‘DUG IN A HOLE’

Astros’ losing streak continues in sweep.

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COURT CONSIDERS TRUMP IMMUNITY

Justices appear divided on where to draw line in 2020 election case; delay possible.

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LAUGHING MATTER

Comedian Bargatze brings shows to NRG.

PAGE C1

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

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All held in Austin protest released

Citing lack of specificity, judge rejects nearly all charges; criticism of police action grows

By Taylor Goldenstein
AUSTIN BUREAU

Most of the demonstrators arrested Wednesday at a pro-Palestinian protest on the University of Texas at Austin campus have had their charges dropped, officials and lawyers said.

Nearly all of the charges were for criminal trespass, a misdemeanor, alleging protesters failed to heed warnings to disperse. A magistrate judge rejected the charges because the charging documents were not specific about how the protesters were notified to leave, said Austin criminal defense attorney George Lobb, who was representing some of them.

Travis County Attorney Delia Garza said Thursday that her office was presented with 46 arrests for criminal trespass in connection with the protests, and the court declined all of them for lack of probable cause.

“We will continue to individually review all cases presented to our office to make determinations on whether prosecution is factually and legally appropriate,” Garza said.

The Travis County Sheriff’s Office said 57 people were booked into the jail Wednesday for protest-related arrests.

As of early Thursday afternoon, all of them were released, the office said. That included a cameraman with FOX 7 Austin who was arrested after appearing to have tripped and fallen onto a group of state troopers.

Earlier on Thursday, a crowd of about two dozen people gathered outside the county jail, cheering each time a protester walked out the glass doors. Nearby, a table overflowing with cupcakes with frosting colored like the Palestinian flag,

Protest continues on A3



Jay Janner/Associated Press

A woman is arrested Wednesday during a pro-Palestinian protest at the University of Texas at Austin.

Deputy recalled as ready to lend a helping hand



Karen Warren/Staff photographer

An escort for the body of Harris County Sheriff’s Deputy John Coddou heads west Thursday on Interstate 10.

Fallen officer ‘was that person that went over and beyond’

By John Wayne Ferguson
STAFF WRITER

John Coddou stopped to help people.

In August 2016, a man had perched himself on the edge of an entrance ramp on Texas 99, 100 feet above the ground. He was threatening to jump, but Coddou, a deputy who long patrolled western parts of Harris County, talked to the man for 30 minutes and, with the help of other deputies, managed to get him to back away from the edge.

Coddou’s role in saving the man received a small write-up in the Houston Chronicle. But one detail wasn’t included in the story.



Coddou

“Johnny asked him, ‘Do you need a hug?’ ” his mother, Rose Harshfield, said Thursday. “And he went up and hugged him, and Johnny was telling him nothing’s this bad for you to lose your life.”

“He talked him off and gave him a hug,” Harshfield said. “That’s who he was.”

Coddou, 50, died Tuesday when he was hit by a truck in the median of the Grand Parkway in northwest Houston. He had stopped to help a driver who had been involved in another crash, when a pickup driving on the highway swerved around his parked vehicle and struck him.

Coddou was the first sheriff’s deputy to be killed in the line of duty since 2022.

Speaking about Coddou after the crash, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said it was in character for Coddou, a violent-crimes investigator, to have pulled over instead of leaving the job to a different person.

“It wasn’t surprising that he stopped to help,” Gonzalez said. “He saw community members in need.”

John Hampton Coddou III was

Deputy continues on A6

Cases against Hidalgo’s ex-aides sent to AG’s office

By Nicole Hensley and Jen Rice
STAFF WRITERS

Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg announced Thursday that she is giving Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s office the pending criminal cases against three of County Judge Lina Hidalgo’s former staffers, who are accused of steering a COVID-19 contract to a preferred firm.

Though Ogg, who lost her reelection bid in the March Democratic primary to former prosecutor Sean Teare, argued that her possible successor cannot be trusted with the cases, she stopped short of recusing her office, thereby preserving the next district attorney’s involvement.

“I will never sit idly by and let public corruption cases be dismissed, swept under the carpet or even allow the rule of law to be overwhelmed by politics,” Ogg said at a news conference with three members of the Texas

Ex-staffers continues on A2

TSU regents name finalist for president

By Samantha Ketterer
STAFF WRITER



Crawford

Texas Southern University regents selected retired U.S. Navy Vice Adm. James Crawford III on Thursday as the sole finalist to become the school’s 14th president, opting for a serviceman to lead the university following years of tumult and turnover in the institution’s top office.

Board members voted unanimously on the selection of Crawford, a former president of Felician University in New Jersey and current trustee at Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina. He served in the U.S. Navy for more than 30 years and retired there as the judge advocate general, the military branch’s most senior attorney.

TSU continues on A5

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Hotel blames mom for 8-year-old's drowning

By Shakari Briggs
STAFF WRITER

The owner of the Doubletree by Hilton Houston denies any wrongdoing in the March 23 drowning of 8-year-old Aliyah Jaico and says her mother's negligence led to her death, according to court records.

The family of the young girl reported her missing and first responders found her hours later in the pipe of a lazy river pool feature at Doubletree by Hilton Houston Brookhollow.

Unique Crowne Hospitality LLC, the hotel owner, says the family "engaged in negligent acts and/or omissions that proximately caused the alleged injuries and damages," court documents read.

The Chronicle reported at the time that Jaico's family last saw her swimming in the hotel pool. When they discovered her missing, the family contacted police around 5:45 p.m.

According to Houston police spokesman John Cannon, authorities began searching her last known location and video footage showed Aliyah going underwater. After draining the pool, authorities discovered her "wedged in the pipes of the malfunctioning pool equipment." To reach Aliyah, authorities had to use cameras to search pipes in the hotel's pool and lazy river feature.

The hotel owner "is not liable to plaintiffs, because plaintiffs' damages, if any, were caused by the acts or conduct of third parties for which UCH had no control or right of control and for whom UCH has no responsibility," court documents read.

Jose Daniela Jaico Ahumada filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Doubletree by Hilton Houston Brookhollow for more than $1 million. In the lawsuit, Ahumada alleges the hotel chain didn't provide a safe place to swim, adding the business failed to inspect the area where the deadly incident took place by not putting barriers up preventing someone from getting pulled into the pool's suction equipment.

"Defendant had actual, subjective awareness of the risk involved, but nevertheless proceeded with conscious indifference to the rights, safety, and welfare of minor decedent with an intentional state of mind," court documents read. "Such gross negligence was a proximate cause of Minor decedent's death and Plaintiff's resulting damages. Therefore, Plaintiff is entitled to punitive/exemplary damages."

Aliyah's mother sued the hotel chain for compensation for medical, counseling, funeral, burial and court costs as well as for the "loss of a daughter's love, affection, advice, counsel, care consortium, protection, services, attention, society and companionship."

An investigation by the Houston Health Department found that the lazy river had gates that opened toward the pool area, a fence that was too short, and a gate with openings that were too wide. The hotel received orders to close the pool, so management could correct the violations, the Chronicle previously reported.

In Unique Crowne Hospitality LLC's response to the lawsuit, they "request for exemplary damages based upon harm resulting from UCH's alleged gross negligence must be proven by clear and convincing evidence and a unanimous jury finding."

"UCH seeks a reduction of any damages that may be awarded against it by the percentage of responsibility found by the jury as to plaintiffs, settling parties, responsible third parties, and/or anyone else," court documents read.

Unicorn World returns to Houston for two days



Blue Potato Media

Unicorn World, an interactive experience designed for children and families, takes over the George R. Brown Convention Center on Saturday and Sunday.

By Nusaiba Mizan
STAFF WRITER

Unicorns will briefly take over the George R. Brown Convention Center downtown.

The Unicorn World interactive experience designed for children and families will be in Houston on Saturday and Sunday. It is the event's second year in a row in Houston.

The walk-through experience features an enchanted forest and life-sized, animatronic unicorns that move and neigh, according to a Unicorn World statement.

Unicorn World is part of a trend in immersive experiences. It visits Houston after Jurassic World: The Exhibition started its six-month run at Katy Mills Mall in March. Houston also has immersive art-focused experiences: Meow Wolf is expected to open this year in Fifth Ward with collaboration from local artists. The owners of Honey Art Cafe in Upper Kirby opened an "Alice in Wonderland"-inspired space in February where visitors can solve puzzles and play games.

Rainbow arches welcome visitors at the beginning of the walk-through experience. Unicorn World's design — by husband-wife duo Lauren and Patrick Mines from Knoxville, Tenn. — includes areas for games and crafts centered around the mythical creature, its website shows.

Visitors can move through the areas at their own pace, and they generally take an hour to three hours for the experience. Tickets, $35 each, must be purchased in advance on Unicorn World's website.

"Unicorn World proved to be a way for families and friends to connect in a fun and magical way, and this year we wanted to give communities a more magical time through new experiences," Lauren Mines, co-founder of Unicorn World, said in a statement. "Our desire is to keep building an event that is not only fun, but also intended for families to enjoy year-after-year together."

Unicorn World has stopped in more than 30 locations across the country. It will visit Austin in July.

EX-STAFFERS

From page A1

Attorney General's Office and the Texas Rangers investigator assigned to the cases.

Ogg's decision has sown confusion regarding both her motivation to essentially give up the case and the literal meaning of her words. She asked Paxton to "assume jurisdiction" in the cases, but Paxton's office said in a news release that it "will assist" the district attorney's office.

Defense attorneys and legal experts also speculated over what could happen if the cases fail to reach trial by the time a new district attorney takes over at the beginning of next year.

Ogg's move is an unusual one, according to Amanda Peters, a professor at South Texas College of Law who worked as a prosecutor in Harris County from 1999 to 2007.

"If she were concerned about the future of these cases, she would recuse her office so Sean Teare could never be involved in their prosecution," Peters said. "This option doesn't seem to do that."

The so-called Elevate Strategies cases, meanwhile, have pitted many Democrats against Ogg, a point that Teare has often rallied behind, and inspired waves of Republican criticism against Hidalgo.

"Even though I've never had any involvement in this case, I have promised to immediately recuse myself and refer this case to another District Attorney to ensure it receives fair and impartial treatment," Teare said in a statement.

Teare's Republican opponent, Dan Simons, applauded Ogg's decision and insinuated that the former prosecutor has concealed potential conflicts of interest.



Melissa Phillip/Staff photographer

District Attorney Kim Ogg speaks during a news conference about the so-called Elevate Strategies cases.

Reactions to Ogg's decision

Derek Hollingsworth, attorney for accused ex-Hidalgo staffer Aaron Dunn, criticized Ogg for disregarding a motion to disqualify her office nearly two years ago and then deciding only after her primary loss to involve an outside agency.

The attorneys for each of the staffers have professed their clients' innocence for years.

"This prosecution has been political from the beginning," Hollingsworth said. "Merely asking the attorney general to come in to either take over or ride shotgun doesn't fix that problem — it only exacerbates it."

Hollingsworth also questioned Ogg's refusal to issue an outright recusal, a legal procedure that could have revoked any control the district attorney's office had over the pending cases.

"She doesn't want to call it a recusal when really that's what it is," Hollingsworth said. "She wants to prevent the judge from making the decision about who would come in and handle the case like with a true recusal."

Hidalgo on Thursday dismissed Ogg's prosecutions as "political" and "baseless."

"In her parting days, DA Ogg has sealed her legacy by sending this vendetta to somebody who is constantly engaged in political attacks against me and Harris County," Hidalgo said in a statement.

Paxton sued Harris County earlier this month, challenging the legality of its new guaranteed income program.

Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis, a Democrat, called Ogg's decision to bring a "hyper-partisan office" into the case "a new low" and said he is concerned for the three defendants.

"Ultimately, I'm just saddened for these young people who have become collateral damage in this political gamesmanship," Ellis said in a statement Thursday. "My heart goes out to them."

Despite being a Democrat, Ogg received swift praise from Republicans for her decision to bring the case to Paxton's office, with state Sen. Paul Bettencourt calling it a "welcome development" and Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey blaming Hidalgo for "politicizing the process of justice."

Origins of the cases

The investigation stems from an $11 million contract the county awarded to the consulting firm Elevate Strategies in 2021 to conduct COVID-19 vaccine outreach. Hidalgo's then-staffers — Alex Triantaphyllis, Wallis Nader and Dunn — were part of a five-person panel that evaluated the bidders. They're accused of steering the contract to Elevate owner Felicity Pereyra by giving her early access to information about the project.

The county later canceled the contract as Hidalgo argued that the controversy could undermine vaccine outreach efforts, but the county judge has maintained there was no wrongdoing in the selection process.

A grand jury indicted the ex-Hidalgo aides in April 2022 on felony charges of misuse of official information and tampering with government documents. Later that year, their attorneys asked to disqualify Ogg's office, contending that the district attorney's "months-long, highly public feud" with Hidalgo amounted to a conflict of interest that made it impossible for her to conduct an unbiased prosecution — an argument Ogg's office then called a "meritless claim."

The motion to disqualify has never been addressed in court.

As the case continued in the courts, the Houston Chronicle reported that Ogg had contracted lawyer and GOP operative Rachel Palmer Hooper to assist with the initial investigation despite having a full-time public corruption division — a hiring decision that Teare and other critics have called politically motivated.

"These cases were tainted from the beginning, the second they hired the Republican Party's general counsel to lead the investigation," Teare said. "Now, they are being handed over to the most political prosecutor in the state, who will work in tandem with a politically motivated DA."

Since leaving the district attorney's office last year, Teare has worked for defense lawyer Dan Cogdell, whose firm most recently secured a pretrial agreement for Paxton on securities fraud charges. Cogdell is also one of Triantaphyllis' lawyers. Teare said he has been walled off from both cases and never saw any of the Elevate Strategies evidence as a prosecutor.

Hidalgo also endorsed Teare in the election, further muddying the waters.

During Ogg's news conference, the district attorney accused Teare of being conflicted, noting Hidalgo's endorsement and the role of his employer in the Elevate case.

"All of this raises the specter of fixing cases for political support," Ogg said Thursday.

CORRECTION

A story on page A1 on Thursday about a news conference regarding a court filing in the Memorial Hermann transplant scandal misidentified Tommy Hastings, the Hastings Law Firm attorney representing the families.

Turkey Leg Hut co-founder charged in fight

By Nicole Hensley
STAFF WRITER

Turkey Leg Hut co-founder Lyndell Price was accused of assaulting a man during a February bar fight amid a litany of legal proceedings involving him and the famed Third Ward restaurant, according to court documents.

Price, 42, was charged April 15 with misdemeanor assault in connection with the fight, which police said left a man unconscious and with a knee injury, at the neighboring business. A warrant was issued for his arrest.

Price, wearing an Oyster Hut shirt, appeared Tuesday in the County Criminal Court at Law No. 12 to address the charge. He sat in the back of the courtroom until his attorney, Robert Alton Jones, beckoned him to the bench.

A Houston police officer alleged that Price got into a fight with another patron at the Tipsy Lounge, down the street from Turkey Leg Hut, during the Feb. 1 clash. Another patron tried to break up the fight but Price grabbed him by the neck, "threw him on the ground," an act that left him unconscious, according to court records.

Another witness told police that Price dragged the unconscious man out of the bar.

Jones told visiting Judge Robin Brown that the Tipsy Lounge bar brawl was not as it seemed and that a patron had threatened someone with a gun.

The alleged fight happened days before Price's estranged wife, Nakia Holmes, announced that he and several other employees had been fired from their restaurant. Price separately said he had also been banned from the eatery in a since deleted social media post. The future of the Turkey Leg Hut has been in dispute ever since amid divorce proceedings and the filing of a Chapter 11 bankruptcy case in federal court.



Bao Ong/Staff file photo

Lynn Price, left, helps Royal Bellock with a grill during a March 2 Tiger2Dozen pop-up in Third Ward.

Price declined to comment after court and referred questions to his attorney.

"From what I gather, it shouldn't have been filed in the first place," Jones said of the charge.

The judge ordered Price to stay away from the Tipsy Lounge and the man he allegedly hurt. She set his bail at $1,000 on the misdemeanor charge.

UT-Austin faculty, students criticize leaders, arrests

By Cayla Harris and Morgan Severson and Taylor Goldenstein
AUSTIN BUREAU

Students and faculty at the University of Texas at Austin said Thursday they had "no confidence" in President Jay Hartzell, as university leaders defended their decision to bring state troopers on campus to disperse a student-led demonstration against the war in Gaza.

More than a dozen faculty members rallied outside the university tower, along with hundreds of students, where they denounced the arrests of at least 57 protesters and said university leadership had abandoned its responsibility to protect students and their right to assemble.

"You have to fight for the world you want to see," said Lauren Gutterman, an associate professor of history. "And I am so proud to be here with you and so inspired by our students who are teaching us the meaning of solidarity, of democracy, of courage and compassion."

Hartzell stood by the university's actions, saying UT "held firm" as the protesters organized by the student-led Palestine Solidarity Committee "tried to deliver on their stated intent to occupy campus." A university spokesman said the decision to bring in state troopers was a joint one made by Hartzell, his leadership team and UT System Board of Regents Chairman Kevin Eltife, an appointee of Gov. Greg Abbott.



Jon Shapley/Staff photographer

Demonstrators gather on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin on Thursday. Students walked out of class on Wednesday as protests over Gaza continue across college campuses. More than a dozen faculty members denounced Wednesday's arrests.

The arrests came amid a wave of protests and Gaza solidarity encampments at universities across the country that have seen students calling on leaders to cut financial ties with Israel. But few have been met with as swift a response as in Texas, where mounted police and state troopers in riot gear quickly ordered protesters to leave and began making arrests on charges of criminal trespassing.

At Thursday's faculty protest, staff and students gathered in a circle, with professors taking turns speaking to the crowd. They denounced the arrests, held signs and chanted for a free Palestine. Some attendees wore masks or wrote their phone numbers on their arms in case they were arrested again.

"After yesterday's violent repression by the police, we wanted to make sure our students feel safe and that they know that we hear them," said Roger Reeves, an associate professor of English. He said he's part of the group UT Austin Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine that helped organize the protest at the tower. He said the group is concerned after the police response to Wednesday's protest.

Rhiannon Hamam, a supervising attorney with Texas Law's Richard and Ginni Mithoff Program who is Palestinian, said she was arrested at the university on Wednesday and was "pushed and screamed at by grown men twice my size wielding massive batons, mace and guns." She said law enforcement turned campus into a "militarized zone," and Hartzell should resign.

"Jay Hartzell has lost all trust," Hamam said. "I am disgusted by his statement yesterday celebrating UT's violent response. He has shown his true colors. He is a leader in title only. He is a pawn of the fascist governor and he is an enemy to students and workers he should be protecting."

University officials distributed new flyers to the crowd demanding students disperse by 10 p.m. and outlining a list of prohibited behavior, including attempting to camp on university property, wearing masks, or "making loud sounds that interfere with learning."

A spokesperson for the university also released an updated statement saying the protest the day before "sought to follow the playbook of the national campaign to paralyze the operations of universities across the country."

The spokesperson said about half of the people who broke university rules on Wednesday were not affiliated with the school, and 13 pro-Palestinian events have taken place on campus since October without incident.

Around 50 counterprotesters in support of Israel were also present on the tower plaza. The students, who were wearing and waving Israeli flags, gathered in a circle to sing.

Jason, a UT junior who declined to give his last name, said he attended the counterprotest to stand up for democracy and Western values. He called the protest that took place on campus Wednesday "horrendous antisemitism" because students chanted, "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," which he said calls for "the decimation of the State of Israel."

"I was very happy to see the police's response to the protests yesterday," he said. "I fully believe in free speech. I think that's important, but when free speech turns into hate speech and antisemitism that's not wanted on my campus, and I don't feel safe and that's unconstitutional."

The Anti-Defamation League says the phrase calls for the destruction of Israel, while defenders say it is a rallying cry calling for Palestinian liberation from oppression.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

PROTEST

From page A1

breakfast tacos, fruit, chips and other snacks awaited them. Most of those released Thursday morning were students.

Citlalli Soto-Ferate, a senior and member of the Palestine Solidarity Committee who was released, said she and another student had been arrested while talking to each other.

She said she was not informed by the police why she was under arrest at the time.

"We pay tuition on this campus. I pay these people's salaries," said Soto-Ferate, whose shoulders were draped in a Palestinian scarf known as a kaffiyeh. "We're not allowed to protest peacefully? And they (police) were trying to make it violent, and no one was making it violent except them."

Michael Nevarez, a 22-year-old junior, was photographing the protest around 4 p.m. Wednesday when an officer grabbed him and threw him to the ground, breaking his camera lens.

"They didn't read me my rights; they didn't say what I was charged with," Nevarez said. "All I could remember was just to smile as I was walking away. That's what you do fighting for this cause. Because I have no shame being arrested for this."



Jon Shapley/Staff photographer

Demonstrators on Thursday attach a pro-Palestine flag to a statue of President George Washington on the UT-Austin campus.

Nevarez was released around 11 a.m. Thursday, and his charges were dropped.

A couple of the protesters released Thursday morning were not students, including Ashraf Zayed, a criminal defense attorney with the Austin-based AZ Law Firm.

Zayed said he had come to the protest to offer legal help. Within 10 minutes, he witnessed a girl being "bum-rushed" and arrested and went to help, but he was immediately tackled by police.

"That was it. That was my crime," he said, adding that he disagreed with the charge of criminal trespass. "I didn't get a warning, and I'm on public property," he said.

The office of the dean of students at UT-Austin on Tuesday called for protest organizers to cancel the rally, saying it appeared "intent to violate our policies and rules, and disrupt our campus operations," according to a letter it sent.

The university pointed to the organizers' mention of other campus protests of the war in Gaza, in which students have erected encampments on campus. It also noted that organizers had urged attendees to bring face masks in violation of a university rule that forbids students from concealing their identity to obstruct law enforcement.

UT-Austin President Jay Hartzell said Wednesday that the university had stepped in to prevent students from similar attempts to "occupy" campus.

The Department of Public Safety said it sent state troopers to campus at the request of the university and at Abbott's direction. Austin police and the university's own police force also responded to the demonstration and made arrests.

It was not immediately clear whether the university planned to take disciplinary action against the students who were arrested. Before the event, officials had warned students that they could face penalties including expulsion if they participated. A spokesperson said any action likely would not be public information due to federal privacy laws.

Jason Katims, an attorney in Austin, said a colleague had texted him Wednesday afternoon to say he was headed to the protest and asked if he would bail him out if needed. Katims said yes. About 40 minutes later, the colleague texted again: "Got arrested." He headed over the Travis County Jail and ended up helping others with their bonds as well.

Both Katims and Lobb, an attorney with the Austin Lawyers Guild, a group of self-described "leftist lawyers providing movement support," said the arrests were clearly unjustified and politically motivated.

"Honestly, I don't even agree with everything the protesters are saying, but this was a peaceful protest," Katims said. "This was a heavy-handed response to make a political scene for the governor because it's good politics for him: It splits the left and it's good red meat for the right. And it's all stupid."

NATION & WORLD



Mike Stewart/Associated Press

Georgia State Patrol officers detain a demonstrator Thursday during a pro-Palestinian rally at Emory University in Atlanta.

Pro-Palestinian rallies roil schools nationwide

By Steve LeBlanc and Nick Perry
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The University of Southern California canceled its main graduation ceremony Thursday and dozens more college students were arrested at other campuses nationwide as protests against the Israel-Hamas war spread.

College officials across the U.S. are worried the ongoing protests could disrupt plans for commencement ceremonies next month. Some universities called in police to break up the demonstrations, resulting in ugly scuffles and arrests nationwide, while others appeared content to wait out student protests as the final days of the semester ticked down.

But encampments and protests continued to spring up Thursday. A tent encampment popped up at Indiana University Bloomington before police with shields and batons shoved into a line of protesters, arresting an unknown number.

At the City College of New York, hundreds of students who were gathered on the lawn erupted in cheers after a small contingent of police officers retreated from the scene.

Students protesting the war are demanding schools cut financial ties to Israel and divest from companies enabling the conflict. Some Jewish students say the protests have veered into antisemitism and made them afraid to set foot on campus.

USC announced the cancellation of the May 10 graduation ceremony a day after more than 90 protesters were arrested.

At Emerson College in Boston, 108 people were arrested overnight at an alleyway encampment. Video shows police first warning students in an alleyway to leave. Students link arms to resist officers, who move forcefully through the crowd and throw some protesters to the ground.

"As the night progressed, it got tenser and tenser. There were just more cops on all sides. It felt like we were being slowly pushed in and crushed," said Ocean Muir, a sophomore.

At Emory University in Atlanta, police swept in to dismantle a camp, although the university said the protesters weren't students but rather outside activists.

Many colleges, including Harvard University, were choosing not to take immediate action against protesters.

The current wave of protests was inspired by events at Columbia University in New York, where police cleared an encampment and arrested more than 100 people last week, only for students to defiantly put up tents again.

AROUND THE NATION AND WORLD

TENNESSEE

Bill criminalizes help for transgender kids

Tennessee's GOP-controlled Statehouse has given its final approval to legislation criminalizing adults who help minors receive gender-affirming care without parental consent.

Thursday's action clears the way for the first-in-the-nation proposal to be sent to Gov. Bill Lee's desk for his signature.

HAITI

Interim council takes reins from ex-PM

Haiti has opened a new political chapter with the installation of a transitional council tasked with picking a new prime minister and preparing for eventual presidential elections, in hopes of quelling spiraling gang violence that has killed thousands in the Caribbean country.

Thursday's swearing in coincided with the departure of Ariel Henry, who presented his resignation in a letter signed in Los Angeles, dated April 24. It was released on Thursday by his office on the same day that his remaining Cabinet chose Economy and Finance Minister Michel Patrick Boisvert as the interim prime minister.

It was not immediately clear when the transitional council would select its own interim prime minister.

UNITED NATIONS

Report: Those facing hunger up by 24M

Nearly 282 million people in 59 countries suffered from acute hunger in 2023, with war-torn Gaza as the territory with the largest number of people facing famine, according to the Global Report on Food Crises released Wednesday.

The U.N. report said 24 million more people faced an acute lack of food than in 2022, due to the sharp deterioration in food security, especially in the Gaza Strip and Sudan. The number of nations with food crises that are monitored has also been expanded.

Máximo Torero, chief economist for the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization, said 705,000 people in five countries are at Phase 5, the highest level, on a scale of hunger determined by international experts — the highest number since the global report began in 2016 and quadruple the number that year.

From wire reports

Justices seem reluctant to give Trump immunity

By Mark Sherman
ASSOCIATED PRESS



Kevin Dietsch/Getty Images

Demonstrators argue Thursday outside the Supreme Court as justices consider Donald Trump's claim of immunity.

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Thursday appeared likely to reject former President Donald Trump's claim of absolute immunity from prosecution over election interference, but several justices signaled reservations about the charges, which could cause a lengthy delay, possibly beyond November's election.

A majority of the justices did not appear to embrace the claim of absolute immunity that would stop special counsel Jack Smith's prosecution of Trump on charges that he conspired to overturn his 2020 election loss to Joe Biden. But in arguments lasting more than 2½ hours in the court's first consideration of criminal charges against a former president, several conservative justices indicated that they could limit when former presidents might be prosecuted, suggesting that the case might have to be sent back to lower courts before any trial could begin.

Justice Samuel Alito said that "whatever we decide is going to apply to all future presidents."

The timing of the Supreme Court's decision could be as important as the outcome. Trump, the presumptive 2024 Republican presidential nominee, has been pushing to delay the trial until after the election, and the later the justices issue their decision, the more likely he is to succeed. If Trump regains the presidency, he could order the Justice Department to dismiss the case, or possibly, as two justices suggested, pardon himself if convicted.

The active questioning of all nine justices left the strong impression that the court was not headed for the sort of speedy, consensus decision that would allow a trial to begin quickly.

Smith's team is asking for a speedy resolution. The court typically issues its last opinions by the end of June, about four months before the election. U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, who would preside over the trial, said pretrial issues could take up to three months.

Trump lawyer D. John Sauer argued that former presidents are entitled to absolute immunity for their official acts. Otherwise, he said, politically motivated prosecutions of former occupants of the Oval Office would become routine and presidents couldn't function as the commander in chief if they had to worry about criminal charges.

Lower courts have rejected those arguments.

Several justices drilled down on trying to come up with a definition of what constituted an official act and whether charges based on one should be thrown out.

Justice Elena Kagan at one pointed wondered whether a former president could escape prosecution even if he ordered a coup or sold nuclear secrets. Sauer said prosecutions might not be allowed it those were determined to be official acts.

"That sure sounds bad, doesn't it?" Kagan asked.

Smith's team says the men who wrote Constitution never intended for presidents to be above the law and that, in any event, the acts Trump is charged with — including participating in a scheme to enlist fake electors in battleground states won by Biden — aren't in any way part of a president's official duties.

Nearly four years ago, all nine justices rejected Trump's claim of absolute immunity from a district attorney's subpoena for his financial records.

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote in 2020, "The text of the Constitution ... does not afford the President absolute immunity."

Tabloid's ex-publisher testifies he wouldn't pay for porn star's story

By Jennifer Peltz, Michael R. Sisak, Colleen Long and Jake Offenhartz
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — As Donald Trump was running for president in 2016, his old friend at the National Enquirer was scooping up potentially damaging stories about the candidate and paying out tens of thousands of dollars to keep them from the public eye.

But when it came to the seamy claims by porn performer Stormy Daniels, David Pecker, the tabloid's longtime publisher, said he put his foot down.

"I am not paying for this story," he told jurors Thursday at Trump's hush money trial, recounting his version of a conversation with Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen about the catch-and-kill scheme that prosecutors alleged amounted to interference in the race. Pecker was already $180,000 in the hole on other Trump-related stories by the time Daniels came along, at which point, he said, "I didn't want to be involved in this."

Pecker's testimony was a critical building block for the prosecution's theory that their partnership was a way to illegally influence the 2016 presidential election.



Jefferson Siegel/Getty Images

President Donald Trump speaks to the media as he arrives to court on Thursday in New York City.

Trump's lawyers also began their cross-examination of Pecker, using the time to question his memory of years-old events and to suggest his account had evolved over time.

Trump had asked to skip his New York criminal proceedings for the day so he could sit in on the Supreme Court's session, but that request was denied by Judge Juan M. Merchan, who is overseeing Trump's trial on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in connection with the hush money payments, which involved buying the rights to someone's story but never publishing it.

Trump has maintained he is not guilty of any of the charges, and says the stories that were bought and squelched were false.

"There is no case here. This is just a political witch hunt," he said before court in brief comments to reporters.

Pecker recalled that the publication bought a sordid tale from a New York City doorman and purchased accusations of an extramarital affair with former Playboy model Karen McDougal to prevent the claims from getting out. There was some talk of reimbursement from Trump's orbit, but Pecker was ultimately never paid.

The breaking point came with Daniels, who was eventually paid by Cohen to keep quiet over her claim of a 2006 sexual encounter with Trump. The ex-president denies it happened.

At the same time, Pecker advised that someone — just not him — should do something to prevent the story from going public.

"I said to Michael, 'My suggestion to you is that you should buy the story, and you should take it off the market because if you don't and it gets out, I believe the boss will be very angry with you.'"

Cohen followed his advice.

In other developments, prosecutors argued Trump again violated a gag order, all while waiting to hear whether he would be held in contempt on other suspected violations.

N.Y.'s top appeals court overturns Weinstein's 2020 rape conviction

By Michael R. Sisak and Dave Collins
ASSOCIATED PRESS



Weinstein

NEW YORK — New York's highest court on Thursday threw out Harvey Weinstein's 2020 rape conviction with a ruling that shocked and disappointed women who celebrated historic gains during the #MeToo era and left those who testified in the case bracing for a retrial against the ex-movie mogul.

The court found the trial judge unfairly allowed testimony against Weinstein based on allegations that weren't part of the case.

Weinstein, 72, will remain in prison because he was convicted in Los Angeles in 2022 of another rape. The Manhattan district attorney's office said it intends to retry Weinstein.

The state Court of Appeals overturned Weinstein's 23-year sentence in a 4-3 decision, saying "the trial court erroneously admitted testimony of uncharged, alleged prior sexual acts." It called this "highly prejudicial" and "an abuse of judicial discretion."

In a stinging dissent, Judge Madeline Singas wrote that the Court of Appeals was continuing a "disturbing trend of overturning juries' guilty verdicts in cases involving sexual violence."

Weinstein has been in a New York prison since his conviction for forcibly performing oral sex on a TV and film production assistant in 2006, and rape in the third degree for an attack on an aspiring actress in 2013.

He was sentenced to 16 years in prison in the Los Angeles case. Weinstein's lawyers expect Thursday's ruling to have a major impact on the appeal of his Los Angeles rape conviction.

Weinstein lawyer Arthur Aidala called the Court of Appeals ruling "a tremendous victory for every criminal defendant in the state of New York."

Debra Katz, a prominent civil rights and #MeToo attorney who represented several Weinstein accusers, said her clients are "feeling gutted" but she believes — and is telling them — that their testimony had changed the world.

"People continue to come forward, people continue to support other victims who've reported sexual assault and violence, and I truly believe there's no going back from that," Katz said.

TSU

From page A1

"This is a candidate who combined two things that I wasn't sure we would see when we went out into this process," TSU Board of Regents Chairman Brandon Simmons said after the vote. "He's a statesman ... He's also someone who very thoughtfully puts students first. That was what caught a lot of us."

Crawford's experience in higher education administration is more recent, taking place after he left a naval career amid allegations that he attempted to meddle in the prosecution of a Navy SEAL accused of rape, according to the Navy Times. He served as Felician's interim president before taking a permanent position at the private Catholic university from 2021 to 2023, and while there, he oversaw major capital projects and advanced STEM education, Simmons said.

The vice admiral's military career had taken him to some of the highest posts in the country. He served as head of the Naval Legal Service Command, legal counsel to the chairman of the U.S. Department of Defense's joint chiefs of staff, and commander of the NATO Rule of Law Field Support in Afghanistan. Crawford was also the lead counsel to the principal military advisers of Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Crawford, 66, is a Charlotte, N.C., native. A graduate of Belmont Abbey College, he also obtained his law degree from the University of North Carolina and holds master's degrees in law as well as national security and strategic studies.

"I was taught that the most significant gift one can ever receive or give is the gift of service," Crawford said. "To be selected to be the finalist for the presidency of Texas Southern University, a proud and accomplished HBCU, is an honor beyond measure."

The regents will vote to make the decision permanent following a 21-day public comment period. If selected, Crawford will take the reins from Interim President Mary Sias, a board member with decades of higher education experience who was charged with stabilizing the university during its search for a new leader.



Brett Coomer/Staff file photo

TSU also is seeking to increase its research status within the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

TSU was among the dozens of historically Black colleges and universities that faced a troubling trend of presidential exits in the past couple years. Nearly a quarter of presidential seats at the nation's roughly 100 HBCUs had opened since 2022, two-time HBCU president Walter Kimbrough told the Washington Post last fall.

Simmons, board Vice Chair James Benham and other regents were enthusiastic Thursday about nabbing the nationally recognized lawyer. Benham, who led the presidential search committee, declined to confirm the number of applicants and finalists but said the group was lucky to choose from a pool of qualified candidates.

The committee included members such as Andrew Card, former Chief of Staff to Bush, and alumnus and "Good Morning America" host Michael Strahan. They sought a president who would work to improve student outcomes, prioritize how the university spends its resources, build trust with the community and expand TSU's reach on and off campus, according to recruitment documents. The regents also looked for longevity in its next administrator, Benham said.

"We had an incredible group with a mission, and that is to provide an extraordinary leader to Texas Southern University one who can provide stability to this university, one who can provide consistent leadership for an extended period of time," he said.

Former TSU President Lesia Crumpton-Young announced in 2023 that she would step down after serving in her role for two years. She left many initiatives in their early stages, setting ambitious goals for more students, higher graduation rates and increased research dollars.

Crumpton-Young also had been working to restore trust in Texas Southern after an admissions scandal in the law school toppled her predecessor, who had been in office for four years. As president, she found herself facing unrelated lawsuits, including a now-settled case from a former law school dean who alleged she was stripped of tenure without cause. The other involved a school police chief who sued to keep her job while facing an anonymous complaint that alleged she unlawfully raised several officers' salaries.

Recent history has made it critical that the next president delivers and shows the Texas Legislature that TSU is capable of remaining the state's sole four-year university to run independently and outside a broader system, said Corrie Williams, president of the TSU National Alumni Association. Crawford's naval experience might provide TSU some of the structure it's been seeking, she said.

"All eyes are on us," Williams said. "Everything we do, we have to get it right. I'm hoping this president is the person who can turn this ship around and guide us on the right path."

Crawford will inherit some of the issues Crumpton-Young left behind, even as many in the TSU community have credited Sias for progress made in the transition. Sias said Thursday that she sees a need for more on-campus housing, and six-year graduation rates remain far below the national average. About 20% of the 2017 undergraduate cohort graduated in six years, school officials said, compared to 62.2% nationally.

TSU also is seeking to increase its research standing alongside 10 other HBCUs that hold a "Research 2" status from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Higher status typically elicits prestige and larger federal grants, and HBCUs such as Texas Southern are attempting to overcome a history of underfunding from state and federal governments.

Several regents applauded Crawford on Thursday as a smart choice for furthering student and faculty initiatives, partly due to his emphasis in interviews on student services and faculty relationships.

Many alumni also celebrated the decision online, overwhelmingly remarking on his background and service even as a contingent had pushed for an internal or alumni hire throughout the search process. Several users on Facebook said they were uneasy with the court decision that coincided with his retirement from the military: The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in 2018 found he illegally placed pressure on an officer to convict a SEAL accused of raping a girlfriend, according to the Navy Times.

"I was asked about that, certainly," Crawford said of the case and the TSU interview process. "There's really no comment to offer there. I spent almost 30 years in an extraordinary organization as a U.S. naval officer. I was trusted to serve in that entire time, and I bring all those lessons and experiences in their fullest dimension to Texas Southern University."

The regents sought a person of integrity in its next president and conducted extensive vetting of their candidates, Benham said. The committee reviewed Crawford's background as well as cases he was involved in, and they obtained positive feedback from the former chair of the joint chiefs of staffs, the former chief of naval operations and the former chairman of the Felician University Board of Trustees. They also engaged alumni and considered the varying input on where they hoped to find a president.

Benham acknowledged that the stakes are high – and he affirmed the decision.

"Is it a critical hire? Yes. Is this the last independent university in Texas? Yes. Does that mean that we're subject to more scrutiny than other universities of our size that may be inside of a system? Absolutely," Benham said. "This is a critical position and we believe he is the right leader."

Texas Southern University will be different from the institutions Crawford has served, regardless. Crawford would oversee a population almost four times the size of his last university. TSU listed a $175 million operating budget for the 2024 fiscal year, and in fall 2023, the university enrolled 6,619 undergraduates and 1,850 graduate or professional students.

Crawford said he will leverage his experience at both small and large organizations to aid his vision of making Texas Southern a resilient and inclusive institution that promotes excellence in scholarship, teaching and research. The presidential announcement arrived on an appropriate day to back that mission, he said: TSU was celebrating a partnership with United Airlines that provides an employment pipeline for aviation students.

The sole finalist had not visited campus until the announcement Thursday, but he said he spoke extensively with stakeholders around the university.

"I have been struck by the sincerity of purpose and heart in these conversations," Crawford said. "It not only inspires me, but it tells me that I am truly in the right place."

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Scott remains a defendant in Astroworld lawsuit

By John Wayne Ferguson
STAFF WRITER

A Harris County District Court judge denied rapper Travis Scott's bid to be removed from the upcoming civil trial over the deaths and injuries that occurred at the 2021 Astroworld festival.

Judge Kristen Hawkins issued a series of orders Wednesday keeping the festival's headliner as a defendant in the lawsuit, while also removing other defendants that had sought summary judgment.

Ten people died and scores more were injured in the November 2021 music festival at NRG Park, when masses of people crowded in front of the stage Scott was performing on, crushing victims between bodies and security barriers.

The people who died ranged in ages from 9 to 27. All of them died from compression asphyxia.

Scott's attorneys had argued in a March motion that he didn't deserve to be a defendant in the lawsuit because his role was mostly as a performer and marketer, not a planner.

His bid for summary judgment was opposed by both the victims' lawyers and some of his co-defendants, who argued that Scott, his companies and associates, played critical roles in planning the concert and in alleged mistakes that happened once people in the crowd started getting hurt and killed.

Hawkins also ordered that ASM Global and its related companies, who manage NRG Park, remain as a defendant. The judge also rejected a second attempt by Apple Inc., to be removed from the litigation.

Seyth Boardman, the festival's safety and risk director, was also denied summary judgment.

Hawkins granted summary judgement for Tri Star Sports & Entertainment Group and Unified Command LLC, removing them from litigation.

In a hearing last week, Scott and other parties in the sprawling lawsuit argued they should be dismissed because the suing victims had failed to show evidence showing them potentially responsible for the tragedy, or had failed on other matters of law.

It was the second such hearing held in Hawkins' court. Earlier in the month, she issued another series of orders removing other defendants from the lawsuit, including the rapper Drake, who performed with Scott at the end of the concert.

The defendants who remain will likely now play a part in the first jury trial to occur over a death connected to the festival.

The first trial, scheduled to begin on May 6, will center on the death of Madison Dubiski, 23.

Last year, a Harris County grand jury declined to bring criminal charges against Scott and six other people involved in the concert.



Jamaal Ellis/Contributor

Travis Scott performs at the Astroworld Festival on Nov. 5, 2021, before the crowd crush.

DEPUTY

From page A1

born and raised in Houston. After high school, he joined the Army, where he served as a military policeman at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas.

In 2003, Coddou joined the Harris County Sheriff's Office, first as a detention officer, then as a patrol deputy starting in 2005. He patrolled Harris County's west side, including the Katy area, until he became an investigator in 2019.

As a deputy, Coddou was known as a caring person and mentor with a "gift for gab" and a talent for building relationships.

"He was that person that went over and beyond," said Joey Abeid, a sheriff's deputy investigator who worked with Coddou in their patrol days.

He showed this again after a major storm that had taken down a power line at Barker-Cypress and Clay. The storm was backing up traffic for a mile, said sheriff's Lt. Mike Nguyen, who patrolled the west side of the county with Coddou.

Coddou called Nguyen to come over and help drag the power line out of the way.

"I said 'That's crazy,'" Nguyen said. "But that's the kind of guy he was. He wanted to make sure that if you were a victim, that you were taken care of, that you got the proper report filed to get your case resolved. If something was in a roadway, he wanted to make sure that things were cleared out. So you're not just sitting there needlessly, so you can get to where you're going."

Coddou was known to sometimes patrol his area on a bicycle, his colleagues said. He earned the nickname "The General" from some of his friends, from the way he would call out orders on radio.

When he became an investigator in 2019, first in the robbery division and then in violent crimes, he was known to throw himself into his cases.

"He loved this type of work," said Ryan Hilz, a fellow deputy investigator. "John liked to go and dig. The hunt for the person who did it, getting what he needed to find the people responsible for these types of foul offenses, he just ate it up."

Outside of work, Coddou was an avid hunter and fisherman. He also enjoyed gardening, cooking and hosting his friends and family, his mother said.

Even in his hobbies, Coddou looked out for others, Hilz said. On their frequent hunting trips, Coddou was the early packer, having his gear ready a week before others had even started.

"He wanted to know everybody else that was going to be there, because he was packing stuff to make sure everybody else had stuff," Hilz said. "He would come with already cooked meals. He planned out everything."

When they reached their campsite, Coddou was also known for pulling out his hunting trip specialty: taco soup.

Coddou is survived by his wife, Kathleen, with whom he had just celebrated his 11th wedding anniversary. He is also survived by his mother and stepfather, Jim Harshfield; a sister, Michelle Coddou Kyzar, and her family; and a brother, Chris Harshfield.

He was preceded in death by his father, John Hampton Coddou Jr.

Coddou's body was escorted Thursday morning from the Harris County Institute of Forensic Science to a funeral home in Katy. A three-minute-long parade of police vehicles crossed Houston, shutting down major roads as it went by.

Funeral arrangements had not been announced as of Thursday afternoon.



Brett Coomer/Staff photographer

Law enforcement officers embrace Tuesday outside the Harris County Institute of Forensic Science as they paid their respects to fallen Sheriff's Deputy John Codduo.

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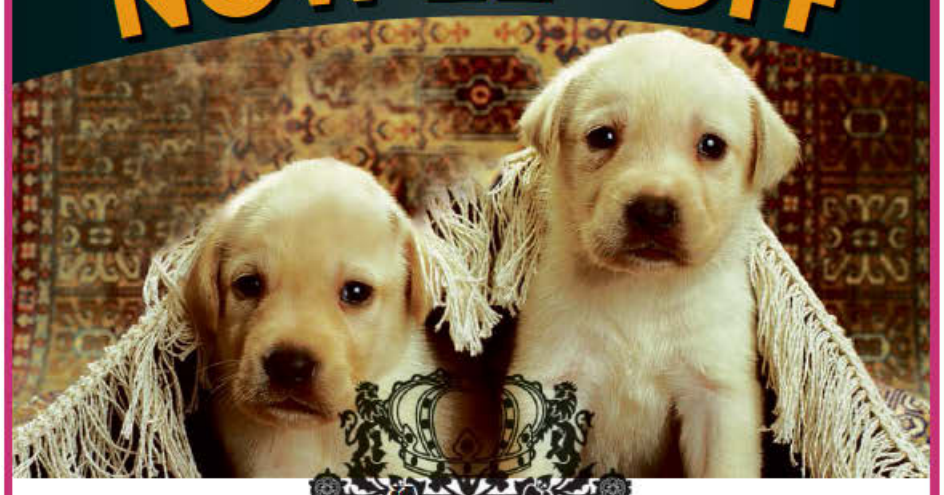
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OPINION

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Playing the lottery is like praying a Hail Mary

Religion may be waning in the U.S., but when it comes to the lottery, millions of people still have faith. Despite — or because of — odds so infinitesimal they're difficult for the human brain to fully grasp, half of Americans buy a lottery ticket at least once a year, and about 10% take their shot each week, making lotteries the most popular form of gambling in the country.



Regina Lankenau
ASSISTANT OP-ED EDITOR

My grandpa, Buelo, is one of those players. I can't remember how many times my family has played the "what would you do with $1 million?" game, each person's daydream bigger than the next. For Buelo, who's been fending for himself financially since he was 15, the answer has always been straightforward: He'd divvy up the money among his three children and 10 grandchildren.

Each week, when he takes his car to the wash and refills his tank, Buelo buys a lottery ticket. We grandkids knew that accompanying him (and helping him hand-dry his car) earned us a scratch-off ticket.

Each week, he loses. But at 82, he figures it can't hurt to keep playing, spending a few bucks here and there, if there's at least a *chance* he could win big. What other way could someone like him suddenly strike gold?

The fact is, the people most likely to play are often those with the least — or most — to spare. In a 2022 survey of Texas lottery players and non-players, the highest percentages of lottery players came from two very different income brackets: those making between $20,000 and $29,999, and those making more than $100,000.

Some people see the lottery as a voluntary tax on people who are bad at math; more consider it a rare equalizer. Whether filthy rich or dirt poor, you pick your numbers and, at least for a moment, hitch your hopes on the same thing: about a 1 in 300 million chance at the Powerball or Mega Millions jackpot, or a 1 in 26 million chance of winning Lotto Texas.

But what happens when the odds of snagging a $95 million Lotto Texas jackpot are tipped in favor of a statistics-savvy group with money to burn?

That's what happened last year, when a limited partnership called Rook TX was formed just in time to buy millions of tickets — nearly 26 million, to be exact — ahead of the April 22 lottery. They were able to stock up thanks to courier companies that let people buy tickets through an app and deliver them Doordash-style. Surprisingly, it's a totally legal arrangement that has brought big bucks to app-associated retailers — and the state lottery commission.

According to a recent Chronicle investigation, buying up every possible numeric combination gave Rook TX "a better than 9 in 10 chance of walking away as the sole winner of a $57.8 million payday" after taxes.

In other words, despite the Texas Lottery Commission insisting that the game provides an equal chance for all ticket-holders, Rook TX bought better odds. And it paid off — big time.

Understandably, some frequent lottery players were annoyed. Robert Anderson, a Texas transplant from New York who has invested a couple bucks a week into the lottery for over two decades, felt, well, rooked. "This smells of deception and fraud," he wrote in a recent letter to the editor. "The Texas Lottery Commission has a lot of work to do to regain the confidence of its lottery buyers."

Anderson was so disillusioned that he didn't buy a lottery ticket this week, he told me over the phone. I don't blame him.

"There's an inherent sense of fairness built into us," explained Daniel Levine, a psychology professor at the University of Texas at Arlington with expertise in decision theory and neural networks. "People often see themselves as upholding morality and get angry when someone violates those standards."

Especially so in a game of slim chance. By leaving this legal loophole wide open, Texas risks losing the very premise that makes the lottery so attractive: That *anyone* can win big with just a few dollars. What's the point of playing if some bigshot millionaire can all but buy the jackpot?

Alas, as another letter writer pointed out, the tale of "gaming the game" is old. Texas likely hasn't felt urgency to close that loophole because, at least for now, those events are rare. More importantly, they understand that while the news may cause temporary outrage, there will always be people willing to gamble on hope.

When I asked Anderson if the Rook TX win means he'll stop playing altogether, he laughed — a deep, throaty chuckle. "My wife would love that," he joked. But he's lost faith before. Namely, after failing to win despite his best attempts at having a strategy: looking at past winning number combinations and selecting numbers that haven't won.

"Sometimes the same numbers will win time and time again," he said. "There's no rhyme or reason to it. It's enough to drive you crazy."

The lack of rhyme or reason is exactly the point. The lottery, in mathematical terms, is a truly independent event, meaning no matter how often a number is drawn, it's just as likely — or not likely — to be drawn in the future. But that's hard for us humans to fathom. We love patterns. They're how we make sense of the world around us, and our recognition of them has helped get us to this point in evolution. Our brains are literally wired for belief against all odds.

Anderson, 84, is happily retired. If he hit the jackpot, he'd first use the money to donate to two Catholic churches that mean a lot to him. Then, like my own grandpa, he dreams of using those winnings to give his three sons peace of mind — a luxury he didn't always have when they were growing up.

"My wife used to make onion pies when meat was too expensive," he said. "Though we weren't poor, it just never felt like we could catch up."

When I asked Anderson, a practicing Catholic, whether he's tried praying to win the lottery, he said he hasn't. But in a way, he said, playing the lottery is a lot like praying a Hail Mary during a moment of desperation. "You just never know," he said, inadvertently quoting his own hometown lottery's famous motto.

Which is true. Even if the chance of winning is miniscule, it's always there. Next time my grandpa treats me to a scratch-off ticket, maybe I'll utter a Hail Mary.

Regina Lankenau is assistant op-ed editor and a member of the Houston Chronicle editorial board. She can be reached at regina.lankenau@houstonchronicle.com.



Staff file photo

Samir Prasla, owner/manager of Rudy's Stop & Shop, hands a customer their lottery ticket in March 2012 in Rosenberg.



ELECTIONS

Democrats should focus on blue-collar candidates

By Dustin Guastella

Democrats are struggling to win over working-class voters, which spells trouble for the party because these voters compose a commanding majority of the electorate. But Democrats' blue-collar blues also reflect a much larger problem: the total dominance of our government by the rich.

The United States has long been governed by millionaires. In 2020, more than half of all members of Congress were millionaires, including nearly two-thirds of senators. It's also true for more than 80% of those who have served as president, after adjusting for inflation.

In the tens of thousands of times that congressional seats have changed hands since 1789, lawyers have succeeded lawyers, millionaires have succeeded millionaires and millionaire-lawyers have succeeded millionaire-lawyers. But as Nicholas Carnes, a political science professor at Duke University, documented in his 2018 book, "The Cash Ceiling," "two former blue-collar workers have never served in the same U.S. House seat back-to-back."

Progressives often appeal for greater representation of women and minorities in government. Yet rarely is the case made for working-class lawmakers, even though the percentage of women and people of color who run for (and hold) public office far exceeds the percentage of ordinary workers who do the same. If members of the working class were proportionally represented in Congress, they would make up 60% to 70% of lawmakers, instead of the 2% to 5% that have historically won seats.

Unfortunately, Democrats don't seem likely to increase their number of working-class officeholders anytime soon. A new study I co-authored for the Center For Working Class Politics found that of the 925 Democratic candidates who competed in the 2022 midterm elections, only 2.3% worked exclusively in blue-collar jobs — in manufacturing, construction or the service sector — before entering politics. Expand that to include pink-collar workers — such as elementary and high school teachers, librarians, social workers and nurses — and that figure grows to a measly 5.9%.

(Don't count on Republicans for more working-class candidates, either. Despite their attempts to rebrand as worker-friendly, they increasingly draw from the uber-rich. Several GOP Senate candidates this year are multimillionaires. One, Jim Justice of West Virginia, might even be a billionaire.)

The lack of working-class representation matters. It means workers' political, economic and social interests have been shoved into the back seat while the wealthy drive the car. As CWCP will show in a forthcoming study, only 18% of Democratic political ads from 2022 mentioned jobs at all. Less than 2% mentioned the need for good, high-paying, living-wage or union jobs, and issues such as reshoring manufacturing and implementing a bold industrial policy were virtually absent.

Even President Joe Biden's own signature economic policies barely registered. Candidates were 6.5 times as likely to talk about abortion as the Inflation Reduction Act, the Chips Act or the bipartisan infrastructure law. No wonder many working-class voters don't think Democrats represent their interests on the campaign trail.

In 2020, Democrats lost the non-college-educated working-class vote by four percentage points, and recent polls suggest that deficit could worsen in November. Fixing the party's reputation among working-class voters won't be easy, but recruiting and running working-class candidates could be a good first step for three reasons:

First, it's good politics. The Democratic Party needs to win swing-states, especially Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — home to a disproportionate share of working-class voters. Our research has shown that such voters prefer working-class candidates over those from elite backgrounds. These candidates are more prone to highlight working-class interests on the campaign trail, such as jobs, wages and making big investments in left-behind regions. And our findings show that when Democrats put forward a strong pro-worker message, they can win crucial working-class toss-up districts.

Second, working-class officeholders are good policymakers. Compared with their elite counterparts, politicians from working-class backgrounds are likelier to pursue the sort of progressive economic agenda that Biden has tried to champion. They can provide a needed counterweight to the profound influence that the rich have in the halls of power.

Third, working-class candidates are surprisingly well-suited to challenging Republicans on their home turf. Cycle after cycle, Democrats pour energy and money into their own liberal backyards, home to the richest congressional districts in the country. By focusing on running up the score in safe, affluent blue districts, the party has neglected huge swaths of small-town and rural America, where many working-class voters struggle to get by. These voters rarely hear political appeals from the left, but there's no reason working-class Democrats can't go toe-to-toe with the GOP in Trumpland. Who better to challenge hedge-fund corporate executives than candidates drawn from the working class?

The good news is that efforts to recruit and run working-class candidates, with a pro-worker campaign message, have been successful. The New Jersey state affiliate of the AFL-CIO has helped train and run more than 1,000 working-class candidates — from City Hall to Congress — and boasts an impressive 77% success rate. Democrats ought to emulate that model if they are to have any hope of winning our democracy back from the grip of the rich.

Dustin Guastella is a research associate at the Center for Working Class Politics and the director of operations for Teamsters Local 623 in Philadelphia. This piece originally appeared in the Washington Post.

BIBLE VERSE:

Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

Proverbs 4:27

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SPORTS

HOUSTONCHRONICLE.COM • FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024 • SECTION B



Nam Y. Huh/Associated Press

Astros reliever Bryan Abreu allowed a tie-breaking home run to the Cubs' Pete Crow-Armstrong in the sixth inning of Chicago's victory Thursday afternoon.

CUBS 3, ASTROS 1

No relief in sight

Abreu surrenders tiebreaking homer, while bats stay quiet as losing streak hits five

By Matt Kawahara
STAFF WRITER

CHICAGO — Another anemic output by the Astros' offense Thursday left the thinnest of margins for their pitching staff to navigate. An embattled bullpen proved unable.

Cubs prospect Pete Crow-Armstrong crushed a tie-breaking two-run home run against Bryan Abreu in the sixth inning that sank the Astros to a 3-1 loss and three-game sweep at Wrigley Field, extending a dismal start to their season.

Houston is 7-19. It is the Astros' second-worst record after 26 games in franchise history, excepting only their 1969 team, which started 6-20. This year's team has been swept in four of its first eight series.

"I don't think it's easy on anybody," said starter Justin Verlander, who worked 4⅓ scoreless innings. "We've dug ourselves in a hole. You've got to fight. Got to be ready to fight, got to scratch and claw our way out of this, do whatever's necessary."

The Astros took a 1-0 lead into the sixth inning. Reliever Rafael Montero, who had stranded two inherited runners in the fifth, returned to start it. Dansby Swanson struck a leadoff single and stole second. Nick Madrigal's comebacker caromed off Montero's glove for a single.

Miguel Amaya hit a sinking line drive to right field that eluded Kyle Tucker, who threw Madrigal out at

Astros continues on B5

UP NEXT

ASTROS VS. ROCKIES

When/where: 5:05 p.m. Saturday in Mexico City.

TV/radio: SCHN; 790 AM, 93.3 FM (Spanish), 1010 AM (Spanish).

INSIDE

Valdez to return Sunday for Mexico City start. **B5**

NFL DRAFT

30 years later, diss is still felt

A&M's Alberts' role small yet pivotal

By Greg Rajan
STAFF WRITER

It might be hard to believe for those of a younger generation, but the NFL draft wasn't always considered must-see TV.

In 1980, ESPN president Chet Simmons asked league commissioner Pete Rozelle about broadcasting the draft live and Rozelle's retort was to ask Simmons why anybody would want to watch it, according to "Those Guys Have All the Fun," the definitive history of ESPN by James Andrew Miller and Tom Shales.

But Rozelle acquiesced and the first televised draft came in the spring of 1980.

"Rozelle wound up giving ESPN the rights to televise that first draft at no charge," author and football historian Michael MacCambridge said. "Which I think is the last time the NFL gave anybody anything at no charge."

But 30 years ago — Wednesday

Draft continues on B2



Gregory Shamus/TNS

NO SHOCK AT NO. 1

As expected, the Chicago Bears pick USC quarterback Caleb Williams with the top overall selection

COVERAGE AT HOUSTONCHRONICLE.COM/SPORTS

NFL DRAFT

Rounds 2-3: 6 p.m. Friday.
Rounds 4-7: 11 a.m. Saturday.
TV: ABC, ESPN, NFL.

TEXANS' PICKS

RD.	PICK
2	42, 59
3	86
4	123, 127
6	188, 189
7	238, 247

DRAFT UPDATES

For our latest draft coverage, scan this code.

Cooper set to 'put on a show'

LB made steady rise to stardom at A&M

By Brent Zwerneman
STAFF WRITER

COLLEGE STATION — About midway through last season, Texas A&M's Edgerrin Cooper was informed he graded out to that point as the nation's top college linebacker via a sports analytics publication, a recognition Cooper shrugged off like it were an opposing tight end.

"That means a lot, but I never want to just be satisfied," Cooper responded. "I just want to find out what I can do better and just separate myself more and more from the others."

Cooper did exactly that over the second half of last season and emerged as one of the top linebackers — if not the top — in the NFL draft that cranked up with the first round Thursday night and continues with the second and third rounds Friday. The draft, held this year in Detroit, concludes with the fourth

Cooper continues on B2

NFL DRAFT

FIRST ROUND



Jeff Roberson/Associated Press

LSU QB and 2023 Heisman winner Jayden Daniels displays a Commanders jersey Thursday.

QBs are the first three selections

By Rob Maaddi
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Caleb Williams is heading to the Windy City, aiming to become the franchise quarterback Chicago has sought for decades.

The Bears selected Williams with the No. 1 overall pick in the NFL draft on Thursday night after deciding weeks ago to bank on the 2022 Heisman Trophy winner from USC.

The Washington Commanders followed up by taking 2023 Heisman Trophy winner Jayden Daniels from LSU and the New England Patriots took North Carolina's Drake Maye at No. 3, making it the fourth draft with quarterbacks going with the first three picks.

It matched 2021 (Trevor Lawrence, Zach Wilson, Trey Lance), 1971 (Jim Plunkett, Archie Manning, Dan Pastorini) and 1999 (Tim Couch, Donovan McNabb, Akili Smith).

The Arizona Cardinals snapped the trend, choosing Ohio State wide receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. with the fourth pick.

Wearing a navy suit with silver accents, Williams swiftly walked on stage and screamed "Woooo! Yeah!" before giving Roger Goodell a bear hug, careful not to squeeze too hard because the NFL commissioner had back surgery three weeks ago.

Rap icon Eminem walked on stage in a Lions sweatshirt and cap shortly after Goodell to kick off the night. The Motor City native riled up the fans before turning it over to Lions stars Jared Goff, Aidan Hutchinson, Amon-Ra St. Brown and Hall of Famers Barry Sanders and Calvin Johnson.

St. Brown led them in chanting "Jar-ed Goff!" and Johnson kept it short: "Whaddup doe?"

An estimated crowd of 150,000, many wearing their Honolulu blue Lions jerseys, filled the streets surrounding the draft theater and turned the NFL's biggest offseason event into a giant party.

Williams is the third quarterback Chicago has selected in the first round in the past eight years. Mitch Trubisky, the No. 2 overall pick in 2017, lasted four seasons. Justin Fields, the 11th pick in 2021, was traded away for a conditional sixth-round pick after three seasons.

The 22-year-old Williams is tasked with turning the Bears into a winner after years of futility. Chicago has had just two winning seasons since its most recent playoff victory in the 2010 season.

Williams was the clear front-runner in a quarterback-rich draft that includes Daniels, Maye and J.J. McCarthy. The Bears didn't meet with any other QBs and Williams didn't visit any other teams.

The 23-year-old Daniels, who played five seasons at Arizona State, gives the Commanders a potential franchise QB after leading the nation in total offense last season with 4,946 yards. A do-it-all player, Daniels ranked fifth with 3,812 yards passing and with 40 touchdowns.

Maye is the second QB the Patriots have selected in the first round since Tom Brady left the team after the 2019 season. Mac Jones didn't work out and now it's Maye's turn to be the man in a new era that starts without Bill Belichick.

Harrison, the son of Hall of Fame receiver Marvin Harrison, caught 67 passes for 1,211 yards and 14 touchdowns in his final season with the Buckeyes.

Notre Dame offensive tackle Joe Alt was taken with the fifth pick by the Chargers and new coach Jim Harbaugh, and LSU receiver Malik Nabers was picked sixth by the New York Giants.

DRAFT

From page B1

is the exact anniversary — was when the draft arguably truly hit it big on television, with Texas A&M athletic director Trev Alberts providing the unexpected inflection point to what became one of the most memorable soundbites in NFL history: *"Who in the hell is Mel Kiper anyway?"*

"It is properly understood as one of the important milestones in the growth of the popularity of the NFL draft," MacCambridge said of the war of words between ESPN analyst Mel Kiper Jr. and Indianapolis Colts general manager Bill Tobin.

'It's a typical Colt move'

The Colts, fresh off their 10th season in the Circle City after moving from Baltimore, were by and large an afterthought among NFL fans. In 1994, for the second time in three years, they held two top-10 draft picks after trading quarterback Jeff George to Atlanta. Kiper had been quoted in Indianapolis newspapers leading up to the draft saying the Colts needed to draft a quarterback despite signing veteran Jim Harbaugh in free agency, with Tennessee's Heath Shuler and Fresno State's Trent Dilfer the top prospects.

"Kiper had been building up two weeks prior to the draft about having to take a quarterback," Tobin told NFL Films in a 2018 retrospective. "I was of the opinion that I was running the Colts and not anybody on a network."

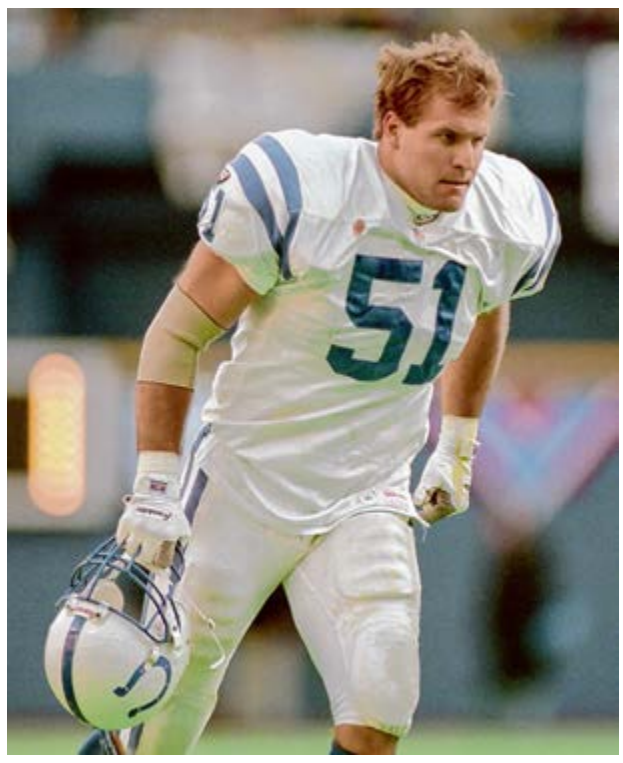
So with the second overall pick, the Colts drafted San Diego State running back Marshall Faulk. That prompted the first salvo from Kiper during the ESPN broadcast.

"He's a great back, but I strongly disagree with this pick," Kiper said. "It's not any criticism at all of Marshall Faulk — the Colts have to come out of this draft with a quarterback and if they don't, they're ripe for some criticism."

But in terms of TV, things got better after the Colts traded up from seventh to fifth, ostensibly to draft a QB. Except they took Alberts, the All-American linebacker who'd helped Nebraska come within a win of a national championship the previous fall.

That set Kiper off on an on-air rant theretofore rarely seen in the televised draft era.

"I think it's a typical Colt move," he said. "Here's a team that needed a franchise quarterback. To pass up a Trent Dilfer when all you have is Jim Harbaugh — give me a break. That's why the Colts are picking second every year in the draft, not battling for the Super Bowl like the other clubs in the National Football League."



George Gojkovich/Getty Images



Bob Langer/Associated Press



Scott Winters/Icon Sportswire

The selection of Trev Alberts, top, at No. 5 in the 1994 NFL draft by former Colts GM Bill Tobin earned the criticism of ESPN's Mel Kiper.

Fellow analyst Joe Theismann, on the set with Kiper, told NFL Films his reaction was "'Whoa, Mel, where are you going, babe?' Mild-mannered Mel, all of a sudden, here he comes."

Soon after, ESPN cut to reporter Chris Mortensen in Indianapolis with Tobin. Mortensen asked for Tobin's response to criticism about not taking a quarterback and set off a powder keg.

"Well, we got a guy up here ... who in the hell is Mel Kiper anyway?" Tobin said. "I mean, here's a guy who criticizes everybody, whoever they take. He's got the answers to who you should take and who you shouldn't take. In my knowledge of him, he's never ever put on a jockstrap. He's never been a coach. He's never been a scout, he's never been an administrator and all of a sudden he's an expert.

"He's in our papers two days ago telling us who we have to take. We don't have to take anybody that Mel Kiper says we have to take. Mel Kiper has no more credentials to do what he's doing than my neighbor and my neighbor's a postman and he doesn't even have season tickets to the NFL."

Continuing the back and forth, Kiper was given a chance to respond

"I'm secure in my position," he said. "Obviously, Bill Tobin is not very secure in his position to have a response like that. ... To me, it's a mistake. You cannot go with Jim Harbaugh and pass up Trent Dilfer. Forget it. That's why the Colts are the laughingstock of the league year in and year out."

After Kiper concluded, host Chris Berman, realizing the magnitude of the moment, slyly grinned into the camera and echoing President Franklin D. Roosevelt's words after the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, said "April 24, 1994: A day that will live in infamy."

Providing hope

In terms of historical perspective, MacCambridge said he viewed the Kiper/Tobin rhubarb as "sort of the proof that the network analyst, in this case Kiper, was becoming a force to be reckoned with. And we were sort of getting to the point where, could you still dismiss him as some nerd running numbers in his mom's basement?

"Yeah, you could, but it was also becoming clear he had sources, he did his homework to the extent that any draft prognosticator knows what they're talking about, certainly for that time, Mel Kiper was nearly as well informed as a lot of NFL personnel people because he was spending all year working on this and talking to personnel people all year."

In the decades since, the NFL draft has gone from a sleepy event held in hotel ballrooms to arguably the biggest tent pole on the NFL's offseason calendar, now televised by multiple networks and turned into an event that cities clamor to host, a far cry to the lack of interest 40-plus years ago.

"Even when we realized all the interest in the draft, and Kiper/Tobin was a key milestone in that, nobody was saying, 'Oh, they ought to do this in prime time' or they ought to spread this out over three days," MacCambridge said. "But that's what it's become. And that's what it's become for all that we criticize the NFL for doing greedy things like having a 17th regular-season game when there are no serious football fans who wanted such a thing or playing Christmas games on a Wednesday just because they can, the fact is the NFL draft is one of the single most popular sporting events in America.

"And it will get ratings commensurate with big NBA playoff games or March Madness games or even postseason baseball games because the interest is so great and because the NFL has a salary cap, a salary floor and an unbalanced schedule that means the best team from last year have the toughest schedule this year. For all those reasons, there is hope that exists for fans of all 32 teams, even historically inept teams. The obvious example is the Houston Texans. A year ago at this time, they were still a laughingstock. And look at where they are now, being talked about as a Super Bowl contender."

The memory remains

The 30th anniversary of the Kiper/Tobin dust-up comes amid sadness.

Mortensen died in March at 72 after battling Stage 4 throat cancer for eight years. On Friday, Tobin died at 83 after a long run as an NFL talent evaluator and executive, finishing his career as a scout for the Bengals.

Tobin's death prompted a tribute from Kiper, who's maintained he never took exception to Tobin's barbs in 1994.

"A sad day with the passing of Bill Tobin, an accomplished front office executive who made the NFL a better league during his decorated career," Kiper posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. "Kim and I send our sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones."

As it turned out, both Kiper and Tobin were both right in 1994.

Faulk had a Hall of Fame career. Because of injuries, Alberts only played three NFL seasons before retiring, transitioning into media and later college athletics administration, leaving his alma mater Nebraska for Texas A&M last month.

Harbaugh backed up Tobin's faith in him by leading the Colts on an unlikely run to the 1995 AFC championship game against Pittsburgh, falling a Hail Mary short of the Super Bowl. Dilfer had a journeyman career and did win a Super Bowl, in 2000 with Baltimore, where Kiper is based.

"Of all the things in my career, that might be the one people want to talk about the most," Tobin said of the 1994 draft.

And 30 years later, it could be argued the NFL draft hasn't been the same since.

COOPER

From page B1

through seventh rounds Saturday.

"Whoever wants me," Cooper said, "I'm ready to put on a show."

He did so at A&M over the past three seasons, although the Aggies were 20-17 in that span and failed to compete for a Southeastern Conference title, which is why Cooper isn't more of a household name entering the draft.

He's familiar to NFL personnel, however. They saw his playmaking ability as he led the SEC with 17 tackles for lost yards in 2023. His eight sacks were good for fifth in the conference.

"He's a capable quarterback spy, can blitz the pocket and will be an instant hit on special teams," Cooper's NFL.com scouting report reads. "Teams will need to balance the inconsistencies with (his) passionate run-and-hit mentality."

In an age of rampant transfers, Cooper (6-2, 230 pounds) is a study in staying the course with a program and having good things result. As a true freshman at A&M in 2020, he primarily played on special teams with zero starts, and as a redshirt freshman a season later, he made one start in the 8-4 Aggies' dozen games.

Despite his backup status that 2021 season, Cooper's 58 tackles were fourth on the team under then-defensive coordinator Mike Elko, hired by A&M in November to take over as head coach for the fired Jimbo Fisher. Elko spent the past two seasons at Duke in leading the Blue Devils to a 16-9 record, all while observing the progress long distance of his former four-star recruit from Covington, La.



Sam Craft/Associated Press

Edgerrin Cooper was Texas A&M's first linebacker to earn All-America honors since Dat Nguyen in 1998.

"When you watch him on film, he's everything you want an NFL linebacker to be," Elko said this spring. "He's got unbelievable speed, twitch and athleticism, and he's a great blitzer who can cover. We saw a little bit of that my last year (at A&M in 2021) when he was a freshman, and I told him it was great to see him grow and see what he's become.

"He's going to make an NFL franchise proud they drafted him, for sure."

Cooper, who led the Aggies with 83 tackles in 2023, became A&M's first pure linebacker to earn consensus first-team All-America honors since Dat Nguyen in 1998. Von Miller, another consensus first-team All-American, played a linebacker/defensive end hybrid for the Aggies from 2007-2010.

Miller was the second overall selection of the 2011 NFL draft to the Broncos and developed into a Super Bowl Most Valuable Player with Denver, starring in its 24-10 win over the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl 50 in February 2016.

Following the best season by an A&M linebacker this century (despite the Aggies' lack of overall success under Fisher), Cooper opted to bypass his senior year and turn pro. He said he has tried to model his game after San Francisco 49ers standout Fred Warner, who's earned NFL All-Pro honors the past three seasons.

"We have similar body styles, and just playing sideline to sideline and being able to make plays," Cooper said of his desire to emulate Warner.

Other A&M players angling to be drafted over the next two days are defensive lineman McKinnley Jackson, receiver Ainias Smith of Dulles High and offensive lineman Layden Robinson of Manvel. Jackson kidded that any NFL team should realize he and Cooper are a package deal.

"If you take him, you've got to take me, too, because he wouldn't be what he is without me," Jackson said with a laugh. "(We're) just a dynamic duo."

First-round picks have been hit or miss

By Greg Rajan
STAFF WRITER

For the first time since 2021, the Texans do not hold a first-round pick because of a trade with the Vikings.

But Houston hit the jackpot last season with C.J. Stroud and Will Anderson Jr., who were voted Offensive and Defensive Rookie of the Year, respectively.

That led us to re-examine how we'd rank the first-round picks in franchise history. So here's a ranking of those premium draft selections from 2002-23, from the very worst to the very best an explanation of why.



Brett Coomer/Staff photographer

The Texans hit the jackpot last year in C.J. Stroud, left, and Will Anderson Jr., but there have been several years when the first-rounders didn't play out as anticipated.

22. Kevin Johnson
CB, 2015, 16th overall

A combination of injuries and ineffectiveness, with a heavy emphasis on the former. After being drafted out of Wake Forest, Johnson started 10 games his rookie season. That would turn out to be his high-water mark as a Texan. The injury list in Houston included two foot surgeries, wrist surgery and then a pair of concussions, including one in the preseason, that limited him to one game in 2018, his final season with the Texans.

21. Travis Johnson
DT, 2005, 16th

Relatively little impact as a Texan, with two sacks in four seasons. The Florida State product started 38 of 54 games in Houston and the Texans only received a sixth-round pick for him from the Chargers in a trade during the 2009 preseason. What makes things worse is Aaron Rodgers was one of the players the Texans passed on to draft Johnson.

20. Kenyon Green
OG, 2022, 15th

Largely because his body of work remains incomplete two years into his career. Texans general manager Nick Caserio traded down to draft the former Texas A&M and Atascocita standout, who missed all of the 2023 season because of injury. His rookie season was so-so, meaning he'll be on the spot in 2024 to show he can be a long-term piece for the Texans.

19. David Carr
QB, 2002, 1st

He really had no chance to succeed with an expansion team. Carr was pulverized as a rookie, getting sacked an NFL-record 76 times as a rookie behind a substandard offensive line. The Fresno State alum's best TD-to-interception ratio in five seasons as the Texans' starter was 16/14 in 2004. After one season with Carr as their QB, coach Gary Kubiak and GM Rick Smith opted to trade for Matt Schaub and cut Carr loose. In hindsight, the Texans might've been better served to draft Julius Peppers, who went second overall to Carolina and had a Hall of Fame career.

18. Jason Babin
DE, 2004, 27th

He played OK in Houston, but just wasn't around very long. The Texans paid a heavy price to trade up and get Babin, trading second-, third- and fourth-round picks while swapping fifths with the Titans. The Western Michigan product started 16 games in his rookie season and recorded four sacks, a feat he duplicated in 2005, albeit starting only three games. Babin started just three games in 2006. He was then traded to Seattle before the 2007 season for safety Michael Boulware.

17. Amobi Okoye
DE, 2007, 10th

He wasn't around long enough to make much of an impact. Okoye was selected out of Louisville at just 19 years old as the youngest draftee in NFL history. He was a four-year regular for the Texans, starting all but four of his 62 games in a Houston uniform. But when defensive coordinator Wade Phillips brought a 3-4 alignment with him in 2011, Okoye wasn't a fit and left in free agency.

16. Tytus Howard
OT, 2019, 23rd

The jury is still out on him. It would help if the Texans picked a position for Howard and let him get settled there. A promising rookie season ended early because of injury. He started 21 games at right tackle his first two seasons before yo-yoing between tackle and guard in 2021. Howard started all 17 games for the Texans in 2022, with two at guard. But after signing a contract extension before the 2023 season, he was limited to seven games because of injuries.

15. Derek Stingley Jr.
CB, 2022, 3rd

Primarily because of the time he's missed with injury (14 games in two seasons). The former LSU standout showed flashes of being a shutdown corner at times in 2023, and a whole season of such play would go a long way to making him a building block for DeMeco Ryans' defense.

14. Will Fuller
WR, 2016, 12th

The speedster from Notre Dame was fairly productive when healthy. The problem was him staying healthy. Fuller kept team doctors busy, as he never played a full 16 games in any of his five Texans seasons. The most was his 13 as a rookie in 2016. When healthy and paired with Deshaun Watson, Fuller showed he could be a dangerous deep threat. His Texans tenure ended with a six-game suspension for violating the NFL's performance-enhancing drug policy late in 2020.

13. Whitney Mercilus
LB, 2012, 26th

The Illinois product was a solid, reliable pro, but not spectacular. He was a good late first-round find by GM Rick Smith. After becoming a full-time starter in his second year, Mercilus was a nice complement to the game-wrecking J.J. Watt, peaking at 12 sacks in 2015. Mercilus was the recipient of a curious contract extension from coach/personnel czar Bill O'Brien in 2019, and the deal didn't age well. The Texans and Mercilus parted ways six games into the 2021 season and he moved on to Green Bay before retiring after that season.

12. Brian Cushing
LB, 2009, 15th

He was a productive, albeit controversial player in Houston whose career wasn't quite the same after back-to-back seasons with knee injuries. The former USC standout had an immediate impact, starting 16 games and winning NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year honors. But the following offseason, he was suspended four games for violating the NFL's performance-enhancing drug policy. He kept his DROY award after an unprecedented re-vote, but lost his All-Pro spot. The saga included Cushing claiming an "overtrained athlete syndrome" defense that medical experts scoffed at and an unsuccessful appeal to commissioner Roger Goodell. After a solid 2011 season, Cushing saw each of his next two seasons shortened by knee injuries.

11. Dunta Robinson
CB, 2004, 10th

A good player whose departure was a blow to the Texans. The South Carolina alum was an immediate starter and recorded six interceptions to earn All-Rookie honors. He didn't come close to those pick numbers again but was a solid presence in the secondary, covering opponents' top receivers. After using the franchise tag on him in 2009, the Texans let Robinson walk the following year and he signed a six-year deal with the Falcons. The Texans' pass defense cratered after Robinson left, leading to the signing of Johnathan Joseph in arguably the best free-agent addition in team history.

10. Kareem Jackson
CB, 2010, 20th

He was a solid player for nearly a decade in Houston. Drafted fresh off winning a national title at Alabama, Jackson struggled as a rookie on a terrible Texans defense. But he improved and teamed with veteran Johnathan Joseph to give the Texans a reliable cornerback tandem as the franchise grew into a playoff contender. The Texans didn't offer Jackson a contract after the 2018 season and he left for Denver.

9. Jadaveon Clowney
DE, 2014, 1st

He was a productive player, albeit one who could never live up to the predraft hype. Clowney, a physical specimen at 6-foot-5 and 255 pounds who was touted as a generational prospect at South Carolina, battled injuries early in his Texans career, needing microfracture knee surgery after just four games in his rookie season and then missing a playoff game in 2015. But he became a three-time Pro Bowl selection for the Texans, with back-to-back seasons of at least 9 sacks while also being a stout run defender. Unfortunately, he could never meet the outsized expectations of some fans. His Texans tenure ended with a 2019 trade to Seattle that saw then-coach O'Brien not get full value because Clowney was traded after the deadline to sign players on franchise tags to long-term deals.

8. Mario Williams
DE, 2006, 1st

He was a productive, impactful player who validated the faith the Texans put in him. The Texans opted for the North Carolina State standout over the more ballyhooed Reggie Bush and Vince Young, college stars whose USC and Texas teams had just faced off for the national title. Williams started all 82 games he played for the Texans, with seasons of 14 and 12 sacks in 2007 and 2008, respectively. He was selected to two Pro Bowls while in Houston. He missed the Texans' first playoff run in 2011 with a torn pectoral muscle and then left that offseason for Buffalo on a six-year, $96 million deal.

7. Will Anderson Jr.
DE, 2023, 3rd

Because he was strong out of the gate for the Texans, winning Defensive Rookie of the Year, joining Cushing and his coach Ryans as the only Texans to win the award. Based on 2023, Anderson figures to be a Texans staple for a long time.

6. Duane Brown
OT, 2008, 26th

He's the best offensive lineman in franchise history. The former Virginia Tech standout was a plug-and-play starter at left tackle from day one. He made three Pro Bowls and was a first team All-Pro selection during the Texans' best season in 2012. But things got sideways between Brown and the Texans in 2017, when he held out to get his contract restructured. The Texans refused and a standoff ensued that saw Brown return for one game before being traded to Seattle. It could be argued that the trade was the impetus for O'Brien wildly overpaying two years later for Laremy Tunsil, giving up premium draft capital they sorely needed.

5. Deshaun Watson
QB, 2017, 12th

He was the best quarterback in franchise history who should've been in Houston for at least a decade, only to see things implode between the team and its most indispensable player. Watson's name isn't a catalyst for kind words from many Texans fans these days, but after being acquired in a draft-day trade with Cleveland, the former Clemson star provided dynamic QB play the city hadn't seen since Warren Moon's heyday. The Texans twice won division titles with Watson under center and he figured to be a long-term cornerstone after signing a four-year extension in 2020. But he never played game under that contract after a rift with the franchise in January 2021 and then 26 civil lawsuits filed against him alleging sexual assault and/or harassment.

4. DeAndre Hopkins
WR, 2013, 27th

A late first-round steal who emerged as one of the NFL's best at his position. A look back at the bust-filled 2013 draft shows Hopkins undoubtedly would be the No. 1 pick if a first-round redraft occurred. The Clemson product was durable and productive (three 100-catch seasons) in a Houston uniform, earning three straight first team All-Pro selections. The Texans balked at his request to renegotiate his contract and O'Brien traded Hopkins to Arizona in a lopsided March 2020 deal considered one of the worst in league history.

3. C.J. Stroud
QB, 2023, 2nd

Because the two guys ahead of him are awaiting induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Stroud had arguably the best rookie season for a quarterback in NFL history, helping transform what had been a moribund Texans team. It's hard to find much to quibble about Stroud's rookie year. With the Texans improving the weapons around him, he could be a top-five QB in the NFL in 2024. After 20-plus seasons, Houston finally may have a long-term answer at the most important position in the sport.

2. Andre Johnson
WR, 2003, 3rd

He's the first star in franchise history and has a case for being the greatest Texan. Johnson isn't really No. 2 but more 1B. The national champion from Miami shined on some hopeless Texans squads while never playing with a true star at quarterback. Despite that, Johnson was a two-time selection on the All-Pro first team and made seven Pro Bowls in his 12 Texans seasons. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2024, making him the first Texans player to earn that accolade.

1. J.J. Watt, DE, 2011, 11th

He's the most decorated player in franchise history and an undisputed first-ballot Hall of Famer. In a league dominated by quarterbacks, Watt became the rare defensive player who was the face of his franchise. He won three Defensive Player of the Year awards from 2012-15 and was the runner-up for NFL MVP in 2014. No defensive player has received an MVP vote since. While Watt ran into injury issues in his later seasons with the Texans, he was as dominant as they come his first five years. In 2018, he returned after two injury-plagued seasons to be a first team All-Pro selection for the fifth time. His career ended following the 2022 season after two years in Arizona, but he'll be synonymous with the Texans and barring something stunning, will be a first-ballot electee to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2028.

WHO WENT WHEN? TEST YOUR MEMORY

Barring a trade, the Texans will be drafting 42nd overall instead of 23rd this year after trading down to acquire two second-round picks, one in 2024 and one in 2025. Is there any big difference in those draft spots? The Texans say no, and the largely nondescript choices taken at each over the last 10 years suggests there isn't. Take our quiz and see how many you can recall being either 23 or 42:

2014
Dee Ford, LB, Auburn
Jordan Matthews, WR, Vanderbilt

2015
Jalen Collins, CB, LSU
Shane Ray, DE, Missouri

2016
Kamalei Correa, DE, Boise St.
Laquon Treadwell, WR, Mississippi

2017
Evan Engram, TE, Missouri
Marcus Williams, S, Utah

2018
Mike Gesicki, TE, Penn St.
Isaiah Wynn, OT, Georgia

2019
Tytus Howard, OT, Alabama St.
Drew Luck, QB, Missouri

2020
Kenneth Murray, LB, Oklahoma
Laviska Shenault Jr., WR, Colorado

2021
Christian Darrisaw, OL, Virginia Tech
Liam Eichenberg, OL, Notre Dame

2022
Andrew Booth, CB, Clemson
Kaiir Elam, CB, Florida

2023
Jordan Addison, WR, USC
Luke Musgrave, TE, Oregon St.

Steve Schaeffer

Answers

2014
Ford: 23 to Chiefs
Matthews: 42 to Eagles
2015
Collins: 42 to Falcons
Ray: 23 to Broncos
2016
Correa: 42 to Ravens
Treadwell: 23 to Vikings
2017
Engram: 23 to Giants
Williams: 42 to Saints
2018
Gesicki: 42 to Dolphins
Wynn: 23 to Patriots
2019
Howard: 23 to Texans
Luck: 42 to Broncos
2020
Murray: 23 to Chargers
Shenault Jr.: 42 to Jaguars
2021
Darrisaw: 23 to Vikings
Eichenberg: 42 to Dolphins
2022
Booth: 42 to Vikings
Elam: 23 to Bills
2023
Addison: 23 to Vikings
Musgrave: 42 to Packers

NBA NOTEBOOK



Nate Billings/Associated Press

Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 33 points as top-seeded Oklahoma City beat New Orleans to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round Western Conference playoff series.

Thunder stay hot in Game 2

WIRE REPORTS

OKLAHOMA CITY — Just a few days ago, the Oklahoma City Thunder looked like a young team struggling through their first playoff game together.

On Wednesday night, they looked like grizzled playoff veterans.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 33 points and the top-seeded Thunder beat the New Orleans Pelicans 124-92 to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round Western Conference playoff series.

Gilgeous-Alexander said the Thunder remained focused instead of worrying about outside issues such as other highly seeded teams struggling at home.

"I think it just goes back to us prioritizing winning," he said. "And all those things are distractions that get in the way of winning. And every night, all 15 of us go to bed and to win the next game, want to win the next day. And we do everything we can to do so."

Chet Holmgren had 26 points and seven rebounds and Jalen Williams added 21 points for the Thunder, who shot 59% from the field and made 14 of 29 3-pointers.

Game 3 is Saturday in New Orleans.

Herro leads Heat to Game 2 win

Tyler Herro had 24 points and 14 assists, hitting six of Miami's franchise playoff-record 23 3-pointers, to lead the Heat to a 111-101 victory over the Boston Celtics on Wednesday night and tie their first-round playoff series at one game apiece.

Bam Adebayo had 21 points and 10 rebounds, and new Celtics nemesis Caleb Martin also had 21 points for the Heat, who shot 53.5% (23 of 43) from beyond the arc to bounce back after a Game 1 blowout. That broke Miami's playoff record of 20 3-pointers, set against the Bucks in the 2021 first round.

Jaylen Brown scored 33 points for top-seeded Boston while Jayson Tatum added 28, showing no ill-effects of a hard foul in Sunday's Game 1 win.

The series moves to Miami for Games 3 and 4 on Saturday and Monday.

Bucks' Middleton uncertain to play

The Milwaukee Bucks face the possibility of continuing their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series against the Indiana Pacers on Friday without two of their top three players.

Khris Middleton has a sprained right ankle that kept him from practicing Thursday and puts his status in question for Game 3 in Indianapolis. The Bucks already played the first two games of this series without two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo, who has a left calf strain.

The NBA's injury report Thursday afternoon listed Antetokounmpo as doubtful and Middleton as questionable for Friday's game. The Bucks and Pacers are tied 1-1 in the best-of-seven series.

PLAYOFF RESULTS/SCHEDULE

Western Conference

No. 1 Oklahoma City 2
No. 8 New Orleans 0

Game 1: Oklahoma City 94, New Orleans 92
Game 2: Oklahoma City 124, New Orleans 92
Game 3: at New Orleans, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, TNT
Game 4: at New Orleans, TBD Monday, TBD
Game 5*: at Oklahoma City, TBD May 1, TBD
Game 6*: at New Orleans, TBD May 3, TBD
Game 7*: at Oklahoma City, TBD May 5, TBD

No. 2 Denver 2, No. 7 L.A. Lakers 0

Game 1: Denver 114, L.A. Lakers 103
Game 2: Denver 101, L.A. Lakers 99
Game 3: at L.A. Lakers, late
Game 4: at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, ABC
Game 5*: at Denver, TBD Monday, TBD
Game 6*: at L.A. Lakers, TBD May 2, TBD
Game 7*: at Denver, TBD May 4, TNT

No. 3 Minnesota 2, No. 6 Phoenix 0

Game 1: Minnesota 120, Phoenix 95
Game 2: Minnesota 105, Phoenix 93
Game 3: at Phoenix, 9:30 p.m. Friday, ESPN
Game 4: at Phoenix, 8:30 p.m. Sunday, TNT
Game 5*: at Minnesota, TBD Tuesday, TBD
Game 6*: at Phoenix, TBD May 2, TBD
Game 7*: at Minnesota, TBD May 4, TNT

No. 4 L.A. Clippers 1, No. 5 Dallas 1

Game 1: L.A. Clippers 109, Dallas 97
Game 2: Dallas 96, L.A. Clippers 93
Game 3: at Dallas, 7 p.m. Friday, ESPN
Game 4: at Dallas, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, ABC
Game 5: at L.A. Clippers, TBD Wednesday, TBD
Game 6*: at Dallas, TBD May 3, TBD
Game 7*: at L.A. Clippers, TBD May 5, TBD

Eastern Conference

No. 1 Boston 1, No. 8 Miami 1

Game 1: Boston 114 Miami 94
Game 2: Miami 111, Boston 101
Game 3: at Miami, 5 p.m. Saturday, TNT
Game 4: at Miami, TBD Monday, TBD
Game 5: at Boston; TBD Wednesday, TBD
Game 6*: at Miami, TBD May 3, TBD
Game 7*: at Boston, TBD May 5, TBD

No. 2 New York 2, No. 7 Philadelphia 0

Game 1: New York 111, Philadelphia 104
Game 2: New York 104, Philadelphia 101
Game 3: at Philadelphia, late
Game 4: at Philadelphia, Noon Sunday, ABC
Game 5*: at New York, TBD April 30, TBD
Game 6*: at Philadelphia, TBD May 2, TBD
Game 7*: at New York, TBD May 4, TNT

No. 3 Milwaukee 1, No. 6 Indiana 1

Game 1: Milwaukee 109, Indiana 94
Game 2: Indiana 125, Milwaukee108
Game 3: at Indiana, 4:30 p.m. Friday, ESPN
Game 4: at Indiana, 6 p.m. Sunday, TNT
Game 5: at Milwaukee, TBD Tuesday, TBD
Game 6*: at Indiana, TBD May 2, TBD
Game 7*: at Milwaukee, TBD May 4, TNT

No. 4 Cleveland 2, No. 5 Orlando 0

Game 1: Cleveland 97, Orlando 83
Game 2: Cleveland 96, Orlando 86
Game 3: at Orlando, late
Game 4: at Orlando, Noon Saturday, TNT
Game 5*: at Cleveland, TBD Monday, TBD
Game 6*: at Orlando, TBD May 3, TBD
Game 7*: at Cleveland, TBD May 5, TBD
** If necessary*

NHL PLAYOFFS

Vegas takes 2-0 lead over Dallas

WIRE REPORTS

DALLAS — Jack Eichel and defending Stanley Cup champion Vegas got exactly what they anticipated, and withstood that early hard push in Game 2 by the desperate Dallas Stars.

The Golden Knights didn't settle for a split while starting the first-round series on the road.

"We expected them to come out and push hard that first five, 10 minutes and they did," Eichel said. "We responded. We were able to come in here after the first period and it's all tied. ... They gave us all we could handle."

Eichel assisted on the tying goal by Jonathan Marchessault late in the first period before adding an empty-netter late, Noah Hanifin scored the tiebreaker with unassisted goal late in the second period and the Knights won 3-1 on Wednesday night for a 2-0 series lead.

Game 3 is Saturday night in Las Vegas.

"We're in a good spot, but there's still a lot of hockey left to be played," Hanifin said. "We're happy to get back into our building and have that momentum on our side. ... Just got to keep doing what we're doing, chipping away at it and play our game."

Hanifin was one of the three trade-deadline acquisitions for the Knights, the No. 8 seed in the Western Conference.

Marchessault's second goal of the series was his franchise-record 36th in the postseason while appearing in all 90 of Vegas' playoff games. Logan Thompson had 20 saves in his second career playoff start, though Dallas didn't get a shot to him in the final 5:37 of the game.

In the Western Conference Final last May, the Knights were the top seed when winning the first three games against Dallas and eventually taking the series in six games.

After falling 4-3 in the opener of this first-round series, the Stars came out intent on setting a hard-hitting tone before the series shifted West.

Mason Marchment took defenseman Zach Whitecloud off his skates with a jarring hit behind the Vegas net only 2½ minutes into the game. Knights captain Mark Stone ended up on the ice midway through the first period when it appeared that he was going to take a shot at Jason Robertson, who instead bowed up and delivered a body blow instead.

In the end, Dallas still couldn't take down the Knights.

"Loved our first period. We make one mistake at the end of the first, probably deserved to be up. That was probably a critical point in the game," Stars coach Pete DeBoer said.

BRUINS 4, MAPLE LEAFS 2

Brad Marchand broke a tie midway through the third period, and visiting Boston took a 2-1 lead in the first-round playoff series.

After Todd Bertuzzi tied it for Toronto with 8:35 left, Marchard put the Bruins back in front 28 second later. He took a pass from Danton Heinen and ripped a shot past goalie Ilya Samsonov's ear. Marchand capped the scoring with an empty-netter and also had an assist.

Jake DeBrusk and Trent Frederic also scored for Boston, and Jeremy Swayman made 28 saves. Swayman made 35 saves in Boston's 5-1 victory in Game 1, then gave way to Linus Ullmark in Toronto's 3-2 victory in Game 2.

KINGS 5, OILERS 4 (OT)

Anze Kopitar fired a wrist shot past Stuart Skinner's glove and into the top corner on a breakaway to give Los Angeles a victory in Game 2.

Kopitar picked up the puck near the Edmonton blue line, moved in on Talbot and shot from the slot as Oilers defenseman Darnell Nurse dove to try to block the shot.

Los Angeles rebounded from a 7-4 loss Monday. Game 3 is Friday.

NBA AWARDS CLUTCH PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Curry edges DeRozan for latest honor

By Tim Reynolds
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Golden State's Stephen Curry led the league in clutch scoring this season, and now he's got another trophy to add to his collection.

Curry was announced Thursday night as the NBA's Clutch Player of the Year, adding that award to a résumé that includes two MVPs, an All-Star Game MVP, an NBA Finals MVP, a Western Conference finals MVP and nine All-NBA selections.

The award is named for Jerry West, someone Curry knows well and someone who once was a consultant for the Warriors.

"When you see him in person you realize how much basketball matters to him, how competitive he is, how much he wants to win no matter what seat he's in," Curry said of West on the TNT telecast where the award was announced. "And that rubbed off on our organization during that time. ... Any time Jerry West says something, you're going to listen."

Curry was one of three finalists, along with Chicago's DeMar DeRozan and Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander.

Curry led the league in clutch scoring — defined as points in the last 5 minutes of fourth quarters or in overtime, with the score differential in the game being five points or less — with 189, seven more than DeRozan. Gilgeous-Alexander had 112 points in those "clutch" moments, seventh-most in the league.

The voting was close, with Curry getting 45 first-place votes and finishing with 298 points. DeRozan got 34 first-place votes and had 272 points in the balloting, with players earning five points for a first-place vote, three for second place and one for third place. Gilgeous-Alexander had 160 points.

Curry — a four-time champion — said he's been watching the playoffs, and thinking ahead to what Golden State needs to do before next season. The Warriors were eliminated from postseason consideration by losing in this year's play-in tournament.

"We're not that far off, even having tried to stay at this level and at this peak for so long," said Curry, who will play for the U.S. at the Paris Olympics this summer. "There's going to be some tweaks, we know. When you lose, you have to look yourself in the mirror and say 'What can we do to get better, what holes can we fill.' Thankfully, we have some time to figure that out."

The award was first handed out last year, when Sacramento Kings guard and Cy Lakes product De'Aaron Fox won the inaugural trophy, beating out Gilgeous-Alexander and Miami's Jimmy Butler, who finished second.



Jon Shapley/Staff photographer

Warriors guard Stephen Curry was still a star in big moments despite Golden State's difficult season.

2024 NBA CLUTCH PLAYER VOTING

Player, Team	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Stephen Curry, Golden State	45	18	19	298
DeMar DeRozan, Chicago	34	27	12	272
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, OKC	1	29	18	160
Nikola Jokic, Denver	4	14	23	85
Jalen Brunson, New York	2	4	4	26
Luka Doncic, Dallas	1	2	5	16
Kyrie Irving, Dallas	0	4	2	14
Anthony Edwards, Minnesota	1	0	1	6
Jayson Tatum, Boston	1	0	0	5
LeBron James, L.A. Lakers	0	1	0	3
Damian Lillard, Milwaukee	0	0	2	2
De'Aaron Fox, Sacramento	0	0	1	1
Malike Monk, Sacramento	0	0	1	1
Jalen Williams, OKC	0	0	1	1
G. Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee	0	0	1	1



Tony Gutierrez/Associated Press

Golden Knight players celebrate an empty-net goal by Jack Eichel, center, during the third period.

NHL PLAYOFFS RESULTS/SCHEDULE

Western Conference

Vegas 2, Dallas 0

Game 1: Vegas 4, Dallas 3
Game 2: Vegas 3, Dallas 1
Game 3: at Vegas, 9:30 p.m. Saturday, TBS/TruTV
Game 4: at Vegas, TBA Monday, TBD
Game 5*: at Dallas, TBA Wednesday, TBD
Game 6*: at Vegas, TBA May 3, TBD
Game 7*: at Dallas, TBA May 5, TBD

Winnipeg 1, Colorado 1

Game 1: Winnipeg 7, Colorado 6
Game 2: Colorado 5, Winnipeg 2
Game 3: at Colorado, 9 p.m. Friday, TNT/TruTV
Game 4: at Colorado, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, TNT/TruTV
Game 5: at Winnipeg, TBA Tuesday, TBD
Game 6*: at Colorado, TBA May 2, TBD
Game 7*: at Winnipeg, TBA May 4, TBD

Vancouver 1, Nashville 1

Game 1: Vancouver 4, Nashville 2
Game 2: Nashville 4, Vancouver 1
Game 3: at Nashville, 6:30 p.m. Friday, TBS
Game 4: at Nashville, 4 p.m. Sunday, TBS/TruTV
Game 5: at Vancouver, TBA Tuesday, TBD
Game 6*: at Nashville, TBA May 3, TBD
Game 7*: at Vancouver, TBA May 5, TBD

Edmonton 1, Los Angeles 1

Game 1: Edmonton 7, Los Angeles 4
Game 2: Los Angeles 5, Edmonton 4 (OT)
Game 3: at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m. Friday, TBS
Game 4: at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m. Sunday, TBS/TruTV
Game 5: at Edmonton, TBA Wednesday, TBD
Game 6*: at Los Angeles, TBA May 3, TBD
Game 7*: at Edmonton, TBA May 5, TBD

Eastern Conference

Florida 2, Tampa Bay 0

Game 1: Florida 3, Tampa Bay 2
Game 2: Florida 3, Tampa Bay 2
Game 3: at Tampa Bay, late
Game 4: at Tampa Bay, 4 p.m. Saturday, TBS/TruTV
Game 5*: at Florida, TBA Monday, TBD
Game 6*: at Tampa Bay, TBA Wednesday, TBD
Game 7*: at Florida, TBA May 4, TBD

Boston 2, Toronto 1

Game 1: Boston 5, Toronto 1
Game 2: Toronto 3, Boston 2
Game 3: Boston 4, Toronto 2
Game 4: at Toronto, 7 p.m. Saturday, TBS/TruTV
Game 5: at Boston, TBA Tuesday, TBD
Game 6*: at Toronto, TBA May 2, TBD
Game 7*: at Boston, TBA May 4, TBD

N.Y. Rangers 2, Washington 0

Game 1: N.Y. Rangers 4, Washington 1
Game 2: N.Y. Rangers 4, Washington 3
Game 3: at Washington, 6 p.m. Friday, TNT/TruTV
Game 4: at Washington, 7 p.m. Sunday, TBS/TruTV
Game 5*: at N.Y. Rangers, TBA Wednesday, TBD
Game 6*: at Washington, TBA May 3, TBD
Game 7*: at N.Y. Rangers, TBA May 5, TBD

Carolina 2, N.Y. Islanders 0

Game 1: Carolina 3, N.Y. Islanders 1
Game 2: Carolina 5, N.Y. Islanders 3
Game 3: at N.Y. Islanders, late
Game 4: at N.Y. Islanders, 1 p.m. Saturday, TBS/TruTV
Game 5*: at Carolina, TBA Tuesday, TBD
Game 6*: at N.Y. Islanders, TBA May 2, TBD
Game 7*: at Carolina, TBA May 4, TBD
** — if necessary*

NOTEBOOK

Valdez to start Sunday in Mexico City

By Matt Kawahara
STAFF WRITER

CHICAGO — Left-hander **Framber Valdez** will return from the injured list to start on Sunday for the Astros against the Rockies in Mexico City, manager **Joe Espada** said Thursday.

Valdez was placed on the IL with inflammation in his pitching elbow on April 9. He has since thrown two bullpen sessions and will return without requiring a minor-league rehab start. Espada said Valdez should be able to throw 70 to 80 pitches in his first start back.

Ronel Blanco will start Saturday in the opener of the two-game series at Estadio Alfredo Harp Helú. The altitude of about 7,350 feet means the ball is likely to fly — the Giants and Padres combined for 11 home runs in one game at the stadium last season — which could make having a groundball pitcher like Valdez all the more valuable to pitch one of the games.

"We're just happy to have him back, regardless of where we're playing," Espada said before the Astros' series finale at Wrigley Field. "Just getting him on the mound to give us some quality innings. But it helps that in such high altitude, getting a groundball pitcher is beneficial."

Valdez made two starts before going on the IL, allowing three runs in 12 ⅓ innings against the Yankees and Blue Jays. Espada did not announce who will exit the rotation when Valdez returns. **Spencer Arrighetti**, who was called up after **Cristian Javier** landed on the IL with a neck issue, seems the likeliest candidate. Espada said Thursday morning a decision had not yet been made.



Nam Y. Huh/Associated Press

Astros right-hander Rafael Montero, left, took the loss Thursday after allowing two runs on a pair of hits in an inning of relief against the Cubs in Chicago.

Valdez's return should offer a boost to Houston's injury-thinned rotation. Six Astros starters have spent time on the IL this season. Javier, **José Urquidy**, **Luis Garcia** and **Lance McCullers Jr.** remain on the IL. Javier has resumed playing catch, Espada said, but is not eligible to return from the IL until May 3 at the earliest. Urquidy has resumed throwing from a mound in his recovery from a forearm muscle strain.

Cabbage headed to Mexico City

The Astros will add utility player **Trey Cabbage** as their 27th player for the weekend series in Mexico City against the Rockies, Espada said.

Both teams can carry an additional player for the two games. Major League Baseball rules stipulate it must be a position player.

Cabbage, a left-handed hitter, has played first base and corner outfield at Triple-A Sugar Land this season. He has a .271/.440/.486 slash line with three home runs in 70 plate appearances for Sugar Land.

Cabbage could provide Espada with another left-handed hitter off the bench. He is on the 40-man roster. Houston acquired him from the Angels in an offseason trade.

Kessinger patrols familiar haunts

As a utility infielder, **Grae Kessinger** will bounce around the diamond for pregame defensive work. A reserve role with the Astros requires him to stay sharp at multiple spots. But this week, Kessinger made sure to take some ground balls at shortstop at Wrigley Field.

That is where Kessinger's grandfather, **Don Kessinger**, played parts of 12 major-league seasons, earning six All-Star selections as the shortstop of the Cubs from 1964-75. Grae arrived at Wrigley Field for the first time as a major-leaguer Tuesday, with the Astros making their first visit since 2013.

"It's awesome," Kessinger said Wednesday afternoon. "It's obviously super cool for me. But I'm really happy that my grandfather gets to kind of watch me do this as well. He played here for so long and he texted me how excited he was for me to be able to be on — he likes to call it be on 'his dirt.' And just really get to experience what he got to experience for such a long time."

Kessinger is part of a baseball family. His grandfather played 16 seasons in the majors, the first 12 with the Cubs. His father, **Kevin Kessinger**, was drafted by the Cubs and played briefly in the minors. His uncle, **Keith Kessinger**, reached the majors and played in 11 games at shortstop for the Reds.

Grae said he had been to Wrigley Field twice before Tuesday. He played there in the 2015 Under Armour All-America Game after his junior year of high school. A couple of years earlier, he said, Don brought the family to Chicago for a trip. They saw a Cubs game, visited Chicago and ate at restaurants Don liked during his playing days.

"Honestly, at that age, I'm not sure we really appreciated what we were doing as much," Grae said. "And now that we've gotten older, looking back at pictures and stuff, it's like, wow, that was really cool."

Grae attended Ole Miss, where his grandfather coached after his playing career and his father and uncle played, and was drafted by Houston in the second round in 2019. He debuted last season, playing in 26 games, and made the Astros' opening day roster this season in a bench role. He had appeared in seven games and taken nine at-bats entering Wednesday.

His role is predicated on versatility and defense. Don won two Gold Glove awards at shortstop with the Cubs, also playing for the Cardinals and White Sox. He remains the last American League player-manager, holding that title with the White Sox during the 1979 season before being replaced as manager by a 34-year-old **Tony La Russa**.

Grae said Don watches the Astros' games and the two talk often. He will turn to his grandfather for advice or with a question. Don still has a visible presence at Wrigley Field. A plaque bearing his name rests in a sidewalk outside the stadium. Tuesday, he came up on a digital board inside the ballpark recalling past Cubs players. It appeared just as Grae took a round of batting practice on the field.

"I always say, like, I'm writing my own chapter of the Kessinger legacy and stuff," Grae said. "But I take a lot of pride in what he did and his whole career.

"Not a lot of guys played for 16 years, 12 in one place. And to be a part of it is cool."

Wednesday's game

Cubs 4, Astros 3

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Altuve 2b	5	1	1	1	0	1	.350
Bregman 3b	5	0	1	1	0	0	.202
Alvarez lf	5	0	1	0	0	2	.273
Tucker rf	5	0	1	0	0	1	.281
Diaz dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.286
Peña ss	4	0	2	0	0	0	.337
Singleton 1b	4	1	2	0	0	1	.256
1-Dubón pr-cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.294
Caratini c	2	1	1	0	2	0	.290
Meyers cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.217
J.Abreu 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.065
Totals	**36**	**3**	**10**	**2**	**2**	**7**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Hoerner 2b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.282
Tauchman cf-rf	3	0	1	0	1	2	.286
Happ lf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.244
Crow-Armstrong cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Busch 1b	3	0	0	1	0	3	.280
Morel 3b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.205
Madrigal 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.231
Swanson ss	4	1	1	3	0	1	.235
Mervis dh	3	0	0	0	0	2	.000
Gomes c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.189
Canario rf-lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.294
Totals	**30**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**2**	**12**	

Houston	002	000	001—3 10 0
Chicago	400	000	00x—4 8 1

1-ran for Singleton in the 8th.
E—Busch (2). LOB—Houston 10, Chicago 5. 2B—Peña (5), Caratini (3). HR—Altuve (6), off Neris; Swanson (3), off Arrighetti. RBIs—Bregman (6), Altuve (8), Busch (16), Swanson 3 (11). SB—Tucker (5). SF—Busch. S—Meyers.
Runners left in scoring position—Houston 6 (Altuve, Meyers 2, Diaz 2, Tucker); Chicago 2 (Happ 2). RISP—Houston 1 for 10; Chicago 1 for 2.
GIDP—Happ.
DP—Houston 1 (Peña, Singleton).

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Arrighetti, L, 0-3	3 2/3	7	4	4	2	7	90	10.97
Dubin	2 1/3	0	0	0	0	3	30	8.10
Montero	1	1	0	0	0	0	8	1.50
Pressly	1	0	0	0	0	2	9	7.45

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Taillon, W, 2-0	5 2/3	7	2	1	2	4	89	1.69
Alzolay, H, 1	2/3	0	0	0	0	0	17	3.86
Little, H, 2	2/3	0	0	0	0	1	10	2.16
Leiter, H, 5	1	2	0	0	0	1	15	0.00
Neris, S, 2-3	1	1	1	1	0	1	15	4.50

Inherited runners-scored—Dubin 3-0, Alzolay 1-0.
HBP—Alzolay (Meyers).
Umpires—Home, Mike Muchlinski; First, Jansen Visconti; Second, Derek Thomas; Third, Andy Fletcher.
T—2:45. A—32,327 (41,363).

From page B1

second as Swanson scored. Manager Joe Espada called on Abreu, arguably the steadiest member of his struggling late-inning bullpen trio, to try to preserve a tied game.

Crow-Armstrong arrived 0-for-16 in his young major-league career. He squared to bunt on Abreu's first pitch. Abreu sailed it to the backstop, sending Amaya to second. His second pitch was a 95 mph fastball over the plate. Crow-Armstrong crushed it 396 feet into the right-field seats for a game-turning swing.

Abreu had been scored upon once in his last 10 outings before Thursday. He has allowed 14 hits in 12 innings this season, however. Four of those are home runs. The set-up man who posted a 1.75 ERA last season owns a 4.97 mark so far this year.

"I'm not concerned about the velo, because I've seen (Abreu) reach 97, 98 mph this season," Espada said. "It's just kind of inconsistent in the zone. You fall behind hitters and then you have to fight back to get into a count. And that's not ideal. So, execution for him more than anything."

Houston's offense could not answer. The Astros mustered four hits, none for extra bases, and were held scoreless after the first inning. They have scored a total of 22 runs in their last nine games, with one win in that span.

The ninth

Espada was ejected before the top of the ninth after a conversation with home plate umpire Jansen Visconti, the first ejection of Espada's managerial career.



Nam Y. Huh/Associated Press

Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander labored through 4 ⅓ innings Thursday afternoon, allowing three hits and four walks.

"I just did not agree with his strike zone today," Espada said. Alex Bregman and Tucker were among Astros hitters who showed displeasure with called strikes earlier in the game.

Hector Neris, the former Astros reliever, close out a second consecutive game for Chicago. Neris walked Yordan Alvarez and Tucker to open the ninth but, as he often did with Houston, wriggled free from the jam. Yainer Diaz and Jeremy Peña bounced into fielder's choices. Jon Singleton struck a groundout to end the game. The Astros were hitless in six at-bats with men in scoring position.

Verlander's outing

Verlander toiled through his outing. The right-hander threw 95 pitches to record 11 outs. Cubs leadoff man Nico Hoerner had the only three hits against him. Verlander struck out seven but also issued four walks, three to No. 2 hitter Mike Tauchman, in his second start back from the injured list.



Michael Reaves/Getty Images

Alex Bregman singled off the Cubs' Javier Assad in the sixth inning for his 1,000th career hit.

"I was frustrated with all the walks, happy with the stuff," Verlander said. "Overall, kind of a tough one for me to walk away from super positive. Obviously, kept us in the game. But I would have liked to throw more than 4⅓."

Verlander did not record an out until his 20th pitch. Hoerner struck a leadoff single and Tauchman and Ian Happ drew walks, Happ on nine pitches, to load the bases. Verlander escaped, striking out Michael Busch and Swanson and inducing a flyout from Madrigal to end a 29-pitch first inning.

Espada said pregame that Verlander could likely throw up to 90 pitches. A 13-pitch battle with Amaya, who struck out swinging at a fastball, drove up that count. Verlander got 10 whiffs on 27 swings against his fastball. He threw 26 curveballs and got another 10 called strikes and whiffs with that pitch.

Verlander started the fifth inning at 84 pitches. He got one out before Hoerner singled and Tauchman walked, bringing Espada out to relieve him. Montero stranded both runners. Verlander was the first to greet Montero as he returned to the dugout.

"Four (walks) felt like seven," Verlander said. "That's a lot of extra pitches without any outs. Just useless without forcing the action and making them do something when I felt like I had decent stuff."

Bregman's milestone

Bregman awoke Thursday two hits shy of 1,000 for his major-league career. He collected No. 999 in the first inning. With Jose Altuve in motion from second base, Bregman punched a chopper through the right side for a single. Altuve scampered to third and scored on Alvarez's sacrifice fly.

Bregman took a third strike in his second at-bat and was visibly frustrated with the call. He arrived again with one out in the sixth. In a full count, Javier Assad threw him a sinker. Bregman flared the pitch to right field, over the head of first baseman Busch, where it fell for a milestone hit for Houston's third baseman.

Bregman reached 1,000 hits in his 989th career game. Starting with Alvarez's sacrifice fly, Assad retired 13 consecutive Houston hitters. The Astros did not put another runner into scoring position until the sixth inning. They finished 2-for-20 in those situations in three games in Chicago.

"We manufactured that first run," Espada said. "After that I'm like, you know what, our offense can click and we can get some runs today. But we just couldn't get anything going.

"These guys are trying. We're trying different things. But at the end of the day, we've just got to be better. We have to have better at-bats. We have to execute better. Our offense is way better than this."

Cubs 3, Astros 1

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Altuve 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.346
Bregman 3b	4	0	2	0	0	2	.216
Alvarez dh	2	0	0	1	1	0	.267
Tucker rf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.283
Diaz c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.274
1-Meyers pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.217
Peña ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.324
Singleton 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.238
McCormick lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Dubón cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.278
Totals	**30**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**3**	**6**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Hoerner 2b	5	0	3	0	0	0	.300
Tauchman rf	1	0	1	0	3	0	.298
Happ dh	2	0	0	0	1	1	.238
Busch 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.266
Swanson ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.236
Madrigal 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.233
Amaya c	4	1	0	1	0	2	.250
Crow-Armstrong cf	4	1	1	2	0	2	.250
Canario lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.250
Totals	**31**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**4**	**10**	

Houston	100	000	000—1 4 0
Chicago	000	003	00x—3 7 0

1-ran for Diaz in the 9th.
LOB—Houston 6, Chicago 10. 2B—Hoerner (7). HR—Crow-Armstrong (1), off B.Abreu. RBIs—Alvarez (14), Amaya (9), Crow-Armstrong 2 (2). SB—Swanson (3), Canario (1). SF—Alvarez.
Runners left in scoring position—Houston 3 (Diaz 2, Singleton); Chicago 7 (Madrigal 4, Swanson, Hoerner, Busch). RISP—Houston 0 for 6; Chicago 2 for 15.
Runners moved up—Busch, Swanson.

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Verlander	4 1/3	3	0	0	4	7	95	1.74
Montero, L, 0-1	1	2	2	2	0	1	24	2.77
B.Abreu	1 2/3	2	1	1	0	2	32	4.97
Martinez	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	2.40

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Assad	5 2/3	4	1	1	1	5	85	2.00
Wesneski, W, 2-0	2 1/3	0	0	0	0	1	20	0.00
Neris, S, 3-4	1	0	0	0	2	0	27	4.00

Inherited runners-scored—Montero 2-0, B.Abreu 1-1, Wesneski 2-0. HBP—B.Abreu (Happ), Martinez (Canario). WP—Verlander, B.Abreu, Assad.
Umpires—Home, Jansen Visconti; First, Derek Thomas; Second, Andy Fletcher; Third, Mike Muchlinski.
T—2:43. A—29,876 (41,363).

FOR THE RECORD

MLB AT A GLANCE

AMERICAN LEAGUE

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Seattle	13	12	.520	—	—	7-3	W-1	7-6	6-6
Texas	13	13	.500	½	1 ½	5-5	L-1	6-7	7-6
Los Angeles	10	15	.400	3	4	3-7	L-1	3-6	7-9
Oakland	9	16	.360	4	5	3-7	L-2	4-9	5-7
Houston	7	19	.269	6 ½	7 ½	2-8	L-5	4-9	3-10
East Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**	**WCGB**	**L10**	**Str**	**Home**	**Away**
New York	17	8	.680	—	—	5-5	W-2	8-4	9-4
Baltimore	16	8	.667	½	+2 ½	8-2	W-1	8-4	8-4
Boston	14	12	.538	3 ½	½	5-5	L-1	3-7	11-5
Toronto	13	12	.520	4	1	5-4	L-2	6-3	7-9
Tampa Bay	13	13	.500	4 ½	1 ½	4-6	W-1	8-9	5-4
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**	**WCGB**	**L10**	**Str**	**Home**	**Away**
Cleveland	18	7	.720	—	—	8-2	W-1	8-4	10-3
Kansas City	15	10	.600	3	+1	5-5	W-2	11-5	4-5
Detroit	14	11	.560	4	—	5-5	L-1	4-7	10-4
Minnesota	11	13	.458	6 ½	2 ½	5-5	W-4	6-6	5-7
Chicago	3	22	.120	15	11	1-9	L-7	2-9	1-13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Los Angeles	16	11	.593	—	—	5-5	W-4	9-8	7-3
San Diego	14	14	.500	2 ½	1 ½	5-5	L-1	6-8	8-6
Arizona	12	14	.462	3 ½	2 ½	4-6	L-1	7-6	5-8
San Francisco	12	14	.462	3 ½	2 ½	6-4	L-1	7-6	5-8
Colorado	7	19	.269	8 ½	7 ½	3-7	W-1	5-8	2-11
East Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**	**WCGB**	**L10**	**Str**	**Home**	**Away**
Atlanta	17	6	.739	—	—	9-1	W-3	9-3	8-3
Philadelphia	16	10	.615	2 ½	+1 ½	8-2	W-1	10-6	6-4
New York	13	11	.542	4 ½	½	7-3	W-1	6-6	7-5
Washington	10	14	.417	7 ½	3 ½	4-6	L-3	4-8	6-6
Miami	6	20	.231	12 ½	8 ½	3-7	L-3	2-11	4-9
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**	**WCGB**	**L10**	**Str**	**Home**	**Away**
Milwaukee	16	8	.667	—	—	6-4	W-2	4-4	12-4
Chicago	16	9	.640	½	+2	7-3	W-3	10-3	6-6
Cincinnati	14	11	.560	2 ½	—	5-5	L-1	9-7	5-4
Pittsburgh	13	13	.500	4	1 ½	2-8	L-2	5-7	8-6
St. Louis	11	14	.440	5 ½	3	4-6	W-1	5-7	6-7

Wednesday's results

American League
Baltimore 6, Angels 5
Boston 8, Cleveland 0
Tampa Bay 7, Detroit 5
Yankees 7, Oakland 3
Minnesota 6, White Sox 3
Kansas City 3, Toronto 2
Cubs 4, Houston 3
Texas 5, Seattle 1

National League
St. Louis 5, Arizona 1
Mets 8, San Francisco 2
Milwaukee 3, Pittsburgh 2
Dodgers 11, Washington 2
Cincinnati 7, Philadelphia 4
Atlanta 4, Miami 3 (10)
Cubs 4, Houston 3
San Diego 5, Colorado 2

Thursday's results

American League
Cubs 3, Houston 1
Minnesota 6, White Sox 3
Cleveland 6, Boston 4
Seattle 4, Texas 3
Toronto at Kansas City, late
Oakland at Yankees, late

National League
Cubs 3, Houston 1
Milwaukee 7, Pittsburgh 5
Philadelphia 5, Cincinnati 0
Colorado 10, San Diego 9
Dodgers 2, Washington 1

Friday's games

American League
Kansas City (Lugo 3-1) at Detroit (Olson 0-3), 12:10 p.m.
Oakland (Stripling 0-5) at Baltimore (Burnes 3-0), 6:05 p.m.
Dodgers (Stone 1-1) at Toronto (Bassitt 2-3), 6:07 p.m.
Cubs (Imanaga 3-0) at Boston (Crawford 1-0), 6:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Allen 3-0) at Atlanta (Sale 2-1), 6:20 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Eflin 1-2) at White Sox (Flexen 0-3), 6:40 p.m.
Cincinnati (Ashcraft 3-1) at Texas (Eovaldi 1-2), 7:05 p.m.
Yankees (Gil 1-1) at Milwaukee (Rea 2-0), 7:10 p.m.
Minnesota (Ober 1-1) at Angels (Sandoval 1-3), 8:38 p.m.
Arizona (Gallen 3-1) at Seattle (Kirby 2-2), 8:40 p.m.

National League
Cubs (Imanaga 3-0) at Boston (Crawford 1-0), 6:10 p.m.
St. Louis (Mikolas 1-3) at Mets (Buttó 0-0), 6:10 p.m.
Washington (Williams 2-0) at Miami (Luzardo 0-2), 6:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Allen 3-0) at Atlanta (Sale 2-1), 6:20 p.m.
Cincinnati (Ashcraft 3-1) at Texas (Eovaldi 1-2), 7:05 p.m.
Yankees (Gil 1-1) at Milwaukee (Rea 2-0), 7:10 p.m.
Arizona (Gallen 3-1) at Seattle (Kirby 2-2), 8:40 p.m.
Philadelphia (Nola 3-1) at San Diego (Musgrove 3-2), 8:40 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Priester 0-1) at San Francisco (Harrison 2-1), 9:15 p.m.

MLB NOTEBOOK

BAKER WINS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT HONOR

Former Astros manager Dusty Baker was honored Thursday with the fourth Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Baseball Digest.

The beloved Baker retired following the 2023 season after spending 56 years in the majors as a player, coach and manager. Thursday's award "recognizes a living individual whose career has been spent in or around Major League Baseball and who has made significant contributions to the game."

Willie Mays won the inaugural award in 2021, followed by Vin Scully in 2022 and Joe Torre last year.

"Receiving this award is a tremendous honor," Baker said in a news release. "I never thought that I'd be in the class of the people that received this award. I know that my late mom and dad would be proud of me. This is really special."

Baker played 19 seasons in the big leagues and made two All-Star teams and won two Silver Slugger awards.

He followed with a long managerial career that included three NL Manager of the Year awards and a World Series title with the Astros in 2022.

CUBS RELIEVER LITTLE MADE TO SWITCH GLOVES

Cubs reliever Luke Little said he had to change his glove before he entered Wednesday night's 4-3 victory over the Astros because of an American flag patch.

Manager Craig Counsell went to insert Little with one out in the seventh inning. But as the 6-foot-8 lefty went through the usual check by umpires for pitchers coming into the game, he was told he had to swap out his glove.

"The issue was the American flag was on his glove," Counsell said. "Pitchers' gloves, they're pretty strict about not having white on the pitchers' gloves. Apparently the flag had what could be a distraction to the hitter."

The 23-year-old Little said he has been using the same glove since Class A ball. After the issue was resolved, he retired both batters he faced.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Ty France and Luis Urías hit two-run homers, Luis Castillo pitched six solid innings and the Mariners beat the Rangers 4-3 in Arlington in taking two of three in the series and leaving with first place in the AL West. ... Yoshinobu Yamamoto pitched six shutout innings, and the host Dodgers defeated the Nationals 2-1 to complete a three-game sweep. ... Gary Sánchez hit a pinch-hit, two-run home run in the eighth inning off former Yankees teammate Aroldis Chapman as the Brewers beat the host Pirates 7-5. ... Edouard Julien hit two of the host Twins' five solo home runs in a 6-3 win over the White Sox that dropped Chicago to 3-22, the worst start in franchise history.

Wire reports

SCOREBOARD

Odds

Home team capitalized

NBA

Friday

FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG
INDIANA	6	221 ½	Milwaukee
DALLAS	4 ½	211	LA Clippers
PHOENIX	4	207	Minnesota

MLB

Friday

American League

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
Kansas City	-112	at DETROIT	-104
BALTIMORE	-260	Oakland	+215
Tampa Bay	-250	at CHICAGO WHITE SOX	+205
Minnesota	-112	at LA ANGELS	-104

National League

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
St. Louis	-118	at N.Y METS	+100
MIAMI	-171	Washington	+143
Philadelphia	-120	at SAN DIEGO	+102
SAN FRANCISCO	-145	Pittsburgh	+123

Interleague

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
LA Dodgers	-138	at TORONTO	+118
Chicago Cubs	-116	at BOSTON	-102
ATLANTA	-210	Cleveland	+176
TEXAS	-162	Cincinnati	+136
N.Y Yankees	-126	at MILWAUKEE	+108
Arizona	-133	at SEATTLE	+113

NHL

Friday

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
New York	-176	at WASHINGTON	+146
NASHVILLE	-115	Vancouver	-104
COLORADO	-170	Winnipeg	+140
Edmonton	-128	at LOS ANGELES	+106

Baseball

Minor league

Triple A - Pacific League

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Sugar Land (Houston)	15	8	.652	—
Oklahoma City (L.A. Dodgers)	14	9	.609	1
El Paso (San Diego)	10	13	.435	5
Round Rock (Texas)	10	13	.435	5
Albuquerque (Colorado)	6	17	.261	9
West	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**
Sacramento (San Francisco)	15	8	.652	—
Tacoma (Seattle)	14	9	.609	1
Reno (Arizona)	12	10	.545	2 ½
Las Vegas (Oakland)	10	12	.455	4 ½
Salt Lake (L.A. Angels)	8	15	.348	7

Wednesday's results
Reno 19, Sugar Land 6
Oklahoma City 11, Albuquerqe 9
Salt Lake 12, Round Rock 5
Tacoma 2, El Paso 0
Las Vegas 10, Sacramento 4
Thursday's results
Oklahoma City at Albuquerqe, late
Salt Lake at Round Rock, late
Sugar Land at Reno, late
Las Vegas at Sacramento, late
El Paso at Tacoma, late
Friday's games
Salt Lake at Round Rock, 7:15 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Albuquerqe, 7:35 p.m.
Sugar Land at Reno, 8:05 p.m.
Las Vegas at Sacramento, 8:45 p.m.
El Paso at Tacoma, 9:05 p.m.
Wednesday's game

Aces 19, Space Cowboys 6

Sugar Land	100	021	101	—	6	9	1
Reno	124	502	14x	—	19	23	0

W: Castellanos (2-1); L: Kouba (1-2);
Sugar Land— Kouba, Greene (4), Carrasco (5), Diaz (8).
Reno— Castellanos, Barnes (6), Karcher (8), Stumpo (9).

College

Baseball

Wednesday's results
Houston Christian 10, No. 17 Lousiana 9

Football

UFL

USFL CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Birmingham	4	0	0	1.000	100	59
Michigan	2	2	0	.500	74	75
Memphis	1	3	0	.250	68	97
Houston	1	3	0	.250	67	84
XFL CONFERENCE	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
St. Louis	3	1	0	.750	106	83
San Antonio	3	1	0	.750	90	71
DC	2	2	0	.500	82	93
Arlington	0	4	0	.000	75	100

Saturday's games
San Antonio at Arlington, 6 p.m.
Birmingham at Houston, 6 p.m.
Sunday's games
St. Louis at DC, 11 a.m.
Michigan at Memphis, 2 p.m.

High schools

Softball

Bi-district playoffs

Class 6A

Region II
Bridgeland vs. Tomball
Game 1: 5 p.m. Friday, Tomball HS
Game 2: 1 p.m. Saturday, Bridgeland HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Conroe vs. Davis
One-game playoff
5 p.m. Friday, Grand Oaks HS
Klein Oak vs. Cypress Ranch
Game 1: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Klein Oak HS
Game 2: 10 a.m. Saturday, Cypress Ranch HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
MacArthur vs. College Park
One-game playoff
7 p.m. Friday, Humble HS
Spring vs. The Woodlands
Game 1: late
Game 2: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Spring HS
Game 3 (if needed): 10 a.m. Saturday, The Woodlands HS
Klein Collins vs. Cypress Woods
Game 1: 6 p.m. Friday, Cypress Woods HS
Game 2: Noon Saturday, Klein Collins HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Oak Ridge vs. Nimitz
One-game playoff
5 p.m. Friday, Humble HS
Langham Creek vs. Waller
One-game playoff
6:30 p.m. Friday, Cypress Ridge HS
Region III
George Ranch vs. Cinco Ranch
Game 1: late
Game 2: 6:30 p.m. Friday, George Ranch HS
Game 3 (if needed): 10 a.m. Saturday, Cinco Ranch HS
Cy-Fair vs. Bellaire
Game 1; 7 p.m. Friday, Butler Sports Complex
Game 2: 11 a.m. Saturday, Cy-Fair HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Katy vs. Dulles
Game 1: late
Game 2: 6 p.m. Friday, Katy HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Chavez vs. Stratford
One-game playoff
7 p.m. Friday, Barnett Sports Complex
Brazoswood vs. Shadow Creek
Game 1: 6 p.m. Friday, Brazoswood HS
Game 2: Noon Saturday, Shadow Creek HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Summer Creek vs. Pasadena Memorial
One-game playoff
6 p.m. Friday, Summer Creek HS
Pearland vs. Dickinson
Game 1: late
Game 2: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Clear Creek HS
Game 3 (if needed): 11 a.m. Saturday, Pearland HS
Dobie vs. Atascocita
Game 1: late
Game 2: 6:30 p.m. Friday, San Jacinto College
Game 3 (if needed): 6:30 p.m. Saturday, San Jacinto College
Heights vs. Cypress Creek
One-game playoff
6:30 p.m. Friday, Cypress Falls HS
Katy Taylor vs. Ridge Point
Game 1: Katy Taylor 7, Ridge Point 0
Game 2: 6 p.m. Friday, Jordan HS
Game 3 (if needed): 11 a.m. Saturday, Jordan HS
Memorial vs. Lamar
Game 1: late
Game 2: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Memorial HS
Game 3 (if needed): Noon, Saturday, Memorial HS
Travis vs. Tompkins
One-game playoff, late
Deer Park vs. North Shore
Game 1: late
Game 2: 6 p.m. Friday, North Shore HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Alvin vs. Clear Brook
Game 1: late
Game 2: 6;30 p.m. Friday, Alvin HS
Game 3 (if needed): 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Santa Fe HS
Kingwood vs. Sam Rayburn
Game 1: Kingwood 16, Sam Rayburn 0
Game 2: late
Game 3: TBA
Clear Springs vs. Dawson
Game 1: late
Game 2: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dawson HS
Game 3 (if needed): 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dawson HS

Class 5A

Region II
Huntsville vs. Texarkana Texas
Game 1: late
Game 2: 5 p.m. Friday, Whitehouse HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Whitehouse vs. Kingwood Park
Game 1: late
Game 2; 6 p.m. Friday, Lufkin HS
Game 3 (if needed): 1 p.m. Saturday, Lufkin HS
Mount Pleasant vs. Dayton
Game 1: late
Game 2: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Rusk HS
Game 3: 2 p.m. Saturday, Rusk HS
Region III
Foster vs. Houston Austin
One-game playoff, late
Crosby vs. Manvel
Game 1: 5:30 p.m. Friday, Manvel HS
Game 2: 11 a.m. Saturday, Crosby HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Galena Park vs. Terry
One-game playoff, late
Friendswood vs. Port Neches-Groves
One-game playoff
6:30 p.m. Friday, Baytown Sterling HS
Lake Creek vs. Belton
One-game playoff
7:30 p.m. Friday, Navasota HS
Angleton vs. Nederland
Game 1: late
Game 2: 5 p.m. Friday, Goose Creek Memorial HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Waltrip vs. Lamar Consolidated
One-game playoff, late
Barbers Hill vs. La Porte
Game 1: late
Game 2: 5 p.m. Friday, Barbers Hill HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Fulshear vs. Milby
One-game playoff, late
Lake Belton vs. Magnolia West
Game 1: late
Game 2: 5 p.m. Friday, Mumford HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2

Class 4A

Region III
Liberty vs. Vidor
Game 1: late
Game 2: 5 p.m. Friday, Anahuac HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Bridge City vs. Huffman-Hargrave
Game 1: late
Game 2: After Game 1
Game 3 (if needed): TBA Saturday
Washington vs. Smithville
One-game playoff, late
La Grange vs. Wheatley
One-game playoff, late
Caldwell vs. Scarborough
One-game playoff, late
Furr vs. Giddings
One-game playoff
5:30 p.m. Friday, Navasota HS
Region IV
Sealy vs. Brazosport
Game 1: late
Game 2: 6 p.m. Friday, Iowa Colony HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Sweeny vs. El Campo
Game 1: 7 p.m. Friday, El Campo HS
Game 2: 1 p.m. Saturday, Sweeny HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Columbia vs. Bellville
One-game playoff, late
Needville vs. Bay City
One-game playoff
7 p.m. Friday, Wharton HS

Class 3A

Region III
East Bernard vs. Tarkington
Game 1: late
Game 2: 6 p.m. Friday, Cypress Springs HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Anderson-Shiro vs. Boling
Game 1: late
Game 2: 11 a.m. Saturday, Navasota HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Coldspring-Oakhurst vs. Danbury
Game 1: 6 p.m. Friday, Cypress Lakes HS
Game 2: 11 a.m. Saturday, Cypress Lakes HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Van Vleck vs. Shepherd
Game 1: late
Game 2: 5:30 p.m. Friday, Paetow HS
Game 3 (if needed): After Game 2
Region IV
Columbus vs. Luling
One-game playoff
6 p.m. Friday, Weimar HS

Rugby

MLR

Western Conference

	W	L	D	PF	PA	PTS
Seattle	7	1	0	250	176	33
Houston	6	1	0	224	177	29
San Diego	5	2	0	182	151	26
Dallas	3	4	0	226	206	19
Utah	3	4	0	186	169	18
Los Angeles	1	5	1	153	222	12

Eastern Conference

	W	L	D	PF	PA	PTS
New England	5	2	0	222	153	24
Chicago	4	3	1	254	204	23
Nola	3	4	0	176	187	16
D.C.	2	3	2	159	193	14
Miami	2	5	0	172	177	12
Anthem RC	7	0	7	0	158	3

Friday's game
DC at Utah, 8 p.m.
Saturday's games
Nola at Anthem, 6:30 p.m.
Dallas at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
San Diego at Houston, 7 p.m.
Sunday ' s game
New England at Los Angeles, 5:15 p.m.

Soccer

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	5	2	3	18	22	15
New York	4	1	4	16	13	9
Cincinnati	4	2	3	15	10	8
Columbus	3	1	5	14	12	9
Toronto FC	4	4	1	13	9	12
Philadelphia	3	0	4	13	14	9
Atlanta	3	3	2	11	13	9
New York City FC	3	4	2	11	9	9
Charlotte FC	3	4	2	11	9	11
CF Montréal	3	3	2	11	12	16
D.C. United	2	3	4	10	12	14
Orlando City	2	3	3	9	10	15
Chicago	2	4	3	9	11	18
Nashville	1	3	4	7	9	16
New England	1	6	1	4	5	14

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LA Galaxy	5	1	3	18	21	15
Vancouver	5	2	1	16	17	9
Real Salt Lake	4	2	3	15	15	8
Colorado	4	2	3	15	15	13
Minnesota United	4	2	2	14	13	9
Houston	4	3	1	13	9	8
Los Angeles FC	3	3	3	12	15	14
Austin FC	3	3	3	12	12	13
St Louis City	2	1	6	12	15	14
Sporting Kansas City	2	2	5	11	17	16
Portland	2	3	4	10	18	18
Seattle	1	4	3	6	9	9
FC Dallas	1	5	2	5	7	12
San Jose	1	8	0	3	13	24

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Saturday's games
LA Galaxy at Austin FC, 12:30 p.m.
Colorado at Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.
CF Montréal at Columbus, 6:30 p.m.
Seattle at D.C. United, 6:30 p.m.
Charlotte FC at New York City FC, 6:30 p.m.
Miami at New England, 6:30 p.m.
Vancouver at New York, 6:30 p.m.
Toronto FC at Orlando City, 6:30 p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at FC Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.
San Jose at Nashville, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Los Angeles FC, 9:30 p.m.

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	4	0	1	13	17	10
Washington	4	1	0	12	9	4
Chicago	3	1	1	10	7	4
North Carolina	3	2	0	9	10	5
Orlando	2	0	3	9	6	4
Louisville	1	0	4	7	9	5
Angel City	2	2	1	7	6	7
Bay FC	2	3	0	6	9	12
Portland	1	3	1	4	10	11
San Diego	1	2	1	4	2	3
Gotham FC	1	2	1	4	2	4
Houston	1	3	1	4	6	14
Seattle	1	4	0	3	5	8
Utah Royals FC	1	4	0	3	4	11

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Friday's games
Orlando at Washington, 6:30 p.m.
Kansas City at Angel City, 9 p.m.
Saturday's games
Seattle at North Carolina, 6 p.m.
Houston at Utah Royals FC, 6:30 p.m.
Portland at Chicago, 6:30 p.m.
Bay FC at San Diego, 9 p.m.

Transactions

BASEBALL

MLB

American League
DETROIT TIGERS: Sent 2B Andy Ibanez to Toledo (IL) on a rehab assignment.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS: Placed RHP Alec Marsh on the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Will Klein from Omaha (IL)
MINNESOTA TWINS: Recalled RHP Simeon Woods-Richardson from St. Paul (IL). Optioned RHP Ronny Henriquez to St. Paul. Sent RHP Justin Topa to St. Paul on a rehab assignment.
NEW YORK YANKEES: Claimed RHP Michael Tonkin off waivers from New York Mets. Designated RHP McKinley Moore for assignment.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS: Placed 2B Zack Gelof on the 10-day IL, retroactive to April 24. Recalled INF Darell Hernaiz from Las Vegas (PCL).
SEATTLE MARINERS: Transferred RHP Gregory Santos to the 60-day IL from the 15-day IL. Placed SS J.P. Crawford on the 10-day IL, retroactive to April 24. Selected the contract of SS Leo Rivas from Tacoma (PCL).
TAMPA BAY RAYS: Sent OF Jonny DeLuca to Durham (IL) on a rehab assignment.
TEXAS RANGERS: Reinstated RHP Josh Sborz from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Grant Anderson to Round Rock (IL).
TORONTO BLUE JAYS: Recalled LHP Brendon Little from Buffalo (IL). Placed RHP Bowden Francis on the 15-day IL.
National League
ATLANTA BRAVES: Assigned SS David Fletcher outright to Gwinnett (IL).
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES: Reinstated 1B Bryce Harper from the paternity list. Optioned INF Kody Clemens to Lehigh Valley (IL).
WASHINGTON NATIONALS: Reinstated C Keibert Ruiz from the 10-day IL. Optioned C Drew Millas to Rochester (IL). Reinstated OF Stone Garrett from the 10-day IL and optioned him to Rochester.

BASKETBALL

WNBA
INDIANA FEVER: Signed G Celeste Taylor and G Leilani Correa to rookie scale contracts.

FOOTBALL

NFL
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS: Declined the fifth-year option for LB Jamin Davis.

HOCKEY

NHL
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS: Signed D Alex Vlasic to a six-year contract extension. Recalled D Ronan Seeley from Chicago (AHL).
NASHVILLE PREDATORS: Recalled F Juuso Parssinen from Milwaukee (AHL).

ON THE AIR

Television

Auto racing	NASCAR Xfinity: Qualifying	FS2	2 p.m.
Auto racing	ARCA Menards: Race	FS1	6 p.m.
Col. baseball	Illinois at Maryland	Big Ten	4 p.m.
Col. baseball	Northwestern vs. Purdue	Big Ten	7 p.m.
Col. baseball	Florida at Arkansas	SEC	7 p.m.
Col. beach volleyball	Pac-12 Championships	Pac-12	11 a.m.
Col. beach volleyball	West Coast Championships	ESPNU	3:30 p.m.
Col. lacrosse	Army at Loyola-Maryland	CBSSN	6 p.m.
Col. lacrosse	Atlantic Coast (semifinal): Syracuse vs. Virginia (w)	ACC	4 p.m.
Col. lacrosse	Atlantic Coast (semifinal): Boston College vs. Notre Dame (w)	ACC	7 p.m.
Col. softball	Auburn at Mississippi	SEC	5 p.m.
Col. softball	Iowa St. at Texas	LHN	6 p.m.
Col. softball	Stanford at Washington	Pac-12	7 p.m.
Golf	PGA Champions: Mitsubishi Electric Classic	Golf	11 a.m.
Golf	PGA: Zurich Classic of New Orleans	Golf	2:30 p.m.
Golf	LPGA: L.A.Championship	Golf	5:30 p.m.
Golf	World: ISPS Handa Championship	Golf	10 p.m.
Hockey	U-18 Worlds (Group B): Canada vs. Czech Republic	NHL	11 a.m.
Horse racing	America's Day at the Races	FS2/FS2	noon 3 p.m.
MLB	Kansas City at Detroit	MLB	noon
MLB	St. Louis at N.Y. Mets	AppleTV+	6:10 p.m.
MLB	Tampa Bay at Chicago White Sox	AppleTV+	6:40 p.m.
MLB	Cincinnati at Texas	BSSW	7 p.m.
MLB	N.Y. Yankees at Milwaukee	MLB	7 p.m.
MLB	Philadelphia at San Diego	MLB	10 p.m.*
NBA	Eastern Conference (first round): Milwaukee at Indiana (Game 3)	ESPN	4:30 p.m.
NBA	Western Conference (first round): L.A. Clippers at Dallas (Game 3)	ESPN	7 p.m.
NBA	Western Conference (first round): Minnesota at Phoenix (Game 3)	ESPN	9:30 p.m.
NFL	2024 draft: Rounds 2-3	ABC, ESPN, NFL	6 p.m.
NHL	Eastern Conference (first round): N.Y. Rangers at Washington (Game 3)	TNT, truTV	6 p.m.
NHL	Western Conference (first round): Vancouver at Nashville (Game 3)	TBS	6:30 p.m.
NHL	Western Conference (first round): Winnipeg at Colorado (Game 3)	TNT, truTV	9 p.m.
NHL	Western Conference (first round): Edmonton at Los Angeles (Game 3)	TBS	9:30 p.m.
Rugby	NRL: Parramatta at Manly-Warringah	FS2	5 a.m.
Rugby	MLR: D.C. at Utah	FS1	8 p.m.
Soccer	Saudi Pro: Al-Fateh at Al-Hilal	FS2	10 a.m.
Tennis	WTA: Madrid Open	Tennis	4 a.m.
Volleyball	PVF: Grand Rapids at Omaha	CBSSN	8:30 p.m.

*joined in progress

Radio

MiLB	Space Cowboys at Reno	92.5 FM	8 p.m.

AROUND SPORTS

Smith's killer gets 25 years

WIRE REPORTS

NEW ORLEANS — The man who fatally shot retired NFL star **Will Smith** during a confrontation following a car crash in 2016 received a 25-year prison sentence Thursday.

Cardell Hayes, 36, was convicted by a unanimous jury in January.

In handing down the sentence, Judge **Camille Buras** noted that both Hayes and a companion were armed when they exited Hayes' car after the crash, and that Smith was unarmed. Smith was shot eight times — seven times in the back — during the confrontation after Hayes' SUV struck the rear of Smith's car.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Kentucky hires Baylor's Brooks

Kentucky hired Baylor assistant **Alvin Brooks III** as associate head coach, bringing in a 20-year coaching veteran who helped build the Bears into the 2021 national champions during eight seasons with the program.

Recently-hired Wildcats head coach **Mark Pope** cited Brooks' experience as a recruiter, strategist and relationship builder.

"I'm very appreciative of the opportunity to join a storied program, with such a passionate fan base as we chase banners together," Brooks said.

The Houston native previously coached at Kansas State before joining **Scott Drew's** staff at Baylor and has also worked at Sam Houston State, Bradley and Arkansas-Fort Smith, where he won the 2006 NJCAA Division I title.

Brooks' father, Lamar coach **Alvin Brooks II**, was Kentucky's director of operations under **Billy Gillispie** from 2007-09. He is a former University of Houston coach.

McCollum leaves Oklahoma: Javian McCollum is transferring to Georgia Tech after leading Oklahoma in scoring this past season.

AUTO RACING

Power unaware of illegal device

Will Power said Thursday he was unaware of any manipulations to Team Penske's push-to-powersystem until after last weekend's IndyCar race at Long Beach and never illegally used the mechanism.

Team Penske is under heavy scrutiny following the March 10 season-opening race at St. Petersburg, Fla., in which **Josef Newgarden** was stripped of the victory.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Arizona St. QB heads to Georgia

Quarterback **Jaden Rashada** has committed to Georgia after leaving Arizona State in the transfer portal.

HORSE RACING

Petition for Muth to race is denied

A Kentucky appeals court judge has denied Zedan Racing Stables' requests for an emergency hearing and ruling that sought to allow **Bob Baffert**-trained Arkansas Derby winner Muth to run in next week's Kentucky Derby.

New rules target power producers

EPA regulations on reducing emissions could affect natural gas industry in Texas

By James Osborne
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Texas natural gas producers face an uncertain future under new regulations announced by the Biden administration Thursday that would force power companies to rein in greenhouse gas emissions.

Under finalized rules from the Environmental Protection Agency, coal and new natural gas plants would be required to control 90% of their greenhouse gas emissions through the installation of carbon capture and storage systems over the decade ahead, potentially forcing a shift away from fossil fuels in the power sector. Existing natural gas plants would be governed under separate rules, currently under study at EPA.

The rules, which are likely to be challenged by state attorneys general, including Texas' Ken Paxton, would make a large share of future natural gas demand dependent on a carbon capture technology that remains expensive and not yet proven at scale. EPA Administrator Michael Regan said Thursday that he was confident carbon capture technology, which is supported by new lucrative federal tax credits, would be ready, describing the regulations as "ensuring that power companies can make smart investments and continue to deliver reliable electricity for all Americans."

"We have engaged extensively with the industry, and representatives from multiple power companies indicated (carbon capture) is a viable technology for the power sector today," he said.

But not all power companies. The Edison Electric Institute, which represents the nation's electric utilities, including CenterPoint in Houston and AEP in

Power plants continues on B8



Kirk Sides/Staff file photo

Under new rules, coal and new natural gas plants would be required to control 90% of greenhouse gas emissions through carbon capture and storage systems over the decade ahead.



Jason Fochtman/Staff file photo

Southwest Airlines' decision to stop service to George Bush Intercontinental Airport, where it returned in 2021 after a 16-year absence, comes after the carrier suffered a loss of $231 million over the first quarter of the year.

Southwest Airlines will end flights to Bush in August

IAH is one of four where the carrier is halting service; Hobby is not affected

By Peter Warren
STAFF WRITER

Southwest Airlines is stopping its service to George Bush Intercontinental Airport, the company announced Thursday.

Bush is one of four airports Southwest will stop flying out of this summer, with operations ceasing Aug. 4. The airline will still fly out of William P. Hobby Airport, which is one of Southwest's bases.

The decision comes after Southwest suffered a loss of $231 million over the first quarter of the year. Southwest also noted that delivery delays for Boeing aircraft has played a major role in decreasing the company's growth projections.

MORE INSIDE

American Airlines reports $312 million loss as labor expenses climb with new contracts. **B10**

Bob Jordan, the president and CEO of Southwest, said it was disappointing to start the year with a loss and that achieving the company's financial goals is an "immediate imperative."

"To improve our financial performance, we have intensified our network optimization efforts to address underperforming markets," Jordan said. "Consequently, we have made the difficult decision to close our operations at Bellingham International Airport, Cozumel International Airport, Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport, and Syracuse Hancock International Airport. I want to sincerely thank our Employees, the airports, and the communities for all their incredible support over the years."

Southwest returned to Bush in April 2021 after previously being at the airport from 1980 to 2005.

"Houston Airports is now in conversation with other domestic air carriers who want to expand service at Bush Airport," Jim Szczesniak, the Houston Airports Director of Aviation, said in a statement.

While it is leaving Bush, an expansion of the airline's operations at Hobby is on track to start in May.

The $470 million airport expansion includes additional gates and an improved baggage system.

Offshore wind energy projects cause stir

By Wayne Parry
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH TOWNSHIP, N.J. — Government supporters of offshore wind energy projects in New Jersey and New York are trading blows with opponents in some shore towns who say many vacationers and local residents don't want to see turbines filling the ocean horizon.

Eight beach towns on the Jersey Shore wrote to state utility regulators Wednesday, saying one wind farm proposal will be vastly more expensive than projected and will cost tourism-driven jobs and economic activity.

Their move came on the same day that federal energy regulators approved new rules to streamline the application and approval processes for offshore wind farms. Also Wednesday, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul issued supply chain and logistics proposals to help her state's offshore wind industry. Hochul's move came days after three New York projects were scrapped because the companies and state regulators couldn't agree on financial terms.

Shore towns spanning much of New Jersey's 127-mile coastline wrote to the state's Board of Public Utilities, saying the proposed Atlantic Shores wind farm will be costlier than originally proposed, particularly if the developers are allowed to rebid it.

An economic analysis sent by Long Beach Township, Beach Haven, Ship Bottom, Barnegat Light, Surf City, Harvey Cedars, Brigantine and Ventnor predicts that reduced visitation to the Jersey Shore by people who don't want to see windmills on the horizon could cost Ocean County more than $668 million in economic losses.

"The Atlantic Shores project will devastate the economies of

Wind farms continues on B8

Software giant Oracle plans move of HQ from Texas to Nashville

By Erica Grieder
STAFF WRITER

Just three years after moving its headquarters to Texas, software giant Oracle is packing up.

The company's new campus in Nashville, Tenn., "will ultimately be our world headquarters" Chairman Larry Ellison said Tuesday at the Oracle Health Summit held in that city.

Oracle, one of the largest software companies in the world, moved its headquarters to Austin from Redwood City in California's Silicon Valley in 2021, joining a smaller but rapidly growing tech scene. The company announced that year that it would build a new campus in Nashville, representing an investment of more than $1 billion.

While the planned relocation may be a case of Nashville winning rather than Austin losing, it reinforces questions about whether Texas is losing its edge when it comes to recruiting companies from states with higher business costs. While the state continues to have a well-regarded business climate, it tumbled out of the top five in CNBC's analysis of America's Top States for Business last year for the first time since the ranking began.

And Austin, which has experienced explosive growth over the past 20 years, has experienced several business-related setbacks of late. Tesla, which moved its headquarters to the city in 2021, said this month it would lay off more than 10% of its global workforce. And in November Cart.com, a quickly growing e-commerce and logistics company that moved its headquarters to Austin from Houston in 2021, announced it would return its headquarters to Houston.

Ellison, who co-founded Ora-

Oracle continues on B8



Paul Sakuma/Associated Press file photo

Oracle Corp.'s planned campus in Nashville, Tenn., will serve as the computer technology giant's world headquarters, placing it in a city that's a center of the health care industry.

U.S. growth slowed last quarter to 1.6% pace

By Paul Wiseman
ASSOCIATED PRESS



Charlie Riedel/Associated Press

New data showed a surge in imports reduced first-quarter growth by nearly 1 percentage point.

WASHINGTON — The nation's economy slowed sharply last quarter to a 1.6% annual pace in the face of high interest rates, but consumers — the main driver of economic growth — kept spending at a solid pace.

Thursday's report from the Commerce Department said the gross domestic product — the economy's total output of goods and services — decelerated in the January-March quarter from its brisk 3.4% growth rate in the final three months of 2023.

A surge in imports, which are subtracted from GDP, reduced first-quarter growth by nearly 1 percentage point. Growth was also held back by businesses reducing their inventories. Both those categories tend to fluctuate sharply from quarter to quarter.

By contrast, the core components of the economy still appear sturdy. Along with households, businesses helped drive the economy last quarter with a strong pace of investment.

The import and inventory numbers can be volatile, so "there is still a lot of positive underlying momentum," said Paul Ashworth, chief North America economist at Capital Economics.

The economy, though, is still creating price pressures, a continuing source of concern for the Federal Reserve. A measure of inflation in Friday's report accelerated to a 3.4% annual rate from January through March, up from 1.8% in the last three months of 2023 and the biggest increase in a year. Excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called core inflation rose at a 3.7% rate, up from 2% in fourth-quarter 2023.

From January through March, consumer spending rose at a 2.5% annual rate, a solid pace though down from a rate of more than 3% in each of the previous two quarters. Americans' spending on services — everything from movie tickets and restaurant meals to airline fares and doctors' visits — rose 4%, the fastest such pace since mid-2021.

But they cut back spending on goods such as appliances and furniture. Spending on that category fell 0.1%, the first such drop since the summer of 2022.

Gregory Daco, chief economist at the tax and consulting firm EY, noted that the underlying economy looks solid, though it's slowing from last year's unexpectedly fast pace. The rise in imports that accounted for much of the drop in first-quarter growth, he noted, is "a sign of solid demand" by American consumers for foreign goods.

Still, Daco said that the economy's "momentum is cooling."

"It's unlikely to be a major retrenchment," he said, "but we are likely to see cooler economic momentum as a result of consumers exercising more scrutiny with their outlays."

The state of the U.S. economy has seized Americans' attention as the election season has intensified. Although inflation has slowed sharply from a peak of 9.1% in 2022, prices remain well above their pre-pandemic levels.

Republican critics of President Joe Biden have sought to pin responsibility for high prices on Biden and use it as a cudgel to derail his re-election bid. And polls show that despite the healthy job market, a near-record-high stock market and the sharp pullback in inflation, many Americans still hold dim views of Biden's handling of the economy.

Last quarter's GDP snapped a streak of six straight quarters of at least 2% annual growth. The 1.6% rate of expansion was also the slowest since the economy actually shrank in the first and second quarters of 2022.

The economy's gradual slowdown reflects, in large part, the much higher borrowing rates for home and auto loans, credit cards and many business loans that have resulted from the 11 interest rate hikes the Fed imposed in its drive to tame inflation.

Even so, the United States has continued to outpace the rest of the world's advanced economies. The International Monetary Fund has projected that the world's largest economy will grow 2.7% for all of 2024, up from 2.5% last year and more than double the growth the IMF expects this year for Germany, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and Canada.

Businesses have been pouring money into factories, warehouses and other buildings, encouraged by federal incentives to manufacture computer chips and green technology in the United States. On the other hand, their spending on equipment has been weak. And as imports outpace exports, international trade is also thought to have been a drag on the economy's first-quarter growth.

Kristalina Georgieva, the IMF's managing director, cautioned last week that the "flipside of strong U.S. economic growth was that it was "taking longer than expected" for inflation to reach the Fed's 2% target, although price pressures have sharply slowed from their mid-2022 peak.

Inflation flared up in the spring of 2021 as the economy rebounded with unexpected speed from the COVID-19 recession, causing severe supply shortages. Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 made things significantly worse by inflating prices for the energy and grains the world depends on.

The Fed responded by aggressively raising its benchmark rate between March 2022 and July 2023. Despite widespread predictions of a recession, the economy has proved unexpectedly durable. Hiring so far this year is even stronger than it was in 2023. And unemployment has remained below 4% for 26 straight months, the longest such streak since the 1960s.

Inflation, the main source of Americans' discontent about the economy, has slowed from 9.1% in June 2022 to 3.5%. But progress has stalled lately.

Though the Fed's policymakers signaled last month that they expect to cut rates three times this year, they have lately signaled that they're in no hurry to reduce rates in the face of continued inflationary pressure. Now, a majority of Wall Street traders don't expect them to start until the Fed's September meeting, according to the CME FedWatch tool.

POWER PLANTS

From page B7

Central Texas, said Thursday that EPA had failed to address its concerns about the readiness of carbon capture technology.

"CCS is not yet ready for full-scale, economy-wide deployment, nor is there sufficient time to permit, finance, and build the CCS infrastructure needed for compliance by 2032," EEI President Dan Brouillette said in a statement.

The power sector is the nation's largest customer for natural gas, consuming 40% of the natural gas produced in the United States, according to the Department of Energy. And oil and gas companies are worried that forcing power companies to install costly carbon capture equipment will drive up costs on gas plants, potentially pushing power companies toward cheaper technologies such as wind and solar energy.

Dustin Meyer, a senior vice president at the industry group American Petroleum Institute, on Thursday questioned whether the new rules would lead to fewer gas plants being built and potentially increased blackouts.

"We remain concerned that EPA's final rule fails to properly consider grid reliability and the need for new natural gas plants to maintain that reliability," he said. "At a time of rapid energy demand growth, we need policies that harness all of America's resources, including natural gas and renewables."

The final rule released Thursday represents a scaled-back version of a draft released by the Biden administration last year. Existing natural gas plants were exempted from the regulation in February after pushback from power companies and members of both political parties, including former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. EPA officials also said limited exemptions would now be allowed to power plants to ensure the reliability of the power grid and dropped language encouraging power companies to burn clean hydrogen fuel at gas plants amid reported cost concerns.

But the rules also got tougher in some respects. Any new gas plant operating at more than 40% of its maximum generating capacity, the bulk of new natural gas plants being built today, will need to comply with the new limits on emissions — compared with 50% under the draft. And the Biden administration finalized new regulations on mercury pollution and the coal ash produced by burning coal, mounting environmental liabilities for the power sector.

Environmentalists largely cheered the rules, though some, including former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, urged the EPA to move quickly on emissions standards for the nation's fleet of more than 1,500 gas-fired power plants.

"In 2024, with clean, renewable energy producing record amounts of electricity, Texans should no longer have to pay for power with our health," said Luke Metzger, executive director of the nonprofit Environment Texas. "Today's announcements by the EPA send a clear message to polluting power plants: It's time to clean up or shut down."

The Biden administration has come under increasing pressure from the power sector and members of both parties to ensure power prices are kept in check as it seeks to move the grid to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035.

NRG Energy, the Houston-based power giant, released a statement Thursday saying reliability of the power grid needed to be taken into account by EPA and that regulations forcing existing power plants to clean up emissions would likely result in costs being "passed through to consumers."

And last week, a group of moderate House Democrats, including Rep. Henry Cuellar of Laredo, wrote a letter to Regan urging him to delay the new rules over concern about the impact on power prices and jobs.

"Together we must work to ensure that EPA's rules for power plants preserve affordable and reliable electricity for communities that are the most vulnerable to increased electric bills and loss of power from blackouts," they wrote.

WIND FARMS

From page B7



Associated Press file photo

Eight beach towns in New Jersey have told state utility regulators that an offshore wind farm proposal will cost tourism-driven jobs and economic activity.

the shore municipalities by deterring visitors and eliminating thousands of jobs," said James Mancini, mayor of Long Beach Township on Long Beach Island. "It is imperative that any offshore wind projects are placed far enough out to avoid these drastic impacts, which adversely affect not only the shore municipalities' residents, visitors, and businesses, but all of New Jersey's residents."

The towns also said allowing the project owners to rebid would increase additional costs to ratepayers to $10 billion, up from $3.7 billion.

The BPU and Atlantic Shores did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment Thursday. But the New Jersey Offshore Wind Alliance said the law firm that wrote to New Jersey regulators is "engaged in misguided litigation against offshore wind development" and that an operating wind farm off Block Island, R.I., proves that offshore wind farms can coexist with tourism and recreational fisheries.

Atlantic Shores would have 157 turbines and would be 8.7 miles from shore, among the closest projects proposed for the state's shoreline. It is a partnership between Shell New Energies and EDF-RE Offshore Development.

It is one of three offshore wind projects currently pending in New Jersey. The BPU in January chose Attentive Energy and Leading Light Wind to build offshore wind projects.

Also on Wednesday, U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement finalized new regulations for offshore wind projects intended to save the industry $1.9 billion over the next 20 years. It would streamline some processes, eliminate what the agencies called duplicative requirements and allow money for eventual decomissioning work to be put up incrementally instead of all at once at the start of a project.

That same day, Gov Hochul responded to the collapse of three offshore wind projects last week by issuing requests for proposals and information regarding supply chains and logistics for offshore wind projects. That followed the state canceling three preliminarily approved offshore wind projects after failing to reach final agreements with any of them

New York provisionally approved the projects in October. They are Attentive Energy One being developed by TotalEnergies Rise Light & Power and Corio Generation; Community Offshore Wind; and Vineyard Offshore's Excelsior Wind.

ORACLE

From page B7

cle as Software Development Systems in 1977 and ranks as the world's fifth-richest person, according to Forbes, noted Nashville's status as a health center in explaining the decision.

The city is home to more than 900 companies in the industry, according to the Nashville Health Care Council, including HCA Healthcare, which has about 200 hospitals in its network and is considered the largest health system in the country. Oracle is focused on the industry as a source of growth, and in 2022 acquired the electronic health records company Cerner in a $28 billion deal.

In addition, Ellison said, Nashville offers the kind of amenities Oracle employees value, according to company surveys.

"Nashville is a fabulous place to live," he said.

It is unclear what the move to Nashville means for Oracle's presence in Austin. The company did not immediately respond to a request for comment. It has more than 4,000 employees in Austin, and a campus just south of Lady Bird Lake.

Ellison did not specify when the move will take place and suggested that he had let the cat out of the bag a bit early.

"I shouldn't have said that," he said.

LEGAL NOTICES

HoustonChronicle.com/Place-Legals legals@chron.com 713.362.6868

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS AD

$90.00*

Contact our team:

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Visit our 24/7 website to place, anytime:

HoustonChronicle.com/Place-Legals

Includes first 36 lines and 1 Affidavit of Publication. $2.00 each additional line.

Legal Bids & Proposals | Legal Bids & Proposals

NOTICE OF COMPETITIVE BIDS

Harris County is requesting offers for the projects listed below. Offer requirements, including item description(s), submission due dates and times, type of pricing, payment method, and any bonding requirements, may be obtained online at https://purchasing.harriscountytx.gov, or in the Purchasing Agent's office. Return offers to Harris County Purchasing Agent, 1111 Fannin, 12th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time in Houston, Texas on specified due dates.

Bids/Proposals Due April 29, 2024

Job	23/0424	Maintenance, Inspection and Related Services of Hazmat and Arson Equipment
Job	24/0003	Vision Insurance
Job	24/0017	Enterprise Learning Management System
Job	24/0031	Emergency Household Hazardous Waste Removal and Related Services
Job	24/0033	Text Messaging Platform Services, Precinct 1
Job	24/0038	Pavement Markers, Markings and Related Items
Job	24/0078	Professional Architectural and/or Engineering Services to Provide Program Management, Estimating, Scheduling, and Risk Assessment Services for the Management of CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT Projects
Job	24/0087	Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Services Utilizing the University of Cincinnati Cognitive Behavioral Interventions - Substance Use Adult Curriculum
Job	24/0091	Travel Management Services
Job	24/0096	Rental and Operation of Motorized Cranes and Haul Trucks
Job	24/0108	Lactation Support and Services for ACCESS Harris
Job	24/0117	Stormwater Quality Maintenance Program and Related Items

Bids/Proposals Due May 6, 2024

Job	23/0493	Virtual Reality Equipment, Implementation, Training and Support Services
Job	24/0056	Supplemental Jury Meals
Job	24/0060	Civil Courthouse Audio/Video Systems Upgrade
Job	24/0085	Transitional Housing Services
Job	24/0098	High Definition Closed-Circuit Television Cameras, Associated Equipment, Maintenance and Related Items
Job	24/0109	Repair Parts, Maintenance and Related Services of Aircrafts
Job	24/0119	Psychiatry Services
Job	24/0130	Ditch Regrading and Reshaping at Various Locations, Precinct 2
Job	24/0131	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Clothing and Related Items

Bids/Proposals Due May 13, 2024

Job	24/0070	Detention Security Screening Equipment
Job	24/0079	Blockage Removal and Floatable Collection Structure Maintenance **(Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 and Mandatory Site Visit on Thursday, May 2, 2024)**
Job	24/0097	Intelligent Transportation System Services & Equipment
Job	24/0106	New Enterprise Case Management system with Electronic Medical Record
Job	24/0112	Strategic Planning Consulting Services
Job	24/0114	Aerial Spraying for Mosquito Control
Job	24/0121	Residential Treatment for Males and Females Who Are Under Community Supervision
Job	24/0122	General Drainage System Repairs in North Harris County
Job	24/0139	Construction of Water Distribution, Wastewater Collection, Storm Water, Paving, and Lift Station for East Aldine Estates Subdivision, Precinct 2
Job	24/0140	Reconstruction of Single Family Homes
Job	24/0141	Rehabilitation of Single Family Homes
Job	24/0144	Drainage and Related Infrastructure Improvements along Dula Lane – 2022, Precinct 3

Bids/Proposals Due May 20, 2024

Job	24/0035	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Technical Assistance, Portfolio Management, and Compliance Support
Job	24/0133	Pharmaceutical Distributor

/s/ DeWight Dopslauf
DeWight Dopslauf, C.P.M., CPPO
Purchasing Agent

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to Pulte Homes of Texas, L.P. on behalf of Harris-Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 10, will be received electronically or at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 3600 W. Sam Houston Parkway S., Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042, until 2:00 p.m. Local Time, Thursday, May 16, 2024, and then publicly opened and read at the office of LJA Engineering, Inc., 3600 W. Sam Houston Parkway S., Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042 for "Water, Sanitary Sewer, Drainage, Paving and Detention to serve Stokesbury Phase 1 for Pulte Homes of Texas, L.P. on behalf of Harris-Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 10, Harris County, Texas." In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may attend the Bid Opening by telephone by dialing +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 818 180 732#.

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Water, Sanitary Sewer, Drainage, Paving and Detention to serve Stokesbury Phase 1.

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held remotely on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Local Time. To attend the audio format non-mandatory pre-bid conference, dial +1 346-202-6170, Phone Conference ID: 835 324 336#.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

Bidding documents may be examined at LJA Engineering, Inc., AGC of Texas, Construct Connect, and Amtek or may be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of $100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery ($50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents at LJA Engineering, Inc., 3600 W. Sam Houston Parkway S., Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042 , or at https://bids.lja.com. Checks should be made payable to LJA Engineering, Inc. No cash will be accepted.

A bidder submitting electronic Bids must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance withOwner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all electronic Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through https://bids.lja.com. Bidders must register and obtain bidding documents on this website for the required payment amount (if any) to submit an electronic bid.

By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed or agreed to through the use of an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except the time for submitting a Bid. The successful bidder, if any, will be the responsible bidder, which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and the bidder agrees that the Contract Documents can be terminated if the bidder knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

Advertisement for the Request for Information (RFI) for Airport Concessions Loyalty Rewards Program for Houston Airport System (HAS): - (Solicitation No.: H06-ACLRPS-2024-027)

The City of Houston, Houston Airport System (HAS) is seeking submittals through this Request for Information (RFI) from qualified firms to provide information and input for innovative strategies and approaches that support the implementation of an airport concessions loyalty rewards program at Houston Airport System.

An Information Session will be held in-person at 1:00 P.M. CT, Thursday, May 2, 2024, at HAS Infrastructure Division Office (IDO) Building, Auditorium No. 1, 111 Standifer Drive, Humble, Texas 77338.

RFI Submittals are due on Thursday, May 23, 2024 , no later than 2:00 P.M., (CT).

RFI Submittals shall be delivered to:

Houston Airport System Administration Building
16930 John F Kennedy Blvd
Houston, Texas 77032
Attn: Cathy Vander Plaats, Aviation Procurement Officer

All submittals must be provided in a sealed box/envelope clearly labeled on the outside with the name and address of the Responding Firm and indicate the contents to be:

"H06-ACLRPS-2024-027 Airport Concessions Loyalty Rewards Program"

Late submittals and submittals delivered to locations other than the one specified in the RFI document will **not** be reviewed for any reason.

All firms interested in responding should obtain a copy of the RFI that contains detailed information concerning the Pre-Submittal Conference and submittal requirements.

The RFI may be electronically accessed at the following link:
https://www.fly2houston.com/biz/opportunities/solicitations.

For additional information, please email David Martinez, Sr. Procurement Specialist, Houston Airport System, (**david.martinez@houstontx.gov**).

Notice to Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of N. Rao Thammavaram, Deceased, were issued on April 24, 2024, in Docket No. 24-CPR-040622 pending in County Court at Law No.4 of Fort Bend County, Texas, to: Charu K. Thammavaram.
All claims against the Estate of N. Rao Thammavaram, Deceased should be presented to:
Charu K. Thammavaram
C/O Kurt M Andreason
ANDREASON LAW FIRM, PLLC
P. O. BOX 19429
SUGAR LAND, TX 77496-9429
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 24th day of April, 2024.
ANDREASON LAW FIRM
By: Kurt M Andreason
Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Roy Worth Whitney, Deceased, were issued on April 22, 2024, in Cause No. 522688, pending in the Probate Court No: 1, Harris County, Texas, to Laura Jo Whitney Fereira.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Jonny Lohman, Attorney, 5322 W Bellfort, Ste. 111, Houston, TX 77035. Dated April 24, 2024. */s/ Jonny Lohman* Attorney for Laura Jo Whitney Fereira.

Legal Bids & Proposals

Humble ISD is accepting request for proposals on **RFP2024-14 Kitchen Uniforms for Child Nutrition Services** until May 13, 2024 before 12:00 PM. Proposals may be viewed and submitted electronically through Humble ISD's online bidding system: https://humbleisd.ionwave.net

HOUSTON GATEWAY ACADEMY, INC. is accepting sealed bids for vended meals for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) for the 2024-2025 school year. Proposals are due by May 15, 2024 at 2:00 PM CST. Visit https://www.hgaschools.org/apps/pages/rfp24 for the full RFP.

Humble ISD is accepting request for proposals on **RFP2024-25 Large Kitchen Equipment-District Wide for Child Nutrition Services** until May 17, 2024 before 12:00 PM. Proposals may be viewed and submitted electronically through Humble ISD's online bidding system: https://humbleisd.ionwave.net

Legals/Public Notices

PUBLIC HEARING WITHOUT VARIANCE OR SPECIAL EXCEPTION (both Virtual Meeting and Face-to-Face Meeting)

The Houston Planning Commission has received an application to allow the partial replatting of Lot 17, Block 2 of Traditions, Section One as recorded in Volume 318, Page 018 of the Harris County Map Records for the purpose of creating one residential lot consisting of the remainder of said Lot 17 after a portion of said lot was previously sold off.

The new subdivision name is Belle Terre.

This is the written notice of a public hearing the City sends to all owners of property within 300 feet of the boundary of the plat.

The Houston Planning Commission will hold a public meeting and public hearing on this replat.

The Commission is the non-legislative body authorized to review and render decisions on subdivision applications and requests. The meeting at which this item will first be considered is listed below. A sign with this information has also been posted on the project site.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING INFORMATION:
Thursday, May 16, 2024, beginning at 2:30 p.m.
City Hall Annex Building,
900 Bagby Street
City Council Chamber, Public Level,
Houston, Texas

Members of the public may make comments or express concerns about the proposed project by either attending the meeting at City Council Chamber listed above or attending the meeting via Microsoft Teams. The Microsoft Teams meeting will allow for a twoway video/audio communication with the Houston Planning Commission. **For instruction on how to join the meeting, interested persons are advised to check our website 72 hours prior to the Planning Commission meeting: www.houstonplanning.com or Call: 832-393-6624.**

You may submit comments to:
speakercomments.pc@houstontx.gov

Contact the applicant at 281-356-5172 or the City of Houston Planning Department at (832)393-6600 for any additional information

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO. 127344-CV
149th District Court
U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Ownertrustee for Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2021-RP3
vs.
The Unknown heirs at Law of Len Yvonne Brooks, Deceased: Aerica Elethia Sanders TO: The Unknown Heirs at Law of Len Yvonne Brooks, deceased, and to all whom it may concern:
NOTICE OF DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ am attorney. If you or your Attorney do not file a written answer with the Clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a Default Judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."
You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this Citation the same being Monday the 3rd day of June, 2024, before the Honorable 149th District Court, Brazoria County Courthouse, Angleton, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 28th day of February, 2024 in the above entitled cause.
A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to foreclose the lien on the property to-wit: Property located at 1126 Andover Drive, Pearland, Texas 77584 legally described as : LOT SEVEN (7) IN BLOCK ONE (1) OF SOUTHDOWN, SECTION NINE (9), AN ADDITION IN BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 20, PAGES 79 AND 80, OF THE PLAT RECORDS OF BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS as in more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.
If filing Pro Se, said answer may be filed by mailing same to: Brazoria County District Clerk's Office, 111 E. Locust, Suite 304, Angleton, Texas, 77515-4678 or by bringing said answer in person to the aforementioned address.
The name and address of the Attorney for Plaintiff is William Jennings, SettlePou, 3333 Lee Parkway Eighth Floor, Dallas, TX 75219, Phone Number: 214-520-3300.
The Court has authority in this suit to enter Judgment. Any such Judgment will be binding upon you.
Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Angleton, Texas, on the 15th day of April, 2024.
(seal)
CASSANDRA TIGNER, DISTRICT CLERK
Brazoria County, Texas
By: *Carly Whistler* Deputy
Carly Whistler

Legal Bids & Proposals | Legal Bids & Proposals | Legal Bids & Proposals

REAL ESTATE SEALED BID SALE NOTICE
±83.277 acres of land in
Greenview Manor Subdivision
located near intersection of
Aldine Westfield & Greens Road
Houston, TX 77032
(Parcel SY24-071)

The City of Houston is accepting sealed bids for the sale of the property listed below. Bids will be accepted in the office of City of Houston, Houston Airport System / Commercial Development Attn: Anissa Veal, 16930 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032. The deadline for submitting bids is **10:30 a.m., June 20, 2024** , at which time bids will be opened. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained by emailing anissa.veal@houstontx.gov or by calling (281)233-1828. For additional information please visit www.fly2houston.com.

PARCEL SY24-071: ±83.277 acres of land in
Greenview Manor Subdivision
located near intersection of
Aldine Westfield & Greens Road
Houston, TX 77032
(Parcel SY24-071)

Notice to Proposers

Request for Proposal will be received by Lone Star College for:

- RFP #950 – Facilities Management Services. Electronic submittals due by 3:00PM, Friday, May 24, 2024
- Mandatory: Site Walk-through – See bid document for site visit schedule.
- Non-Mandatory: WebEx pre-proposal meeting: Monday, April 29, 2024 @ 3:00PM; call-in number 1-408-792-6300, Meeting #2632 457 9706
- Contact: Pamela.Johnson@lonestar.edu or (832)813-6782.
- Must Register to Bid: http://wwwappsdstc.lonestar.edu/istar/supplier.htm . If registered, please ensure your registration is up to date. For assistance with the on-line registration process, contact MC-vendors@lonestar.edu.

Instructions to Bidders:
Electronic bids, addressed to info@gsmarchitects.net will be received by the office of GSMArchitects until 5:00pm CDT on Friday, June 14, 2024. Bids shall be for procuring, delivering and installing furniture and furnishings, including furnishings for classrooms, apartments, and offices for the Houston Area Women's Center Emergency Supportive Housing (ESH) Building. Bids received after the above stated closing time will not be considered. Questions may be submitted to info@gsmarchitects.net until Friday, May 17, 2024. An Addendum with responses will be issued to all bidders on Friday, May 24, 2024. The right is reserved, as the interest of the Owner may require, to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informality in bids received.Information for bidders, Drawings, Specifications and Bidding Documents may be secured by emailing info@gsmarchitects.net.
IPLHOU0043283

Legals/Public Notices | Legals/Public Notices

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision for Hazardous Industrial Waste Permit Renewal

Permit No. 50376

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Jason R. Morman, a former industrial equipment cleaning facility has applied to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a permit renewal and compliance plan with a minor amendment to authorize the continuation of post-closure care and corrective action under the terms and conditions of the permit. The facility is located at 11101 West Fairmont Parkway, La Porte, Texas 77571 in Harris County, Texas. TCEQ received the application on July 24, 2023. The following link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice: https://arcg.is/0b8eve0. For exact location, refer to application.

The TCEQ Executive Director has reviewed this action for consistency with the goals and policies of the Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) in accordance with the regulations of the Coastal Coordination Council (CCC) and has determined that the action is consistent with the applicable CMP goals and policies.

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at the La Porte Branch Library, 600 South Broadway, La Porte, TX 77571.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING: You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name; address, phone; applicant's name and permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you raised during the comment period and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn.

If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application submitted during the comment period.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. To be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Once you have access to the CID using the above link, enter the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION All public comments and requests must be submitted within 45 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ **or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087.** Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ's Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained by mailing Jason R. Morman at 11101 West Fairmont Parkway, La Porte, Texas 77571 or by calling Jason R. Morman at (281) 471-3541.

Issuance Date: March 21, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING WITHOUT VARIANCE OR SPECIAL EXCEPTION (both Virtual Meeting and Face-to-Face Meeting)

The Houston Planning Commission has received an application to allow the partial replatting of Rosewood Estates as recorded in Volume 23, Page 42 of the Harris County Map Records for the purpose of CREATING 4 RESIDENTIAL LOTS. The new subdivision name is ROSEWOOD ESTATES PARTIAL REPLAT NO.3

This is the written notice of a public hearing the City sends to all owners of property within 300' of the boundary of the plat.

The Houston Planning Commission will hold a public meeting and public hearing on this replat. The Commission is the non-legislative body authorized to review and render decisions on subdivision applications and requests. The meeting at which this item will first be considered is listed below. A sign with this information has also been posted on the project site. PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING INFORMATION: Thursday, May 16, 2024, beginning at 2:30 p.m., City Hall Annex Building, 900 Bagby Street, City Council Chamber, Public Level, Houston, Texas.

Members of the public may make comments or express concerns about the proposed project by either attending the meeting at City Council Chamber listed above or attending the meeting via Microsoft Teams. The Microsoft Teams meeting will allow for a two-way video/ audio communication with the Houston Planning Commission. For instruction on how to join the meeting, interested persons are advised to check our website 72 hours prior to the Planning Commission meeting: www.houstonplanning.com or Call: 832-393-6624. You may submit comments to: speakercomments.pc@houstontx.gov. Contact the applicant South Texas Surveying, Inc. at 281-556-6918 or the City of Houston Planning Department at (832) 393-6600 for any additional information.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Section 312.002(c-1) of the Texas Tax Code, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Houston will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. in the City Hall Council Chamber at 901 Bagby Street, 2nd Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 to hear comments concerning proposed amendments to the City of Houston tax abatement ordinance.

Anyone wishing to speak at the hearing should make a reservation to speak by calling the City Secretary's Office at 832-393-1100 before 3:00pm on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. If you have any questions regarding the proposed amendments to the City's tax abatement ordinance, please call Mrs. Gwendolyn Tillotson-Bell at 832-393-0937.

Citation by Publication

CAUSE NO: 2023-38417

IN THE 165TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Plaintiff: NEW AMERICAN, LLC

vs.

Defendant: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JACK HAGANS, JR,

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Harris

To: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JACK HAGANS JR AND JANETTE HAGGANS (WHOSE WHEREABOUTS AND ADDRESS ARE UNKNOWN)

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to be and appear before the 165TH **Judicial District Court** of Harris County, Texas in the Courthouse in the city of Houston, Texas at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. Monday, the **29TH day of APRIL**, being the Monday after the expiration date of forty-two days after this citation is issued, and you are hereby commanded and required then and there to appear and file written answer to the Plaintiff Original Petition filed in said Court on the **JUNE 22ND, 2023**, in suit numbered **2023-338417** on the docket of said court, wherein **NEW AMERICAN LLC**, the Plaintiff, and **THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JACK HAGANS JR, JANETTE HAGGANS**, the Defendant, the nature of plaintiff's demand and the said petition alleging: OTHER PROPERTY

SUMMARY:
Plaintiff is seeking a judicial declaration that, as recourse for default under that one certain voluntary security instrument, it may proceed in accordance with the terms of such security instrument and the Texas Property Code with the nonjudicial foreclosure of that certain property wit: Legal Description: LOT FORTY-ONE (41), IN BLOCK TWELVE (12) OF BRINAM WOOD SECTION FIVE (5), AN ADDITION IN HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR, PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 304, PAGE 110 OF THE MAP RECORDS OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS.

Notice hereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive weeks previous to the **22ND DAY OF APRIL**, in some newspaper published in the County of HARRIS, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest county where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on the **22ND day of APRIL**, 2024, which if forty-two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before said return day.
HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same.

WITNESS: MARILYN BURGESS, District Clerk, Harris County, Texas

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas this **11TH day** of **MARCH, 2024**.

MARILYN BURGESS, District Clerk
Harris County, Texas

By: Adrian Monsi
ADRIAN MONSI, Deputy

(SEAL)

Newspaper: **HOUSTON CHRONICLE**

Issued at the request of:
JONES, M TORI, SBN: 24077649
546 SILICON DRIVE SUITE 103
SOUTHLAKE, TEXAS
TELEPHONE: (850) 422-2520

CITATION BY PUBLICATION-CIVIL
Cause Number: 23-11-16374 Clerk of the Court Melisa Miller P.O Box 2985 Conroe, Texas77305 Attorney Requesting Service Richard J Presutti 525 N Sam Houston Pkwy E Ste 600 Houston TX 77060 THE STATE OF TEXAS NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney does not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you." To: Sarah Caldwell You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Motion for Substitute Service of Process at or before 10:00 A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this citation the same being Monday, the 10th day of June, 2024 before the 284th Judicial District Court of Montgomery County, Texas at the Courthouse of said County in Conroe, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Motion for Substitute Service of Process was filed in said court on this the 11th day of April, 2024, in this case, numbered 23-11-16374 on the docket of said court. The names of the parties to the cause are as follows: Gwendolyn Hendrix are Plaintiffs and Sarah Caldwell are Defendants A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: Plaintiff, GWENDOLYN HENDRIX, filed suit against Defendant, SARAH CALDWELL, to recover damages for personal injuries sustained by Plaintiff in a collision in Montgomery County, Texas which was collision was proximately caused by the negligence of the Defendant, SARAH CALDWELL. The case is styled: Cause No. 23-11-16374; Gwendolyn Hendrix v. Sarah Caldwell; In the 284th Judicial District Court of Montgomery County, Texas as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Motion for Substitute Service of Process on file in this suit. The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due as the law directs. Issued and given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Conroe Texas, this on this the 23rd day of April 2024. (SEAL) Melisa Miller, District Clerk Montgomery County, Texas By: (SIGNATURE) Traci Gunter 4/23/2024 12:44:03 PM

chron.com/familyguide CHRON.

American Airlines reports $312M Q1 loss

By Alexandra Skores
DALLAS MORNING NEWS

American Airlines reported a $312 million first-quarter loss for 2024 on Thursday.

The Fort Worth-based airline, which had to adjust for costs associated with new labor contracts, took $86 million in charges for one-time events including expenses from new labor deals. American's operating expenses went up to almost 7%, including an 18% rise in salaries and other expenses.



Smiley N. Pool/Dallas Morning News

American Airlines's first-quarter operating expenses went up to almost 7%, including an 18% rise in salaries and other expenses.

The first quarter, however, didn't include the upfront costs of American's new pilot agreement, which the company included in the fourth quarter of 2023. The agreement raised pilot pay by more than 40% over four years.

American reported first-quarter revenue of $12.6 billion, an increase of 3.2% from a year earlier. Of that figure, $11.5 billion was passenger revenue, $187 million in cargo revenue and $925 million was for other revenues, like American's AAdvantage card program and airport lounges.

"While we aren't satisfied with our first-quarter financial results, we have a strong foundation in place, and we remain on track to deliver on our full-year financial targets," said Robert Isom, CEO of American in a release. Our team is running a fantastic operation, driving revenue through our commercial initiatives, efficiently managing costs, and producing free cash flow to further strengthen our balance sheet."

Analysts at Raymond James said that while American missed first-quarter expectations, the second-quarter guide is looking strong. But not as strong as competitors, researchers said.

Melius Research reported similarly that the airline anticipates the next quarter to be stronger.

"American's path to closing the margin gap to Delta & United is largely a function of revenue as they continue to execute on the cost side (relatively) given a strong operation and consistency in capacity planning," the report said. "Again, American falls into many of the buckets investors like, so if they are able to take advantage of other airlines that are struggling, it would elevate the story further."

American, like other major airlines, is feeling the pressure of plane manufacturer Boeing's issues in delivering new aircraft orders. The delay in deliveries follows a series of safety issues plaguing the airplane manufacturer, such as January's Boeing 737 Max 9 blowout that left a gaping hole in the side of an Alaska Airlines fuselage. The incident continues to make headlines, and the Federal Aviation Administration opened a formal investigation into Boeing.

FCC reinstates net neutrality

By David Hamilton
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — The FCC on Thursday restored "net neutrality" rules that prevent broadband internet providers such as Comcast and AT&T from favoring some sites and apps over others.

The move effectively reinstates a net neutrality order the commission first issued in 2015 during the Obama administration; under then-President Donald Trump, the FCC subsequently repealed those rules in 2017.

Net neutrality is the principle that providers of internet service should treat all traffic equally. The rules, for instance, ban practices that throttle or block certain sites or apps, or that offer higher speeds to customers willing to pay extra.

"In our post-pandemic world, we know that broadband is a necessity, not a luxury," FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel said in a statement ahead of the vote.

The telecommunications industry opposed the reintroduction of the rules, as it has before, declaring it an example of unnecessary government interference in business decisions.

The measure passed on a 3-2 vote split by party lines, with Democratic commissioners in favor and Republicans opposed.

BNSF will allow anonymous reports to safety hotline

By Josh Funk
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OMAHA, Neb. — BNSF will become the second major freight railroad to allow some of its employees to report safety concerns anonymously through a federal system without fear of discipline.

The Federal Railroad Administration announced Thursday that the railroad owned by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway had agreed to let its roughly 650 dispatchers participate in the program that all the major railroads promised to join after last year's disastrous Norfolk Southern derailment in Ohio.

"Rail workers deserve to know they're safe when they're on the job — and if they experience anything that compromises their safety, they should be able to report it without worrying if their job is in jeopardy," said Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Buttigieg has been urging the railroads to improve safety ever since the February 2023 derailment.

"We hope this program will further empower our employees to provide confidential feedback on critical safety issues in an actionable, timely manner," BNSF CEO Katie Farmer said.

Until NS became the first railroad to sign onto the anonymous reporting system in January, all the major freight railroads resisted joining because they wanted the ability to discipline workers who use the hotline in certain circumstances. The Association of American Railroads trade group has said railroads were worried that the system could be abused by workers who try to avoid discipline by reporting situations a railroad already knows about.

But the idea of disciplining workers who report safety concerns undermines the entire purpose of such a hotline because workers won't use it if they fear retribution, unions and workplace safety experts said. That's especially important on the railroads where there is a long history of workers being fired for reporting safety violations or injuries.

The president of the American Train Dispatchers Association, Ed Dowell, said this move "marks a pivotal moment for rail safety."

The Norfolk Southern program is also limited in scope. Only about 1,000 members of the two unions representing engineers and conductors who work in three locations on that railroad can participate. Besides Norfolk Southern and now BNSF, only Amtrak and several dozen small railroads use the government reporting program.

The big railroads — that also include Union Pacific, CSX, CPKC and Canadian National — all already have their own internal safety reporting hotlines. But railroad unions have consistently said workers are reluctant to use the railroads' own safety hotlines because they fear retribution.

"Let's be perfectly clear, railroads remain committed to joining the program and creating an additional trusted avenue for employees to report potential safety concerns," said Association of American Railroads spokeswoman Jessica Kahanek.

FRA Administrator Amit Bose said it's crucial to have a way for rail workers to use their experience and expertise to raise safety concerns that the railroads can address proactively.

LEGAL NOTICES HoustonChronicle.com/Place-Legals legals@chron.com 713.362.6868

Legals/Public Notices

NOTICE OF SALE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 126
(A political subdivision of the State of Texas located within Montgomery County)

$845,000

Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2024

"Qualified Tax-Exempt Obligations"

The Board of Directors of Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 126 (the "District") will publicly receive sealed bids on up to $845,000 Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2024 (the "Bonds") on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 9:00 A.M., Houston Time, at the offices of the District's Financial Advisor, Masterson Advisors LLC, 3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77046. At a Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, May, 9 2024 at 10:15 A.M., Houston Time, at the District's regular meeting place at 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 2500, Houston, Texas, 77056, the Board will immediately take action to reject any and all bids or accept the bid resulting in the lowest net interest cost to the District.

A bid for the Bonds may be delivered to the District electronically, by telephone or delivered directly to the District in a sealed envelope addressed to the "President and Board of Directors, Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 126" at the above address of Masterson Advisors LLC. All bidders must submit a signed "Official Bid Form" and a bank cashier's check in the amount of $16,900, payable to the order of "Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 126" as a Good Faith Deposit. Additional terms and conditions related to the submission of a bid for the Bonds are included in the "Official Notice of Sale."

The Bonds will mature serially on September 1, 2025 through 2047 and will be dated June 1, 2024. The "Official Notice of Sale," "Preliminary Official Statement," and "Official Bid Form" may be obtained from the District's Financial Advisor, Masterson Advisors LLC, 3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77046. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by Texas law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made by means of the "Official Notice of Sale," "Preliminary Official Statement," and "Official Bid Form."

Mr. Irving A. Wolf
President, Board of Directors
Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 126
Montgomery County, Texas

Legals/Public Notices

The Houston Planning Commission has received an application to allow the replatting of Orange Grove, Britton, being all of Lots 1 & 2, Block 9, as recorded in Volume 18, Page 31 of the Harris County Map Records for the purpose of creating 1 commercial reserve. The new subdivision name is Baker Steel Properties. This is the written notice of a public hearing the City send to all owners of property within 300' of the boundary of the plat. State law allows for protest when the proposed replat requires a variance or special exception. The protest must be filed in writing prior to the close of the public hearing. If owners of 20% of the land area within the original plat boundary that is within 200 feet of the replat protest the replat, approval of the replat must receive an affirmative vote of at least three-fourth (3/4) of the Houston Planning Commission Members present. In computing the percentage of land area for the purpose of protest, streets and alleys are included. The Houston Planning Commission will hold a public meeting and public hearing on this replat. The Commission is the non-legislative body authorized to review and render decisions on subdivision applications and requests. The meeting at which this item will first be considered is listed below. A sign with this information has also been posted on the project site. PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING INFORMATION: Thursday, May 16, 2024, beginning at 2:30 p.m. City Hall Annex Building, 900 Bagby Street City Council Chamber, Public Level, Houston, Texas. Members of the public may make comments or express concerns about the proposed project by attending the meeting at City Council Chamber listed above or submit comments to: speakercomments.pc@houstontx.gov or Call the Planning Department at 832-393-6624 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to sign up to speak. Contact the applicant at 713.643.6333 or the City of Houston Planning Department at (832)393-6600 for any additional information.

Citation by Publication

CAUSE NUMBER: 202374110

Plaintiff: LOPEZ, DOMINGO

vs.

IN THE 0llthJUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Defendant: MERCADO, MATTHEW

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Harris

To: RAMIREZ, WILMER
WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to be and appear before the 011th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas in the Courthouse in the city of Houston, Texas at or before 10: 00 o'clock A.M. Monday, MAY 20, 2024, being the Monday next after the expiration date of forty-two days after this citation is issued, and you are hereby commanded and required then and there to appear and file written answer to the PLAINTIFF'S SECOND AMENDED ORIGINAL PETITION filed in said Court on March 7, 2024, in a suit numbered 202374110 on the docket of said court, wherein LOPEZ, DOMINGO Plaintiff (s)and MERCADO, MATTHEW, Defendant (s), the nature of plaintiff's demand being and the said petition alleging:

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

Motor Vehicle Accident on or about December 22, 2022. The minor plaintiff was operating a motor vehicle stopped Berry Road at the intersection of Irvington Boulevard in Houston, Harris County, Texas. Defendants Matthew Mercado and Wilmer Armando Ramirez collided in the intersection, causing Defendant Matthew Mercado's vehicle to violently collide with the minor plaintiff's vehicle. As a result thereof, Plaintiffs suffered injuries and damages.

Notice hereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive weeks previous to MAY 20, 2024, in some newspaper published in the County of HARRIS , if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest county where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on MAY 14, 2024, which is forty two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before said return day.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same.

WITNESS: Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas on April 2, 2024.

Newspaper: HOUSTON CHRONICLE
Issued at the request of: GEDDIE, GREG
PO BOX 1599
GILMER, TX 75644
903-843-2323

Bar Number: 24116419

Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of
Harris County, Texas
201 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77002
P.O. Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210

You are hereby commended to summon the unknown heirs of Phillip Wayne Jackson, Deceased all of whose names and residence and whereabouts are unknown to the plaintiff, Joyce Ann Kelly-Feagin, by making publication of this citation once, at least ten days previous to the return day hereof, in some newspaper, published in your county, to appear at the next regular term of the County Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, after service gas been perfected, to beholden in the courthouse thereof, in Houston, Texas, the same being Monday, May 06, 2024, then and there to answer a petition filed in said court on April 17, 2024, in a probate action now pending in said court in the above numbered and styled estate on the probate docket of said court, wherein Joyce Ann Kelly-Feagin, is plaintiff and the unknown heirs of said Phillip Wayne Jackson, Deceased is the defendant; said said petition containing Allegations as is shown in the attached copy of said petition."

Herein fail not, but have you before said court, at the time aforesaid, this writ your return thereon, showing how you have executed the same.

Issued and given under my hand of said court, at Houston, Texas, this on this the 22nd day of April, 2024.

Notice to Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Sandra S. Genoway, Deceased, were issued on April 22, 2024, in Cause No. 523375, pending in the Probate Court No. 3, Harris County, Texas, to: Lynn Miori.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Lynn Miori c/o Adam T.
Uszynski Bradicich &
Uszynski, LLP
P.O. Box 550
Victoria, Texas 77902

LEGAL NOTICES?
Email our team:
legals@chron.com
HoustonChronicle.com

Citation by Publication

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF WAYNE

JAWANA TEMPLE, Plaintiff, V
DOMINIQUE ROCHON and FOREST ROCHON, Defendants
Case No. 24-002560-CH
Hon. Charles S. Hegarty

LAWRENCE D. KOHL, P.C.
By: Lawrence D. Kohl (P35740)
Attorney for Plaintiff
21971 Farmington Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48336
(248) 474-9350

Domonique Rochon
Defendant Pro Per
13162 Vista Drive, Belleville, MI 48111

Forest Rochon
Defendant Pro Per
13162 Vista Drive
Belleville, MI 48111

PUBLICATION NOTICE
PER ORDER FOR ALTERNATE SERVICE

TAKE NOTICE:

An action seeking equitable relief regarding 16691 Fairmount, Detroit, Michigan wherein the property was foreclosed upon by the Wayne County Treasurer's office on March 29, 2017, as to Dominique Rochon and Forest Rochon, was filed in the Wayne County Michigan Circuit Court on February 20, 2024, against Dominique Rochon and Forest Rochon seeking clear title. While Forest Rochon has been served at his Belleville, Michigan address, to date he has failed to file a responsive pleading. Dominique Rochon's whereabouts have not been confirmed. Please take notice that Dominique Rochon and Forest Rochon are hereby notified that they have 28 days from the date of

this publication to answer the complaint that was filed against them as identified above or take other action within the time allowed. Failure to file an answer or take other action will allow the court to enter a default judgment against the Defendants for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Respectfully submitted,
LAWRENCE D. KOHL, P.C.

By: /s/ Lawrence D Kohl
Lawrence D. Kohl (P35740)
Attorney for Plaintiff Jawana Temple
21971 Farmington Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48336
(248) 474-9350

Dated: April 24, 2024

Citation by Publication

CAUSE NUMBER: 2023-84024 Receipt # 986527 Tracking# 74305592 EML Plaintiff: HEINZ, KAREN LYNN vs Defendant: ECKHARDT, JAMES MORGAN IN THE DISTRICT COURT 234th JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HARRIS NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org To: ECKHARDT, JAMES MORGAN WHOSE RESIDENCE AND WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to be and appear before the 234th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas in the Courthouse in the City of Houston. Texas at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M., the 13th day of MAY 2024, being the Monday next after the expiration date of forty-two days after this citation is issued. and you are hereby commanded and required then and there to appear and file written answer to the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION, filed in said Court on the 14th day of NOBEMBER 2023, in a suit numbered 2023-84024 docket of said court, wherein KAREN LYNN HEINZ, the Plaintiff and JAMES MORGAN ECKHARDT the Defendant, the nature of plaintiff's demand and the said petition alleging: QUIET TITLE **SUMMARY** Plaintiff Karen Lynn Heinz filed suit against Defendant, James Morgan Eckhardt to quiet title via adverse possession on the real property located at 114 S. Iowa Street, La Porte, Texas 77571. The case is styled: Cause No. 2023-84024; Karen Lynn Heinz v. James Morgan Eckhardt; In the 234th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas. Notice hereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive weeks previous to the day of MAY 13, 2024 in some newspaper published in the County of Harris, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest county where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on the 9th day or MAY, 2024, which is forty two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before said return day. Notice hereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive weeks previous to the day of MAY 13, 2024 in some newspaper published in the County of Harris, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest county where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on the 9th day or MAY, 2024, which is forty two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before said return day. HEREIN FAIL NOT but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same. WITNESS: MARILYN BURGESS, District Clerk, Harris County Texas GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas this 28th day of March 2024. Newspaper: The Houston Chronicle Issued at the request of RENE ALEJANDRO WEATHERFORD Address: 1400 Broadfield Blvd., Suite 105 Houston, Texas 77084 (28l) 394-3122 Bar Number: 24079553 (SEAL) Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk Harris County, Texas 201 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77002 P.O. Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210 By: (SIGNATURE) NELSON CUERO, Deputy District Clerk

Legals/Public Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that U.S. Bank National Association (800 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55402) filed an application with the OCC for permission to establish a branch office at 9753 Katy Freeway Suite 100, Houston, Texas 77024. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Director for Large Bank Licensing, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 7 Times Square, 10th Floor Mailroom, New York, New York 10036 or by e-mail at Licensing PublicComments@occ.treas.gov within 30 days after the date of this publication. The non-confidential portions of the application are on file with the Deputy Comptroller as part of the public file and this file is available for public inspection during regular business hours. Published: April 26, 2024.

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Congo presses Apple over minerals supply chain

By Gerald Imray
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Congo 's government is questioning Apple about the tech company's knowledge of "blood minerals" from a conflict zone in the African country that could be smuggled into its supply chains and is demanding answers within three weeks.

A group of international lawyers representing Congo said Thursday that they sent letters to Apple's CEO Tim Cook and its French subsidiary this week, raising concerns about human rights violations involving the minerals extracted from mines in the country's troubled east that might end up being used in the company's products. They included a list of questions challenging Apple to show how it monitors its supply chains in a region where more than 100 armed rebel groups operate, some of whom have been accused of carrying out mass killings of civilians.

Writing to Cook, the lawyers said "it has become clear to us that year after year, Apple has sold technology made with minerals sourced from a region whose population is being devastated by grave violations of human rights."

"The iPhones, Mac computers and accessories that Apple sells to its customers around the world rely on supply chains that are too opaque, and that are tainted by the blood of the Congolese people," the lawyers said.

Eastern Congo is one of the most mineral-rich regions in the world but is also the site of a huge humanitarian disaster, with the armed groups fighting for years for control of the mines and the valuable minerals in them, and millions of people displaced and affected by worsening violence. The situation has deteriorated badly in the last few months.

Apple's press representatives in Europe didn't respond to a request for comment.

Apple, which has a market value of around $2.6 trillion, has denied using minerals from mines and regions where human rights violations take place and says it conducts business ethically. It said in a 2023 report that it "responsibly" sources minerals in Congo and its neighboring countries.

The minerals it buys don't finance war or armed groups, it says. The lawyers for the Congo government said "those claims do not appear to be based on concrete, verifiable evidence."

The Congo government said it has suspicions that some of the tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold — known as the 3TG critical minerals — that Apple sources from suppliers is smuggled out of Congo to neighboring Rwanda and then infiltrated into the global supply chain. The 3TG minerals are key components in electronics.

Congo has accused Rwanda of financing and directing the notorious armed rebel group M23 in eastern Congo to help extract minerals illegally.

M23 and other groups are accused of regularly carrying out attacks that include the killing and raping of civilians, according to Human Rights Watch.

Ring customers get $5.6 million in privacy settlement

By Wyatte Grantham-Philips
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The Federal Trade Commission is sending more than $5.6 million in refunds to consumers as part of a settlement with Amazon-owned Ring, which was charged with failing to protect private video footage from outside access.

In a 2023 complaint, the FTC accused the doorbell camera and home security provider of allowing its employees and contractors to access customers' private videos. Ring allegedly used such footage to train algorithms without consent, among other purposes.

Ring was also charged with failing to implement key security protections, which enabled hackers to take control of customers' accounts, cameras and videos. This led to "egregious violations of users' privacy," the FTC noted.



Jessica Hill/Associated Press file photo

The Federal Trade Commission is sending $5.6 million in refunds to consumers as part of a settlement with Amazon-owned Ring.

The resulting settlement required Ring to delete content that was found to be unlawfully obtained, establish stronger security protections and pay a hefty fine. The FTC says that it's now using much of that money to refund eligible Ring customers.

According to a Tuesday notice, the FTC is sending 117,044 PayPal payments to impacted consumers who had certain types of Ring devices — including indoor cameras — during the timeframes that the regulators allege unauthorized access took place.

Eligible customers will need to redeem these payments within 30 days, according to the FTC — which added that consumers can contact this case's refund administrator, Rust Consulting, or visit the FTC's FAQ page on refunds for more information about the process.

In a statement sent to The Associated Press, Ring said that bad actors took emails and passwords that were "stolen from other companies to unlawfully log into Ring accounts of certain customers" who used the same credentials on multiple sites back in 2019 — adding that the company promptly addressed this by notifying those it discovered to be "exposed in a third-party, non-Ring incident" and taking action to protect impacted accounts.

Ring did not immediately address the FTC's allegations of employees and contractors unlawfully accessing footage.

Earlier this year, the California-based company separately announced that it would stop allowing police departments to request doorbell camera footage, marking an end to a feature that had drawn criticism from privacy advocates.

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North 1 1/2 of Lot 415
Section 214,
6 spaces with monument
privileges. $47,000.00.
281-772-6096

LIFE TRIBUTES

Alexander, Doris
Chilton, Ray
Edmiston, Mary
Gregory, Mittie
Iupe, Charles
Van Cleve, James Rev.

RAY TAGGART CHILTON

11/12/1940 - 04/22/2024



Ray Reimers Taggart Chilton passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Monday, the 22nd of April 2024.

Ray was born on the 12th of November 1940 to George Knight Taggart, Jr. and Ethleen (Reimers) Taggart, joining her beloved older brother, George Knight Taggart III (Dana). The two siblings enjoyed an idyllic childhood with their loving parents in Taft, Texas, before the family moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, where Ray graduated early from W.B. Ray High School. Ray attended Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia before attending the University of Texas at Austin in its Plan II Honors Program. She was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. In later life, she earned a master's in social work at the University of Houston.

Ray is preceded in death by her husband of 32 years, Raymond Lee Chilton.

She is survived by her children with former husband, G. Cole Thomson: Cole Thomson and his wife Cheryl, Katherine (Thomson) Glass and her husband Ethan, and Linda Thomson. She is also survived by her beloved stepsons Lee Chilton and Gene Chilton and his wife Jeni, as well as grandchildren Christopher Chilton and his wife Brianna, Bryce Chilton, Shannon (Chilton) Allert and husband Chase, Diana Thomson, Cole Thomson, Jr., Daniel Chilton, Marley Chilton, Will Glass, and Charlie Glass and great grandchildren Emerson Chilton and Bearant James Allert. She is also survived by her brother George and his wife Dana, nephews Nathan Taggart and his wife Blaire, Wade Taggart, and niece Claire (Taggart) McNamara and her husband Michael, as well as by their children Lauren (Taggart) Danz and her husband Noah, Luke Taggart his wife Bethany, Michael McNamara, Jr., and Madeline McNamara. She is also survived by her good friend Clark McCleary and his family, whom she loved like her own.

Ray was a beautiful and gracious woman with many treasured lifelong friends, a talented, prize-winning photographer, and a generous benefactor to many charities. She was an active member of Chapelwood United Methodist Church, where she was a Stephen Minister, the River Oaks Garden Club, and the Junior League. She spent many happy days with family and friends at Salty Pines in Rockport, Texas. She enjoyed her lifelong habit of early-morning walks in Memorial Park in Houston. She loved flowers of all sorts, photography, spending time with friends, and the Chapelwood community. She loved her family fiercely.

Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family this evening Friday, the 26th of April from five o'clock in the afternoon until seven o'clock in the evening in the grand foyer and library of Geo. H. Lewis & Sons, 1010 Bering Drive in Houston.

A funeral service is to be conducted on Saturday, the 27th of April at ten o'clock in the morning in the chapel at Chapelwood United Methodist Church, 11140 Greenbay Street in Houston, where Matt Russell Executive Pastor is to officiate.

In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial contributions in her memory may be directed to Chapelwood United Methodist Church, 11140 Greenbay Street, Houston, TX 77024 or by visiting online at www.chapelwood.org.

Please visit Mrs. Chilton's online memorial tribute at GeoHLewis.com where fond memories and words of comfort and condolence may be shared electronically with her family.

GEO. H. LEWIS & SONS
WWW.GEOHLEWIS.COM, 713.789.3005

DORIS ALEXANDER

03/01/1937 - 04/20/2024



Doris Pratt Alexander former owner of Alexander Shoe Shop (9117 Cullen Blvd) expired (Saturday) April 20, 2024. Visitation will be held (Saturday) April 27, 2024 from 10-10:55 a.m. Funeral Service to follow at 11:00 a.m. both services will be held at St. Mary's UMC 6731 Scott @ Yellowstone. Pastor Johnnie Simpson, Jr officiating. Interment - (Monday) April 29, 2024 at Houston National Cemetery -- GATE TIME: 1 PM

Troy B. Smith
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
9613 SCOTT ST. (HOUSTON, TX 77051)
713.734.TROY (8769) (713.734.9510 (FAX)

MARY ANNA EDMISTON

09/05/1956 - 04/18/2024



Mary Anna Edmiston of Houston, Texas passed away at her home on April 18, 2024 after a long illness. For a complete obituary and service information go to www.hennekefuneralhome.com. Henneke Funeral Home, Columbus, Texas.

CHARLES S. IUPE

08/19/1955 - 04/11/2024



Charles S. Iupe, passed away unexpectedly of natural causes on Thursday, April 11, at the age of 68. Charles was born on August 19, 1955 in Jackson, Mississippi. He was the eldest of eight siblings of Charlie and Marlene Thomas Iupe. He attended Saint Joseph's High School where he lettered in football. Charles graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelors in Finance and obtained a Masters in Finance from Mississippi College.

In 1980, Charles moved to Houston where he began his career as an Accountant at Brown & Root. Following that, he began a long and successful career in real estate and Investments initially at The Horne Company. He then worked at Cushman & Wakefield. Ultimately he established his own real estate investment business, and most recently, he was elated to have started a new venture, ICII Investments, with his son.

Among Charles' many successes as a real estate developer, two transactions highlight his real estate career. In 2010 the Watco Companies Inc. purchased from his Greens Port partnership, the remaining interest which it did not own. Greens Port was a 640-acre park converted into a multi modal industrial park. The facility includes more than 2 million square feet of industrial buildings served by four rail yards and more than 20 track miles designed to store up to 1,200 rail cars. Then in 2014, Charles and his investor group sold 10,897 acres to TGS Cedar Park Partners L.P. The sale was one of the largest land sales in Houston's history. Several national and international companies presently have significant operations in the park including Home Depot, Wal-Mart, National Oilwell Partners Varco, Inc.

Above all, Charles was a devoted father to his three children, providing endless support and guidance. He was immensely proud of all of their accomplishments. He supported all of the children's endeavors whether it be sports, the arts, or simply down time. In later years, Charles traveled extensively-often alongside one or more of his children. His numerous trips led him to multiple destinations and exotic locales all over the world. No matter where he was in the world, he began his day with a long walk, reading the newspaper and conversations with all of his children.

Charles had a unique spirit, an infectious enthusiasm and zest for life. Those whose paths he crossed will never forget him. He truly lived an extraordinary life. He would often say, "That was fun: can I do it all over again?". The world is a more boring place without him.

Charles is survived and deeply missed by his three children: Isabella Mignon, Charlotte Olivia and Ian Charles Iupe. He is also survived by his mother, Marlene Iupe, his sisters Lucille Shannon, Sharon Mosley, Ida Miller and their respective families; his brothers Thomas and Mike Iupe and; the mother of his children Martha MacDonald. He was predeceased by his father, Charlie Iupe; and his brothers John and Sam Iupe.

Following a private burial, a celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 27 at the Four Seasons Hotel from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

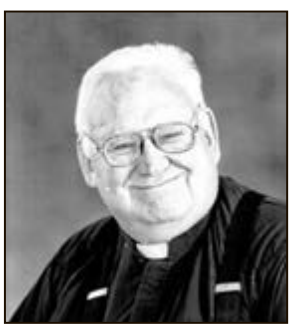
MITTIE OWENS GREGORY

08/16/1945 - 04/20/2024

She passed away on April 20, 2024. The Visitation will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 10:00 AM with the Funeral Services beginning at 11:00 AM. Both services will be held at Brentwood Baptist Church, 13033 Landmark St., Houston, Texas 77045, Rev. Joe Ratliff, Officiating. Interment will be held on Monday, April 29, 2024 at 10:00 AM at Houston National Cemetery.

REV. JAMES MICHAEL VAN CLEVE

05/22/1951 - 04/21/2024



Rev. James Michael Van Cleve ("Fr. Michael"), born May 22, 1951 in Henderson, Nevada, died peacefully on Sunday, April 21, 2024 in Houston, Texas.

A Vigil for the Deceased will begin at 9:00 p.m., Sunday, April 28, 2024 at St. Jerome Catholic Church, 8827 Kempwood Drive in Houston, Texas.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 29, 2024 also at St. Jerome. The Rite of Committal will follow at Forest Park Lawndale cemetery in Houston, Texas.

To read the obituary or to leave a condolence, please visit josephjearthman.com.

JOSEPH J. EARTHMAN
GENERATIONS
josephjearthman.com
(713) 802-0000

WEATHER

HOUSTON'S SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

AccuWeather | Go to AccuWeather.com

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
82 / 73	82 / 72	81 / 72	82 / 70	84 / 71	83 / 69	88 / 70
Windy; a t-storm around in the p.m.	Windy with a stray thundershower	Breezy with a thunder-storm in spots	Cloudy, a t-storm or two; humid	Rather cloudy with showers	A morning shower; mainly cloudy	Cloudy with rainy spells

METRO AREA OUTLOOK

TODAY: Windy; a thunderstorm in spots this afternoon. High 79 to 84. Winds south-southeast 12-25 mph. **TONIGHT:** Breezy with a thunderstorm around. Low 70 to 75. Winds south-southeast 10-20 mph.

AIR QUALITY

Today's forecast for the entire metro area by the TCEQ:

Ozone watch

- Good
- Moderate
- Unhealthy for sensitive groups
- Unhealthy
- Very unhealthy
- Hazardous

POLLEN AND MOLD

Yesterday's readings by the Houston Health Department:

	Count per cubic meter of air	
Tree pollen	Medium	88
Weed pollen	Medium	32
Grass pollen	Medium	14
Mold spores	Medium	6734

- Low
- Medium
- Heavy
- Extremely heavy

Note: No measurements on weekends; charts in Sunday and Monday papers reflect forecast ratings from the previous Friday.

COMFORT INDEX

The comfort index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

Today	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.
9	8	7	7	7	5

UV TODAY

Values indicate the exposure to the sun's Ultraviolet rays.

8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.
0	1	3	3	2	1

- 0-2, Low
- 3-5, Moderate
- 6-7, High
- 8-10, Very high
- 11+, Extreme

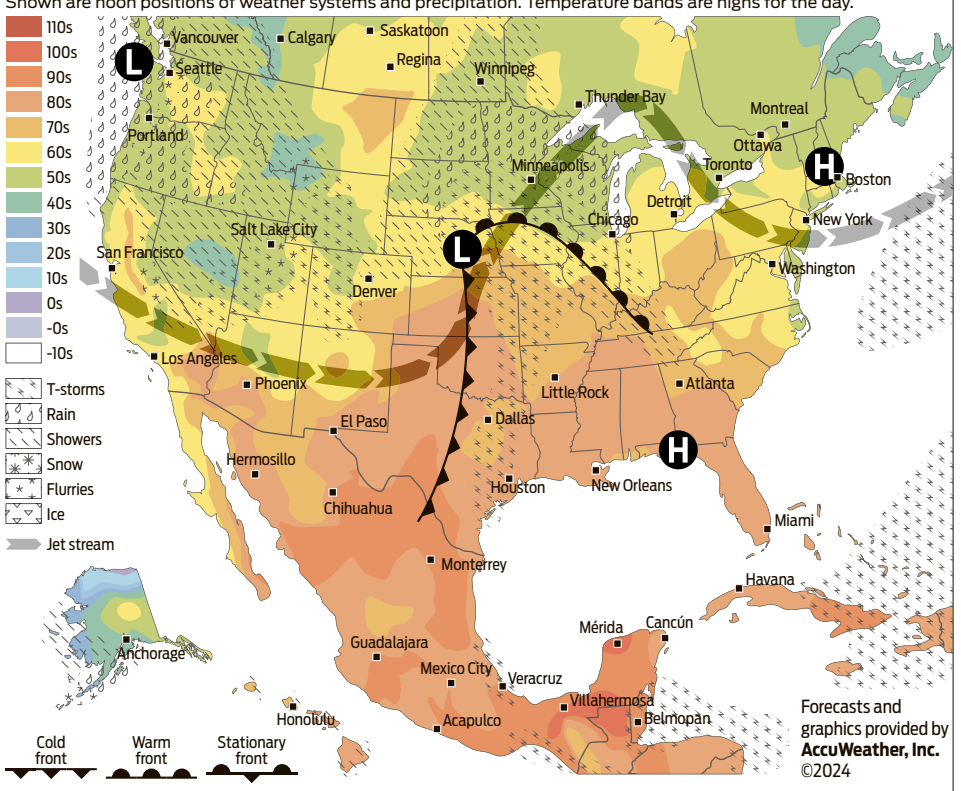
SUN AND MOON

Last quarter	New moon	First quarter	Full moon
May 1	May 7	May 15	May 23

Sunset tonight	7:56 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday	6:42 a.m.
Moonrise today	10:56 p.m.
Moonset today	8:12 a.m.

NORTH AMERICA TODAY

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



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2024

FOR THE RECORD

George Bush Intercontinental Airport through 3 p.m. Thu.

Temperature	Degrees F
High	80
Low	65
Normal high	82
Normal low	62
Record high	90 in 2006
Record low	41 in 1910
Precipitation	**Inches**
24-hour total	0.00
Month to date	3.27
Normal month to date	3.25
Year to date	16.15
Normal year to date	13.57
Other readings	
Top wind speed	16 mph
High barometer	30.09 in.
Low barometer	29.99 in.
High dewpoint	71°
Low dewpoint	64°
Average dewpoint	68°
High humidity	96%
Low humidity	71%

KEY TO CONDITIONS

s - sunny
pc - partly cloudy
c - cloudy
sh - showers
t - thunderstorms
r - rain
sf - snow flurries
sn - snow
i - ice

TEXAS

	Today	Sat.
Abilene	89/69/pc	80/58/t
Amarillo	82/52/s	79/47/t
Austin	83/72/t	86/68/t
Beaumont	82/72/c	84/74/pc
Brownsville	88/78/pc	92/77/pc
Bryan/College St.	84/74/t	88/73/t
Corpus Christi	87/73/c	88/74/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	79/71/t	83/67/t
El Paso	82/58/s	75/55/s
Galveston	81/73/c	82/74/pc
Kingsville	90/76/pc	89/75/pc
Laredo	94/75/pc	98/74/pc
Longview	81/71/t	86/70/t
Lubbock	84/54/s	83/53/t
McAllen	89/75/pc	92/74/pc
Midland/Odessa	85/61/s	84/55/s
San Angelo	91/68/s	92/57/s
San Antonio	86/72/t	85/69/t
Texarkana	82/72/t	86/71/c
Victoria	84/73/t	85/73/pc
Waco	77/71/t	85/65/t

NATIONAL

	Today	Sat.
Albany, NY	62/38/s	68/44/pc
Albuquerque	72/45/s	60/42/sh
Anchorage	48/36/pc	52/35/s
Atlanta	76/62/c	78/60/c
Baltimore	64/45/s	59/49/c
Billings	58/44/r	63/41/c
Birmingham	84/65/pc	81/63/pc
Boise	64/42/c	65/44/pc
Boston	53/41/s	59/46/s
Buffalo	66/48/s	61/58/t
Charleston, SC	78/64/pc	79/63/pc
Charlotte	71/57/pc	74/58/c
Chicago	62/57/t	80/65/t
Cincinnati	70/61/r	80/64/pc

NATIONAL cont.

	Today	Sat.
Cleveland	69/58/pc	75/65/t
Columbus	73/59/r	78/62/pc
Denver	68/39/t	44/34/r
Des Moines	66/63/t	80/62/t
Detroit	64/53/pc	76/62/t
Duluth	54/43/r	49/36/r
Fairbanks	61/35/pc	58/33/pc
Great Falls	58/40/c	55/36/r
Hartford	64/36/s	66/44/pc
Honolulu	83/71/sh	83/72/r
Indianapolis	64/61/r	80/64/pc
Jackson, MS	85/67/pc	86/66/pc
Juneau	57/35/s	57/38/c
Kansas City	74/66/t	79/62/t
Las Vegas	67/54/t	78/59/s
Little Rock	79/69/c	82/67/pc
Los Angeles	69/55/pc	71/53/s
Memphis	82/67/c	87/66/pc
Miami	82/72/s	82/72/pc
Milwaukee	57/50/r	79/61/t
Minneapolis	54/52/r	64/47/c
Nashville	82/68/c	83/67/pc
New Orleans	85/72/pc	83/70/sh
New York City	62/45/s	61/48/pc
Oklahoma City	83/67/c	73/58/t
Orlando	86/66/s	83/66/pc
Philadelphia	64/41/s	63/50/pc
Phoenix	83/60/s	82/61/pc
Pittsburgh	70/53/s	69/57/t
Portland, OR	56/48/r	57/50/sh
Sacramento	70/47/t	74/49/pc
St. Louis	72/66/t	83/69/pc
Salt Lake City	57/45/t	54/45/sh
San Diego	64/59/c	66/55/pc
San Francisco	65/50/pc	63/54/s
Santa Fe	69/38/s	57/38/sh
Seattle	60/48/r	56/46/sh
Tucson	82/53/s	75/50/s
Washington, DC	66/50/s	62/52/c

INTERNATIONAL

	Today	Sat.
Africa		
Cairo	86/63/s	86/63/s
Cape Town	78/58/s	83/59/s
Casablanca	69/57/pc	67/56/sh
Dakar	83/72/s	80/70/s
Johannesburg	76/52/pc	70/49/pc
Lagos	94/79/r	95/80/c
Asia/Pacific		
Beijing	81/59/c	73/60/pc
Ho Chi Minh City	99/84/pc	101/84/s
Hong Kong	86/81/sh	86/77/sh
Islamabad	84/64/c	78/63/c
Jakarta	92/78/t	90/78/t
Karachi	91/77/pc	92/78/pc
Kuala Lumpur	93/78/t	92/78/t
Manila	98/82/s	99/84/c
New Delhi	105/78/s	100/78/pc
Seoul	79/48/pc	79/52/s
Shanghai	70/60/r	73/62/pc
Singapore	91/80/t	90/80/t
Sydney	69/57/s	70/55/sh
Taipei	81/71/t	87/71/r
Tokyo	78/64/pc	69/61/sh
Canada		
Calgary	49/35/c	59/36/c
Edmonton	49/35/c	63/36/pc
Montreal	57/39/s	64/48/sh
Toronto	54/44/c	60/56/t
Vancouver	57/49/r	56/46/sh
Winnipeg	55/40/sh	49/28/c
Europe		
Amsterdam	54/43/pc	60/52/sh
Athens	70/52/pc	74/56/pc
Berlin	59/39/c	70/47/s
Copenhagen	47/38/sh	55/46/pc
Dublin	49/34/pc	50/35/r
Frankfurt	57/42/c	70/48/pc
Geneva	54/43/r	64/48/pc
Istanbul	68/55/pc	68/55/pc
London	55/42/c	55/47/r
Madrid	64/48/c	60/40/sh
Moscow	65/53/sh	56/42/pc
Paris	60/48/sh	61/49/r
Prague	60/37/pc	67/43/s
Rome	66/50/sh	70/47/pc
Stockholm	37/29/sh	42/27/c
Vienna	61/43/s	68/50/s
Warsaw	60/42/pc	66/45/pc
Zurich	58/37/c	67/43/pc
Latin America		
Bogota	69/51/c	66/51/r
Buenos Aires	68/57/r	67/49/s
Caracas	91/76/sh	90/76/pc
Havana	88/68/s	89/70/pc
Kingston	90/79/pc	90/79/pc
Lima	76/66/c	75/65/s
Rio de Janeiro	81/72/pc	85/74/s
San Juan	88/77/sh	84/75/r
San Salvador	91/69/s	90/71/s
Santiago	67/43/c	68/41/s
Sao Paulo	83/68/pc	89/69/s
St. Thomas	86/78/pc	85/77/c
Mexico		
Acapulco	89/71/s	88/71/s
Cancun	88/76/s	89/77/pc
Guadalajara	90/53/c	90/52/pc
Guanajuato	88/52/pc	89/49/pc
Mazatlan	86/60/s	84/59/pc
Merida	100/75/pc	101/76/pc
Mexico City	85/60/pc	84/57/pc
Puerto Vallarta	88/64/c	86/60/pc
Tampico	87/76/c	88/77/pc
Veracruz	91/77/s	93/76/s
Middle East		
Baghdad	101/73/s	104/71/pc
Beirut	77/68/pc	78/67/c
Dubai	93/77/s	95/80/s
Jerusalem	78/60/c	75/61/c
Kabul	64/49/t	59/45/t
Mecca	102/78/pc	100/76/pc
Riyadh	96/72/s	94/73/c
Tehran	78/62/s	78/63/s
Tel Aviv	76/70/c	75/70/c

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2024

COASTAL FORECAST

GALVESTON BAY: Wind from the south-southeast at 10-20 knots today. Seas 2-4 feet. Visibility generally clear. **Tonight:** Wind from the southeast at 10-20 knots. Seas 3-5 feet. Partly cloudy.

MATAGORDA SHIP CHANNEL TO HIGH ISLAND OUT 20 TO 50 MILES: Wind from the south-southeast at 10-20 knots today. Seas 2-4 feet. Visibility generally clear. **Tonight:** Wind from the southeast at 10-20 knots. Seas 2-4 feet. Partly cloudy.

GALVESTON TIDES

Highs	Feet	Lows	Feet
8:20 a.m.	1.7	---	---
---	---	---	---

RIVERS, CREEKS AND BAYOUS

through 7 a.m. Thursday

	Location	Flood stage	Latest stage	24-hr. chg.
Brays Bayou	South Main	54	16.70	-0.03
Brazos River	Bryan	43	11.06	-0.75
	Hempstead	50	18.72	-0.59
	Richmond	48	17.92	-0.69
Buffalo Bayou	Piney Point	50	28.42	-0.16
	Shepherd Dr.	23	1.94	-0.29
Clear Creek	Friendswood	12	1.37	-0.20
Colorado R.	Austin	29	11.27	none
	Bastrop	25	2.56	-0.15
	La Grange	32	4.37	+0.15
	Columbus	34	10.15	-0.37
	Wharton	39	10.06	-1.94
	Bay City	44	5.59	+2.14
Greens Bayou	Eastex Fwy.	61	39.09	-0.07
Guadalupe R.	Hunt	12	7.68	-0.03
	Comfort	26	3.18	-0.02
	Spring Branch	36	1.17	-0.05
	New Braunfels	13	9.39	+0.01
	Gonzales	31	11.40	-0.06
	Cuero	20	7.51	+0.20
	Victoria	21	5.44	-0.47
	Dupont	20	10.77	+0.72
Little River	Little River	30	2.14	-0.16
	Cameron	30	2.34	-0.32
Navasota R.	Easterly	19	6.18	-7.04
Neches River	Evadale	19	15.49	+0.52
Pine Island B.	Sour Lake	25	15.14	+0.02
Sabine River	Bon Wier	30	30.20	-1.66
	Deweyville	24	26.02	-0.15
	Orange	4	1.05	-0.17
	Burkeville	43	27.47	-2.86
San Bernard R.	E. Bernard	17	6.68	+0.07
E. San. Jac. R.	Cleveland	19	6.49	-2.75
W. San. Jac. R.	Conroe	116	96.91	-0.50
San Jacinto R.	Sheldon	10	1.67	-0.20
Sims Bayou	Telephone Rd.	30	1.48	-0.39
Trinity River	Goodrich	36	21.14	-1.44
	Liberty	26	25.98	-0.29
Village Creek	Kountze	20	13.51	+0.94
White Oak B.	Heights Blvd.	48	7.86	-0.03

TEXAS LAKES

through 7 a.m. Thursday	Full pool	Latest level	Release cfs
Canyon Dam	909	886.67	63
Conroe	201	201.10	530
Houston	41.73	42.62	N.A.
Lake Travis	681	630.34	106
Livingston	131	131.24	

Biden celebrates computer chip factories

By Aamer Madhani and Josh Boak
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — President Joe Biden on Thursday sought to sell voters on an American "comeback story" as he highlighted long-term investments in the economy in upstate New York to celebrate Micron Technology's plans to build a campus of computer chip factories made possible in part with government support.

Staring down a rematch with Republican Donald Trump, Biden was asking voters to buy in to his vision of the future, at a moment when voters are most worried about enduring pressures from high inflation. The initial phase of New York project would open the first plant in 2028 and the second plant in 2029, with more time expected for the next two factories to be completed.

Biden was campaigning on a promise of better times ahead, just as Trump, the former president, often taps into a past when U.S. manufacturing was the world standard. The Democrat is trying to convince voters to think beyond their present circumstances at the ballot box.

"This is such a big deal," Biden said. "We're bringing advanced chip manufacturing back to America."

He added: "It's one of the most significant science and technology investments in our history."

It's far from a surefire message in an era of near-instant gratification. Compared to when Biden began in politics in the 1970s, people can immediately stream music and videos on their smart phones, order a pizza with finger swipe or text a friend thousands of miles away.

Trump, for his part, is telling voters that Biden's policies will hurt jobs tied to making gasoline-powered autos and ultimately send work to China. On Tuesday, he vented about how the rising value of the dollar against foreign currencies would hobble U.S. manufacturing by making American-made goods too costly.



Evan Vucci/Associated Press

President Joe Biden delivers remarks on the CHIPS and Science Act on Thursday at the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum in Syracuse, N.Y.

"(Advanced chip manufacturing is) one of the most significant science and technology investments in our history."

President Joe Biden

"It sounds good to stupid people, but it is a disaster for our manufacturers and others," Trump posted on Truth Social. "They are actually unable to compete and will be forced to either lose lots of business, or build plants, or whatever, in the 'smart' Countries."

The former president at a recent Pennsylvania rally lamented the loss of factory jobs that once made the United States "the greatest country in the history of the world," saying that the country has since "lost its confidence, willpower and sight."

The Biden administration helped jumpstart the Micron project by agreeing to provide $6.1 billion in government support that will also cover a memory chip factory in Idaho that would be operating in 2026. The money also helps pay for the first two factories in Clay, New York, but not the second pair to be opened later. The funding is part of the 2022 CHIPS and Science Act that, along with the administration's funding for renewable energy projects, has boosted factory construction spending to record levels.

There are also factories planned by Intel in Arizona and Ohio, TSMC in Arizona, Samsung in Texas and other chipmakers. Their efforts will power artificial intelligence and electric vehicles, among other technologies that Biden believes will cement America's position as the world's largest economy. Biden has gone to Arizona and Ohio to celebrate chip factories and previously went to New York in 2022 for the Micron project.

"American manufacturing is back," Biden said Thursday. "New factories are going up across the country."

Biden earlier toured mockups of the facility with New York Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-New York, Gov. Kathy Hochul and Micron CEO Sanjay Mehrotra, who called it the most exciting time in his four decades in the chipmaking industry.

For decades, voters have heard politicians pledging a manufacturing boom without much to show for it. Factory employment peaked in the late 1970s and has steadily drifted downward because of automation, outsourcing to cheap countries and the closures that come with each recession.

In celebrating the Micron project, Schumer noted that Trump, while president, famously told voters that electronics maker Foxconn would open a sprawling set of factories in Wisconsin.

At the time, Trump took a victory lap, saying that the Taiwan-headquartered company would be bringing manufacturing jobs to the United States.

"I will tell you they wouldn't have done it here, except that I became president, so that's good," Trump said in June 2018.

That project notoriously flamed out, feeding a sense of cynicism about what the government can do. Microsoft agreed in 2023 to buy the land for a data center after Foxconn failed to deliver on its 13,000 promised jobs.

Schumer said an interview that voters will find that this time is different, predicting they will see the United States as pulling ahead of China on the technologies that are essential for national security and economic growth, allowing more jobs and needed technology to stay in America.

"We want to be proud of our economy and there was too much of a feeling that we were losing out to China and other countries," Schumer said.

Biden in his remarks chided House Republican Conference Chair Rep. Elise Stefanik and Republican Rep. Brandon Williams who represents the district for opposing the chips legislation when it passed Congress but now hails the investments it allows.

"I guess they're not going to be here to celebrate," he quipped.

PREVIEW



Nice guys don't always finish last

Comic Nate Bargatze plays three shows at NRG Arena PAGE 6

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ANA KHAN'S THINGS TO DO

Unicorn World

At Unicorn World, visitors can delve into a magical experience. They can explore the Enchanted Unicorn Forest, join in arts and crafts, enjoy music and dancing, and find a unicorn reading section. For extra fun, there are bounce houses, bubble houses and unicorn rides available as premium options.

When: Saturday: 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Where: George R. Brown Convention Center, 1001 Avenida De Las Americas

Details: $34.95 and up; theunicornworld.com

Sugar Land Arts Fest

Hosted by the Sugar Land Cultural Arts Foundation and PrimeWay Federal Credit Union, the third annual Sugar Land Arts Fest will feature paintings, sculptures, photography, jewelry, and pottery available for purchase. More than 100 local, national and international artists will be featured, as well as live music, a wine and beer garden, food trucks and other activities.

When: Saturday-Sunday: 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Where: Smart Financial Centre Plaza, 18111 Lexington Blvd., Sugar Land

Details: $10 and up; sugarlandartsfest.com

Nature Fest at Bridgeland

Headlining Bridgeland's 16th annual Nature Fest is Coyote Peterson, Emmy Award-winning host of YouTube's "Brave Wilderness." The event offers fun and educational activities for all ages, including pony rides, a petting zoo, nature exhibitions, arts and crafts, face painting, balloon art, an inflatable zone and laser tag. Admission is free, but a few activities require a small fee. All proceeds will be donated to Cy-Hope.



Bridgeland Nature Fest/John Everett Photography

Enjoy Nature Fest at Bridgeland this weekend at Bridgeland's Oak Meadow Park in Cypress.

When: Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Where: Bridgeland's Oak Meadow Park, 17730 House & Hahl, Cypress

Details: Free; bridgeland.com

Frida Festival

The yearly event aims to unite the community through creative expression, collaborating with local artists and businesses to celebrate the legacy of Frida Kahlo. Embracing art, culture and heritage, the festival is a lively showcase of diverse talents.

When: Saturday: 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

Where: The Storyhive, 4010 Canal

Details: fridafestival.org

Houston Brew Festival

Hosted at Discovery Green, the event showcases 150 beers, food trucks, live music and lawn games. General admission covers beer samples, with food sold separately. Early admission allows attendees to enter an hour in advance.

When: Saturday: Noon- 4 p.m.

Where: Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney

Details: $50-$65, no kids allowed; bit.ly/3ToWK2Z

Philly Soul Sound Vol. 4

Community Music Center Houston presents Philly Soul Sound Vol. 4, honoring the Sound of Philadelphia at Miller Outdoor Theatre. Enjoy such classic hits as "Love Train," "Me and Mrs. Jones" and more performed by all-male and all-female four-part harmony groups.

When: Saturday: 8:15 p.m.

Where: Miller Outdoor Theatre, 6000 Hermann Park Drive

Details: Free; milleroutdoortheatre.com

Houston Zydeco Fest

This event at Emancipation Park combines zydeco music with food vendors, games, contests and other activities.

When: Sunday: 1-9 p.m.

Where: Emancipation Park, 3018 Emancipation

Details: $13 and up; houstonzydecofest.com

ANDREW DANSBY'S LIVE EVENTS

Here are this week's six recommended events

The Rolling Stones

What really needs to be said here? Sixty years ago the Rolling Stones were England's newest hit makers. Despite attrition in personnel and decades of changing trends in music, they remain a band that will pull tens of thousands to stadiums. Last year's "Hackney Diamonds" — the first set of new, original songs in nearly 20 years — enjoyed a bit of buzz. They'll likely thread some of the new songs into the ones that people have come to hear for those six decades.

When: 8 p.m. Sunday

Where: NRG Stadium, 1 NRG Parkway

Details: Tickets start at $69; nrgpark.com

Here are six events recommended for the coming week.

Polyphonic Spree

At 20-plus years, Dallas' Polyphonic Spree has much longer tenure than Tripping Daisy, the beloved '90s alternative rock band that Tim DeLaughter started before the Spree. The Spree works a similar dynamic as Tripping Daisy, but with a far larger ensemble that numbers about a dozen these days. The band last fall released "Salvage Enterprise," which found DeLaughter further exploring more nuanced moods and modes from his robust ensemble. Opening the show will be a wonderful new discovery: Pedal Steel Noah, a Dallas teen who finds ambient instrumental beauty in performing '80s songs by the Cure and Joy Division on a pedal steel guitar. It sounds odd. It's mesmerizing.

When: 8 p.m. Saturday

Where: Heights Theater, 339 W. 19th

Details: $24-$48; theheightstheater.com

Chief Xian a Tunde Adjuah

Born and raised in New Orleans, Chief Xian a Tunde Adjuah was encouraged and nurtured by his uncle, the saxophonist Donald Harrison Jr., so a life performing jazz now seems inevitable. He first drew notice a little more than 20 years ago recording as Christian Scott. His work has since used New Orleans as a trailhead to track his Afro New Orleanian music through the Caribbean to West Africa. His work is restless and revelatory, and he'll perform as part of the city's Jazzy Sundays in the Park.

When: 5 p.m. Monday

Where: Water Works Lawn in Buffalo Bayou Park, 105-B Sabine

Details: free; buffalobayou.org



David R. Wilson

Tim DeLaughter and his Polyphonic Spree play the Heights Theater this weekend. Pedal Steel Noah, a teenager from Dallas, opens the show.



Contributor file photo

The Rolling Stones, seen during their 2019 stop in Houston, are returning to NRG Stadium.

Nate Bargatze

With his apolitical, laid-back delivery and his riffs on magicians and clowns, stand-up comedian Nate Bargatze found his following by being understated. Bargatze hasn't changed what he does, but an appearance last October on "SNL" introduced his comedy to a larger audience, taking him from theaters to arenas. His Be Funny Tour comes to NRG Arena for three shows.

When: 7 p.m. today, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday

Where: NRG Arena, 1 NRG Parkway

Details: Tickets start at $29; nrgpark.com

Kurt Vile

As guitar virtuosos go, Kurt Vile stands apart, particularly because nothing about his approach is frenetic or showy. He sets a laid-back mood that pulls in seemingly disparate styles like post-rock, American primitive and countrypolitan. The result is a guy appreciated by Americana listeners and jam band followers. He's also something of a busybody: He released "Watch My Moves" in 2022, followed by "back to Moon Beach" last year.



Courtesy photo

Catch guitar virtuosos Kurt Vile at Heights Theater next week.

When: 8 p.m. Monday

Where: Heights Theater, 339 W. 19th

Details: $34; theheightstheater.com

Wonder Women of Country

Any of three Wonder Women of Country — Kelly Willis, Melissa Carper and Brennen Leigh — could hold a show on their own. All three have staked out interesting spaces of their own in the roots/country realm. But in 2021, the three decided after years of showing up on the same bills to try playing together, which allowed them to find new vibes in old songs and put their voices together in wondrous ways.

When: 9:30 p.m. today

Where: McGonigel's Mucky Duck, 2425 Norfolk

Details: $58; mcgonigels.com

Prepare for Philly sound salute with 5 acts good for the soul

By Cary Darling
STAFF WRITER

In the late '60s and '70s, Philadelphia became known for two things in the world of pop culture.

One was the movie "Rocky" and its story of triumph in the ring, and the other was the rise of a musical movement out of Philadelphia, dubbed Philly soul, that found its triumph on the charts.

Pioneered by such producers as Thom Bell and then Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff and this duo's Philadelphia International record label, the sound was marked by lush production, sweeping strings and bright horns, giving its R&B style a sheen that both swings and seduces.

Not only did the genre produce hits for the O'Jays, Teddy Pendergrass, Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes and the Three Degrees, it influenced at least one other group of hitmakers from Philly (Hall & Oates) and even those farther afield, such as the Detroit-born Spinners, Galveston-born Barry White, The Jacksons (Gamble & Huff produced their self-titled 1976 album), David Bowie (the "Young Americans" album was recorded in Philly) and Elton John (who had a major hit with a track called — wait for it — "Philadelphia Freedom").

Gamble & Huff's Philly soul sound would also act as a bridge between the rawer sound of '60s soul and the orchestral shimmer of '70s/'80s disco and house music that would follow in its wake.

Now, Houstonians can celebrate Philly soul at the Miller Outdoor Theatre on Saturday night for the Philly Soul Sound Vol. 4 tribute concert.



Steve Spatafore/mightyojays.com

The O'Jays' string of 1970s hits include "Love Train" and "For the Love of Money."

To help get you ready, here are the five Philly soul acts you need to know. We also have a Spotify playlist, "The Very Best of the Sound of Philadelphia," that also includes such other famous Philadelphians from the '60s and '70s such as Labelle, the Trammps, the Intruders, the Delfonics, McFadden & Whitehead and Instant Funk.

1. Teddy Pendergrass/ Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes

The late Teddy Pendergrass bore the commanding voice of an avenging angel, but his gruff baritone was also powerfully soulful and fluid, resonating with the sweat and swagger of a Sunday morning church service.

As part of Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes and then in his successful solo career, he could fan that voice into a raging fire (the lung-searing climaxes of "The Love I Lost" and "Bad Luck" are awe-inspiring). Or he could reduce it to a sultry, slow-burn ("Love TKO," "Close the Door," "Wake Up, Everybody").

Few vocalists in R&B these days can come close to his ferocity. He even continued to perform after becoming paralyzed from the waist down after a 1982 car accident before finally retiring in 2007. He died in 2010.



Getty Images

Teddy Pendergrass was known for his powerful baritone voice.

2. The O'Jays

This trio had a succession of hits in the '70s — "Love Train," "Back Stabbers," "Now That We Found Love" — that still are recognized today. But perhaps no song has proven its worth longer than "For the Love of Money," with its immediately recognizable, surging bass line.

The track was not only a hit in its time but became the theme for Donald Trump's "The Apprentice" competitive reality show.

3. MFSB

Just as Detroit had the Funk Brothers (Motown's backing studio band on many of that label's hits) and Los Angeles had the Wrecking Crew (the studio session players who anonymously powered many of the pop hits of the '60s and '70s), Philadelphia had MFSB — an acronym for Mother, Father, Sister, Brother.

This was the group that Gamble & Huff corralled to play on their artists' recordings, but they weren't just hired hands. These musical pros got to step out front and release their own instrumentals, one of which, "TSOP ("The Sound of Philadelphia)," became the theme for the TV show "Soul Train."

4. Billy Paul

Like Pendergrass, Billy Paul was a romantic balladeer, but his voice was lighter and had more of a jazzy sway, as can be heard on his massive 1971 hit, "Me and Mrs. Jones."

He could also be a creative interpreter of other artists' hits, as heard on his uptempo twist on Elton John's "Your Song."

5. The Three Degrees

While it was the guys who may have had the biggest Philadelphia International smashes, a few female groups had hits, too.

One of them, the Jones Girls, turned out one of the label's most sweetly charming tracks, "We're A Melody."

But it was the Three Degrees who had a bigger profile, scoring a huge hit with "When Will I See You Again" in 1974 and singing on MFSB's "TSOP."

THE PHILLY SOUL SOUND VOL. 4

When: 7:30 p.m. April 27

Where: Miller Outdoor Theatre, 6000 Hermann Park Drive

Details: Free; milleroutdoortheatre.com

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COVER STORY

Expect fun and friendly shows, 'Nicest Man in Stand-Up' says

By Octavia Johnson
STAFF WRITER



Kyle Rivas/Getty Images

In his comedy routines, Nate Bargatze focuses on everyday, relatable events and his life experiences. He says the tone and topics make his shows appropriate for families.

Nate Bargatze, a Nashville native known for his clean stand-up comedy, is coming to Houston for "The Be Funny Tour" at Houston's NRG Arena this weekend.

The Grammy-nominated comedian — dubbed the "Nicest Man in Stand-Up" by the Atlantic Magazine — is traveling to multiple cities across North America to present his show featuring some new material.

"I'm on the Be Funny Tour right now, we're coming to your town in 2024 check it out," he said in a January TikTok video.

Bargatze's jokes focus on relatable life experiences, not making fun of people, he told KUTV "Fresh Living" in an interview. He said audience members can expect fun and friendly shows for everyone to enjoy.

His shows' clean comedy style is meant to be appropriate for families to attend together, according to a 2023 interview.

Bargatze's performances have brought audiences from different walks of life together as he talks about his college life, adult life, experiences at his old jobs, sports, DNA and evolution. He has performed his stand-up in front of more than 19,000 people at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville and hosted "Saturday Night Live" in October.

Bargatze launched his career in the early 2000s after quitting his job at the West Wilson Utility District with co-worker Michael Clay. They both moved from Nashville and headed to Chicago, according to the Tennessean.

Bargatze posted a photo in 2019 on social media of himself and Clay at his first stand-up set in Chicago. "Time flies," the post said. And it has.

The comedian went on to tour and sell out shows globally. He has been on "The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon" and performed for troops in Kuwait and Iraq, and at Bonnaroo, SXSW, Oddball Comedy Festival, Sasquatch, Clusterfest and the JFL Montreal Comedy Festival.

He also has Netflix specials, including "The Tennessee Kid," "Greatest Average American" and "The Stand-ups." He currently has a special called "Hello, World" on Amazon Prime Video.

When not on tour, fans can catch Bargatze hosting the weekly podcast "Nateland," with other comedians such as Brian Bates, Aaron Weber and Dusty Slay. They discuss a range of topics, from pop culture and current events to their personal lives and experiences, according to the Nateland Entertainment website.

The comedian is scheduled to perform in Houston at the NRG Arena on Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

For more information about the tour, visit natebargatze.com.

NATE BARGATZE

When: 7 p.m. April 26; 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. April 27

Where: NRG Arena, 1 NRG Parkway

Cost: Tickets start at $29.75; price ranges vary by show

ON THE COVER: Nate Bargatze speaks at the "A Country Thing Happened On The Way To Cure Parkinson's" benefit for the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

Terry Wyatt/Getty Images for The Michael J. Fox Foundation

FILM

Zendaya scores a grand slam in tennis drama 'Challengers'

By Mick LaSalle
STAFF WRITER



Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures

Art (Mike Faist) and Tashi (Zendaya) are two-thirds of a trio bound by love and tennis in "Challengers."

"Challengers" tells the story of the romantic entanglements of three young people over the course of 13 years. It's set against the backdrop of professional tennis, and though the characters' intersecting romance is the focus, the sport amps up the intensity in all kinds of ways.

Director Luca Guadagnino ("Call Me by Your Name") employs vigorous cuts and sometimes has the camera follow in the immediate wake of the ball, so that it's almost as if it were the camera itself flying back and forth over the net. A tennis match can be a personal battle, a clash not only of athleticism but of mind, and Guadagnino gives every game and set the gravity of gladiatorial contest.

The years between the late teens and early 30s are consequential for everyone, but for an athlete, those years are determinative. Zendaya, Josh O'Connor and Mike Faist play people who are barely coming into their maturity as adults at the same time they must be fully formed performers on the court. They're figuring out how to be human while trying to be superhuman, and the mind-scrambling strain of that, particularly for the men, is felt throughout.

"Challengers" tells a story that zigzags through time. I doubt if anyone has ever seen the words "three months earlier" or "thirteen years earlier" flash onto a screen without feeling let down. But this is how the filmmakers have chosen to tell the story, and soon we get used to it.

Art (Faist) and Patrick (O'Connor) are best friends and promising tennis professionals when they go to a tournament and meet Tashi (Zendaya), who, at 18, is already a rising star with all the confidence that goes with it. Both guys are passionately attracted to her, but the rivalry is, at this stage, friendly, probably because it's just assumed that Tashi will choose Patrick, who's the better player in both senses of the word.

Yet 13 years later — though only a few minutes in screen time — we find that Tashi is married to Art, that Art has had a highly successful and lucrative tennis career and that Tashi is his manager and trainer. As for Patrick, he's out of their lives (almost) and out of tennis (almost). The rest of the movie tells the story of how it all happened and of what happens next.

Zendaya, who went to big screen fame with roles in the HBO series "Euphoria" and the "Spider-Man" and "Dune" film franchises, was one of the producers of "Challengers," and she has given herself quite a role. Tashi is a strong woman, but she's ungiving to the point of unloving. Tennis is more than an obsession for her. It's the entire focus of her life, her entire value system, her entire vision of the future. For her, there's no happiness without tennis, which makes her a fascinating character and a morally problematic one as well. When you walk out of the movie theater, Tashi is the person you'll be talking about.

The youth of all three characters is particularly welcome. Love stories involving actors in their 20s and early 30s usually concentrate on courtship, but a lot of tumult, tawdriness and tortured history can take place during those years. If the characters were all in their 40s, "Challengers" would still be a good movie, but it would be less sensual, less fraught and less emotionally cruel.

As for the actors, this movie marks Zendaya's arrival into complete cinematic maturity. "Challengers" also puts O'Connor, who was good as Prince Charles in "The Crown," and Faist, who was offbeat and compelling as Riff in Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story," on the proverbial map. I hope Hollywood lets them stay there.

'CHALLENGERS'

Rated R: For language, sexual content, graphic nudity

Running time: 131 minutes

Where: Opens today throughout Houston

★★★★ (out of 5)

FILM REVIEW

One-man killing machine brutally violent, kind of cartoonish

By Cary Darling
STAFF WRITER



Lionsgate

As Boy, Bill Skarsgård goes in for the kill — over and over again. Yet there is something gleeful about this blend of "Deadpool," "The Purge" and "John Wick," which may be the year's most violent film.

"Boy Kills World" feels less scripted than genetically engineered to appeal to every action-movie junkie raised from birth on a steady diet of video-game violence, martial-arts mayhem and eye-rolling snark.

It's as if someone said, "Hey, what if we smashed 'Deadpool' and 'John Wick' and 'The Purge' together with a touch of 'Hardcore Henry,' and got Sam Raimi ("The Evil Dead") to produce, and one of the actors from the cult-hit martial-arts TV series 'Warrior,' and another from the cult-fave martial-arts franchise 'The Raid,' and yet another who is going to star in the upcoming 'Crow' remake? And do the whole thing with tongue firmly in bloody cheek? Plot? What plot? As long as we have some killer kung fu, we're all good."

That's probably not how the cartoonish and gleefully frenetic "Boy Kills World" came about, but it wouldn't be surprising if it did. And as a feature-film debut for Moritz Mohr, it's an impressively kinetic calling card with a head-slamming, skin-shredding climax so violent that it could even make Quentin Tarantino say, "Dude, you might want to dial it back a notch or three."

It's perhaps no surprise then that Raimi has said he had trouble cobbling together the money for "Boy Kills World" because some investors thought it too outrageous and violent. It could have been called "Boy Overkills World." (Don't believe it? Check out the red-band trailer.) Ultimately, he found sympathetic investors in Cape Town, South Africa, where the movie was filmed.

Bill Skarsgård, from "John Wick: Chapter 4" and the star of the new "Crow," is the nameless Boy, a young ruffian living in the forest of a country that is a "totalitarian hellhole" with his scraggly trainer/mentor Yoda, known as The Shaman (Yayan Ruhian, "The Raid").

Boy was orphaned years prior when he believes his sister and mom were killed by the murderous regime of the Van Der Koy family in an annual ritual called The Culling, in which several citizens are selected to be slaughtered on live TV as a way of keeping the population in line.

Unsurprisingly, Boy — who's now deaf and mute in the wake of his trauma — is plotting revenge against the Van Der Koy matriarch, Hilda (Famke Janssen), and her entire clan.

In addition to the fighting skills learned at the flying feet of The Shaman, he gets help in his quest to be a one-man killing machine from his vivid imagination in the form of apparitions of his sister (Quinn Copeland) and the running commentary in his head that just happens to sound like the voice from a classic video game he used to play in happier times. In the real world, he's aided by a demented Basho (a surprisingly goofy Andrew Koji, playing a very different character from his stoic hero in "Warrior") and his ragtag gang.

Where "Boy Kills World," based on a script by Tyler Burton Smith, Arend Remmers and Mohr, goes may be totally predictable, but it's how it gets there — through Skarsgård's intensely physical performance, the spine-shattering stunts from fight coordinator Dawid Szatarski and fluid camera work, all spiked with a snarky (and sometimes sophomoric) sense of humor — that gives the film its lethal kick.

"Boy Kills World" takes awhile to get going and, at just under 111 minutes, it's about 15 minutes longer than it should be. But, man, the fight choreography in general and that final confrontation in particular are worth the wait.

And, yes, there is a very brief coda after the credits. Does this mean there might be a "Boy Kills World 2: Electric Boogaloo"? A Boy can dream.

'BOY KILLS WORLD'

Rated R: For strong bloody violence and gore throughout, language, some drug use and sexual references

Running time: 110 minutes

Where: Opens Friday throughout Houston

★★★½ (out of 5)

CARY DARLING'S NEW FILMS

Here are the major films being released in theaters this week:

'Boy Kills World'

This violent, tongue-in-cheek, martial-arts action-thriller stars Bill Skarsgård as a young man living in a dystopian America and seeking revenge on the murderous regime that he believes killed his mother and sister.

Rated R. Opens today throughout Houston.

'Cash Out'

John Travolta and Kristin Davis star in a heist thriller in which a thief gets stuck inside the bank and the lead negotiator is his former lover.

Rated R. Opens today at Studio Movie Grill Pearland.

'Challengers'

The latest from director Luca Guadagnino ("Call Me By Your Name") is set in the world of tennis. Zendaya plays a coach who finds herself torn when her tennis player husband goes up against her former boyfriend.

Rated R. Opens today throughout Houston.

'Cinderella's Revenge'

Instead of accepting her fate at the hands of her evil stepsisters, this Cinderella seeks revenge in this horror-thriller.

Unrated. Opens today throughout Houston.

'Dancing Village: The Curse Begins'

Indonesian-language horror film from Indonesia.

Unrated. Opens today throughout Houston.

'Escape from Germany'

A group of 85 American missionaries in Germany in 1939 as the country is closing its borders must flee.

Rated PG. Opens today at Cinemark The Woodlands.

'Gabru Gang'

Hindi-language family drama from India set against the backdrop of a kite competition.

Unrated. Opens today at AMC First Colony 24, Sugar Land.

'Rathnam'

Tamil-language action-thriller from India.

Unrated. Opens today at Cinemark Katy; AMC First Colony 24, Sugar Land; Cinemark Katy.

'Ruslaan'

Hindi-language thriller from India.

Unrated. Opens today at AMC Gulf Pointe 30, Houston; AMC First Colony 24, Sugar Land.

'Unsung Hero'

Faith-based film based on the true story of the Australian family that launched the Christian music group For King & Country.

Rated PG. Opens Friday throughout Houston.

'We 12'

Cantonese-language action-comedy from Hong Kong about a crime-fighting group.

Opens today at AMC Loews Fountains 18, Stafford.

'We Grown Now'

Acclaimed coming-of-age story set in 1992 at the Cabrini-Green housing complex in Chicago. The film has been a big hit at film festivals.

Rated PG. Opens today throughout Houston.









What to watch

FRIDAY

April 26, 2024

All times Central. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.



'Knuckles'

PARAMOUNT PICTURES / SEGA

Knuckles

Paramount+ ■ **New Series**

This six-episode live-action/CGI event series is an entry in what Paramount calls the "Cinematic World of Sonic the Hedgehog." Taking place between the events of the feature films *Sonic the Hedgehog 2* and the upcoming *Sonic the Hedgehog 3*, *Knuckles* follows the title character (Idris Elba, reprising his voice role from the films) on a hilarious and action-packed journey of self-discovery as he agrees to train Wade Whipple (Adam Pally, also reprising his role) as his protege and teach him the ways of the Echidna warrior.

Luxe Listings Toronto

Prime Video ■ **New Series**

This spinoff of *Luxe Listings Sydney* showcases high-stakes listings in Canada's largest city. Top agents Peter and Paige Torkan offer an all-access look behind the lavish buying and selling of multimillion-dollar Toronto properties. Brett Starke of The Starke Group also stars.

Fire Country

CBS, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "A Hail Mary," the future of Three Rock is in jeopardy as public opinion of the camp grows increasingly negative.

Curious Caterer: Foiled Plans

Hallmark Mystery, 8 p.m. ■ **Original Film**

For Colorado caterer Goldy Berry (Nikki DeLoach), accepting a catering job at a castle is a dream come true. The royal icing on the plum cake is that it's a themed fundraiser hosted by the Elk Park Fencing Club, which is her daughter's latest obsession. Just as the town gathers, a murder takes place during the feast and the estate's gate is slammed shut. Together Goldy and Detective Tom (Andrew Walker) must figure out the truth before there are more victims.

We're Here

HBO, 8 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

Season 4 of the reality series follows Latrice Royale, Priyanka, Sasha Velour and Jaida Essence Hall as they spread love and connection through the art of drag.

The New York Times Presents: Broken Horses

FX, 9 p.m.

The deaths of racehorses at high-profile events last year horrified spectators and intensified pressure on officials to confront the issue. This episode of the *New York Times Presents* investigative series examines the systemic problems and questionable practices of breeders, owners, trainers, veterinarians and tracks that are pushing racehorses beyond their limits.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Starring Dustin Hoffman

TCM, beginning at 7 p.m.

Enjoy several of Dustin Hoffman's finest performances in tonight's five-film lineup, four of which showcase the famed actor in Oscar-nominated or -winning roles. First is **Tootsie** (1982), the Best Picture-nominated satirical romantic comedy that earned Hoffman a Best Actor nomination alongside Best Supporting Actress winner Jessica Lange and Supporting Actress nominee Teri Garr. After that is **Kramer vs. Kramer** (1979), the Best Picture-winning legal drama that earned Hoffman a Best Actor win. The film also stars Best Supporting Actress winner Meryl Streep, Supporting Actress nominee Jane Alexander and Supporting Actor nominee Justin Henry (who was 8 years old at the time and remains the youngest Oscar nominee in any category). Next is the film that really made Hoffman a name: **The Graduate (pictured),** the Best Picture-nominated 1967 romantic comedy that earned Hoffman his first Best Actor nomination alongside Best Actress nominee Anne Bancroft and Supporting Actress nominee Katharine Ross. Hoffman was also nominated for Best Actor for his portrayal of the title figure of the next film, **Lenny** (1974), a biographical drama about comedian Lenny Bruce. Best Actress nominee Valerie Perrine co-stars. The Hoffman lineup concludes early Saturday with **Agatha** (1979), a British drama about mystery writer Agatha Christie's (Vanessa Redgrave) 11-day disappearance in 1926. Timothy Dalton also stars.



MGM PICTURES

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ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

North's three diamonds showed strength there, so South issued a quantitative raise to four no-trump. Although North had a minimum, his excellent club support and potential ruffing value in hearts convinced him to try six clubs.

There appeared to be only 11 top tricks (even without the vile trump break), but South found a way home anyway. He won the heart lead in dummy and naturally enough called for the club king. When East showed out, the contract seemed to be in dire straits. Declarer stood no chance on normal play, with two slow heart losers and a trump loser in view, so he tried to score his trumps separately instead. That required three diamond ruffs in hand — two low and one high. Thus, declarer would score six side-suit tricks, three diamond ruffs and dummy's three trumps.

First, though, South had to cash the plain-suit winners before they went away. Declarer took the spade ace-king-queen, heart ace and diamond ace before ruffing a diamond low. Then came a club to dummy and another diamond ruffed low. Now declarer had 12 tricks on a high crossruff.

04-26-A

NORTH
♠ Q 10 2
♥ K 2
♦ A 10 9 6 2
♣ K Q J

WEST
♠ 9 5 4
♥ 7 6
♦ Q 5 4
♣ 10 9 7 6 4

EAST
♠ J 7 6 3
♥ Q J 10 5 4
♦ K J 8 7
♣ ---

SOUTH
♠ A K 8
♥ A 9 8 3
♦ 3
♣ A 8 5 3 2

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: West

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 NT	Pass	6 ♣	All pass

Opening Lead: Heart seven

Had both defenders followed to the first trump, the best line would be to take a second top trump. On a 3-2 split, declarer could ruff a heart and claim. If someone showed out, declarer would cash his side-suit tricks as before but leave the third spade in dummy. He would then ruff a diamond low, return to the spade queen and ruff another diamond low. The same high crossruff would develop now.

LEAD WITH THE ACES

South holds:
♠ J 7 6 3
♥ Q J 10 5 4
♦ K J 8 7
♣ ---

South	West	North	East
		1 ♥	2 ♣
?			

ANSWER: Make a splinter bid of four clubs, showing a raise to game with short clubs. You would prefer to have more high cards (specifically key cards) for this, but it is likely that West will raise clubs, and you want to bring partner in on the decision. If you jump to four hearts, your partner will not be confident of how short your clubs are and will have more of a problem over a five-club sacrifice.

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LOOKING BACK

1968: the United States exploded beneath the Nevada desert a 1.3 megaton nuclear device called "Boxcar."

2000: Vermont Gov. Howard Dean signed the nation's first bill allowing same-sex couples to form civil unions.

2013: singer George Jones, believed by many to be the greatest country crooner of all time, died in Nashville at age 81.

BIRTHDAYS

Actor-comedian **Carol Burnett** is 91. Actor **Giancarlo Esposito** is 66. Actor-singer **Michael Damian** is 62. Actor **Jet Li** is 61. Actor-comedian **Kevin James** is 59. Author and former U.S. Poet Laureate **Natasha Trethewey** is 58. Actor **Nyambi Nyambi** is 45. Actor **Jordana Brewster** is 44. Actor **Channing Tatum** is 44. New York Yankees outfielder **Aaron Judge** is 32.

WORD SLEUTH

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Thursday's unlisted clue: **METS.**
Friday's unlisted clue hint: **ELON —.**

Bernanke
Bezos
Biden
G. W. Bush
Harris
Kissinger
Merkel
Obama
Putin
Swift
Thunberg
Trump
Turner
Zelensky
Zuckerberg

TIME MAGAZINE'S PERSON OF THE YEAR

H D A X V S Q N K I F D R A X
V T Q O M J H F C A Y E W U R
N P N L J H F D B Z G X P S Y
V E T R E Q O G M N K M O K M
I H D F N K R D I L U Z S U B
Z Y W I H E N S O R E N S V T
R Q T O B S S A T B E K I N L
K U I N H I U F N L A N R D C
P Z U C K E R B E R G M R E A
Z H X W V U S Z W R E Q A U M
T F I W S O N M K G J B H I T

JUMBLE

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

RPSUU
SEAOR
LABOCT
SAGNIS



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

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Answer here:

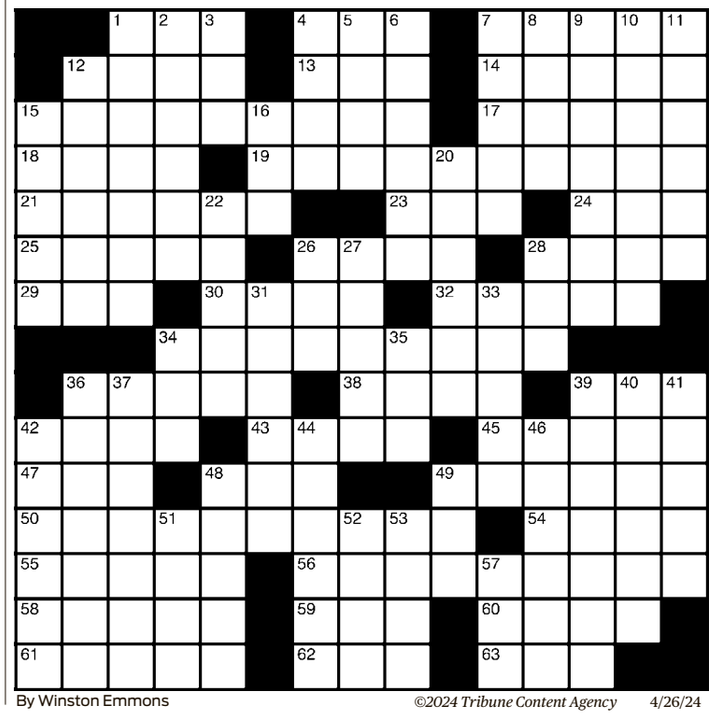
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GLORY COVET DEFUSE POPLAR
Answer: The scientists studying Niagara Falls had lots of data to — "POUR" OVER

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Ointment amount
4 PIN point
7 Prone to micromanage, perhaps
12 Napping racer of fable
13 "Vive le __!"
14 Gas brand with a torch logo
15 Cleanliness is next to ... a minimalist approach?
17 More vast
18 Muppet who had a meltdown over a rock named Rocco
19 Going to hell in a ... damaged armored vehicle?
21 Nabisco wafer cookies
23 Like some receptions
24 Architect who designed air traffic control towers for the FAA in the 1960s
25 Squalid
26 As much as
28 Angry
29 Make a typo, say
30 Genesis twin
32 Like an old mattress, maybe
34 Don't throw the baby out with the ... decorative Halloween ring?
36 Bart in the Pro Football Hall of Fame
38 Mongolian desert
39 Altar constellation
42 Arts and crafts bit
43 Not covered
45 Solitary sort
47 Urgent care ctrs.
48 MIT's domain
49 Grammatical gender
50 The only thing we have to fear is ... feeling better quickly?
54 Pad __
55 Monteverdi work
56 Famous ... weapon that would dissolve in water?
58 Some Redfin transactions
59 Alter __
60 Ont. neighbor
61 L'Oréal polish brand
62 Icarus, to Daedalus
63 Muddy pen

DOWN
1 German auto pioneer
2 "Baked the Right Way" bread brand
3 Beseech
4 Turf
5 Throw
6 Out-of-bounds golf shot, e.g.
7 Ribald
8 Skip over
9 Diner drink
10 Tourist's diversion
11 Long-haired terrier, familiarly
12 More sacred
15 Thick
16 Birth announcement abbr.
20 Clean water company
22 Per annum
26 Detroit labor org.
27 Rid (of)
28 Texter's "How disappointing"
31 Went boldly
33 Practical
34 Base
35 Proterozoic, e.g.
36 Colorful shawls
37 Mortarboard attachments
39 Ramos of "In the Heights"
40 Gain again
41 Secret alternative
42 One side of a comparison ad
44 Signs of life
46 Dupe
48 Get rid of
49 Asset on a blockchain, for short
51 Starship Enterprise counselor
52 Othello advisor
53 Entrepreneur Musk
57 Texting letters



By Winston Emmons ©2024 Tribune Content Agency 4/26/24

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

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

Difficulty: ★★★★ 4/26

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CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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GA WJIXNJUD QSJ'W QXP WIJJRSXW QSGYX CGRMGTE BC V PJQXY, G EBXWW PSVP'W V MGWW NXAJKX UKDGTE.

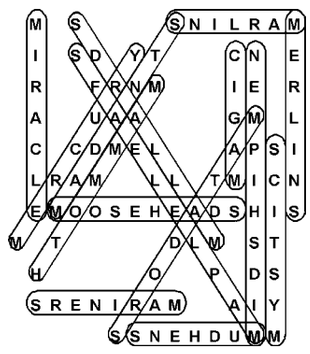
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals G

ANSWER: If somebody who's wet smooches while picking up a towel, I guess that's a kiss before drying.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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

TEAM NAMES STARTING WITH "M"



A	B	S		G	A	D		L	A	D		T	S	O
N	E	T		A	S	K		E	D	I	T	W	A	R
I	R	O	N	M	A	N		T	O	E	R	I	N	G
M	A	K	E	U	P	Y	O	U	R	M	I	N	D	
A	T	E	A	T			H	S	N		A	B	R	A
L	E	S	T		G	P	S				G	E	A	R
			H	A	I	R	O	F	T	H	E	D	O	G
P	C	S		A	N	O		A	L	A		S	H	O
F	I	T	A	S	A	F	I	D	D	L	E			
F	A	I	R				P	E	R		M	A	N	O
T	A	L	E		A	D	A			B	I	D	O	N
	G	E	T	R	E	A	D	Y	W	I	T	H	M	E
D	E	T	H	O	R	N		V	I	P	S	E	A	T
A	N	T	A	C	I	D		E	K	E		R	A	W
P	T	O		K	E	Y		S	I	D		E	M	O



Dear Abby

Dear Abby: My boyfriend is 18 years younger than I am. Our relationship hasn't been perfect, but I love him to death. Unfortunately, I'm going through menopause and have all the side effects. Long story short, he found another girl. It was just supposed to be for sex, and he told me he wouldn't get into another relationship or marry anyone but me. Well, he fell for her.

They are both at my apartment. I'm trying to make him happy by allowing this, but he can be so mean to me, and he's so nice to her. He tells me how nice she is, etc. I told him it's because he hasn't hurt her yet. He won't have sex with me now. He claims he isn't favoring her, but he is.

I love him so much, and don't want to lose him. I'm in so much pain because I can't please him in every way. I don't know what to do. Should I allow this and try to make it work, or should I give up?

Can't Stop Crying

Dear Can't Stop: Let me get this straight. Your much-younger boyfriend and his new girlfriend live in your apartment (rent-free), and he no longer makes love with you. What are you getting out of this charade besides pain?

If I thought it would help, I'd advise you to stick it out and hope his romance will blow over. But I can't — because whatever respect he felt for you is gone. The pain you are experiencing will end only when you find your self-respect and usher the two lovebirds out the door. Do it soon.

Dear Abby: I am SUPER outgoing! Always have been. I can walk up to anyone and start a conversation. As I've gotten older, I've noticed that many people have no personality. During the pandemic it became exponentially worse. Neighbors don't speak. People look at their phones every waking minute. It is pathetic.

I don't know people's backgrounds or interests just by looking at them. I'm smart, but I'm not telepathic. If people don't know how to simply say "hi" or "good morning," something is wrong! COVID shut things down. But if you weren't friendly before the pandemic, how are you going to be five years from now?

Friendly In The East

Dear Friendly: The COVID disruption may have contributed to what you are describing, but it had been building for at least the past 20 years. As people became more and more fixated on their electronic devices, the ability to look someone in the eye and converse withered.

If you don't look someone in the eye and communicate in person, the ability to read social cues withers and is eventually lost. I believe this has caused much of the isolation and loneliness we are experiencing in our society. If we are going to fix this, people will have to teach themselves to unplug and reach out to people. Making the time to exchange social amenities as simple as smiling and saying, "Good morning," is an easy place to start.

www.DearAbby.com
Andrews McMeel Syndication



Heloise

HINTS FROM HELOISE

Dear Heloise: Every year about this time, I do some spring-cleaning.

My teenage kids (I have three children) usually help me. We clean every closet, toss out junk and donate things that others can use.

Many of my friends are surprised that my children help me, but I started doing this with them at the age of 5. I had them cleaning their rooms, helping me change their sheets and organizing their toys. They had to keep their shoes lined up, and dirty clothes were put in their hampers. We did this every Saturday morning, and usually by noon, they were free to go out and play. Since this was a weekly task, they knew that spring-cleaning would be a little more in depth.

It was because of this that they now hate clutter and dirty rooms.

They take care of their clothes and their possessions, and they take pride in their schoolwork.

Am I a "tiger mom"? Maybe, but none of my children smokes or uses drugs. All are on their school's honor roll and always found summer jobs to help pay for their future college education.

I'm a devoted believer that making children do chores has a profound affect in training them to take pride in where and how they live. It also helps them take responsibility for their lives.

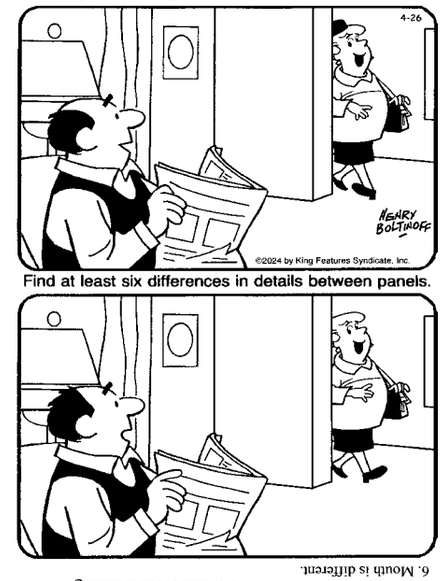
Elaine T., Burlington, Wisconsin

Heloise@heloise.com
King Features Syndicate

ARGYLE SWEATER



HOCUS FOCUS



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Foot is different. 2. Man's finger is moved. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Man has more hair. 5. Hat is missing. 6. Mouth is different.

ROYAL STARS

Today's Birthday (April 26). You are bold yet cautious. You believe in logical planning and careful preparation. This is a slower paced year. It's OK to take a rest so you can rejuvenate your energy.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Sagittarius.

Aries (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ As of yesterday, Mercury is no longer retrograde. And today the Moon is in an exciting part of your chart, which is why you want to run away and join the circus. You want freedom! You want excitement! Tonight: Explore!

Taurus (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You're in a resourceful frame of mind today, which is why you might see new uses for shared property. You also might see new ways to invest your holdings and your assets. Tonight: Check your finances.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ You might attract someone quite powerful to you today. Whether or not this is the case, you will definitely have to compromise when dealing with others and be prepared to go more than halfway. Tonight: Cooperate.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) ★★★ It's the end of the week; nevertheless, you're in a productive frame of mind. Hopefully, others will listen to you, because you have ideas for improvements or reforms at work. Tonight: Get organized.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ This is a playful day for you! However, it will also be a particularly powerful day for you if you work in the entertainment world, show business, the hospitality industry or sports. You're in a resourceful frame of mind. Tonight: Play!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ Discussions with family members, especially females, might be powerful today. Be courteous and listen. You or someone else will see ways to make improvements. Tonight: Entertain.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Your mind is incisive today, which is why you will get to the bottom of anything. You will also spot a phony a mile away and be able to tell if someone is dishonest. Tonight: Listen.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ Because you're in a resourceful frame of mind today, you might see new uses for something that you already own. You also might see new ways to earn money on the side. Tonight: Check your belongings.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ Today you will have powerful feelings about many things. You might not notice this, but others will. Basically, you want to get things done. You also want to play and get some time off for good behavior. Tonight: You're confident.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ Secrets might be revealed today. In fact, these secrets might relate to something that is romantic. You are in a playful mood and ready to socialize with others. Tonight: Privacy.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ You might have a powerful discussion with a friend today. Whatever this is, you will handle it with tact and diplomacy, as is your wont. Tonight: Be friendly.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ You are noticed today. Some see you as having power or clout or some kind of influence, which is why someone might ask you for help. Tonight: You're admired.

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FAMILY CIRCUS



"I don't care for any pie, but I'll have lots of a la mode."

ZIGGY



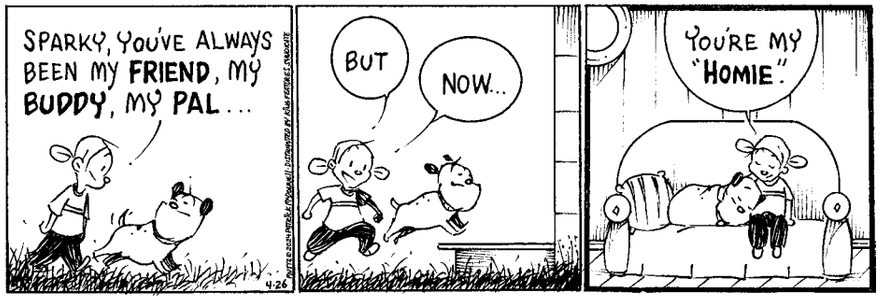
ZITS



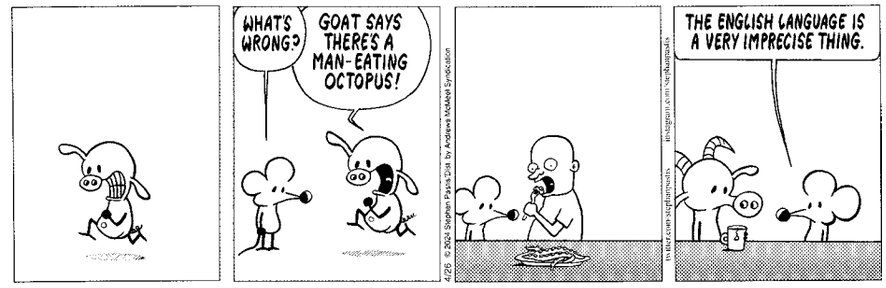
WALLACE THE BRAVE



MUTTS



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



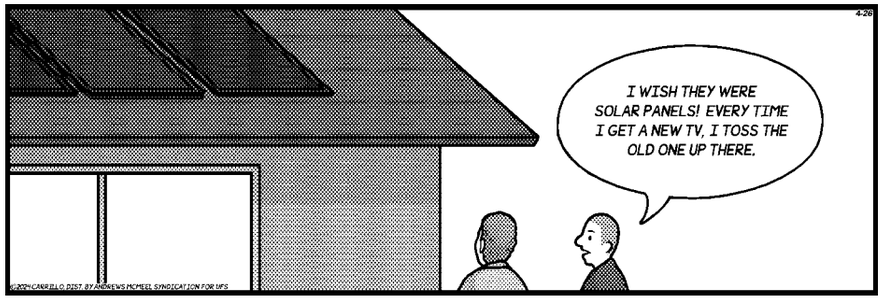
RHYMES WITH ORANGE



BABY BLUES



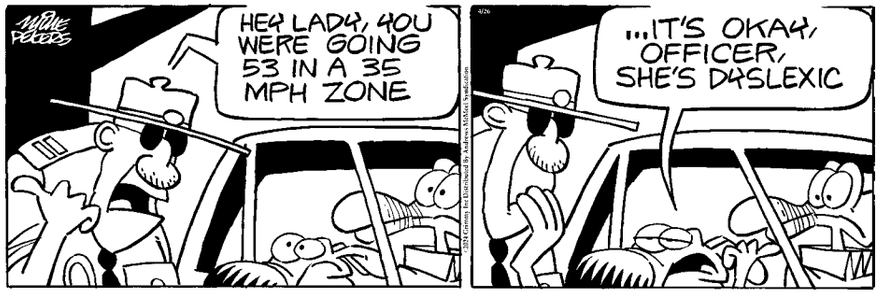
F MINUS



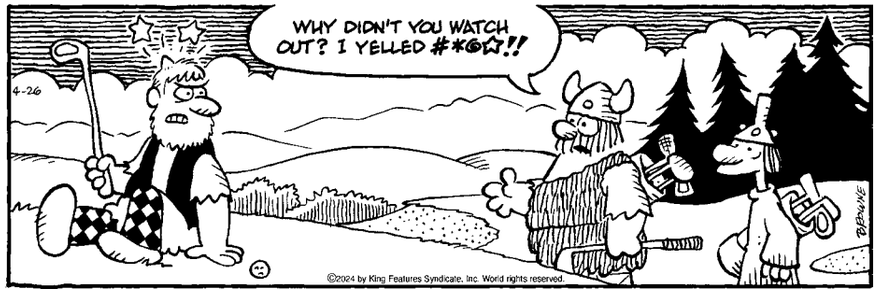
PEANUTS



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!



GARFIELD



SHERMAN'S LAGOON



BEETLE BAILEY



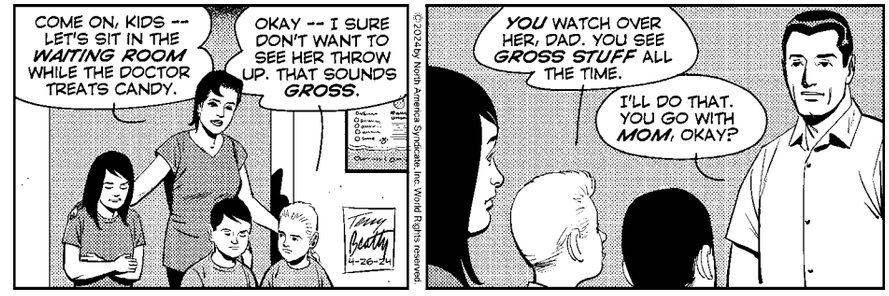
CURTIS



B.C.



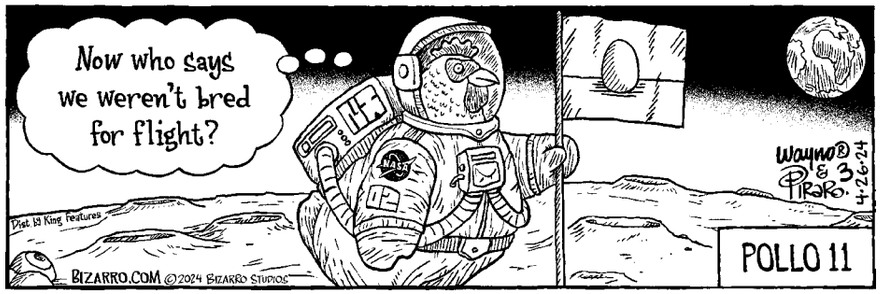
REX MORGAN, M.D.



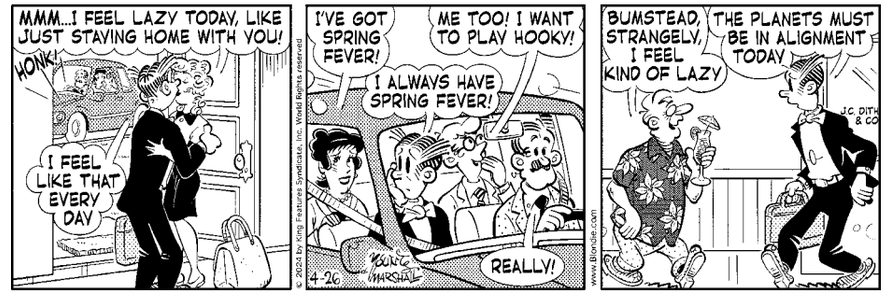
PHANTOM



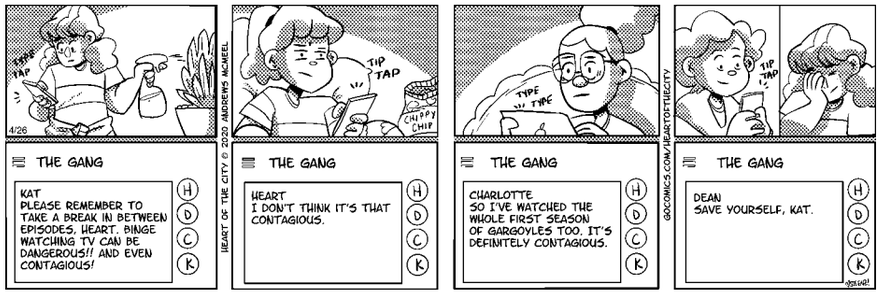
BIZARRO



BLONDIE



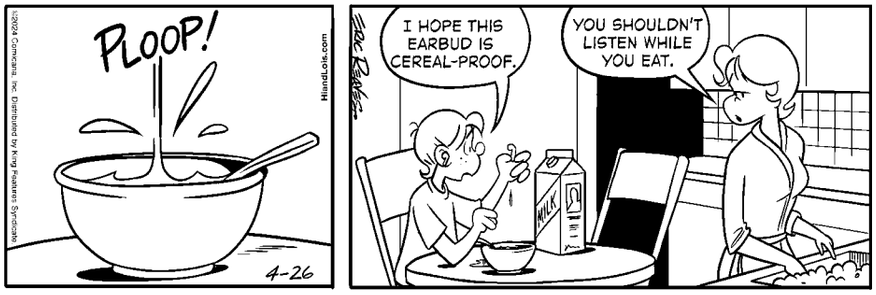
HEART OF THE CITY



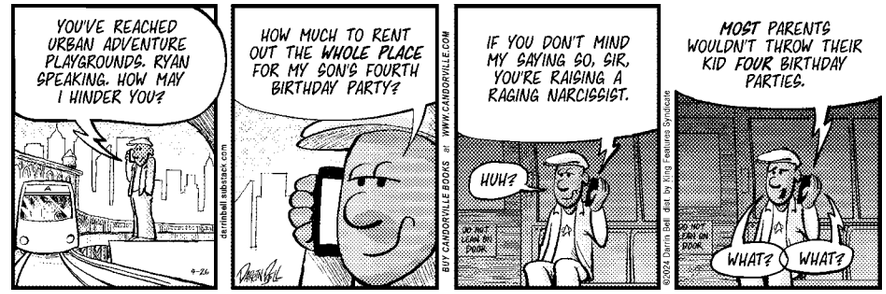
CRANKSHAFT



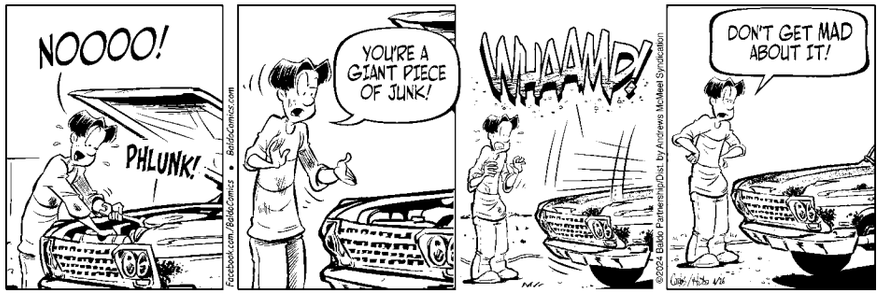
HI & LOIS



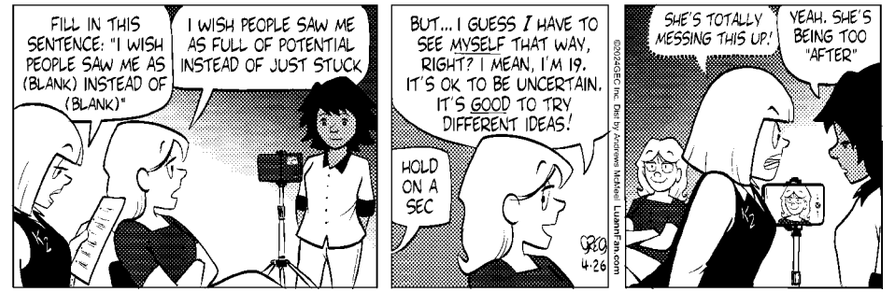
CANDORVILLE



BALDO



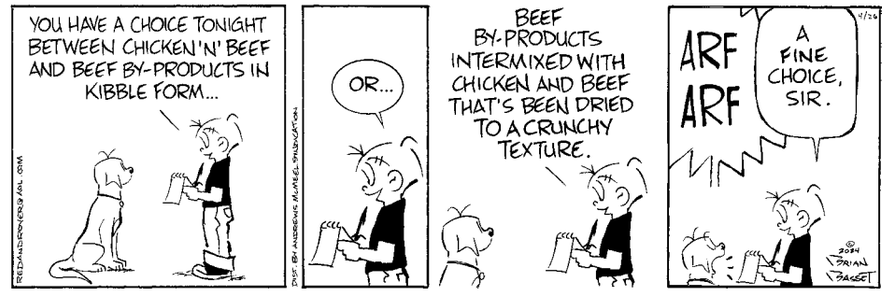
LUANN



SALLY FORTH



RED & ROVER



LOUISIANA'S LARGEST CASINO RESORT

SATURDAY, MAY 25 / 6PM-10PM

$300,000 CA$H MULTIPLIER MAYHEM GIVEAWAY

15 CHANCES TO WIN

3 LUCKY WINNERS SPIN THE DOUBLE PRIZE WHEEL EVERY HOUR

Win Up to $5,000 PLUS an Added Bonus Multiplier of Up to 4X Your Prize – You Can Win $20,000 CASH!

EARN ENTRIES: Monday, May 20, 4AM – Saturday, May 25, 9:59PM

ACTIVATE your earned entries with play* using your Advantage Club card within 1 hour prior to each drawing.

MAY THE FOURTH AND LUCK BE WITH YOU!

$50,000 MAY THE FOURTH GALACTIC CASH GIVEAWAY

SATURDAY, MAY 4 FROM 6PM-10PM, THREE LUCKY WINNERS EVERY HOUR REVEAL A PRIZE OF UP TO $10,000 CASH.

EARN ENTRIES:

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 4AM–SATURDAY, MAY 4, 9:59PM

Activate your earned entries with play using your Advantage Club card within 1 hour prior to each drawing.

Exclusively for Ladies Only!

$100,000 Mother's Day BOUQUET OF CASH giveaway

SUNDAY, MAY 12 2pm-6pm

5 CHANCES TO WIN!

5 WINNERS EACH SELECT THREE ROSES

EVERY WINNER HAS A CHANCE TO WIN up to $20,000 CASH!

Earn drawing entries Wednesday, May 1, 4:00am - Sunday, May 12, 5:59pm

Activate your earned entries with rated play using your Advantage card within 1 hour prior to each drawing.

$100,000 May FLOWERS of FREE PLAY Giveaways

WEDNESDAYS MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 3PM-7PM

WINNERS CHOOSE A FLOWER BLOSSOM FROM THE MAY FLOWERS GAME BOARD TO REVEAL THEIR PRIZE

Play Your Favorite Slots or Table Games at the Time of the Drawing for YOUR Chance to WIN!

Tower of Power

Tickets on sale now at ticketmaster

Friday, May 3

COUSHATTA ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

DOORS OPEN 7PM SHOW TIME 8PM

21+ Only.

A BIGGER, BETTER COUSHATTA

COMING LATE 2025

COUSHATTA CASINO RESORT KINDER, LOUISIANA

Louisiana's Best Bet!

Kinder Alexandria 165 Houston Lafayette 10 EXIT 44 Lake Charles

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Must be 21 or older to enter Coushatta Entertainment Center. Offers are not intended for excluded guests. Management reserves the right to alter or cancel any promotion without notice. Events and dates subject to change. Coushatta supports responsible gaming. Call 877.770.7867. Coushatta Casino Resort is owned and operated by the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana. Some exclusions apply. Official Rules available at Coushatta Advantage Center. Visit ccrla.com for complete event information.