),4 p.m.

SOUTH

Pittsburgh (8-17) at Southern Methodist (8-16),Noon
Vanderbilt (23-2) at Georgia (19-5),Noon
North Carolina (20-5) at Duke (18-6),1 p.m.
Campbell (15-9) at UNC Wilmington (5-17),1 p.m.
Hofstra (4-18) at North Carolina A&T (9-13),1 p.m.
Baylor (21-4) at Central Florida (10-13),2 p.m.
Texas (23-2) at Tennessee (15-6),3 p.m.
Valparaiso (0-24) at Belmont (14-9),3 p.m.
Oklahoma (17-6) at Alabama (20-5),4 p.m.
Auburn (13-12) at Texas A&M (9-10),6 p.m.
West Virginia (20-5) at Texas Christian (21-4),8 p.m.

MIDWEST

Youngstown St. (17-8) at IU Indy (10-13),1 p.m.
Nebraska Omaha (3-23) at St. Thomas (MN) (11-13),2 p.m.
North Dakota State (22-2) at North Dakota (7-18),2 p.m.
Ole Miss (19-5) at Kentucky (18-7),2 p.m.
Maryland (19-6) at Ohio St. (22-3),2 p.m.
Kansas State (14-12) at Iowa State (19-6),2 p.m.
Illinois-Chicago (11-12) at Murray St. (21-3),2 p.m.
NC State (17-7) at Notre Dame (15-9),4 p.m.
Michigan St. (20-4) at Michigan (20-4),4 p.m.
Illinois St. (14-9) at Evansville (6-18),4 p.m.
Bradley (16-8) at Southern Illinois (9-13),5 p.m.
Villanova (19-5) at Creighton (12-12),5 p.m.
Florida State (8-16) at Louisville (22-4),6 p.m.
Minnesota (18-6) at Wisconsin (13-11),6 p.m.

WEST

Virginia (17-7) at Stanford (16-9),2 p.m.
Indiana (14-11) at UCLA (23-1),3 p.m.
Fresno St. (12-13) at Utah St. (6-17),3 p.m.
Virginia Tech (18-7) at California (15-10),5 p.m.
Oregon (18-8) at Washington (18-6),8 p.m.

RESULTS

WEDNESDAY'S WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES

EAST

Army 69, Boston U 62
Coastal Carolina 69, Old Dominion 62
Duquesne 67, Loyola-Chicago 55
Holy Cross 75, Colgate 64
Lehigh 79, American 51
Loyola (MD) 65, Lafayette 58
Navy 66, Bucknell 43
North Alabama 65, West Georgia 60
Providence 73, Butler 64
Rhode Island 85, VCU 42
Richmond 75, St. Bonaventure 52
Saint Joseph's 70, George Washington 63
UConn 94, Creighton 44
West Virginia 106, Central Florida 56

SOUTH

Colorado 73, Houston 63
Gardner-Webb 56, Charleston Southern 44
Georgia Southern 69, Arkansas St. 60
James Madison 60, Appalachian St. 53
Longwood 75, High Point 73 (OT)
Radford 73, UNC Asheville 45
South Carolina Upstate 67, Winthrop 58
South Florida 72, Tulsa 60

MIDWEST

Central Michigan 86, Akron 79
Cleveland St. 83, Green Bay 82 (OT)
Fordham 42, Saint Louis 39
George Mason 72, Dayton 61
IU Indy 64, Oakland 57
Illinois 92, Wisconsin 60
Iowa 65, Washington 56
Seton Hall 70, Marquette 58
St. Thomas (MN) 71, Oral Roberts 66
UCLA 86, Michigan St. 63
Villanova 78, Xavier 38
Youngstown St. 69, Robert Morris 62 (OT)

WEST

Arizona State 71, Utah 61
Fresno St. 75, Boise St. 69
Nebraska Omaha 65, Denver 58
Nevada 76, Air Force 59
New Mexico 66, San Jose St. 61
San Diego St. 64, Colorado St. 61
Wyoming 82, UNLV 72

 **NOTE:** All times listed are in Eastern time zone. Subtract one hour for Central, two hours for Mountain and three hours for Pacific.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

NHL EXPANDED SCORING LEADERS

Player Team	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	PP	SH	GW	S
Connor McDavid, Ed- monton	58	34	62	96	11	22	10	1	2	220
Nathan MacKinnon, Colorado	55	40	53	93	48	18	8	0	5	244
Nikita Kucherov, Tampa Bay	52	29	62	91	31	36	6	0	4	156
Macklin Celebrini, San Jose	55	28	53	81	10	34	5	0	4	190
Leon Draisaitl, Edmonton	55	29	51	80	12	24	13	1	2	161
David Pastrnak, Boston	52	22	49	71	2	40	9	0	4	183
Kirill Kaprizov, Minnesota	58	32	38	70	9	20	13	0	4	206
Mikko Rantanen, Dallas	54	20	49	69	2	87	5	0	1	125
Jack Eichel, Vegas	50	21	47	68	18	10	0	0	5	187
Mark Scheifele, Winnipeg	56	27	41	68	0	22	7	0	4	117
Jason Robertson, Dallas	57	32	34	66	20	20	11	0	5	205
Nick Suzuki, Montreal	57	18	47	65	-3	12	10	1	1	119
Kyle Connor, Winnipeg	56	25	39	64	-3	12	3	2	1	185
Evan Bouchard, Edmonton	58	15	48	63	11	24	6	0	3	161
Matt Boldy, Minnesota	54	32	30	62	14	26	9	3	3	173
Martin Necas, Colorado	52	22	40	62	35	26	4	0	0	124
Zach Werenski, Columbus	52	20	42	62	8	12	3	0	2	183
Tim Stutzle, Ottawa	57	28	33	61	6	31	7	1	5	145
Jake Guentzel, Tampa Bay	55	26	34	60	13	33	6	2	5	142
Lucas Raymond, Detroit	56	19	41	60	10	12	5	0	5	122
Mark Stone, Vegas	41	21	39	60	18	7	7	0	4	92
Sidney Crosby, Pittsburgh	56	27	32	59	1	38	10	0	4	132
Wyatt Johnston, Dallas	57	29	30	59	-3	16	18	0	3	148
Tage Thompson, Buffalo	57	30	29	59	-8	27	5	0	3	204
Lane Hutson, Montreal	57	10	48	58	22	24	1	0	3	91
Mitch Marner, Vegas	57	16	42	58	13	16	4	0	0	115
Sebastian Aho, Carolina	57	20	37	57	12	30	4	1	3	128
Cole Caufield, Montreal	57	32	25	57	19	14	7	0	8	171
Alex DeBrincat, Detroit	58	30	27	57	1	10	11	0	5	205
Quinn Hughes, Minnesota	52	5	52	57	-1	24	2	0	1	143

NHL LEADERS

GOALTENDERS GOALS AGAINST RECORD

Name	Team	GPI	MINS	GA	AVG
Andrei Vasilevskiy	Tampa Bay	37	2219	78	2.11
Brandon Bussi	Carolina	27	1638	59	2.16
Scott Wedgewood	Colorado	31	1799	65	2.17
Mackenzie Blackwood	Colorado	22	1282	48	2.25
Devin Cooley	Calgary	19	1059	40	2.27
Casey DeSmith	Dallas	21	1240	49	2.37
Philipp Grubauer	Seattle	22	1237	50	2.43
Ilya Sorokin	NY Islanders	35	2091	85	2.44
Igor Shesterkin	NY Rangers	34	2006	82	2.45
Logan Thompson	Washington	39	2304	94	2.45
Dan Vladar	Philadelphia	33	1893	78	2.47
Akira Schmid	Vegas	29	1686	71	2.53
Anton Forsberg	Los Angeles	22	1259	54	2.57
David Rittich	NY Islanders	23	1379	59	2.57
Karel Vejmelka Utah	44	2586	111	2.58	
Darcy Kuemper	Los Angeles	36	2081	90	2.59
John Gibson	Detroit	37	2155	94	2.62
Jet Greaves	Columbus	37	2198	96	2.62
Spencer Knight Chicago	39	2335	102	2.62	
Filip Gustavsson	Minnesota	36	2138	94	2.64
Jake Allen	New Jersey	28	1647	73	2.66
Alex Lyon	Buffalo	27	1502	68	2.72
Jesper Wallstedt	Minnesota	23	1389	63	2.72
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	Buffalo	21	1187	54	2.73
Jake Oettinger	Dallas	37	2195	100	2.73

GOALTENDERS WIN RECORD

Player	Team	GPI	MINS	W	L	OT
Andrei Vasilevskiy	Tampa Bay	37	2219	27	7	2
Karel Vejmelka Utah	44	2586	27	14	2	
Brandon Bussi	Carolina	27	1638	23	3	0
Jake Oettinger	Dallas	37	2195	23	10	3
John Gibson	Detroit	37	2155	22	12	1
Jeremy Swayman	Boston	38	2243	22	12	1
Sergei Bobrovsky	Florida	40	2318	21	17	1
Lukas Dostal	Anaheim	38	2177	21	13	2
Filip Gustavsson	Minnesota	36	2138	20	9	5
Juuse Saros	Nashville	44	2516	20	17	5
Ilya Sorokin	NY Islanders	35	2091	20	13	0
Scott Wedgewood	Colorado	31	1799	20	4	1
Stuart Skinner	Pittsburgh	36	2088	19	12	3
Logan Thompson	Washington	39	2304	19	16	0
Jakub Dobes	Montreal	27	1563	18	5	2
Jet Greaves	Columbus	37	2198	18	12	5
Yaroslav Askarov San Jose	35	1904	17	15	2	
Igor Shesterkin	NY Rangers	34	2006	17	12	4
Dan Vladar	Philadelphia	33	1893	17	8	5
Mackenzie Blackwood	Colorado	22	1282	16	5	1
Joey Daccord	Seattle	33	1924	16	12	3
Spencer Knight Chicago	39	2335	16	16	3	
Akira Schmid	Vegas	29	1686	16	6	5
Dustin Wolf	Calgary	41	2298	16	21	2
Tristan Jarry	Edmonton	25	1388	15	7	1

GOALTENDERS SAVES RECORD

Player	Team	GPI	MINS	GA	SA	SPCTG	W	L	OT
Devin Cooley	Calgary	19	1059	40	509	.921	7	6	2
Andrei Vasilevskiy	Tampa Bay	37	2219	78	958	.919	27	7	2
Philipp Grubauer	Seattle	22	1237	50	598	.916	11	6	2
Mackenzie Blackwood	Colorado	22	1282	48	572	.916	16	5	1
Ilya Sorokin	NY Islanders	35	2091	85	1012	.916	20	13	0
Scott Wedgewood	Colorado	31	1799	65	772	.916	20	4	1
Igor Shesterkin	NY Rangers	34	2006	82	945	.913	17	12	4
Jesper Wallstedt	Minnesota	23	1389	63	725	.913	14	5	2
Alex Lyon	Buffalo	27	1502	68	778	.913	14	8	3
Logan Thompson	Washing- ton	39	2304	94	1070	.912	19	16	0
Joseph Woll	Toronto	25	1420	65	737	.912	13	7	4
Casey DeSmith	Dallas	21	1240	49	553	.911	11	4	3
Jet Greaves	Columbus	37	2198	96	1067	.910	18	12	5
Spencer Knight Chicago	39	2335	102	1104	.908	16	16	3	
Anton Forsberg	Los Angeles	22	1259	54	578	.907	9	7	4
Brandon Bussi	Carolina	27	1638	59	631	.906	23	3	0
Filip Gustavsson	Minnesota	36	2138	94	1004	.906	20	9	5
Jake Allen	New Jersey	28	1647	73	767	.905	12	13	1
Dan Vladar	Philadel- phia	33	1893	78	818	.905	17	8	5
John Gibson	Detroit	37	2155	94	978	.904	22	12	1
Joey Daccord	Seattle	33	1924	90	924	.903	16	12	3
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	Buffalo	21	1187	54	554	.903	11	7	2
Jeremy Swayman	Boston	38	2243	109	1118	.903	22	12	1
Karel Vejmelka Utah	44	2586	111	1129	.902	27	14	2	
David Rittich	NY Islanders	23	1379	59	590	.900	12	8	0

GOALTENDERS SHUTOUT RECORD

Player	Team	GPI	MINS	SO	W	L	OT
Ilya Sorokin	NY Islanders	35	2091	6	20	13	0
John Gibson	Detroit	37	2155	4	22	12	1
Joel Hofer	St. Louis	30	1654	4	12	11	2
Jesper Wallstedt	Minnesota	23	1389	4	14	5	2
Mackenzie Blackwood	Colorado	22	1282	3	16	5	1
Sergei Bobrovsky	Florida	40	2318	3	21	17	1
Filip Gustavsson	Minnesota	36	2138	3	20	9	5
Spencer Knight Chicago	39	2335	3	16	16	3	
Brandon Bussi	Carolina	27	1638	2	23	3	0
Joey Daccord	Seattle	33	1924	2	16	12	3
Jet Greaves	Columbus	37	2198	2	18	12	5
Tristan Jarry	Edmonton	25	1388	2	15	7	1
Darcy Kuemper	Los Angeles	36	2081	2	14	11	4
Alex Lyon	Buffalo	27	1502	2	14	8	3
Jake Oettinger	Dallas	37	2195	2	23	10	3
David Rittich	NY Islanders	23	1379	2	12	8	0
Akira Schmid	Vegas	29	1686	2	16	6	5
Stuart Skinner	Pittsburgh	36	2088	2	19	12	3
Logan Thompson	Washington	39	2304	2	19	16	0
Andrei Vasilevskiy	Tampa Bay	37	2219	2	27	7	2
Scott Wedgewood	Colorado	31	1799	2	20	4	1
Dustin Wolf	Calgary	41	2298	2	16	21	2
Joseph Woll	Toronto	25	1420	2	13	7	4
Jake Allen	New Jersey	28	1647	1	12	13	1
Jordan Binnington	St. Louis	32	1775	1	8	17	4



NOTE: All times listed are in Eastern time zone. Subtract one hour for Central, two hours for Mountain and three hours for Pacific.

MISCELLANEOUS

OLYMPICS

MEDALS TABLE, 2026 WINTER OLYMPICS

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Totals
NOR	7	2	4	13
ITA	4	2	7	13
USA	4	6	2	12
AUT	2	5	1	8
JPN	2	2	4	8
GER	3	3	2	8
SUI	4	1	2	7
FRA	3	3	1	7
SWE	3	2	1	6
CAN	0	1	3	4
NED	1	2	0	3
CHN	0	1	2	3
CZE	1	1	0	2
SLO	1	1	0	2
KOR	0	1	1	2
NZL	0	1	1	2
LAT	0	1	0	1
POL	0	1	0	1
BUL	0	0	2	2
BEL	0	0	1	1
FIN	0	0	1	1

TENNIS

WTA TOUR QATAR TOTALENERGIES OPEN 2026

Wednesday
At Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex, Doha, Qatar
Purse: usd40,882,111
Surface: Hard (outside)
Singles
Third Round
Iga Swiatek (1) d. Daria Kasatkina, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1.
Elena Rybakina (2) d. Qinwen Zheng, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.
Victoria Mboko (10) d. Mirra Andreeva (5), 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5).
Anna Kalinskaya d. Elina Svitolina (7), 6-4, 6-3.
Karolina Muchova (14) d. Karolina Pliskova, 5-2, ret
Elisabetta Cocciaretto d. Ann Li, 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-4.
Jelena Ostapenko d. Maria Camila Osorio Serrano, 6-3, 6-1.
Maria Sakkari d. Varvara Gracheva, 7-6 (3), 6-0.

WTA TOUR OEIRAS 1 JAMOR INDOOR

Wednesday
At Complexo Tenis Estadio Nacional, Oeiras, Portugal
Purse: usd115,000
Surface: Clay
Singles
Second Round
Dalma Galfi (2) d. Anhelina Kalinina, 6-1, 6-2.
Suzan Lamens (3) d. Iryna Shymanovich, 6-4, 6-0.
Darja Vidmanova d. Francisca Jorge, 0-6, 6-0, 7-5.
Maja Chwalinska d. Nuria Parrizas Diaz, 6-1, 6-1.

ATP TOUR ABN AMRO OPEN

Tuesday
At Ahoy Rotterdam Rotterdam, Netherlands
Purse: eur2,462,660
Surface: Hard (inside)
Singles
First Round
Alex De Minaur (1), Australia, def. Arthur Fils, France, 7-6 (3), 6-2.
Tallon Griekspoor (7), Netherlands, def. Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard, France, 6-4, 6-4.
Hamad Medjedovic, Serbia, def. Zizou Bergs, Belgium, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).
Quentin Halys, France, def. Mees Rottgering, Netherlands, 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.
Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def. Hugo Grenier, France, 6-0, 6-4.

ATP TOUR IEB+ ARGENTINA OPEN

Tuesday
At Buenos Aires Lawn Tennis Club, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Purse: usd675,310
Surface: Clay
Singles
First Round
Juan Manuel Cerundolo d. Daniel Altmaier (5), 6-2, 6-2.
Camilo Ugo Carabelli (6) d. Francisco Comesana, 6-4, 7-6 (3).
Matteo Berrettini (8) d. Federico Coria, 7-5, 7-5.
Tomas Barrios Vera d. Thiago Seyboth Wild, 4-6, 6-5, ret
Ignacio Buse d. Francesco Passaro, 5-7, 7-5, 6-4.
Roman Andres Burruchaga d. Laslo Djere, 6-2, 6-4.
Alejandro Tabilo d. Facundo Diaz Acosta, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

ATP TOUR DALLAS OPEN

Tuesday
At Styslinger/Altec Tennis Complex Dallas, TX
Purse: usd2,833,335
Surface: Hard (outside)
Singles
First Round
Taylor Fritz (1), United States, def. Marcos Giron, United States, 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (1).
Ben Shelton (2), United States, def. Gabriel Diallo , Canada, 6-4, 6-4.
Jack Pinnington Jones, null, def. Flavio Cobolli (4), Italy, 6-2, 6-2.
Marin Cilic, Croatia, def. Learner Tien (6), United States, 7-5, 7-6 (4).
Denis Shapovalov (7), Canada, def. Rafael Jodar, Spain, 6-1, 6-2.
Aleksandar Kovacevic, United States, def. Patrick Kypson, null, 6-4, 7-6 (1).
Miomir Kecmanovic, Serbia, def. Sho Shimabukuro, Japan, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 7-6 (3).
Alex Michelsen, United States, def. Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

GOLF

AT&T PEBBLE BEACH PRO-AM TEE TIMES

PEBBLE BEACH, CALIFORNIA

PURSE: 20 MILLION

LOCAL COURSE TIMES PRESENTED.

FIRST ROUND

THURSDAY

TEE NO. 1

8:45 a.m. _ Aaron Rai s, Pierceson Coody p, Minwoo Lee s, Ryo Hisatsune p
8:58 a.m. _ Si Woo Kim p, Chris Kirk s, J.J. Spaun p, Sami Valimaki s
9:11 a.m. _ Jake Knapp s, Sam Burns p, Steven Fisk s, Corey Connors p
9:24 a.m. _ Ben Griffin p, Nick Taylor s, Shane Lowry p, Jhonattan Vegas s
9:37 a.m. _ Kurt Kitayama p, Brian Campbell s, Aldrich Potgieter p, Sam Stevens s
9:50 a.m. _ Stephan Jaeger p, Nico Echavarria s, Denny McCarthy p, Michael Thorbjornsen s
10:03 a.m. _ Cameron Young s, Akshay Bhatia p, Jason Day s, Viktor Hovland p
10:16 a.m. _ Wyndham Clark p, Harris English s, Chris Gotterup p, Lucas Glover s
10:29 a.m. _ Harry Hall s, Hideki Matsuyama p, Keegan Bradley s, Scottie Scheffler p
10:42 a.m. _ Tom Hoge p, Rico Hoey s, Sahith Theegala p, Taylor Pendrith s

TEE NO. 10

8:45 a.m. _ Alex Noren s, Joe Highsmith p, Matt McCarty s, Alex Smalley p
8:58 a.m. _ Tommy Fleetwood s, Michael Kim p, Emiliano Grillo p, Robert MacIntyre s
9:11 a.m. _ Russell Henley p, Xander Schauffele s, Maverick McNealy p, Jordan Spieth s
9:24 a.m. _ Jacob Bridgeman p, Rory McIlroy s, Ryan Fox s, Sepp Straka p
9:37 a.m. _ Matti Schmid p, Daniel Berger s, Marco Penge s, Max McGreevy p
9:50 a.m. _ Max Greyserman p, Mackenzie Hughes s, Billy Horschel p, Keith Mitchell s
10:03 a.m. _ Brian Harman p, Tony Finau s, Rickie Fowler p, Matt Fitzpatrick s
10:16 a.m. _ Patrick Cantlay p, Patrick Rodgers s, Andrew Novak p, Justin Rose s
10:29 a.m. _ Ludvig Aberg s, Bud Cauley p, Collin Morikawa s, Kevin Yu p
10:42 a.m. _ J.T. Poston p, Ryan Gerard s, Adam Schenk p, Garrick Higgo s

CHUBB CLASSIC TEE TIMES

AT TIBURON GOLF CLUB - BLACK COURSE

YARDAGE: 6,897; PAR: 72

NAPLES, FLORIDA

PURSE: 1.8 MILLION

LOCAL COURSE TIMES PRESENTED.

FIRST ROUND

FRIDAY

TEE NO. 1

8:10 a.m. _ Ken Duke, George McNeill, John Huston
8:21 a.m. _ Robert Gamez, Fred Funk, Duffy Waldorf
8:32 a.m. _ Brandt Jobe, Bo Van Pelt, Heath Slocum
8:43 a.m. _ Charlie Wi, Paul Goydos, Chris DiMarco
8:54 a.m. _ Thomas Bjorn, Darren Clarke, Angel Cabrera
9:05 a.m. _ Bernhard Langer, Miguel Angel Jimenez, Davis Love III
9:16 a.m. _ David Duval, Justin Leonard, Jerry Kelly
9:27 a.m. _ Paul Stankowski, Rocco Mediate, Ken Tanigawa
9:38 a.m. _ Jason Bohn, Tom Pernice Jr., Corey Pavin
9:49 a.m. _ Jeff Maggert, Woody Austin, Billy Mayfair
10 a.m. _ Stuart Appleby, John Rollins, Shane Bertsch
10:11 a.m. _ Dicky Pride, Tim Petrovic, Tom Lehman
10:22 a.m. _ Matt Gogel, Rod Pampling, Mark Hensby
10:33 a.m. _ David Toms, J.J. Henry, Boo Weekley
10:44 a.m. _ Soren Kjeldsen, Richard Green, Jason Caron
10:55 a.m. _ Lee Janzen, Billy Andrade, Kirk Triplett
11:06 a.m. _ Stephen Ames, Scott Parel, Joe Durant
11:17 a.m. _ Tommy Gainey, Alex Cejka, Timothy O'Neal
11:28 a.m. _ Steve Allan, Steve Flesch, K.J. Choi
11:39 a.m. _ Michael Wright, Brian Gay, Greg Chalmers
11:50 a.m. _ Doug Barron, Tag Ridings, Ricardo Gonzalez
12:01 p.m. _ Mark Calcavecchia, Olin Browne, Steve Pate
12:12 p.m. _ Brett Quigley, Jesper Parnevik, Scott McCarron
12:23 p.m. _ Brendan Jones, Harrison Frazar, Robert Karlsson
12:34 p.m. _ Mathew Goggin, Mario Tiziani, Rob Labritz
12:45 p.m. _ Randy Leen, Andrew Johnson, Michael Muehr

ANDY CAPP
REG SMYTHE

These daily comic strips are an exclusive bonus for Edition readers.

ARCHIE CRAIG BOLDMAN AND FERNANDO RUIZ



DOG EAT DOUG BRIAN ANDERSON



FLO & FRIENDS JENNY CAMPBELL



SPEED BUMP DAVE COVERLY



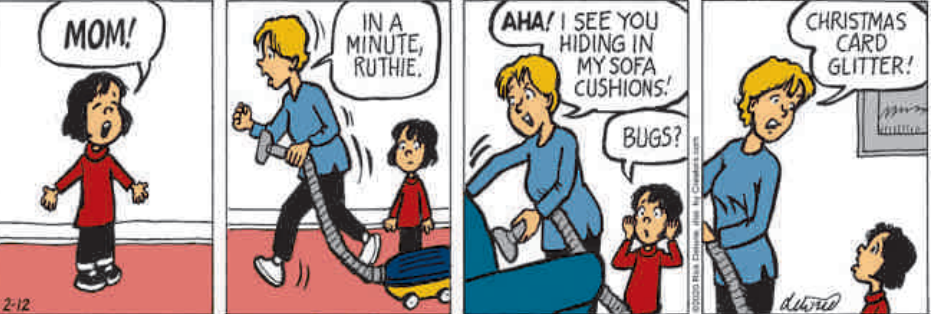
STRANGE BREW JOHN DEERING



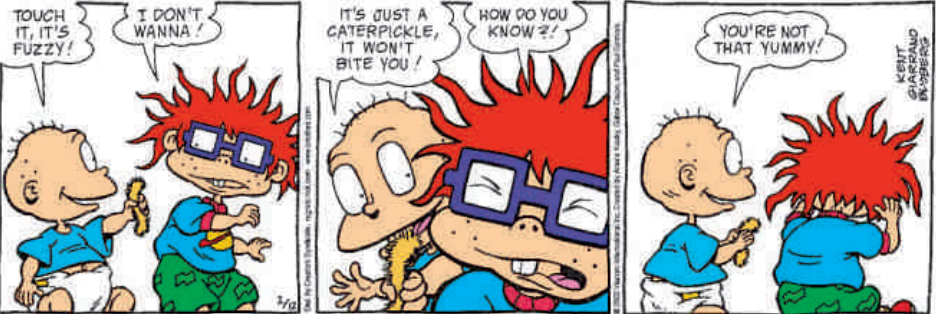
FREE RANGE BILL WHITEHEAD



ONE BIG HAPPY® RICK DETORIE



RUGRATS NICKELODEON



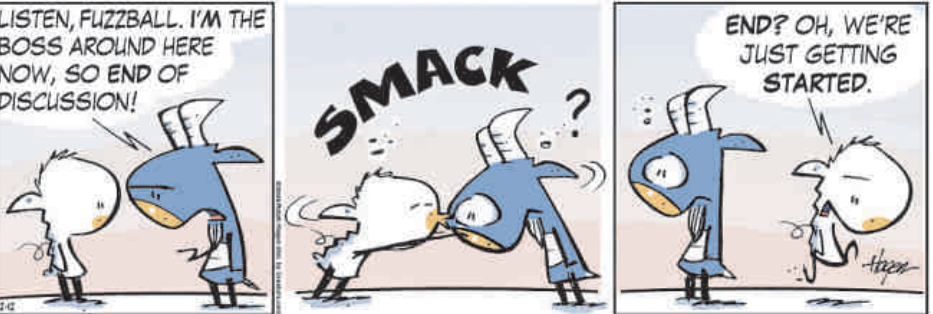
SCARY GARY MARK BUFORD



ZACK HILL JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE



THE BARN RALPH HAGEN



AGNES TONY COCHRAN

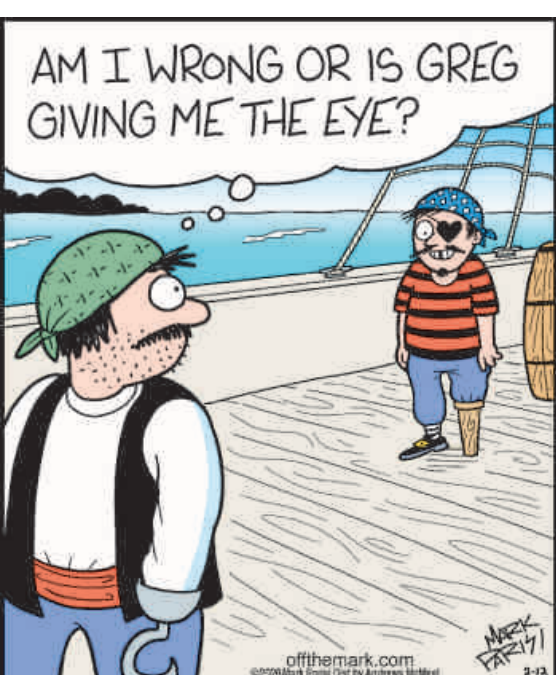


THE MEANING OF LILA JOHN FORGETTA



THE OTHER COAST ADRIAN RAESIDE

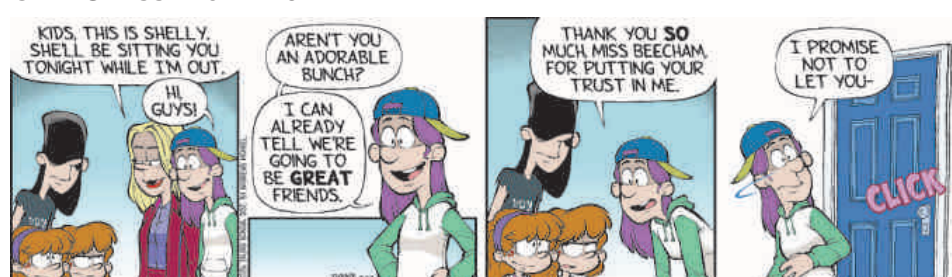




GARFIELD JIM DAVIS



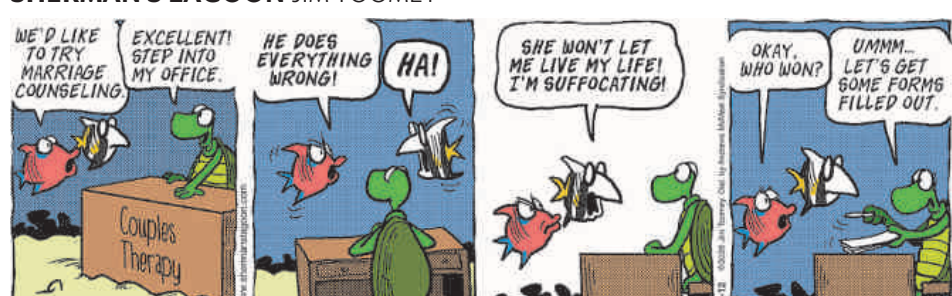
CRABGRASS TAUHID BONDIA



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM MIKE PETERS



SHERMAN'S LAGOON JIM TOOMEY



LUANN GREG EVANS & KAREN EVANS



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE STEPHAN PASTIS



JUMP START ROBB ARMSTRONG



BALDO HECTOR CANTÚ & CARLOS CASTELLANOS



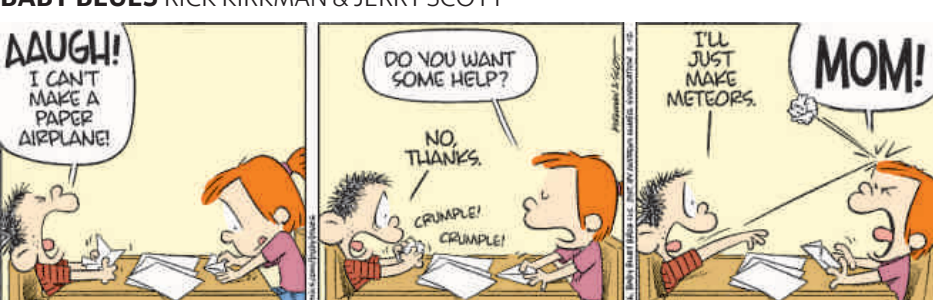
POOCH CAFÉ PAUL GILLIGAN



PEANUTS CHARLES SCHULZ



BABY BLUES RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



ZITS JERRY SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES BRIAN CRANE



CRANKSHAFT TOM BATIUK & DAN DAVIS



CLOSE TO HOME JOHN MCPHERSON



CORNERED MIKE BALDWIN



THE FLYING MCCOYS GLENN & GARY MCCOY



RUBES LEIGH RUBIN



THE NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

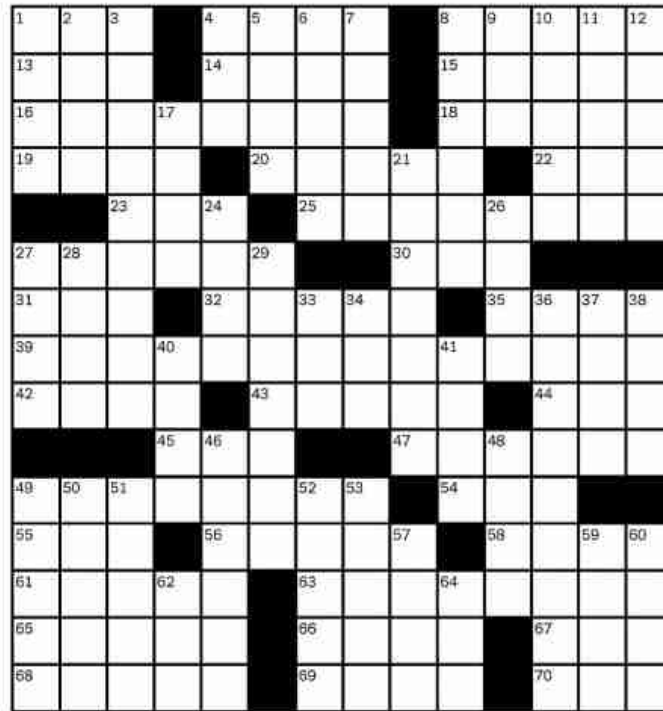
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12 2026

No. 0108

ACROSS

- 1 canto
 4 Lessons that might be spelled out for you?
 8 Photographer Diane
 13 Wide-open Q&A
 14 Coffee option
 15 Snatching sound, in the comics
 16 *Nonverbal "well done"*
 18 Well-known scheme designer
 19 One of the two Boolean values, in programming
 20 Disney princess whose name is one letter off from a common princess accessory
 22 Gimlet base
 23 Dundee dissent
 25 *Cars with retractable roofs*
 27 What Neapolitan ice cream is divided into
 30 Compete (for)
 31 Bit in a breakfast bowl
 32 Benefactor with a limited number of grants?
 35 Symbol of the "Black is beautiful" movement
 39 College concern seen in 16-, 25-, 49- and 63-Across?
 42 Cathedral recess
 43 Full of zing
 44 Tallahassee sch.
 45 Get rid of
 47 Tea traders?
 49 *Accidentally burn, perhaps*
 54 Influential power
 55 Feel under the weather
 56 It's a start!
 58 -free
 61 Brand in the feminine care aisle
 63 *Results of wearing some uncomfortable shoes*
 65 Mexican street food typically served with cheese, chili and lime
 66 Hit TV series set at the fictional William McKinley High School
 67 Cpl. or sgt.
 68 Grannies



Puzzle by Mallory Montgomery and Zhou Zhang

2/12

- 69 Fictional lover of Rochester
 70 Many Ph.D.s-to-be, for short

DOWN

- 1 Bangkok currency
 2 Doha dignitary
 3 Heineken subsidiary whose name means "small bodies of water"
 4 Go on, in dialogue
 5 One who eats crisps and uses a loo
 6 Kind of duty
 7 Stab, in a way
 8 Spanish exclamation akin to "Oh, baby!"
 9 Small hopper in the Hundred Acre Wood
 10 "Spot on!"
 11 Open, as a fanny pack
 12 Scrapes
 17 Get wind of
 21 Knickknack
 24 "We stand today on the of a new frontier": John F. Kennedy, 7/15/1960
 26 Nursing spot
 27 Attire for a fraternity party, maybe

- 28 Instrument originating in ancient Sumer
 29 Jump at, as an opportunity
 33 Opposite of SSW
 34 Maybes
 36 "In da Club" rapper
 37 Parks in history
 38 Albatross, so to speak
 40 Beloved
 41 Thumbs-up votes
 46 PlayStation alternatives
 48 So-called "father of the American cartoon"
 49 Like the Coronation Chair in

- Westminster Abbey
 50 It takes a bow in a concert hall
 51 Sir Hercules John
 52 Indigenous people at the center of 2023's "Killers of the Flower Moon"
 53 green
 57 Layer
 59 Sea creature that can weigh 400 pounds at birth
 60 Possessive of a Chinese menu?
 62 Zeta follower
 64 Go on dates with

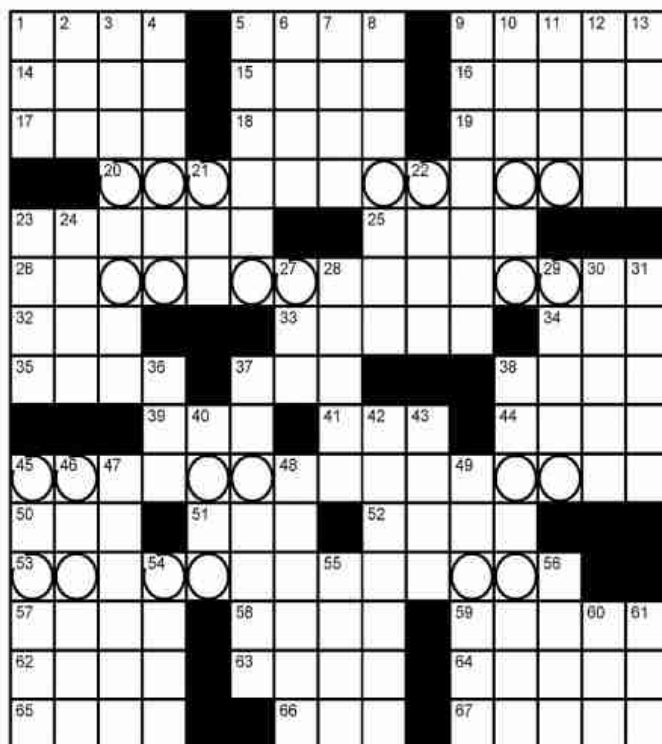
ANSWER TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE:



UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Defeat
5 Societal issues
9 Minor disagreements
14 Home of the NHL's Mammoth
15 Biblical rescuer of animals
16 "The Hunger Games" setting whose name is Latin for "bread"
17 Music's Marvin
18 Driver's shout?
19 Houston batter
20 Activity eased by universal child care (In this answer, note letters 1-3, 7-8 and 10-11)
23 ___ or later
25 Soft cheese
26 Pennsylvania nuclear accident site (... letters 3-4, 6-7 and 12-13)
32 It's about 78% nitrogen
33 Spiel
34 Cape Cod ___
35 Big name in beans
37 Droop
38 Orgs. that spend big in November
39 Permit
41 "As if!"
44 Resound
45 1987 psychological thriller (... letters 1-2, 5-6 and 12-13)
50 Hosp. area
51 Degree for a pro painter
52 Low-quality AI content
53 America, per "The Star-Spangled Banner" (... letters 1-2, 4-5 and 11-12)
57 Poet St. Vincent Millay
58 Posh British school
59 Royal domain
62 Cake layer
63 Rice-A-___
64 Singer Lavigne whose first name is a French month
65 NaCl, e.g.



Tritones by Anna Harkins | Edited by David Steinberg

2/12

- 66 Letters on the Thunder's logo
67 Allows to borrow

DOWN

- 1 Programmer's problem
2 Flight guess: Abbr.
3 "Apologize!"
4 Perfect match
5 Give the facts to
6 Roller coaster feature
7 "Tomb Raider" protagonist Croft
8 Ice cream relative
9 "Nationality" of a famed set of Italian steps
10 Baby blue, e.g.
11 Not for
12 Bird aptly found in "water native"
13 LA air concern
21 Gymnast Suni
22 George Orwell's real first name
23 Unpartnered
24 Pennsylvania neighbor
27 Craft beer variety, in short
28 Sun output
29 Beaded counters
30 Cheesy chip
31 Vacuum brand

- 36 Pie ___ mode
37 Campaign worker
38 Dogs in restaurants, for some
40 Red Muppet
42 Poisonous element
43 10/20, e.g.
45 ___ mignons
46 French colony that some Louisianans trace ancestry to
47 Road feature that may interfere with a GPS
48 Your partner's name on your arm, say
49 Livestock pen
54 Move like a water strider
55 Clown nose sound
56 Take home
60 Top of a pot
61 New England Revolution's org.

ANSWER TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE:



ACES ON BRIDGE

NORTH
♠ K Q 6 3
♥ J 10 6 5 4
♦ A J 10
♣ 4

02-12-A

WEST
♠ 7 2
♥ A 3
♦ 9 8 6 5
♣ A K 7 5 3

EAST
♠ A J 5 4
♥ Q 9 2
♦ Q 7 3 2
♣ 10 6

SOUTH
♠ 10 9 8
♥ K 8 7
♦ K 4
♣ Q J 9 8 2

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: North

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠ 2 ♦^{*} Pass

2 ♥ All pass
*Flannery; 11-15 HCP with 5+ hearts and 4 spades

Opening Lead: Spade seven

Here is a part-score deal where, even though there was not much at stake, the end position is so striking that I am happy to share it with you.

South declared two hearts after a Flannery opening, and West led the spade seven rather than a top club. East ducked dummy's king, and declarer then immediately played three rounds of diamonds to score a ruff in hand before giving up a club. West won that and continued spades, East taking the jack and ace before leading a fourth round of spades, on which declarer played the trump eight.

Dummy retained only its trumps after following to the fourth spade, so the defense needed to score three trump tricks to defeat the contract. If West did not overruff South's eight, declarer could lead the heart king and ruff the next minor-suit lead low before leading the heart jack to flush out East's queen — no good. West overruffed with the heart ace and had to be careful to return a club.

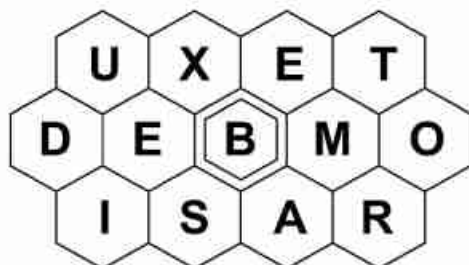
South ruffed the club in dummy and had no choice but to unblock the heart king from hand at trick 10, after which he had nothing but clubs to play at the finish. Thus, East's heart nine came into the picture. If dummy ruffed low, East would overruff, but East would instead discard if dummy ruffed high. Had West played anything else after taking the heart ace, declarer would have had a safe club ruff entry to dummy after unblocking the heart king.

By Barry Rigal

LEXIGO®

2-12

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



1. Bags in the infield B _ _ _ _
2. Bagel seed _ _ _ _ _
3. Oozed forth E _ _ _ _
4. Neutralize a bomb _ _ _ _ _
5. Groundhog M _ _ _ _

BASES, SESAME, EXUDE, DISARM, MARROT

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WORD GAME

Directions: 1. Words must be of four or more letters. 2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" are not allowed. 3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" is not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible. 4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

Today's word:
DERVISH

Yesterday's word:
IGNOMINIOUS

(DERVISH: DER-vish:
One who whirls
or dances with
abandonment.)

Average mark 23
words. Time limit 40
minutes.

Can you find 29
or more words in
DERVISH?

goon	noon	musing
nosing	noun	union
ominous	onion	unionism
onion	onus	unison
mini	minion	using
minus	misog	sign
mono	mooring	smog
moon	mousing	smug
		snug
		song
		soon
		suining
		sumo
		sung

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McMeel for UFS

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 garage occupants (8)	_____
2 saying "I do" (8)	_____
3 lacking stability (9)	_____
4 Chile's neighbor (7)	_____
5 English explorer Sir Francis (5)	_____
6 marine "equine" (8)	_____
7 in a sneaky way (9)	_____

TIV	VE	LES	DRA	ETT
BO	SEA	UNS	FUR	MAR
RSE	RYI	KE	HIC	IA
NG	ELY	LIV	LED	HO

Wednesday's Answers: 1. BULLDOZING 2. PIZZAZZ 3. TRAMPOLINE
4. FRACTIONS 5. NUANCED 6. THICKENING 7. SAILBOAT 2/12

Boggle® BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



2-12-26

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

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31-60 = Gamer
7 letters = 5 points	21-30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11-20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points	0-10 = Try again

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST THREE WORDS
STARTING AND ENDING WITH "Y"
in the grid of letters.

Answers to Wednesday's Boggle BrainBusters:
SUN HOT FOG COLD CLOUD HUMID

SUDOKU DAILY

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

2/12

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HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

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

JUMBLE

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

CHOAV

EPTYT

CEIKTT

HCEILN

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HOLLY FLINT SLUDGE DRAGON
 Answer: Becoming a member of the Olympic ice hockey team had been his — LIFE-LONG GOAL

SUDOKU

Directions: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

WORD SCRIMMAGE™
 BY JUDD HAMBRICK

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1st DOWN

 R₂ G₃ N₂ O₂ A₂ Y₇ L₂ 1st Down +20 PTS

2nd DOWN

 D₃ A₂ S₂ O₂ E₁ O₂ F₇

3rd DOWN

 O₂ L₂ F₇ O₂ L₂ O₂ W₇ 3rd Down +20 PTS

4th DOWN

 L₂ R₂ A₂ B₈ N₂ Z₁₄ O₂ 4th Letter +7 PTS

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN JUDG'S TOTAL = 194
 AVERAGE GAME 130-140 PTS

Directions: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters on each yardline. Add points to each word or letter using scoring directions. Seven-letter words get a 60-point bonus. All words can be found in Webster's New World College Dictionary.

9-12-26 JUDG'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

FOUR PLAY TOTAL

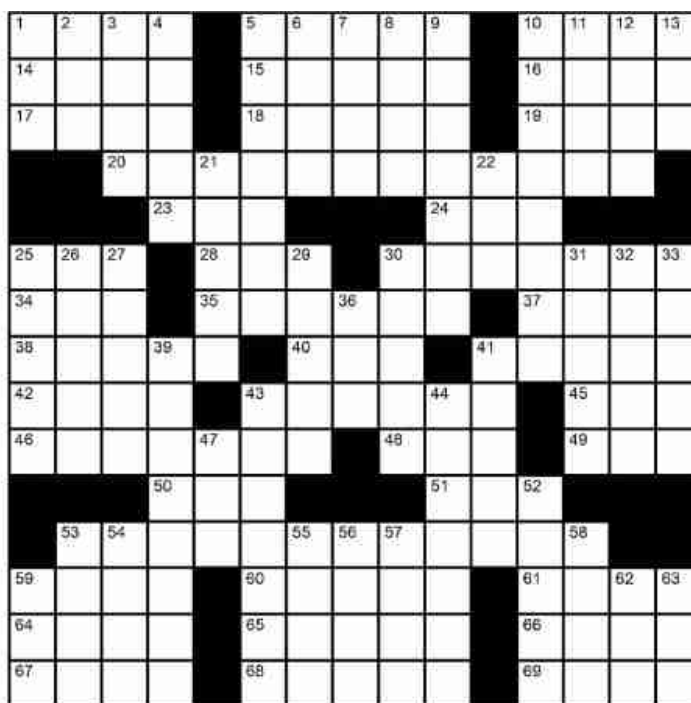
DAILY COMMUTER CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Gls who've seen action
 5 Goldman ____
 10 Very flashy, for short
 14 Square footage
 15 "Yup!"
 16 Meaty pasta sauce
 17 Sour-tasting
 18 Cheek cosmetic
 19 Needed to repay
 20 Carousel
 23 Expected in
 24 Pooch
 25 Letters before an abbr.
 28 "____ me with a spoon!"
 30 Kind of xylophone
 34 Cut (off)
 35 Pieces of grass
 37 English nobleman
 38 Not on time
 40 ____ peeve (annoyance)
 41 World's second-most-common religion
 42 Potato, in Indian cuisine
 43 Conquer
 45 Actress Mowry
 46 NYC NHL team
 48 '50s president: Abbr.
 49 One or more
 50 Spanish cheer
 51 "Yum!"
 53 Lightbulb inventor: 2 wds.
 59 Give a meal to
 60 Car engine
 61 Warty creature
 64 Land area unit
 65 Gladden
 66 Obsessed with
 67 Thunder god
 68 Gave a drug to
 69 12-inch units

DOWN

- 1 Big tub
 2 Memorable period



Created by Stella Zawistowski

2/12/26

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

O	M	I	T		F	L	I	E	R		S	T	E	P
P	A	C	E		L	I	M	B	O		H	A	L	L
T	R	E	X		A	D	O	B	O		A	L	S	O
S	Y	S	T	E	M						K	I	C	K
					B	R	I	E			R	I	N	K
B	O	L	O	G	N	A			E	E	L		J	A
A	L	O	O		G	R	A	D		A	C	E	L	A
S	M	O	K	E	O	N	T	H	E	W	A	T	E	R
T	E	N	S	E		E	V	E	N		F	E	R	N
A	C	S		R	V	S		A	T	T	E	S	T	S
				H	I	I	T				D	I	R	T
B	A	B	I	E	S						T	I	E	D
I	R	O	N		U	S	U	A	L		R	E	E	L
K	I	L	T		A	P	P	L	E		I	M	A	M
E	A	T	S		L	A	C	E	D		A	I	R	S

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2/12/26

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- 3 Time in office
 4 Fully filled
 5 Like Dali's art
 6 Pirate's cry
 7 Drink quickly
 8 Author Victor
 9 Himalayan guides
 10 Avid fans
 11 Grassy yard
 12 Got older
 13 Mississippi ____ pie
 21 Ancestor of football
 22 Collective pronoun
 25 Wedding site
 26 Australian "bear"
 27 Cook's garment
 29 Stares in shock
 30 Doled (out)
 31 European island nation
 32 Smartypants
 33 Skincare brand
 36 Dictionary entry: Abbr.

- 39 Naive humanitarian
 41 News articles
 43 Fantasized
 44 Highly esteemed
 47 Tall tree
 52 Decorative pattern
 53 Georgia ____
 54 Valiant one
 55 Alone
 56 GPS guesses: Abbr.
 57 Show a lot of love
 58 Opposite of all
 59 Chew the ____
 62 Consumed
 63 Tiny speck

QUOTE-ACROSTIC

EDITED BY Linda and Charles Preston

HOW TO SOLVE: Define clues in Words column. Transfer letters to diagram. Quotation reads across; first letters of Words column form acrostic of speaker's name and topic.

CLUES

WORDS

- A. 'Deadliest Catch' port 10 20 62 82 160
91 106 46 123 31 134
- B. Immunity provider 108 124 90 74 147 37 51
- C. He broke Dem Bums fans' hearts 152 92 42 132 66 167 12
- D. Roman Trilogy composer 72 151 103 133 55 57 83 113
- E. Rise 163 2 139 122 50 25 86 70 107
- F. First convened Feb. 14, 1949 126 44 73 165 125 95 146
- G. Diego Maradona successor 60 118 77 40 155 6
29 18 87 141 99
- H. Generous, even magnanimous 80 56 7 137 43 114 75 172 21 150
- I. Source for Valdez oil: 2 wds. 81 144 71 156 117 170 54 5 13 97
- J. First program-mable computer 64 39 15 161 142 121 102 1
- K. Cartoon character named after philosopher 105 93 129 53 34 164
- L. Yap and bark 76 120 67 19 101 166
- M. Middling: 2 wds. 157 26 47 14 94 128 110
- N. Orchestra leader/cartoonist 78 168 35 16 140 27
116 89 154 48 104
- O. Claws or jaws 58 138 119 38 33 153 49
- P. Solomon's gold source 4 143 171 63 98
- Q. Dilly-dally 79 28 131 100 162 149 11 115

1	J	2	E	3	T	4	P	5	I	6	G	7	H		8	R	9	U	
10	A	11	Q	12	C			13	I	14	M	15	J	16	N	17	V	18	G
		19	L	20	A	21	H	22	T	23	R	24	S	25	E			26	M
27	N	28	Q	29	G			30	T	31	A	32	V	33	O			34	K
35	N	36	U	37	B			38	O	39	J	40	G	41	T	42	C	43	H
44	F	45	V	46	A	47	M			48	N	49	O	50	E	51	B	52	U
53	K	54	I	55	D	56	H	57	D			58	O	59	R	60	G	61	T
62	A	63	P	64	J	65	V	66	C	67	L	68	T			69	U	70	E
71	I	72	D	73	F	74	B	75	H			76	L	77	G	78	N		
79	Q	80	H	81	I	82	A	83	D	84	R	85	U			86	E	87	G
		88	V	89	N	90	B	91	A			92	C	93	K	94	M	95	F
		96	R	97	I	98	P	99	G	100	Q	101	L	102	J	103	D		
104	N	105	K	106	A	107	E			108	B	109	R	110	M	111	T	112	S
113	D	114	H	115	Q			116	N	117	I	118	G	119	O	120	L	121	J
122	E			123	A	124	B	125	F	126	F	127	S	128	M	129	K	130	U
131	Q	132	C			133	D	134	A	135	R	136	T	137	H	138	O	139	E
140	N	141	G			142	J	143	P	144	I	145	V	146	F	147	B	148	S
149	Q			150	H	151	D	152	C	153	O	154	N	155	G	156	I	157	M
158	U	159	R			160	A	161	J	162	Q	163	E	164	K			165	F
166	L	167	C	168	N	169	S	170	I	171	P	172	H	173	R	174	U	175	V

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10/8/17

by Robert O'Neill

- R. Five-time Olympic Gold Medalist 109 135 159 8 23 59 173 96 84
- S. Position 112 24 148 127 169
- T. Fishy 61 22 30 41 3 68 111 136
- U. The best: 2 wds. 69 130 174 85 52 36 9 158
- V. Madoff, e.g. 175 17 65 32 88 45 145

Today's QUOTE-ACROSTIC answer: (Petula) DVORAK: LUNCHBOX POLITICS: Schools today police lunches from home, even containers. Assembling politically correct box lunches is much more perilous than visiting Chinese basketball practices sporting Georgetown Hoyas sweatshirts.

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| A. Dutch Harbor | E. Accession | I. North Slope | M. Of sorts | Q. Lollygag | U. Cat's meow |
| B. Vaccine | F. Knesset | J. Colossus | N. Xavier Cugat | R. Ian Thorpe | V. Scammer |
| C. O'Malley | G. Lionel Messi | K. Hobbes | O. Pincers | S. Tenet | |
| D. Respighi | H. Unstinting | L. Bellow | P. Ophir | T. Ichthyic | |

NEA CROSSWORD

NEA CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Necklace of flowers
4 French cleric
8 Opposing
12 Samovar
13 "The First —"
14 Horse's color
15 Booking for a band
16 Turnstile
17 Precious metal
18 Mise-en- —
20 Thick and bulky
22 Zero
23 Golf ball peg
24 Stew seasoned with paprika
28 Snake
32 Canal in a song
33 Juicy fruit
35 Genesis name
36 Play part
37 "Mine — have seen the glory ..."
- 38 City in Iowa
39 Textile fiber
41 Remote
43 Paste made from taro root
45 Sea eagle (Var.)
46 Artful
49 Officer-to-be
52 Juan Ponce de —
53 Wash against
56 Frost
57 "Dies —"
58 Mild oath
59 Gun grp.
60 Region (Abbr.)
61 Nerve network
62 Plant secretion

DOWN

- 1 Carries with effort
2 "Monty Python" actor — Idle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	U	R	F		H	A	L	F		R	C	A
A	S	E	A		E	T	A	L		I	A	N
K	E	N	T		N	O	N	O		C	R	O
E	S	T	H	E	R			E	T	C	H	E
				O	B	I			S	U	E	D
T	H	U	M	B			F	E	A	R		
O	A	F				S	L	A	M	D	U	N
O	D	O	M	E	T	E	R			S	U	E
				O	N	Y	X		T	E	S	T
S	C	O	L	D				L	O	X		
C	O	M	E	U	P			I	M	P	O	R
A	L	E			R	U	I	N		A	G	A
L	O	G			E	R	S	E		N	E	R
E	R	A			D	A	M	S		D	E	E

- 3 Cleverness
4 Actress — Bassett
5 Feather scarf
6 "I wouldn't — on it!"
7 Choose
8 Engaged in debate
- 9 Midday
10 Speech
11 — 500 auto race
19 River in Africa
21 Get news of
24 Toothed wheel
25 Killer whale
26 Secret agent
27 Attention
29 Hard to please
30 Regular
31 Sleep
34 "— — Lay Dying"
37 Sufficiently, old style
38 Razor brand
40 Kitchen gadget
42 Withdraw politically
44 Do-nothing person
46 Cut
47 Roll call response
48 Bellow
50 Beige
51 Pair of horses
54 Time
55 Container for dye

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18			19				20	21				
		22					23					
24	25				26	27		28		29	30	31
32					33		34			35		
36				37					38			
39			40			41		42				
			43		44			45				
46	47	48						49			50	51
52					53	54	55			56		
57					58					59		
60					61					62		

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Chinese dish
moo shu —
5 Dressed like a
superhero
10 Snake
13 Form of "John"
14 Burning
15 Mozart's "Rondo
— Turca"
16 Poi source
17 Belted garment
(2 wds.)
19 Actor —
Baldwin
20 Playing card
21 Mountain ridge
22 Journalist —
Couric
25 Pretext
26 Tricked
28 Supply of money
29 Polished
30 Polite fellow
31 Set down
34 Service branch
(Abbr.)
35 Climbing plants
37 Rod
38 Lair
39 Connect
40 Courageous
people
42 Libertine
43 Cow-related
44 "Santa — Is
Comin' to Town"
46 Appraises
47 Ships' jails
48 — passim
49 Theater area
(Abbr.)
53 Speedways
56 Ibsen character
57 Eager
58 Result of burning
59 Black, poetically
60 So far

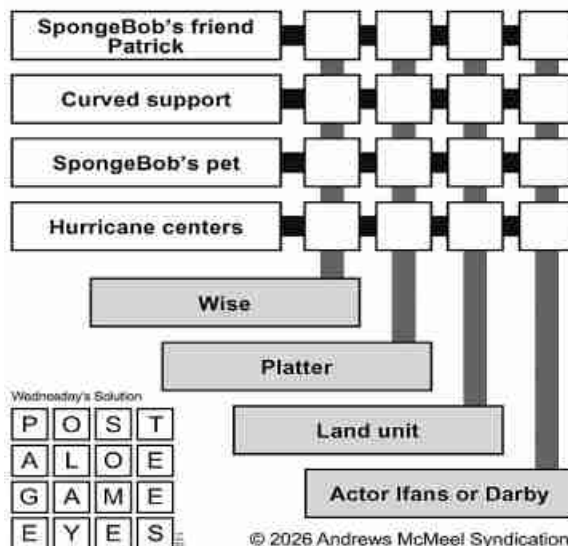


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- 61 "— Goes My
Baby"
62 Agents, for short
DOWN
1 Gyro bread
2 Ellipse
3 Hard to find
4 Inferior copy
5 Feline
6 Fearful
7 Segment
8 River in Ireland
9 Cal. abbr.
10 Soothing gels
11 List of candidates
12 — de foie gras
15 Bitter
18 Place often visited
23 Pub offering
24 Tiresome
25 Explosive sound
26 Melt together
27 In the twinkling
— eye
28 Charge for
service
29 Unopened flower
30 Liquor
31 Lake bird
32 Not aweather
33 "Indeed!"
36 Contend
37 One held captive
39 Old arcade
game featuring
space ostriches
41 "All About —"
42 Stormed
43 Supporter
44 Desire
45 Lawful
46 Nouveau —
47 Donkey's cry
48 Cumberbund
50 After-bath
garment
51 Cut short
52 — Christian
Andersen
54 Rodent
55 Dir. letters



By John Wilmes

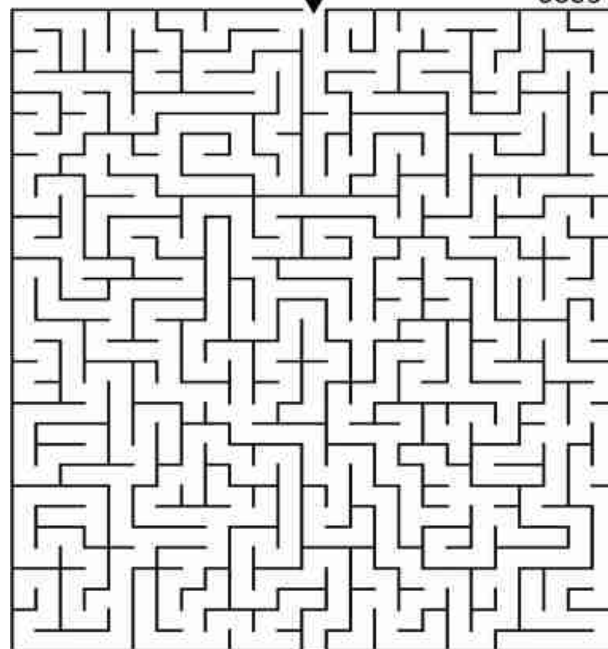


Wednesday's Solution

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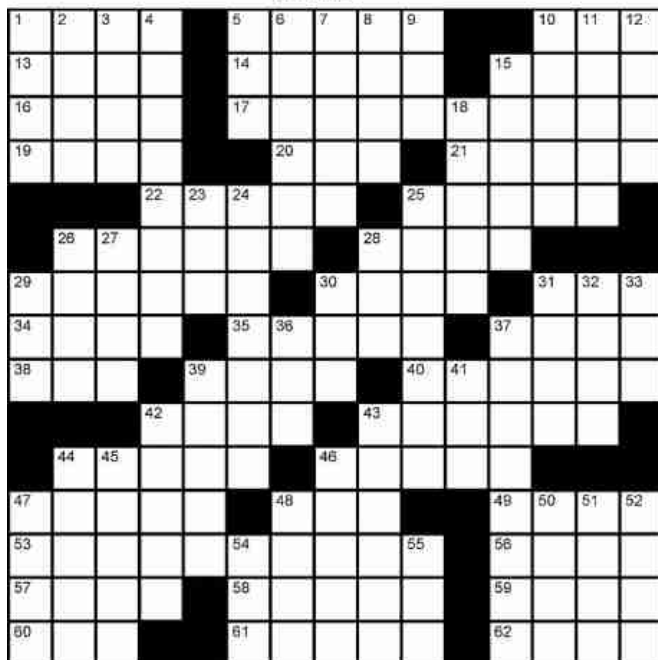
Minute Maze

6589



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WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

Seven Major League Baseball teams

□□□□□□

Four five-letter trees

□□□□□

Three fish starting with H

□□□

Seven-letter feline

□

Opposite of future

□

Answers to Wednesday's puzzle: CHEKOV SCOTTY MCCOY UHURA SPOCK
KIRK SULLY / TANGERINE ORANGE LEMON LIME / TOYOTA SUBARU
HONDA MAZDA / TOAD FROG / SOLO

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2/12

M L A V Y N B S D T M K
G E C N E A R I U J C S
N O T P G E N B R O B R
I P S S G E I K D C A E
R A A D B L L D E D H G
R R O S A H A S E E Q I
E D P H T H B C U B S T
H A S T R O S M A P L E

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID
OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE PRE-TRIP BUZZ

Solution: 11 letters

Y S N A C K S K R A M D N A L
S A D V E N T U R E M A P S T
H A D R E N A L P R I A Y O O
O S I I I M P L A N S E U S U
E I E R L V O I H S K T D R R
S V G G P O E T P C F N T E E
N A A U G O H O E I A H A H S
O C G I S T R H T L L E O T E
I A G D S T C T S O O L B A R
T T U E R E E I E O C C O E V
C I L A L R E K I P N A K W A
E O I B O E S A C T I U S S T
R N U A L A R M N I B A C H I
I O D G T N A R U A T S E R O
D E T I C X E X C U R S I O N

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2/12

Adventure, Airplane, Airport, Alarm, Beach, Boat, Cabin, Cash, Directions, Double Check, Drive, Excited, Excursion, Guide, Holiday, Island, Keys, Landmarks, Locks, Luggage, Maps, Motel, Outfit, Passport, Pillow, Plans, Pool, Reservation, Restaurant, Road, Shoes, Snacks, Suitcase, Tickets, Tour, Train, Vacation, Visa, Weather

UP & DOWN Words™

By David L. Hoyt
and Russell L. Hoyt

1. CREDIT
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____ CLOTHES

2/12

CLUES

1. Type of financial institution
2. British flag nickname
3. "School of Rock" star
4. Briny pizza topping
5. Extra-virgin _____
6. Task done at Jiffy Lube
7. Refresh your outfit

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WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Mogul Bezos's first name ends (1)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

2. Also include a tartan design (1)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

3. Tax on a Ford car rival (2)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. Deep ravine covering of compost (1)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

5. Traveling acting group's joyful cries (1)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

6. President Abe usin' his noodle (2)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

7. Golf course area flight of steps (2)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. JEFFERS 2. ADD PLAND 3. CHEVY LEVY 4. GULCH MUNCH
5. TROPPES WHOOPS 6. LINCOLN THINKIN 7. FAIRWAY STAIRWAY

2-12-26

ANSWERS

www.whatzit.com

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

day day eeeeeeeee

Daisy chain

SUDOKU X

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

2/12

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Level: Medium

Follow all of the rules of a classic Sudoku game -- no repeats within the same row, column or 3x3 grid -- but be careful. Each axis of the X of black squares that criss-crosses the puzzle is another no-repeat zone.

PREVIOUS
SOLUTION

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

2/11

KAKURO

		45	16			12	10	7		5	10	8	
	11			7		6			7				
	18				19				6				
6			3		6			12		28	8		
4			16					7				45	7
7				11				30		16			
	6		7					15					
					24						8		
	13				24						10		
	11				18								
8				6							13		
				3				12	6				24
14				6				9				15	
			16								11		
		7						12				17	
		10						23					
	4				17				4			14	
				10				10	15			3	
	7				15					16			
	24				24						4		

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

How to solve:

Kakuro is a crossword that uses numbers. The "clues" are in the small triangles. The answers contain the numbers 1 through 9.

The numbers in an answer must add up to the clue. However, no number can be duplicated in an answer.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

