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**Biden admin  
gave researchers  
\$267 MILLION  
to go after  
'misinformation'  
— some of  
which was true!**



President Biden and his administration team of "misinfo-maniacs" burned through a stunning \$267 million in taxpayer money to root out the sources and results of "misinformation" coming from the federal government, including bogus info on COVID-19 prevention.

**PAGES 4-5**

# SAUNDERS

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# Kim hits sweet spots

A show leopard in the wild. Kim Kardashian dons a sexy spotted set from her Dolce & Gabbana x Skims line on Instagram — part of a photo drop also featuring her sis Khloe. The limited edition Skims drop was such a hit with fans that its website crashed.



Kim Kardashian / Instagram

# SLEEP'S CHILL FACTOR

**AR-REST-ING:** A study found repeated, icy cryotherapy sessions helped participants sleep better.



Jacob Lund - stock.adobe.com

## Cryo snooze clues

By M.C. BROOKS

Intense cold can shock the body — but it might also be able to help you fall asleep and stay that way.

A new study from researchers at the University of Montreal and the University of Poitiers found that spending just five minutes in a frigid chamber cooled to a bone-chilling negative 130 degrees Fahrenheit might be the key to achieving deeper, more restful sleep.

In the cool experiment, 20 healthy young adults — nine women and 11 men, averaging around 23 years old — stripped down to their underwear, socks, Croc-style shoes and mittens to brave cryostimulation sessions for five consecutive days.

The results? "Slow-wave sleep, considered the most restorative phase of sleep, increased by an average of 7.3 minutes during the first two sleep cycles [following cryotherapy]," Olivier Dupuy, an associate professor at UdeM's School of Kinesiology and Physical Activity Sciences who served as a lead study author, said in a statement.

But it's not a one-and-done deal. The study, published in the December issue of the journal *Cryobiology*, found that just one frosty session wasn't enough to improve sleep, with benefits only appearing after five back-to-back chills.

Researchers also identified a

marked gender difference, with women seeming to enjoy a greater advantage from the icy than men.

While the study involved participants without sleep issues, researchers said cryostimulation could be particularly helpful for those struggling to get enough shut-eye.

In 2020, the latest year for which federal data is available, 14.5% of US adults had difficulty falling asleep most days or every day in the previous month, and 17.8% of adults had trouble staying asleep, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### Mood & recovery boost

Repeated cryotherapy sessions also had a positive effect on participants' psychological wellness, reducing anxiety and improving their overall mood, with women reaping more of those benefits as well.

There's also an upside for sports stars. "For elite athletes, it could help with recovery, while for the general population, it could help people with chronic inflammation or mild dementia when used in combination with physical exercise," said Dupuy.

The study was part of a larger effort to understand cryostimulation's effects on the body, which began earlier this year when researchers studied its use in athletes preparing for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

 OUTBREAK

# Clear proof of a gov't gone wrong

By POST EDITORIAL BOARD

**W**OW: The Biden administration blew more than \$126 million in 2021 alone on grants to “study” the spread of “misinformation” — much of which in fact was healthy skepticism of government-sponsored falsehoods.

As we’ve warned before, the entire “anti-disinformation” project boils down to progressive elites redefining their own viewpoints as objective truth — and repressing contrary views, including outright satire and even actual true facts that might lead people to the “wrong” conclusions.

The hypocrisy is particularly ripe, after Democrats such as Kamala Harris, Joe Biden and Andrew Cuomo (and their allied media) spent much of 2020 casting doubt on Operation Warp Speed, which developed the COVID vaccines in record time to allow the nation to fully reopen, and even said they “wouldn’t trust any Trump vaccine.”

Only to turn around (once Biden-Harris took power and claimed moral ownership of the jabs) and make false claims about the vaccines’ effectiveness — insisting, for example, that the vaxxed couldn’t spread the bug and even denying that natural immunity (from having fought it off) was as good as getting jabbed.

Not to mention all manner of utterly baseless claims about the effectiveness of masking. Or that “Saint” Tony Fauci eventually admitted that the whole “six feet of social distancing” rule was made up out of thin air.

Yet the Bidenites arrogantly sent out their grants for aca-

**THE  
POST  
SAYS:**

demics to study the spread of “misinformation” to the contrary on all these fronts.

Including \$2.3 million to the University of Pennsylvania to probe “COVID-19 misinformation exposure on social media among black and rural communities” to allow “precision public health messaging” on “health behaviors such as vaccination, mask wearing, and social distancing.”

That is: Help figure out how to get people to believe stuff that (America now knows) wasn’t actually true or even based on any kind of science at all.

All while the same “we know better” crowd was also suppressing any suggestion that COVID might’ve leaked from that Chinese lab — a theory that is now backed by the government’s best experts.

## Trust undermined

The result of all this has been to undermine popular trust in all public-health pronouncements, even those based on well-established science.

Every individual involved in pushing these “misinformation” efforts needs to be named, shamed and blacklisted from any future government service.

They claimed to be keeping people healthy, but wound up trying to quash or even crush anyone who disagreed with their party line.

In retrospect, many of the dissenters have proved correct, even as the “misinformation experts” are just licking their wounds and trying to figure out how they can be more successful the next time their friends are in power.

# ‘CENSOR’

By STEVEN NELSON  
and JOSH CHRISTENSON

WASHINGTON — The federal government spent up to \$267 million of your money to study and counteract “misinformation” since President Biden took office in January 2021 — as President-elect Donald Trump vows to bar official use of the term.

The funds doled out to universities, nonprofits and private companies spiked from \$2.2 million in 2020, the final full year of Trump’s first term, to a staggering \$126 million in 2021 before tapering off — even as leading US public-health officials were imposing mandates they later admitted had no scientific basis — the taxpayer-transparency group OpenTheBooks said in a report released Friday.

The findings were released by the group, which was founded by Republican budget hawks, as Trump’s Elon Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency looks for areas to trim wasteful spending, and after Trump pledged to ax the terms “misinformation” and “disinformation” from the federal lexicon.

OpenTheBooks does not account for the cost of in-house efforts by the Biden White House and executive branch agencies to fight purportedly incorrect speech, including by pressuring social-media companies to censor content.

## Free-speech ‘violation’

Proponents argue it is in the public’s interest to weed out incorrect claims — with Biden personally accusing social media companies of “killing people” by platforming posts critiquing the COVID-19 vaccine in 2021, as anti-“misinformation” spending surged.

Opponents of speech-policing argue it both violates the First Amendment and prevents vigorous debate and competing narratives that allow for a more full understanding of issues.

Critics also note much of what is initially deemed “misinformation” later turns out to gain broad evidentiary support, such as the theory that COVID-19 leaked from a Chinese lab that was doing US-funded “gain of function” research.

Another example is the fact that mandated masks, vaccination, social distancing and economic

# Biden WH spent \$267M vs. ‘misinfo’



**PARTY LINE:**  
President Biden pushed social media to censor theories about lab leaks in China and push back on Dr. Anthony Fauci’s (below) six-foot rule, which he later admitted had no evidentiary basis.



shutdowns were largely ineffective due to evolving COVID variants or significant side effects and unintended social consequences.

At the same time, the Biden administration was colluding with tech platforms to police Americans’ free speech online — leaning on Facebook, Twitter and other sites to yank even lighthearted or satirical posts about the pandemic.

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg issued a belated mea culpa in August 2024, telling House Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) in a letter that “senior Biden administration officials, including the White House, repeatedly pressured” his company to

wrongly “censor” COVID content. Some government diktats, such as the requirement that people remain six feet apart, had no specific evidentiary justification, former federal infectious-disease chief Dr. Anthony Fauci later admitted.

## Focus on COVID

More than two-thirds of the “misinformation” research grants flowed from the Department of Health and Human Service and focused primarily on COVID-19.

Other big spenders included the National Science Foundation (\$65 million), the State Department (\$12 million), the Pentagon

# MAKES NO SENSE



(\$2.9 million) and the Justice Department (\$1.7 million).

The OpenTheBooks report includes links to federal grant award documents that includes the term “misinformation” and found that major universities raked in millions, particularly by focusing on COVID-19-related issues.

“Federal spending records show at least \$127 million tax dollars funding anti-misinformation efforts directly related to COVID-19 for a variety of activities,” the report read, “from on-the-ground advocacy working to dispel vaccine misinformation, to scientific studies on how supposed ‘misinformation’ is spread online.”

The top identified recipient was the City University of New York, which received more than \$3.6 million, including nearly \$3.3 million from the Department of Health and Human Services for research on how people with mental health disorders can be steered against “misinformation.”

Trump announced after his Nov. 5 election victory that Musk would lead an extra-governmental effort to identify cost savings — and vowed to dismantle federal efforts to police alleged “misinformation” in his second term.

It’s unclear how much of the pending grant money could be clawed back.

**These are some examples of the \$267 million in grants that were given out by the Biden administration to various institutions to combat “misinformation,” as revealed in an audit released Friday by the taxpayer-transparency group OpenTheBooks.**

**\$5M**

George Washington University

The National Science Foundation funded researchers who focused on “the broad and rapid spread of misinformation and abuse and harassment directed at members of expert communities” as well as “misinformation-driven harassment campaigns [that] have particularly large impacts on those at the forefront of efforts to accurately inform the public, including journalists, scientists and public health officials.”

**\$14M**

University of Michigan

The American National Elections Study from the National Science Foundation gave money to researchers who focused on “the spread of misinformation, support for political violence, affective polarization, racial conflict, and threats to the legitimacy of our electoral institutions.” Also produced data on “the electoral consequences of news use and political advertising on social media.”

**\$2.2M**

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

To develop an algorithm to automatically detect “intent and belief attributes underlying COVID-19 misinformation.” The intent was to “develop computational infrastructure to mitigate the spread of that misinformation,” that is automatically censor anyone who disagrees.



**\$1.2M**

Guidehouse

FEMA paid the defense contractor for “misinformation, disinformation and malinformation analysis” between 2023 and 2024, with the grant expiring just as the agency faced Hurricanes Helene and Milton. The White House lashed out at critics of the federal response and accused them of spreading “misinformation.”

**\$3.6M**

City University of New York

Included \$3.3M from the Department of Health and Human Services to study how “online attitudinal inoculation” can use “narrative, values and emotion to strengthen resistance to misinformation” about COVID-19 vaccines and “increase vaccination” and \$328,000 from the National Science Foundation to study how alleged misinformation flows on social media.

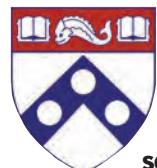
**\$2.3M**

University of Pennsylvania

The school’s Department of Health and Human Services was tasked with “investigating and identifying the heterogeneity in COVID-19 misinformation

exposure on social media among black and rural communities to inform precision public health messaging.” The reason?

“Misinformation contributes to confusion, distrust and distress around health behaviors



such as vaccination, mask wearing and social distancing.” Former federal infectious-disease chief Dr. Anthony Fauci later admitted social distancing had no scientific basis, and other studies found masks mostly worthless against the spread of COVID-19.

# Will Dem rep. challenge gov for re-elex?



**EMPIRE ALBATROSS:** Rep. Ritchie Torres is warning that Gov. Hochul's leadership threatens New York in the same way that Joe Biden's presidency threatened the United States — leaving the Empire State open to a potential GOP if she chooses to run again.

By VAUGHN GOLDEN

New York Rep. Ritchie Torres on Friday called Gov. Hochul the “new Joe Biden” — suggesting she shouldn’t run for re-election — in yet another not-so-subtle sign the Bronx Democrat is considering jumping into the race.

Torres, in a post on X, pointed to Hochul’s dismal favorability rating, which at one point this year dipped below that of President-elect Donald Trump in New York.

“Kathy Hochul is the new Joe Biden,” the congressman wrote. “She may be in denial about the depth of her vulnerabilities as a Democratic nominee.”

A Democratic incumbent who is less popular in New York than Donald Trump is in grave danger

of losing to a Republican in 2026 — an outcome not seen in 30 years,” Torres continued.

“Waiting until it’s too late gave us a Republican President in 2024 and could give us a Republican Governor in 2026,” he added. “Let’s avoid repeating history and avoid sleepwalking toward impending disaster and defeat.”

## Rap on ‘misgovernance’

Torres — a strong supporter of Israel since Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack — has been making inroads in recent months, especially with business interests.

During a Citizens Budget Commission event in Manhattan this week, he ripped New York’s “misgovernance” — leading political

insiders to believe he could be eyeing the Executive Mansion.

Sources have suggested in recent months that Hochul’s team is terrified of a primary challenge by Torres, who could court her supposed base of moderate Democrats.

A spokesperson for Hochul — who is up for re-election in 2026 — touted New York Democrats’ gains in the US House of Representatives during the November election.

“Governor Hochul is proud to have led New York Democrats in a successful election cycle, giving Congressman Torres four new Democratic colleagues in Congress,” the rep said in a statement. “The governor remains focused on delivering results for New Yorkers, from driving down crime to lowering costs for working families.”

State Democratic Committee Chairman Jay Jacobs, a close ally of Hochul, recently defended the governor during an interview on WCNY’s Capitol Pressroom.

“No, I don’t see that at all,” Jacobs said asked whether Democrats should look for a new standard-bearer in 2026.

Jacobs said he would be “surprised” to see a serious primary challenge, but in the same breath said Democrats are vulnerable to Republicans.

“In this time, when I think we have to be more concerned with the potential of a Republican becoming governor, because you look at the state and some of the shifts, I think it’s time for Democrats to come together and rally around this governor,” Jacobs said.



## Affairs fair and legal in NY law

It's a good day to be a Don Juan.

Adultery, a crime of the heart, is no longer a crime in the state of New York.

Gov. Hochul signed a bill Friday repealing the more-than-a-century-old law that classified cheating as a class B misdemeanor and landed debauchers behind bars for up to 90 days.

“While I’ve been fortunate to share a loving married life with my husband for 40 years — making it somewhat ironic for me to sign a bill decriminalizing adultery — I know that people often have complex relationships,” the governor said in a statement.

“These matters should clearly be handled by these individuals and not our criminal justice system. Let’s take this silly, outdated statute off the books, once and for all.”

Hochul is New York’s first happily married governor in roughly two decades. The marriages of each of her three immediate predecessors — David Paterson, Eliot Spitzer and Andrew Cuomo — were all plagued with extramarital affairs.

Only 16 states now consider adultery a crime.

Katherine Donlevy and Vaughn Golden

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## LOTTERY

### NEW YORK

- Midday Nos. Fri.: **620**
- Midday Win-4 Fri.: **4524**
- Midday Take-5 Fri.: **4, 24, 28, 31, 36**
- Evening Nos. Fri.: **141**
- Evening Win-4 Fri.: **4465**
- Evening Take-5 Fri.: **4, 9, 16, 33, 38**
- Pick-10 Fri.: **7, 9, 11, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 29, 34, 37, 38, 45, 50, 51, 52, 58, 71**
- Cash-4-Life Fri.: **4, 5, 12, 15, 37**; Cash Ball: **1**

### Mega Millions Fri.: **13, 20, 26, 32, 65**; Mega Ball: **2**; Megaplier: **x2**

### NEW JERSEY

- Pick-3 Fri.: **319**; Fireball: **1**
- Pick-4 Fri.: **3904**; Fireball: **1**
- Cash-5 Xtra Fri.: **11, 18, 27, 43, 45**; Xtra: **2**

### CONNECTICUT

- Play-3 Fri.: **840**; Wild: **6**
- Play-4 Fri.: **1727**; Wild: **8**
- Cash-5 Fri.: **6, 7, 8, 25, 33**
- Lucky for Life Fri.: **17, 31, 33, 38, 46**; Lucky Ball: **17**

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# Congest toll gets fed OK

Congestion pricing is moving full speed ahead.

The Federal Highway Administration OK'd the final bureaucratic hurdle Thursday for the revamped program to collect \$9 tolls for cars entering Manhattan below 60th Street starting Jan. 5.

"Today is the moment we've been waiting for," crowed Janno Lieber, the MTA's chair, during a celebratory news conference. "Congestion pricing says we are not going to keep putting our head in the sand and pretend that we don't have a limited amount of room on our streets and with it improve our transit."

The federal agreement gives the MTA permission to collect congestion tolls under the feds' value pricing pilot program, and approves the pricing phase-in unveiled last week by Gov. Hochul.

Hochul's plan was approved this week by MTA board members — after she first placed it on a months-long "pause" — with a lower base toll, from \$15 to \$9, at least to start. Tolls will increase to \$12 in 2028 before reaching \$15 by 2031.

But the toll faces lawsuits, opposition from many local lawmakers and President-elect Donald Trump's promise to "TERMINATE" it.

Vaughn Golden, Craig McCarthy, Matt Troutman

## Fetal vitamin toxic metals

Some prenatal vitamins contain a "concerning" amount of toxic heavy metals, while others don't have key nutrients for a healthy pregnancy, a study finds.

Researchers from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus tested 47 prenatal vitamins.

Seven had arsenic amounts above the purity limits set by the US Pharmacopeia, two had too much lead and 13 had too much cadmium. Others lacked the amount of choline and iodine listed on their labels.

The findings were published this week in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. Tracy Swartz

# 'Hush' judge may scrap sentencing

By BEN KOCHMAN

A Manhattan judge Friday postponed Donald Trump's sentencing on his conviction in his "hush money" case — and said he'll weigh scrapping the case entirely in light of Trump's re-election.

Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan said he'll consider claims from Trump's lawyers that pressing on with such a case involving a president-elect would interfere with the "orderly transition of executive power" and be "uniquely destabilizing" to the country.

The decision to pause Trump's sentencing makes it overwhelmingly likely that the president-elect will re-enter the White House largely unscathed by any of the four criminal cases that had threatened to derail his campaign or even put him behind bars.

Merchan ordered Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg and Trump's lawyers to file their arguments in December on whether the case should be tossed before the court issues its decision.

Trump had initially been set to be sentenced July 10, but the US Supreme Court threw a wrench into those plans by ruling that presidents cannot be prosecuted for "official acts" taken in office.

Bragg's office has argued that the ruling had "no bearing" on the hush-money case because covering



up a payment to a porn star while in the Oval Office would not fall into the category of a presidential "official act."

At the time, Merchan pushed the sentencing to Sept. 18 to give both sides time to hash the issue out.

Merchan later moved the sentencing to November, citing what he called "unwarranted" claims that his decision could be based on politics, rather than the law, so close to the election.

### Avoiding four cases

The new sentencing delay will allow both sides to continue to argue whether the case should be tossed altogether, now that Trump is returning to the White House, Merchan said.

The legal back-and-forth follows

a two-year court saga that reached a crescendo with the theatrical spectacle of Trump, 78, spending six weeks inside a dingy Manhattan courtroom listening to salacious testimony from witnesses such as porn star Stormy Daniels, who testified to having sex with him in 2006.

Jurors saw evidence that Trump worked with his former fixer Michael Cohen and the National Enquirer magazine to buy up the rights to, and bury, the damaging information about him before the 2016 presidential race.

The tawdry tales included Daniels' allegations of a tryst and Playboy Playmate Karen McDougal's story about a months-long affair with Trump — both while he was married to wife Melania.

"What do we got to pay for this?

One-fifty?" Trump told Cohen in a secret recording, appearing to reference a \$150,000 payoff to McDougal.

The guilty verdict against Trump in May branded him a convicted felon in the final months of his presidential campaign — but the president-elect used it as a rallying cry for his supporters, insisting that the case was a "witch hunt" orchestrated against him by Democrats.

His campaign said it generated a "record-shattering" \$34.8 million in small-dollar donations in the hours after jurors found Trump guilty.

Meanwhile, Trump's three other criminal cases are either in limbo or winding down.

Federal cases in Washington, DC, and Florida — where Trump was charged with plotting to overthrow the 2020 election results and with hoarding classified files at his Mar-a-Lago estate, respectively — are expected to be rolled back on Day 1 of his presidency, if not before.

A state case in Georgia over Trump's alleged bid to overturn the election results, meanwhile, is nowhere near a trial date after being derailed by a controversy over a local prosecutor hiring a man she was romantically involved with to lead the case.

Trump spokesman Steven Cheung called Friday's development a "decisive win" for the president-elect, and claimed the hush-money case — was a "hoax."



**NEVER MIND:** Judge Juan Merchan (top left) paused sentencing in Manhattan DA Alan Bragg's (top right) hush-money case vs. now-President-elect Donald Trump (in court in May).

By JOSH CHRISTENSON



## Ernst runs DOGE fight in Senate

She's about to become the top watchdog in the Senate.

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), 54, will take charge of the newly formed Senate DOGE Caucus and collaborate with tech titan Elon Musk and biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy to "cut pork" in the federal government.

"Iowans elected me with a mandate to cut Washington's pork and make 'em squeal! From billion-dollar boondoggles to welfare for politicians and trillion-dollar slush funds, my decade-long investigations have exposed levels of abuse that are almost too insane to believe," Ernst (above) told The Post.

"The Senate DOGE Caucus is ready to carry out critical oversight in Congress and use our legislative force to fight against the entrenched bureaucracy, trim the fat and get Washington back to work for Americans."

Ernst met with Ramaswamy on Thursday evening and discussed plans she had to "rein in the bureaucratic state." During her run for Senate in 2014, Ernst made a name for herself with an ad recounting how she "grew up castrating hogs on an Iowa farm" and declared that "Washington's full of big spenders — let's make 'em squeal!"

Ryan King

## Palin in DC tease

A smiling Sarah Palin posted a cryptic photo at the Capitol — teasing a possible announcement as her followers call for the "Mother of MAGA" to have a place in President-elect Donald Trump's administration.

The grinning ex-governor of Alaska is seen in workout gear and pink sneakers with the Capitol behind her. She posted it with the mysterious caption "11/24," not explaining why she included Sunday's date.

Zoe Hussain

# SLEW OF PICKS FILL UP CABINET

By VICTOR NAVA

President-elect Donald Trump kept his foot on the gas Friday night, announcing a flurry of Cabinet and other top administration picks — including hedge-fund mogul **Scott Bessent** as the next Treasury secretary and **Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer** (R-Ore.) to serve as his secretary of labor.

Trump's choice of Bessent, the 62-year-old founder of Key Square Group, ended a rough-and-tumble race to run the Treasury Department that saw fierce jockeying among power players across Wall Street.

"Scott is widely respected as one of the world's foremost international investors and geopolitical and economic strategists," the president-elect said of this Treasury pick.

Bessent (bottom) "got the thumbs up" late Thursday during a meeting with Trump, 78, at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Fla., one source close to the situation told The Post.

"Scott's story is that of the American dream," Trump said Friday, noting that Bessent "has long been a strong advocate of the America first agenda."

Chavez-DeRemer was propped up by the powerful Teamsters Union and GOP leadership on the hill — both of whom pushed for her to receive the Labor post, Politico reported earlier in the week.

"Lori has worked tirelessly with both business and labor to build America's workforce and support the hardworking men and women of America," Trump said in his announcement.

"I look forward to working with her to create tremendous opportunity for America worker, to expand training and apprenticeships, to grow wages



and improve working conditions, to bring back our manufacturing jobs," he added.

Chavez-DeRemer (left), 56, served one term in Congress, losing her reelection bid on Election Day to Democrat Janelle Bynum.

Other picks from Trump's busy Friday include:

Former NFL player **Scott Turner** (left) to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development. "Scott is an NFL veteran, who, during my first term, served as



the first executive director of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council (WHORC), helping to lead an unprecedented effort that transformed our country's most distressed communities," Trump said in his announcement.

Turner played in the NFL for nine seasons before serving in the Texas House of Representatives from 2013 to 2017.

**Russell Vought** (right) to serve as director of the White House Office of Management and Budget. "I am very pleased to nominate Russell



Thurlow Vought, from the great state of Virginia, as the director of the United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB)," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Vought, 48, held the same post during part of Trump's first term in the White House, and the 45th president praised his performance.

**Dr. Marty Makary**, a professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, to serve as the

commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Trump said that Makary will work under Health and Human Services secretary-designate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to "properly evaluate harmful chemicals poisoning our nation's food supply and drugs and biologics being given to our nation's youth, so that we can finally address the childhood chronic disease epidemic."

Former Congressman Dr. **Dave Weldon** (left) as director for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "The current health of America is critical, and CDC will play a big role in helping to ensure Americans have the tools and resources they need to understand the underlying causes of disease, and the solutions to cure these diseases," Trump said in his announcement.

**Dr. Janette Nesheiwat**, a Fox News contributor, to be surgeon general. The president-elect lauded Nesheiwat as "a fierce advocate and strong communicator for preventive medicine and public health."

Former Trump White House adviser **Sebastian Gorka** was named deputy assistant to the president and senior director for counterterrorism.

Gorka (left), 54, was a White House strategist during Trump's first term but was forced out of the job in August 2017, just seven months after Inauguration Day.

"Since 2015, Dr. Gorka has been a tireless advocate for the America first agenda and the MAGA movement," the president-elect wrote.

**Alex Wong** was picked to be assistant to the president and principal deputy national security adviser. Wong worked with Trump during his first term, where he "helped negotiate my summit with North Korean Leader, Kim Jong-un," the president-elect said Friday.



Senate Democrats are hustling to confirm far-left federal judges before the end of the 118th Congress next month, even after making a "handshake agreement" with Republicans to relinquish four appeals court appointments to President-elect Donald Trump.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) acknowledged this week that lame-duck President Biden's four nominees didn't have a path to confirmation in the closely divided chamber — and that striking the deal with the GOP boosted the chances of adding to the more than 220 jurists confirmed to the federal bench since Biden took office in January 2021.

"The trade was four circuit nominees — all lacking the votes to get confirmed — for more than triple the number of additional judges moving forward," a Schumer spokesperson said in a statement.

A Senate Republican aide told The Post that the settlement was part of "speeding the process" for as many as 25 judges in Democrat-controlled states to be confirmed before the end of the year.

While not setting any records, the number of Biden appointees joining the federal judiciary is rapidly approaching the 245 confirmed under Trump, 78 — all of whom will serve for as long as they wish, barring impeachment and removal.

## Filing cloture

Schumer has already filed cloture on other controversial picks who were opposed by Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee — including California district judge nominee Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, who passed the first procedural hurdle with a 50-49 vote.

Dixon, who serves as a California state bar court judge, was flagged for her prior activism as national director of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where she called voter ID laws "modern-day poll taxes" and pushed for illegal immigrants to receive in-state tuition.

Schumer also moved ahead with the nominations of Brian Murphy, who was picked to be a district judge in Massachusetts, and Sparkle Sooknanan, tapped by Biden for a district judgeship in the nation's capital.

Both nominations will come up for a floor vote when the Senate comes back from its Thanksgiving recess in early December.

As a board member of the Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Murphy signed an open letter in June 2022 calling for the elimination of all arrests "for fraught and unnecessary police encounters involving possessory offenses, assault and



**LAST GASP:** Outgoing Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) hopes to confirm even more far-left judges to lifetime appointments before Republicans take control of the country in January.

# SCHU'S RACE TO STUFF COURTS BLUE

## New-judge rush after deal with GOP

battery, breaking and entering, and similar offenses." Murphy did not disclose the letter to the committee — but Senate Republican staffers revealed his stance, along with others, in a questionnaire.

"I do not recall any discussion about this letter, nor do I recall reading it," he admitted in the questionnaire. "I do not know what led to the issuance of this letter nor what basis was relied upon for its factual assertions."

### Shamed on gender ID

Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.), a Judiciary panel member known for his colorful comments and pointed questions, has opposed many nominees by calling attention to their past left-wing activi-

ism and overturned rulings.

During a recent hearing, Kennedy made California district judge nominee Noel Wise squirm by reading out a Time article she authored about gender identity.

"Sex has countless — countless — natural permutations," the senator recited, before asking: "Did I read that correctly?"

"I believe that is consistent with medical science," responded Wise, who is also up for a final confirmation vote after Thanksgiving when the Senate reconvenes.

It's unclear whether independent Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia or Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona — both of whom are retiring at the end of this Congress — will oppose the judges in a final floor vote.

This week, US Magistrate Judge Embry Kidd — who failed to inform senators about lenient sentences he gave to child-sex offenders that were later reversed — was confirmed by a 49-45 vote to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, which covers Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

### Lifetime appointment

Kidd's confirmation came about only because of five Republican absences — including Vice President-elect and Sen. J.D. Vance (R-Ohio) — and despite Manchin voting against the nomination.

"This leftist judge would have been voted down and the seat on the important 11th circuit would have been filled by Donald Trump

next year had Republicans showed up," raged Florida GOP Gov. Ron DeSantis on X. "Now, the leftist judge will have a lifetime appointment and the people of FL, AL and GA will suffer the consequences."

The GOP aide explained that before the deal was struck on confirming judges, "it was a game of chicken" to see "who's showing up any particular day" — with Vice President Kamala Harris unable to cast tie-breaking votes this week due to her vacationing in Hawaii.

"The Democrats are trying to stack the Courts with Radical Left Judges on their way out the door," Trump raged Wednesday on Truth Social. "Republican Senators need to Show Up and Hold the Line — No more Judges confirmed before Inauguration Day!"



**Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon** — US district judge for the Central District of California. Confirmation vote scheduled after Thanksgiving recess.

As director of a left-wing legal group, Dixon advocated for illegal immigrants to receive in-state tuition from Golden State educational institutions.



**Brian Murphy** — US district judge for the District of Massachusetts. Confirmation vote scheduled after Thanksgiving recess.

As a board member of a Bay State criminal-defense attorneys group, Murphy signed an open letter in June 2022 calling for an end to arrests for assault, breaking and entering, battery and other offenses during "fraught and unnecessary police encounters."



**Embry Kidd** — US magistrate judge for 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. Confirmed Monday by 49-45 Senate vote, with five Republicans absent.

Kidd failed to inform senators about lenient sentences he gave to child-sex offenders that were later reversed by higher courts, including the appeals panel on which he will now serve.

# \$70K so far for fallen cop's scholarship

# Spirit of service to live on

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

A scholarship honoring slain NYPD Detective Jonathan Diller raised a staggering \$70,000 at its first official fundraiser Wednesday — and the steady stream of donations is far from slowing down.

As many as 500 loved ones, former law-enforcement veterans and generous partiers packed into the fallen cop's favorite watering hole in Wantagh, LI, in an outpouring of support for the new fund that his grieving widow described as "meaningful and impactful."

"What happened to Jonathan is horrible, and it shows you the bad in the world. But all the support and love has shown me all the good in the world and how much love people have in their hearts," Diller's wife, Stephanie, said at the fundraiser.

The event at Mulcahy's Pub & Concert Hall was far from somber. Loved ones, former classmates and law-enforcement veterans focused on the legacy Diller left behind, rather than his tragic death at the hands of career criminals earlier this year.

## **'Memory perpetuity'**

The three-year department veteran was remembered as a dedicated student during his time at St. Mary's HS, as well as a standout athlete and team player who displayed selflessness at a young age — and was long set on taking the path to serve in law enforcement.

In honor of his memory, the Detective Jonathan Diller Scholarship Fund will benefit students



**SCHOOL PRIDE:** At the fundraiser for a scholarship at his high school to honor slain NYPD Detective Jonathan Diller (above right and below), his wife, Stephanie, marveled at the "support and love."

at his alma mater who exhibit the same academic and athletic drive.

"It was high energy. Everybody was happy to be there," Larry Weinberger, who organized the fundraiser, told The Post of the event. "It was a celebration of life, Jonathan's life — everybody seemed to get behind knowing that it would create this memory perpetuity."

Organizers expect to eventually reap \$100,000 for the scholarship fund — an "aggressive goal" that Weinberger said he expects to reach within the next few days.



Hundreds of donors who were unable to attend the event at Mulcahy's have been loyally funneling cash into the digital fundraiser.

The outpouring means more than one student at Diller's alma mater could benefit from the annual scholarship. A year at the Manhasset, LI, Catholic school costs nearly \$13,860.

The event itself was such a smash that Weinberger is considering hosting it annually.

"A celebration of Jonathan's life on an annual basis would be a beautiful thing," he said.



# New water 'toxin' ID'd

Researchers identified a previously unknown, potentially toxic chemical in the treated water consumed by 113 million Americans.

Chloronitramide anion is a byproduct of the decomposition of chloramine, which is used by treatment plants to disinfect drinking water and kill diseases like

# 9/11 Bravest chaplain honored

When the smoke cleared, he'd touched thousands of lives.

A heroic firehouse chaplain who died of 9/11-related pancreatic cancer was honored with a plaque at a heartfelt ceremony in Brooklyn on Friday — where about 100 pals recalled his uniquely funny brand of "spiritual guidance."

FDNY friends praised Monsignor John Delendick of Ladder 170 in Canarsie — who buried hundreds of fallen firefighters over nearly three decades — for channeling humor to help them through life's darkest moments.

"When my dad had a serious stroke, he was there," Fire Deputy Commissioner Mark Guerra said at the packed ceremony. "When he passed away, Monsignor was there to say the funeral Mass."

"He could poke a little fun at himself, but he touched people in a way that was so special and so, so personal," he added as he choked up.

"That's why I love him so much. I miss him every day."

Delendick, who joined the FDNY as a chaplain in May 1996, died on Nov. 23, 2023, after battling cancer linked to the World Trade Center rescue on 9/11. He had officiated countless funerals of firefighters who died of 9/11-related illnesses.

On Friday, a gleaming plaque in his honor was unveiled. It reads: "[He] bravely served this department through his spiritual guidance and compassion."

Desheania Andrews and Natalie O'Neill

# 'Slutty gangsta' shot by cop

A career criminal who was freed without bail on gun charges last summer was shot by police in The Bronx Friday, according to law enforcement sources.

The reputed member of the Slutty Gang was wounded at 755 White Plains Road in Clau-

son Point shortly after 3 p.m. when cops responded to a dispute over a firearm, sources told The Post.

The perpetrator, whose name has not been released, was struck in the left leg and taken to Jacobi Hospital, where his wounds were

described as serious.

Officers were not injured in the shooting, though one was sent to the hospital with tinnitus.

The suspect has four prior arrests, including one in August for toting a loaded revolver in Washington

Heights. Despite his past, he was freed the following month without posting bail. The perpetrator was also the victim in a January 2023 shooting, sources said.

The investigation is ongoing. Joe Marino and Katherine Donlevy

cholera and typhoid fever.

Researchers reported in the journal Science that they detected the "mystery" anion in 40 drinking water samples from 10 US systems that use chloramines. They could not determine links to adverse health risks but said there's "good reason to investigate the toxicity." Tracy Swartz

It's a red-leather day (with some checkered embellishments and stars thrown in) for shapely Paris Hilton as she laps the fashion field at the starting flag for the Las Vegas Formula 1 Grand Prix race weekend. The sexy queen of the Sin City spotlight revved up F1 fans as well as paparazzi as she took a star turn in the backstretch for devotees.

## Racy Paris in fast lane



# MARRY TO LIVE LONGER

Well, men at least

By ADRIANA DIAZ

Smash the age-riarchy.

Men who get married age slower than those who do not — but the same cannot necessarily be said for women, a new study showed.

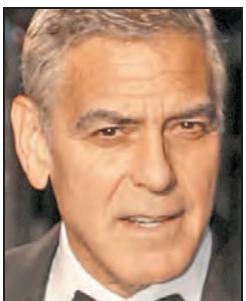
The research, recently published in the journal International Social Work, took a look at how tying the knot impacted the process of growing old — revealing profound inequalities.

Experts tracked the health and well-being of adults aged 45 to 85 over a period of 20 years to understand how their marital status impacted their health — looking at a list of markers to determine whether or not each participant had aged "successfully."

### And don't divorce

Physical health, mental health, social wellness and self-perception related to age were all considered when making their determination.

Overall, the study showed, married men aged more successfully than their never-married peers. But that's only if they stay married — separation, divorce and the



**'DO' THEY?** A study revealed married men, like George Clooney, live longer than singles.

death of a spouse were likely to have a negative impact.

Married women, on the other hand, did not age much differently than their female peers who never wed, the findings revealed.

Those who did get hitched and then un-hitched were shown to be at a disadvantage over their married and single friends, however.

This may be linked to the idea that women enjoy flying solo a whole lot more than men. A study recently published in Social Psychological and Personality Science found that women were happier being on their own, less likely to want a significant other, more sexually satisfied and more content overall.

Experts said this is because women are more likely to have supportive platonic relationships to fall back on and because romantic relationships are less beneficial for them because they're more likely to take on a larger share of household duties and have their sexual pleasure undervalued. But for both men and women, the stability of a marriage is more influential for a person's health than just having a ring on their finger.

## A \$90M royal coronation

King Charles III and Queen Camilla's coronation ceremony last year cost taxpayers more than \$90 million, a new government report revealed.

The extravagant spectacle crowning the new British monarch on May 6, 2023, was broadcast to millions of viewers across the globe as thousands of Brits lined the streets.

Roughly 100 world leaders, for-

ign leaders and celebrities watched the grand event in person at London's Westminster Abbey for a not-so-small sum of \$63.6 million, according to the annual report published by the government's culture department Thursday.

Another \$27.3 million was spent on added security measures and policing, the report shows.

Allie Griffin, Wires

# BORDER CRISIS



## Texas shares ranch for deport efforts

**DESPERATE MARCH:** Migrants in Mexican caravan rush to reach the US border Thursday before President-elect Donald Trump shuts it down.

By JENNIE TAER

The state of Texas has offered up a 1,400-acre ranch along its border with Mexico to assist the incoming Trump administration with a mass deportation effort.

Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham told The Post that the Lone Star State is offering up the site — a little over 2 square miles, which is reportedly for related new detention centers — because it is “looking to be a good partner” in ensuring “that these violent criminals that are hurting our sons and daughters that are here illegally are off our soil.”

“Texas is truly a place of free-

dom and justice,” Buckingham said. “And I want these criminals who are hurting our sons and daughters off of our soil.”

“I don’t know how you look in the eyes of a parent when you’ve had someone detained multiple times under suspicion for the same crimes, and yet you keep releasing them so they can keep hurting people. So we’re going to stand firm and protect our children,” she said.

Texas purchased the ranch, which is situated in the Rio Grande Valley, last month after its previous owner refused to allow the state to build part of its border wall there.

While on the campaign trail,

Trump said he intended to deport “nearly 20 million” illegal immigrants he says are currently in the US — and the ranch could be used to house detention centers for people awaiting deportation, Buckingham told Fox News.

### Criminals first

Trump’s “border czar” pick Tom Homan says the incoming administration will prioritize deporting criminal illegal migrants. Homan recently told The Post that the new White House will use the US military for “non-enforcement” duties in the effort.

“The more non-enforcement

work [the Department of Defense] can do releases more enforcement officers on the street to look for the bad guys,” Homan said.

Homan told Fox News host Laura Ingraham that the Trump administration “absolutely will” use the land offered up by Texas.

In anticipation of a surge of migrants coming before Inauguration Day in January, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott also is extending his floating buoy barrier in the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass.

While the latest expected immigration surge has not yet materialized, a new caravan of at least 1,500 migrants is on its way in Mexico.



**REP. NANCY MACE**  
Women-only bathroom bid.

## Mace on protester ‘phallusy’

Rep. Nancy Mace fired back at a transgender activist who was thrown out of a tech conference for protesting her bathroom bill — calling the agitator a “raging lunatic, pretending to be female.”

The South Carolina Republican shared footage on Thursday of Evan Greer standing with an LGBTQ flag and interrupting her appearance at Georgetown University’s “Summit on the Future of the Internet” in anger at her bill preventing transgender women from using the female-only facilities on Capitol Hill.

While being led out by security, Greer shouted: “We’ve had dozens of trans people die this year because of the hate and lies you’re spreading.”

Mace remained calm, before delivering an acerbic put-down of the protester.

“God loves him, I love him — but his penis isn’t gonna be in my bathroom,” Mace said, sharing a similar message in her caption along with the video. *Patrick Reilly*

## Ala. executes vile ’94 slayer

An Alabama death row inmate was executed Thursday evening by nitrogen gas — after a Tex-Mex-style last meal and a profane rant directed at the execution staff.

Carey Dale Grayson had been on death row for 28 years for the 1994 murder and mutilation of hitchhiker Vickie Lynn Debleux.

A mic was brought up to Grayson for his final words.

“For you, you need to f—k off,” he said, pointing a middle finger, *AL.com* reported.

He was pronounced dead at 6:33 p.m.

*Nicholas McEntyre, Wires*

## Denver Dem vows to shield migrants

Denver’s mayor has vowed to shield migrants in his sanctuary city from mass deportation by using local cops and 50,000 residents “stationed at the county line” — calling it a “Tiananmen Square moment.”

“More than us having [federal agents] stationed at the county line to keep them out, you would have 50,000 Denverites there,” Democratic Mayor Mike

Johnston recently told the outlet Denverite — after President-elect Donald Trump vowed to undertake mass deportations of illegal migrants across the US.

“It’s like the Tiananmen Square moment . . . right?” said Johnston (pictured), referring to the famous caught-on-video showdown between a Chinese student and government tank in Tiananmen Square

in China during the 1989 rebellion there.

“You’d have every one of those Highland moms who came out for the migrants. And you do not want to mess with them,” the mayor said of Denver residents apparently prepared to go to the mat against the federal government.

Roughly 40,000

migrants have flocked to the Mile High City since December 2022, the largest number of new arrivals per capita across the nation. With that influx came a surge in migrant

crime tied to the

Venezuelan prison gang Tren de Aragua.

The criminals have been terrorizing Denver and its nearby suburb of Aurora, where the gang has taken over apartment complexes and engaged in vicious incidents.

Aurora City Councilwoman Danielle Jurinsky (R) told The Post that Johnston’s plan “will just further show how unproductive he is.” *Jennie Taer*



# Ukr. hits NoKo general

A senior North Korean general was wounded by a Ukrainian military strike in Russia, according to Western officials — the Hermit Kingdom's first high-ranking casualty in the war.

The unidentified general was wounded in Russia's Kursk region, officials told The Wall Street Journal.

It's not exactly clear how or when he was wounded.

Some 10,000 North Korean troops have been deployed to the front in Kursk, where Russia has been suffering heavy losses while forcing back Ukrainian troops who launched a massive offensive there.

North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un could deploy as many as 100,000 troops to bolster Russian President Vladimir Putin's fighting force by up to 20%.

Western officials estimate 700,000 Russian troops have been killed or wounded since the war began in February 2022.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said last month that the North Korean soldiers are "fair game and fair targets" for Ukrainian forces.

The North Korean troops' arrival prompted President Biden to permit Ukraine to use long-range ATACMS to strike deeper into Russia.

Patrick Reilly

## Cartel boss in-law busted

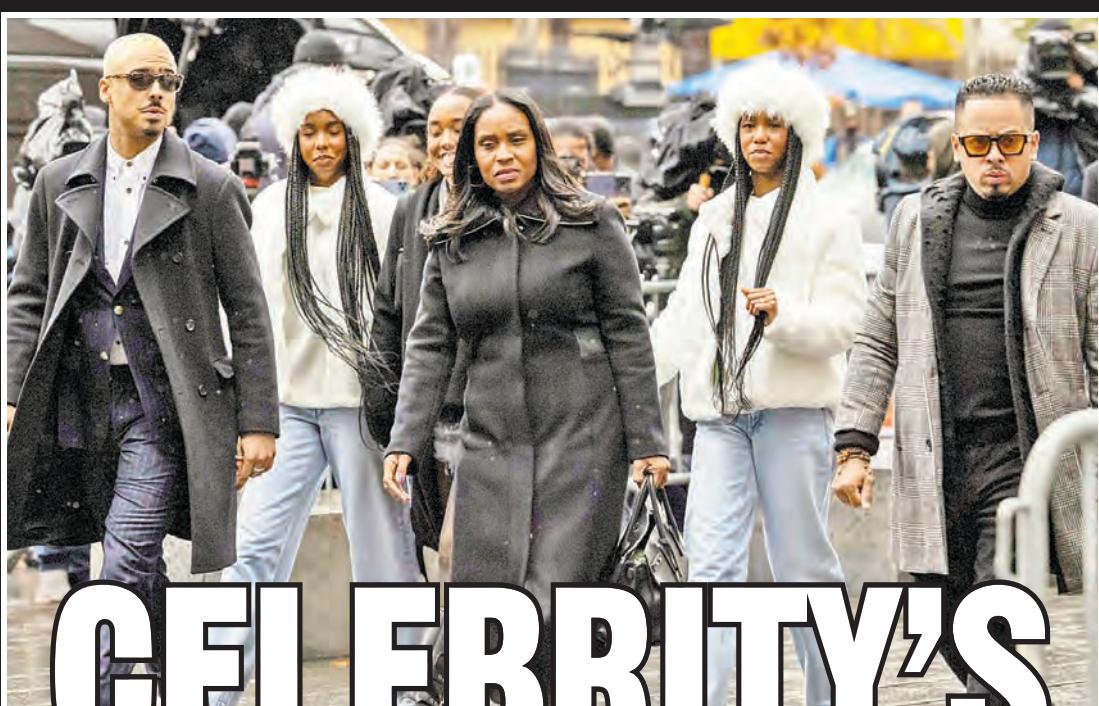
The son-in-law of a powerful cartel boss has been arrested in California — after prosecutors say he faked his own death to evade Mexican authorities and "live a life of luxury."

Cristian Fernando Gutierrez-Ochoa, 37, was bagged Tuesday in Riverside, where he was living in a home paid for by the Cártel de Jalisco Nueva Generación, the Justice Department said Thursday.

Working for his wife's dad, CJNG boss Nemesio "El Mencho" Oseguera Cervantes, he oversaw the distribution of tons of drugs "all destined for the United States," the DOJ said.

Alex Oliveira

# 'Threat' by att'y for Diddy accusers



AP

**LEGAL BATTLE:** Sean "Diddy" Combs at a Manhattan court Friday blew kisses to family members (right), including twin daughters Jesse and D'Lila Combs (back).

By NATALIE O'NEILL

A mystery celebrity is suing the lawyer representing Sean "Diddy" Combs' sexual assault accusers — claiming the high-powered Texas attorney tried to extort him with threats of outing him as a violent "freak off" accomplice, according to a new lawsuit.

The Los Angeles-based star, identified only as "John Doe," alleges that Tony Buzbee — who represents 120 of Combs' alleged victims — demanded big bucks in exchange for keeping the celebrity's name out of damning court papers, according to the suit.

"[Buzbee] shamelessly attempted to extort exorbitant sums from him or else publicly file wildly false horrific allegations against him," stated the lawsuit filed in LA Superior Court.

The celebrity alleges Buzbee sent a demand letter in October that "threatened to unleash entirely fabricated and salacious allegations of sexual assault," said the suit, obtained by Newsweek.

Those purported false allegations against the celebrity — a "friend" of the disgraced music mogul who has attended star-studded events with him — in-

# CELEBRITY'S 'EXTORT' SUIT

clude "multiple instances of rape of a minor, both male and female," according to the court papers.

"These baseless accusations are nothing more than a weapon in a calculated plot to destroy [the star's] high-profile reputation for profit, despite the complete absence of any factual basis for such claims," the lawsuit states.

### Without legal merit

Buzbee, of Houston, denied the accusation, saying he "won't allow the powerful and their high-dollar lawyers to intimidate or silence sexual assault survivors."

"The case filed against my firm is not only without legal merit, it

is laughable," he wrote in an Instagram post on Tuesday.

"We sent a standard demand letter to a New York lawyer that we know represents an alleged perpetrator and potential defendant. The letters were sent seeking a confidential mediation in lieu of filing a lawsuit," he wrote.

"No amount of money was included in the demand letters. No threats were made."

Combs was arrested in New York in September and charged with sex trafficking, racketeering and transportation to engage in prostitution at his allegedly drug-fueled "freak offs."

Combs' alleged sexual abuse of women included forcing them to

engage in frequent, dayslong sexual activity with male prostitutes, some of whom were "transported over state lines," according to Manhattan federal prosecutors.

He also stands accused of raping a 10-year-old and 17-year-old boy in a horrifying attack, according to a Manhattan lawsuit.

No other stars have been mentioned by name in the more than two dozen civil lawsuits filed by Buzbee on behalf of Combs' alleged victims.

Combs has pleaded not guilty and repeatedly denied wrongdoing.

### More Diddy / Page Six

## Combs' kisses for kin in courtroom

Sean "Diddy" Combs blew kisses to relatives who packed a Manhattan courtroom Friday to hear his latest pitch for why he should be freed on bail pending trial on charges of leading a depraved criminal empire for more than a decade — including by forcing women to take part in days-long drugged-up sex shows.

Lawyers for Combs, 55, asked Judge Arun Subramanian to release him on \$50 million bond while he prepares for his May 2025 trial on federal racketeering and sex-trafficking charges — and floated putting him up in an Upper East Side apartment with 24/7 security.

But the feds shot back that the disgraced music

mogul could not be trusted to comply with any release conditions, saying he's already tried to "obstruct" their ongoing probe by contacting potential witnesses from his Brooklyn lockup.

"The defendant, simply put, cannot be trusted," said prosecutor Christine Slavik during the 90-minute hearing in Manhattan

federal court. "He's left no doubt that he cannot comply with conditions."

Subramanian did not rule on the bail request Friday, but said he'd do his best to issue a decision by the end of next week.

Combs' lawyers did not say exactly where on the Upper East Side they proposed that Combs stay pending his trial.

The embattled hip-hop kingpin entered the courtroom through a side door and smiled and waved at his family members in the second row of the gallery, including his twin 17-year-old daughters, Jesse and D'Lila.

He blew more kisses and waved again at his family on his way out.

Ben Kochman

# Raving UWS slash susp's chaotic hearing



By KHRISTINA NARIZHNAYA  
and MATT TROUTMAN

A crazed man who allegedly slashed a Danish tourist's face on the Upper West Side tried to escape his handcuffs and rambled incoherently about "paranoia" during a chaotic court appearance Friday.

Joshua Zinberg, 25, repeatedly interrupted his Manhattan Criminal Court arraignment on an attempted murder charge — screaming to the judge at one point, "Who are you?"

"The judge," Judge Janet McDonnell deadpanned.

McDonnell ordered Zinberg — who spat at reporters Thursday while dementedly bellowing "Teach you to f-k with the Jewish Joshua!" — held on \$150,000 cash bail and to undergo a psychological evaluation as the criminal case moves forward.

## Prosecutor's 'details'

New harrowing details from the random, broad-daylight slashing Wednesday morning on West 86th Street were revealed by Assistant District Attorney Alexander Oltarsh, who called the attack on a 55-year-old Dan-

**WATCHFUL EYE:** At a court appearance for alleged slasher Joshua Zinberg (left) Friday, his mother (right) — who turned him in to police — sat taking notes before cops escorted her to a car outside.



Steven Hirsch (2)

# 'Disorder' in the court

ish man "entirely unprovoked."

Zinberg ran from his parked car and across Columbus Avenue, deliberately targeting the tourist in a bonkers pursuit, Oltarsh said.

"While the victim's back was still turned to the defendant, the defendant continued to run down the sidewalk with knife in hand until he reached the victim, at which point he slashed the victim

from behind across the right side of his face, though his ear and into his neck," Oltarsh said.

The unhinged Zinberg allegedly drove off in his car, with a witness snapping a photo of his license plate, in part leading to his arrest early Thursday, the prosecutor said.

Zinberg's mother also contacted cops after recognizing her disturbed son from surveillance

footage showing the horrifying attack, sources previously told The Post.

His mother — who told NBC New York that her son had suffered mental-health issues in recent years — sat through the arraignment hearing, writing vigorously in a small notebook.

She did not answer questions as court officers escorted her into a car waiting outside.

# Horrific subway slash attacks on teens

Two 16-year-olds were slashed in the arms and face with a boxcutter and pocket knife while waiting for their trains in a pair of horrifying attacks at New York City subway stations on Thursday, police said.

Israel Vazquez was waiting with a friend at the 103rd Street station at Co-

rona Plaza, Queens, when a stranger interrupted their morning commute to school shortly after 9 a.m.

Anayely Quiroz-Calderon, Israel's mother, said the stranger got into a verbal dispute with her son and took a swing at him.

During a scuffle, Israel was stabbed with a pocket

knife, twice in the arm, once in the back and once on his face, police said.

The knifeman quickly fled, with Israel going back home to call his mother. After the adrenaline wore off, he was transported to the New York-Presbyterian Queens hospital, and is recovering at home.

Hours later, a similar incident occurred at the 174th Street Station in The Bronx, where three females attacked a 16-year-old girl.

The victim was on the northbound 2 and 5 train platform around 2:50 p.m. when she was targeted in the unprovoked attack, police said. One of the at-

tackers took out a boxcutter and slashed the victim in the head, ear, neck and both arms.

The attackers fled on foot, with the victim taken to Jacobi Hospital, where she was listed in stable condition, according to police.

*Joe Marino  
and Ronny Reyes*

# MSNBC 'pity for killer'

MSNBC is facing backlash after its legal analyst wrote an opinion piece that has been viewed as sympathizing with the illegal immigrant who brutally murdered college student Laken Riley.

"Laken Riley's killer never stood a chance," the MSNBC headline originally read.

It was later changed to "The guilt of Laken Riley's killer was never in doubt."

On Thursday, a judge in Athens, Ga., found Tren de Aragua gang member Jose Ibarra, 25, guilty on all counts in the murder of Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student. Ibarra, who had waived his right to a jury trial, was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

"The outcome of this trial was never in doubt," MSNBC legal analyst Danny Cevallos wrote Thursday. "The verdict was going to be guilty. The sentence was going to be life without parole."

He called it a "hopeless" case for the defense and said that is likely why Ibarra waived his right to a jury.

"But it apparently had no chance with the judge, either, since he was convicted anyway," Cevallos wrote.

President-elect Donald Trump's son Donald Trump Jr. ripped the headline on X, writing, "You literally can't make up this level of depravity." Taylor Herzlich

# 'Brain injury' led to punch

A man who broke a female flight attendant's nose is now suing the person he claims is actually responsible for the attack — a Manhattan vendor who allegedly left him with a brain injury in a random assault.

Brian Hsu of California — convicted of brutally punching the American Airlines staffer in 2021 — filed a lawsuit against city street vendor River Tarpley, who allegedly assaulted him in Union Square roughly a month before the sky-high tirade.

Hsu previously claimed the vendor's attack gave him a brain injury that left him more prone to violent outbursts. Peter Senzamici

# Moment Israeli strike hits Beirut

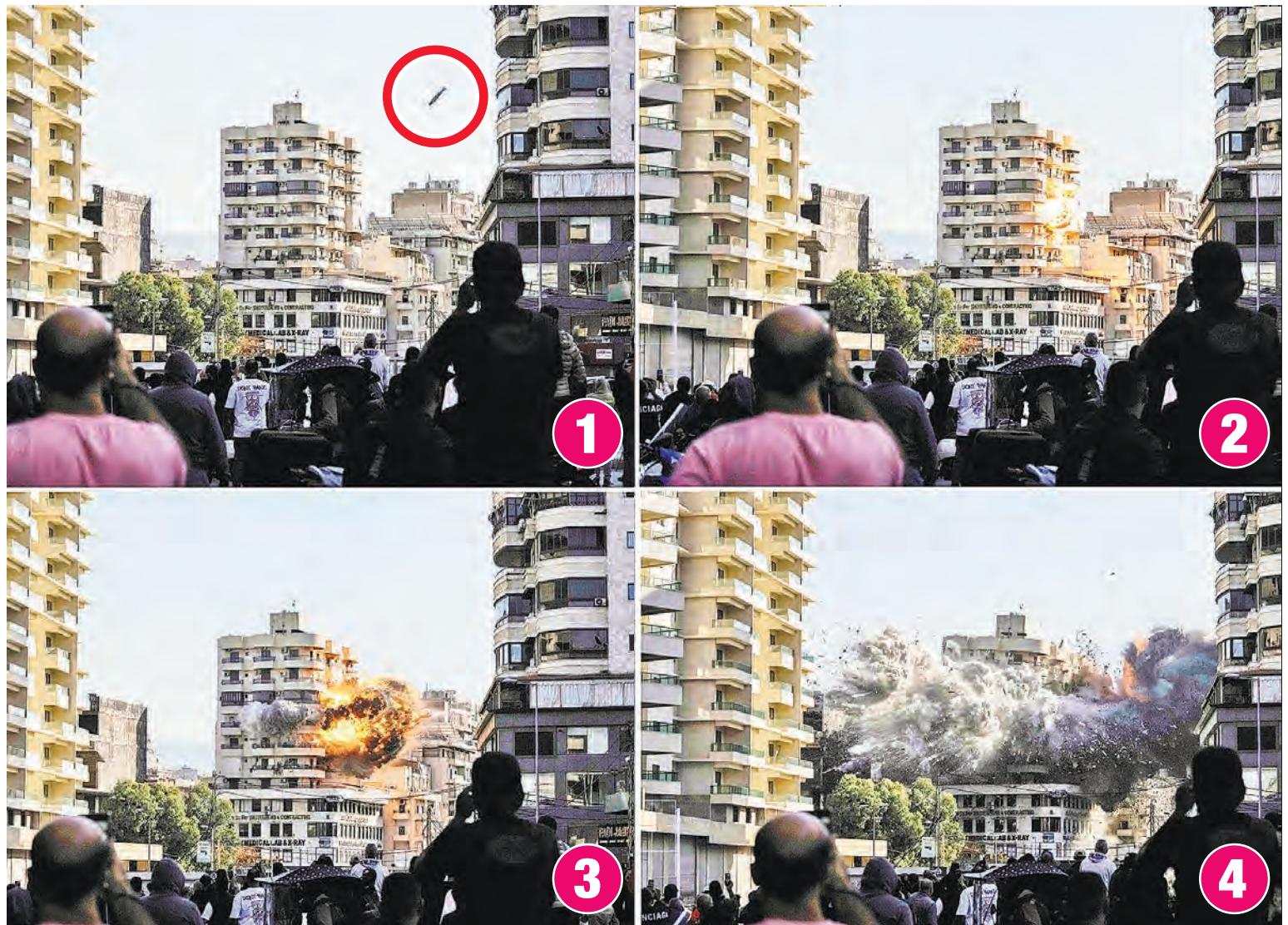
An Israeli strike in Beirut took down an 11-story building in a flurry of fire and ash as the Jewish state increased its deadly bombardments against Hezbollah in the Lebanese capital on Friday.

The Israeli military issued evacuation orders for southern Beirut on Friday morning, with the subsequent strikes targeting suspected Hezbollah strongholds in the city.

Footage from Reuters showed the strikes hit the multi-story building, which toppled in a cloud of smoke and dust.

The attack came as Israel concentrated its fire on two other towns in southern Lebanon in an alleged plan to isolate the village Khiyam, where Hezbollah recently fired four rockets, local security sources told Reuters. The strikes near Khiyam killed five paramedics affiliated with Hezbollah, according to Lebanon's Ministry of Health.

The Israel Defense Forces said that Friday's strikes also took place near the coastal city of Tyre, where they hit "command centers, intelligence infrastructure and weapons storage facilities." Ronny Reyes, Wires



nypost.com

AP

# BIBI BLASTS COURT

## Calls ICC arrest warrant 'antisemitic'

By PATRICK REILLY

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fired back at the International Criminal Court, accusing its judges of holding "antisemitic hatred toward Israel" after they issued a warrant for his arrest over alleged war crimes in Gaza.

Netanyahu (inset) personally rebuked ICC chief prosecutor

Karim Khan on Wednesday. "The decision was made by a corrupt chief prosecutor attempting to save himself from serious allegations of sexual harassment and by biased judges driven by antisemitic hatred toward Israel," Mr Netanyahu said, according to the Telegraph.

Netanyahu is the first leader of a modern Western democracy to be wanted by the world's highest criminal court. The tribunal in The Hague has also accused Israel's former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant of war crimes.

US officials slammed the ICC's decision as a "dangerous" act that un-

dermines the Jewish state's right to defend itself. "The United States fundamentally rejects the court's decision to issue arrest warrants for senior Israeli officials. We remain deeply concerned by the prosecutor's rush to seek arrest warrants and the troubling process errors that led to this decision," said a White House National Security Council spokesperson.

The US is not a member of the ICC, and the court has never arrested anyone on US soil in the past. Israel also is not a member.

The US criticism was joined by Argentina and Hungary, with Prime Minister Viktor Orban slamming the

ICC's decision as "outrageously brazen." Under the ICC's ruling, Netanyahu and Gallant would risk arrest if they travel to any of the 124 nations that are a member of the court, including the European Union and the UK.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's office told reporters that the UK would always comply with its legal obligations to international law but stopped short of confirming if it would try to arrest Netanyahu if he steps foot on British soil.

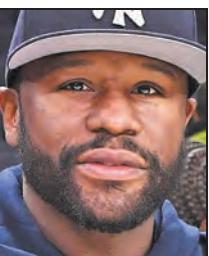
Ireland, however, was among the list of nations that agreed to follow the ICC's protocol and arrest Netanyahu.



# Knocked on its glass

## 'Boxer' cam 'smash'

By JOE MARINO &  
RONNY REYES



Boxing legend Floyd Mayweather's security team allegedly smashed a \$3,000 camera when a fight broke out at a New York City studio, police sources told The Post on Friday.

The incident took place during Mayweather's interview at the offices of streaming platform ZEAM at 1021 Sixth Ave. in Manhattan on Wednesday, sources said.

### 'Verbal dispute'

Officials said that at the time of the interview, a verbal dispute broke out between employees at the studio and Mayweather's security team.

The boxers' bodyguards allegedly pushed their way into the studio and grabbed one of the employees' cameras, worth about \$3,000,

and smashed it to the floor.

The alleged incident involving the bodyguards was not reported to police until Friday, sources said.

Representatives for Mayweather (pictured) did not immediately respond to The Post's request for comment.

This isn't the first time Mayweather's security detail has found itself under police investigation for allegedly going after a camera person.

Earlier this year, a man sued Mayweather for a 2022 incident in which one of his bodyguards allegedly struck him and tried to wrestle his phone away after he was caught trying to film the boxer during a visit to an LA restaurant, according to the Los Angeles Times.

A Mayweather rep later claimed the boxer had left the restaurant without incident because it was getting too crowded.

# 'Green' light for 'Botanic' high-rise

Let the sun shine in.

A controversial high-rise development that neighbors feared would cast a harmful shadow over the Brooklyn Botanic Garden has gotten the OK from the City Council — with changes that would bring more necessary sunlight to the beloved green space.

The final-hurdle council vote Thursday was years in the making, notably after plans for a 34-story building with 1,578 units — about half of those being affordable — at the Crown Heights site was struck down in 2021.

"After more than six years of discussion, debate and vigorous public advocacy, the threat of permanent loss of sunlight for our living

museum of plants is over," Adrian Benepe, president & CEO of Brooklyn Botanic Garden, said in a statement.

The newest amendments to the project included lowering the height of the planned 14-story mixed-used building to 11 stories and reducing its slope from 15% to 10% — both of which will "protect some of Brooklyn Botanic Garden's most vulnerable plant collections from shadows that would cause them permanent damage," a garden rep said.

The garden and its supporters had aggressively fought against the original development proposal that would have caused "existential harm . . . for generations to come." Nicole Rosenthal

# LAWYERS

## Mum as defense rests

By BEN KOCHMAN  
and KYLE SCHNITZER

Daniel Penny's defense attorneys rested their case Friday with testimony about Jordan Neely's open arrest warrant — and without calling the Marine veteran to the stand at his lighting-rod manslaughter trial.

Penny's decision not to testify means jurors will not hear him explain why he kept Neely (above) — who witnesses said delivered an "unhinged" rant toward passengers on the Manhattan F train — in a nearly six-minute-long chokehold on May 1, 2023.

"This jury has heard from Mr. Penny. They heard from him before he had the opportunity to have an attorney. They heard him in the minutes and hours after this incident," his lawyer, Thomas Kenniff, told reporters after court wrapped Friday.

Jurors were shown video of NYPD detectives interrogating Penny following the fatal encounter, where he said he felt compelled to intervene as Neely was "acting crazy" and threatening passengers after bursting through the doors of the uptown train.

### 'Neely was terrifying'

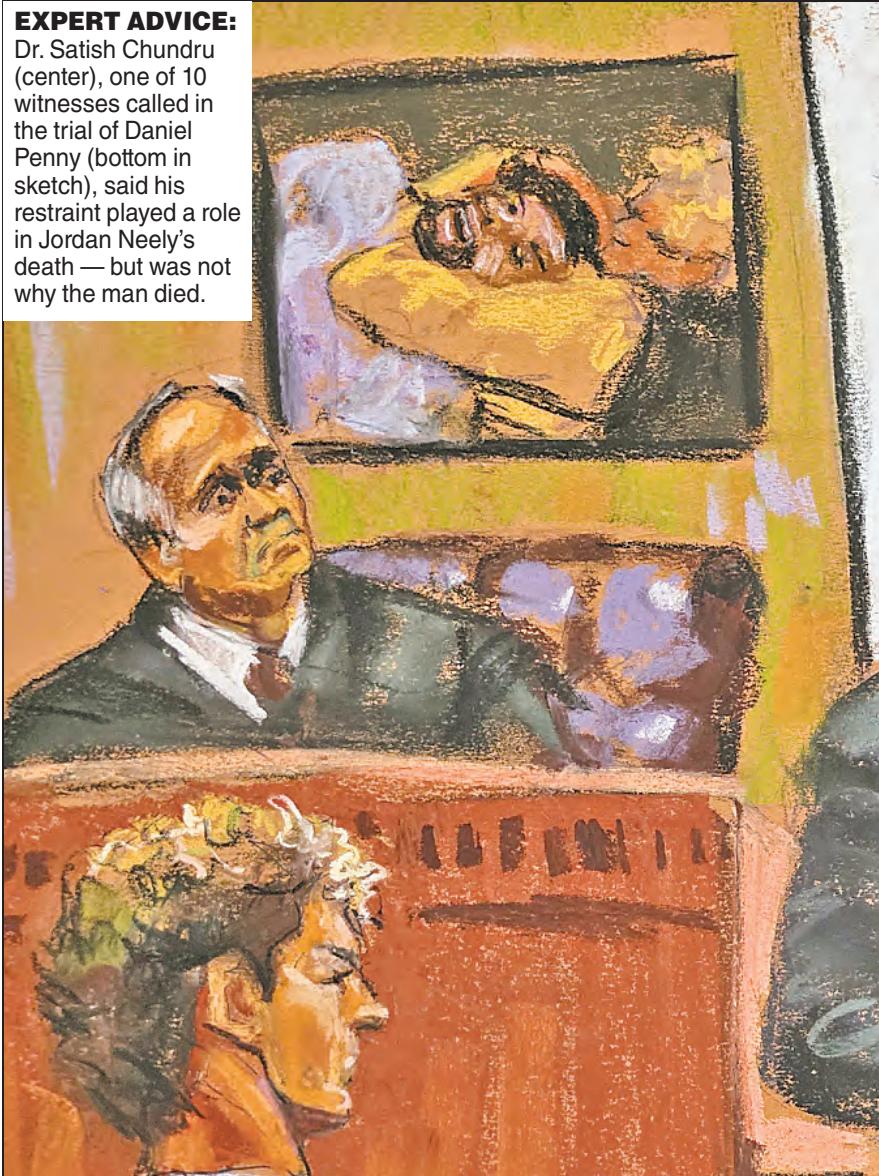
"He told them what happened, and he said all the same things, all the things in essence that the credible eyewitnesses testified — that Jordan Neely was terrifying," Kenniff said.

"He believed, like so many eyewitnesses, that he was going to make good. . . . He thought someone was going to get hurt, he thought someone was going to get killed and he acted," the attorney said. "I don't know how much the jury has to hear in that regard."

The final witness called by the defense was a court clerk, Brian Kempf, who testified Friday about issuing an arrest warrant for Neely in February

### EXPERT ADVICE:

Dr. Satish Chundru (center), one of 10 witnesses called in the trial of Daniel Penny (bottom in sketch), said his restraint played a role in Jordan Neely's death — but was not why the man died.



2023 — just two months before the man's death on the subway floor.

The Post previously reported that Neely had agreed to intensive outpatient treatment that month as part of a plea deal with Manhattan prosecutors that spared him prison time for a 2021 assault.

But Neely, a 30-year-old former Michael Jackson impersonator who long suffered from mental-health issues and had a history of drug abuse, left treatment — and a judge issued an arrest warrant the next day.

Kempf was one of about 10 witnesses called by the defense — including Dr. Satish Chundru, who testified that he believed Neely's death was caused by a combination of factors, not the chokehold.

Chundru's testimony wrapped Friday with a blistering cross-examination by Assistant District Attorney Dafna Yoran, who tried to get him to

walk back his claim that Neely died from the "combined effects" of synthetic marijuana, schizophrenia and other factors.

### 'Role' of restraint

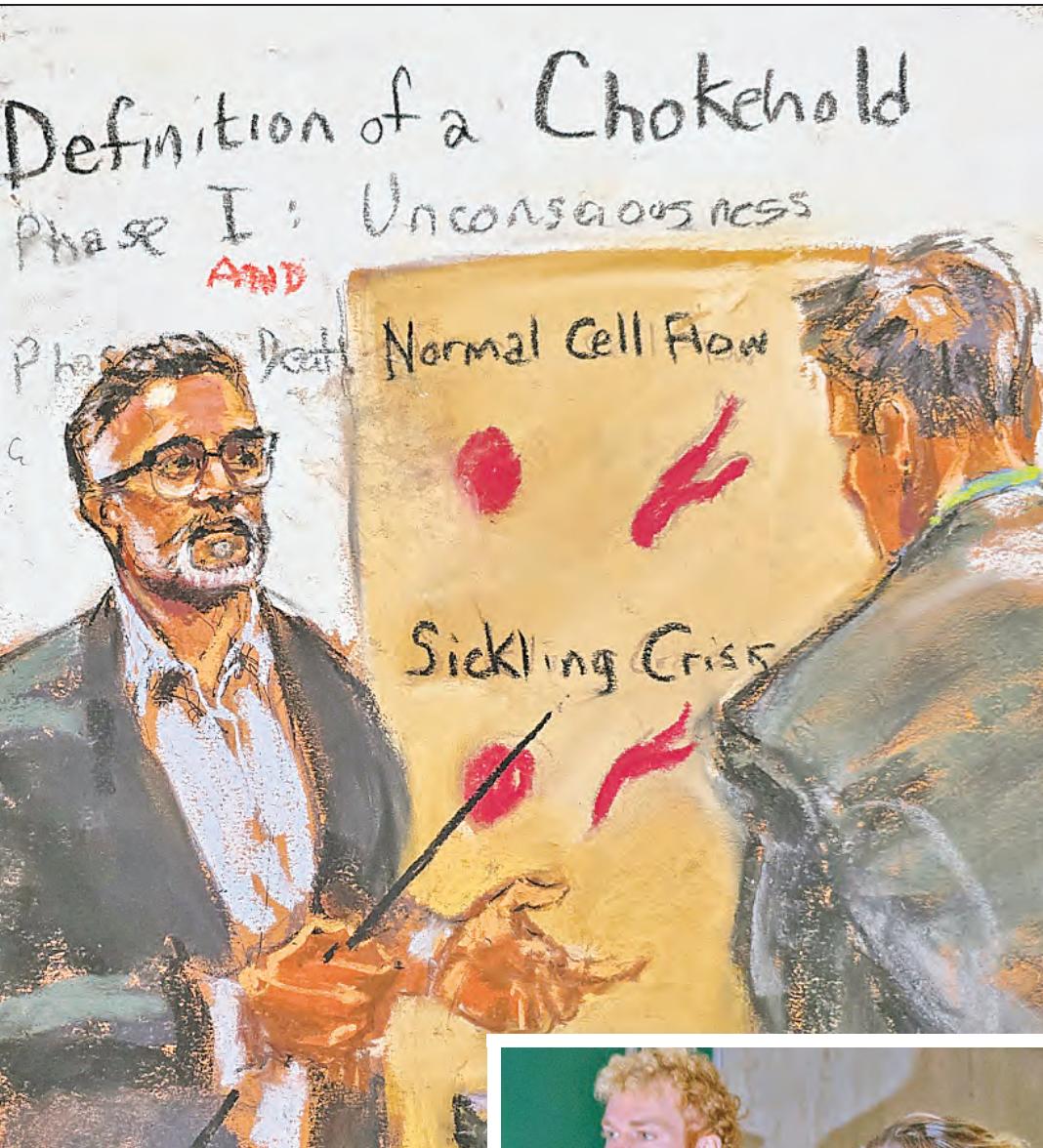
The medical expert did acknowledge that Penny's restraint played a role in the death — but claimed it was not why Neely died.

"Yes, the restraint played a role, but that's a far different cry from saying he died from asphyxia from a chokehold," Chundru said during his marathon day-and-a-half of testimony in Manhattan Supreme Court.

Chundru's findings were far different from those of the city medical examiner, Dr. Cynthia Harris, who performed Neely's autopsy and was among some 40 witnesses called to the stand by prosecutors.

The doctor, in testimony earlier

# POCKET PENNY



this week, stood by her ruling that Neely's death was caused by asphyxiation as a result of Penny's chokehold.

Harris and other doctors at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner believed that Neely's death was caused by "asphyxia," consistent with being choked, after seeing a journalist's video of the homeless man "dying" with Penny's arm wrapped around his neck, she said.

Over the course of the month-long trial, the jury of 12 Manhattanites also heard from witnesses who were aboard the train. Some of Penny's relatives and friends took the stand to vouch for him, including his mom, Gina Flaim-Penny, who called her son an "honest person" and "empathetic and compassionate individual."

Closing statements are expected to begin Dec. 2.



## Compelling choke doubts by doctor

**I**T wasn't a chokehold that killed Jordan Neely.

That was the testimony of forensic pathologist Dr. Satish Chundru for the defense — and he was pretty damn convincing.

Or at least effective at sowing reasonable doubt that Daniel Penny's maneuver caused Neely's death on an uptown F train on May 1, 2023.

On the stand, Chundru calmly and confidently explained why city medical examiner Dr. Cynthia Harris was wrong in declaring that Neely died as a result of the chokehold.

Chundru, who had previously worked as a medical examiner in both Austin and Miami, called her findings "speculative." He added that it was "shocking" they rendered their ruling in only two days.

Harris came to her conclusion before the toxicology report came back, saying even if it turned out that Neely had enough fentanyl in him "to put down an elephant" she still would have stuck with her original decision.

Chundru was simple and straightforward in his explanation: A chokehold death is basically a two-part process.

"Phase one is unconsciousness; you have to put enough consistent pressure to render the person unconscious," Chundru said. "Phase two is you have to sustain that pressure for an extended period of time that leads to death."

Chundru said Neely had already expired or was going through the dying process when he went limp. Prosecutors say Penny held Neely in a chokehold for 51 seconds after he passed out.

But Chundru said, "Neely never went unconscious before that, which is what you need if it's a chokehold death."

So what did kill him? Chundru said it was the "combined effects" of synthetic marijuana, otherwise known as K2; schizophrenia; his struggle and restraint; and sickle-cell crisis, an often painful and distressing event in which cells change shape and block blood vessels.

Harris was by far the most effective witness for the prosecution, which put forth a roster of bystanders who said they've never experienced that type of terror on a subway as Neely, a homeless man with a history of drug use and mental illness, boarded the uptown F train and started ranting that he was going to "kill." One woman told the jury that she even thanked Penny for his actions that day.

Harris withstood three days on the stand, a grueling process that would have tested the most elite of attention spans.

During a morning break in Chundru's testimony, prosecutors huddled with Harris, who sat in the second row taking notes, and held a very intense confab.

Only the jury knows how it went over, but I thought Chundru did a great job at poking those necessary holes in the prosecution's case.

But after a morning of discussing of blood chokes, air chokes and arteries, the prosecution went straight for Chundru's jugular during a combative cross examination.

Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Dafna Yoran tried to paint him as a less-than-discerning hired gun who performed far too many autopsies and earned loads of money for his services. She pointed out that he is regularly hired by defense attorneys to refute the prosecution. (He said it was about 60% of the cases he took on.)

Chundru was unapologetic, saying he worked hard and added that his "business is doing well."

Yoran pressed the forensic pathologist, asking whether he thinks he knows better than the NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, asking: "You know this is the biggest medical examiner in the country?"

"They've lost half their staff," Chundru countered.

A very feisty and dogged Yoran pulled sections from a textbook written by his mentor to refute some of his testimony, but Chundru remained unflappable on the stand Thursday and Friday.

KIRSTEN  
FLEMING



# Diddy moves to dim Shyne

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### Cheerio to all that

Susan Sarandon's daughter, Eva Amurri, claims her mom was so strict about what her kids ate that she considered Cheerios to be "junk food." "My mom was a tried and true 'almond mom,'" Amurri told SheKnows for its holiday digital issue. "She actually used to walk down to the Village to the only organic grocery store that existed in New York City in the early '80s and would get everything there." Sarandon is still into health food and sends Amurri's kids "disgusting cereal" that they won't eat. "I had to stop being nice about it," Amurri said. In fact, in pursuit of her kids having a healthy relationship to food, she admitted they eat McDonald's about once a week.



### It's not you, babe

Cher says in a new interview that she was "madly in love" with Val Kilmer — but he dumped her. "Who would ever leave you?" Howard Stern asked the pop icon (above). "Few men, but a couple," she said. "I was madly in love with Val Kilmer and he left." The "Believe" singer, 78, and the "Top Gun" star, 64, were a couple from 1982 to 1984 after meeting at a birthday party a friend threw for her. "He's like nobody I've ever known," said Cher. "He is exasperating and hysterical. Thrilling and funny and doesn't do what anyone else does."

BACKGRID

**Sean "Diddy" Combs** has sent a cease-and-desist letter over a new documentary about his onetime protégé **Shyne**, Page Six has learned.

A source said that Combs is not trying to block the release of the film, but was looking to "ensure" that the facts were straight.

Shyne alleged that he took the fall for Combs over an infamous 1999 nightclub shooting involving the Bad Boy Records boss.

A rep for the film — made by ESPN's Andscape — did not comment. But sources close to Combs as well as the film confirmed that the cease-and-desist had been sent.

Shyne was infamously at the club with

Combs and his then-gal pal **Jennifer Lopez** when an altercation began and three bystanders were injured. Shyne and Combs went on trial in 2001, but only the former was convicted. Shyne, born Moses Barrow, served eight years in prison for assault and reckless endangerment. He's now a politician in Belize.

In the new doc, Shyne says he thinks he was the "fall guy" for the Sean John founder. Diddy's reps blasted Shyne's comments, telling Page Six: "Mr. Combs categorically denies Mr. Barrow's allegations, including any suggestion that he orchestrated Mr. Barrow to 'take the fall' or 'sacrifice' him by directing witnesses to testify against him."

Shyne also says in the doc, released this week, that Combs' ways are now "coming to light." He was arrested in September on charges of racketeering conspiracy, sex trafficking by force, fraud or coercion and transportation to engage in prostitution.

The Diddy empire began to unravel a year ago when his ex **Cassie Ventura** filed a lawsuit accusing him of rape and physical abuse during their decadelong relationship. Combs denied any wrongdoing and settled with the singer one day later.

Shyne was deported to his native Belize in 2009 following his release from prison, where he says he found religion.

**From defection to affection: Ana de Armas is dating Cuban political scion Manuel Anido Cuesta. The actress fled LA when she and Ben Affleck broke up.**



### Havana good time

SHE'S getting her lips around a fine Cuban! **Ana de Armas** was spotted smooching **Manuel Anido Cuesta** — the stepson of Cuban President **Miguel Díaz-Canel** — while on vacation in Madrid last week (photos at left). The new couple looked smitten as they walked home from an apparent dinner date before taking the "Knives Out" actress' dog, **Salsa**, on a walk. It's unclear how they met. But Cuban influencer **Alexander Otaola** linked the two back in May, per the Latin Times. The "Blonde" star has kept her love life private since her highly publicized relationship with "Deep Water" co-star **Ben Affleck** ended in early 2021. She later said the media focus on their relationship was "horrible," admitting it was a big part of the reason she left Los Angeles and moved to the East Coast. Díaz-Canel has been president of the island nation since 2019, and reached the highest national office, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, in 2021, succeeding Fidel Castro's brother **Raúl**. Cuesta's mom, First Lady **Lis Cuesta**, is Díaz-Canel's second wife.



### TV dreams Dashed

NOW that's some quality parenting. **Henry Winkler** says he stopped his daughter from making a reality show with **Kim Kardashian**. When the "Happy Days" TV legend went on **Zoe Winkler**'s podcast "What in the Winkler?" this week, Zoe, 44, said she was approached about appearing in a series called "Quarter Life Crisis" alongside her BFF Kardashian, also 44. Zoe (above) said a VHI exec even created a sizzle reel. But when the producer came to visit the recent college grad at her family's home, Zoe recalled to her father, "You met him outside." The "Barry" star remembered, "I said, 'It is so lovely that you're here. I can suggest some really good restaurants. My daughter is not doing your show.'"

### Kelce can't shake Philly 'tude

THE Kelce brothers' ceaseless march toward media domination is gaining momentum. **Jason Kelce** — who, depending on your point of view, is either the brother of **Taylor Swift**'s boyfriend **Travis Kelce** or the Philadelphia Eagles' retired star center — is getting his own late-night show on ESPN. He announced the new gig, "They Call It Late Night," on "Jimmy Kimmel Live," saying the Philly-based show will debut in January. "We're going to have a bunch of guys up there — legends of the game, friends that I played the game with, coaches, celebrities . . . It's going to be a celebration," he said. Following the Kimmel talk, Kelce — who recently threw a college kid's phone after the hater hurled insults about Travis — kept his cool in another run-in with a troll. When he left the taping and passed by a group of waiting fans, an unhinged autograph seeker yelled at Kelce after he declined to give out his John Hancock: "You're some s---bag f---king guy that thinks he's on some pedestal! Don't be a d--k. I'll be running the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Watch for me, you p---sy! F---k you!" Kelce deftly defused the sitch and even signed something for the guy, who apologized.

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# The shoe du jour

## An 'it' sneaker? Gotta have Hoka

By BROOKE KATO

Take a walk down any city street and you'll see a pair of Hokas on stylish people's feet.

Once reserved for hitting the pavement, the running shoes — with their hallmark chunky soles, athletic mesh and vivid colorways — have become both a street-style staple, a trendy boardroom accessory and everything in between.

And the proof is in the pudding: Deckers Brands, which owns the running shoe label, saw a nearly 35% increase in sales for Hokas to \$570.9 million, the company reported last month.

Celebrities are, in part, responsible for the Hoka boom: Harry Styles and Blake Lively have donned the clobbers, while Adam Sandler showed off a pair of electric blue Hokas on the red carpet last year. Even President Biden has been seen wearing the black Hoka Transports, juxtaposing his suit with the sensible sneakers.

### **Fit for celebs & athletes**

"You can spot them on celebs and athletes alike which is always a boon for any piece of fashion," Wardrobe Whisperer stylist Jessica Cadmus told The Post, adding that nearly one-third of her clientele style Hokas as an everyday shoe.

"Say what you will about them, Hokas are very comfortable," she said of the sneakers, which were first integrated into weekend wear, but began slowly creeping into weekday 'fits. She said most of her New York clients first bought them for exercise but shifted to an everyday staple since

their daily routines require blocks-long walks.

"The oversized sole is the Hoka trademark and although visually alarming at first, tends to grow on you; especially because they do, in fact, propel you forward when you walk," she said. "It's a unique experience and makes you want to wear them again and again."

Coupled with the overwhelming rise of comfort-friendly attire post-pandemic, it's the "perfect storm" for the brand's success, Cadmus added.

Comfort is a big plus but the Hoka explosion can also be attributed to the endless colorways. Content creator, model and avid runner Renée Noe boasts a colorful shoe wardrobe stuffed full of Hokas, estimating that she owns around 35 pairs in all different shades.

"I wear them every day. I mean, even if I'm going on errands, they're shoes I'll put on," California-based Noe, 23, told The Post, adding that she even wore her Hoka hiking boots to Coachella one year.

Hoka — which has collaborated with trendy, Gen Z-beloved retailers like Reformation and Free People — is the "most requested brand" from customers of Elite Feet, a footwear store in Delaware, said Joy Hunt, who co-owns the business with her husband, Jason.

"What's contributed to growing popularity is this realization that it's not just runners and walkers that need support," Joy told The Post. "Anybody really could benefit from cushion and support, particularly as we age."



Getty Images



**HUE LOVE IT!**  
California-based content creator, model and avid runner Renée Noe, 23, told The Post she boasts a colorful shoe wardrobe stuffed full of Hokas (left), estimating that she owns around 35 pairs in all different shades.

# Teary vigil for random-stab hard hat

The mother of the construction worker allegedly slaughtered by a knife-wielding madman broke down as loved ones gathered for a candlelight vigil at the spot of the random Manhattan attack Friday.

Angel Gustavo Lata-Landi, 36, was standing outside a Chelsea work site when homeless maniac Ramon Rivera, 51, allegedly stabbed him in the stomach during a shocking daylight spree that took the lives of two

others Monday.

Mercedes Landi said she spoke to her son the night before he was killed — and is now tasked with taking his body back to the Ecuadorian city he left 20 years ago for his funeral.

"There are no words how I feel," the grieving mom said through a translator.

Landi gathered with nearly a



dozen tearful, rain-soaked family and friends at 444 W. 19th St., where they created a small memorial with flowers, candles and photos — leaving behind Lata-Landi's white hard hat.

"He acted like I'm his son," nephew Alan Ochoa, 9, told The Post. "Sometimes he'd come over and cook out. I just wish he was

back alive."

The family is considering taking legal action against the city after its lax bail-reform laws allowed the violent, mentally ill Rivera to roam the streets, representative Walter Sinche said.

"At this point, all they want is justice. Unfortunately, the system failed. He was a dangerous person. Why did they let him out?"

Steven Vago and Anna Young

# Knoxy kid asks ma 'jail' story

Amanda Knox revealed that her young daughter has already begun quizzing her about her time in an Italian prison after her wrongful conviction of brutally murdering her college roommate, Meredith Kercher.

"My daughter is 3 now and she's just getting to the point where she's asking questions, because you know my past is not a hidden thing, and occasionally it comes up," Knox, 37, said while discussing true crime television with ReasonTV journalist Billy Brinton on Thursday.

"She likes it when I tell her a story so she'll be like, 'Tell me a story about Bluey, tell me a story about the Little Mermaid' — sometimes she asks me to 'Tell the story of Mama going to Italy,' " she continued of her four years behind bars.

"I just have to say, 'Well, Mama went to Italy and something really, really bad happened — someone hurt her friend and then Mama was hurt too,'" she said. "And my daughter says 'why?' and I'm like 'I don't know.'"

Knox, a mother of two, said she feels "utterly exploited" by true crime — even though she's written a memoir, helped make a Netflix documentary and is now co-producing an eight-part series for Hulu.

Patrick Reilly

# 'Rip off rich' but not me!

An Oregon woman told a group of homeless men she suspected of stealing her phone that she had no problem with them ripping off "rich scum" — just not her, new video shows.

The woman — taking a page out of the city's left-wing activist playbook — was seen in the X footage pleading with the vagrants at a bus stop in Portland when her phone went missing.

"If you stole it from rich scum, by all means keep it and sell it," the woman tells the suspected thieves as she tries to make the case for being worthy of having her phone returned to her.

Taylor Walters

L'OFFICIEL  
AMTD 2024

# Mad going in Gen Z style

It's official — Madelyn Cline's a star! The *L'Officiel* mag cover star is in ever more demand off her role in the Netflix series "Outer Banks," now one of the streamer's most-watched shows.

# Slow-go woes in subways

Stand clear of the defective doors, please.

Faulty doors in six subway different trains — along with other unrelated mechanical, signal and passenger issues — caused a collective commuting headache for straphangers on a cold, wet Friday morning.

Delays hit 16 of the city's 25 subway routes during the morning rush hour, MTA alerts show. "When it got to the station, the doors took forever to even open," one frustrated J-train passenger griped to The Post.

Door problems struck on two E trains, as well as on cars on the J, N/Q, 6 and 7 routes, according to the MTA. Signal problems snarled B, D, L and N trains, MTA alerts said.

Mechanical and maintenance issues delayed trains starting about 5 a.m. on several routes, including the E, F and L, the alerts show.

"It's not as bad as holiday service but it feels a little slower," said Melissa Jackson, 39, who was waiting for an L train at Union Square.

Hannah Fierick and Matt Troutman



Lorenz Schmidl

# DAD'S GENDER LAMENT

## 'Goodbye' to trans kid, 12

By TAYLOR WALTERS

A California judge dealt a devastating blow to a Texas father in his years-long fight to stop his ex-wife from allowing their preteen son, who identifies as a girl named "Luna," to receive gender-affirming care.

Father of two Jeff Younger, 59, announced on X that he "lost all parental rights" over his twin sons after Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mark Juhas granted his estranged pediatrician ex-wife, Anne Georgulas, the authority to "castrate" 12-year-old son James.

"I lost all parental rights to my sons. Goodbye, boys. Perhaps, we will meet when you are adults. California Judge Juhas gave my ex-wife authority to castrate my son, James." Younger wrote, referring to a treatment known as chemical castration.

Chemical castration involves the use of puberty-blocking drugs to stop sex hormone production. Unlike surgical castration, chemical castration does not remove organs. While the Department of Health and Human Services claims this practice is reversible, the long-term sexual side effects are unknown. Studies have



**SPLIT:** Mom Anne Georgulas has California's OK for gender care despite Texas dad Jeff Younger's objections.



Texas courts initially granted both parents joint custody in 2019, but Georgulas won sole custody of their twin children in 2021 with the caveat she must seek Younger's consent for medical procedures, The Texan reported. That all changed in 2022, when Georgulas relocated with James and his twin brother, Jude, to California.

## Stamos slams 'bald cap' critics

John Stamos fired back at haters who slammed him for wearing a bald cap to support "Full House" co-star Dave Coulier following his cancer diagnosis.

Coulier confirmed he's undergoing chemotherapy to fight his "very aggressive" stage 3 cancer.

But Stamos' well-intentioned gesture in a photo with the actor, who lost his hair to chemo, landed him in hot water. "I'm embarrassed for people that they waste time on this. All I was doing was cheering up a friend," Stamos told TMZ.

Nika Shakhnazarova

# IT'S TIME YOU MET

By RAQUEL LANERI

"I don't really consider myself an artist," says Solomon Azaraev, the sole member of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's mason shop. "But after 20 years being around masterpieces and creative things, I guess it rubs off a bit."

So when he realized he needed something more efficient than a flat dolly to transport tools, he let his creative side shine — designing a battery-powered rolling cart (right) with compartments and drawers, modeled after a Chevy Silverado.

Now the "Solverado" isn't just in the Met, it's on display at the Met, as part of a show called "Art Works: Artists Working at the Met."

Since 1939, the Met has held shows of art produced by its own staff. Most have been private affairs. But this year, for only the second time ever, it's open to the public.

"My colleagues fell in love with it, and forced me into putting it in the show," Azaraev says of his creation. "People get a kick of it, so I don't mind seeing the smiles."

You can see the Solverado at the Met through Dec. 1, along with the creations of 640 staffers, from guards and technicians to conservators, librarians, and ticket-takers, including:



## Creative staffers show off works at exhibition



**Love Ablan,  
Collections Photographer**  
*"Anima," 2024*

Ablan's aunt and godmother, Concepcion (or Lola Go-Go to her family members), nearly wept when she saw her niece's mixed-media photo

portrait at the Met. There was a photo of her as a young girl — dressed in white at a piano recital — alongside a picture of her mother, Victoria, in a debutante gown in their native Philippines.

"The name of the piece is 'Anima,' and it's Latin for feminine aspects,

but also soul," Ablan explained. "My godmother is the heart and her mom is the soul of my family."

Ablan grew up in Jamaica, Queens, and her "fondest childhood memories" took place at Lola's house — playing with her cousins and listening to her godmother play the piano.



**Amanda Rothschild, Business Analyst**  
*"Sink," 2020*

For the past 12 years, the 32-year-old Harlem resident has been painting pictures of sinks and drains.

"I really enjoy all the different textures and shapes," said Rothschild, who started working at the Met in 2014, initially selling tickets. "It's an everyday object that people overlook."

She scouts out interesting color palettes and textures like rust or water damage. She based this work (right) on a sink she saw in a Greenpoint coffee shop. "Probably half of the pictures on my phone are just of sinks and drains in various places," said Rothschild, who has been a part of three previous employee art shows.

"My job is very technical — no one that I'm working with is talking about or working with art directly, and so this is a cool opportunity," she said. "It's really great to see what people do."

Early in her career, Ablan traveled the world studying art and working as an editorial photographer. But, two years ago, the Met came calling. Now, she lives in Harlem.

"In this post-pandemic world, the only thing I really wanted was to be near my family again," she said.

# IN-HOUSE ARTISTS



**Amanda Kraemer,  
Operations Assistant,  
Groups & Advance Sales**

*"Allegory of Flowers —  
J Pierpont Goldfinch," 2024*

Kraemer was going through her late grandfather's belongings when she came across a plaque he had hanging in his studio that said, "Don't let the bastards grind you down."

"I was like, I have to somehow incorporate this into my next piece," Kraemer, 42, said. She surrounded it with collaged paper

flowers and birds that she painted symbolizing hope and persistence.

Kraemer, who grew up and still lives on City Island, was close to her grandfather, a commercial artist who taught her calligraphy and watercolors. During a dark period in her life, her grandfather's mantra "became a meditation for me to rise above the negativity," she said. "This is a tribute to him."

She is excited to have it on display at the Met.

The exhibit "is an opportunity for those who work here to transcend the transactional nature [of how people see] museum workers," she said. "It gives us a chance to show visitors who really works here."

**Aleya Lehmann, Assistant Administrator,  
Photograph Conservation**

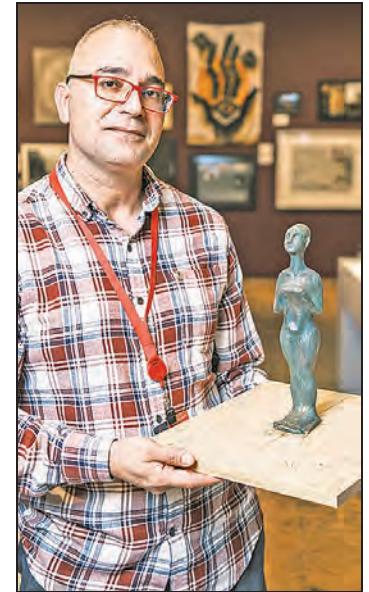
*"Day of Night," 2013/2024*

Her photographs look like Whistler paintings — moody and enigmatic. The 66-year-old artist puts as much care into them as well. She sews the garments her models wear, arranges the props and settings, and spends a weekend with her subject experimenting. Long-exposure times lead to ghostly, evocative images.

Lehman has been painting and photographing for decades, but coming to the Met five years ago has influenced her art.

"There was [a Richard] Avedon show here a few years ago, of his murals, and that fed into my wish to print [my photos] really large," she said. For the show she took a work from 2013 and blew it up, printing it on a long sheet of Japanese mulberry paper.

"It's a very special place," she said of The Met. "You feel like you're contributing to something, whatever it is that you do in your job, whether it's something very elaborate, extravagant, or something very day to day, you're contributing to living history, which is definitely a unique feeling."



**Armia Malak Khalil,  
Senior Security Officer**

*"Ushabti (A Substitute for  
the Afterlife)," 2024*

Khalil grew up in Egypt surrounded by sculpture.

"It's everywhere," the 45-year-old said. "I studied classical painting, but I taught myself sculpture copying the Ancient Egyptians."

He first came to the US in 2006. He had no family, no friends, no connections, but eventually found a community of Coptic Christians from Egypt living in Jersey City. "I started doing some wood carving for the church there," he said. "The priest let me use a corner of the basement for my art."

He began working as a security guard at the Met in 2009 and continued making sculptures inspired by his Egyptian heritage. He based the plasticine figurine in this show on the Ushabti — statuettes that were buried next to the deceased to help them in the afterlife.

"There were about 401 of them in each tomb, and I loved the idea of making my own with different materials," said Khalil, who also has a gorgeous wooden bust, "Hope," in another Met show, "Flight Into Egypt," on view through Feb. 17, 2025.

"It's the first time one of us guards is in a major exhibit," he said. "They're all so proud of me. It's been really so surreal, so divine."



**Christopher Fahey,  
Storeroom One Specialist**

*"And of course, the lemon  
disenfrancese folds in: A... B... C....," 2024*

As a storeroom specialist, Fahey gets to handle some of the most precious objects of art in the world. "You will really be surprised at the art people send through FedEx," the 41-year-old said. "Like really, really old art!"

Fahey, who lives in Ridgewood, Queens, is a poet and mixed-media artist who uses found materials in his sculptures. He started this one with a piece of redwood that he saved from the trash at an old job. He's spent the past two years adding scraps of paper or weaving different threads or objects onto it.

"I've been making art like this for the past 10 years," he said.

Helping install the employee art show is the highlight of his job. "It's a beautiful thing," he said. "We're all getting a lot out of working here, but [the Met is] also getting a lot from artists working here."

# Sally Brompton

# Daily Horoscope

## ♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

By all means start something new this weekend but make sure it is in harmony with your highest ideals. Making money is acceptable but you must not make getting rich your one and only aim. Your vision must be both wider and deeper than that.

## ♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

The most important thing this weekend is that you clarify in your own mind what it is you want to say to other people before you actually open your mouth. Then stand in front of a mirror and practice your speech until it is word perfect.

## ♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

It may be obvious to you that a friend or loved one is in need of assistance but if you are smart you will get their permission before diving into their personal affairs. You may discover that on this occasion they prefer to suffer alone.

## ♓ PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

You cannot avoid some sort of battle on the work front this weekend but you can make things easier for yourself by refusing to let your emotions run away with you. Yes, some people can be incredibly annoying, but why should you suffer for it?

## ♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20)

A snatch of gossip that you overhear this weekend could cause you some anxiety but that's what you get for listening in on other people's conversations. Most likely what is said is not about you at all, so don't take it personally.

## ♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Someone in a position of authority could give you a hard time over the next 48 hours but

they cannot hurt you in any tangible way so treat what they say and do as a bit of a joke. Real leaders don't need to belittle other people.

## ♊ GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

There will be times this weekend when it seems as if everyone wants to do the one thing that you do not. You don't have the power to change their plans but neither do they have the power to demand that you change yours, so do your own thing.

## ♋ CANCER (June 22-July 23)

Only do what you enjoy this weekend. The more friends and family members try to get you involved in games and pursuits that hold no interest for you the more you must resist. Don't be afraid to be more assertive than usual.

## ♌ LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

If an opportunity comes your way you must take it without hesitation. You may not be sure it is the right thing for you but if you give it a miss and then find out how much fun it would have been you won't be a happy Leo.

## ♍ VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

There may be times over the next 48 hours when it is clear that you are no longer master of your fate but this is only a passing phase, so don't get worked up about it. Do what others expect of you to the best of your ability.

## ♎ LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

You will learn something this weekend that certain people would rather you did not know about. It will give you an

advantage when negotiating, especially at work, but don't make too big a deal of it or you could create some powerful enemies.

## ♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

The Sun's position in the main financial area of your chart means you are determined to get your share of the good things in life but it also means you must follow the rules. You don't need to use underhand methods to get what it is you desire.

### BIRTHDAY SATURDAY

You will accomplish remarkable things over the coming year and there will be times when you amaze not just other people but also yourself. Keep telling yourself there is nothing you cannot achieve, and do something to prove it each and every day.

## Post Weather Report

### Saturday



**Today:** Windy with times of clouds and sun. High 46 to 52.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy and windy. Low 40 to 46.

**Monday**

Clouding up. High 51 to 57.

**Evening**

A little rain. Low 44 to 50.

### Sunday



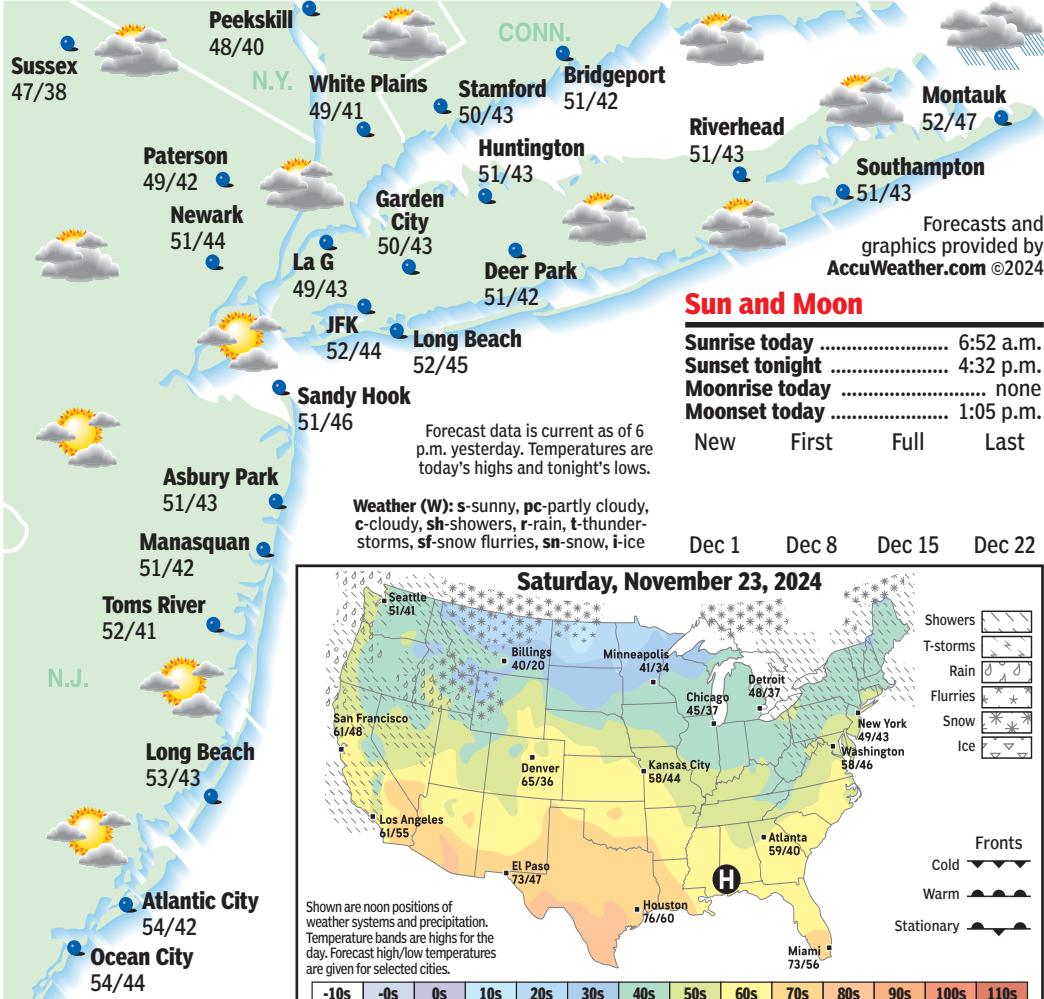
**Tomorrow:** Windy with clouds and sun. High 49 to 55.

**Tuesday**

A shower. High 53 to 59.

**Wednesday**

Mainly clear. Low 35 to 41.



### New York Tides

|                 | TODAY | TOMORROW |
|-----------------|-------|----------|
| High Tide for   | 1st   | 2nd      |
| Coney Island    | 1:28a | 1:35p    |
| Fire Island     | 1:23a | 1:41p    |
| Hempstead       | 5:25a | 5:47p    |
| Huntington      | 5:03a | 5:25p    |
| Jones Inlet     | 1:12a | 1:19p    |
| Montauk Point   | 2:40a | 3:07p    |
| Port Washington | 5:35a | 5:57p    |
| Sandy Hook      | 1:32a | 1:39p    |
|                 | 2:22a | 2:30p    |

### Regional cities

|                  | TODAY    | TOMORROW |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Albany           | 47/40/c  | 47/31/c  |
| Danbury          | 50/41/c  | 50/32/pc |
| Glens Falls      | 47/38/c  | 45/26/pc |
| Gr Barrington    | 43/36/c  | 45/30/pc |
| Kingston         | 49/39/c  | 47/31/c  |
| Liberty          | 40/34/c  | 40/33/c  |
| Monticello       | 40/34/c  | 41/30/pc |
| Newburgh         | 49/40/c  | 49/32/pc |
| Poughkeepsie     | 49/40/c  | 48/28/c  |
| Saratoga Springs | 49/38/c  | 45/26/pc |
| Stroudsburg      | 48/37/c  | 50/32/c  |
| Torrtington      | 46/38/c  | 47/31/pc |
| Syracuse         | 47/40/sh | 44/34/sn |

### World cities

|                | TODAY    | TOMORROW |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| Athens         | 67/48/pc | 57/42/s  |
| Baghdad        | 77/51/pc | 77/58/s  |
| Beijing        | 50/31/s  | 48/38/pc |
| Berlin         | 40/34/c  | 53/49/r  |
| Cairo          | 79/65/s  | 69/58/p  |
| Dublin         | 59/46/r  | 53/42/s  |
| Geneva         | 42/36/c  | 56/38/pc |
| Hong Kong      | 76/70/c  | 76/72/s  |
| Jerusalem      | 71/54/pc | 62/44/sh |
| Kabul          | 58/29/s  | 55/29/c  |
| London         | 56/54/r  | 62/49/r  |
| Madrid         | 62/47/c  | 64/56/c  |
| Mexico City    | 71/40/s  | 73/41/s  |
| Montreal       | 45/38/c  | 40/31/sn |
| Moscow         | 34/22/sn | 30/20/p  |
| Paris          | 49/46/c  | 64/57/c  |
| Rio de Janeiro | 74/67/sh | 75/65/sh |
| Rome           | 57/40/s  | 61/44/s  |
| Sydney         | 82/67/s  | 83/70/pc |
| Tokyo          | 62/45/pc | 59/43/s  |

# POSTOPINION

# Mass Hysteria

**Left's deportation angst will backfire, again**

DONALD Trump is a man of many talents, and the greatest of them is his uncanny ability to get his opponents to overreach. For nearly a decade now, the president-elect has benefited from the left's Boy-Who-Cried-Wolf syndrome.

Their wailing over even the most unobjectionable of his words and deeds has rendered many a casual observer deaf to his very real faults. The latest, but far from the last, manifestation of this phenomenon is the hand-wringing over Trump's promise to carry out "mass deportations."

After four years of neglect at the southern border, Trump ran for the White House on a pledge not only to reinstate order there, but to remove those the Biden administration allowed to stay in the country illegally. Polls suggest that his supposedly hard-line stance on this question is not just popular, but enormously so.

A CBS News/YouGov survey of registered voters over the summer found that 62% of Americans supported "a new national program to deport all undocumented immigrants currently living in the US illegally." That number included 53% of Hispanic voters, with whom Trump made historic electoral gains just a couple of weeks ago.

Most Americans recognize that there is nothing at all offensive about the idea of removing those who break the law to enter the country. After all, what's the alternative?

If the penalty for illegal entry doesn't match the crime, there's no incentive *not* to skip the line; anything less than deportation constitutes a de facto reward. An immigration system that rewards bad actors for cheating it, while punishing good ones for adhering to it, is no system at all.

Moreover, the costs of runaway illegal immigration are just far too high to continue to pay. The heinous crimes committed by people who never should have been here in the first place stand out, of course. That's why even Barack Obama, the father of DACA, boasted about deporting such monsters.

But *all* illegal immigration drives down wages for citizens,



**Old tricks: AOC is still crying "fascism" after Dems' big loss to Trump.**

while providing opportunities for drug cartels and human traffickers to capitalize on. Despite the logical holes in their objections, Trump's most shrill detractors have persisted in shouting them.

CNN's Julie Roginsky fantasized about leading a double life as a heroine and having the military open fire on her as she shielded illegal immigrants from authorities. Her colleague Maria Cardona insisted that her Hispanic "community . . . is going to go through pain" and "cruelty."

MSNBC's Joy Reid suggested that "there will be American citizens who will end up being deported because they're not going to do this with precision."

"If you're brown, you may not stick around," she warned.

Sanctuary-city mayors like Boston's Michelle Wu have already pledged to "make sure that we are doing our part to protect our residents" and not to cooperate "with those efforts that actually threaten the safety of everyone by causing widespread fear."

In a particularly ignorant, ugly moment, Sunny Hostin of "The View" asserted that "Latino men voted in favor of someone" who plans to "deport a majority" of their community. That would of course come as news to the *actual* vast majority of Hispanics in the United States — who, as legal citizens, are every bit as invested in a sensible immigration policy as their fellow Americans.

There are good arguments for not expending resources on de-

porting every last person in the country illegally. But there are *none* for issuing what would be, in effect, a blanket amnesty by not doing anything at all.

And besides, Trump and his incoming team have made it clear they will prioritize criminals — and especially violent criminals — once they get to work.

Of course, the leftist panic extends well past this particular issue. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, for example, has argued that "we are poised to enter" an era "of fascism and authoritarianism" due to Trump's victory.

The congresswoman has never been the brightest of lights, but shouldn't she realize that Trump just delivered Democrats their most embarrassing presidential loss since 1984 — despite having the fascism charge lobbed at him over and over again in the final weeks of the race?

When will the hysterics learn? If this month has been any indication, not anytime soon.

There may be tantalizing short-term personal incentives to engage in this sort of strident rhetoric. Ultimately, though, it not only backfires on the Democrats, but degrades our political culture by distorting vitally important issues.

So they can speak in hushed tones, shout in angry ones, or turn on the tear factory all they want. As long as their melt-downs come in reaction to policies that most Americans regard as simple common sense, their antics will only rebound to Trump's benefit.

*Isaac Schorr is a staff writer at Mediate.*

# FAST TAKES

## Conservative: Voters Remembered Laken Riley

Laken Riley's "murder was a direct result of Biden's border policy," thunders the Washington Examiner's Byron York. "Biden and top administration officials had pretty much ignored the case" until the State of the Union Address, when he still "mangled Riley's name — he called her 'Lincoln'" — and then angered his own progressive Democratic supporters when he ad-libbed that Riley had been killed by "an illegal." Donald Trump "mentioned Riley's name often in his campaign appearances," promising "a border crackdown, and everybody knew he would do it because, in his first term, he enormously reduced the number of illegal crossers." Now her killer's trial has shown "both the appalling consequences of an open border and why the issue was important for so many millions of voters."

## From the right: Trump's New Cabinet Approach

President-elect Donald Trump's plan for his Cabinet is "far more consistent, and potentially transformative," than many realize, argues Ben Domenech at The Spectator: He's picking "communicators, not administrators" whose skills "are less about the unsexy business of corralling bureaucrats" and more "about being experienced advocates to a public audience on behalf of Trump's agenda." He can pair them "with solid deputies expected to do the tough behind the scenes work of upending the administrative state." That is: "Leave policy making to the nerds" and "pick the people with the capability to make the best case for" those policies.

## Republican: Unleash the Wrecking Ball

With progressives in retreat, a second Trump administration can "take a wrecking ball to the Washington establishment" as well as make "deep cuts to federal spending and an overhaul of the bloated bureaucracy," cheers USA Today's Nicole Russell. That wrecking ball will be "Trump's new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), led by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy." If DOGE cuts a fraction of the "\$2 trillion in government spending — it could provide a remarkable boost for our economy." To make it worthwhile, "Trump and Congress will need to actually cut the programs" recommended by DOGE. Sure, Democrats will "whine" but "Republicans should ignore them," focus on "saving taxpayers' money," controlling the "deficit," and "saving America" from certain "economic disaster."

## DOGE dudes: We'll Slash Red Tape



**Vivek Ramaswamy**

People we elect are supposed to run government, but that's not "how America functions today," argue Elon Musk & Vivek Ramaswamy at The Wall Street Journal. "Most legal edicts aren't laws enacted by Congress" but mere "rules and regulations" promulgated by unelected bureaucrats — civil servants who "view themselves as immune from firing thanks to civil-service protections. This is antidemocratic and antithetical to the Founders' vision. It imposes massive" costs on taxpayers. Yet "with a decisive electoral mandate and a 6-3 conservative majority on the Supreme Court," the new Department of Government Efficiency "has a historic opportunity for structural reductions."

Elon & Vivek will suggest "regulatory rescissions, administrative reductions and cost savings." Of course, that will trigger an "onslaught from entrenched interests." Yet they're "prepared" — and "we expect to prevail."

## Woke watch: The DEI Cash Cow

The amount spent on DEI "will exceed \$15 billion by 2026," notes City Journal's Christopher Rufo — and US "government contractors have turned a profit on this fad." Initial analysis suggests "that DEI principles were attached to more than \$1 billion in federal contracts last year," up from \$27 million in 2019. That's all thanks to "the Biden administration's 'whole-of-government' equity agenda." "Agencies across the federal government participated in the gold rush." In practice, this meant contracts that "funneled millions to outside vendors" enforcing "the DEI creed" at NASA, DHS, Labor, Treasury and elsewhere. Such contracts, "and the racialist ideology on which they are predicated, do nothing to serve the national interest." "The second Trump administration must put a stop to these contracts immediately." — Compiled by The Post Editorial Board

# Just Toss the Trump Case

Judge Juan Merchan and Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg just can't give up their lawfare against Donald Trump.

Merchan on Friday punted again on how he's going to handle the Trump conviction, after a Tuesday filing from Bragg suggested that the judge delay sentencing until after the prez-elect's term ends.

The judge has now ordered Trump's legal team and Bragg to file arguments in December on whether the case should be tossed.

Unacceptable. The election was weeks ago. Merchan should've made up his mind to do the right thing already.

And Bragg should've been laughed out of court Tuesday when he proposed his banana-republic idea of holding the possibility of sentencing over the head of Trump for the next four years.

That the case itself is specious only heightens the offense here. The root "crimes" here were a few internal bookkeeping entries that at most would be misdemeanor offenses on which the statute of limitations long expired.

Bragg argued — insanely — that these 2017 business records became felonies because they involved Trump trying to influ-

ence the outcome of the 2016 election.

Merchan greased the path for a conviction along those Kafkaesque lines, even instructing jurors that they could *individually* decide to believe any of three different theories about the time-traveling "crime."

It was a political prosecution, pure and simple, meant to hobble Trump as he ran for office by dragging him back to New York for hearings and to damage his reputation with the public. It failed at that; indeed, the guilty verdict drove almost \$35 million in small-dollar donations for Trump. Then he went on to win the election — convincingly.

Set aside all the damage keeping the case in limbo does to the norms Dems like Merchan endlessly scream about: How does it serve the cause of justice?

We're hoping Merchan realizes this farce needs to end, and is just seeking the most face-saving excuse and/or lowest-profile moment to pull the plug. But maybe both the judge and the DA are trying to squeeze every last bit of fun from the power and prestige they've been enjoying.

Lawfare is a powerful drug. It's time Merchan and Bragg went cold turkey.

# 19 Senate Israel-Haters

**O**n Wednesday, the Senate held a vote on three resolutions aimed at isolating Israel and kneecapping its defense — and 17 Democrats and two Independents voted for them. Now we know who the snakes in the grass are.

The bills, filed by Sen. Bernie Sanders, aimed to block \$20 billion in US arms for the Jewish state.

Sens. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), Jon Ossoff (D-Ga.), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Tina Smith (D-Minn.) Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Peter Welch (D-Vt.), George Helmy (D-NJ) as well as Angus King (I-Maine) and Sanders each voted in favor of at least one of the three; Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) voted "present."

Fine: Other Democrats (and every Republican) voted the right way, but this was

nearly half the Senate majority caucus smearing Israel's war of self-defense.

So why did Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer waste the floor time on this idiocy? We can only conclude that he's *that* beholden to his party's hard left.

Meanwhile, Schumer has for months refused to allow a floor vote on a bipartisan House-passed bill that would oblige the federal Education Department to get tough on colleges now turning a blind eye to antisemitism in and around those "pro-Palestine" demonstrations. Instead, he's folding the Antisemitism Awareness Act into a Defense bill, badly weakening the message that the hate needs to end. Chuck loves to brag about how he protects Israel and the Jewish people, but apparently his party's anti-Israel wing comes first.

At least these 19 senators have declared themselves: Every American who believes Israel has the same right to self-defense as any other nation should target each of them for defeat at his or her next election.

# Ending NY's Hollywood Giveaway?

**S**tate Senate Democrats are at long last questioning New York's tax subsidies for Hollywood — but only to burn the money somewhere else.

Dusting off a year-old report that confirms the \$700 million tax credit doesn't remotely generate enough economic benefits to justify the expense, Sen. Liz Krueger told reporters, "We have to get smarter in New York state about what programs we operate, whether they are worth their salt, whether they are a bad use of the public's money."

Yet neither she nor Sen. Jim Skoufis wor-

ried in April, when the Legislature renewed the giveaway in this year's state budget. No, they're just looking for available cash in case Republicans reduce federal aid.

The massive incentive to lure Hollywood productions to New York adds up to \$7.7 billion over 11 years; New York pols have long backed it because it encourages La-La-Land lovelies to hobnob with them.

If Krueger, Skoufis & Co. do kill or at least reduce the pork, it'll be a small step forward. But watch for them to turn the "savings" into some even more egregious giveaway.

**letters@nypost.com**

# Eva Is a True Ex-Patriot: Farewell, Dystopia America

•Good riddance to Eva Longoria, who has doubled-down on life abroad after moving away during the pandemic ("Escaping America? What Eva!" Nov. 21).

Finally, one person who threatens to leave the United States actually makes good on her word.

Much of her complaints — inflation, high cost of living, homelessness — is thanks to the Democrats (who never admit to any wrongdoing). For four years we had a senile puppet as our "president" and a do-nothing vice president while everyday expenses skyrocketed, along with crime.

**Veronica Kwiecinski**  
Maspeth

•Eva Longoria says so long to America. I say: Good, don't let the door hit your privileged butt on the way out.

There is an old saying: If your heart is not in this country, get your butt out of it. I wonder: Will she take all the money she made in this country with her? **Gary Acerra**  
Staten Island

•Eva Longoria has decided to continue trading

**THE ISSUE:** Eva Longoria pronouncing the United States to be a dystopia following the election.



Eva Longoria

America for the better pastures of Spain and Mexico. Many of our problems have to do with homelessness and taxation, but of course it was the pandemic that was catalyst that is driving her out of here, and the recent election which led her to call America a dystopia.

She is right in acknowledging that it is her privilege that allows her to live elsewhere.

**Ron Zajicek**  
Cortlandt

•Good riddance, to Eva Longoria: Hopefully, more of the Hollywood elite will follow her.

The Democratic Party created the mess she's complaining about — and yet President-elect Donald Trump gets blamed. Longoria has no idea about average American troubles, nor does she seem to care about hard-working people trying to raise a families here.

**P. Fletcher**  
Massapequa Park

# Whoopi's Bakery Whoopsie

•Kudos to The Post's coverage of Whoopi Goldberg's tiff with a Staten Island bakery ("Cherry on top of Whoopi 'lie,'" Nov. 21).

Is Whoopi so entitled that she believes her political views are relevant to the simple purchase of dessert? Talk about narcissistic delusions of grandeur. She needs to "woke" up and smell the coffee.

Why wouldn't any confectioner just let her eat their cake, if they were able to profit from the sale? **James Evans**  
Worcester, Mass.

•This is just another example of another Demo-

**THE ISSUE:** Whoopi Goldberg accusing a Staten Island bakery of political bias.

cratic coastal elite talking down to working-class people. And what makes it worse is that Goldberg manufactured this entire issue.

A bakery that has been in business for roughly 145 years doesn't achieve that longevity by shunning people for political reasons. Shame on you, Whoopi.

This family deserves an on air apology.

**Sean P. Kelly**  
Farmingdale

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# AMERICAN SWAGGER

## The joys of awesome rocketry



**RICH  
LOWRY**

**A**T his Madison Square Garden event a week before the election, Donald Trump went on an extended riff about the famous “chopstick” maneuver of Elon Musk’s Space X.

In describing his slack-jawed amazement at watching the feat — the first stage of a Starship rocket returning to the launch tower upon coming back to Earth — Trump spoke for all us.

The various videos of the operation that witnesses have posted online never get old. It’s not just the technical achievement — the joyous awe of spectators is itself wonderful to behold.

The other day, President-elect Trump took time off from forming his new administration to travel to South Texas with Musk to observe another test launch of Starship, and why not? Rockets are an enduring object of human fascination, and Space X is bringing an appropriate sense of brio to one of mankind’s coolest ventures.

Modern rocketry is the product of a couple of centuries of human thought and ingenuity, from the 13th century when the Chinese used “arrows of flying fire” to fight the Mongols, to Newton’s 16th-century work on the laws of motion, to the experiments of Robert Goddard early in the 20th century, to the advances driven by World

War II and the Cold War.

A rocket launch is literally spectacular. It is a feast for the eyes and an assault on the ears, as a tall, thin projectile is, after a controlled explosion, propelled upwards on a raging plume of fire.

The iconic 1969 launch of Apollo 11 on the sleek, instantly recognizable Saturn V rocket emblazoned with the words “United States” in red lettering remains a thing of beauty, and a symbol of 20th-century technological achievement.

A rocket is otherworldly in more than one sense. A car can be analogized to a horse. A plane can be analogized to a bird. A rocket is like nothing in nature. And it promises to take us to worlds beyond our own, whether outer space, or the moon — or, if Musk can achieve his ambitions, Mars.

There is an inherent risk to the enterprise, making it even more compelling. The countdown of mission control always holds a certain drama, and the announcement of “liftoff!” always carries a justified tone of triumph.

Space X’s chopstick operation had a little of all of this. The returning rocket stage looked like a Roman candle flying in reverse, and it created visible — and then audible — sonic booms as it de-

scended. It represented a new frontier in human achievement, since such a thing had never been done before. And, as it hovered above the tower, the success of the test remained in doubt until it nestled in the metal arms. In engineering terms, it was like watching a skater land a quadruple axle.

When Musk was with Trump and demonstrated how the latest Starship test would work with a model in his hand, he looked every bit a boy smitten with the adventure of rocketry and eager to share his enthusiasm. That, in large part, is what Musk is, but no one should mistake the seriousness of his achievements.

For all that rockets are emblems of the future, there was a decades-long period of stagnation in launch costs until Musk came along and revolutionized the business with his entrepreneurial mindset.

Now, launch costs have radically diminished and Musk alone operates 10 times more satellites than any other country or company, according to Ars Technica. The tests of Starship, the world’s largest and most powerful rocket, are the latest iteration of Musk’s approach of rapid innovation toward the goal of sending men to the moon again, and then Mars.

It is an expression of a basic human instinct for exploration and adventure, with the rocket its symbol and vehicle.



New frontier: The second US space age takes flight.

# How Legal Aid, DAs Failed Ramon Rivera

**N**EW York’s criminal justice system has failed crime victims yet again — and its attorneys bear a lion’s share of the blame.

Why aren’t the city’s prosecutors asking for mental competence exams — known internally as a Section 730.30 — more regularly at arraignments involving the mentally disturbed? Why aren’t public defenders requesting them on behalf of their mentally ill clients?

Ramon Rivera, the offender who allegedly went on a Manhattan stabbing spree Monday and killed three innocents, had a long recidivist history. In all those many encounters, assistant district attorneys, Legal Aid lawyers and judges had to notice he wasn’t playing with a full deck.

As a bail agent who works in the criminal justice system every single day, I can say with authority it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to see when a person being prosecuted is suffering from extreme mental illness.

The 730.30 process has been the law forever — but the City of New York isn’t deploying it as a strategy to protect the public from the homeless mentally ill.

Under New York state law, criminal courts “must issue an order of examination when it is of the opinion that the defendant may be [a psychologically] incapacitated person.” Why isn’t this practice a matter of course in NYC?

I’ve sat in on countless thousands of arraignments in my career, and I can tell you the 730.30 statute is tragically under-utilized. Maybe it just comes down to cost: psychological evaluations cost tons of money, and keeping the dangerous mentally ill in psychiatric hospitals does, too.

Obviously it’s easier for the city and state to simply release them

## Releasing the mentally ill without proper intervention is tantamount to negligence.

back to the streets. But you can’t claim to be a social justice warrior and leave the indigent and the mentally ill to fend for themselves.

Rivera is a sick man who should have been held for a psych exam and hospitalized to protect the safety of the city’s residents — and to protect him from himself. If an offender had a diabetic seizure in court, 911 would be called immediately and the offender transported for medical help.

And while mental illness can often be invisible to the human eye, it wasn’t in the case of Ramon Rivera. Anyone could have seen that in a New York minute.

Releasing the mentally ill without proper intervention is tantamount to negligence. Where is the consideration for the public? One glance at Ramon’s rap sheet and it’s easy to see he’s a menace to society.

Why didn’t any of the key players in his adjudication process care about him enough to get him the help he so desperately needed? Why didn’t any of them care about the crime victims he could potentially hurt?

Gov. Kathy Hochul has made it abundantly clear that the state expects judges to hold offenders who pose a threat to society. In 2023, in

**MICHELLE ESQUENAZI**

her last revision to the bail reform law, she removed language instructing judges to release defendants using “the least restrictive means.”

With that change, she wisely gave power and authority back to judges in rendering custody decisions — power that was taken away from them in Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s 2020 bail reform debacle.

So don’t go blaming this triple murder on the governor — this is a Legal Aid problem, first and foremost. The attorney who represented this poor man didn’t do him any justice by not demanding his incredible and emergent need for the 730.30. Maybe if he or she had

done so, those three victims might be alive today.

The Legal Aid Society is a massive, well-funded bureaucracy that is hardly understaffed. Why aren’t its attorneys begging the court for 730.30 intervention in every possible instance? Why aren’t they fighting for the well-being of all of us — including for their mentally ill clients in desperate need of care?

Meanwhile, prosecutors and judges had the ability to hold this perp and do the world a favor by getting him to a psych hospital. Instead he was sent back to the streets where he came from to wreak havoc on unknowing New Yorkers. Shame on them all.

New York City needs to get it together. We have an enormous number of homeless individuals, and the majority of them suffer mental illness. The 730.30 is a tool in the toolbox that must be used.

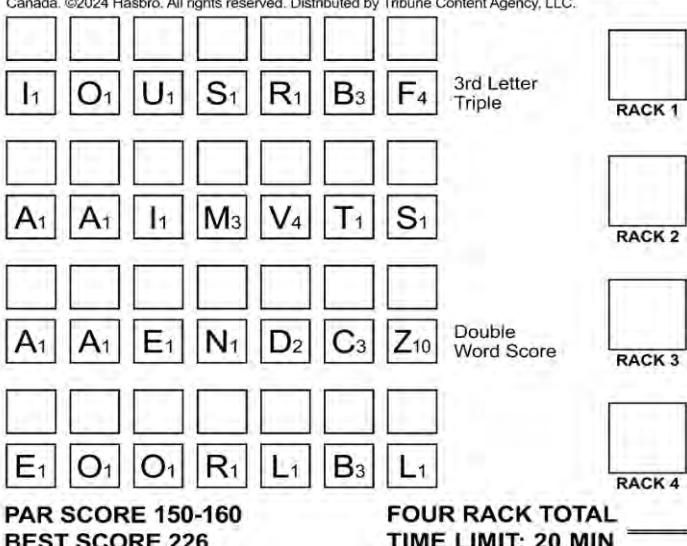
These senseless murders did not have to happen, and they wouldn’t have happened — if only Rivera’s Legal Aid attorney, or any other authority he encountered, had sounded the alarm.

*Michelle Esquenazi is president of the National Association of Bail Agents and the New York State Bail Association.*

# SCRABBLE

G R A M S

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FOUR RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

RACK 1 = 68  
RACK 2 = 62  
RACK 3 = 88  
RACK 4 = 8  
TOTAL 226

**SCRAMBLE GRAMS SOLUTION**  
TODAY'S ANSWER  
PAR SCORE 150-160

**Directions:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

## Bridge

East dealer  
Both sides vulnerable

**NORTH**  
♠ 10 7  
♥ 7 5 3 2  
♦ A Q J 10  
♣ Q J 10

**WEST**  
♠ J 4  
♥ 6 4  
♦ 9 7 6 2  
♣ A 9 6 4 2

**EAST**  
♠ A K 9 6 3 2  
♥ J  
♦ 8 4 3  
♣ K 8 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q 8 5  
♥ A K Q 10 9 8  
♦ K 5  
♣ 7 3

East South West North  
1 ♠ 2 ♥ Pass 3 ♥  
Pass 4 ♥ All Pass

Opening lead - ♠ J

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Simple Saturday columns focus on basic technique and logical thinking.

Cy the Cynic, a confirmed bachelor, maintains that it's helpful to have a good woman by your side in times of trouble you wouldn't have had if you'd stayed single. There's no doubt that a good partner can improve your results at bridge, but even the best partner won't help if you don't let him.

Today's West led the jack of spades against South's four hearts, and East took the king and ace. When South followed with the five and eight, East promptly led a third spade; he expected West to ruff with a trump higher than dummy. But West could produce only the six, and declarer overruffed with the seven, drew trumps and ran the diamonds. Making five!

East was unlucky, but he should have consulted his partner. At Trick Three, East should lead the king of clubs.

West will signal encouragement, and East will lead a second club for down one. If West could ruff a third spade higher than dummy, he would discourage a club continuation.

## Word Force

### GENERATE

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 14** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

**ANSWERS IN MONDAY'S POST**  
Yesterday's word:  
**ENCHANTING**

|       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| acing | china | niche | thing |
| agent | chine | night | tinge |
| chain | eight | ninth |       |
| chant | enact | teach |       |
| cheat | ethic | thine |       |

### Wonderword

**How to play:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**'WEIRD: THE AL YANKOVIC STORY' (FILM)** Solution: 5 letters

|   |   |   |     |     |     |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | A | T | I   | T   | C   | I   | V | O | K | N | A | Y | L | A |
| G | C | O | N   | A   | N   | O   | B | R | I | E | N | I | L | C |
| A | C | A | P   | T   | U   | R   | E | C | Y | Y | K | F | A | O |
| T | O | M | (S) | (T) | (I) | (H) | K | M | D | E | R | M | Y | O |
| S | R | I | R   | A   | T   | S   | M | O | A | E | E | M | R | L |
| L | D | T | B   | A   | D   | E   | R | S | D | O | D | S | A | I |
| E | I | Y | F   | U   | E   | A   | U | L | P | I | S | B | M | O |
| H | O | N | S   | V   | P   | R   | E | A | E | U | E | E | Y | T |
| C | N | I | E   | Y   | G   | P   | R | D | H | N | V | R | B | N |
| A | I | T | N   | E   | P   | T   | R | Y | I | J | I | M | O | E |
| R | S | O | O   | A   | Y   | I   | B | A | N | D | L | U | L | M |
| N | T | N | C   | N   | C   | O   | M | P | O | U | N | D | O | E |
| A | C | I | N   | H   | T   | M   | A | D | O | N | N | A | G | D |
| V | R | U | A   | L   | B   | U   | M | A | N | S | I | O | N | R |
| E | F | F | I   | L   | C   | D   | A | R | L | E | I | N | A | D |

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11/23

Accordionist, Album, Alfred, Al Yankovic, Bader, Band, Ben, Bermuda, Cameo, Capture, Compound, Conan O'Brien, Coolio, Daniel, Diedrich, Dr. Demento, Eat It, Emmy, Eric Appel, Evan Rachel, Father, Funny, Hits, Jim, Like a Surgeon, Live, Madonna, Mansion, Mary, My Bologna, Nick, Parody, Party, Radcliffe, Stage, Star, Steve, Tiny Tim, Toby Huss, Tony Yesterday's Answer: Aboriginals

For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

# POST SUDOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids.

Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at

[www.SudokuWiki.org](http://www.SudokuWiki.org)



NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 32

© Syndicated Puzzles

Very Easy #6,741 ▾

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

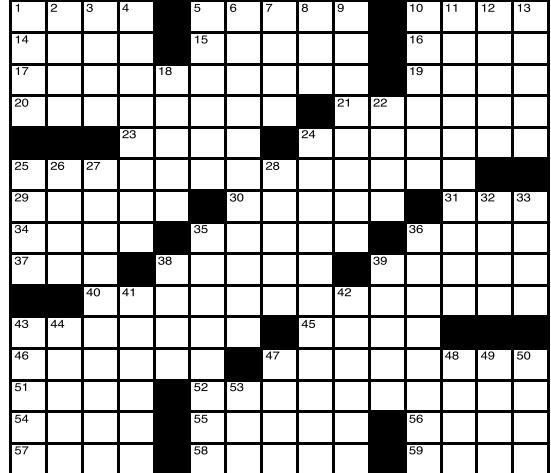
Difficult #6,531 ▾

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

## Quick Crossword

### Across

1 Vittles  
5 Schools that don't play in bowl games  
10 Blown away  
14 Bring on  
15 Classic infomercial brand  
16 "That's ... really off the mark"  
17 Team that went to the NBA Finals with Durant, Harden, and Westbrook, familiarly  
19 Part of some cleansing rituals  
20 Naval garb  
21 Further  
23 Attraction north of Syracuse  
24 Category on a spa menu  
25 Product with Ground Ball Grape and Wild Pitch Watermelon flavors  
29 Key chain?  
30 Hit makers?  
31 Backing  
34 "I'm mio!"  
35 Take to task  
36 Petrol choice  
37 Cap. of America  
38 Goes over  
39 Aromatic hydrocarbon  
40 Alternative to a rim shot  
43 Taxonomy rank  
45 Bye line  
46 Source of pain for some runners, familiarly  
47 "Right ... hadn't thought of that"  
51 Athlete also known as "Fräulein Forehand"  
52 Placed  
54 Wizard  
55 "I'm free to help"  
56 Scruff of the neck  
57 Architectural area whose name comes from the Greek for "vault"  
58 Inquired (into)  
59 Shiraz locale



ing Twenties  
7 Some voters, briefly  
8 -speak  
9 Arose  
10 Oz dweller  
11 Cry over spilled milk?  
12 Georgia of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"  
13 People of action  
18 Suite spot  
22 Folk singer Phil  
24 Is completely comfortable  
25 Singer Erykah  
26 "Really?"  
27 Signs that the party's over?  
28 Clinging to a lead  
32 "Clearly"  
33 Diary writer in a Rachel Renée Russell series  
35 Gamer's mad dash to complete a level  
36 Africa's last absolute monarchy  
38 Area guarded in many sports  
39 John with an EGOT  
41 Computer security brand  
42 Fell behind

ONCE A HAB INSTA  
ROOT PEDIE NEARS  
BETHHEBALL OATES  
INTOWRIGHTTIME  
STASESBIA ROT  
ORG SIN DIVERS  
NYET LOOS DOS  
WHOSFIRST  
KIA ETTO EROS  
DINGHY HMM EVE  
IDO EAR PESTER  
GET WITHIT AKIRA  
EATATMOVINUP  
STENT AJAR RUSH  
TEDDY DADS TEES  
**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**  
(C) 2024 Tribune Media Services  
43 Scylla's head?  
44 Plumbing piece  
47 Fab  
48 House of Fabergé patron  
49 filter  
50 "Rectify" star Young  
53 Spanish "that"

# Business

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Dow hits high

The Dow jumped more than 400 points, or 1%, notching another all-time closing high as investors took comfort from data pointing to robust US economic activity. All three major indexes finished with weekly gains.

### Gap surging

Gap shares jumped 13% a day after the apparel retailer raised its annual sales forecast and said the holiday season was off to a "strong start."

### Chap. 11 time

Illinois-based Hearthside Food Solutions filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, seeking to trim \$1.9 billion debt after probes into child labor at factories where it made granola bars, breakfast cereal and snacks.

### Bosch job cuts

German car-parts supplier Robert Bosch plans to slash as many 5,550 jobs, the latest sign of struggle in Germany's creaking auto sector, which is grappling with competition from cheaper Chinese rivals and weak demand.

### EVs recalled

Hyundai and Kia are recalling more than 208,000 electric vehicles to fix a pesky problem that can cause loss of drive power, increasing the risk of a crash. The recalls cover 2022-25 models.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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# PEAKED INTEREST

## Retail credit card APRs hitting all-time high

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

At least 50 major retailers jacked up interest rates on store-branded credit cards to all-time highs — even as inflation continues to dog shoppers nationwide, according to an explosive new study.

Big chains including Macy's, Gap, TJ Maxx and Petco hiked annual percentage rates (APRs) on their store-issued credit cards before the Federal Reserve began slashing rates in September, per a CNBC report based on Bankrate.com data.

The retailers are pushing rates to 30% and above — an all-time record that breaks an unspoken APR maximum of 29.99% for the first time in years. That's despite the fact that economists expect the government's lending rates to ease further in the coming months.

While there are no federal caps on rates, companies are required by law to clearly post and alert customers to changes. Experts are advising shoppers to think twice before signing up for new cards in the thick of the holiday season.

"If you get offered one of these this holiday season, really take a breath. I would just say no if you're going to carry a balance," Bankrate analyst Ted Rossman said. "We hear many times peo-

### Percentage pain in store

**At least 50 major retailers, including Macy's and its upscale Bloomingdale's chain, Gap, TJ Maxx and Petco have hiked the annual percentage rates on their store-issued credit cards. Rates are being pushed to 30% and above — some as high as a whopping 35.99% — breaking the unspoken APR maximum of 29.99% for the first time in years.**



ple sign up for these cards and they don't even realize what they're getting into."

Discount retailer Big Lots — which filed for bankruptcy in September — raised its APR by 6 percentage points from 29.99% to

35.99%, the largest increase of the 100 retailers analyzed by Bankrate.

Gap made the second-largest increase, raising the rate on its Banana Republic, Athleta and Old Navy cards by 5 percentage points to

34.99%. Petco came in third with a 4.5-percentage-point hike to 35.99%.

The moves look like a bid by major retailers to maximize profits as the crucial holiday season ramps up. Nearly half of Macy's oper-

ating profits in 2022 came from its credit card program, according to a 2023 report by Citi analyst Paul Lejeune.

In May, Macy's raised its full-year forecast on credit card revenues "due to better-than-expected profit share resulting from higher balances within the portfolio," finance chief Adrian Mitchell said on a call.

In August, Mitchell said the company's revenue was being helped by consumers keeping credit card balances for longer than expected.

### Over 30%

Macy's upscale Bloomingdale's chain raised its APR by 2.5 percentage points to 34.49%. TJX, which owns TJ Maxx, Marshalls and Homegoods, hiked its APR by 2.75 percentage points to 34.99%.

Big Lots, Academy Sports, Burlington, Michael's and Petco are tied for the highest APR at a whopping 35.99% as of September, per the CNBC report.

A spokesperson for Big Lots told CNBC that APR changes are made "responsibly and in line with overall industry standards."

Big Lots' partner bank, Comenity, said the interest rate hikes were "due to several factors including historical federal rate increases, rising credit losses and regulatory pressures."

# Robinhood exec's hard no on gov't gig

Robinhood Chief Legal Officer Dan Gallagher, reportedly a top contender to lead the Securities and Exchange Commission under President-elect Donald Trump, said Friday he is not interested in returning to a government position.

Gallagher was appointed to the agency by former President Barack Obama and served as an SEC commissioner from 2011 to 2015.

"It is always an honor to have your name in the mix for an incred-

ibly important job like SEC Chairman. However, I have made it clear that I do not wish to be considered for this position," Gallagher said in a statement.

In the days before Gallagher bowed out of the running, betting prediction market Kalshi showed him with a 61% chance of clinching the job.

Robert Stebbins, the agency's former general counsel and a current partner at Willkie Farr & Gal-

agher, has also been floated as a potential SEC pick.

Former SEC commissioner Paul Atkins has reportedly been considered for the role. He was appointed by President George W. Bush to the agency in 2002.

Brian Brooks is another name that has been put up for SEC chair. He served in the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency during Trump's first administration. In the past, the crypto buff — who worked

for Coinbase and BitFury Group — has called out the Biden administration's strict regulatory approach to cryptocurrency.

Gallagher's willingness to head the agency was a question mark for those who doubted he would want to leave his post at stock-trading and investing platform Robinhood.

In his statement, Gallagher said he feels he "can make tremendous progress to democratize finance" in his current role. Taylor Herzlich

# 'The Steal World': Site hack

The website for controversial social media influencer Andrew Tate's self-help site "The Real World" was reportedly hacked this week.

The hackers were able to extract a trove of data from Tate's site — formerly known as Hustler's University — which included approximately 794,000 user names, 324,382 unique email addresses and both public and private chat logs, according to a report by the Daily Dot, which re-

ceived copies of the data.

The breach was reportedly revealed Thursday in the middle of Tate's broadcast of his show "Emergency Meeting" on Rumble, when the hackers began flooding the website's public chat room with emojis.

"The emojis included a transgender flag, a feminist fist, an AI-generated image of Tate draped in a rainbow flag, another where his buttocks are enlarged, and the cat character used in the "boykisser"

meme," according to the Daily Dot.

It's unclear who is responsible for the breach, but the hackers told the outlet that their motive was "hacktivism" and said that Tate's website was "hilariously insecure."

Tate (right) bills his site as the "world's most advanced financial education platform" and claims, "making money is a skill. We will teach you how to master it." Thomas Barrabi



# Probe of bank's Iran 'ties'

The Treasury Department is looking into JPMorgan Chase's relationship with a hedge fund said to be a part of Iranian oil trader Hossein Shamkhani's network, Bloomberg News reported Friday.

Hossein Shamkhani is the son of Ali Shamkhani, a longtime ally of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and previously the country's top security official.

The US agency is scrutinizing whether JPMorgan complied with all rules and regulations when it took on UAE-based hedge fund Ocean Leonid Investments as a client, the report said, citing people familiar with the matter.

JPMorgan and Ocean Leonid didn't respond to requests for comment while the Treasury Department declined comment. Hossein Shamkhani couldn't be reached.

The probe, which is at an early stage, is mainly interested in Shamkhani's activities, while also considering the possibility of bank compliance gaps, the report said, adding that JPMorgan was among the banks that offered leverage to the hedge fund.

JPMorgan has no obligation to exit the client relationship because neither Shamkhani nor the company appear on sanctions lists, according to Bloomberg.

Reuters

# Joe's 'Morning' low

## 'Don-visit' duo's worst viewership since 2021

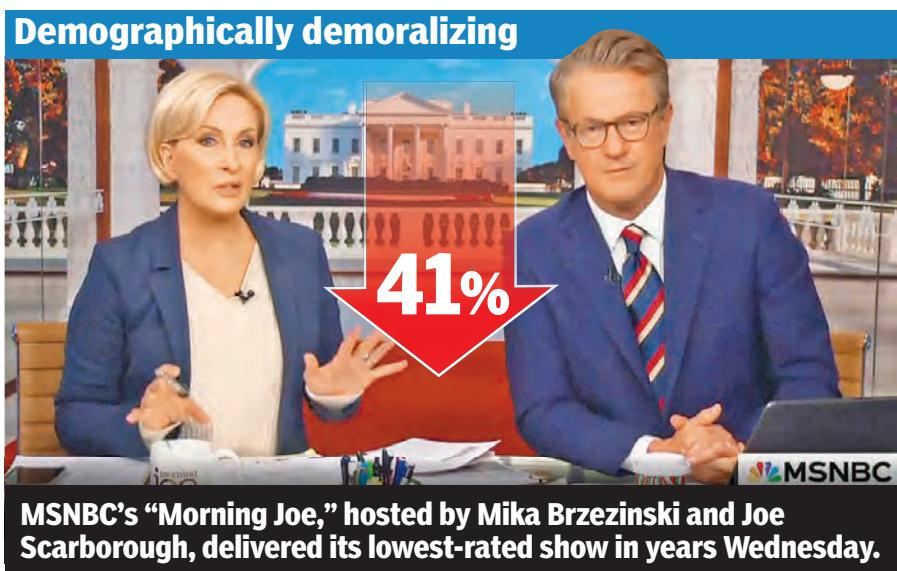
By ALEXANDRA STEIGRAD

The fallout at MSNBC's "Morning Joe" continued to worsen this week after co-hosts Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski told viewers Monday that they met in person with President-elect Donald Trump.

Viewership fell to a new low Wednesday — just two days after the MSNBC duo said they trekked to the Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Fla. to "restart communications" with Trump after years of being highly critical of him, stunning their left-leaning audience.

According to Nielsen data, the MSNBC duo delivered their lowest-rated program since 2021 in the advertiser-coveted 25- to 54-year-old demographic, cratering 41% on the demo and 16% in total viewers since the hosts announced their meeting.

Scarborough and Brzezinski have come under fire



from both liberals and conservatives this week who accused them of hypocrisy for routinely denouncing Trump, only to then seek his company after he was elected.

"The Daily Show" host

Jon Stewart mocked the duo for rushing to meet with Trump in Florida after the pair parroted Democrats who called him a danger to democracy and compared him to Hitler.

Former Republican pres-

idential candidate Nikki Haley blasted the "Morning Joe" co-hosts Monday — accusing them of currying favor with Trump to boost their ratings.

The show's audience peeled off almost immedi-

ately after the husband-wife team broke news of their trip on Monday.

Nielsen data also showed that less than an hour after the hosts gave their rationale for the trip, viewers were changing the channel and clicking away from MSNBC.

Viewership fell 17% between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., from 839,000 to 694,000. Viewership dropped 38% in the demo from 113,000 people to 70,000.

In the 8-to-9 a.m. hour, the audience picked up somewhat as viewership hit 775,000 people, but ratings dropped in the 9 a.m.-to-10 a.m. hour as the audience shrank to 770,000 viewers.

Meanwhile, conservative network Fox News has been growing and now commands 73% of the cable news audience in prime-time viewers and 71% in the demo, according to Nielsen.

# In some Sirius trouble

A New York judge found SiriusXM liable in state Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit accusing the satellite radio and streaming company of making it too hard for customers to cancel subscriptions.

While rejecting claims alleging fraud and deceptive practices, Justice Lyle Frank of State Supreme Court in Manhattan said SiriusXM's policies violated the federal Restore Online Shoppers' Confidence Act.

Frank said SiriusXM made canceling subscriptions "clearly not as easy" as signing up by requiring subscribers to speak at length with live agents trained to dissuade cancellations, and listen to as many as five offers of other services before being allowed to cancel.

The judge said SiriusXM must change its cancellation practices and pay unspecified damages. The company plans to appeal. Reuters

# DirecTV-Dish deal nix

Satellite TV giant DirecTV called off its deal with Charlie Ergen's EchoStar to acquire rival Dish TV and other assets.

The deal would have created one of the largest pay-TV distributors in the country with a combined 20 million subscribers.

DirecTV had been set to pay EchoStar \$1 for the pay-TV business called Dish DBS, which included Dish and Sling, and also assume

about \$9.75 billion of Dish's debt.

In addition, Dish bondholders had to agree to exchange their debt for new debt in the merged company at a discounted rate, taking a haircut of roughly \$1.57 billion on the debt. Dish bondholders recently rejected that proposal.

Shares of EchoStar, which is weighed down with more than \$20 billion in debt, slid nearly 3% on Friday. Alexandra Steigrad

# A'zon \$4B to OpenAI rival

Amazon pumped another \$4 billion into OpenAI competitor Anthropic, as the e-commerce giant goes up against Big Tech rivals in a race to capitalize on generative artificial intelligence technology.

This doubles Amazon's investment in the firm known for its GenAI chatbot Claude, but it remains a minority investor, the startup said Friday.

San Francisco-based Anthropic, founded in 2021, is led by siblings and ex-OpenAI employees Dario and Daniela Amodei. Wires

# Classifieds

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| Publication Date                   | Ad Deadline            |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Thurs. Nov. 28th to Fri. Nov. 29th | Wed. Nov. 27th 11:00AM |

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on Thursday, November 28th.

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### LEGAL NOTICES

#### UCC PUBLIC SALE NOTICE

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT**, pursuant to the Uniform Commercial Code, ACORE CAPITAL MORTGAGE, LP, a Delaware limited partnership, as administrative agent for and on behalf of the Mezzanine Lender (as hereinafter defined) (the "Secured Party") will offer for sale at public auction to be held at 11:00 A.M. (prevailing Eastern time) on January 23, 2025, and conducted both via Zoom (or a similar online platform) and in-person in front of the New York Supreme Court, New York County Courthouse, located at 60 Center Street, New York, New York 10007, all right, title and interest of ADAMS MORGAN HOTEL MEMBER LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Debtor"), to (i) all limited liability company interests in Adams Morgan Hotel Owner LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Mortgage Borrower"), (ii) all limited liability company interests in Adams Morgan Hotel Operator LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Liquor Permittee"), and (iii) all other collateral pledged by the Debtor under that Mezzanine Pledge and Security Agreement dated as of March 19, 2019, and made by the Debtor in favor of the Secured Party (the "Pledge Agreement"), as more fully set forth in the Pledge Agreement (collectively, the "Collateral"). Copies of the Pledge Agreement are available for inspection as hereinafter described. The Secured Party was granted a security interest in the Collateral to secure certain indebtedness (the "Indebtedness") of the Debtor. At such public auction, the Collateral will be offered as a single asset and not in parts or as separate assets. All interested prospective purchasers that meet the qualifications for bidding are invited to attend and bid at the auction, and will have the option to attend either via Zoom (or similar online platform) or in-person.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT**, based upon information provided by the Debtor, the Mortgage Borrower and/or certain other persons and entities affiliated therewith, it is the understanding of the Secured Party (but without any warranty or representation by the Secured Party as to the accuracy or completeness of the following matters) that: (i) the Debtor owns all limited liability company interests in the Mortgage Borrower, (ii) the Debtor owns all limited liability company interests in the Liquor Permittee, (iii) the Debtor indirectly owns the fee simple interest in the real property commonly known as The Line Hotel DC with an address of 1770 Euclid Street NW, Washington, DC 20009, as legally described in Exhibit A to the Loan Agreement (as defined in the Pledge Agreement) (the "Premises"), and (iv) the Premises is subject to a first mortgage loan securing indebtedness in the original principal amount of Eighty-Five Million Eight Hundred Ninety-Seven Thousand Five Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$85,897,500.00) (the "Mortgage Loan"). The Secured Party makes no representation as to the current status of the Mortgage Loan.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT** the Secured Party reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and shall not be obligated to make any sale pursuant to this notice. The Secured Party reserves the right to bid and to become a purchaser at the sale to be made pursuant to this notice and to credit against the purchase price of the Collateral any and all of the Indebtedness.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT** the Collateral will be sold pursuant to appropriate transfer documents on an "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis, with all faults, and without any guarantees, representations or warranties of any kind or nature whatsoever.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT** the limited liability company interests in the Mortgage Borrower and the Liquor Permittee may be considered unregistered securities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). The purchaser of the Collateral will be required to represent in writing to the Secured Party (the "Bidding Certificate") that such purchaser (i) is acquiring the Collateral for investment purposes, solely for the purchaser's own account and not with a view to distribution or resale of the Collateral within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act; (ii) is an accredited investor within the meaning of the applicable securities laws; (iii) has sufficient knowledge and experience in financial and business matters so as to be capable of evaluating the merits and risks of investment and has sufficient financial means to afford the risk of investment in the Collateral; (iv) will not resell or otherwise hypothecate the Collateral without a valid registration under applicable federal or state laws, including, without limitation, the Securities Act, an available exemption therefrom; and (v) will purchase the Collateral in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws. The purchaser of the Collateral will be further required to represent in the Bidding Certificate that it (a) is or will be, at the time of closing of the sale, a Permitted Transferee (as defined in that Master Intercreditor Agreement dated as of October 1, 2017, by and among (V) DELPHI CRE Funding LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("DELPHI"), as the holder of Senior Note A (as defined therein) (in such capacity, "Senior Note A Lender"), (W) DELPHI, as the holder of Senior Note B (as defined therein) ("Senior Note B Lender") and together with Senior Note A Lender, collectively, the "Senior Lender"), (Y) ACORE Capital Mortgage, LP, a Delaware limited partnership, in its capacity as administrative agent for Senior Lender (in such capacity, "Senior Loan Administrative Agent"), (Y) DELPHI, as the mezzanine lender (in such capacity, "Mezzanine Lender"), and (Z) the Secured Party (the "Intercreditor Agreement"), and (b) will be able to satisfy and will satisfy all of the other requirements of the Intercreditor Agreement, including without limitation the requirements set forth in Section 3(a) thereof. A copy of the Intercreditor Agreement is available for inspection as hereinafter described. Additionally, the Bidding Certificate shall provide the prospective bidder's agreement to indemnify the Secured Party with respect to any claim based on any misrepresentation or inaccuracy contained in such Bidding Certificate. Meeting any requirements of the foregoing shall be at the sole risk, cost and expense of a prospective bidder.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT** the following will apply with respect to the sale herein described. The Collateral will be sold for cash at such price and on such other commercially reasonable terms as the Secured Party may determine. The minimum bidding increments will be \$25,000.00 or such other amount as the Secured Party may announce at the auction. In order for a prospective bidder (other than the Secured Party or its designee) to be a "qualified bidder" and eligible to bid at the public auction, each such prospective bidder must, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Secured Party: (a) register with Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, Inc. (the "Broker") and execute and deliver to the Broker a Bidding Certificate, an Internal Revenue Service Form W-9, and a KYC Letter (as defined in the full terms and conditions of the sale) (i) by email to [brett.rosenberg@jll.com](mailto:brett.rosenberg@jll.com) provided receipt is confirmed by response email from Brett Rosenberg, or (ii) by hand, certified mail (return receipt requested), or overnight delivery by a nationally recognized courier service, with a courtesy copy sent by email to [brett.rosenberg@jll.com](mailto:brett.rosenberg@jll.com); so as to be actually received on or prior to 5:00 PM (prevailing Eastern Time) on January 16, 2025; (b) demonstrate to the Secured Party's satisfaction in advance of bidding its financial ability to tender payment for the Collateral; (c) demonstrate, to the Secured Party's satisfaction, that the certifications set forth in its Bidding Certificate are true and correct, including without limitation, with respect to the prospective bidder's ability to qualify as a Permitted Transferee (as defined in the Intercreditor Agreement); and (d) at least two (2) business days prior to the start of the auction, provide an initial deposit to the title company or other agent designated by the Secured Party (the "Designated Agent"), by wire transfer of immediately available funds from a U.S. commercial bank that is a member of the Federal Reserve System, in an amount equal to \$50,000.00 (the "Initial Deposit"). A further deposit will be required from the successful bidder immediately following the public auction and the balance will be due in accordance with the terms and conditions of the sale, which terms and conditions may be obtained by contacting the Broker at its address below. The successful bidder will be required to execute a memorandum of sale and such other documents as may be required in accordance with the terms and conditions of the sale at the time the bid is accepted. Secured Party reserves the right to amend, modify, supplement, restate or otherwise alter the terms of sale by announcement made prior to or at the time of the public sale. Prospective bidders are encouraged to perform such due diligence as they deem necessary.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT** the full terms and conditions of the sale, copies of the relevant agreements, information for attending the auction, and other information may be obtained by contacting Brett Rosenberg of Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, Inc., 330 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017, Telephone No.: (212) 812-5926, Email: [brett.rosenberg@jll.com](mailto:brett.rosenberg@jll.com). In the event of any conflict between the terms herein and the full terms of public sale, the full terms of public sale shall govern. For further information please visit the following website: [www.1770EuclidStreetNWUCCSale.com](http://www.1770EuclidStreetNWUCCSale.com).

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| REAL ESTATE SERVICES   | ARTS & CULTURE      |
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| LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICE  | CLASSIFIEDS         |

**Publication Date**

**Ad Deadline**

**DEADLINES**

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## SPORTS SHORTS

### NFL: 49ers' Purdy out with shoulder injury

San Francisco quarterback **Brock Purdy** will miss Sunday's game against the Packers with a sore throwing shoulder, dealing another blow to the 49ers' playoff hopes. Purdy injured his right shoulder in last Sunday's loss to the Seahawks. He underwent an MRI exam on Monday that showed no structural damage and the team initially thought he could play this week.

### NCAA: Manhattan wins at buzzer over Army

**Shaquil Bender** intercepted an inbounds pass with 4.5 seconds left and passed to Wesley Robinson, who put in the winning basket as time expired to give Manhattan an 80-79 win over Army in the Bronx. **Jaden Winston** led Manhattan (3-2) with 17 points.

- In Nassau, Bahamas, **Chaz Lanier** made seven 3-pointers and scored 25 points — all in the first half — as No. 11 Tennessee cruised past No. 13 Baylor 77-62 on Friday night to win the Baha Mar Championship title.

- In Houston, **Joseph Tugler** had 17 points off the bench and No. 7 Houston beat Hofstra, 80-44.

- In Tucson, Ariz., **Cooper Flagg** scored 24 points, **Kon Kneueppel** added 13 and the pair of freshmen led No. 12 Duke past No. 17 Arizona 69-55.

- In Omaha, Neb., **Brice Williams** and **Juwani Gary** each scored 16 points, and Nebraska never trailed in a 74-63 victory over No. 14 Creighton.

- At the Barclays Center, **Tre Johnson** scored 17 points to help Texas hold off Saint Joseph's 67-58 in the championship game of the UKG Legends Classic.

- In the Bronx, **Jason Drake** had 15 points as Drexel defeated Fordham, 73-71. **Jackie Johnson III** had a game-high 18 points for Fordham (3-3).

### NBA: Mavericks hold off late Nuggets rally

**Naji Marshall** had a team-high 26 points and **P.J. Washington** added 22 points with 13 rebounds and the Mavericks staved off a fourth-quarter rally to defeat the Nuggets, 123-120.

- In Milwaukee, **Giannis Antetokounmpo** had 37 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his second triple-double in his last four games, and the Bucks beat the Pacers, 129-117, in a NBA Cup game. The Bucks have won three straight and five of six.

### MLB: Royals acquire India from Reds

The Royals acquired second baseman **Jonathan India** from the Reds on Friday, adding a dependable leadoff hitter and middle infielder to play alongside star shortstop **Bobby Witt Jr.** As part of the deal, the Royals also acquired outfielder **Joey Wiemer** while sending right-hander **Brady Singer** to Cincinnati.

- Alyssa Nakken**, the first woman to coach in a Major League Baseball game, is leaving the co-Giants to join the Guardians. Nakken made history in 2022 when she took over as first-base coach following an ejection.

### GOLF: Fishburn snares RSM Classic lead

In St. Simon's Island, Ga., PGA Tour rookie **Patrick Fishburn** played bogey-free for an 8-under 64 in the RSM Classic for his first lead after any round. Fishburn took advantage of being on the easier Plantation course, with trees blocking the brunt of the wind and two additional par 5s.

- In Naples, Fla., **Angel Yin** rammed in a 30-foot par putt on her opening hole, setting the tone for a day of big putts and 3-under 69 that gave her a two-shot lead in the LPGA's CME Group Tour Championship,

## NHL

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

|              | W  | L  | OL* | PT | GF | GA |
|--------------|----|----|-----|----|----|----|
| Atlantic     | 12 | 6  | 2   | 26 | 61 | 50 |
| Toronto      | 12 | 7  | 1   | 25 | 70 | 65 |
| Florida      | 12 | 6  | 2   | 22 | 66 | 55 |
| Tampa Bay    | 10 | 6  | 1   | 21 | 65 | 63 |
| Buffalo      | 10 | 9  | 1   | 21 | 49 | 69 |
| Boston       | 9  | 9  | 3   | 21 | 49 | 61 |
| Detroit      | 8  | 9  | 2   | 18 | 48 | 61 |
| Ottawa       | 8  | 10 | 1   | 17 | 59 | 61 |
| Montreal     | 7  | 10 | 2   | 16 | 54 | 71 |
| Metropolitan | W  | L  | OL* | PT | GF | GA |
| Carolina     | 14 | 5  | 0   | 28 | 74 | 46 |
| Devils       | 13 | 7  | 2   | 28 | 76 | 58 |
| Washington   | 13 | 5  | 1   | 27 | 79 | 52 |
| Rangers      | 12 | 5  | 1   | 25 | 63 | 44 |
| Islanders    | 7  | 8  | 5   | 19 | 51 | 59 |
| Columbus     | 8  | 9  | 2   | 18 | 65 | 68 |
| Philadelphia | 8  | 10 | 2   | 18 | 57 | 71 |
| Pittsburgh   | 7  | 11 | 4   | 18 | 58 | 87 |

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

|             | W  | L  | OL* | PT | GF | GA |
|-------------|----|----|-----|----|----|----|
| Central     | 17 | 3  | 0   | 34 | 84 | 47 |
| Winnipeg    | 17 | 3  | 0   | 34 | 84 | 47 |
| Minnesota   | 13 | 3  | 3   | 29 | 66 | 46 |
| Dallas      | 12 | 6  | 0   | 24 | 62 | 42 |
| Colorado    | 11 | 9  | 0   | 22 | 66 | 71 |
| St. Louis   | 9  | 11 | 1   | 19 | 52 | 71 |
| Utah        | 7  | 9  | 3   | 17 | 49 | 63 |
| Chicago     | 7  | 12 | 1   | 15 | 48 | 60 |
| Nashville   | 6  | 11 | 3   | 15 | 46 | 64 |
| Pacific     | W  | L  | OL* | PT | GF | GA |
| Vegas       | 12 | 6  | 2   | 26 | 75 | 62 |
| Calgary     | 11 | 6  | 3   | 25 | 54 | 54 |
| Los Angeles | 10 | 7  | 3   | 23 | 61 | 56 |
| Edmonton    | 10 | 9  | 2   | 22 | 58 | 67 |
| Vancouver   | 9  | 6  | 3   | 21 | 57 | 59 |
| Seattle     | 10 | 9  | 1   | 21 | 58 | 55 |
| Anaheim     | 8  | 8  | 3   | 19 | 48 | 57 |
| San Jose    | 6  | 11 | 5   | 17 | 54 | 79 |

OL\*: Lost in OT (for 1 point)

### Friday

Winnipeg 4, Pittsburgh 1  
Buffalo 3, Anaheim 2, OT

### Saturday

Devils at Washington, 7pm  
St. Louis at Islanders, 7:30pm  
Rangers at Edmonton, 10pm  
Chicago at Philadelphia, 1pm  
Minnesota at Calgary, 4pm  
Seattle at Los Angeles, 4pm  
Colorado at Florida, 6pm  
Boston at Detroit, 7pm  
Carolina at Columbus, 7pm  
Dallas at Tampa Bay, 7pm  
Utah at Pittsburgh, 7pm  
Vancouver at Ottawa, 7pm  
Vegas at Montreal, 7pm  
Winnipeg at Nashville, 7pm  
Buffalo at San Jose, 8pm

### Sunday

Utah at Toronto, 7pm

### Monday

Nashville at Devils, 7pm  
St. Louis at Rangers, 7pm  
Detroit at Islanders, 7:30pm  
Colorado at Tampa Bay, 7pm  
Dallas at Carolina, 7pm  
Vegas at Philadelphia, 7pm  
Washington at Florida, 7pm  
Calgary at Ottawa, 7:30pm  
Winnipeg at Minnesota, 8pm  
Seattle at Anaheim, 10pm  
Los Angeles at San Jose, 10:30pm

## Jets 4, Penguins 1

|            |   |   |   |   |
|------------|---|---|---|---|
| Winnipeg   | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Pittsburgh | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

First Period: 1, Winnipeg, Niederreiter 8, 1:22. **Penalties:** Namestnikov, WPG (Slashing), 10:44; Puljujarvi, PIT (Holding), 16:47.

Second Period: 2, Winnipeg, Namestnikov 6 (Ehlers), 4:53, 3, Winnipeg, Vilardi 8 (Connor, Morrissey), 19:01 (pp). **Penalties:** Malkin, PIT (Tripping), 18:45.

Third Period: 4, Pittsburgh, Bunting 4 (Rust, Malkin), 5:49 (pp), 5, Winnipeg, Connor 13 (Perfetti, Scheifele), 18:49 (en). **Penalties:** Pittsburgh bench, served by Bunting (Cross Checking), 0:38; Crosby, PIT (Fighting), 0:38; Connor, WPG (Fighting), 4:29; Perfetti, WPG (Interference), 10:19.

**Shots on Goal:** Winnipeg 12-13-5-30. Pittsburgh 8-5-5-18.

**Power-play opportunities:** Winnipeg 1 of 3; Pittsburgh 1 of 3.

**Goalies:** Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 14-2-0 (18 shots-17 saves); Pittsburgh, Jarby 1-3-1 (29-26). **A:** 15,232 (18,387). **T:** 2:27.

## Men's Coll. Hoops

### East

Albany (NY) 93, Tarzans 50

American 64, UMKC 60

Buffalo 82, Morgan St. 73

Drexel 73, Fordham 71

Fairleigh Dickinson 107, Knights 58

Harvard 78, Colgate 67

Ill.-Chicago 96, La Salle 83

Le Moyne 65, UT Martin 53

Manhattan 80, Army 79

Texas 67, Saint Joseph's 58

### South

Bradley 77, Wright St. 74

Coastal Carolina 71, UI Indianapolis 57

Davidson 93, VMI 66

Drake 75, FAU 63

ETSU 87, SC-Upstate 76

East Carolina 71, Stetson 64

Florida 93, S. Illinois 68

Florida A&M 110, Trinity Baptist 68

Florida Gulf Coast 74, CS Bakersfield 54

Florida St. 78, Temple 69

Georgia St. 93, NC Central 79

Kentucky 108, Jackson St. 59

Liberty 89, Louisiana-Lafayette 69

Longwood 89, UAB 81

Louisiana-Monroe 65, Northwestern

St. 63

Louisville 76, Winthrop 61

McNeese St. 76, Illinois St. 68

Middle Tennessee 95, South Florida 88

NC State 84, William & Mary 61

Nevada 64, VCU 61

New Orleans 93, Tulane 87, OT

Northeastern 60, FIU 58

Ohio 85, Portland 73

Oklahoma St. 80, Miami 74

Pittsburgh 74, LSU 63

SC State 82, Alabama A&M 70

St. John's 80, Virginia 55

Tennessee 77, Baylor 62

Texas St. 83, Princeton 80

Utah Valley 77, Murray St. 75

Vanderbilt 76, Seton Hall 60

Wisconsin 86, UCF 70

### Midwest

Akron 79, Lamar 72

Alabama St. 85, Omaha 67

Butler 78, Merrimack 39

Elon 84, Notre Dame 77

Evansville 98, Green Bay 81

Indiana St. 97, Chicago St. 61

Kansas St. 83, George Washington 71

Milwaukee 91, Portland St. 74

Missouri 91, Pacific 56

Nebraska 74, Creighton 63

Northwestern 68, Pepperdine 50

Ohio St. 104, Campbell 60

S. Indiana 92, South Dakota 83

Toledo 82, Jacksonville St. 80

Wichita St. 88, Saint Louis 63

Wofford 81, St. Thomas (MN) 73

### Southwest

Arkansas 79, UALR 67

Arkansas St. 103, Lane 60

Houston 80, Hofstra 44

Mississippi St. 84, SMU 79

Presbyterian 67, Youngstown St. 42

Rice 61, Houston Christian 58

Stephen F. Austin 72, Monmouth 58

Texas Tech 79, Syracuse 74

UNC-Asheville 72, SE Missouri 64

### Far West

Duke 69, Arizona 55

Grand Canyon 91, Norfolk St. 73

N. Arizona 75, Incarnate Word 74

North Dakota 77, Loyola Marymount 73

S. Utah 72, San Diego 67

Seattle 80, Northwest U. 52

UC Irvine 93, Weber St. 87

UC Riverside 77, Colorado St. 75, OT

UC San Diego 73, James Madison 67

UCLA 80, Cal St.-Fullerton 47

Utah 84, Utah Tech 53

Utah St. 77, Iowa 69

Washington 77, Alcorn St. 60

Wyoming 64, SE Louisiana 61

### MLS Playoffs

#### Conference Semifinals

##### Eastern

Saturday: Red Bulls at NYCFC, 5:30pm

Sunday: Atlanta at Orlando, 3:30pm

##### Western

Saturday: Seattle at LAFC, 10:30pm

Sunday: Minnesota at LA Galaxy, 6pm

## Soccer

### Spanish LaLiga

Getafe 2, Real Valladolid 0

# McGregor must pay \$250k to accuser

By BRIAN MELLEY

LONDON — A woman who claimed mixed martial arts fighter Conor McGregor “brutally raped and battered” her in a Dublin hotel penthouse was awarded nearly 250,000 Euros (\$257,000) on Friday by a civil court jury in Ireland.

Nikita Hand said the Dec. 9, 2018 assault after a night of partying left her heavily bruised and suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

McGregor testified that he never forced the woman to do anything against her will and said she fabricated the allegations after the two had consensual sex. His lawyer had called Hand a gold digger.

The fighter, once the face of the Ultimate Fighting Championship but now past his prime, shook his head as the jury of eight women and four men found him liable for assault after deliberating about six hours in the High Court in Dublin.

He was mobbed by cameras as he left court but did not comment. He later said on the social platform X that he would appeal the verdict and the “modest award.”

Hand’s voice cracked and her hands trembled as she read a statement outside the courthouse, saying she would never forget what happened to her but would now be able to move on with her life. She thanked her family, partner, friends, jurors, the judge and all the supporters that had reached out to her online, but particularly her daughter.

“She has given me so much strength and courage over the last six years throughout this nightmare to keep on pushing forward for justice,” she said. “I want to show (her) and every other girl and boy that you can stand up for yourself if something happens to you, no matter who the person is, and justice will be served.”

Her lawyer told jurors that McGregor was angry about a fight he had lost in Las Vegas two months earlier and took it out on his client.

“He’s not a man, he’s a coward,” attorney John Gordon said in his closing speech. “A devious coward and you should treat him for what he is.”

**NBA****EASTERN CONFERENCE**

| Atlantic      | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| Boston        | 13 | 3  | .813 | —  |
| <b>KNICKS</b> | 9  | 6  | .600 | 3½ |
| <b>NETS</b>   | 6  | 10 | .375 | 7  |
| Toronto       | 4  | 12 | .250 | 9  |
| Philadelphia  | 3  | 12 | .200 | 9½ |

| Southeast  | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
|------------|----|----|------|----|
| Orlando    | 10 | 7  | .588 | —  |
| Miami      | 6  | 7  | .462 | 2  |
| Atlanta    | 7  | 10 | .412 | 3  |
| Charlotte  | 6  | 9  | .400 | 3  |
| Washington | 2  | 12 | .143 | 6½ |

| Central   | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|----|
| Cleveland | 16 | 1  | .941 | —  |
| Milwaukee | 7  | 9  | .438 | 8½ |
| Chicago   | 7  | 10 | .412 | 9  |
| Detroit   | 7  | 10 | .412 | 9  |
| Indiana   | 6  | 10 | .375 | 9½ |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

| Southwest   | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
|-------------|----|----|------|----|
| Houston     | 12 | 5  | .706 | —  |
| Dallas      | 9  | 7  | .563 | 2½ |
| Memphis     | 9  | 7  | .563 | 2½ |
| San Antonio | 8  | 8  | .500 | 3½ |
| New Orleans | 4  | 13 | .235 | 8  |

| Northwest     | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| Oklahoma City | 12 | 4  | .750 | —  |
| Denver        | 8  | 6  | .571 | 3  |
| Minnesota     | 8  | 7  | .533 | 3½ |
| Portland      | 6  | 10 | .375 | 6  |
| Utah          | 3  | 12 | .200 | 8½ |

| Pacific       | W  | L | Pct. | GB |
|---------------|----|---|------|----|
| Golden State  | 12 | 3 | .800 | —  |
| L.A. Lakers   | 10 | 5 | .667 | 2  |
| L.A. Clippers | 10 | 7 | .588 | 3  |
| Phoenix       | 9  | 7 | .563 | 3½ |
| Sacramento    | 8  | 8 | .500 | 4½ |

| Friday       | W   | L               | Pct. | GB |
|--------------|-----|-----------------|------|----|
| Philadelphia | 113 | Nets 98         |      |    |
| Boston       | 108 | Washington 96   |      |    |
| Golden State | 112 | New Orleans 108 |      |    |
| Chicago      | 136 | Atlanta 122     |      |    |
| Houston      | 116 | Portland 88     |      |    |
| Milwaukee    | 129 | Indiana 117     |      |    |
| Dallas       | 123 | Denver 120      |      |    |
| Clippers     | 104 | Sacramento 88   |      |    |

| Saturday                            | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|------|----|
| Knicks at Utah, 5pm                 |   |   |      |    |
| Detroit at Orlando, 7pm             |   |   |      |    |
| Charlotte at Milwaukee, 8pm         |   |   |      |    |
| Memphis at Chicago, 8pm             |   |   |      |    |
| Portland at Houston, 8pm            |   |   |      |    |
| Golden State at San Antonio, 8:30pm |   |   |      |    |
| Denver at L.A. Lakers, 10:30pm      |   |   |      |    |

| Sunday                        | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|-------------------------------|---|---|------|----|
| Nets at Sacramento, 9pm       |   |   |      |    |
| Minnesota at Boston, 3:30pm   |   |   |      |    |
| Washington at Indiana, 5pm    |   |   |      |    |
| Dallas at Miami, 6pm          |   |   |      |    |
| Clippers at Philadelphia, 6pm |   |   |      |    |
| Toronto at Cleveland, 7:30pm  |   |   |      |    |

| Monday                            | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|------|----|
| Knicks at Denver, 9pm             |   |   |      |    |
| Nets at Golden State, 10pm        |   |   |      |    |
| New Orleans at Indiana, 7pm       |   |   |      |    |
| Orlando at Charlotte, 7pm         |   |   |      |    |
| Toronto at Detroit, 7pm           |   |   |      |    |
| Dallas at Atlanta, 7:30pm         |   |   |      |    |
| Clippers at Boston, 7:30pm        |   |   |      |    |
| Portland at Memphis, 8pm          |   |   |      |    |
| Oklahoma City at Sacramento, 10pm |   |   |      |    |

**76ers 113, Nets 98**

| Nets   |       |     |      |    |    |     |
|--------|-------|-----|------|----|----|-----|
| Min    | FG    | FT  | O-Rb | A  | PF | Pts |
| 35:54  | 14-21 | 0-0 | 1    | 2  | 37 | 35  |
| 26:13  | 1-4   | 0-0 | 1    | 4  | 0  | 2   |
| 25:40  | 2-6   | 0-0 | 0    | 2  | 1  | 5   |
| 34:11  | 3-7   | 1-1 | 0    | 3  | 7  | 2   |
| 29:53  | 6-15  | 4-4 | 1-3  | 7  | 2  | 18  |
| 22:13  | 6-9   | 0-0 | 1    | 8  | 1  | 12  |
| 20:38  | 3-7   | 0-0 | 4    | 6  | 1  | 6   |
| 18:35  | 1-2   | 0-0 | 0    | 4  | 0  | 2   |
| 15:39  | 3-7   | 0-0 | 0    | 3  | 2  | 6   |
| 11:04  | 0-1   | 2-2 | 0    | 1  | 4  | 2   |
| Totals |       |     |      |    |    |     |
| 240:00 | 39-79 | 7-7 | 3-4  | 28 | 17 | 98  |

Percentages: FG .494, FT 1.000. 3-point goals: 13-37, .351 (C.Johnson 9-13, Thomas 2-7, Schroder 1-4, Finney-Smith 1-5, Clowney 0-1, Williams 0-1, Watford 0-3, Wilson 0-3). Team rebounds: 8. Team turnovers: None. Blocked shots: 4 (Clowney 2, Schroder, Simmons). Turnovers: 19 (Schroder 7, Thomas 7, Simmons 2, Watford 2, C.Johnson). Steals: 1 (C.Johnson).

**Celtics 108, Wizards 96**

| Boston |       |       |       |    |    |     |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|----|----|-----|
| Min    | FG    | FT    | O-Rb  | A  | PF | Pts |
| 37:12  | 11-27 | 6-8   | 3-11  | 5  | 3  | 11  |
| 37:14  | 6-19  | 4-6   | 1-9   | 2  | 16 | 16  |
| 18:18  | 1-3   | 5-6   | 0-2   | 0  | 4  | 7   |
| 28:57  | 3-6   | 8-8   | 1-5   | 1  | 2  | 16  |
| 36:29  | 4-11  | 0-0   | 2     | 3  | 2  | 10  |
| 23:43  | 3-3   | 0-1   | 3-6   | 1  | 1  | 6   |
| 22:33  | 3-6   | 2-3   | 1-2   | 4  | 2  | 9   |
| 21:50  | 5-7   | 0-0   | 0-3   | 0  | 2  | 11  |
| 8:37   | 0-2   | 0-0   | 0-2   | 0  | 1  | 0   |
| Walsh  | 5:07  | 0-1   | 0-0   | 1  | 0  | 0   |
| Totals |       |       |       |    |    |     |
| 240:00 | 36-85 | 25-23 | 10-43 | 22 | 19 | 108 |

Percentages: FG .424, FT .781. 3-point goals: 11-46, .239 (Hauser 3-5, Brown 3-13, Holiday 2-5, White 2-8, Pritchard 1-3, Tillman 0-1, Walsh 0-1, Tatum 0-10). Team rebounds: 9. Team turnovers: None. Blocked shots: 7 (Tillman 2, Holiday, Kornet, Queta, Walsh, White). Turnovers: 12 (Brown 3, Tatum 3, Holiday 2, White 2, Hauser, Kornet). Steals: 11 (Holiday 4, Hauser 3, Tatum 2, Kornet, Pritchard). Technicals: coach Joe Mazzulla, 4:43 third.

**Warriors 112, Pelicans 108**

| Golden State |       |       |       |     |    |     |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|----|-----|
| Min          | FG    | FT    | O-Rb  | A   | PF | Pts |
| 29:48        | 3-6   | 2-6   | 3-8   | 5   | 2  | 11  |
| 28:20        | 9-14  | 9-9   | 1-3   | 4   | 2  | 30  |
| Jackson:     | 18:17 | 4-9   | 1-2   | 3-8 | 0  | 9   |
| Davis:       | 18:03 | 2-3   | 0-0   | 1   | 1  | 3   |
| Curry:       | 33:08 | 6-13  | 3-3   | 0-7 | 7  | 39  |
| Waters III:  | 15:10 | 0-3   | 0-0   | 2   | 1  | 6   |
| Podziemski:  | 20:52 | 5-11  | 1-1   | 2-5 | 3  | 0   |
| Kuminga:     | 20:19 | 3-10  | 1-2   | 0-4 | 2  | 7   |
| Moody:       | 19:35 | 1-4   | 1-1   | 0-2 | 1  | 3   |
| Waters:      | 19:35 | 1-4   | 1-1   | 0-2 | 1  | 3   |
| Walsh:       | 18:37 | 1-2   | 0-0   | 1-1 | 0  | 2   |
| Hauser:      | 18:37 | 1-2   | 0-0   | 1-1 | 0  | 2   |
| Tatum:       | 18:37 | 1-2   | 0-0   | 1-1 | 0  | 2   |
| Kornet:      | 18:37 | 1-2   | 0-0   | 1-1 | 0  | 2   |
| Queta:       | 18:37 | 1-2   | 0-0   | 1-1 | 0  | 2   |
| Totals       |       |       |       |     |    |     |
| 240:00       | 39-87 | 22-29 | 14-52 | 27  | 19 |     |

# The **POST** Line

**NFL****Sunday- Week 12**

| <b>Favorite</b> | <b>PTS (O/U)</b> | <b>Underdog</b> |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Buccaneers      | 6 (41.5)         | GIANTS          |
| Vikings         | 3.5 (39.5)       | BEARS           |
| Lions           | 7.5 (50.5)       | COLTS           |
| DOLPHINS        | 7.5 (46.5)       | Patriots        |
| COMMANDERS      | 10.5 (45)        | Cowboys         |
| Chiefs          | 11 (43)          | PANTHERS        |
| TEXANS          | 7.5 (40.5)       | Titans          |
| Broncos         | 6 (41)           | RAIDERS         |
| PACKERS         | 5.5 (44.5)       | 49ers           |
| Cardinals       | 1 (47.5)         | SEAHAWKS        |
| Eagles          | 3 (49)           | RAMS            |
| <b>Monday</b>   |                  |                 |
| Ravens          | 3 (51)           | CHARGERS        |

**NBA****Saturday**

| <b>Favorite</b>           | <b>PTS (O/U)</b> | <b>Underdog</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Knicks                    | 9 (228)          | JAZZ            |
| Grizzlies                 | 5 (243)          | BULLS           |
| BUCKS                     | 7.5 (220.5)      | Hornets         |
| ROCKETS                   | 14.5 (221.5)     | Trail Blazers   |
| MAGIC                     | 10.5 (206.5)     | Pistons         |
| SPURS                     | OFF              | Warriors        |
| LAKERS                    | OFF              | Nuggets         |
| <b>Wednesday, Dec. 25</b> |                  |                 |
| KNICKS                    | 9.5 (225.5)      | Spurs           |
| MAVERICKS                 | 3 (228.5)        | Timberwolves    |
| CELTICS                   | 6.5 (227)        | 76ers           |
| WARRIORS                  | 4 (234.5)        | Lakers          |
| SUNS                      | 2.5 (225.5)      | Nuggets         |

**NHL****Saturday**

| <b>Favorite</b> | <b>Money Line</b> | <b>Underdog</b> |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| OILERS          | \$110-130         | Rangers         |
| ISLANDERS       | \$140-165         | Blues           |
| Devils          | \$115-135         | CAPITALS        |
| FLYERS          | \$130-155         | Blackhawks      |
| Wild            | \$120-145         | FLAMES          |
| KINGS           | \$140-165         | Kraken          |
| PANTHERS        | \$115-135         | Avalanche       |
| Hurricanes      | \$200-250         | BLUE JACKETS    |
| Bruins          | \$115-135         | RED WINGS       |
| Golden Knights  | \$150-185         | CANADIENS       |
| PREDATORS       | -105-115          | Jets            |
| SENATORS        | \$115-135         | Canucks         |
| PENGUINS        | -110-110          | Utah            |
| Stars           | -105-115          | LIGHTNING       |
| Sabres          | \$140-165         | SHARKS          |

**College Football****Saturday**

| <b>Favorite</b> | <b>PTS (O/U)</b> | <b>Underdog</b> |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| OHIO STATE      | 10.5 (52.5)      | Indiana         |
| MIAMI (FLA.)    | 23.5 (67.5)      | Wake Forest     |
| Ole Miss        | 11.5 (55.5)      | FLORIDA         |
| Smu             | 10 (56.5)        | VIRGINIA        |
| RUTGERS         | 1.5 (47.5)       | Illinois        |
| Iowa            | 4 (43.5)         | MARYLAND        |
| SYRACUSE        | 10.5 (54.5)      | UConn           |
| North Carolina  | 2.5 (53.5)       | BOSTON COLLEGE  |
| J'SONVILLE ST.  | 6 (56.5)         | S. Houston St.  |
| GEORGIA         | 42.5 (55.5)      | UMass           |
| TENNESSEE       | 40.5 (52.5)      | Utep            |
| LIBERTY         | 1.5 (56.5)       | W. Kentucky     |
| Bowl. Green     | 11.5 (56.5)      | BALL STATE      |
| Rice            | 6.5 (51.5)       | UAB             |
| MID TENN ST.    | 3.5 (52.5)       | N. Mexico St.   |
| J. Madison      | 7 (58.5)         | APP. STATE      |
| TCU             | 10.5 (59.5)      | Arizona         |
| Fla. Intl'      | 8.5 (43.5)       | KENNESAW ST.    |
| ARKANSAS ST.    | 3 (52.5)         | La.-Monroe      |
| S. Alabama      | 23.5 (54.5)      | SO. MISS        |
| Charlotte       | 3 (48.5)         | FLA. ATLANTIC   |
| TEXAS           | 20.5 (46.5)      | Kentucky        |
| Penn State      | 11.5 (45.5)      | MINNESOTA       |
| ARIZONA ST.     | 3.5 (48.5)       | Byu             |
| Colorado        | 3 (59.5)         | KANSAS          |
| MICHIGAN        | 10.5 (36.5)      | Northwestern    |
| NEBRASKA        | 1.5 (41.5)       | Wisconsin       |
| CALIFORNIA      | 14.5 (53.5)      | Stanford        |
| Texas Tech      | 4.5 (65.5)       | OKLAHOMA ST.    |
| Ucf             | 3 (62.5)         | W. VIRGINIA     |
| UTAH STATE      | 5.5 (61.5)       | San Diego St.   |
| CO. CAROLINA    | 2.5 (58.5)       | Ga. Southern    |
| NORTH TEXAS     | 3 (72.5)         | East Carolina   |
| S. FLORIDA      | 17.5 (60.5)      | Tulsa           |
| LOUISVILLE      | 8.5 (57.5)       | Pittsburgh      |
| ARKANSAS        | 23.5 (48.5)      | La. Tech        |
| Missouri        | 7.5 (57.5)       | MISS. STATE     |
| LOUISIANA       | 9.5 (52.5)       | Troy            |
| *Notre Dame     | 14.5 (45.5)      | Army            |
| Boise State     | 22.5 (56.5)      | WYOMING         |
| Wash. State     | 11.5 (56.5)      | OREGON ST.      |
| Baylor          | 7.5 (50.5)       | HOUSTON         |
| TEXAS STATE     | 20.5 (58.5)      | Georgia St.     |
| Alabama         | 13.5 (46.5)      | OKLAHOMA        |
| Texas a&m       | 2.5 (46.5)       | AUBURN          |
| Iowa State      | 7 (42.5)         | UTAH            |
| OLD DOMINION    | 2.5 (51.5)       | Marshall        |
| LSU             | 7.5 (53.5)       | Vanderbilt      |
| KANSAS ST.      | 8.5 (53.5)       | Cincinnati      |
| Virginia Tech   | 3 (47.5)         | DUKE            |
| Usc             | 4.5 (51.5)       | UCLA            |
| NEVADA          | 3 (44.5)         | Air Force       |
| FRESNO ST.      | 3.5 (44.5)       | Colorado St.    |
| *Yankee Stadium |                  |                 |

**College Basketball****Saturday**

| <b>Favorite</b>    | <b>PTS</b> | <b>Underdog</b>   |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------|
| a. Marquette       | 6          | Georgia           |
| b. Yale            | 12         | Fairfield         |
| PURDUE             | 20         | Marshall          |
| Brown              | 8.5        | CANISIUS          |
| Cincinnati         | 8          | GEORGIA TECH      |
| WAKE FOREST        | 21         | Detroit           |
| DEPAUL             | 16.5       | N. Illinois       |
| LONG BEACH STATE   | 2.5        | Fresno State      |
| LOYOLA-CHICAGO     | 11         | Tulsa             |
| UMBC               | 1          | Boston College    |
| Vermont            | 6          | DELAWARE          |
| G'TOWN             | 19         | St. Francis (Pa.) |
| CHARLOTTE          | 15.5       | Liu               |
| MARIST             | 10.5       | N. Hampshire      |
| BUCKNELL           | 4          | Rider             |
| UNLV               | 12         | New Mexico St.    |
| COLUMBIA           | 9          | Stony Brook       |
| Kent State         | 1.5        | CLEVELAND ST.     |
| CAL BAPTIST        | 7.5        | E. Washington     |
| SAINT MARY'S (CA)  | 19.5       | Cal Poly Slo      |
| Stanford           | 2.5        | SANTA CLARA       |
| a. Nassau, Bahamas |            |                   |
| b. Uncasville, CT  |            |                   |

**TOP PLAY**

# Putting money on Hoosiers at the Horseshoe

By ANDREW NORTON

ries throughout the sea-

son. That list has included Josh Simmons, Zen Michalski, and most recently, starting center Seth McLaughlin, who tore his Achilles in practice this week.

The Hoosiers were projected to finish 17th in the Big Ten, but they are now the fifth-ranked team in the nation. This weekend, the Hoosiers travel to Columbus to take on the second-ranked Ohio State Buckeyes for a shot to effectively punch their ticket to the College Football Playoffs.

Nevertheless, many fans and sports bettors alike are unconvinced of the Hoosiers' legitimacy, as they have had the 106th-hardest strength of schedule this season, according to ESPN's FPI.

The spread has fluctuated throughout the week and now sits at Buckeyes -10.5 at multiple sportsbooks.

What can we expect from this Big Ten game?

Is a double-digit spread for a top-five matchup ridiculous or justified?

I'm leaning toward the former.

For one, the Bucks have had several offensive linemen suffer inju-

ries throughout the season. That list has included Josh Simmons, Zen Michalski, and most recently, starting center Seth McLaughlin, who tore his Achilles in practice this week.

And now, the Bucks have to face a Hoosiers front line that holds opponents to the second-fewest rushing yards per game (78.9) behind only Army.

Their past three opponents, which included Donovan Edwards and the Wolverines and the Jonah Coleman-led Huskies, have only amassed 49.7 rushing yards per game, the lowest in the country during that span.

If Ohio State can't establish a run game, the Hoosiers can lean on Mikail Kamara and the rest of their elite pass rush (fourth-highest-graded nationally, per PFF) to apply pressure on Will Howard, who could be in for a long day with a new center and banged up O-line.

I'll roll with Indiana to at least keep this one close.

**THE PLAY:** Hoosiers +10.5.**NHL****Hart Trophy favorites**

| <b>NAME</b>       | <b>ODDS</b> |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Kirill Kaprizov   | +290        |
| Nathan MacKinnon  | +390        |
| Connor McDavid    | +400        |
| Nikita Kucherov   | +650        |
| Artemi Panarin    | 15/1        |
| Cale Makar        | 20/1        |
| Connor Hellebuyck | 30/1        |
| Martin Necas      | 30/1        |
| Leon Draisaitl    | 35/1        |
| Noah Eille        | 12/1        |
| Ronald Donkor     | 13/1        |
| John Tolkin       | 12/1        |
| Kevin O'Toole     | 12/1        |
| Tayvon Gray       | 12/1        |
| James Nealis      | 13/1        |
| Sean Nealis       | 14/1        |
| James Sands       | 14/1        |
| Peter Stroud      | 16/1        |

# NEW YORK POST ACTION

Home Team Lineups HOME AWAY

|  | TODAY<br>November 23  | SUN<br>Nov. 24              | MON<br>Nov. 25                             | TUE<br>Nov. 26 | WED<br>Nov. 27                         | THU<br>Nov. 28 | FRI<br>Nov. 29                              |
|--|---|-----------------------------|--|----------------|--|----------------|---|
|  | Utah<br>5:00<br>MSG<br>WHSQ<br>880 AM                             | NO<br>GAME                  | Den.<br>9:00<br>MSG<br>WHSQ                | NO<br>GAME     | Dal.<br>7:30<br>MSG<br>ESPN<br>WHSQ    | NO<br>GAME     | Char.<br>Noon<br>MSG<br>WHSQ                |
|  | NO<br>GAME  | Sac.<br>9:00<br>YES<br>WFAN | GSW<br>10:00<br>YES<br>WFAN                | NO<br>GAME     | Phx.<br>9:00<br>YES<br>WFAN            | NO<br>GAME     | Ori.<br>7:30<br>YES<br>WFAN                 |
|  | Edmonton<br>10:00<br>MSG<br>WHSQ<br>880 AM                        | NO<br>GAME                  | St. L.<br>7:00<br>MSG<br>WHSQ              | NO<br>GAME     | Car.<br>7:00<br>MSG2<br>WEWN           | NO<br>GAME     | Phila.<br>1:00<br>MSG2<br>WEWN              |
|  | St. Louis<br>7:30<br>MSGSN<br>WRHU<br>88.7 FM<br>WRCN<br>103.9 FM | NO<br>GAME                  | Det.<br>7:30<br>MSGSN<br>2<br>WRHU<br>WRCN | NO<br>GAME     | Bost.<br>7:30<br>MSGSN<br>WRHU<br>WRCN | NO<br>GAME     | Wash.<br>3:00<br>MSGSN<br>2<br>WRHU<br>WRCN |
|  | Washington<br>7:00<br>MSGSN2                                      | NO<br>GAME                  | Nash.<br>7:00<br>MSGSN                     | NO<br>GAME     | St. L.<br>7:30<br>MSGSN<br>2           | NO<br>GAME     | Det.<br>3:00<br>MSGSN                       |
|  | NO<br>GAME  | Ga.<br>11 a.m.<br>CBSSN     | NO<br>GAME                                 | NO<br>GAME     | NO<br>GAME                             | NO<br>GAME     | NO<br>GAME                                  |

Saturday

Saturday



Conf. Semis  
NYCFC  
5:30 p.m.  
TV- Apple TV+



Conf. Semis  
Red Bulls  
5:30 p.m.  
TV- Apple TV+

Sunday

Sunday, Dec. 1



Tampa Bay  
1 p.m.  
TV- CBS  
Radio-WFAN  
660 AM/101.9 FM



Seattle  
1 p.m.  
TV-Fox  
Radio-WAXQ  
104.3 FM

# ... No, Black Knights won't score nearly enough

By DOUG KEZIRIAN

Since its inception, college football has always been inefficient. Frankly, it has never once crowned a true national champion. But that is both the sport's frustration and beauty. The passionate discussions surrounding rankings, computers and postseason berths contribute to its popularity.

And that inefficiency has magnified with recent realignment. Conferences now have between 16 and 18 schools but each faces only face about nine of them in a 12-game schedule that often includes non-conference cupcakes. This unbalanced schedule leaves us without clarity. Nevertheless, sports bettors ignore the heated arguments and lean into the disar-

ray, searching for money-making opportunities — such as this Saturday night at Yankee Stadium.

Sixth-ranked Notre Dame faces No. 19 Army in a showdown that is drawing attention for all the right reasons. The undefeated Black Knights are looking to become the first service academy to start 10-0 since 1985. They've also lost 28 straight against top-10 schools, with the last win coming in 1963. Plus, Army has lost 15 straight meetings, last beating the Irish in 1958.

Nevertheless, while all signs point to this being a special Army squad that could conceivably make the playoff despite ignoring NIL and transfer portals, the betting odds and advanced metrics comfortably favor the blue blood. Notre Dame is a 14-point favorite, while

the Black Knights are only expected to muster about 15 total points.

That's because Army has a flimsy resume, despite being undefeated and the nation's only school to win every game by double digits. The Black Knights have not faced a ranked opponent and their strength of schedule sits among the 10 worst in all of FBS.

Meanwhile, Notre Dame has dominated opponents since losing to Northern Illinois two months ago. The Irish have covered five straight games, and those point spreads ranged from 13.5 to 25. Spearheading this charge is a stingy defense allowing 11.4 points per game and ranking in the top 10 in most categories.

"It's always a problem to play armed forces teams when they're

good. They're tough physically and mentally so when they're good, they have even more elite athletes and football players," DraftKings race and sportsbook director Johnny Avello told Only Players. "This is probably a tough game for Notre Dame and they need to be aware."

This point spread has toggled between 14 and 16 all week, because of separate professional betting groups wagering on each team, according to my sources. Thus, the market has moved each time since these groups are so respected and influential.

Nevertheless, based on my intel, I anticipate the spread will dip below 14 at some point and could even settle at 13.5 points by kickoff. Obviously not all half-points

are created equal in sports betting. Given Army's knack for shortening games with time-consuming, run-heavy drives, 14 is an extremely key number.

I do think the Irish defense will stymie Army's offense and could win by a solid margin. But head coach Jeff Monken is a wizard, and there is a scenario where he manages the game effectively and keeps the Black Knights within striking distance.

If forced to pick a side, I would lay the points with the Irish. Nevertheless, my preferred wager is the under of Army's team total of 15.5 points. Obviously I love the underdog story but I think Army is overmatched in the trenches and won't move the ball much. Notre Dame's defense is for real.

## BET SMART

# Upset of the century

## How Daily, Army can conquer Irish

By MICHAEL CALABRESE

One hundred years ago, Notre Dame edged out Army, 13-7, at the Polo Grounds. Grantland Rice, working for the New York Herald Tribune at the time, turned a consequential Irish victory into the most famous lede in sportswriting history.

Rice wrote, "Outlined against a blue-gray October sky the Four Horsemen rode again. In dramatic lore they are known as famine, pestilence, destruction and death. These are only aliases. Their real names are: Stuhldreher, Miller, Crowley, and Layden."

Those Notre Dame running backs would forever be known as the "Four Horsemen," and the Irish would go on to a perfect 10-0 season, complete with a victory in the Rose Bowl and Knute Rockne's first national championship.

Given the lead-up to this game, if Army were to pull the upset, their quarterback, Bryson Daily, could end up being a folk hero on the level of those Irish running backs.

To put it lightly, this is Army's biggest game against the Irish in 66

years. The game played between the Irish and Cadets in 1958 was a top-five showdown in South Bend. Army won, 14-2, and finished the season 8-0-1 and third in both major polls.

Undefeated and ranked 19th in the CFP rankings, Army is back on the college football map. Awaiting them is an Irish team that has been playing at an elite level for two months. Notre Dame has real national title aspirations and a roster to make noise deep into January.

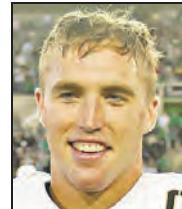
The Irish have won eight straight and decimated their last five opponents by 33 points per game. That included a dismantling of Navy at MetLife Stadium, 51-14. But that blowout win over a service academy was presented to the Irish on a silver platter. Navy turned the ball over six times, which was nearly half of

the Midshipmen's giveaways for the entire season. Army is incredibly buttoned up in this regard. With Daily piloting the offense, the Cadets have just three giveaways this fall (second).

Speaking of Daily and the Army offense, the Cadets have hit the rushing trifecta — ranking first in rushing success rate, line yards and offensive stuff rate. As a unit, they never get behind the sticks, which explains why Army is first in Havoc avoidance.

And if they need an extra down to move the sticks, they're ruthlessly efficient on fourth down (84.2 percent, second). This translates to long drives, which effectively shrinks games down.

This was on display against North Texas two weeks ago. The Mean Green entered with a



BRYSON DAILY

top-10 offense (points per game, total offense). Army's "keep-away" strategy provided UNT with just six drives the entire game. The result? A 14-3 Army victory and another brilliant rushing performance from the Cadets' triple option captain (Daily ran 36 times for 153 yards and two touchdowns).

On the injury front, defensive tackle Howard Cross (ankle) remains questionable for Notre Dame. Without Cross, Virginia ran it effectively at times last week, finishing with 128 yards on the ground.

On the other side of the ball, Notre Dame is vulnerable when its running game isn't popping big plays. Army can be bullied in the box, but it ranks in the top 10 in limiting rushing explosives. The Irish are 86th in third-down conversion rate, and if the Cadets get off the field, they'll bleed the clock dry.

Army had the benefit of a bye week, so I expect OC Cody Worley to pull out all the stops in the trick play and aggressive play-calling department.

Recommendation: Army moneyline +500.

## NFL Injury Report

## AMERICAN CONFERENCE

|               | W | L | T | Pct. | PF  | PA  |
|---------------|---|---|---|------|-----|-----|
| East          | 9 | 2 | 0 | .818 | 320 | 214 |
| Buffalo       | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 181 | 221 |
| Miami         | 3 | 8 | 0 | .273 | 204 | 242 |
| New England   | 3 | 8 | 0 | .273 | 182 | 248 |
| South         | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 258 | 236 |
| Houston       | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 236 | 250 |
| Indianapolis  | 2 | 8 | 0 | .200 | 170 | 263 |
| Tennessee     | 2 | 9 | 0 | .182 | 208 | 316 |
| Jacksonville  | 8 | 3 | 0 | .727 | 252 | 186 |
| Pittsburgh    | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 334 | 271 |
| Baltimore     | 4 | 7 | 0 | .364 | 297 | 296 |
| Cincinnati    | 3 | 8 | 0 | .273 | 186 | 267 |
| North         | 9 | 1 | 0 | .900 | 240 | 191 |
| Kansas City   | 7 | 3 | 0 | .700 | 220 | 145 |
| L.A. Chargers | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 235 | 183 |
| Denver        | 2 | 8 | 0 | .200 | 187 | 285 |
| Las Vegas     | 8 | 3 | 0 | .727 | 252 | 186 |

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

|              | W | L | T | Pct. | PF  | PA  |
|--------------|---|---|---|------|-----|-----|
| East         | 8 | 2 | 0 | .800 | 259 | 179 |
| Philadelphia | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 308 | 243 |
| Dallas       | 3 | 7 | 0 | .300 | 187 | 293 |
| Giants       | 2 | 8 | 0 | .200 | 156 | 222 |
| South        | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 244 | 274 |
| Atlanta      | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 279 | 266 |
| Tampa Bay    | 4 | 7 | 0 | .364 | 262 | 260 |
| New Orleans  | 3 | 7 | 0 | .300 | 167 | 310 |
| Carolina     | 9 | 1 | 0 | .900 | 336 | 177 |
| North        | 8 | 2 | 0 | .800 | 244 | 170 |
| Detroit      | 7 | 3 | 0 | .700 | 250 | 213 |
| Green Bay    | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 194 | 187 |
| Chicago      | 5 | 5 | 0 | .500 | 250 | 222 |
| Seattle      | 5 | 5 | 0 | .500 | 230 | 238 |

## Week 12- Thursday

Cleveland 24, Pittsburgh 19

## Sunday

Tampa Bay at **Giants**, 1pm  
**Bye**: Buffalo, Cincinnati, Jacksonville, Jets, Atlanta, New Orleans  
 Dallas at Washington, 1pm  
 Detroit at Indianapolis, 1pm  
 Kansas City at Carolina, 1pm  
 Minnesota at Chicago, 1pm  
 New England at Miami, 1pm  
 Tennessee at Houston, 1pm  
 Denver at Las Vegas, 4:05pm  
 Arizona at Seattle, 4:25pm  
 San Francisco at Green Bay, 4:25pm  
 Sunday Night Football: Philadelphia at L.A. Rams, 8:20pm

## Monday

Monday Night Football: Baltimore at L.A. Chargers, 8:15pm

## Week 13- Thursday

**Giants** at Dallas, 4:30pm  
 Chicago at Detroit, 12:30pm  
 Miami at Green Bay, 8:20pm

## Friday, Nov. 29

Las Vegas at Kansas City, 3pm

## Sunday, Dec. 1

Seattle at **Jets**, 1pm  
 Arizona at Minnesota, 1pm  
 Houston at Jacksonville, 1pm  
 Indianapolis at New England, 1pm  
 L.A. Chargers at Atlanta, 1pm  
 Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 1pm  
 Tennessee at Washington, 1pm  
 L.A. Rams at New Orleans, 4:05pm  
 Tampa Bay at Carolina, 4:05pm  
 Philadelphia at Baltimore, 4:25pm  
 Sunday Night Football: San Francisco at Buffalo, 8:20pm

## Monday, Dec. 2

Monday Night Football: Cleveland at Denver, 8:15pm

## NFL Injury Report

## SUNDAY BUCCANEERS AT GIANTS

## TAMPA BAY

**Doubtful**: DB Tykee Smith (knee). **Questionable**: CB Troy Hill (ankle), NT Greg Gaines (foot), CB Jameel Dean (hamstring), WR Mike Evans (hamstring), CB Zyon McCollum (hamstring), T Tristan Wirfs (knee/foot). **DNP**: LB Lavonte David (NIR-rest), DL William Gholston (knee/rest). **Full**: G Ben Bredeson (shoulder), RB Buckley Irving (toe), WR Jalen McMillan (hamstring).

## GIANTS

**Questionable**: ILB Darius Muasau (hamstring), WR Malik Nabers (groin), LB Micah McFadden (heel), OLB Kayvon Thobodeaux (wrist), WR Bryce Ford-Wheaton (achilles), **Limited**: DL Dexter Lawrence II (knee), S Tyler Nubin (back). **Full**: DB Dru Phillips (hip), TE Theo Johnson (back), LB Matt Adams (knee), WR Darius Slayton (concussion), G Greg Van Roten (abdomen).

## CARDINALS AT SEAHAWKS

**ARIZONA**: **Out**: DB Jalen Thompson (ankle). **Questionable**: DL Darius Robinson (calf), T Jonah Williams (knee), OLB Xavier Thomas (back). **Full**: T Kelvin Beachum (NIR-rest), RB Emari Demercado (shoulder), DB Dadrian Taylor-Demerson, G Isaiah Adams (back), CB Max Melton (illness). **SEATTLE**: **Out**: TE Brady Russell (foot). **QUESTIONABLE**: TE Noah Fant (groin), WR Laviska Shenault Jr. (back). **Limited**: WR Tyler Lockett (NIR-rest). **Full**: CB Dee Williams (ankle), DE Leonard Williams (foot), NT Jarrran Reed (NIR-rest), G Laken Tomlinson (NIR-rest), NT Johnathan Hankins (personal), T Abraham Lucas (knee), TE Pharaoh Brown (elbow), LB Dre\*Mont Jones (shoulder), S Rayshawn Jenkins (hand).

## COWBOYS AT COMMANDERS

**DALLAS**: **Out**: S Markquese Bell (shoulder), TE Jake Ferguson (concussion). **Doubtful**: G Zach Martin (ankle/shoulder). **Questionable**: WR Brandin Cooks (knee), CB Trevon Diggs (groin/knee), T Chuma Edoga (toe), DE Marshawn Kneeland (knee), G Tyler Smith (ankle/knee), LB Nick Vigil (foot), WR CeeDee Lamb (back/foot), G Tyler Smith (ankle/knee). **Full**: FB Hunter Luepke (calf), CB Jourdan Lewis (neck), LB Eric Kendricks (shoulder), CB DaRon Bland (foot), T Tyler Guyton (shoulder).

## WASHINGTON

**Out**: CB Marshon Lattimore (hamstring). **Questionable**: LB Nick Bellore (knee), DE Javontae Jean-Baptiste (ankle), K Austin Seibert (right hip). **Limited**: DE Clelin Ferrell (knee). **Full**: OLB Dante Fowler Jr. (hip), CB Noah Igbinoghene (thumb), DE Dorance Armstrong (knee), T Brandon Coleman (thighbone), LB Jordan Magee (elbow), TE Ben Sinnott (illness).

## BRONCOS AT RAIDERS

**DENVER**: **Out**: WR Josh Reynolds (hand), LB Drew Sanders (achilles). **Questionable**: DE Zach Allen (concussion). **SUNDAY BUCCANEERS AT GIANTS**

(NIR-rest). **Full**: S Brandon Jones (abdomen), S P.J. Locke (thumb), G Ben Powers (shoulder).

## LAS VEGAS

**Out**: CB Jakorian Bennett (shoulder), CB Nate Hobbs (ankle). **Doubtful**: RB Alexander Mattison (ankle), RB Zamir White (quad). **Questionable**: TE Harrison Bryant (ankle), C Andre James (ankle), CB Jack Jones (back), G Cody Whitehair (ankle). **Full**: TE Justin Shorter (illness),

## LIONS AT COLTS

## DETROIT

**Out**: CB Ennis Rakestraw (hamstring). **Questionable**: CB Emmanuel Moseley (pectoral), CB Terriion Arnold (groin). **Full**: CB Carlton Davis (thumb), TE Sam LaPorta (shoulder), TE Shane Zylstra (neck).

## INDIANAPOLIS

**Out**: T Bernhard Raimann (knee). **Questionable**: DE Tyquan Lewis (elbow). **Full**: WR Michael Pittman (back), T Braden Smith (foot), WR Josh Downs (calf), CB Kenny Moore II (knee).

## CHIEFS AT PANTHERS

## KANSAS CITY

**Out**: RB Isiah Pacheco (ankle), DE Charles Omenihu (knee). **Full**: DB Chamarri Conner (thumb), S Bryan Cook (rib), RB Kareem Hunt (knee), WR JuJu Smith-Schuster (hamstring).

## CAROLINA

**Out**: RB Miles Sanders (ankle). **Doubtful**: OLB Amare Barro (knee). **Questionable**: DL Labryaan Ray (hand), WR Jalen Coker (quad), OLB DJ Wonnum (quad), OLB Jadeveon Clowney (knee), K Eddy Pineiro (left knee), WR Adam Thielen (hamstring), RB Jonathan Brooks (knee), OLB DJ Johnson (concussion). **Limited**: CB Jaycee Horn (calf). **Full**: T Taylor Moton (NIR-rest), G Damien Lewis (illness), T Ikem Ekwonu (ankle), S Xavier Woods (shoulder), DE A'Shawn Robinson (NIR-rest).

## VIKINGS AT BEARS

## MINNESOTA

**Out**: TE Josh Oliver (wrists/ankle). **Questionable**: LB Gabe Murphy (knee), TE Nick Muse (hand). **DNP**: CB Stephon Gilmore (NIR-rest), S Harrison Smith (NIR-rest). **Full**: DL Jonathan Bullard (toe), QB Sam Darnold (toe), RB Aaron Jones Sr. (ribs).

## CHICAGO

**Out**: OL Ryan Bates (concussion), DB Elijah Hicks (ankle). **Questionable**: OL Kiran Amegadjie (calf), RB D'Andre Swift (groin), WR Keenan Allen (ankle). **Full**: TE Marcedes Lewis (NIR-rest), OL Teven Jenkins (ankle).

## PATRIOTS AT DOLPHINS

## NEW ENGLAND

**Out**: DT Jaquelin Roy (neck). **Questionable**: DE Deatrich Wise Jr. (foot), T Vederian Lowe (shoulder), S Kyle Dugger (ankle), S Marte Mapu (neck), LB Keion White (knee), LB Anfernee Jennings (knee), OL Cole Strange (knee), CB Christian Gonzalez (hip), Christian Barmore (NIR-other), LB Sione Takitaki (knee). **MIAMI**: **Out**: CB Kendall Fuller (concussion). **Questionable**: S

Patrick McMorris (calf), FB Alex Ingold (calf), T Terron Armstead (knee), OL Isaiah Wynn (quad/knee).

## EAGLES AT RAMS

## PHILADELPHIA

**Out**: DL Bryce Huff (wrists) (injured reserve), WR DeVonta Smith (hamstring).

**Questionable**: WR Britain Covey (shoulder). **Full**: LB Jalyn Hunt (ankle), DL Milton Williams (foot), LB Nakobe Dean (groin), QB Jalen Hurts (ankle).

## LOS ANGELES

**Out**: OL KT Leviston (ankle), CB Charles Woods (ankle). **Doubtful**: OL Rob Havenstein (ankle). **Full**: CB Cobie Durant (thigh), OL Joe Noteboom (ankle), NT Neville Gallimore (neck), OL Kevin Dotson (illness).

## 49ERS AT PACKERS

## SAN FRANCISCO

**Out**: LB Tatum Bethune (knee), DE Nick Bosa (hip/oblique), DT Kevin Givens (groin), WR Jacob Cowing (concussion), QB Brock Purdy (shoulder), CB Charvarius Ward (NIR-personal).

**Questionable**: T Trent Williams (ankle), C Jon Feliciano (knee). **Full**: RB Christian McCaffrey (rest/achilles), TE George Kittle (hamstring).

## GREEN BAY

**Out**: CB Jaire Alexander (knee), LB Edgerrin Cooper (hamstring).

**Questionable**: DL Colby Wooden (shoulder). **Limited**: RB Josh Jacobs (quad/calf). **Full**: DL Kenny Clark (toe), G/T Elgton Jenkins (NIR-rest), C/G Josh Myers (wrists), T Rasheed Walker (knee), S Evan Williams (hamstring).

## TITANS AT TEXANS

## TENNESSEE

**Out**: LB Jack Gibbons (ankle) (injured reserve), CB L'Jarius Sneed (quad) (injured reserve), RB Tyjae Spears (concussion), T Leroy Watson (back).

**Questionable**: DB Justin Hardee (groin), CB Roger McCreary (knee). **Full**: DE Sebastian Joseph-Day (biceps), LB Kenneth Murray (shoulder), WR Calvin Ridley (illness), DT Jeffery Simmons (NIR-rest).

## HOUSTON

**Out**: DL Folorunso Fatukasi (foot), OL Blake Fisher (concussion). **Questionable**: DL Denico Autry (knee/oblique). **Full**: LB Azeez Al-Shaair (knee), DL Will Anderson Jr. (ankle), DB Derek Stingley Jr. (hip), DB Kamari Lassiter (concussion).

## MONDAY RAVENS AT CHARGERS

## BALTIMORE

**DNP**: WR Rashod Bateman (knee), DT Travis Jones (ankle), S Sanoussi Kane (ankle), C Tyler Linderbaum (back), DB Arthur Maulet (calf), LB Roquan Smith (hamstring).

**Limited**: C Nick Samac (chest). **Full**: WR Nelson Agholor (illness), S Kyle Hamilton (neck), RB Justice Hill (concussion), OLB Odafin Owew (neck).

## LOS ANGELES

**DNP**: RB JK Dobbins (NIR-rest), S AJ Finley (ankle), LB Denzel Perryman (groin). **Limited**: OLB Joey Bosa (hip), OLB Bud Dupree (foot), CB Cam Hart (concussion/ankle), TE Hayden Hurst (hip), S Derwin James Jr. (groin), OLB Khalil Mack (groin), WR Ladd McConkey (shoulder), T Trey Pipkins II (ankle). **Full**: DB Deane Leonard (hamstring).

## Today's Sports on the Air

|                    |            |   |  |
|--------------------|------------|---|--|
| NBA                | 5 p.m.     | Knicks at Jazz  | MSG, WHSQ (880 AM)                     |
|                    | 8 p.m.     | Grizzlies at Bulls  | NBATV                                  |
|                    | 10:30 p.m. | Nuggets at Lakers   | NBATV                                  |
| NHL                | 1 p.m.     | Blackhawks at Flyers  | NHLN                                   |
|                    | 7 p.m.     | Devils at Capitals  | MSGSN2                                 |
|                    | 7 p.m.     | Golden Knights at Canadiens                                     | NHLN                                   |
|                    | 7:30 p.m.  | Blues at Islanders  | MSGSN, WRHU (88.7 FM), WRCN (103.9 FM) |
|                    | 10 p.m.    | Rangers at Oilers   | MSG, WHSQ (880 AM)                     |
| Soccer             | 7:30 a.m.  | Premier League: Chelsea at Leicester City                       | USA                                    |
|                    | 9 a.m.     | Serie A: Inter Milan at Hellas Verona                           | CBSSN                                  |
|                    | 10 a.m.    | Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion at AFC Bournemouth       | USA                                    |
|                    | Noon       | USL Championship Final: Rhode Island at Colorado Springs        | CBS                                    |
|                    | 12:30 p.m. | Premier League: Tottenham at Manchester City                    | NBC                                    |
|                    | 5:30 p.m.  | Conference Semifinal: Red Bulls at NYCFC                        | Apple TV+                              |
|                    | 8 p.m.     | NWSL Championship: Orlando Pride vs. Washington Spirit          | CBS                                    |
| College Football   | Noon       | Indiana at Ohio State   | Fox                                    |
|                    | Noon       | Ole Miss at Florida   | ABC                                    |
|                    | Noon       | Wake Forest at Miami (Fla.)                                     | ESPN                                   |
|                    | Noon       | Cornell at Columbia   | SNY                                    |
|                    | Noon       | Iowa at Maryland  | BTN                                    |
|                    | Noon       | North Carolina at Boston College                                | PIX11                                  |
|                    | Noon       | Sam Houston at Jacksonville State                               | CBSSN                                  |
|                    | Noon       | SMU at Virginia   | ESPN2                                  |
|                    | Noon       | UConn at Syracuse   | ACCN                                   |
|                    | Noon       | Yale at Harvard   | ESPNU                                  |
|                    | 12:45 p.m. | UMass at Georgia  | SECN                                   |
|                    | 3 p.m.     | Texas Southern at Arkansas-Pine Bluff                           | Ch. 10/55                              |
|                    | 3:30 p.m.  | Penn State at Minnesota   | CBS                                    |
|                    | 3:30 p.m.  | Colorado at Kansas  | Fox                                    |
|                    | 3:30 p.m.  | Kentucky at Texas   | ABC                                    |
|                    | 3:30 p.m.  | BYU at Arizona State  | ESPN                                   |
|                    | 3:30 p.m.  | Northwestern at Michigan  | FS1                                    |
|                    | 3:30 p.m.  | San Diego State at Utah State                                   | CBSSN                                  |
|                    | 3:30 p.m.  | Stanford at California  | ACCN                                   |
|                    | 3:30 p.m.  | The Citadel at Clemson  | PIX11                                  |
|                    | 3:30 p.m.  | Wisconsin at Nebraska   | BTN                                    |
|                    | 4 p.m.     | Pittsburgh at Louisville  | ESPN2                                  |
|                    | 4:15 p.m.  | Missouri at Mississippi State                                   | SECN                                   |
|                    | 7 p.m.     | Army vs. Notre Dame   | NBC                                    |
|                    | 7 p.m.     | Boise State at Wyoming  | CBSSN                                  |
|                    | 7 p.m.     | Washington State at Oregon State                                | PIX11                                  |
|                    | 7:30 p.m.  | Alabama at Oklahoma   | ABC                                    |
|                    | 7:30 p.m.  | Marshall at Old Dominion  | ESPNU                                  |
|                    | 7:30 p.m.  | Texas A&M at Auburn   | ESPN                                   |
|                    | 7:45 p.m.  | Vanderbilt at LSU   | SECN                                   |
|                    | 8 p.m.     | Virginia Tech at Duke   | ACCN                                   |
|                    | 10:15 p.m. | USC at UCLA   | NBC                                    |
|                    | 10:30 p.m. | Air Force at Nevada   | FS1                                    |
|                    | 10:30 p.m. | Colorado State at Fresno State                                  | CBSSN                                  |
| College Basketball | Noon       | Women: Saint Peter's at FDU                                     | YES                                    |
|                    | Noon       | St. Francis (Pa.) at Georgetown                                 | FS2                                    |
|                    | 4 p.m.     | Women: Notre Dame at USC  | NBC                                    |
|                    | 5 p.m.     | Northern Illinois at DePaul                                     | FS2                                    |
|                    | 7 p.m.     | Women: Stony Brook at Columbia                                  | SNY                                    |
| Golf               | 1 p.m.     | PGA Tour: The The RSM Classic, 3rd Round                        | Golf                                   |
|                    | 4 p.m.     | LPGA Tour: The CME Group Tour Championship, 3rd Round           | Golf                                   |
|                    | 9:30 p.m.  | DP World Tour: The BMW Australian PGA Championship, Final Round | Golf                                   |

# NEW YORK POST ACTION

Post Time: 12:10 p.m.  
vcangialosi@nypost.com



## Aqueduct

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

### 1 1 mile; \$95,000; alw; 3up

Two New York bred Stallion Stakes on the Saturday card.

**BANK FRENZY** Length short this level/distance then a clear 2nd in the longer Empire Classic. Rallied to win the Evan Shipman 3 back. Franco rides for Rudy Rodriguez. **CLASSIC LEGACY** scored at this distance at the Spa. His 2nd win from 13 starts. Can he outkick Bank Frenzy? **GUN IT** ran evenly, 4th of 6 last out. Stretches, but 1 for 8 at this distance. Davis subs for Franco.

| PN Horse Wt.                  | Jockey     | Last 3 | Trainer    | Odds |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------|------------|------|
| 1 a-Gun It(L),121             | D Davis    | 4-2-5  | Kantarmaci | 9-2  |
| 2 Bank Frenzy(L),125          | M Franco   | 2-2-1  | Rodriguez  | 1-1  |
| 3 Seeking Unity(L),123        | J Rosario  | 3-1-4  | Rodriguez  | 8-1  |
| 4 Classic Legacy(L),123       | J Lezcano  | 1-2-4  | Mott       | 3-1  |
| 5 Celestial Moon(L),121       | R Silvera  | 5-2-1  | Ness       | 7-2  |
| 1A a-Magnolia Midnight(L),121 | S Gonzalez | 1-8-5  | Kantarmaci | 9-2  |

### 2 6 1/2 fur; \$40,000; clm(\$16,000); 3up

Stretch long duel for **POPPY'S PRIDE** but he missed by a game neck. Speed on the rail. **SCARAMANGA** moves lower for DePaz after a flat 5th at Laurel. Davis a good sign. **FIERY HEART** missed the break, raced wide and landed 7th behind **COLD AS HELL** who was 3rd. Fiery Heart won 8 of previous 11.

| PN Horse Wt.           | Jockey      | Last 3  | Trainer    | Odds |
|------------------------|-------------|---------|------------|------|
| 1 a-Poppy's Pride,122  | L Luzzi     | 2-5-9   | Noda       | 7-5  |
| 1A a-Scaramanga(L),122 | D Davis     | 5-4-1   | De Paz     | 7-5  |
| 2 Cold as Hell(L),122  | J Gomez     | 3-7-7   | R Duttow   | 2-1  |
| 3 Fiery Heart(L),122   | J Lezcano   | 7-10-1  | Hennig     | 8-1  |
| 4 Jemography(L),120    | R Silvera   | 8-7-3   | Rodriguez  | 8-1  |
| 5 Dreampoint(L),117    | F Martinez  | 10-9-12 | Sciaccia   | 20-1 |
| 6 Super Chief(L),122   | K Carmouche | 2-1-5   | Bernardini | 3-1  |

### 3 1 mile; \$80,000; alw; 3up

The stretch running **LIBERTY CENTRAL** closed to within 2 lengths, last pair. Lezcano gets a pace to chase. **LAND DORO** finished an energetic 3rd racing 7/8. Clement gives him another furlong; adds blinkers.

**PETROLO** brings a 3 race winning streak from Finger Lakes. Tough spot to keep streak alive.

| PN Horse Wt.              | Jockey         | Last 3  | Trainer      | Odds |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------|--------------|------|
| 2 Kolomio(L),123          | D Davis        | 1-6-9   | Baker        | 5-1  |
| 3 Petrolo(L),123          | R Maragh       | 1-1-1   | Bond         | 6-1  |
| 1 a-Final Denile(L),118   | J Rosario      | 7-11-4  | Clement      | 2-1  |
| 4 Liberty Central(L),118  | J Lezcano      | 2-4-3   | Quick        | 6-5  |
| 5 Hagrid's Flame(L),120   | L Rivera, Jr   | 5-7-1   | Terranova II | 10-1 |
| 1A a-Land d'Oro(L),118    | M Franco       | 3-4-2   | Clement      | 2-1  |
| 6 Rock the Weekend(L),121 | K Davis        | 1-5-6   | Shivmangal   | 15-1 |
| 7 A Lister(L),121         | D Grisles Rave | 3-12-11 | Pringle      | 30-1 |

### 4 6 fur; \$45,000; mdn clm(\$40,000); 2Y0

Two-year-olds, many making career debuts. Like Dark Horse Stable's **KING PHOENIX** (Brion/Castellano/King for a Day) and **RUN WITH HONOR** (Englehart/Rivera/Honor API). **JUST CLARITY** drops for Donk after offering little on both dirt and turf. Johnny V up. And Lezcano rides the debuting **LUCKY DRAGON**, a Lookin at Lucky colt, for Miceli.

| PN Horse Wt.         | Jockey       | Last 3 | Trainer   | Odds |
|----------------------|--------------|--------|-----------|------|
| 1 Lucky Dragon,119   | J Lezcano    | x-x-x  | Miceli    | 4-1  |
| 2 Just Clarity,119   | D Davis      | 8-6-x  | Donk      | 7-2  |
| 3 Run With Honor,119 | L Rivera, Jr | x-x-x  | Englehart | 2-1  |

### Aqueduct Results

#### FIRST-7 fur; \$75,000; mdn spf wt; 3up (f&m)

2 Granadilla (Rosro) 7.10 3.50 2.10  
6 Capital Spending (Davis) 4.20 2.30  
3 Catchphrase (Prat) 2.10  
● \$1 Exacta (2-6) \$14.00 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (2-6-3-1) \$7.02 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (2-6-3-1) \$13.62

#### SECOND-1 mile; \$100,000; alw; 3up (f&m)

5 Mov Moxy (Lzcno) 9.90 3.70  
3 St. Benedict's Prep (Prat) 2.60

Scr: Stonewall Star

● \$1 Daily Double (2-5) \$24.10 ● \$1 Exacta (5-3) \$16.00 ● \$1 Quinella (3-5) \$4.70

#### THIRD-1 mile; \$45,000; cl(\$40,00); 3up (f&m)

3 Five to Two (Davis) 5.50 2.70 2.20

6 Shehanah (Franco) 3.10 2.50

1 She's Cool (Lezcano) 2.20

Scr: Pam Pam  
● \$1 Pick 3 (2-5-3) \$72.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (5-3) \$18.00 ● \$1 Exacta (3-6) \$10.40 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (3-6-1-2) \$2.87 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (3-6-1) \$10.75

#### FOURTH-6 fur; \$70,000; moc(\$50,000); 2Y0

4 Westrn Wolf (Dvs) 2.70 2.10 2.10  
3 Bobby Bob (Lezcano) 3.10 2.20

5 Henry's Hope (HrnndMorn) 3.10

Scr: Pazz the Soy Sauce, Spirit Dragon

● \$1 Pick 3 (5-3-4) \$29.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (3-4) \$4.20 ● \$1 Exacta (4-3) \$2.85 ● \$1 Superfecta (4-3-2-1) \$2.60 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (4-3-5) \$4.45

#### Exacta picked by Vic C (Lock)

#### FIFTH-6 1/2 fur; \$75,000; mdn spf wt; 2Y0 F

6 Prncss Mschf (Rsr) 10.20 4.80 3.10

2 Forever to Go (Velzquez) 5.60 3.70 4-3 \$3.35

4 Lottie Margaret (Franco) 3.50

● \$1 Pick 3 (3-4-6) \$19.20 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (5-3-1/4-6-6) \$89.50 ● \$0.5 Pick 5 (2-5-3-1/4-6-6)

\$295.25 ● \$1 Daily Double (4-6) \$7.10 ● \$1 Exacta (6-2) \$31.25 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (6-2-4-3) \$132.55 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (6-2-4) \$57.50

#### Exacta & Double picked by Vic C

#### SIXTH-1 mile; \$40,000; clm(\$16,000); 3up (f&m)

7 Hrzds Hm (Lzcno) 4.40 2.40 2.10

4 Trade Secret (Prat) 2.50 2.10

3 April Antics (Franco) 2.10

Scr: Whistler's Style, Jolly Miss Jill

● \$1 Pick 3 (4-6-7) \$18.10 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (3-1/4-6-6-5/6-7) \$26.75 ● \$1 Daily Double (6-7) \$15.40 ● \$1 Exacta (7-4) \$3.90 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (7-4-3-2) \$2.08 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (7-4-3-2) \$2.08 ● \$1 Daily

#### Exacta picked by Vic C (Lock)

#### Bank Frenzy (1st)

Lock Record: 5 for 10 (50%)

Meet Record: 28/89 \$179.60

### Lock of the Day

|                       |              |       |           |     |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------|-----------|-----|
| 3 Khalil Magic,120    | J Lezcano    | 7-3-1 | Ferraro   | 7-2 |
| 4 Brown Suga Babe,118 | R Silvera    | 1-3-1 | Ness      | 4-1 |
| 5 Lisa's Vision,120   | R Maragh     | 1-4-7 | Duggan    | 8-1 |
| 6 My Shea D Lady,122  | J Castellano | 5-3-1 | David     | 5-1 |
| 7 Athena Beach,120    | J Gomez      | 5-1-2 | Synnefias | 3-1 |

### Second Round

|                           |         |     |     |
|---------------------------|---------|-----|-----|
| Angel Yin                 | 65-69   | 134 | -10 |
| Na Rin An                 | 64-72   | 136 | -8  |
| Hy Jin Choi               | 68-68   | 138 | -6  |
| Ayaka Furue               | 69-69   | 138 | -6  |
| Nelly Korda               | 72-66   | 138 | -6  |
| Jeeno Thitikul            | 71-67   | 138 | -6  |
| Arny Yang                 | 69-69   | 138 | -6  |
| Ruoning Yin               | 70-68   | 138 | -6  |
| Natalia Guseva            | 70-69   | 139 | -5  |
| Charley Hull              | 73-66   | 139 | -5  |
| Jin Young Ko              | 68-71   | 139 | -5  |
| Jennifer Kupcho           | 70-69   | 139 | -5  |
| Lucy Li                   | 70-69   | 139 | -5  |
| Celine Boutier            | 67-73   | 140 | -4  |
| Linn Grant                | 67-73   | 140 | -4  |
| Hannah Green              | 69-71   | 140 | -4  |
| Brooke Henderson          | 69-71   | 140 | -4  |
| Nanna Koerstz Madsen      | 69-71   | 140 | -4  |
| Xiyu Lin                  | 70-70   | 140 | -4  |
| Linnea Strom              | 68-72   | 140 | -4  |
| Pajaree Annarukarn        | 69-72   | 141 | -3  |
| Ally Ewing                | 71-70   | 141 | -3  |
| Lydia Ko                  | 67-74   | 141 | -3  |
| Maja Stark                | 70-71   | 141 | -3  |
| Lexi Thompson             | 73-68   | 141 | -3  |
| Albane Valenzuela         | 67-74   | 141 | -3  |
| Marina Alex               | 66-76   | 142 | -2  |
| Allisen Corpuz            | 66-76   | 142 | -2  |
| Nasa Hataoka              | 67-75   | 142 | -2  |
| Grace Kim                 | 68-74   | 142 | -2  |
| Sei Young Kim             | 73-69   | 142 | -2  |
| Andrea Lee                | 72-70   | 142 | -2  |
| MI Hyang Lee              | 68-74   | 142 | -2  |
| Hae-Ran Ryu               | 71-71   | 142 | -2  |
| Jasmine Suwannapura       | 70-72   | 142 | -2  |
| Chanette Wannasaen        | 71-71   | 142 | -2  |
| Yealim Noh                | 74-69   | 143 | -1  |
| Ryann O'Toole             | 71-72   | 143 | -1  |
| Gabriela Ruffels          | 69-74   | 143 | -1  |
| Mao Saigo                 | 73-70   | 143 | -1  |
| Yuka Saso                 | 70-73   | 143 | -1  |
| Lilia Vu                  | 72-71   | 143 | -1  |
| Rose Zhang                | 71-72   | 143 | -1  |
| Carlota Ciganda           | 69-75   | 144 | E   |
| Esther Henselheit         | 75-69   | 144 | E   |
| Ariya Jutanugarn          | 67-77   | 144 | E   |
| Megan Khang               | 69-75   | 144 | E   |
| A Lim Kim                 | 74-70   | 144 | E   |
| Minjee Lee                | 68-76   | 144 | E   |
| Sarah Schmelzel           | 72-72   | 144 | E   |
| Lauren Coughlin           | 72-73   | 145 | +1  |
| Jin Hee Im                | 70-75   | 145 | +1  |
| Leona Maguire             | 69-76   | 145 | +1  |
| Patty Tavatanakit         | 73-72   | 145 | +1  |
| Arpichaya Yubol           | 70-75   | 145 | +1  |
| Madelene Sagstrom         | 72-74   | 146 | +2  |
| Moriya Jutanugarn         | 73-74   | 147 | +3  |
| Jenny Shin                | 74-73   | 147 | +3  |
| Bailey Tardy              | 76-74   | 150 | +6  |
| Patrick Fishburn          | 67a-64b | 131 | -11 |
| Lee Hodges                | 69a-63b | 132 | -10 |
| Maverick McNealy          | 62a-70b | 132 | -10 |
| Luke Clinton              | 68a-65b | 133 | -9  |
| Michael Thorbjornsen      | 64b-69a | 133 | -9  |
| Adrien Dumont De Chassart | 64a-70b | 134 | -8  |
| Nicolas Echavarria        | 67a-67b | 134 | -8  |
| Michael Kim               | 65a-69b | 134 | -8  |
| Mackenzie Hughes          | 68b-67a | 135 | -7  |
| Martin Laird              | 69a-66b | 135 | -7  |
| Patrick Rodgers           | 65a-70b | 135 | -7  |
| Callum Tarren             | 67a-68b | 135 | -7  |
| Vince Whaley              | 67a-68b | 135 | -7  |
| Kevin Yu                  | 67b-73a | 135 | -7  |
| Stewart Cink              | 68b-68a | 136 | -6  |
| Paul Peterson             | 70a-66b | 136 | -6  |
| Ludwig Aberg              | 73a-64b | 137 | -5  |
| Daniel Berger             | 71a-66b | 137 | -5  |
| Austin Eckroat            | 67b-70a | 137 | -5  |
| Steven Fisk               | 72a-65b | 137 | -5  |
| Will Gordon               | 66a-71b | 137 | -5  |
| Joe Highsmith             | 71a-66b | 137 | -5  |
| Chandler Phillips         | 66b-71a | 137 | -5  |
| Bud Cauley                | 68a-70b | 138 | -4  |
| Adam Hadwin               | 69a-69b | 138 | -4  |
| Ryo Hisatsune             | 71a-67b | 138 | -4  |
| Kelly Kraft               | 65a-73b | 138 | -4  |
| Adam Schenk               | 71b-67a | 138 | -4  |
| Robby Shelton             | 72a-66b | 138 | -4  |
| Austin Smotherman         | 68a-70b | 138 | -4  |
| Matt Wallace              | 70a-68b | 138 | -4  |
| Kevin Chappell            | 68b-71a | 139 | -3  |
| Harris English            |         |     |     |

# DALLAS BUYER'S CLUB

## No DeVonta means boost for Eagles TE

INFORMATION can be a lot of things. It can be, and normally is, useful in making, ahem, informed decisions. It also can be debilitating. If you have bad information, that normally leads to bad decisions.

But what if you have no information? Even in today's information age, sometimes there is a lack of it. Want proof? Conjure up some data on how the Eagles offense operates without DeVonta Smith in the lineup.

Ah, you found Week 4 of this season, when he was out with a concussion. That should provide some insight, right? Only ... A.J. Brown was also out with a hamstring problem. So the Eagles were down their top two receivers.

So ... maybe that game is an anomaly. It has some complicating factors that could make its data untrustworthy. Not totally worth discarding, but not something we want to lean on heavily.

Keep backtracking. What other games has Smith missed? That's right, Week 18 of last season, when Smith was nursing an ankle injury. Only ... hmmmm ... seems, with their playoff position secured, the Eagles didn't have the pedal to the metal. Jalen Hurts was pulled early and A.J. Brown barely played.

## BIG WEEKS

### **Tommy DeVito** QB, Giants, vs. Buccaneers (FanDuel \$7,000/DraftKings \$4,000)

The Tampa Bay pass defense has bottomed out of late — 20 passing TDs since Week 4 after zero the first three games. DeVito is available on a hellish bye week, and cheap in DFS. But if Malik Nabers (groin) doesn't play, we're cutting our ties to Cutlets.

### **Chuba Hubbard RB, Panthers** vs. Chiefs (FD \$7,100/DK \$6,600)

Yes, he is in the toughest matchup for RBs, and yes, rookie Jonathan Brooks will make his debut. But expect Brooks' workload to build slowly. And Hubbard is more likely to get passing-down snaps.

### **Jakobi Meyers WR, Raiders** vs. Broncos (FD \$6,400/DK \$5,100)

He isn't in a great matchup, but with a half-dozen teams on bye and pickings slim, Meyers does get the type of volume you want to see in your starting lineup.

### **Cade Otton TE, Buccaneers** at Giants (FD \$6,600/DK \$5,500)

Don't be scared off by the Giants' top-ranked fantasy defense vs. tight ends (they haven't faced any marquee names). Even with WR Mike Evans back from the Bucs, Otton is still going to get plenty of targets.

Seems that one is even more skewed from reality, thus not a good basis for future projections.

So what other games has Smith missed? None. Of 61 potential games since being drafted in 2021, he has played in 59. That leaves remarkably little data (read: information) on how the team adapts to his absence, and what data there is appears corrupted by circumstance.

Thus, we're pretty much left in the dark when trying to figure out what might happen Sunday when he will be sidelined with a hamstring problem. So you have to adapt to the dark. Be molded by it. Sometimes you won't see the light until after the game, so don't let it be so blinding.

First, clearly we expect Brown to get peppered with targets. Of course, if you have him, you're already playing him, but for DFS purposes, since this game falls off some of the main slates, it does make Brown our strong pick for Captain/MVP status in single-game contests.

Tight end Dallas Goedert is third on the list in targets this season (37). His numbers don't look great overall, but he has scored double digits in his past four complete games. You aren't going to find him on many waiver wires, but right now he is not on

nearly enough starting rosters, so if you have him, get him off your bench and into your lineup.

The other most targeted in Week 4 were Saquon Barkley (start him, duh!) and receivers Parris Campbell and Jahan Dotson.

Campbell is on and off the practice squad, so he isn't a real factor. But Dotson hasn't gotten more than two targets since Week 6. He is nothing more than a DFS dart throw. An even longer long shot is Ainius Smith, who has played just four games with just three targets, so manage your expectations.

In this degree of darkness — with Smith out, tons of bye weeks and few available options — we think you'll find more fantasy light out of Goedert than other Philly pass catchers. Even if it is barely enough light to allow you to escape the Week 12 darkness.

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## SMALL WEEKS

### **Kyren Williams RB, Rams** vs. Eagles (FD \$8,300/DK \$7,400)

The past three weeks (with Cooper Kupp and Puka Nacua healthy), Williams has averaged 10.1 per game in PPR, compared to 19.9 prior.

### **D'Andre Swift RB, Bears** vs. Vikings (FD \$7,000/DK \$6,100)

Trending toward playing, but worry he could be limited or aggravate his groin issue. But after a full practice Friday, he isn't sketchy enough to recommend using backup Roschon Johnson.

### **Rico Dowdile RB, Cowboys** at Commanders (FD \$6,300/DK \$5,500)

He had three straight double-digit PPR performances earlier this season, but now back-to-back single-digit downers. This is a bad run offense, and now has a floundering passing game behind a backup QB.

### **Jauan Jennings WR, 49ers** at Packers (FD \$6,700/DK \$5,600)

QB Brock Purdy (shoulder) has been ruled out. We don't trust backup Brandon Allen. He has gotten significant playing time in a total of nine games in his six seasons — and none since 2021 — and has just nine TDs in those games. Downgrade Deebo Samuel, too.



Imagn Images

## Look past simple site projections

PROPER research and analysis of data is imperative when setting your fantasy football lineups. Is your running back an efficient runner, and how does he match up against the run defense he is facing? Do your wide receivers thrive more in man coverage or zone, and what kind of defensive coverage packages do their opponents typically run?

Whether you do the research on your own or use a subscription-based website to help you interpret the data, having this knowledge is key. Yet every week we continue to see fantasy managers mistakenly evaluate their team and make lineup decisions based solely off their host website's projections.

**FANTASY ALARM**  
**Howard Bender**

Unfortunately, much of the data various platforms use to create weekly projections fails to account for things like injuries suffered in a game, insufficient rookie data, or things like coaching and scheme changes.

For example, one site has Dallas receiver CeeDee Lamb projected at 16.2 fantasy points for Week 12 against Washington. The number clearly is calculated from Lambs's history and what the Commanders have allowed in production to opposing No. 1 wideouts. What they have failed to include is Lamb's lack of production with Cooper Rush under center. In fact, Lamb has averaged just 13.7 fantasy points in full-point PPR formats over the past three games and is missing practices with a back issue.

Another site had Chiefs running back Kareem Hunt projected for just 3.26 fantasy points against the Panthers, the team with the worst run defense in the league. Why? Because it was counting on Isiah Pacheco returning and immediately getting a full workload.

Why would they leap to such conclusions? Pacheco did not log a full practice this week and has since been ruled out Friday. At least any misguided Hunt managers had time to adjust.

This isn't an attempt to bash websites. It is merely a warning against making lineup decisions based off projection numbers. Winning your fantasy football game is not as cut-and-dried as picking the player with the best forecast.

Howard Bender is the head of content at FantasyAlarm.com. Follow him on X @rotobuzzguy and catch him on the award-winning "Fantasy Alarm Radio Show" on the SiriusXM fantasy sports channel weekdays from 6-8 p.m. Go to Fantasy-Alarm.com for all your fantasy football advice.

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

Red Bulls coach Sandro Schwarz and New York City FC coach Nick Cushing don't expect to have to do much to get their respective squads ready for Saturday's playoff edition of the Hudson River Derby.

Even after both teams have had somewhat lengthy breaks since defeating their first-round opponents in the MLS Cup Playoffs, the two rivals should be ready for an intense showdown at Citi Field.

"We got professional players here that if you can't get yourself up for a semifinal against your rivals with a chance to progress, you're playing the wrong sport," Cushing said.

The Red Bulls toppled No. 3 seed FC Cincinnati in two games of a best-of-three in round one, while NYCFC took down the defending MLS Cup champs, the Columbus Crew, in three games.

But the Red Bulls' quick series win and the international break means that they haven't played in 20 days, and it will have been a full two weeks since NYCFC had taken the pitch for a competitive match when things kick-off at 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

The pause certainly quelled some of the momentum that both teams had been feeling following their series victories over two fa-

# Raising the stakes

## Red Bulls, NYCFC meet for first time in playoffs

vored teams in the east.

Cushing called the break "not ideal" when he addressed reporters ahead of the Eastern Conference semifinal, but both coaches tried to use the downtime to their advantage.

Cushing utilized the time for his players to get some rest and recovery, while Schwarz used it as a chance to prepare tactically for the upcoming match.

There won't be too many surprises for either side considering how familiar the New York squads are with one another, but City holds the regular-season edge this year having swept the Red Bulls. Nevertheless, that doesn't seem to be something players on either side expect to factor into Saturday.

"I think when we play against

them in playoff, it is going to be a different game," Red Bulls defender Andres Reyes said. "I think we will have a lot of emotion. This game could be one of the most important for us, so we have to be sharp."

"I don't think it really matters on who won before, who didn't," NYCFC

defender Tayvon Gray added. "I think the focus is just on this one really because this one counts. I can say I beat you five times before and then we beat you in the playoffs. So I think it's just lock in, focus on the game and that's it."

The two previous matches couldn't have looked any different, with NYCFC edging the Red Bulls, 2-1, in May and then blowing them out, 5-1, in September at Red Bull Arena.

The recent history has given

City an edge in who the favorite is going into the playoff showdown — the first between New York's two MLS clubs.

"If you look at the last round, especially Miami, Columbus, Cincinnati, all out and if you looked before the playoffs started, they would have been the three favorites in the East," NYCFC midfielder Justin Haak said. "And in these types of games where one mistake or one good moment could change the whole game, it really doesn't matter who's the favorite."

There was some concern that one of the Red Bulls' biggest offensive weapons, Lewis Morgan, might be out, but Schwarz confirmed Thursday that he would be available.

Morgan, along with fellow international Emil Forsberg, have proved to be deciding factors in matches for the Red Bulls all season. Morgan is still looking for his first postseason goal this year, but

Forsberg had a goal and an assist in the Red Bulls' last win.

Saturday's game will mark the second time a Hudson River Derby match will take place at Citi Field, though the match only will have roughly 25,000 fans in the stands due to part of the Mets' home being winterized for the off-season.

The Red Bulls have only played at Citi Field one other time and defender John Tolkin told The Post that the quality of the pitch is "horrible."

"But that's the circumstances both teams have to play in," he said. "If we're going to make excuses about the field already, then we've already lost. It's certainly interesting walking into a baseball stadium and seeing a soccer field there. ... I don't think too many guys will be thinking about that once the whistle blows."

The baseball stadium is next door to NYCFC's future home.

carnold@nypost.com



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Blue Advantage

By WILLIAM ZIMMERMAN

Strip it all away and Army's task on Saturday at Yankee Stadium is no different than usual.

Strip away the stakes that come with a 9-0 record: the blooming belief, seldom spoken aloud and only then in whispers, that a win here would all but cement their playoff invitation.

Strip away the noise: walloping and deafening, a humdrum of facts and figures and dates propounding the days and months and years since the Black Knights last defeated an AP top-10 team, 1963, the last time the Black Knights defeated the Fighting Irish, 1958.

## Saturday ARMY vs NOTRE DAME

at Yankee Stadium  
7 p.m.  
NBC,  
Peacock

Line: Army +14.5 • O/U: 45.5

Strip away the pomp and circumstance: the historic venue, the historic rivalry, the 46,000-plus who will cram in to see the 52nd incarnation of the college football matchup that produced the greatest line in the history of sports writing: "Outlined against a blue-gray October sky, the Four Horsemen rode again."

Strip it all away and the task at hand — defeating No. 6-ranked Notre Dame — is not so much a task but, in the words of Black Knights head coach Jeff Monken, "an opportunity."

"For our players, the first time they ever put shoulder pads on and decided they were going to play football, I think they hoped that they would have an opportunity to play in a game like this, in this kind of venue, against one of the blue-blood football programs in the country — Notre Dame is college football," Monken said Tuesday.

His Army is undefeated, ranked No. 19 in the country and on the precipice of their first 10-0 start to a season in program history.

They know what they're up against. And they know they're ready for the moment.



**LET'S GO!** Black Knights wide receiver Kavon Pointer (No. 89) and his undefeated Army teammates will look for their first win over an AP top-10 team since 1963 when they take on No. 6 Notre Dame on Saturday at Yankee Stadium.

Imagn Images

"It's a special night," senior linebacker Brett Gerena told members of the media on Tuesday. "We're a special team."

Army enters Sunday's matchup — which will kickoff at 7 p.m. Eastern and be broadcast on NBC and Peacock — as 14.5 point underdogs.

In 9-1 Notre Dame, Army faces its most punishing opponent yet: a team composed of bigger, stronger and more talented recruits, led by one of the best coaches in the business, Marcus Freeman.

"There's three things Army must do to have a chance," said analyst

Todd Blackledge, who will be on the call Saturday. "They cannot turn the ball over — they've been great all year, but the Fighting Irish have been outstanding at taking the ball away."

Case in point: Notre Dame posted 20 points off Navy turnovers three weeks ago. The Midshipmen had two on the season to date, then the Fighting Irish forced six.

Blackledge adds: "Number two, Army has to play great offense and defense in the red zone. Once the field shortens, that's when they've

got to play their best."

"And third — this will be very difficult — control the game, limit possessions, avoid negative plays and long-yardage situations."

A tall task indeed, but a formula that has bred success thus far.

Last week in a 14-3 win over North Texas — Army's narrowest margin of victory in 2024 — the Black Knights pounded the ground with physical running from quarterback Bryson Daily and running back Kanye Udoeh, burnt the clock without remorse and kept the Mean Green offense off the field.

North Texas had just six drives in the game and no points on their final five; two ended on downs, two on interceptions and one by punt.

Come Saturday, Notre Dame will offer stiffer competition than North Texas did on both sides of the ball and at every position. On every snap and in every matchup.

And yet, as Monken says, "the field is still going to be 120 yards long and they'll still have goal posts the size as those at Mikey Stadium. Once the game starts and we're on the field, we just got to play."

## Take a shot on Jayhawks stampeding overvalued Buffaloes

By TANNER MCGRATH

As much as Deion Sanders and Co. have impressed this year, I'm still not sold on the Buffaloes.

My biggest issue is that the offensive line isn't good. She'deir Sanders is constantly running for his life, and Colorado ranks 104th nationally in sack rate allowed (8 percent).

Of greater importance to this matchup is that the Buffaloes can't run the ball behind their lousy front five — they rank 110th nationally in EPA per Rush and seventh in

pass play rate (60 percent).

That bodes well for Kansas. The Jayhawks' undersized front seven is vulnerable against the rush (125th nationally in EPA per rush allowed). Nevertheless, the defense is OK at defending the pass behind the rock-solid cornerback duo of Mello Dotson and Cobee Bryant.

On the other side of the ball, Kansas' offense has caught fire now that Jalon Daniels is healthy. The Jayhawks had a string of unlucky losses in the early season, but they've won three of

their past four games, dropping over 40 points on Iowa State and Houston during the stretch.

Colorado's rush defense is merely average (66th nationally in EPA per rush allowed), and the Jayhawks boast a top-10 rushing offense behind the dual-threat Daniels and star running back Devin Neal.

This is a good matchup for the up-and-coming Jayhawks, and it appears the Buffaloes are overvalued — four of their six Big 12 wins have come against teams

with losing league records.  
Pick: Kansas +3.

### Northwestern (+10.5)

over MICHIGAN: Michigan's passing attack has looked slightly better since the Wolverines started playing Davis Warren again. The senior can complete almost 60 percent of his passes and tends to keep the ball out of harm's way with a low average depth of target.

Still, the Wolverines' aerial attack is among the worst in college football. They're still overly reliant on the rushing attack, ranking 27th nation-

ally in rush play rate (58 percent).

That doesn't bode well against Northwestern, which boasts a horrific secondary but a talented front seven that ranks in the top 15 nationally in EPA per rush and rush success rate allowed.

I don't know how Northwestern scores, but the Wildcats defense can keep it competitive, and catching over 10 points in a points-at-a-premium, low-scoring, rush-heavy Big 10 battle is good value. For what it's worth, only one of Michigan's five

wins has come by more than 10 points, and road underdogs in conference play with totals under 45 points have gone 374-294-18 against the spread since 2005.

Also, could Michigan be looking ahead to next week's rivalry game with Ohio State? I wouldn't be surprised to see them look unprepared this Saturday at home against a traditionally lame-duck Northwestern program.

**LAST WEEK:** 1-2. Notre Dame (L), Kansas State (L), Kansas (W).

**2024 SEASON:** 20-14.

# Lions hunting for an Ivy title

By JARED SCHWARTZ

Columbia only can control one piece of the elusive puzzle.

But the Lions (6-3, 4-2) have put themselves within touching distance of their first Ivy League football title since 1961.

They host rival Cornell (4-5, 3-3) Saturday (noon, SNY) for the 14th edition of the Empire State Bowl. If Columbia wins, and Harvard loses its rivalry game to Yale, Columbia would clinch a share of the Ivy League title. Dartmouth (7-2, 4-2) is in the same position as Columbia in its game against Brown, with the chance to claim a share of the conference title with a win coupled with a Harvard loss.

Lions head coach Jon Poppe has led a stunning turnaround in his first season in charge. He took over a team that finished in last place in the conference a year ago.

"That's something we talked about openly before the season started," Poppe told The Post's Howie Kussoy of the team's title expectations.

"That's been our goal. I felt comfortable and confident talking [about it]. ... We had this influx of fifth-year seniors that were very experienced and very talented, and I said, 'Hey, if we play well, we're going to have a shot to win this thing.'

"A big part of this is creating expectations and setting a mentality of what it takes to be a champion, and they invested in that process. The depth we've been able to create, we've had a lot of next man up, and those guys have allowed us to play great football."

Quarterback Caleb Sanchez, a true freshman, is set to make just his second career start Saturday. He threw for 241 yards and three touchdowns last week during a 21-12 win over Brown.

Though the matchup has only had its current name since 2010, the rivalry dates back 1889. Saturday will mark the 11th game between the teams. Columbia owns a 41-66-3 all-time record against Cornell, but has won five of the last six matchups.

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## YES, HE CANTY:

Columbia wide receiver Bryson Canty breaks away from the Yale defense during a Nov. 1 win.

Columbia Athletics/  
Stockton Photo



## Vanderbilt breaks down Hall

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Seton Hall fell victim to six made 3-pointers from Tyler Nickel on his way to a career-high tying 24 points in a 76-60 loss to Vanderbilt on Friday in the semifinals of the Charleston Classic.

Vanderbilt (6-0) will play Drake, a 75-63 winner over Florida Atlantic, in Sunday's championship game. The Pirates (3-3) will play FAU.

Isaiah Coleman was the only Pirate to score in double figures with 20 on 8-of-15 shooting, including four 3s. Chaunce Jenkins, who scored 22 second-half points in Seton Hall's overtime win over VCU on Thursday, had just three points with nine rebounds before fouling out. The Pirates shot only 37 percent.

The game was tied midway through the first half when Vanderbilt went on an 11-0 run capped by a 3-pointer from Nickel.

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**General Curtis LeMay:** "You're in a pretty big fix, Mr. President."

**President John F. Kennedy:** "What's that you say?"

**LeMay:** "You're in a big fix, sir."

**Kennedy:** "Well in case you haven't noticed ... you're in it with me."

— "Thirteen Days"

**W**oody Johnson is in a fix, and an enormous one, and he's not alone in the mud. He has for company a legion of loyal Jets fans, all of whom are plainly aware of one thing: Woody being wrong about stuff. A lot of stuff.



**Mike Vaccaro**

Wrong about coaches. Wrong about quarterbacks. Wrong about GMs. Wrong about just about every move he's made ever since being right about hiring Rex Ryan, and there's a loud faction of Jets fans who believe he was wrong to terminate Ryan when he did. Let's go with another movie quote here:

"If Woody Johnson owned a funeral home," Gordon Gekko might say, "nobody would die!"

Here's the thing, though.

Through the years, if we have learned one thing about pro sports, it's this: It is the franchise owner's rare gift to always be one move away from turning things around, going from reviled to revered, sometimes permanently.

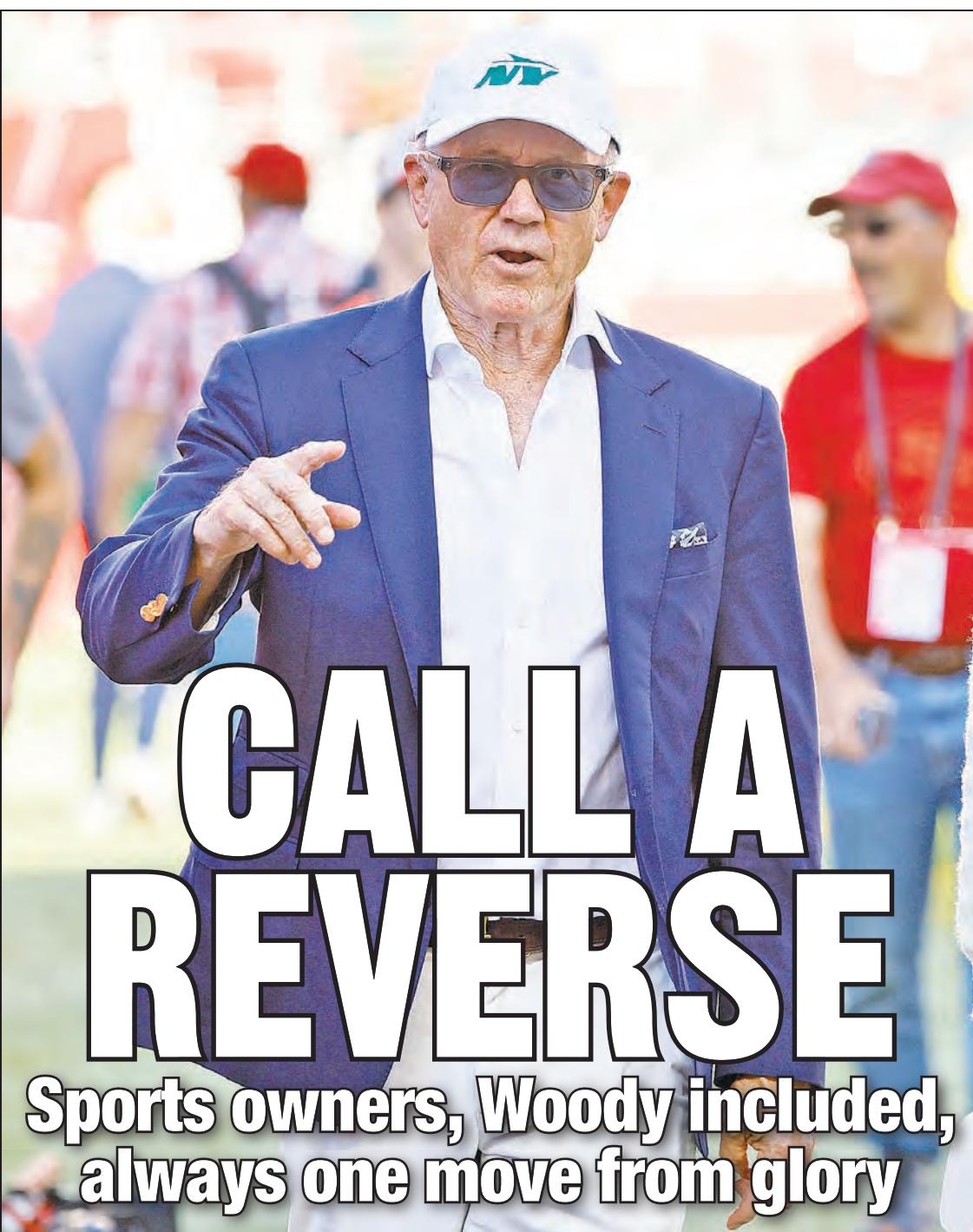
The greatest example of this, by far, is George Steinbrenner. Twenty days after he was serenaded by chants of "NO! MORE! GEORGE!" on July 30, 1990, the day he was suspended from baseball a second time (and, for the moment, permanently kicked out of the game), he quietly named Gene Michael as the head of the Yankees' baseball operation.

It is hard for fans of a certain age to recall just how vilified Steinbrenner was by then, and it's even hard for many fans who actually watched the Boss' heavy and destructive hand to connect that version of him with the avuncular one who regularly wept tears of joy as his team added to its trophy case later in the decade.

But Stick stuck — right man, right place, right time.

Same deal Feb. 14, 1979, the day Wellington Mara and his nephew, Tim — who couldn't agree on what color the sky was — finally found common ground and, at the behest of Pete Rozelle, recruited George Young to rescue a football operation that, as the sign famously said, had specialized in 15 years of lousy football.

Wellington is another classic example. If he'd sold the team in 1979, he would be viewed as one of the worst owners in local sports history,



**THE ONE RIGHT MOVE:** Jets owner Woody Johnson has made a lot of moves to put the team in the position it's in, but one right move would make him a New York legend forever.

N.Y. Post; Charles Wenzelberg

17 years of playoff-free and fumbling football pock-marked with just enough meddling. And, oh yes — he moved the Giants out of New York at a time when doing so was a clear kick in the city's solar plexus.

But he didn't sell. He agreed to hire Young. And 15 ½ years later, when he died, he was hailed for the gentleman he was and not the failure he'd been. It can happen. It has happened.

It happened for the Devils when they plucked Lou Lamoriello out of Providence in 1987, who turned a team that Wayne Gretzky had called "Mickey Mouse" into the most well run hockey operation of the next 25 years.

It happened when Gulf + Western hired David Checketts to run the Knicks, after a stretch in franchise history that in some ways was even



worse than the one Leon Rose inherited because the Knicks had fully lost the city, barely attracting half capacity to the Garden most nights. And it happened when Nelson Doubleday and Fred Wilpon turned to Frank Cashen shortly after they bought the Mets in 1980, one year after the Mets had drawn 789,000 fans to Shea Stadium.

It happened for all of them. It can happen to Woody Johnson. It takes one right call — and let's be honest, the man is due. It is easier to judge those past choices in retrospect than it was in the moment.

Michael was a genius at player evaluation and spoke almost a foreign language heavy on things like on-base percentage and long at-bats. Young's first major decision was to pick an obscure quarterback out of Morehead State named Phil Simms. Cashen's vision took five years to be realized. Lamoriello hadn't even spent even one hour in the employ of the NHL.

And yet, what they did here, all of them, was to forge legacies that will last forever. And prove that all it takes is one inspired moment to make even a detested owner find a new destiny for himself. Trust me. If it can happen to 1989 George Steinbrenner and 1979 Wellington Mara, it can happen to 2024 Woody Johnson.

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# Big East weighs in on SJU clock gripes

By ZACH BRAZILLER

NASSAU, Bahamas — Baylor's game-winning 3-pointer by Jeremy Roach may have come after the clock expired had it started on time, and it was reviewable, a Big East source told The Post.

Television replays showed that the clock didn't start on time after St. John's forward Zuby Ejiofor missed the second of two free throws with 4.1 seconds left in the 22nd-ranked Johnnies' 99-98 double-overtime loss to No. 13 Baylor in the Baha Mar Hoops Championship. It was initially deflected by RJ Luis of St. John's, but the clock didn't start until a few moments after Baylor had possession, giving Roach enough time to drain his rainbow 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Officials reviewed the play but only to make sure Roach got the shot off on time, not if the clock began appropriately. The source said officials can review the entire play and use a stopwatch to determine if the shot would've been good had the clock started when it should have and disallow the basket. It is uncertain if Roach would've gotten the shot off before the horn if the clock started once Luis got his hand on the ball. He certainly would've had to rush more if the timer started once Luis made contact with the rebound.

Asked afterward about the clock, St. John's coach Rick Pitino said: "I don't know what to say. The referees didn't do a very good job tonight."

Pitino was furious that Ejiofor was "iced" before taking his two free throws. Baylor coach Scott Drew called for a review, thinking Ejiofor may have hit one of his players with an elbow when they fouled him, and the officials granted it.

"[The official] said the coach said we elbowed [this player], which we did not do," said Pitino, whose team throttled Virginia 80-55 Friday night. "Clear as day. It's an unethical move. I don't like it, but that's not the reason we lost."

**N**ASSAU, Bahamas — On Thursday night, St. John's showed its potential. A night later, it displayed its toughness.

So far, this trip to the Bahamas has been equal parts entertaining and insightful. We are learning a lot about Rick Pitino's 22nd-ranked Johnnies with a matchup on deck against Georgia on Sunday to cap this challenging stretch of three games in four days.

Almost immediately after St. John's fell in heartbreaking fashion to No. 13 Baylor on Jeremy Roach's buzzer-beating 3-pointer to end double overtime Thursday, Red Storm fans went ballistic on social media.

They crushed their team's awful luck, bemoaning its inability to close out a game. Fans here walked around the Grand Hyatt with their heads down, their shoulders sagged, like the season was already headed in the wrong direction.

Consider Friday night an example of what this group is made of. Twenty-four hours after St. John's stood toe-to-toe with a Final Four contender, after it hung with one of the premier programs in the country, it proved how resilient it can be with an 80-55 demolition of Virginia.

It took miraculous shots at the end of the second extra session against Baylor, terrible Red Storm free-throw shooting and a Baylor-friendly clock operator to stop St. John's. After Zuby Ejiofor



Zach Braziller

missed the second of two free throws with 4.1 seconds left in the second overtime, the clock clearly started late. Pitino called it a "mistake by the officials" he still hasn't gotten over.

That just added to the misery for this beaten-down fan base. But I left the Bahia Mar Convention Center on Thursday night encouraged by this performance, and Friday only added to that feeling.

The notion that this was the same old St. John's couldn't be further from the truth. The same old St. John's gets exposed by Baylor. It gets overwhelmed. It certainly isn't good enough to build an 18-point lead and it wouldn't rebound after blowing said lead like this team did. It wouldn't come back the following night and annihilate Virginia the way it did.

How many times in recent years has St. John's not



**ALL FOR ONE ...** St. John's players cheer from the sidelines during a bounce-back 80-55 win over Virginia on Friday in the Bahia Mar Hoops Championship. SJU Athletics

# Storm give fans reason to believe

shown up for a big game? Not been talented enough? That wasn't the case here. This was a case of too many mistakes. Of 18 turnovers, 12 missed free throws and shoddy defensive rebounding that led to 22 second-chance Baylor points.

The Virginia game was full of feel-good moments. Fans chanted, "Zu-By, Zu-By-Zu-By," in support of Ejiofor throughout the game, a gesture for which Ejiofor

past 25 years. Pitino's first season was frustrating because by March, St. John's clearly belonged in the NCAA Tournament but didn't have the résumé to make it. Nobody played back-to-back reigning champion Connecticut tougher.

And he clearly upgraded the roster for his second season, getting bigger, deeper and more athletic. Thursday night felt like a breakthrough was coming, at least for that impressive first half. St. John's showed grit by forcing overtime after falling behind, then forcing another overtime after trailing by five with 1:46 left.

Then, it couldn't close. St. John's fans have, of course, seen this movie before, which is why the reaction was so over the top for a Nov. 21 game.

But this fan base hasn't witnessed a team capable of hanging with an elite opponent this early in the season, either, for quite some time. It was crushed early last year by Michigan. The year before, it was decimated by Iowa State and manhandled by Kansas the season before that.

This was different. This was St. John's not finishing off what would've been a monster victory. It was also proof that this team belongs on the court with just about anyone. Then, it showed its character Friday night. Talent and toughness can go a long way. This team looks like it has a lot of both of those qualities.

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# RED-EMPTION



**SLAM THE DOOR SHUT:** RJ Luis Jr. goes up for one of the Red Storm's six dunks Friday in St. John's 80-55 win over Virginia in the consolation game of the Baha Mar Hoops Championship.

SJU Athletics

By ZACH BRAZILLER

NASSAU, Bahamas — The early theme of this St. John's team has been its resilience.

It was apparent in how it handled the exhibition game at Rutgers, the shaky first half against Wagner and the second half with New Mexico when the game at the Garden got tight.

This was different.

|                   |           |                 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| <b>ST. JOHN'S</b> | <b>80</b> | <b>Baha Mar</b> |
| <b>VIRGINIA</b>   | <b>55</b> | <b>Hoops</b>    |

There was uncertainty over how the Johnnies would deal with a crushing double-overtime loss to No. 13 Baylor at the buzzer, a game they led by five with fewer than 10 seconds to go in the second extra session. November losses don't get worse. Coach Rick Pitino even compared it to the 1992 Elite Eight loss to Duke, also known as the Christian Laettner game.

No. 22 St. John's answered the bell like it had been through this before together, playing arguably its most complete game of the young season. Unlike Thursday, it followed up a strong first half

with an even better second half, crushing Virginia, 80-55, in the consolation game of the Baha Mar Hoops Championship.

"To respond that way is extremely impressive, both offensively as well as defensively," Pitino said. "I just thought they were thor-

## Storm bounce back from brutal loss with huge win

oughbreds tonight in their attitude, in the way they approached it. They didn't play tired mentally or physically, didn't hang their heads. Just came out and took care of business against a team that can nail 3s and keep [itself] in the game."

Pitino was able to empty his bench with more than five minutes remaining in this rout. St. John's put on a show, wowing the crowd with an end-to-end style that included six dunks. It was highlighted by Deivon Smith's alley-oop dunk, showcasing the 6-foot guard's impressive vertical leap.

Ten Red Storm players scored, led by RJ Luis' 18 points and 12 from Kadary Richmond. Smith narrowly missed a triple-double, notching 10 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, and Zubey Ejiofor rebounded after missing two late free throws against Baylor with eight points, nine rebounds and two blocks.

The Johnnies hammered Virginia (3-2) in the paint by a 40-12 margin. They made 10 3-pointers and shot 52.5 percent from the field. They (5-1) were plus-eight on the glass and committed just seven turnovers — two areas that hurt them in the Baylor loss. They sure didn't seem to have tired legs after that double-overtime marathon 24 hours prior.

"It shows toughness. It's important to bounce back and not think about the past," Ejiofor said. "That's exactly what we did. Everybody stepped up huge tonight, every single one of us. ... We were all excited for each other. We all lifted each other up throughout the entire game. We didn't let up for a single moment."

Pitino was still upset by the way the Baylor loss ended on Jeremy Roach's 3-pointer at the buzzer following Ejiofor's two missed free throws with 4.1 seconds left. Replays showed the clock not starting on time, giving Roach extra time to take the shot. Pitino said St. John's told the officials it wanted them to take a look at the entire play on instant replay. It was reviewable, and the shot could've been disallowed if the officials ruled Roach wouldn't have gotten the shot off in time had the clock started when it should have.

"It was a mistake by the officials," Pitino said. "It hurts. It would've been an awesome win, certainly. But if we get Georgia [on Sunday], we'll be fine."

"The best remedy for us was to play tonight, even though it's so difficult to play tonight after a loss like that. That's also the best remedy, so it doesn't just sink in and kill you inside."

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## Johnnies fans come out in support of emotional Ejiofor

By ZACH BRAZILLER

"Zu-By, Zu-By, Zu-By," the red-clad St. John's fans chanted as the Johnnies forward took the floor Friday.

"Zu-By, Zu-By, Zu-By," they roared whenever the forward made a positive play.

"Zu-By, Zu-By, Zu-By" they screamed as he checked out for the last time.

Twenty-four hours after

Zuby Ejiofor's two missed free throws in the final seconds contributed to No. 22 St. John's heartbreaking loss to No. 13 Baylor, the Red Storm fans had his back.

"Obviously, it was a surprise to me, to my family, I felt good, and I really wanted to thank the fans of St. John's for making me feel good and making me feel warm inside," the junior said after St. John's bounced back with an 80-55

rout of Virginia in the Baha Mar Hoops Championship consolation game. "There aren't a lot of [fans] that are going to do that. Obviously, last night was really emotional for me. For them to chant my name and make me feel good before tip-off, I couldn't play anywhere else."

Ejiofor didn't put up big numbers — eight points, nine rebounds, two blocks and two steals — but he

was solid. St. John's outscored Virginia by 34 points in his 26 minutes.

After a slow start this year, he has come on. The 6-foot-9 Ejiofor was terrific in Sunday's win over New Mexico and produced 22 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks against Baylor. But all he could think about were his two missed free throws with 4.1 seconds to go in the second overtime that enabled Jeremy Roach

to beat St. John's at the buzzer. He broke down after the setback as the Johnnies left the floor.

"It was pretty hard," Ejiofor said. "Obviously, I would love to have that back."

He told himself that he had to forget about it and not let it impact the game against Virginia. Ejiofor didn't expect so much support. Neither did coach Rick Pitino.

"Sometimes when you're only at a place for one year, you search for things you love about a place, and tonight, I found out what I love about St. John's since being here," the Hall of Fame coach said. "To chant Zubey the whole game, that doesn't happen anywhere [else] in America. I was really, really impressed with our fans and thanked them for making Zubey feel good."



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LAST spring's ultimate defeat, coming on top of a quite similar one 24 months earlier, should have proved once and for all that the Rangers' skill game, impressive at it may be in spurts, does not overcome their physicality deficiency at the final-four level.

Instead of learning from the defeat to the Panthers two years after the defeat to the Lightning, the Rangers apparently have chosen to take the "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" treatment.

Head coach Peter Laviolette, as well.



**Larry Brooks**

But not only have they erased the pounding from their memory, they have somehow become less physical than ever over the first 18 games through which their 12-5-1 record is owed to superior goaltending and a superior team sense of how to close out games.

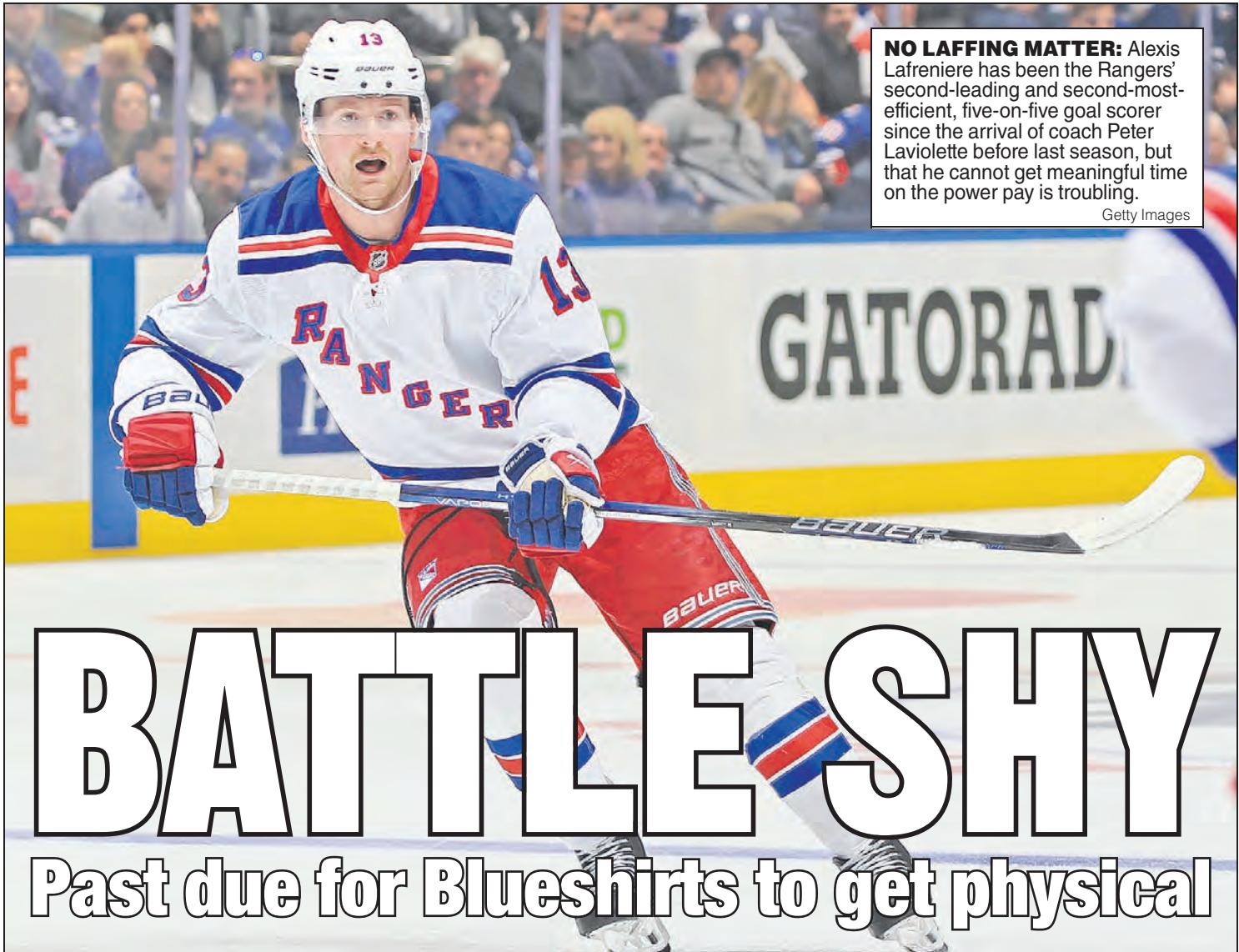
But, finishing this road trip Saturday in Edmonton that includes previous victories in Seattle and Vancouver before Thursday's somewhat typical effort concluded in a 3-2 defeat at Calgary, the Rangers seem to have become a pretty easy team to play against. There are exceptions, but these guys just don't create or win enough battles, they rarely cycle below the hash-marks, and they don't get to the inside enough on one end and don't protect the inside enough on the other.

How much more do you need to know about their puck-pressure and possession game other than the fact that the Rangers have earned a measly four power plays over the past four games?

Meanwhile, Alexis Lafreniere still cannot break into their first power play, even though the Blueshirts have gone 2-for-13 over the past six games and 6-for-31 over the past 13 contests after starting 5-for-14 in the opening four games.

It is not logical that the team's second-leading and second-most-efficient five-on-five goal scorer (to Artemi Panarin) over Laviolette's 100-game tenure behind the bench cannot get meaningful time on the power play. It is true that there had been a lull in No. 13's action for a couple of weeks that coincided with the announcement of his contract extension, but it is equally accurate that there has been a lull in Mika Zibanejad's action nearly all season.

And again, it is true that Will Cuylle's analytics were dreadful against the Flames, his line with Kaapo Kakko on the right and Jonny Brodzinski in the middle was caved to the extent that Laviolette shifted Kakko into the mid-



**NO LAFFING MATTER:** Alexis Lafreniere has been the Rangers' second-leading and second-most-efficient, five-on-five goal scorer since the arrival of coach Peter Laviolette before last season, but that he cannot get meaningful time on the power play is troubling.

Getty Images

dle while promoting Jimmy Vesey to the third line's right side over the final 23:30. And that the reconstructed line was on for Connor Zary's 3-2 winner at 10:35 off a rush.

But it is equally true that Cuylle scored the Rangers' tying goal on a deflection for his fourth goal in the past seven games, seventh overall that is fourth on the team behind Panarin (10), Chris Kreider (nine) and Lafreniere (eight), and his seventh at five-on-five that leads the club. He also was credited with three hits to increase his team-leading total to 75.

Yet, Cuylle played just two shifts worth 2:01 over the final 9:25 after Zary scored and did not get on for the final 2:58, even as the Blueshirts used an extra attacker for most of the final 2:20. It was the first power-play unit plus Lafreniere, Kakko, who may have been deficient on the winner, mirrored Cuylle's ice time, finishing with a season-low 9:35.

It has been pretty much the same-old, same-old from Laviolette and the Rangers when the same-old has never been good enough. Once the hierarchy was blocked from making a substantial change to the roster over the summer, the team's potential for growth lay in creating the opportunity for the next generation to elevate its ceiling. So far, the coach has been reluctant to go all in on his younger guys, even when they bring emotion to the mix.

## Mancini recalled for visit to Edmonton

By LARRY BROOKS

Perhaps the reason for Victor Mancini's recall from Hartford to make the trek across the continent to join the Rangers for Saturday's match in Edmonton will become apparent at the morning skate.

That's because the Blueshirts have been carrying Chad Ruhwedel as the team's seventh defenseman since he changed places Nov. 13 with Mancini, the 22-year-old freshman righty who had been a healthy scratch for the four games prior to that.

So either a top-six defenseman is being pulled for performance or health reasons and head coach Peter Laviolette does not

feel comfortable inserting the 34-year-old veteran into the lineup, or the club might be down another regular defenseman, necessitating both Mancini and Ruhwedel would dress.

The Blueshirts maintained their 23-man roster by dispatching Jake Leschyshyn to the Wolf Pack in exchange for Mancini, who had played three AHL games (1-0-1) after skating in nine Rangers matches (1-3-4) out of the gate.

It is unknown whether Filip Chytil, who has missed the first three games of the trip after suffering an upper-body injury at the Garden on Nov. 14, will dress after rejoining the club in Calgary.

**Saturday**  
**RANGERS**  
**AT OILERS**



guise of the characters of either Jim Carrey or Kate Winslet, because last season's team did sort of tread water for seven winter weeks going 11-12-2 from Dec. 5 through Jan. 26.

But then Shesterkin caught on fire and a couple of weeks later the Rangers introduced the Matt Rempe Phenomenon and the team's identity changed. Not quite a quarter of the way into this season, the 2024-25 Blueshirts have yet to establish an identity.

I do give this team a lot of credit for their record. Winning is the hardest thing to do in sports. Maybe resourcefulness is the club's identity. They've earned their 25 points. Nobody can take them away from the Rangers.

That's a very good thing because if they keep playing like this, they are going to need every single one of them.

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# Isles earn fans' collective yawn

THE Islanders' season is only 20 games old, but it already feels like things are hitting a critical point.

Not because they are at risk of falling out of the playoff race. On that front, they are pretty much OK, though the situation is not ideal — just two points out of a wild-card spot, and it's so early that it's impossible to be out of the race, anyway.

Rather, the Islanders, 7-8-5 after 20 games, are at risk of their fans tuning out due to a combination of mediocrity, predictability and the lack of a clear way to fix it.

After a road trip on which the Islanders just lost three straight games, all in the third period, all after having a lead, all in the context of having repeatedly done the exact same thing since October 2023, the reaction from the fan base was neither outrage nor disgust. It was resignation mixed with anger.

The Islanders might be in the mix for a playoff spot, but they certainly don't look like a team that's capable of winning playoff games.

The Islanders are not bad, but there does not appear to be a ready way for them to go from mediocre



Ethan Sears

to good. There is no prospect cavalry coming from Bridgeport. They already brought in a superstar via trade two seasons ago in Bo Horvat. They already fired the coach last season, replacing Lane Lambert with Patrick Roy.

The only dramatic big-picture moves left — firing the GM or being a trade-deadline seller — would be attempts at long-term solutions, not short-term ones. Those might both be on the table if the season goes sideways, but as for the immediate problem at hand, there is only one way to fix it: figure out how to hold onto leads and start winning all the games the Islanders are throwing away.

Maybe that's doable. It sounds simple enough.

All the evidence right now, though, points to this team having all the same problems, and being on the same treadmill to

nowhere, as the 2023-24 Islanders. And the 2022-23 Islanders. And the 2021-22 Islanders.

They are missing some of their best players because of injuries, so maybe the Islanders will improve once healthy. But the same problems existed when Mathew Barzal, Adam Pelech and Mike Reilly were on the ice, so that is putting a lot on the shoulders of Anthony Duclair.

The club's record since it opened UBS Arena in 2021 is 125-100-40 — 15 more losses than wins — and the Isles have yet to win a playoff series in the new building.

Throw in expensive parking and you have a recipe for fans to stop showing up.

This season has already seen the lowest attendance total in the history of the building, 12,739 against the Red Wings on Oct. 22, and the average number of fans at UBS has been an abysmal 15,247 — fourth-worst in the league, per HockeyDB's tracking.

If you want, you can explain that away. The Islanders have played just seven home games. They had the misfortune of playing twice at home during the World Series and on Election Night. Fans aren't necessarily tuned into hockey season quite yet.

You can also explain away blown leads in the third period. A stick broke at the wrong time. A bad call went the wrong way. There were plenty of chances to score, but the other goalie was hot.

On the level of an individual game, it's fair enough. Over multiple seasons, the problem is the Islanders.



PATRICK ROY

Coach's Islanders don't yet appear ready to make leap from mediocre to good.

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It wouldn't take much to get people excited and believing. All the Islanders need to do is close out games they can clearly win when they are leading late in regulation.

Had they done so over the five-game road trip that ended Thursday night when Lucas Raymond scored in the last minute of regulation to give Detroit a 2-1 win, the Islanders would be coming home as conquering heroes, having overcome all the injuries to take nine of 10 points in their toughest stretch of the season and sitting in a playoff spot.

That would be a reason to come see Saturday's game against the Blues.

Right now, the main reason to buy a ticket is blind hope — and the attendance numbers tell you how that is going over.

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# BALL THE RIGHT MOVES

By PETER BOTTE

SALT LAKE CITY — The "Dimes" nickname is open in New York now that quarterback Daniel Jones has been released by the Giants, and perhaps it can be a fitting team-wide moniker in another sport.

It had been 30 years since the Knicks managed 30 or more assists in three consecutive games since the start of the 1994-95 season, and nearly 15 years longer than that since they have done it at least four times in a row.

Tom Thibodeau's emerging offensive powerhouse will look to keep the ball rolling — and, more importantly, moving — in the second stop of a five-game road trip Saturday against the Jazz.

They haven't reached the 30-assist mark in four straight contests since a seven-game stretch during the 1979-80 campaign.

"The more we play together, the more we're going to get comfortable with each other," All-Star point guard Jalen Brunson said. "It's taking time, but we're still progressing."

Brunson registered 36 points and 10 dimes in Wednesday's win in Phoenix, marking his third straight game reaching double digits in assists for only the second time in his career. He also had a three-game streak in April of last season.

Brunson now ranks ninth in the NBA with a career-best 7.3 assists



## Surging Knicks '0' look to reach 30-assist mark in 4th straight game

**HELPING HANDS:** Jalen Brunson has averaged 9.5 assists in the Knicks' four-game win streak, and Karl-Anthony Towns and Tom Thibodeau's (inset) surging offense have recorded 30 or more assists in three straight games.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg; Imagin Images; AP

per game through the Knicks' 9-6 start, including 9.5 per appearance during their current four-game winning streak.

Not since the first three games of the 1994-95 season had a Knicks team managed 30 or more assists in three successive games.

With 100 assists over that span, the Knicks also have moved up to ninth in the league with 27.7 per game entering Friday's action.

Their 33.3 per game would represent more than the current NBA leaders for the season, the Warriors, who have averaged 30.5 over their first 14 games.

"For sure, the offense is clicking," said Josh Hart, who is second on the team with a career-best 5.9 assists per game. "We're getting good shots. We're getting some stops. When we're getting some of those stops, we're able to run and

push and get some quick, easy ones. Offensively we're getting into a really good rhythm."

If anything, Tom Thibodeau's team needs to pick it up defensively, with a 22nd-ranked defensive rating of 115.6 points allowed per 100 possessions.

By contrast, the Knicks' offensive rating of 122.1 points scored per 100 ranked second in the league through Thursday's games, behind

## Veteran Payne 'starting to turn some heads a little bit'

By PETER BOTTE

SALT LAKE CITY — Cam Payne admits he "honestly didn't know" what his role would be when he signed with the Knicks in the summer, but the 10-year NBA veteran has contributed 8.2 points in 17.1 minutes over 11 appearances off the bench.

Payne also is shooting

### KNICKS NOTES

44.4 percent from 3-point range, behind only Karl-Anthony Towns (50 percent) among the team's regular rotation members entering Saturday's game against the Jazz.

"Honestly, I just wanted to come and help," said

Payne, who signed a one-year contract worth \$3 million guaranteed. "When I get out there, I want to be aggressive and just utilize my opportunities. Obviously, I have. I'm in there. I didn't know, though, coming in. I just wanted to be the best player I could be every day."

"I kind of had to start over again, make people

like me, show them what I can do. ... Kind of go out there playing so everybody knows what I do, what I bring to the table. And I'm starting to turn some heads a little bit. Hopefully I can get some love there in New York."

► **Josh Hart** is posting career highs in minutes (37.3), points (14.1) re-

bounds (9.0), assists (5.9) and field-goal percentage (59.6) through 15 games.

"He's like a Swiss Army knife. There's so many different things that he does," **Tom Thibodeau** said. "He can initiate offense. He moves well without the ball. He plays fast. He can play in transition."

"And he's worked extremely hard on his shoot-

ing. I think he feels good about his shot. He put a lot of time into it, so that's positive for us. But I think having the ability to initiate is huge for our team. The defense, the toughness, the hustle plays are I think the big thing. He's just got a knack for coming up with the ball. Those extra-effort plays give your team a lot of energy and we need that."

only the league-best Cavaliers.

Brunson and imported All-Star big man Karl-Anthony Towns also are on pace to become the first guard/center tandem to average at least 25 points apiece since Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal did it for the Lakers in 2002-03.

The Knicks' five starters — also featuring OG Anunoby and newcomer Mikal Bridges — are combining for 99.5 points per game. And top bench contributors Miles McBride and Cam Payne are chipping in 18.9, although both reserve guards have missed games recently due to injury.

The Knicks, who lead the league in assist-turnover ratio (2.24), have come out strong to start each of their past two wins, netting more than 40 points in the first quarter against both the Wizards and the Suns. And they have scored at least 130 points in back-to-back games for the first time since 1988.

"I think the guys are starting to get used to playing off each other," Thibodeau said after the Phoenix game. "Each game you can see they're seeing things; they're reading the game extremely well."

"I think they're creating good spacing, they're cutting extremely well, and what that's doing is it's opening up the floor and we're playing into space and everyone's unselfish."

"So, 30 assists, I think that's huge."

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By BRIAN LEWIS

PHILADELPHIA — The Nets got a career performance from Cam Johnson. And they fumbled it away, the same way they gave away the ball.

Brooklyn's turnovers, sloppiness and self-inflicted troubles undid Johnson's big shooting night and cost it a 113-98 loss Friday night at shorthanded Philadelphia.

"It was a lot self-inflicted," coach Jordi Fernandez said. "We're up five with 10 minutes to go, and it ends up being a [33-13] run. It's not a good sign. It's hard to win a game like that. We have to be better. We have to find a way to respond, especially on the road, and we didn't. The team has always competed, and [Friday] their last punch, we just didn't punch back."

Despite Johnson finishing with 37 points on 9-of-13 shooting from deep, he couldn't save the Nets from themselves. They coughed the ball up 19 times, resulting in Philadelphia's 28-12 edge in points off turnovers — 6-0 in the fourth quarter.

That proved the difference, especially in the endgame.

Nic Claxton, coming off the bench in his return after missing three straight games with a stiff back, hit a driving reverse to give the Nets an 85-80 lead with 9:59 left. But they couldn't hold it, allowing the Sixers to finish the game on a 33-13 run.

"It was like 13-33 or something. [The] fourth quarter was bad. That wasn't us. We've got to be better. Everybody, we all got to hold each other accountable. We need to talk more down the stretch. We just went flat," Claxton said.

# Cam's 37 wasted as Nets fall apart late



**LOSE CONTROL:** Cam Johnson (right), who had 37 points, and Guerschon Yabusele battle for a loose ball during the Nets' 113-98 loss to the 76ers. Imagn Images

"They just did whatever they wanted. Wherever they wanted to get to, they got to their spots comfortably."

The Nets shot just 6-for-18 with four turnovers down the stretch in that run, falling to 6-10 and 1-2 in the NBA Cup.

Johnson finished a point shy of his career high. His 3-pointers tied both his career mark and the Nets' franchise record for 3s made in a road game.

But it still wasn't enough.

"Yeah, they definitely blitzed more [late], but we always know that's coming," said Ben Simmons, booed at every touch from start to finish by the sellout crowd of 19,817 at Wells Fargo Center. "We've just got to be better prepared and be mindful

of that and take care of the ball. It's precious."

Simmons had just two points, four assists and was an unsightly minus-20. Cam Thomas had 18 points but shot just 6 of 15 with seven turnovers.

"They really didn't do much. It was nothing that we haven't seen. A lot of our turnovers were unforced ... stepping out of bounds ... little stuff like that," Thomas said. "We just have to be better, clean it up, take care of the ball."

"We were getting good looks. It's just the live-ball turnovers really hurt — turnovers they go get dunks or transition 3s and that really swings the game, especially a road game like this. Then they get the crowd into

it. It's deflating, but we all just have to be cleaner with the turnovers, including me."

Philadelphia improved to 3-12 and 1-2 in the NBA Cup. Joel Embiid and Paul George missed the game, but Jared McCain had 30 points and Tyrese Maxey added 26.

The Nets trailed by 13 early. Thomas gave the ball away to Guerschon Yabusele, who fed Maxey for a fast break dunk. It became a trend.

The Nets found themselves trailing 51-38 with 3:27 left in the first half before they mounted an extended 26-4 run that spanned intermission.

Dorian Finney-Smith hit from the right corner to make it 64-55.

The Nets led multiple times by nine, and it was still 70-62 after Johnson's layup with 7:07 left in the third before they got sloppy.

Thomas committed multiple turnovers in a 15-2 Philadelphia run. The second — getting stripped by Maxey for a breakaway dunk that cut Brooklyn's lead to 70-69 — saw Fernandez call a timeout and lift Thomas for Jalen Wilson.

Reggie Jackson's 3-pointer capped the run and left Brooklyn down 77-72 with 2:36 left in the third.

The fourth was a back-and-forth affair. Brooklyn led by five until conceding the 33-13 run that sealed it.

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## Claxton 'back' after 3-game absence

By BRIAN LEWIS

PHILADELPHIA — Nic Claxton made his return to the court Friday after missing the past three games. But he acknowledged his back injury is "long-term," and admitted it's going to need management over the course of the season.

"Everybody always manages something, but this I'll probably be managing for a while," said Claxton, who described the situation as fluctuating.

"Yeah, I mean, it was just the summer. I initially hurt my back in the summer. So, my back has been lingering since then and it's definitely been frustrating. It's always a different challenge. Of course, the back is tough because it controls everything

### NETS NOTES

you do, pretty much. But it's just another challenge. So, I've just gotta lock in and be ready to hoop."

Claxton had 12 points and eight rebounds in Friday's loss at Philadelphia, coming off the bench due to a minutes restriction, according to coach Jordi Fernandez.

The center missed the prior three games due to a lower-back sprain that he suffered in a 139-114 loss against Boston on Nov. 13. But Claxton clarified that was merely aggravating an initial injury that he'd picked up in the offseason, one that eventually required an epidural.

"It's like a long-term thing, but it's gonna take a while for it to feel a lot better. Just strengthening my core, glutes and everything," Claxton said.

Fernandez was noncommittal

about how long the Nets might have to manage Claxton's back, or if it might linger all season.

"The team, the medical team, and performance, they've been addressing it. And obviously if he plays, it's because we believe he is 100 percent or 200 percent to play," Fernandez said.

► **Cam Thomas** had 18 points but shot 6 of 15 with seven turnovers. He'd been listed as probable with lower-back tightness, but revealed he's also been under the weather.

"It's just sickness," Thomas said. "I'm good enough to play. So if I'm out there, I just gotta put my best foot forward and play to the best of my abilities. [If] I wasn't good enough to play, I wouldn't be out there."

# JUDGE'S ORDER

## Aaron makes it clear to Hal: Bring Soto back to Bronx

By DAN MARTIN

Aaron Judge has made his feelings clear to Hal Steinbrenner: The Captain wants Juan Soto back in The Bronx.

Judge, who won his second AL MVP Award this week, said during a conference call Friday that he met with Steinbrenner in Tampa shortly after the World Series and "discussed a lot of things."

That included the potential return of Soto, whose free agency has dominated the offseason so far and included a meeting with Steinbrenner and the front office, as well as Aaron Boone, in Southern California.

Judge said he had yet to speak with Soto since he hit free agency, preferring to leave him alone.

"I think the best thing is to give those guys space," Judge said of Soto. "I talked to him all season. He knows how we feel about him. The most important thing is to let him do his thing ... and come to the right decision for him and his family."

Of course, nothing Judge could say to Soto would mean more than the bottom line, as Soto made clear throughout his season with the Yankees and throughout the playoffs, repeating that no team would have an advantage when it came to signing him as long as they made a good offer and gave him a chance to win.

So for the Yankees to keep Soto in pinstripes, it will cost them ... a lot.

With the free-spending Mets and Dodgers and the dangerous Red Sox and Phillies, as well as wild cards such as the Blue Jays, all interested in Soto, he'll certainly earn a contract worth more than the \$360 million over nine years that Judge signed two offseasons ago.

Asked Friday if he would be OK being surpassed by Soto if he returned to the Yankees, Judge laughed and said of a potential Soto contract, "Honestly, it ain't my money. I really don't care. If we get the best players, I'm happy. It's never been something that's on my mind, who gets paid the most. Whatever we can do to get the best players, I'll take it."

Judge said he's followed Giancarlo Stanton's example. Stanton

was pleased when Bryce Harper surpassed him as having the most expensive contract in the sport.

"Even though he signed one of the first big, mega contracts back in Miami, once he came here, he didn't care about being the highest-paid guy," Judge said of Stanton. "He just wanted good players around him. And I think you could ask everybody in the room, they feel the same way."

Steinbrenner said at the Owners Meetings at MLB headquarters in midtown on Monday the Yankees will "be in the mix" for Soto.

There's no doubt Soto's presence in front of Judge in the Yankees lineup had an impact on Judge, who had an even better offensive season this past year than he did in his other MVP year, when he set the AL record with 62 homers.

But Judge's meeting with Steinbrenner in Tampa, where they both live, was about more than just retaining Soto, according to Judge.

"We discussed a lot of things," Judge said. "From Juan to other guys that are out there that I think could definitely help this team."

The Yankees have question marks not only in the outfield but everywhere in the infield other than shortstop, as well as in the rotation and bullpen.

Judge will almost certainly have a voice in at least some of those decisions thanks to his chats with Steinbrenner, whom Judge called "very active" in his attempts to improve the team.

"The more communication you have, top to bottom, makes everybody better," Judge said. "It comes with being in the position I'm in and being captain, as well. The fact they're listening and want to know what we have to say is a pretty cool part of it."

Judge said the two met throughout the season, as well as in the offseason, when it comes to adding players or coaches.

"He's always receptive," Judge said. "My first couple years, I didn't talk to him much. Now I see how much he cares about this organization from top to bottom. It shows why we continue to be in the position we're in."

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**'SPACE' CASE:** Extending the Yankees' one-two punch with Juan Soto is a priority in the mind of captain Aaron Judge, although the 2024 AL MVP said he is giving "space" to the free-agent outfielder.

Imagn Images

# Yankees move on from Berti, Mayza; Mets re-up with pair of pitchers

By DAN MARTIN

Jon Berti, who started three postseason games at first base for the Yankees when Anthony Rizzo was out with fractured fingers, was non-tendered by the team prior to Friday's deadline, as was left-hander Tim Mayza.

Berti, acquired by the Yankees last spring from the Marlins in a three-team trade after DJ LeMahieu was injured, was hurt for most of the year and appeared in just 25 regular-season games.

Mayza was picked up by the Yankees in July after being released by Toronto and pitched in three playoff games.

And while the Yankees wait on Juan Soto's free agency, they avoided arbitration with the other outfielder they picked up in the same trade with San Diego, Trent Grisham, and agreed to a contract for \$5 million to avoid arbitration.

They also agreed to a deal with JT Brubaker, picked up in a trade from the Pirates in March while rehabbing from Tommy John surgery.

The Mets announced they non-tendered right-hander Grant Hartwig and lefty Alex Young, as well as outfielder Alex Ramirez. They also agreed to a one-year deal with Sean Reid-Foley.

By MARK CANNIZZARO

It figures to be an emotional reunion for Sterling Shepard, who will play at MetLife Stadium on Sunday for the first time not wearing a Giants uniform.

Shepard, the 31-year-old receiver, plays for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers now after eight seasons with the Giants. He played in 90 games as a Giant, catching 372 passes for 4,095 yards and 23 TDs.

For the Bucs this season, Shepard has 16 receptions for a 10.4-yard average and a TD.

His former teammates and coaches know exactly what to expect from Shepard.

"Same thing you saw here — his juice, his energy, his passion to play, his dog mentality," Giants defensive backs coach Jerome Henderson said Friday. "He's coming at you all day. He's just one of those grimy players — in a good way — that is just going to fight tooth and nail every play. That's what you love about Shep."

"Our young guys have got to be ready for this guy to come and fight you every play. This guy will not take a play off. He's going to be extra motivated because he's back home for his first time. He's going to want to come up here and have a good game and be productive. It's going to be an all-day fight with him."

Shepard's former receivers coach with the Giants, Mike Groh, smiled when asked about Shepard on Friday.

"It'll probably be an emotional thing for him, being on the other sideline coming back home, where you spent a lot of time," Groh said. "I've got a lot of respect for Shep and all the things that he accomplished here as a Giant — the tremendous leader he was, how respected he was in this building, in this organization and locker room by the coaching staff."

"The way that he's gone about his business and his attitude every day that he brings to the team, he just lifts people up. He's an energy multiplier and obviously a tremendous player."

Asked what it'll be like to see a player he coached for so long, Groh said, "It'll be competition, just like it will be for him. They're trying to beat us. We're trying to beat them. I'm sure I'll see him beforehand but hopefully be able



## Giants expect classic Shep

**AN OLD FRIEND:** Sterling Shepard played 90 games with the Giants, amassing more than 4,000 yards and 23 touchdowns, but he will be a visitor Sunday at MetLife Stadium when Big Blue face the Buccaneers. AP

to give him a big hug afterwards."

Giants receiver Darius Slayton, one of Shepard's running mates in Big Blue, praised the way his friend has played for Tampa Bay.

"I think he's doing a great job," Slayton said Friday. "He's obviously played some good ball these past couple weeks, showing he still got some juice in the tank."

When the Giants opted not to resign Shepard, many thought he'd call it a career, not wanting to play for another team.

"Yeah, I knew he still had juice in the tank for sure, but the NFL is a young man's game, and obviously at some point, we all will get aged out," Slayton said.

Slayton said seeing Shepard on Sunday "will be like a family reunion, like seeing your cousin you haven't seen in a long time [or] buddy you haven't seen in a long time. I look forward to seeing him before the game and obviously during the game."

Then Slayton added with a smile: "I hope he plays terrible."

## Big Blue lift up rookie RB after fumble

By MARK CANNIZZARO

When Giants rookie running back Tyrone Tracy last played a game, he was walking off the field in tears with a towel on his head in Germany after his fumble in overtime led to the Panthers beating the Giants, 20-17.

Tracy, who has been one of the few bright spots in an 0-8 season and who was having a terrific game in Germany, took the loss hard and blamed himself.

On Sunday against the Buccaneers at MetLife Stadium, Tracy has a chance to redeem himself. He's the

### GIANTS NOTES

team's leading rusher with 545 yards, a 5.1-yard average and three touchdowns. The Tampa Bay defense is yielding a 5-yard average and has allowed eight rushing TDs.

From the moment Tracy fumbled and was in tears, his teammates and coaches began building him back up, letting him know they wouldn't have even gotten to overtime without him.

Tracy rushed for 103 yards and a TD on 18 carries against Carolina.

Asked what he did to encourage Tracy after the

fumble, Giants head coach Brian Daboll said, "Much like one of your kids, you tell him you believe in him. I have strong belief in Tracy, with a lot of the other young players, too, that we've got on here. He does things the right way. He cares about it. It's good to see a guy care about it that much. I'm glad he's on our team."

"He's a really good young player who cares a lot about his teammates, cares a lot about his craft. He has really improved since he's been here. He's made of the right kind of stuff."

► The Giants defense will be facing Tampa Bay's top receiver, **Mike Evans**, on Sunday after he missed the previous three games with a hamstring injury.

"Oh God, nightmare," Giants defensive backs coach **Jerome Henderson** said Friday when asked about Evans. "Big, physical receiver, really big catch radius, athletic, smart, aware. The quarterback [Baker Mayfield] loves him. He's an all-day problem, a really good player in this league for a long time, one of the guys that as a coach, you have great respect for as a competitor."



## New home finder

Here's a look at potential suitors for Daniel Jones' next team. We're listing them by most compelling scenarios first.

### COWBOYS

This would be a fascinating, delicious scenario not only because Dallas is a rival of the Giants, but because the two teams play each other on Thanksgiving. Dak Prescott (left) is out for the season and Jones would be an upgrade to backup Cooper Rush. Stephen Jones, the Cowboys' executive vice president, said on Friday the team isn't interested in signing Jones, but with the Cowboys you never know.



### JETS

Another fascinating possibility. The Jets are likely done with Aaron Rodgers after this season and will be in need of a "bridge" veteran QB if they draft one in April. The Jets' current backup is Tyrod Taylor, who backed up Jones with the Giants.



### RAIDERS

Gardner Minshew has not been the answer at starter, throwing just eight touchdowns to nine interceptions. Las Vegas is 2-6 with Minshew at quarterback. His backup, Aidan O'Connell, hasn't been any better, 0-2 while throwing for 455 yards with two TDS and two interceptions.



### PANTHERS

Bryce Young, the 2023 No. 1 overall pick, has struggled and been benched, though he has led the team to two straight victories and could be making a case to get another shot next season. His backup, Andy Dalton, is 37.



### DOLPHINS

Starter Tua Tagovailoa (right) is highly injury-prone with a concussion history. He's already missed more than a month this season and the Dolphins struggled badly in his absence.



### COLTS

Anthony Richardson has tapped back in after tapping out and is playing better. His backup, Joe Flacco, is old and likely finished after this season.



— Mark Cannizzaro



# LOOSE CHANGE

## Danny Dimes cut by Giants after requesting release amid benching

By MARK CANNIZZARO

When Daniel Jones spoke to reporters on Thursday with most of his words in the past tense, it was obvious the end of his six years with the Giants was near.

When Giants players emerged from the morning walkthrough and Tommy DeVito, Drew Lock and newly signed Tim Boyle were the only quarterbacks leaving the indoor practice facility to head to the locker room, it seemed the end for Jones had arrived, because he was nowhere to be found.

And then, minutes after the walkthrough was complete, when the Giants released a statement from team co-owner and president John Mara revealing that he had granted Jones his release, the end was confirmed shortly before noon on Friday.

Jones, selected with the No. 6 overall pick in the 2019 NFL Draft, was benched by head coach Brian Daboll on Monday and replaced by Tommy DeVito.

On Thursday, the team's second practice of the week in advance of Sunday's game against the Buccaneers at MetLife Stadium, Jones was working as a scout-team safety — a strange and awkward sight.

When he spoke to reporters after Thursday's practice, Jones said he was still "processing" his situation when asked if he planned to remain with the team.

That "processing" didn't take long as he walked into Mara's office Friday morning and asked for his release.

"Daniel has been a great representative of our organization, first class in every way," Mara said in the statement.

Jones will have to clear waivers, which is a formality because if he's claimed the team would have to pay the remaining nearly \$12 million of his 2024 salary. Once he clears waivers, he'll become a free agent and will be free to sign with another team.

If he signs with another team for the pro-rated minimum, Jones could earn \$375,000 for the rest of the season, (\$62,500 per week).

Jones being released Friday instead of after the season is of little discernable difference in the team's salary cap. They'll carry a \$22.2 million dead cap charge in 2025 with Jones' release.

Had he remained with the team and gotten hurt, Jones has a \$23 million injury guarantee written into his contract, a sum he would receive if he was unable to pass a team physical.

Daboll informed the players of the Jones move before they went through their morning walkthrough.

"I wanted them to hear it [from me]," Daboll said. "This is not an easy thing. You're around people every day for a long amount of time."

Daboll said he had a "really, really good talk with Daniel"

on Friday, adding, "I've got a lot of respect for him. [This is] not the way we wanted it to turn out by any stretch. But he's been nothing but a pro since I've been here with him, and he's a great young man. I wish him all the best."

So, too, did Jones' teammates, who were bummed out by the fallout from his benching.

"A good friend of mine just left the building, so obviously this has some sadness to it,"

receiver Darius Slayton said. "Six years together, it's a long time. As a quarterback and receiver drafted together, we have a kind of special bond. But as long as you play in this league, you understand the business. People come and go. It's part of it."

Tight end Danie Bellinger said it was "hard to describe" his emotions "because DJ has been such a great teammate to all of us."

"For me specifically, since I first got here, he welcomed me with open arms, so this is a little sad for me," Bellinger told The Post. "I know it's a business, but I'm going to miss him."

Bellinger said he spoke to Jones briefly before he left Friday and said, "He's optimistic about his future."

Jones' future was very much a theme spoken by his teammates.

"Obviously, it's a tough thing to go through," DeVito said.

"Thoughts and prayers for him and his family. I'm definitely feeling for him, but we're still going to be close."

As for what's next for Jones, DeVito said, "We see it across the league everywhere where some things just don't work out and other opportunities and doors will open. So, I look forward to watching him be out on the field again."

Drew Lock, who was signed in the offseason to be No. 2 behind Jones and was passed over for DeVito by Daboll, has also had a tumultuous week. But he felt for Jones most of all.

"It's kind of tough to see it end this way for him after how much he had invested here," Lock said. "I've only been here for a couple months, but I've enjoyed my time with him and I'm going to miss him. It's tough, sad ... around here."

Lock, like several of Jones' former teammates, spoke bullishy about Jones' future with another team.

"There are going to be opportunities for him," Lock, who's on his third team since he was drafted in 2019, said. "Now he can maybe get a fresh start. I enjoyed my fresh start in Seattle after Denver. It kind of gave me a new outlook on football. I think it can be great for quarterbacks, especially."

"I'm excited to see what comes next for him. He's great quarterback. He studies well, is physically gifted, super-talented. I hope he's great [elsewhere]. I'm going to cheer him on the rest of my life."

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**DEPART WAYS:**

Daniel Jones' tenure with the Giants officially came to an end Friday when team co-owner John Mara (left) granted the quarterback's request for his release. "I've got a lot of respect for him. [This is] not the way we wanted it to turn out by any stretch," coach Brian Daboll (inset) said.



By PAUL SCHWARTZ

Yep, he heard it.

"Obviously," Sterling Shepard said. "It's been everywhere."

Sherpard is in contact fairly regularly with Daniel Jones but not this week, with Shepard's new team, the Buccaneers, preparing to face his old team, the Giants.

Sherpard now works in Tampa but he spent the first eight NFL seasons with the Giants and he was disheartened to hear that his former quarterback got benched and basically put out to pasture.

"I feel for him, man, because I know how hard the dude works, I've seen it firsthand and how great of a dude he is," Shepard told The Post. "And he can play ball, man, he's a good ballplayer. It's just unfortunate this is the way this business goes sometimes. It's good to you sometimes, but sometimes it goes the other way and you got to navigate through that."

Jones on Friday asked for his release and the Giants honored that request, officially ending ties with him.

Eli Manning threw Shepard the ball for his first three years with the Giants and Jones was the passer for Shepard's next five NFL seasons wearing Giants' blue.

Sherpard made the playoffs as a rookie in 2016 and the next time the Giants made it into the post-season, 2022, he lasted through only three games before a torn ACL ended his season.

He started only four games the next two seasons before his time with the Giants ran out.

There was so much losing for Shepard with the Giants and it continues on without him, as the Giants take a 2-8 record into Sunday's game at MetLife Stadium.

This experience with the Buccaneers gives Shepard — respected and well liked during his stay with the Giants — a chance to see how another organization operates.

"I feel like [the Giants] are a couple of pieces away from being a really good team," Shepard said. "I think they have a lot of solid pieces there. When it comes to the culture and everything like that, I've gotten a chance to see the way things are done on a different hand but I think there could be maybe a little bit of work there."

The culture and everything like that?

"It's just different, in so many different ways and so many different levels," he said. "When it goes down to the small things, what you can do in the building as a player, the way you're able to communicate and be hand-in-hand with the coaches, it's just a lot of different things I kinda



## Ex-mate Shepard 'feels for' Jones after Big Blue exit

**IT'LL BE OK!** Sterling Shepard (left), a Giant from 2016-23, said it was an "unfortunate" end to Daniel Jones' tenure with Big Blue, but believes it could be a good thing for the quarterback in the long run.

Getty Images

**Sunday**  
**BUCS AT GIANTS**  
1 p.m.  
CBS  
WFAN (660 AM,  
101.9 FM)  
Line: Giants +6 • O/U: 41.5

picked up on being there for so long. Even down to the training staff or the weight coaches and some of the different stuff that we do here, it's a difference.

"I'm not saying the way that they do it is bad, because it's not. It's just different and I've gotten to see the other side of it."

Brian Daboll did not have much use for Shepard on the field in 2023 and since making the playoffs in his first year as head coach, Daboll has lost his touch, with the Giants going 8-19 the past two seasons.

"I don't think you go from being the Coach of the Year two years ago to just being a guy that can't get the job done," Shepard said. "I don't believe that. I wish him nothing but the best. I feel like he can be a coach that can produce wins. He's done it before and he did it early on so I don't think you just go away from that."

Sherpard is reunited with Baker Mayfield, his college quarterback at Oklahoma, and has shown he has

something left in the tank.

Sherpard in eight games has 16 receptions for 166 yards and one touchdown. He also has 55 yards on seven rushing attempts.

Sherpard now knows there is life after the Giants. Others in more high-profile situations have learned that as well.

Saquon Barkley is starring for the Eagles, Xavier McKinney is second in the league in interceptions for the Packers, Julian Love and Leonard Williams are starting on defense for the Seahawks.

Of all the moves that drained away talent, Shepard finds it hard to come to grips with the Giants actually letting Barkley walk out the door — directly into the arms of a division rival.

Barkley is second in the NFL in rushing with 1,37 yards.

"Has he ever shown you anything different?" Shepard said. "Maybe the year after his injury he came back a little bit slower but he was still getting healthy. He's the ultimate teammate, leader and obviously his style of play and what he does on the field speaks for itself."

That defines a player and person that is tough to give up.

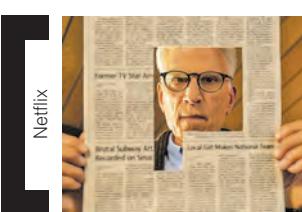
"For me, that's what I think," Shepard said, "to be completely honest."

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**STREAM IT OR SKIP IT**

Netflix's new Italian teen drama "Adoration" is so formulaic it's almost silly. The show has a featherweight story populated by interchangeable characters and actors. And we have to say, we're a little tired of seeing teens act like jaded, world-weary 30-year-olds all the time. **OUR CALL: SKIP IT**

For more on  
your favorite TV  
and films, visit  
[decider.com](http://decider.com)

**WHAT TO WATCH**

Ted Danson (left) and Michael Schur have come to save the day with their new comedy, "A Man on the Inside", over at Netflix. The series is hilarious, but also tender and serious. It will have you laughing in one second and reaching for a box of tissues soon after.

Kaley Cuoco and Chris Messina lead a new season of 'Based On a True Story'

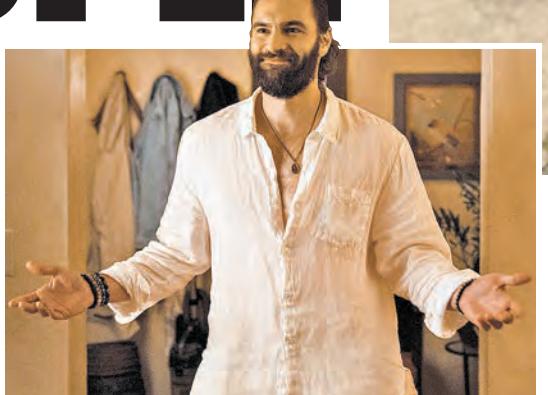
# KILLER COUPLE

By SAMANTHA NUNGERER

**P**EACOCK'S "Based on a True Story" hit the ground running when it debuted its first season last year. The second season of the Kaley Cuoco and Chris Messina-led dark comedy series picks up some months after the onscreen couple buried their friend Ruby, who had seemingly been murdered by their serial killer/plumber podcast co-host Matt (Tom Bateman), making them equally as guilty as their wanted pal.

Much like the first iteration, this new season is full of jaw-dropping plot twists that will leave you begging for more. But, where will it go from here? DECIDER asked Cuoco and Messina to describe what they each hope for the future of their characters.

**DECIDER:** Season 1 really held a mirror up to America's obsession with true crime, but by the end of Season 2, we see how this glorification affects the families of victims. Being a fan of true crime, how important was it to you as an



**executive producer to shed light on this other perspective?**

**KALEY CUOCO:** Everyone knows I love true crime. It was one of the things that actually drew me to this role and this character because I understand Ava in that way. But I think some of these stories sometimes can feel exploitative. The reason why I watch a lot of this is it actually sheds light on these people's perspectives and these families and they have a voice and they can speak about the person or whoever this has happened to. And I think it actually can be a wonderful thing.

I think at the end of Season 2,

# DECIDER

**WHAT TO WATCH. WHEREVER YOU WATCH**



Chris Messina and Kaley Cuoco (above, from left) star in "Based on a True Story" Season 2 with Tom Bateman (far left).

they made one bad decision at the beginning of this show, right? And unfortunately, it was a terrible decision

that has snowballed and they can't get out. They're stuck with this guy now. And they can't get away from him because they're just as bad as he is.

**Chris, Matt seems like he's slowly trying to bring out the inner dark side of Nathan this season. Do you think that Nathan and Matt have more in common than Nathan would like to admit?**

**CHRIS MESSINA:** I think there's more there. Yeah, I think there is a darkness, too, to Nathan. And if we get a third season, it'd be fun to explore more of that.

**Kaley, I loved watching Ava**

balance new motherhood with her obsession with true crime. As a fairly new mom yourself, did you see yourself in Ava during any of these scenes?

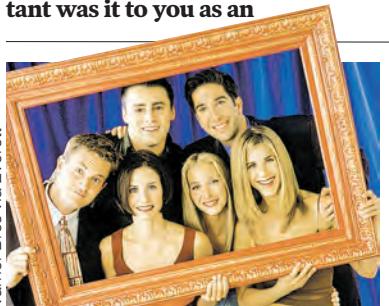
**KC:** A lot of them derived from conversations that I was having with Annie and our writers about some situations that I was having - some mommy and me classes. There were a lot of similarities, which made me laugh. Even though I'm not the type to feel like I need to be anything other than myself, when you first have a kid, you want to be perfect, but there's no such thing. We're all doing the best that we can, but obviously it's funny to watch. After a couple episodes, it was like, I'm doing the best I can, pour a glass of wine, turn on my podcast, and I'm going to dive back into something that I love. It's not my child or my husband. It's true crime [laughs]. In

that order!

**This season ends with this wild twist where we think Matt is going to turn himself in, but he ends up framing Nathan instead. Where would you each like to see your characters go if you get renewed for Season 3?**

**CM:** I'd like to start running the jail. Like, everybody's super afraid of me because I'm the Westside Ripper. It'd be fun to kind of do that. Although I'd miss acting with her. I guess she could come visit me. We could do those, like, phone—

**KC:** Yeah, we've never seen those scenes before. Why don't you write something original? I'm glad he's not writing the show. I want them to get really caught. With all the true crime I've watched, we watch people get off. We watch people that are guilty. We watch deals being made. Anything is possible.

**WHAT'S NEW****ON MAX**

"James Acaster: Hecklers Welcome," the comedian's new special (right).

**ON NETFLIX**

"The Piano Lesson," a family drama.



# Best Bets

## What's on Tonight



### ADVENTURE

**WALL-E:** 3:10 p.m. on FREFRM. Ben Burtt, Elissa Knight. A robot who is responsible for cleaning Earth meets another robot and falls in love with her.



### ACTION

**The Matrix Reloaded:** 5 p.m. on USA. Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne. Neo, Trinity and Morpheus continue to lead the revolt against the Machine Army.



### COMEDY

**Elf:** 8 p.m. on TBS. Will Ferrell, James Caan. Raised as an oversized elf, Buddy travels from the North Pole to New York City to meet his biological father.

## Saturday November 23, 2024

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies Sports New

| Evening  | SP   | C   | F   | 6:30pm  | 7:00pm  | 7:30pm  | 8:00pm   | 8:30pm   | 9:00pm                 | 9:30pm   | 10:00pm                | 10:30pm  | 11:00pm   | 11:30pm              |
|----------|------|-----|-----|---|---|---|--|--|------------------------|--|------------------------|--|---|----------------------|
| 2        | WCBS | 2   | 2   | 2   | College Football Live.  | Army Post-game Live.  | NWSL Pregame Live.   | NWSL Soccer: Final: Orlando Pride vs Washington Spirit from CPKC Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. Live. |                        |  | 48 Hours               | CBS News   | (11:35) One Jets Drive                                |                      |
| 4        | WNBC | 4   | 4   | 4   | NBC Nightly News  |   | College Football: Army West Point Black Knights at Notre Dame Fighting Irish from Notre Dame Stadium. Live.            |  |                        | (10:15) College Football: USC Trojans at UCLA Bruins from Rose Bowl. Live. |                        |  |   |                      |
| 5        | WNYW | 5   | 5   | 5   | College Football Live.  | FOX Extra Live.   | College Football: Iowa State Cyclones at Utah Utes from Rice Eccles Stadium. Live.                                     |  |                        |  |                        | The 10 O'Clock News                                | The Floor (R)   |                      |
| 7        | WABC | 7   | 7   | 7   | Scoreboard Live.  | Scoreboard Live.  | (7:37) College Football: Alabama Crimson Tide at Oklahoma Sooners from Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium. Live. |  |                        |  |                        | Eyewitness News at 11                              |   |                      |
| 9        | WWOR | 9   | 9   | 9   | (6:00) 6 O'Clock News   | Paid Program  | Paid Program   | Family Feud (R)  | Family Feud (R)        | Family Feud (R)  | The 10 O'Clock News    | Family Feud (R)                                    | In Depth: Josh Brolin                                 | Raw Travel: Laos (R) |
| 11       | WPIX | 11  | 11  | 11  | College Football Live.  |   | College Football: Washington State Cougars at Oregon State Beavers from Reser Stadium. Live.                           |  |                        |  | PIX11 News at Ten      | NY Blitz   | Seinfeld: The Mango                                   |                      |
| 13       | WNET | 13  | 13  | 13  | GZero World   | The Madame Blanc Mysteries  | Lark Rise to Candleford  | Chicago (2003, Musical) Renée Zellweger. PG-13 ★★★   |                        |  |                        | (10:59) The Nun (2013, Drama) Pauline Etienne. ★★★ |   |                      |
| 21       | WLIW | 21  | 21  | 21  | PBS News  | Mack Firing (R)   | Midsomer Murders   | (8:52) Midsomer Murders  |                        | Masterpiece  |                        |  | Epic Train  |                      |
| 25       | WNYE | 25  | 22  | 25  | Day's Work  | Her B Idea Build Ser  | Jared Diamond's Third  | To Be Announced  |                        | Day's Work   | Profiles               |  | GZero   |                      |
| 31       | WPXN | 31  | 3   | 531   | (6:00) SVU  | Law & Order: SVU  | Law & Order: SVU   | Law & Order: SVU   |                        | Law & Order: SVU   |                        | Law & Order: SVU                                   |   |                      |
| 41       | WXTV | 41  | 6   | 41  | Noticiero   | Casados con hijos   | Sicario (1996, Drama) Laureano Olivares. NR  |  |                        | El Chavo   | Noticiero              | Noticiero  |   |                      |
| 47       | WNUJ | 47  | 16  | 12  | Noticias  | Dateline: Las voces   | F9 (2021, Action) Vin Diesel. PG-13 ★★★½   |  |                        | Noticiero  | Noticiero              | Noticias   |   |                      |
| 55       | WLNY | 55  | 10  | 10  | America by Man  | Man   | Conners Conners  | The Equalizer  |                        | Judge Judy   | In Touch               | Women Of Wrestling                                 |   |                      |
| A&E      | 46   | 46  | 181 | Storage (R)   | Storage (R)   | Storage (R)   | Storage (R)  | Storage (R)  | Storage (R)            | Storage (R)  | Storage (R)            | Storage (R)  | Storage (R)   |                      |
| AMC      | 54   | 43  | 231 | (6:00) Pretty in Pink (1986, Comedy) ★★★                          | Beetlejuice (1988, Comedy) Michael Keaton. PG ★★★½                          |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | PG ★★★  |                      |
| BET      | 37   | 54  | 270 | (5:00) Boyz n the Hood (1991, Drama) R                            | Get Out (2017, Horror) Daniel Kaluuya. R ★★★½                               |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | Shaft (2019) R ★★★½                                   |                      |
| BBCAM    | 71   | 101 | 189 | (6:00) The Patriot (2000, Drama) Mel Gibson, Heath Ledger. R ★★★½ |   |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | A Few Good Men (1992, Drama) Tom Cruise. R ★★★½       |                      |
| BRAVO    | 18   | 44  | 185 | (5:30) This Christmas (2007, Holiday)                             | Crazy Rich Asians (2018, Comedy) Gemma Chan. PG-13 ★★★                      |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | This Christmas (2007) Delroy Lindo. ★★½               |                      |
| CNBC     | 15   | 24  | 102 | Greed   | American Greed: Scams   | American Greed: Scams   | American Greed: Scams  | American Greed: Scams  | American Greed: Scams  | American Greed: Scams  | American Greed: Scams  | American Greed: Scams                              |   |                      |
| CNN      | 78   | 25  | 100 | Newsroom  | CNN Newsroom  | Real Time with  | Have I Got News For You  | Ozempic (R)  | Real Time with         |  |                        |  |   |                      |
| COM      | 45   | 50  | 190 | The Office  | The Office  | The Office  | (8:20) The Office: Lotto   | The Office   | The Office             | We're the Millers (2013) R ★★★   |                        |  |   |                      |
| DIS      | 49   | 31  | 250 | Big City (R)  | Big City (R)  | Alvin and the Chipmunks (2011) G ★½                                   | Wizards (R)  | Wizards (R)  | ZOMBIES                | ZOMBIES  | ZOMBIES                | ZOMBIES  |   |                      |
| DSC      | 66   | 27  | 120 | Exp Unknwn  | Expedition Unknown (R)  | Expedition Unknown (R)  | Expedition Unknown (R)   | Expedition Unknown (R)   | Expedition Unknown (R) | Expedition Unknown (R)   | Expedition Unknown (R) |  |   |                      |
| E!       | 24   | 51  | 196 | (5:00) Pitch  | Pitch Perfect (2012, Comedy) Anna Kendrick. PG-13 ★★★                       |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | Pitch Perfect (2012, Comedy) Anna Kendrick. PG-13 ★★★ |                      |
| ESPN     | 28   | 36  | 70  | Football Scoreboard   | College Football: Texas A&M Aggies at Auburn Tigers. Live.                  |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | F1 Racing   |                      |
| ESPN2    | 29   | 35  | 74  | Coll. Ftbl  | Football Scoreboard   | College Football: Cincinnati Bearcats at Kansas State Wildcats. Live. |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | Football Scoreboard                                   |                      |
| FBN      | 43   | 106 | 117 | Dream Car   | My Dream Car  | My Dream Car  | My Dream Car   |  |                        |  |                        |  | My Dream Car  |                      |
| FNC      | 44   | 26  | 118 | Fox Report  | The Big Weekend Show  | Life, Liberty & Levin   | One Nation   |  |                        |  |                        |  | Gutfeld! (R)  |                      |
| FOOD     | 50   | 97  | 164 | Bake Champ  | Gingerbread   | Gingerbread: Christmas  | Gingerbread  |  |                        |  |                        |  | Gingerbread   |                      |
| FREFRM   | 38   | 49  | 199 | (5:20) Up (2009, Comedy)  | Coco (2017, Adventure) Anthony Gonzalez. PG ★★★½                            |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | Zootopia (2016, Family) Idris Elba. PG ★★★½           |                      |
| FS1      | 400  | 99  | 83  | Coll. Ftbl  | College Football: Baylor Bears at Houston Cougars from TDECU Stadium. Live. |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | College Football Live.                                |                      |
| FX       | 10   | 40  | 53  | (6:00) Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (2019, Science Fiction)   |   |   | Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (2021, Action) Simu Liu. PG-13 ★★★   |  |                        |  |                        |  |   |                      |
| HALL     | 191  | 240 | 240 | Three Wise Men and a Baby (2022)                                  | Three Wiser Men and a Boy (2024) Tyler Hynes.                               |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | (10:01) Confessions of a Christmas Letter (2024)      |                      |
| HGTV     | 64   | 98  | 165 | Hunters (R)   | Hunters (R)   | Hunters (R)   | Hunters (R)  | Hunters (R)  | Hunters (R)            | House Hunters  | Hunters (R)            | Hunters (R)  |   |                      |
| HIST     | 40   | 47  | 128 | Aliens (R)  | Ancient Aliens (R)  | Ancient Aliens: Declassified: Extraterrestrial Interference (R)       |  |  |                        |  |                        |  |   |                      |
| ID       | 23   | 171 | 123 | Married (R)   | Married to Evil (R)   | Betrayed: Suited Murder   | Betrayed: A Bitter Pill (R)  | Fatal Family Reunion (R)   | Betrayed: Murder Menu  |  |                        |  |   |                      |
| LIFE     | 62   | 45  | 140 | (6:00) Steppin' Into the Holiday (2022)                           | Christmas in the Spotlight (2024) NR  |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | A Cowboy Christmas Romance (2023) Jana Kramer.        |                      |
| MeTV     | 33   | 33  | 3   | Stooges   | Stooges   | Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein (1948) Bud Abbott. NR ★★★       | Batman   |  |                        |  |                        |  | Star Trek: Enterprise                                 |                      |
| MSG      | 27   | 87  | 78  | NBA Basketball Live.  | NY Knicks   | MSG Shorts  | Fan Duel   | The Bettor   | Pregame                | NHL Hockey Live.   |                        |  |   |                      |
| MSG Plus | 48   | 88  | 80  | The Bettor  | NY Live.  | NHL Hockey: St. Louis Blues at New York Islanders. Live.              |  |  |                        | NY Live.   | Islanders              | NHL Hockey Taped.                                  |   |                      |
| MSNBC    | 14   | 23  | 103 | Capehart  | Ayman   | Ayman   | Sing Sing: Murder  | Sing Sing  |                        |  |                        |  | The 11th Hour (R)                                     |                      |
| MTV      | 20   | 53  | 210 | Spy (2015, Comedy) Melissa McCarthy.                              | 50 First Dates (2004) Adam Sandler.   | (9:50) The Longest Yard (2005, Comedy) Adam Sandler. PG-13 ★★★½       |  |  |                        |  |                        |  |   |                      |
| NATGEO   | 65   | 162 | 121 | Smuggler  | To Catch a Smuggler (R)   | To Catch a Smuggler (R)   | To Catch a Smuggler (R)  | Smuggle Tropic.  |                        |  |                        |  | To Catch a Smuggler (R)                               |                      |
| NICK     | 6    | 121 | 252 | SpongeBob   | The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water (2015)                             | Family  | Family   | Family   | Family                 | Family   | Family                 | Family   | Family  |                      |
| OWN      | 173  | 180 | 145 | Marriage  | Marriage: Huntsville (R)  | Marriage: Huntsville  | Breaking New Ground  |  |                        |  |                        |  |   |                      |
| PARMT    | 36   | 56  | 54  | (5:35) John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum (2019) ★★★½              | John Wick (2014, Action) Keanu Reeves. R ★★★½                               |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | (10:35) John Wick: Chapter 3 (2019) R                 |                      |
| SNY      | 26   | 60  | 77  | Coll. Hock  | College Basketball Live.  |   | Mets Classics  |  |                        |  |                        |  | Sports  |                      |
| SYFY     | 17   | 48  | 180 | Supremacy   | The Bourne Ultimatum (2007, Thriller) Matt Damon. PG-13 ★★★½                | Man of Steel (2013, Action) Henry Cavill. PG-13 ★½                    |  |  |                        |  |                        |  |   |                      |
| TBS      | 8    | 39  | 52  | (6:00) Christmas Vacation (1989) ★★★½                             | Elf (2003, Holiday) Will Ferrell. PG ★★★                                    |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) ★★★½     |                      |
| TCM      | 82   | 41  | 230 | (6:00) Meet Me in St. Louis (1944) ★★★½                           | The Gunfighter (1950) Gregory Peck.   | (9:45) Gun Crazy (1950, Crime) Peggy Cummins, John Dall. ★★★½         |  |  |                        |  |                        |  |   |                      |
| TLC      | 52   | 28  | 139 | Sister (R)  | Sister Wives: A Man (R)   | Long Lost Family (R)  | Long Lost Family (R)   | Long Lost Family (R)   | Long Lost Family (R)   | Long Lost Family (R)   |                        |  |   |                      |
| TNT      | 3    | 37  | 51  | (5:00) Live Free or Die Hard (2007) ★★★                           | Die Hard (1988, Action) Bruce Willis. R ★★★½                                |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | Die Hard 2 (1990, Action) Bruce Willis. R             |                      |
| TVLAND   | 85   | 34  | 241 | Mike  | Mike  | [7:35] Mike Loves Ray.  | Loves Ray.   | [9:20] Loves Raymond   | Loves Ray.             | Loves Ray.   | Loves Ray.             | Seinfeld   | Seinfeld  |                      |
| USA      | 16   | 38  | 50  | (5:00) The Matrix Reloaded (2003) R ★★★                           | The Matrix Revolutions (2003, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves. R ★★★          |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | The Matrix Revolutions R                              |                      |
| VH1      | 19   | 52  | 217 | Wife/Kids   | Wife/Kids   | Wife/Kids   | Wife/Kids  | Wife/Kids  | Wife/Kids              | Wife/Kids  | Wife/Kids              | Wife/Kids  |   |                      |
| WE       | 59   | 42  | 149 | (6:00) NCIS   | NCIS: Friends Lovers  | NCIS: Dead Man Walking  | NCIS: Skeletons  | NCIS: Iceman   |                        |  |                        |  | NCIS: Grace Period                                    |                      |
| YES      | 53   | 89  | 76  | Volleyball  | Women's College Volleyball: NEC Championship                                |   | Wom. Basketball Replay.  | Wom. Volleyball Replay.  |                        |  |                        |  | CenterStage   |                      |
| HBO      | 511  | 301 | 400 | (6:06) Good Time (2017) R   | (7:50) Jurassic Park (1993, Science Fiction) Sam Neill, Laura Dern.         |   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | J. Acaster  |                      |
| MAX      | 531  | 371 | 420 | (6:22) Killing Them Softly (2012, Crime)                          | Taken (2009, Action) Liam Neeson. ★★★                                       | Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (2014) ★½                                   |  |  |                        |  |                        |  | (11:17) Lawless (2012) ★★★                            |                      |
| MGM Plus | 595  | 395 | 610 | From  | From: Revelations One   | Blink Twice (2024) Naomi Ackie. R                                     | (9:45) The Beekeeper (2024, Action) Jason Statham. R   |  |                        |  |                        |  | Blink Twice   |                      |
| PARSHO   | 551  | 321 | 365 | (6:00) Heat (1995, Crime) Al Pacino, Robert De Niro. R ★★★½       |   |   | GoodFellas (1990, Crime) Robert De Niro. R ★★★★  |  |                        |  |                        |  | Once ★★★½   |                      |

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# DROPPING A DIME\$!

Giants cut Jones after benched QB requests his release

The Daniel Jones era is officially over. The Giants revealed Friday that they released the beleaguered quarterback, whom they drafted with the No. 6-overall pick in the 2019 Draft. Once he clears waivers, Jones will become a free agent, allowing him to sign with another team.

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