

NATION

Study: In 15 years, Arctic could see ‘ice-free’ summers

Doyle Rice
USA TODAY

Climate change is taking its toll on one of the world’s coldest places. A study suggests that the Arctic “may be essentially ice-free during summer within 15 years.” The study used statistical models to predict the future amount of Arctic ice, which suggested that the Arctic could be ice-free in the summer during the decade of the 2030s – most likely in the year 2034. Sea ice is frozen ocean water that melts each summer, then refreezes each winter. The amount of summer sea ice in the Arctic has been steadily shrinking over the past few decades because of global warming. It reached its second-smallest level on record in 2019, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said. Sea ice affects Arctic communities and wildlife such as polar bears and walruses, and it helps regulate the planet’s temperature by influencing the circulation of the atmosphere and ocean. “The extent of Arctic ice is important to Arctic peoples, whose lands are being affected by increased coastal erosion,” NOAA said in a statement. “Conversely, the disappearance of ice creates economic opportunities, including the opening of oil fields and new shipping routes.” It also affects global weather patterns. The study was conducted by scientists at NOAA, the University of Washington, and the North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies. What scientists refer to as the first “ice-free” Arctic summer year will occur when the Arctic has less than 1 million square kilometers of sea ice. (The thick ice sheets surrounding Canada’s Arctic islands are likely to remain for much longer, even in summer.) The study was published in the journal Climate.

Recruiter fired after racial incident

Oklahoma students told to line up by skin color

Jorge L. Ortiz
USA TODAY

Students at an Oklahoma City high school were made to line up by skin color and hair texture by a college recruiter who has since been fired. Eleventh grade students at Harding Charter Preparatory High School told KFOR-TV the recruiter from Oklahoma Christian University visited Monday and, during a gathering at the gym, first asked them to line up from darkest to lightest skin. After dispersing that line, he had them stand based on their hair. “He told us to line up nappiest hair in the back and straightest hair in the front,” junior student Rio Brown said in an interview with the Oklahoma City station. “That’s when I felt uncomfortable,” classmate Korey Todd said. “I was like, ‘OK, I don’t think this is right.’” Both the university and the high school acknowledged in statements to



University of Oklahoma students participate in a sit-in to protest offensive language by a professor. NATE BILLINGS/AP

the station that the incident took place. “OC admissions leadership did not approve the inappropriate activity in advance and has communicated closely with Harding administration since the visit,” said the university’s statement, which noted that the admissions counselor is no longer employed there. OCU also said its representatives

would stop by Harding on Monday to apologize to students. Harding Charter Prep, ranked by U.S. News & World Report as Oklahoma’s top public high school in 2019, has an ethnically diverse student body of about 430. According to the school’s website, the demographic breakdown last year was 28% African American, 28% Hispanic, 23% Caucasian, 7% Asian and 14% other. The name of the recruiter has not been made public, though Todd said he was a white male who portrayed his unusual requests to students as a game. Brown said teachers left the assembly in tears because they were offended. “I hope it is a wake-up call because many people at the school need to hear how we feel,” he said. The incident is the latest in a recent series of racially charged episodes at Oklahoma learning institutions. In February, a University of Oklahoma history professor repeatedly used the N-word while reading from a historical document in class. Contributing: The Associated Press

Video: Chicago officers shoot train passenger

Man accused of illegally moving between 2 cars

John Bacon
USA TODAY

Multiple investigations were underway Sunday after a Chicago man accused of illegally moving between two train cars was shot by police officers in an altercation caught on cellphone video that the mayor described as “extremely disturbing.” The man, who was not identified, was in critical condition at Northwestern Hospital, police said. Both officers involved in the incident Friday were

being restricted from field duties and placed on administrative duties pending the outcome of the investigations. The shooting took place hours after Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Chicago Police and the Chicago Transit Authority announced a comprehensive plan to tackle crime on public transit. The incident began when two officers assigned to the Mass Transit Unit attempted to stop the man from moving between the cars, which violates a city ordinance, police said. A struggle ensued at the Grand Red Line station as they attempted to take him into custody at the bottom of an escalator. The video shows both officers firing their Tasers at the man. Two gunshots

can be heard, but in the chaos it is not clear which officer is shooting. Police said one of the officers shot the man twice. “I have viewed the widely shared footage depicting the police-involved shooting at the CTA station,” Lightfoot said. “With the strong caveat that one perspective does not depict the entirety of the incident, the video is extremely disturbing and the actions by these officers are deeply concerning.” Hours earlier, the city unveiled its plan to ensure the safety of the transit system. Four detectives and a crime analyst will have the ability to monitor in real time more than 32,000 cameras on all trains and buses, in stations and elsewhere.

ADVERTISEMENT

Good News for Americans, Bad News for Pain Drugs

Millions are expected to benefit from a new technology that could relieve years of severe joint discomfort; reprograms the body to block slow burning inflammation instead of creating it

Several of the major drug companies behind popular pain relievers may take a financial hit as manufacturing of a new pill is now complete. Using a new technology, the pill could be safer and more effective than many store bought brands. The pill, *VeraFlex*, is not available in stores. The published studies for the active ingredient UP446 created a highly anticipated release by a private company in Seattle, WA. **The Science Behind Relief** Research shows that the joint stiffness, soreness and discomfort associated with arthritis is caused by inflammation which attacks healthy cartilage and protective tissue. And according to leading medical scientists, this inflammation is caused by two inflammatory enzymes released by the body’s immune system. Remarkably, the active ingredients in *VeraFlex* help to block the production of both these enzymes, resulting in a dramatic decreasing in swelling, inflammation, and discomfort. Right now, the leading over-the-counter pills are only able to block one of these enzymes! It’s why so many sufferers fail to ever find relief. **Years of Discomfort Relieved in 5 Days** “*VeraFlex* users can generally expect more flexibility in three days...their joint pain alleviated in five days...and in just seven days, a tremendous improvement in overall joint function that may help them move like they did years prior” explains Dr.

Liza Leal, developer and spokesperson for *VeraFlex*. “It’s an incredibly powerful little pill. And with the addition of a patented absorption enhancer, it packs an even greater punch. That’s why I’m so excited to be the first to share these results. It’s giving sufferers their life back.” **A Safer, More Effective Avenue to Amazing Relief** Its widely accepted through the medical community that inflammatory enzymes are the primary cause of pain and suffering in millions of Americans. It’s why most prescriptions and even nonprescription pills are designed to block them. However, what most people don’t know is that even the most advanced ones can’t block both! And yet, that’s exactly what *VeraFlex* is designed to do and why it works so well. “Top pharma companies have struggled to create a drug that blocks COX and LOX; the medical names for the two inflammatory enzymes in the body. Consider the top seller Celebrex, it only blocks one variation of the COX enzyme” explains Leal. “And that’s because they have focused on using chemicals instead of natural substances like *VeraFlex*.” “Every *VeraFlex* capsule contains an ultra-high dose of a patented plant extract which has been clinically shown to block both enzymes, bringing relief to every joint that hurts! “The kind of relief most people have never experienced. I often say two enzymes, twice the relief. People think I’m kidding until they try it.”



Veraflex producers are making these new pills as fast as possible to meet the growing and increasing demand.

Piling on the Clinical Research Remarkably, the key ingredient in *VeraFlex* is protected by 8 patents that spread from the US into Canada. And as would one guess, it’s backed by an enormous amount of research, including two patient clinical trials. In the first, 60 participants with rheumatoid arthritis and/or osteoarthritis were randomly placed into four groups. Two groups were given the patented ingredient in *VeraFlex*, one was given the drug Celecoxib, and the last group a placebo. The results were monitored at 30, 60, and 90 days. The data collected by researchers was stunning. The groups taking the *VeraFlex* ingredient saw staggering improvements in arthritis symptoms such as flexibility, discomfort and function. And even more astonishing they experienced a dramatic

reduction in pain by the 30-day mark that was even better than Celecoxib, a powerful drug! A second study was conducted to ensure the data was accurate and again the results participants experienced taking the *VeraFlex* compound blew away researchers. This time it beat out the drug Naproxen. Shockingly, both men and women experienced a reduction in joint stiffness two days faster than when using Naproxen. “I have to admit I was surprised when I read the initial findings” explains Leal. “But when you look at the science it just makes sense. It’s going to change everything.” **Faster Delivery, Maximum Absorption** *VeraFlex* is mainly comprised of two patented ingredients: UP446, a powerful immune modulator which blocks the enzymes which cause your joints to hurt and Maxcell™, an absorption enhancer (accelerator) that ensures

maximum potency. Research shows that severe joint discomfort arises when the immune system goes haywire and releases COX and LOX into your blood stream, two enzymes that causes tremendous swelling and inflammation around cartilage and protective tissue. Over time, this inflammation overwhelms the joint and it begins to deteriorate resulting in a daily battle with chronic pain. Unfortunately, modern day pain pills are only able block only one of these enzymes, resulting in marginal relief and continued suffering. The UP446 in *VeraFlex* is one of the only known substances which has been proven successful in blocking both enzymes, resulting in phenomenal relief from the worst kinds of discomfort. **How to Claim a Free 3-Month Supply Of VeraFlex** This is the official nationwide release of *VeraFlex*. And so, the company is offering our readers up to 3 FREE bottles with their order. This special give-away is available for the next 48-hours only. All you have to do is call toll free **1-800-403-0639** and provide the operator with the Free Bottle Approval Code: VF350. The company will do the rest. Important: Due to *VeraFlex*’s recent media exposure, and Dr. Leal’s latest book deal, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back. Those who miss the 48-hour deadline may lose out on this free bottle offer.

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WASHINGTON

US signs deal with Taliban to end war in Afghanistan

Pact sets timetable to bring troops home

Tom Vanden Brook
and Deirdre Shesgreen
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – U.S. and Taliban negotiators signed a historic agreement Saturday in Qatar that could end 19 years of war in Afghanistan and allow President Donald Trump to begin the promised withdrawal of American troops.

The four-page pact spells out a timetable for the United States to withdraw its 13,000 troops from Afghanistan; in exchange, the Taliban agreed to sever its ties with al-Qaida, the terrorist group that launched the 9/11 attacks against the U.S.

“Everybody’s tired of war,” Trump told reporters at the White House. “It’s been a very long journey. It’s been a hard journey for everybody.”

The agreement sets the stage for further negotiations between Afghanistan’s government and the Taliban. American officials hope those talks will lead to a power-sharing deal, a permanent end to the bloody conflict and a full withdrawal of American forces.

But a permanent peace – and an end to America’s longest war – rests on a commitment by the Taliban, a fractious insurgency, to end its deadly attacks on U.S. forces and to renounce its ties to al-Qaida.

“If the Taliban and the government of Afghanistan live up to these commitments, we will have a powerful path forward to end the war in Afghanistan and bring our troops home,” the president said in a statement released ahead of Saturday’s signing ceremony in Doha.

Zalmay Khalilzad, the top U.S. negotiator for Afghanistan, signed the pact as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo looked on. In remarks at the ceremony, Pompeo said the deal was based on the reality that the conflict was militarily unwinnable without a massive deployment of additional U.S. forces. The Taliban also saw the war as a lost cause, he noted.

In the coming weeks, the United States will begin a phased withdrawal from Afghanistan, reducing its forces from 13,000 troops to 8,600. Pompeo said the remaining U.S. troops will serve



U.S. Special Representative Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar shake hands Saturday. GIUSEPPE CACACE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

as leverage to ensure the Taliban lives up to its promises.

In Kabul, Defense Secretary Mark Esper echoed that message – saying the withdrawal of U.S. and coalition troops would be based on the Taliban reining in its fighters.

“Should the Taliban fail to honor their commitments, they will forfeit their chance to sit with fellow Afghans and deliberate on the future of their country. Moreover, the United States would not hesitate to nullify the agreement,” Esper said in prepared remarks.

If the Taliban fulfills its commitments to renounce al-Qaida and begin intra-Afghan talks, the U.S. agreed to a withdrawal of all remaining American forces from Afghanistan within 10 months. The U.S. also agreed to immediately facilitate a controversial prisoner exchange, under which up to 5,000 Taliban prisoners held by the Afghan government could be released. The Taliban would free as many as 1,000 prisoners, as demanded by the Afghan government.

Trump said he expected withdrawals to begin immediately.

“If bad things happen, we’ll go back,” Trump said. “We’ll go back with a force like nobody’s ever seen.”

The president, speaking at a news conference primarily focused on the

coronavirus, announced he would soon be meeting with Taliban leaders. He declined to provide additional information about where or when that meeting would take place.

The U.S.-Taliban deal, crafted during painstaking, on-again-off-again negotiations that began in 2018, was finalized after seven days of reduced violence, a confidence-building measure both sides undertook as a prerequisite to signing an agreement.

Saturday’s announcement comes with many caveats. In September, negotiators hailed a breakthrough in talks only to see hope for peace dissipate and violence continue.

The next step will be even more challenging: getting the Taliban and the Afghan government – bitter opponents with sharply divergent views about the future of their country – to reach a peace agreement in a country riven by tribal factions, devastated by war and overrun with criminal and terrorist elements.

Those talks are expected to begin in Oslo, Norway, within 10 days, but neither side has designated negotiators yet. And the Afghan government, backed by the U.S., is in the midst of a political crisis, with two leaders proclaiming victory in the country’s September election.

ELECTION 2020

Buttigieg ends bid after falling short in SC

Decision announced day after Steyer drops out

William Cummings
USA TODAY

Former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg announced he was ending the presidential campaign in which he made history as the first openly gay man to win delegates in the race for the nomination of a major political party.

His exit comes a day after his fourth-place finish in South Carolina and two days before Super Tuesday, when he was expected to struggle amid the dominance of Sen. Bernie Sanders and resurgence of former Vice President Joe Biden. Buttigieg’s departure also comes a day after billionaire Tom Steyer suspended his campaign.

“Pete believes this is the right thing to do for our country, for our party and for Americans across the country eager to heal our divided nation, defeat this president and work to fix our broken politics,” a campaign aide said Sunday night.

Buttigieg’s success in the campaign, aside from his personal story, was a remarkable achievement. As the mayor of a midsize Midwestern town, he rose from relative political obscurity to become a viable candidate for the White House.

His one-delegate victory over Sanders in Iowa was overshadowed by the vote-counting chaos there – and his win was in doubt until confirmed after a final recanvass and recount.



Pete Buttigieg walks in Selma, Ala., on Sunday, on the anniversary of the Bloody Sunday Bridge Crossing. MICKEY WELSH/USA TODAY NETWORK

Study digs into where we agree, disagree in politics

Bipartisanship on tax cuts, background checks

Javier Zarracina and Rebecca Morin
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – With 2020 primary contests underway, new findings from a recent study show Republican and Democratic voters are still polarized.

President Donald Trump and some of his main campaign themes, such as immigration, are some of the top issues that separate Republicans and Democrats nationwide.

The findings are part of the Democracy Fund + UCLA Nationscape project, a large-scale study of the American electorate. Throughout the 2020 election cycle, the researchers aim to conduct 500,000 interviews about both policies and the presidential candidates.

Between Jan. 9 and Feb. 13, 31,508 interviews were conducted. The margin of error is plus or minus 1 percentage point.

According to the findings, Democrats and Republicans remain split on policies such as health care and building a wall along the U.S. southern border. However, voters in both parties share common ground on a handful of issues.

Background checks and tax cuts

Gun control has been a contentious issue on Capitol Hill and across the country in the aftermath of high-profile mass shootings in recent years. Democrats generally have advocated for expanding background checks. Republicans lawmakers, however, generally have advocated for red flag laws, which take guns away from those deemed to pose a threat to themselves or others.

But voters aren’t necessarily aligned with their partisan officials in Washington, D.C., according to the Nationscape research. A vast majority of both Republicans, 84%, and Democrats, 92%, sup-

Only 13% of Democrats think a wall should be built, with 73% of Democrats opposing the idea. Meanwhile, 70% of Republicans support construction and 18% oppose it.

port background checks for all gun purchases. Only 4% of Democrats said they opposed background checks and only 10% of Republicans said they opposed them, making it one of the issues that had overwhelming bipartisan support.

However, the two parties are split on other other key issues surrounding gun control, such as banning assault rifles and limiting magazine capacity, according to the project’s findings.

Republicans and Democrats stand on common ground when it comes to tax cuts for families not making six figures.

According to the study, 79% of Democrats agree with cutting taxes for families that make less than \$100,000 per year, while 10% disagree. Among Republicans, 70% agreed, while 18% disagreed.

When it comes to one of Trump’s key campaign issues, immigration, there isn’t much bipartisan support.

Only 13% of Democrats believe that a wall should be built on the U.S.-Mexico border, with a whopping 73% of Democrats opposing the idea. On the Republican side, however, it’s almost the complete opposite, with 70% of Republicans in support of building a wall and 18% opposing it. Trump has made building the wall a priority of his presidency.

On the issue of deporting all undocumented immigrants, a majority of Re-

publicans, 56%, support it, while 26% oppose it. Among Democrats, 18% agree with the policy, while 64% oppose it.

Democratic voters mostly agree

Voters backing each of those four Democratic candidates, as well as supporters of Michael Bloomberg, mostly align with one another in terms of supporting the same policies.

Among Buttigieg supporters, 79% agree with cutting taxes for lower-income families, while 80% of Bloomberg, Sanders, and Warren supporters, respectively, agree with the policy. Among Biden supporters, 82% agree. Supporters also are overwhelmingly opposed to some of the same policies, such as separating children from parents in cases involving illegal border crossings.

Yet despite their shared support of Democratic candidates, those voters don’t agree on everything.

Buttigieg supporters show less support for reparations – only 25% agree with the policy – than Biden, Bloomberg, Sanders, and Warren supporters. Bloomberg supporters followed at 30% in agreement. Forty-seven percent of Warren backers agree with the policy, while 41% of Sanders supporters and 40% of Biden supporters do.

When it comes to Sanders’ signature policy, Medicare for All, supporters of the five candidates are divided, though the majority of each candidates’ supporters agree with the policy.

Buttigieg supporters show the smallest majority support for Medicare for All, at 55%. Bloomberg supporters follow at 57% who agree, then Biden supporters at 58%. Comparatively, 67% of Warren supporters and 83% of Sanders’ supporters back the Vermont senator’s top issue.

SUPER TUESDAY PREVIEW

California

Continued from Page 1A

phone, doesn't reflect whatever bounce Biden may get from his victory in the South Carolina primary Saturday night. Even so, the poll showed the depth of Sanders' standing in the state. "Sanders will win California because he is winning 45% of Hispanic voters and 59% of young voters," said David Paleologos, director of Suffolk's Political Research Center. "No Democratic opponent can offset both of these statistical advantages to close his advantage."

The poll of 500 likely Democratic primary voters has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

On Sunday, Biden argued his strong showing had made him the clear moderate alternative to Sanders, portraying it as effectively a two-person race.

But Biden's hopes for a comeback face a double challenge in California: finishing ahead of Bloomberg, who also portrays himself as the strongest moderate contender, and reaching the 15% threshold needed to claim a share of convention delegates allocated by the results statewide and in its 53 congressional districts.

California has 415 pledged delegates,

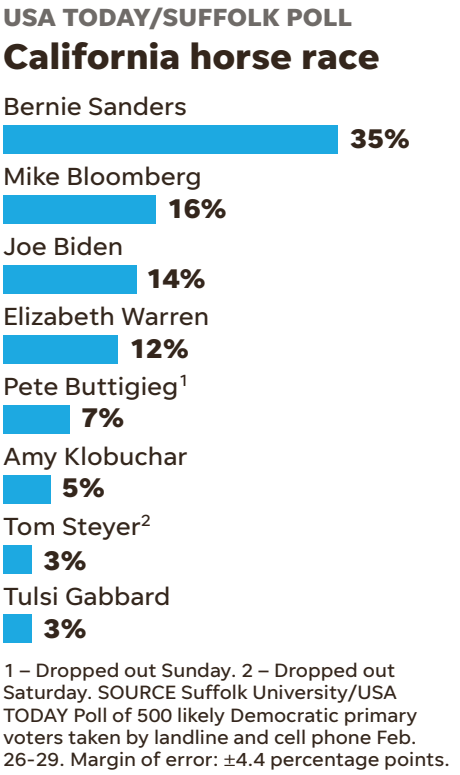
271 of them allocated by district and another 144 awarded statewide. The state's delegation comprises more than one-fifth of the 1,991 votes needed to claim the presidential nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee in July.

If his rivals fail to reach the 15% threshold statewide and in some congressional districts, Sanders' sweep would make it much more difficult for other candidates to catch up in the rest of the primaries.

But the California survey also shows what could happen if voters consolidated behind a single moderate alternative to Sanders, who describes himself as a Democratic socialist. For instance, the combined support of Bloomberg, Biden, Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar would total 42%, 7 points higher than Sanders' current standing.

Among the lower-ranking candidates, Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, was at 7%; Minnesota Sen. Klobuchar at 5%; and liberal activist Tom Steyer and Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard at 3% each. Steyer dropped out of the race Saturday and Buttigieg dropped out Sunday after disappointing finishes in South Carolina.

California looms a test as well for Bloomberg, who will be on the ballot for



the first time Tuesday. The billionaire has spent an unprecedented amount of his own fortune on TV ads nationwide, including more than \$63 million in California alone, said Advertising Analytics,

which tracks candidate spending.

In the Suffolk/USA TODAY poll, one in four likely Democratic primary voters reported that they had already cast their ballots, which means their vote can't be affected by Biden's bounce or Bloomberg's TV ad push. Thirteen percent in that group voted for Biden, well behind Sanders (27%), Warren (22%) and Bloomberg (17%). But fewer California voters have returned their early ballots than at this point in previous contests, according to an analysis by Political Data Inc. reported by Politico. That could reflect a desire by some to see how the race was sorting out before deciding.

California traditionally has held its primary in June, often after the presidential nomination was settled. This year, the nation's most populous state moved up to Super Tuesday on March 3, when a total of 14 states and a territory will vote. The number of delegates at stake swamps those allocated by the first four contests, in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

In the California poll, Sanders' support was disproportionately male and liberal. A 51% majority of liberals backed the Vermont senator, compared with 17% of moderates and 12% of conservatives. Biden did best among moderates, Bloomberg among conservatives.

Delegates

Continued from Page 1A

his nine-figure personal spending won him enough delegates to jockey for the nomination – or to just become the single-biggest sponsor of political ads in history.

The candidates combined to spend \$247 million on advertising in Super Tuesday states through Thursday, compared with \$30 million in 2016, according to the tracking firm Advertising Analytics.

The day is the biggest on the primary calendar: 14 states along with American Samoa will determine one-third of the pledged delegates – 1,357 out of the 1,991 needed to win – to the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee. For comparison, the first four contests that got so much attention determined only 155 delegates.

A dominant performance by Sanders could make it nearly impossible for rivals to eclipse his delegate count. But a strong second-place showing by Biden could position him as the moderate alternative who might better challenge President Donald Trump in the fall, according to political experts.

Likewise, Bloomberg will look for a solid showing to compete with Biden as the best moderate challenger to Sanders, according to political experts.

Three states voting Tuesday could give boosts to home-state candidates: Vermont for Sanders, Massachusetts for Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Minnesota for Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

"What I've saying for the last few weeks is: Guys, calm down. This isn't done," said Renee Cross, a political science lecturer at the University of Houston and senior director at the Hobby School of Public Affairs. "Obviously candidates get momentum from how they do in those early states. But it's just not over yet."

Sanders in the lead

Sanders took the lead from Biden in an average of national polls Feb. 10 and hasn't looked back, according to summaries by FiveThirtyEight.com and RealClearPolitics.com. The average polling in the largest Super Tuesday states shows him leading everywhere except Minnesota.

But Buttigieg narrowly won Iowa and Biden won South Carolina. Despite the polls, Sanders' rivals are scrambling to blunt his victories and peel off delegates among a dozen states smaller than the headliners of California and Texas.

From when Bloomberg entered the race Nov. 25 through Thursday, he spent \$539 million blanketing the country with television, radio and digital advertising, according to Advertising Analytics. For comparison, President Barack Obama's whole campaign in 2008 spent about \$730 million and Trump's campaign in 2016 spent about \$325 million.

But Bloomberg suffered a widely criticized debate in Las Vegas and a lackluster debate appearance in South Carolina. Results Tuesday will reveal whether permanent damage was done.

15% support or nothing

The Democratic Party requires candidates to have at least 15% support



Presidential candidates Elizabeth Warren, Pete Buttigieg, Mike Bloomberg, Bernie Sanders, Tom Steyer and Amy Klobuchar gather after the Democratic primary debate Feb. 25 in Charleston, S.C. WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

from a state to collect any statewide delegates. That has the effect of rewarding winners with a bigger boost and weeding out low-performing candidates.

Bloomberg's support hovers around 15% in polling averages of many of the Super Tuesday states, a line that will define his performance. The challenge is apparent in Texas, where a survey from the Hobby School of Public Affairs found nearly 84% of voters had seen Bloomberg's advertising but only 13.4% of respondents statewide intended to vote for him.

"Texas could represent a death knell for the Bloomberg campaign if he's unable to get to the 15% threshold statewide," said Mark Jones, chairman of the political science department at Rice University. "If he's going to start racking up delegates, he needs to start in Texas."

Texas has 228 delegates, representing the third-largest total behind New York. It's difficult for smaller campaigns to crack because about 2 million Democratic voters are spread across 19 media markets.

Bloomberg was projected to spend \$50 million on television ads in Texas by Tuesday, Jones said.

"Texas provides him with a greater advantage than any other states, other than California," Jones said. "There should be a population here that is a little more open to the centrist message that Bloomberg is presenting."

Democrats are paying more attention to the traditionally conservative state after former Rep. Beto O'Rourke came closer than expected to unseating Sen. Ted Cruz.

Sanders campaigned in four Texas cities after winning the Nevada caucuses. Warren had a town hall in San Antonio on Thursday. Biden planned campaign stops in Houston and Dallas on Monday.

"Now all of a sudden Democrats are looking at our state as maybe a good one to put some resources in," Cross said.

Texas polling averages Friday found Sanders with support from 26% of respondents, Biden with 21%, Bloomberg with 18% and Warren with nearly 13%, according to the FiveThirtyEight summary. The Hobby School of Public Affairs survey of 1,352 likely Democratic voters found Sanders and Biden nearly tied with about 22% share of the intended vote. The survey was taken Feb. 6-18

and had a 2.7 point margin of error.

Contesting small states

Candidates hopscotched across smaller states in a search for delegates where traffic was lighter. North Carolina with 110 delegates and Virginia with 99 each hosted numerous events in the days before Super Tuesday. But even smaller states got attention.

Utah, with 29 delegates, was a convenient stop for Buttigieg on Feb. 17 and Bloomberg on Feb. 20, leading up to the Nevada caucuses next door. Because the state's population is concentrated in Salt Lake City, a stop there covers key voters and yields television and newspaper coverage even as Bloomberg blanketed the airwaves.

"You hit one spot and you hit the entire population," said Jim Curry, an associate professor in political science at the University of Utah. "I think there's a sense of desperation among other candidates that they need to pick up as many delegates as they can if they want to beat Sanders nationally."

Colorado, with 67 delegates, got some attention. Buttigieg held a rally for an estimated 8,500 people in Denver on Feb. 22 – as Nevada was counting its votes. A moment when a 9-year-old boy asked how to tell others that he was gay went viral.

Warren arrived in Denver the next day and spoke to an estimated 4,000 people. One distinction she drew with Sanders was her support for abolishing the Senate filibuster, which effectively requires a super-majority of 60 votes to approve contentious legislation.

"I want to go to Washington to make big structural changes," she said.

Oklahoma City, in a state with 37 delegates, became a political gathering spot. Klobuchar held a rally there Feb. 23. Bloomberg held a get-out-the-vote event Thursday.

Klobuchar sandwiched the trip into a 36-hour sprint after the Nevada caucus promoting rural issues such as agriculture, education and health care. Besides North Dakota, which votes March 10, she visited Minnesota with 75 delegates, Arkansas with 31 delegates and Oklahoma.

"One of her messages has been about making sure states aren't dismissed as flyover states," said Jeanette Mendez, a

professor of political science at Oklahoma State University, who attended Klobuchar's speech in Oklahoma City and found the crowd "enthused."

Klobuchar's campaign announced \$4.2 million in television and digital advertising in California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Texas and Utah. She said Super Tuesday would recast the race because of the number of states involved.

"Why would I get out?" she asked reporters in Little Rock, Arkansas. "That's not even a close call for me."

What next after Super Tuesday?

Because Sanders is projected to win most states and delegates Tuesday, the question is whether anyone else might derail him before reaching Milwaukee. Warren remains a progressive rival. Voters will be gauging whether a moderate such as Biden, Bloomberg or Klobuchar would be a better bet to challenge Sanders – and Trump.

"Biden is very well positioned to be second," Jones said. "He'll have a strong claim to be the most viable candidate to prevent Bernie Sanders from capturing the Democratic nomination."

The question, then, is when candidates will drop out. Bloomberg has said he will continue spending to defeat Trump, no matter who is the nominee. But funding for others could dry up with poor performances.

"If there's not some sorting, it's like a Tarantino movie where everyone has a gun pointed at somebody else's head," said Daron Shaw, a government professor at the University of Texas, Austin. "Who's going to go first?"

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SmileDirectClub was founded in 2014 with the mission to bring affordable, accessible care to consumers, and we have been unwavering in our commitment to that mission since day one. We have brought true industry disruption to a category that was unchanged for decades, opening the door for more than one million consumers around the world to achieve the smile they deserve. By our making clear aligner therapy more convenient, more accessible, and more affordable, thousands of people for whom this type of treatment might have been out of reach are now able to achieve a feeling of confidence and satisfaction that’s transformative to every aspect of their lives.

With innovation and disruption will come challengers. We welcome that. Competition makes us all stronger and benefits the consumer. However, we cannot and will not tolerate what we believe to be the protectionist, anti-competitive agenda that trade organizations and our detractors have been implementing to block access to care and limit fair competition. These organizations have spent significant sums of money funding political campaigns to propose anti-competitive legislation and influence dental boards and associations. We believe these tactics harm consumers and are directly at odds with the telehealth laws that have been passed throughout the country reflecting our government’s desire to bring affordable health care to everyone. These are deep-pocketed organizations who have fueled a mass publicity campaign against us with the goal of keeping their exorbitant fees unchallenged by damaging our reputation with our most important constituent – our customers.

Providing Access

60%
Percentage of counties in the U.S. that lack orthodontists.

250
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1,000,000
Number of customers we have served.

I would like to make our position absolutely clear. Our commitment is to our customers and access to care for all. Most important, we want to emphasize that licensed professional dentists and orthodontists

“Our commitment is to our customers and access to care for all.”

are at the center of the experience we enable for every single one of SmileDirectClub’s customers, overseeing all clinical aspects of our customer’s care. Additionally, we want to acknowledge our appreciation and support for the brick-and-mortar dentists of our customers, who continue with their regular follow-on oral care.

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SmileDirectClub will continue to expose these trade organizations and defend our reputation every chance we get. We will continue to fight tirelessly to bring innovation and access to affordable oral care to the hundreds of millions of people who want to know the joy of the smile that they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read "David Katzman".

David Katzman
Chairman and CEO, SmileDirectClub

P.S. See what our customers have to say. Visit [SmileDirectClub.com/results](https://smiledirectclub.com/results)

WORLD

Coronavirus

Continued from Page 1A

searcher there estimates that “a few hundred” people in the state could actually be infected.

“There are some enormous implications here,” Trevor Bedford, a researcher at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, posted on Twitter. “I believe we’re facing an already substantial outbreak in Washington State that was not detected until now.”

Bedford studied two cases that were confirmed weeks apart and determined they were linked through community transmission – from a source not directly linked to another known case. Bedford tweeted his belief that the virus has been spreading undetected, at least in Washington state, for six weeks.

Omenka says that doesn’t bode well for efforts to contain the virus nationwide. One of the chief challenges with dealing with community transmission is contact tracing, which may prove difficult because of constant human movements and interactions, Omenka said.

Increased travel and movement of students and families for spring break could also further spread the contagion, he said.

“Under current circumstances, a

boom of cases should be expected,” Omenka said. “Especially given the possibility of asymptomatic spread and mildness of the disease.”

The way to stop the spread: human behavior. It’s crucial that people follow steps recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, such as frequently washing hands and self-quarantining when sick, Omenka said.

And the surgeon general has a message for people who want to run out and stockpile masks to combat the coronavirus – don’t.

“Seriously people - STOP BUYING MASKS!” Surgeon General Jerome Adams tweeted Saturday. “They are NOT effective in preventing general public from catching #Coronavirus, but if healthcare providers can’t get them to care for sick patients, it puts them and our communities at risk!”

The uppercase emphasis is all his, and shows how adamant he is that people stick to the script for prevention offered by the CDC.

“CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19,” it says.

The CDC recommendations add that “the use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings.”

Health and Human Services Secre-

tary Alex Azar said last week the U.S. has a stockpile of 30 million N95 masks but needs at least 270 million more for health care workers alone to prepare for a more widespread outbreak.

In the United States, the only death reported thus far was a man in his 50s who had significant underlying health problems, health officials in Seattle said. Omenka said the death confirms the existing trend of the disease being most severe among the most vulnerable members of the population.

The disease began its march across China weeks before reaching the U.S., which gave federal health officials time to prepare, Omenka said.

“Nevertheless, the possibility of a wider spread of the COVID-19 in the U.S. is very likely now, based on recent developments,” he said.

The Rhode Island Department of Health announced the state’s first “presumptive positive” case of coronavirus disease. The person is in their 40s and had traveled to Italy in mid-February, the department said in a statement.

The person was being treated in a hospital and “all infection control protocols” were being followed, the statement said.

“We are not seeing widespread community transmission in Rhode Island, and the general level of risk for Rhode Islanders is still low,” it added.

Elsewhere in the USA, organizers of the CERAAweek conference that was scheduled to draw thousands of energy executives and officials from 80 nations to Houston was canceled because of coronavirus concerns.

The conference was scheduled for March 9-13. Organizer IHS Markit said it was canceling “with deep disappointment.”

“An increasing number of companies are instituting travel bans and restrictions, border health checks are becoming more restrictive,” IHS said in a statement. “There is growing concern about large conferences with people coming from different parts of the world.”

Worldwide, the iconic Louvre museum in France shut down Sunday over coronavirus concerns, and the Dominican Republic and Czech Republic reported their first deaths from the outbreak that has now spread to more than 60 countries. Italian authorities announced that the number of people infected doubled to 1,694 in just 24 hours, and five deaths brought the toll there to 34. Australia and Thailand reported their first deaths, the Associated Press reported.

The global death toll stood at about 3,000, including more than 2,800 in mainland China. More than 85,000 infections have been reported worldwide, the vast majority of them in China.

Betrayed

Continued from Page 1A

Camarena said. “At this point, nothing would surprise me.”

A botched trial

The Justice Department began re-examining the case last year after admitting that forensic evidence used to convict two men in Camarena’s death was badly flawed. A federal court tossed their convictions in 2017.

Weighing whether to retry the men, federal authorities reinterviewed witnesses.

Three of the witnesses – former Mexican police officers Ramon Lira, Rene Lopez and George Godoy, who had worked as security guards for cartel kingpins – spoke with USA TODAY and recounted that they told investigators a DEA official and a CIA operative were present at meetings where Camarena’s abduction was discussed. They claimed the DEA official accepted money from the cartel.

The witnesses said they described the details to federal agents in 2018. Lopez said prosecutors showed him old photographs of former U.S. officials. It is unclear how much weight authorities ascribe to the allegations, but they interviewed the witnesses several times, questioning them for hours about Camarena’s murder and a series of meetings in the months before. Investigators are pursuing additional witnesses to see whether the allegations can be corroborated.

The Justice Department declined to answer questions about the case. A spokeswoman for the DEA, Mary Brandenberger, said she could not comment on ongoing investigations.

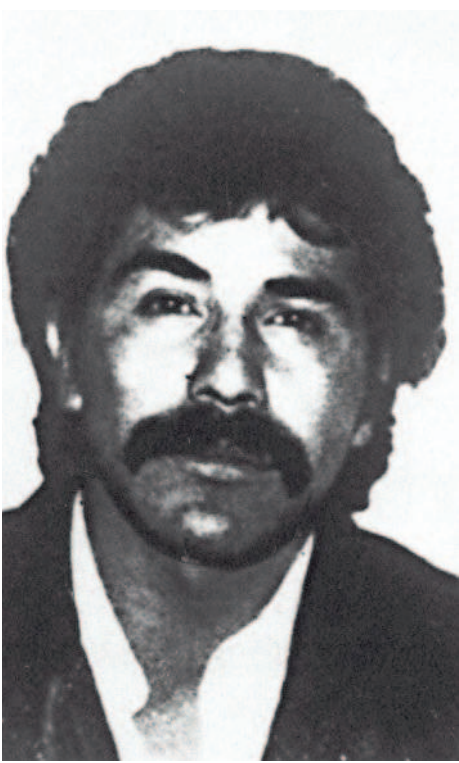
Camarena’s son, Enrique Jr., a county judge in San Diego, declined to comment through a spokesman because judicial ethics rules “don’t allow him to comment on open cases or investigations.”

Criminal cases seldom improve with age as memories and evidence fade, and the investigation of Camarena’s murder has produced reams of conflicting evidence that would make any new prosecution especially challenging.

Beyond that, the witnesses who provided information to authorities are closely tied to a former agent, Hector Berrellez, who has long alleged a CIA connection to Camarena’s death and was accused by a defense lawyer involved in the case of encouraging a witness to lie. Other lawyers who received access to some of the new witness accounts described them in a court filing as “incredible.”

Lira, a former state policeman in Mexico who provided security for a Guadalajara Cartel kingpin on the side, told USA TODAY that prosecutors said he might have to testify in court if the case evolves. He said he was asked not to discuss the case, “but we’re in a free country.”

Camarena was kidnapped and killed during a harrowing time in efforts to stop drugs from pouring across the U.S. southern border. U.S. agents working in Mexico reported being tailed by cartel operatives, and one agent’s car was shot



Rafael Caro-Quintero has been wanted in connection with Enrique Camarena’s death since he was indicted in 1987. AP

Criminal cases seldom improve with age. Memories and evidence fade.

up by machine gun fire outside his house. U.S. officials turned to some cartel associates to help illegally arm and equip rebels battling the Sandinista government in Nicaragua in what came to be known as the Iran-contra affair.

The result was a murky blend of drug trafficking, corruption and crime-fighting in Guadalajara.

A kidnapping and a manhunt

Before Camarena’s death, DEA units in Mexico destroyed millions of dollars’ worth of marijuana grown on farms for the Guadalajara Cartel, named for the city in Jalisco, a state in western Mexico.

Camarena, 37, who was known by the nickname “Kiki,” served in the U.S. Marine Corps before moving into law enforcement and becoming a DEA agent in 1975. He was kidnapped Feb. 7, 1985.

The cartel enforcers took Camarena to a house on a street called Lope de Vega, where witnesses said they put him on a bed in a guest house at the rear of the property and interrogated him about raids on the cartel’s supplies and the informants who helped lead agents to the drugs. They blindfolded him and, between questions, beat and burned him.

Mexican authorities provided audio recordings of parts of the interrogation to the CIA.

Camarena died from his injuries.

The cartel buried his body in a Guadalajara park, then moved it to a secluded ranch, where his remains were found.

By then, federal agents had launched a manhunt like few others in U.S. history. Teams of federal agents descended on Guadalajara, and more worked the case from the USA. The U.S. govern-

ment effectively closed the border with Mexico to pressure its reluctant Mexican counterparts. Prosecutors in Los Angeles brought a series of criminal cases accusing cartel operatives of taking part in Camarena’s kidnapping and murder.

A few of the men charged in the case remain fugitives. Accused cartel boss Rafael Caro-Quintero has been wanted in connection with Camarena’s death since he was indicted in 1987. Caro-Quintero was convicted by a Mexican court but freed on appeal and is on the FBI’s most-wanted list. U.S. authorities offered a \$20 million reward for his capture.

Cases fall apart

Some of the prosecution efforts began to unravel in 1997 when the credibility of a government witness, and scientific testimony he introduced, came under scrutiny.

Michael Malone, a longtime FBI agent and prolific expert witness, testified that hair samples taken from two suspects on trial in Camarena’s murder – Rene Verdugo and Juan Matta-Ballesteros – matched hair recovered from the guest house where Camarena was tortured; therefore, it was compelling evidence putting both men at the scene of the crime.

FBI scientists made such claims for years in front of judges and juries.

Those claims were wrong, not supported by forensic science.

Malone had credibility problems as a witness. An internal Justice Department investigation in 1997 found he had “testified falsely” before Congress. Years later, another Justice Department review found he had “repeatedly created scientifically unsupportable lab reports and provided false, misleading, or inaccurate testimony at criminal trials.”

Malone could not be reached for comment. He left the FBI in 1999 but remained on contract for more than a decade doing background investigations.

Before his departure, Justice Department lawyers began reviewing hundreds of cases for which Malone had analyzed forensic evidence and asked prosecutors nationwide to help identify ones in which his work played an important role.

Seventeen years elapsed before prosecutors informed Verdugo that the testimony linking him to a hair found at the murder scene exceeded “the limits of science.” By then, Verdugo had been in prison for 32 years.

His lawyers were livid.

“Virtually every step of the way, the government has disregarded both the law and ethical standards of professional conduct in its zeal to make an example of Rene Verdugo,” one of his lawyers, John Lemon, wrote in a court filing in 2018 after a federal judge threw out both convictions.

In late 2018, federal prosecutors decided not to retry the men. They dropped the murder case against Matta, although he remains in prison on a drug trafficking charge, and agreed to let Verdugo plead guilty to a reduced charge and be deported to Mexico.

A renewed investigation

By then, prosecutors and agents had

begun interviewing witnesses again, including the three former Mexican police officers who had worked as drivers and security guards for some of the Guadalajara Cartel’s leaders. Officials questioned the men in their offices in Riverside, California.

Prosecutors shared summaries of those interviews with lawyers representing Verdugo and Matta. Lawyers for both said they were not permitted to discuss the details.

Lemon characterized them in a court filing last year as containing “never-before disclosed, incredible and contradictory” accounts by all three witnesses who claimed “to have witnessed CIA operatives working alongside cartel members.” Lemon asked a federal judge to order the government to turn over “all discovery concerning alleged CIA involvement in the kidnapping and murder of Agent Camarena.”

Prosecutors dropped the case before a judge could rule on the request. A spokesman for the CIA declined to comment.

It was not the first time someone claimed U.S. intelligence was entangled with the cartel responsible for Camarena’s death. Berrellez, the former DEA agent who ran the task force investigating his murder, has said for years that the CIA was involved.

In the 1990s, Matta’s lawyers tried to force the government to turn over information about the CIA’s alleged involvement. At the time of Camarena’s death, Matta ran a fleet of airplanes that U.S. investigators said supplied Nicaraguan rebels and smuggled drugs. A federal court rejected the request, saying there was no evidence tying the government to the smuggling ring.

Godoy said in an interview that he spoke to DEA officials in April 2019 about Camarena’s killing. The government gave him and the two other former Mexican police officers immunity in exchange for information. He keeps a crumpled copy of his immunity agreement in his jacket pocket.

“There is too many ghosts behind me,” Godoy said. “We need to make justice.”

Authorities arrested and questioned Ezequiel Godinez-Cervantes, who was among the men indicted in Camarena’s murder in 1987, but prosecutors dropped the charges after he was convicted of drug trafficking in Texas. He was arrested last year in Mexico for violating his supervised release in the drug case and was turned over to U.S. authorities, who keep him at a prison outside Los Angeles.

Godinez-Cervantes’ lawyer, Bill Harris, confirmed that his client was interviewed three times last year – in May, June and September – as part of the renewed investigation. Harris said Godinez-Cervantes denied any involvement, though the attorney said authorities did not appear “entirely satisfied with his answers.” Given the lapse of time, Harris said he didn’t expect new charges.

The government’s review opened one more difficult chapter for the people still mourning Camarena’s death.

“I’ve dealt with everything else,” Mika Camarena said. “Why not this?”

Contributing: Arlene Martinez, The Ventura County (Calif.) Star, and Kevin Johnson, USA TODAY

OPINION

TODAY'S DEBATE: CAMPAIGN 2020

Our view: Time to narrow the Democratic primary field

With the Super Tuesday primaries rapidly approaching, a broad swath of Democratic voters are less interested in the political “revolution” promised by front-runner Bernie Sanders than they are in someone who would simply restore decency to the White House and provide stable leadership without wrecking the economy.

So far, however, those non-Sanders votes have been fragmented among half a dozen candidates to the right of the self-described democratic socialist, who wants to roughly double federal spending over the next decade and end private health insurance.

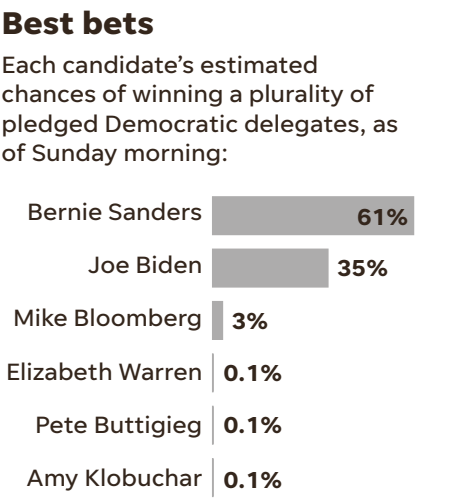
On Saturday, South Carolina voters opened a pathway for choosing a more establishment rival to President Donald Trump by handing a decisive victory to former Vice President Joe Biden. The outcome gives Biden new life heading into Tuesday, when more than a third of Democratic delegates are up for grabs in 14 states.

But Biden and the other anti-Sanders Democrats face the same problem as Republicans who tried to derail Trump in the 2016 primaries: By the time the never-Trump field narrowed, he had already rolled up an insurmountable lead in delegates.

This history argues for the Democrats without realistic paths to the nomination to start getting out sooner rather than later.

Billionaire activist Tom Steyer, who poured his time and money into South Carolina, came in third there Saturday. He did the right thing by suspending his campaign that night.

Dropping out is hard to do. But for the hopefuls with negligible prospects of winning the nomination — as of Sunday morning, statistician Nate Silver’s FiveThirtyEight model gave Elizabeth Warren, Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar less than 1% chances of capturing the most pledged delegates — the time for a reckoning is rapidly approaching.



Indeed, Buttigieg ended his campaign late Sunday.

Sanders remains the favorite in California and Texas, two populous states that together constitute nearly half the Super Tuesday delegates. Former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg will appear on ballots for the first time, providing an indication of whether the billionaire’s massive ad spending can overcome his weak debate performance. Biden will have to demonstrate whether he can capitalize on his momentum coming out of South Carolina.

Without a winnowing of the field, and perhaps even with one, Sanders might well continue building a strong plurality of delegates that could make him the presumptive nominee going into the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee in July, even if he doesn’t have a majority.

The result could be Democrats nominating a left-wing candidate most of the primary electorate didn’t choose. That’s unlikely to be their best shot at winning an election where the stakes couldn’t be higher: whether to retain a president who continues to display a manifest lack of fitness for the job.

Opposing view: Let’s not rush to disenfranchise voters

Lee Saunders

At this moment, states representing only 3.9% of the U.S. population have registered their choice for who should be the next president. But that has not stopped pundits from coronating front-runners, declaring others also-rans and predicting confidently what will happen next. It is moments like these that validate my decision to stay off Twitter.

Let’s take a step back and a few deep breaths. Enough with the hot takes. The team leading in the second inning doesn’t necessarily win the game. Millions of voters have not yet weighed in. Let’s give them a chance to participate, instead of disenfranchising them by predetermining the outcome. Let’s continue to hear from the candidates about their plans to strengthen unions and help working families.

At the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, we are choosing to take the long view and trust a 2020 nominating process that has barely begun.

In holding off on an endorsement, we have been intentional about not putting our thumb on the scale at an

early stage. We have instead encouraged the candidates to engage with AFSCME members nationwide, to better understand the challenges they face and the work they do in public service.

There is one prevailing imperative: to defeat President Donald Trump, whose presidency has been an unbridled assault on union members and all working people. In due time, a single candidate will amass enough delegates to win the Democratic nomination and become the one person who can save us from a second Trump term. And whoever it is, not everyone in the Democratic Party will agree with him or her 100% of the time on 100% of the issues.

It will then be time to end the robust internal debate and unite without hesitation behind that standard-bearer.

As a member of the Democratic National Committee, I will do everything in my power to facilitate that unity. There is too much at stake to do anything less.

Lee Saunders is president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, a union of 1.4 million public service workers.

YOUR SAY

Last pay phones evoke 9/11 memories

LETTERS
LETTERS@USATODAY.COM

New York City’s recent call to remove the last coin-operated pay phones from its streets saddens me. No, my disappointment is not because my last name is the same as the famous phone company’s. It is because one New York pay phone was my lifeline on Sept. 11, 2001.

After witnessing the destruction of the Twin Towers and then trekking for miles from Brooklyn to midtown Man-

hattan without a cellphone or access to another working phone, I stumbled upon one available coin-operated pay telephone.

Several hours after the tragedy, that phone allowed me to call my family in Texas to let them know I was safe.

Despite the sad news, kudos to New York for preserving some enclosed phone booths — not only for nostalgia, but also for Superman’s sake.

Elyse Bell
Houston



Don’t trade away our rights to the Taliban

Afghans’ constitutional gains are nonnegotiable

Mary Akrami, Sahar Halaimzai and Rahela Sidiqi

Afghan women have been working to build peace for decades. We have spent years fighting for basic rights and, over the past year, for a seat at the table in talks between the United States and the Taliban. We are not reassured by the agreement signed Saturday by U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and the Taliban’s Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, or by the process that led up to it.

This is a critical moment for our country. The window of opportunity to ensure that all Afghans are protected in the next phase of the peace talks is narrow. Despite the significant progress made in women’s political participation in Afghanistan, Afghan women still face huge obstacles.

For a start, Afghan women and representatives from civil society and other minority groups should have been at the table for the U.S.-Taliban talks that led to this agreement, but we were not. History has shown us that women and minorities stand to lose the most from any deal made behind closed doors and by a room full of men.

Saturday’s agreement lays the groundwork for talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government. We were not surprised to read recently that while Taliban leader Sirajuddin Haqqani is tired of bloodshed and war, he opposes preconditions to these talks. Instead of guaranteeing to protect the provisions in the Afghan Constitution that grant women equality, he suggested in a New York Times op-ed that this issue can be resolved through “consensus among Afghans.”

This is doublespeak for reopening peace negotiations on the hard-won legal rights that Afghanistan’s women have secured through years of blood, sweat and tears. We have faced unimaginable odds and made enormous sacrifices in our battle for basic rights and freedoms.

Desperate for peace

More than 100,000 Afghans have been injured or killed in the past 10 years since the United Nations began systematic documentation of civilian casualties, and there is not a single Afghan citizen whose life has not been affected by this war.

Afghan women are desperate for an end to the violence and a durable peace, but we fear that negotiators will trade away our rights for a deal. Just last week, in order to preserve its own negotiations with the Taliban, the United States signaled President Ashraf Ghani to delay his second-term inauguration, and he did.

How can we expect the Taliban and the warlords to treat us as equals when the lead negotiators have refused to give us a seat at the table? We know from experience that without a seated, elected, inclusive government based on the results of the elections, this peace deal will be little more than a division of



Female soldiers graduate in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2014. RAHMAT GUL/AP

power and resources among the Taliban, the warlords and the political strongmen.

Women and girls make up about half of the Afghan population, and 64% of the population is under the age of 25. A sustainable peace simply cannot be built without us.

On Sunday, more than 40 Afghan civil society organizations from across the country released an open letter calling for “an Afghan-owned, Afghan-led and Afghan-maintained peace.” Their demands are clear: Elected representatives must lead the negotiations, the constitution must be preserved and efforts must be made to reduce violence across the country.

Our rights are nonnegotiable

The new U.S.-Taliban agreement and the ensuing intra-Afghan negotiations must address our rights in specific terms, not broad generalizations. Preserving the constitutional rights of women and all Afghan citizens must be a nonnegotiable demand on the agenda of every political party and group.

Any peace deal, if it is to succeed, will have to include the protection of our human and civil rights, including freedom of speech and religion, the right to assembly, protection for our human rights defenders, and a mechanism of restorative justice for the hundreds of thousands of victims of this long war.

Afghan women are not asking anyone to grant us our rights. Our rights are clearly enshrined in our country’s constitution, our national laws, international law and sharia law.

Our message to Mr. Haqqani and other Taliban negotiators is simple: Our rights are guaranteed, and we have a right to sit at any table you do.

Mary Akrami is director of Afghan Women’s Network and founder of the Afghan Women Skills Development Center. Sahar Halaimzai, an Afghan writer, advocate and human rights campaigner, leads the Afghan peace campaign Time4RealPeace. Rahela Sidiqi, founding director of Farkhunda Trust for Afghan Women’s Education, is a former senior adviser of the Afghanistan Civil Service Commission and senior social development adviser of the United Nations-Habitat Afghanistan.

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Susan Tompor
Columnist
USA TODAY

Impostor scammers find new twists on old cons

A man in Troy, Michigan, got a phone call from someone who called himself Alex Wade.

Wade, who said he worked at Amazon, claimed that a drastic mistake took place in which too much money had been refunded from a purchase and deposited into the man's bank account.

The man needed to pay back the money or he'd be in big trouble. Wade suggested that the man buy eBay gift cards at a variety of stores, including Walmart, CVS Pharmacy and 7-Eleven.

Was there really a big problem? The caller convinced the man that he needed to rush out to fix things right away.

"The victim never called his bank account to confirm this," said Sgt. Meghan Lehman, a police department public information officer in Troy.

The 69-year-old man put \$1,300 on the eBay gift cards. He spent more money after facing more pressure tactics. The man lost \$6,000 before realizing he had been scammed.

The first thing on the to-do list of a scammer is to pretend to be someone else. Maybe the caller pretends to be from the Internal Revenue Service. Maybe it's someone pretending to be from the Social Security Administration. Maybe it's someone pretending to be from the 2020 census.

Or maybe it's someone claiming to be from Apple Support.

The impostor scam was the most common type of scam reported in 2019 to the Federal Trade Commission. Consumers reported losing nearly \$667 million to impostor scams.

Nearly half of U.S. adults have been targets of an impostor scam, according to a new survey by AARP Research. Nearly one in five experienced health

See SCAMS, Page 2B

USA TODAY SNAPSHOTS®

Top movers

Biggest large-cap stock price increases (by percentage) for week ending Feb. 28.

Moderna Inc	42.2%
Regeneron Pharm	10.3%
Teladoc Inc	7.8%
Pinduoduo Inc ADS	3.5%
Zoom Vidio Comm Cl A	3.2%
Line Corp	2.5%
Qorvo Inc	2.4%
IHS Markit Ltd	0.0%
Jarden Corp	0.0%
Zayo Group Holding	0.0%

ASSOCIATED PRESS



GETTY IMAGES

Your passwords soon may be a thing of the past

Jessica Guynn
USA TODAY

Do you hate remembering passwords? Soon, you may be able to forget them for good.

For years, we've relied on a secret we share with a computer to prove we are who we say we are. But passwords are easily compromised through a phishing scam or malware, data breach or some simple social engineering. Once in the wrong hands, these flimsy strings of characters can be used to impersonate us all over the internet.

Slowly, we're kicking the password habit. With data breaches costing billions, the pressure is on to find more foolproof ways to verify someone's identity.

"We are moving into a world which we're calling passwordless, which is the ability for our applications, devices and computers to recognize us by something other than the old-fashioned password," says Wolfgang Goerlich, advisory chief information security officer for Cisco-owned security firm Duo.

Newer forms of identification are harder to imitate: something we are (such as the contours of our face or the ridges of our thumb) or something we have (physical objects such as security keys).

Intuit, for example, lets users sign into its mobile apps with a fingerprint or facial recognition or their phone's passcode instead of a password. Your fingerprint or screen lock can access some Google services on Pixel and Android 7+ devices.

Goerlich estimates that within five years, we could be logging into most of



pieces of information will be used to verify identity. Machines will analyze our speech patterns or scan our fingerprints. We'll also be identified by something we have (our mobile devices, computers, key cards, fobs or tokens) and something we do (our movements and location, our behavior and habits, even how we type).

If that seems more invasive than sharing some random bits of knowledge such as our mother's maiden name or a PIN number, it is. But Balasubramanian argues these trade-offs are necessary to shield our personal information in a hyper-connected world.

"It's going to be scary," he says, but, "it's time for consumers to demand a higher level of privacy and security."

"Passwords are a 60-year-old solution built on a 5,000-year-old idea."

Jonah Stein, co-founder of UNSProject

our online accounts the same way we unlock our phones. And then we will be able to finally break up with passwords for good.

What will replace them? That's a bit more complicated.

Any system that depends on a single factor isn't secure enough, according to Vijay Balasubramanian, CEO of Pin-drop, a voice authentication and security company. Biometric information such as an iris scan or a fingerprint can be stolen, too, and you can't change those.

Balasubramanian predicts several

Password overload

Secret words to tell friend from foe have been around since ancient times and, in the early days of the internet, they made a lot of sense.

We started out with just a handful of passwords to access our email, a few e-commerce sites, maybe an online subscription or two. But soon, we were transferring our entire existence into the cloud, storing our medical and financial information, photos of our kids and our innermost musings there.

And every time we clicked a link or downloaded an app, we had to come up with another password. As even more devices connected to the internet, from home surveillance systems to thermostats, we hit password overload.

Today, people have an average of 85

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Data habit isn’t bad for environment

Energy efficiency has grown along with use

Elizabeth Weise
USA TODAY

If you’re concerned about climate change, should you feel guilty about hanging out online? Maybe not.

It’s been widely reported that data centers, the nondescript buildings that house the servers that keep our phones and computers buzzing with cool stuff, could gobble up enormous amounts of electricity over the coming decade.

But you don’t need to put down your smartphone just yet. A study released Friday in the journal *Science* finds that though data center demand has grown 550% in the last eight years, the energy needed to power those data centers grew only 6%.

The report gives the most definitive number for global data center energy consumption available, said George Kamiya, emerging technologies analyst at the International Energy Agency in Paris.

“Every few months it seems there’s another claim about the carbon intensity of Google searching or video streaming and often they’re outdated and ignore the rapidly changing technology that runs the internet,” said Eric Masanet, the paper’s lead author and a professor of engineering at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

The researchers looked only at energy used to power the movement and storage of information online, not the electricity needed to power the phones, tablets and computers on which we consume that data.

Masanet and his colleagues did a similar comprehensive analysis of data center efficiency trends in the United States that was published in 2018. The paper in the journal *Science* expands the analysis to the global level.

Masanet, who specializes in energy modeling, said data centers have seen 20% energy improvement per year, an efficiency gain that no other industry has even come close to.



Computer data servers have gotten more energy efficient. SCIENCE

Much of those gains have come from the move to more efficient servers and other IT equipment and the global shift to both hyperscale data center and cloud computing.

It might seem that an enormous server farm would take up more energy than small local ones, but it’s not the case because they’re so much more efficient than the traditional server rooms many companies stuck in a closet.

Today, the best estimates are that data centers represent about 1% of global electricity use. That’s the equivalent of about 200 terawatt-hours, the annual electricity use of 20 million U.S. homes, said Masanet.

“It’s not insignificant but we don’t need to hit the panic button just now,” he said.

A tsunami of data use coming

As use of the internet has grown, concerns about how much electricity it’s using have grown with it. A large study published in 2011 found data centers probably used about 1.3% of the world’s electricity between 2005 and 2010.

Many studies since then were more simplistic, tending to overestimate future energy use. One claimed that information and telecommunications technology could use 20% of all electricity by 2025, said Kamiya.

“The media has been more than happy to cherry-pick the ‘worse-case’ scenarios of these studies,” he said.

The *Science* paper, “Recalibrating global data center energy-use esti-

mates” is meant to provide solid, replicable estimates that have been vetted by industry experts.

“It’s important we start from the best available information,” because key decisions around climate and energy have to start with facts and data, Kamiya said.

Demand is ever-growing, especially given the expected growth of ultra-fast 5G networks, self-driving cars, Bitcoin, quantum computing and artificial intelligence.

Despite that, the researchers estimate there should be sufficient energy efficiency gains still to be made in data center technology to absorb the next expected doubling of computer usage as more people globally come online and do more things.

What comes after that is an open question. For example, no one knows how much energy quantum computing – expected to be the next computer revolution – will use.

To make sure computers don’t become energy hogs, several things need to happen, Masanet said.

Industry and governments need to continue to encourage energy efficiency in storage and networking devices and support research on future improvements. Nations also need to collect and be open about how much energy their data centers use, particularly in Asia where data center energy is poised to grow but little reliable information is available, Masanet said.

One welcome trend has been the move among large data companies to source their electricity from renewable energy.

Google and Apple both purchased or generated enough renewable electricity to match 100% of their data center energy consumption in 2018. Facebook says it will reach 100% this year.

Microsoft’s data centers ran on 60% renewable energy in 2019 and the company is aiming for 70% in 2023. Amazon hit 50% in 2018 and says it will reach 80% by 2024.

“It’s not that we can be complacent,” said Masanet. “But we don’t have to feel guilty about watching Netflix or staying connected.”



Gift cards are almost as good as cash. And anyone who demands payment by gift card is a scammer, the FTC says. KATHLEEN GALLIGAN/USA TODAY NETWORK

Scams

Continued from Page 1B

problems or emotional distress from being victimized or targeted.

Three in five adults are concerned that they – or a family member – could fall victim to a scam, according to the AARP survey.

Amazon warns that specifics of scams vary but scammers generally follow a pattern of connecting with a victim by phone, email, through social media or online. The swindler will create a sense of urgency, ask for payment using gift cards and even tell you where to buy the cards.

“The scammer then demands or instructs the victim to provide the claim code on the gift card by phone, text message or email – and then disappears,” according to Amazon’s warnings.

Signs of financial manipulation are everywhere, even though many people are too embarrassed to file a police report or acknowledge that con artists scared them enough to hand over cash and gift cards.

Another victim in Troy lost \$1,360 in early February after someone claiming to be from the FBI told her she would be arrested after some mishap with a vehicle in Texas. The woman bought the gift cards, according to the police report, provided serial numbers from the gift cards to the caller and was out

a sizable chunk of savings.

Another woman in Troy lost \$1,200 in a gift card scam in late January, according to police reports, when an impostor claimed to be from the Social Security Administration and scared her into thinking that there was a warrant out for her arrest and the matter would be resolved with her being issued a new Social Security number.

Police departments say they see more of these scams every day. All sorts of people can become victims.

“We’ve had young people, old people, people who are new to the country, people who were born here,” Lehman said. “These scammers are getting more skilled.”

Consumer watchdogs warn that the 2020 presidential election, as well as the census, could bring new variations of old scams.

Fraudsters use phony political fundraising robocalls to trick Americans into “donating” to a favorite candidate, according to warnings from the Better Business Bureau.

“If you offer to give, you’ll be transferred to a live person and asked for your credit card information. But your money won’t go to support the political cause. Instead, the phony caller will make off with your money and/or personal information that can be used for identity theft,” according to the BBB warning.

The calls can sound pretty convincing. Con artists work overtime at being believable. But remember, only the crooks demand you buy them gift cards.

Passwords

Continued from Page 1B

passwords to keep track of, according to password manager LastPass. Our brains just aren’t wired to squirrel away unique passwords for so many online accounts. So we reuse and share them. We jot them down on Post-Its or in Word documents. We sign in with Facebook or Google. We shell out a few bucks for a digital password manager.

But data breaches keep proliferating. So we’re told to conjure up stronger passwords, the longer and more random the better (use special characters!). We’re prodded to enable two-factor authentication. And we grumble so much about it all, our collective frustration has turned into a popular internet meme: “Sorry your password must contain a capital letter, two numbers, a symbol, an inspiring message, a spell, a gang sign, a hieroglyph and the blood of a virgin.”

Turns out the only fans of passwords are hackers and identity thieves. Even researcher Fernando Corbató, who helped create the first computer password in the early 1960s, was a detractor before he died.

Corbató told the *Wall Street Journal* in 2014 that he used to keep dozens of his passwords on three typed pages. He called the current state of password security “kind of a nightmare.”

“Passwords are a 60-year-old solution built on a 5,000-year-old idea,” says Jonah Stein, co-founder of UNSProject, which allows you to access your accounts using the camera on your phone. “Daily life demands that we create and remember a new password for almost every single thing we do – reading the news, paying bills, or simply ordering a pizza. The promise of online convenience has been broken by antiquated authentication solutions with unrealistic security best practices.”

Are we really over passwords?

So will passwords finally go the way of the eight-track tape? For years, reports of their demise have been greatly exaggerated. Tech leaders have dangled but never delivered on promises to eliminate passwords.

“There is no doubt that, over time, people are going to rely less and less on passwords,” Microsoft’s billionaire



Dozens of sessions at the RSA Conference in San Francisco are exploring more foolproof ways than passwords to confirm someone’s identity. GETTY IMAGES

founder Bill Gates told the RSA conference in 2004. “People use the same password on different systems, they write them down and they just don’t meet the challenge for anything you really want to secure.”

So what’s taking so long? Too many options being floated and too little consensus on what will work best.

Companies, eager for our eyeballs and our business, are holding out for solutions that strike a balance between convenience and security. With security costs skyrocketing and consumer trust flailing, the industry is under growing pressure to lock down our accounts, security experts say. By 2023, 30% of organizations will use at least one form of authentication that does not involve a password, a significant increase from the 5% today, according to research firm Gartner.

One of the major proponents of a password-free world is the FIDO Alliance, which stands for Fast Identity Online. The consortium of heavyweights from Google to Microsoft is developing technical standards to verify identity. Apple recently joined the FIDO Alliance, giving the group even more clout.

We can’t ditch passwords overnight, but, according to Andrew Shikiar, executive director of the FIDO Alliance, “the imperative is there now.”

“Businesses are feeling these pain points and they are being pushed to come up with solutions that are not dependent on the old ways of authenticating,” he says.

That the industry is working arm in arm on solutions is “really unprecedented,” Shikiar says. “This sort of collaboration is a very good sign that, not only is there a way to go past passwords, there is a will.”

TRAVEL

Use website oversight to avoid big booking mistake

On Travel
Christopher Elliott
USA TODAY

Francis Popiel made the worst booking mistake ever when he booked the right hotel on the wrong site. The right hotel, in his case, was the Holiday Inn Alexandria in Alexandria, Virginia. Popiel, an engineer from Columbia Station, Ohio, had found the property by Googling “Holiday Inn Alexandria.” But instead of taking him to the official hotel site, the search results led him to a third-party site called Guestreservations.com. “When you click on this link, it appears to be the Holiday Inn website,” he says. “The photos and layout are the same.” He says Guestreservations.com charged him a “deceptive” \$159 fee on top of a \$338 room rate.

Don’t want to make a booking mistake? Careful where you click

Popiel’s story is a cautionary tale for the rest of us to look carefully before booking. There are sites out there that look legit but may not be. But you can easily spot them. Guestreservations.com didn’t respond to messages seeking comment on Popiel’s case. The site describes itself as an intermediary focused on “connecting travelers” to bargains. I tried to duplicate Popiel’s reservation. But in the time between making the reservation and his complaint, Google changed its secret algorithm to promote the official Holiday Inn site at the top of its ranking. Soojin Yoon, a spokeswoman for InterContinental Hotels Group, which owns Holiday Inn, said it is not involved in transactions that customers make on third-party websites such as Guestre-



Look at the website you’re on very carefully before booking. Some travel sites look legit but aren’t.
PROSTOCK-STUDIO/GETTY IMAGES

servations.com. Five years ago, the Federal Trade Commission issued a warning about sites that pose as the real thing. The agency said it heard from customers who searched online and thought they were booking on a hotel website, only to find they’d unknowingly been doing business with someone else. It’s not the legitimate online travel agencies such as Expedia and Booking.com perpetrating the scam, says Ari Lightman, professor of digital media and marketing at Carnegie Mellon University. “It’s the sites deliberately set up to dupe consumers,” he says.

Beware of “impostor” sites

For example, when Kate McCulley needed a visa to visit Azerbaijan, she went online and found several official-looking options, which she calls “impostor sites.” Airlines aren’t exempt from scammy booking sites.

Remember the case of Naomi Poel? The Ada, Michigan, traveler fell for a site that claimed to be an official Delta Air Lines site last summer. She took the site at face value when it claimed, “We, at Delta Air Lines.” The mistake cost her family \$300.

How to avoid the worst booking mistake ever

Popiel just wants people to know about impostor sites. “I would like to raise awareness among travelers of this deceptive practice,” he says. But, beyond that, he wonders why legitimate businesses would accept a reservation through a third party that tries to deceive their customers. That’s a valid question. The IHG spokeswoman described the online travel distribution system as “quite complex,” adding “we are always assessing options as the distribution landscape evolves.” If you’re booking an airline ticket, hotel room or getting a visa, read the website address. If you’re not on the official site, odds are you’re dealing with a third party.

How to spot an impostor site

- **Do your research.** “It’s worth Googling the name of the website to see if anything has been written about it online,” says Clive Wood, global commercial manager at OTA Insight. “Travelers should also always check the small print before processing their transactions.”
- **Know your destination and book direct.** Type the web address directly – and carefully. Bear in mind that some unscrupulous third party sites have snatched up domain names with common misspellings of the companies they’re spoofing.

ASK THE CAPTAIN

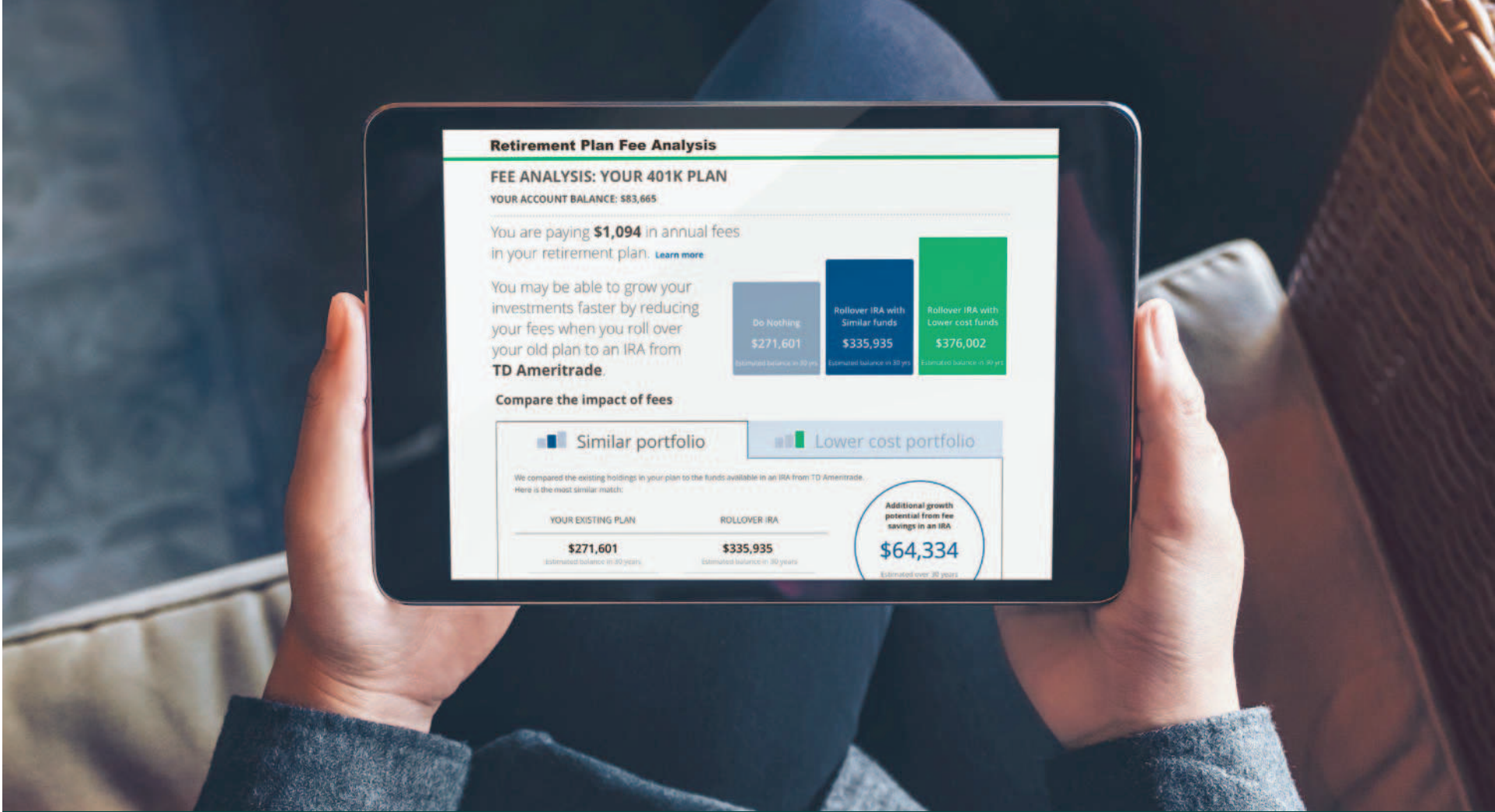
Former pilot recalls removing his rudest passenger

John Cox
Special to USA TODAY

What is the oddest or rudest thing you have seen on a plane or in an airport?

– **Bob, Iowa**
In my time, I have seen and dealt with a few passengers who were very belligerent to crew members. In some cases, I had them removed from the flight. One memorable case was a lady who was berating one of the flight attendants about not waiting on her fast enough or providing her with more alcohol (which she did not need). The flight attendant advised me of the situation and I went back to talk with the lady. She told me to have the flight attendant bring her a drink.

I told her she would not be flying with us, and she informed me that she would sue if she didn’t get her drink and demanded that I “leave her alone.” It is the captain’s responsibility to ensure a safe flight. Passengers such as this lady cause a safety concern. Therefore, she was not going with us. The police were called, I told them to remove her from the plane and they asked her to go with them. She was belligerent with them, too, but after they professionally informed her that she would be arrested if she didn’t comply, she wisely decided that listening to the officers was the better idea. *John Cox is a retired airline captain with US Airways and runs his own aviation safety consulting company, Safety Operating Systems.*



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50★States

ALABAMA Montgomery: Fifty-five years after the historic march from Selma to Montgomery, the third and final interpretive center along the 54-mile route is finally set to open on the Alabama State University campus March 25. The community got a sneak peek Saturday and Sunday.

ALASKA Fairbanks: A dream was fulfilled last week for Matthew Santiago, 8, of Orlando, Florida, a cancer survivor who expressed a desire to the Make-A-Wish Foundation to make a snowman in Alaska.

ARIZONA Tucson: Mission San Xavier is set to undergo its biggest preservation project in more than a decade. The Arizona Daily Star reports scaffolding could go up by late fall around the iconic church’s east tower. Workers will spend the next two years carefully removing and replacing problematic plaster around the structure’s centuries-old brick walls.

ARKANSAS Little Rock: Supporters of a state law to expand the procedures optometrists may perform filed a new lawsuit Friday to prevent an effort to repeal the measure from appearing on the ballot this fall.

CALIFORNIA San Diego: A baby hippopotamus born at the San Diego Zoo last month has a name. The zoo says the river hippo calf will be called Amahle, which means “beautiful one” in Zulu. The name was announced Friday on “Good Morning America.”

COLORADO Denver: An elected prosecutor for the state’s northeastern rural plains surrendered to authorities Friday, a day after being indicted on drug charges following an investigation by the state’s attorney general. Brittny Lewton, 40, was charged with three drug felonies, including conspiracy and possession, as well as official misconduct, a misdemeanor, according to online court records.

DELAWARE Wilmington: A 12-year-old boy was arrested Thursday after he ordered Chinese food, then stole the delivery driver’s car, New Castle County Police said.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington: The nation’s capital will soon have two statues on display in the nation’s Capitol, just like the 50 states, WUSA-TV reports. Pierre L’Enfant, the architect of D.C.’s layout, will be memorialized among the Capitol’s statue collection. In 2013, D.C. got to display its first statue in the Capitol, of abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

FLORIDA Panama City: Spring breakers can’t drink booze in March on the beach in this town seeking to curb rowdy parties. The Panama City News Herald reports the monthlong ban is paired with a 2 a.m. deadline to buy alcohol anywhere within city limits.

GEORGIA Atlanta: State Supreme Court Justice Keith Blackwell, 44, announced Friday that he plans to resign in November, citing family obligations.

HAWAII Honolulu: The speaker of the state’s House of Representatives said Friday that he wants to form a committee to examine the potential economic effects of the coronavirus outbreak so lawmakers can be prepared to cut spending if tax revenue drops sharply.

IDAHO Boise: A bill that would ban any public money from going to organizations that provide abortions was approved Friday by a panel of state lawmakers despite opposition on both sides of the abortion debate.

ILLINOIS Chicago: A spike in crime on the city’s rail system and some recent high-profile outbursts of violence have prompted the police department to put 50 more officers in trains and on platforms and assign four detectives to investigate nothing but Chicago Transit Authority crimes, officials announced Friday. Hours after the new security plan was unveiled, Chicago police said an officer shot a man on the platform of a CTA station in the city’s River North neighborhood.

INDIANA Indianapolis: One of the state’s largest school districts canceled bus service Friday after too many drivers called in sick in an apparent labor dispute, and parents were warned over the weekend to find “alternative ways” to get their kids to school Monday morning.

IOWA Indianola: Warren County supervisors have approved construction of a long-sought justice center in the city.

HIGHLIGHT: CONNECTICUT



Daylight enters through the open door of a mock solitary confinement cell on display in the lobby of the State House in Hartford on Friday. CHRIS ERMANN/AP

Hartford: An expert on torture with the United Nations is calling out the use of solitary confinement as punishment in the state’s prisons, saying it could amount to psychological torture. Nils Melzer, special rapporteur on torture for the U.N., criticized on Friday the use of solitary confinement in the U.S. but specifically mentioned Connecticut’s Department of Correction’s practices. “The DOC appears to routinely resort to repressive measures, such as prolonged or indefinite isolation, excessive use of in-cell restraints and needlessly intrusive strip searches,” Melzer said in a statement. “There seems to be a State-sanctioned policy aimed at purposefully inflicting severe pain or suffering.”

KANSAS Wichita: A foul-mouthed judge who cursed at courthouse employees so often that a trial clerk kept a “swear journal” documenting his outbursts should be publicly censured and receive professional coaching but not kicked off the bench, a disciplinary panel recommended Friday, saying Montgomery County Judge F. William Cullins violated central judicial canons.

KENTUCKY Louisville: More than 150 members of the local Cuban community snaked through the city Saturday in a caravan of U.S. and Cuban flag-draped cars, calling for an end to Cuba’s socialist government and blasting Cuban music.

LOUISIANA Baton Rouge: Three state historic sites are open for additional days to visitors starting this month, the Office of State Parks announced. The Audubon State Historic Site in St. Francisville, Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site in St. Martinville and Port Hudson State Historic Site near Baton Rouge will operate from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week.

MAINE Fort Kent: Thirteen mushers have launched their annual dash across the wilderness of northern Maine. The 250-mile Can-Am Crown kicked off Saturday, with expected returns to Fort Kent by Monday morning.

MARYLAND Baltimore: A \$3.2 million study that was supposed to evaluate the city’s risk of storm flooding was suspended after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers failed to secure federal funding.

MASSACHUSETTS Boston: New England Aquarium officials have expressed opposition to a proposed 600-foot skyscraper that would be built in place of the Boston Harbor Garage. A crowd gathered Thursday at the first public meeting to discuss concerns for the proposed skyscraper, the Boston Herald reports.

MICHIGAN Detroit: The outlook on the city’s debt has been upgraded from “stable” to “positive” by Moody’s Investors Service.

MINNESOTA Minneapolis: Janitors who work at Twin Cities commercial buildings are striking as part of a push for higher wages and better benefits in their contracts. The Star Tribune reports more than 100 janitors walked off the job Thursday and rallied along Nicollet Mall, joined by a separate group of youth climate strikers who marched in solidarity.

MISSISSIPPI Jackson: Authorities have released the identity of one of two inmates who died earlier in the week at a penitentiary that is under U.S. Justice Department investigation. The Mississippi Department of Corrections said Timothy R. Sharpe, who was serving a 20-year-sentence for sexual battery and child molestation, died Friday.

MISSOURI Jefferson City: Democrats in the state House want to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, but their proposals have yet to be assigned to a committee for a hearing.

MONTANA Billings: For the first time in a decade, schools in the state are using fewer emergency authorizations than the year before. The state’s “last resort” option effectively allows teachers to work for a year despite not being qualified.

NEBRASKA Lincoln: Selling the natural gas generated at one of the city’s wastewater treatment plants will produce \$2 million of new revenue annually, the mayor said.

NEVADA Las Vegas: The state’s casinos continued a hot streak in January, topping \$1 billion in house winnings for the second consecutive month.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Concord: State officials will use federal funds to examine the effects of rising seas on major highways and connecting routes along the coast.

NEW JERSEY West Orange: A dozen sea turtles that nearly froze when they were too far north last fall as water temperatures abruptly plunged off the state’s coast survived that ordeal but remain threatened by the pneumonia most of them developed afterward. Sea Turtle Recovery, a nonprofit group operating out of the Turtle Back Zoo, is treating the animals.

NEW MEXICO Albuquerque: U.S. land managers on Friday made public a list of possible alternatives for managing development in one of the nation’s oldest oil and gas basins, but environmentalists and others say the options fail to take into account the cumulative costs of increased drilling and threats to Native American cultural sites in northwestern New Mexico.

NEW YORK Seneca Falls: People threw punches and were dragged to the ground Saturday as a long-simmering leadership dispute in the Cayuga Indian Nation flared up for a second time in a week. The altercation followed a news conference by a group of chiefs who oppose the authority of Clint Halftown, the federally recognized leader of the western New York tribe. Halftown on Feb. 22 sent bulldozers to demolish a convenience store and other buildings controlled by tribe members who oppose him.

NORTH CAROLINA Raleigh: The shuffling of Gov. Roy Cooper’s original Cabinet became official Friday with swearings-in for secretaries at the transportation and information technology departments.

NORTH DAKOTA Bismarck: A man shot and killed by police last month did not fire at officers as authorities initially reported, though he did point a handgun at them, justifying the use of deadly force, according to an investigation.

OHIO Columbus: A proposed constitutional amendment that would set 16-year term limits on legislators serving in the state House or Senate has cleared its initial hurdle. Attorney General Dave Yost’s office certified the campaign’s first 1,000 signatures Thursday and also certified that the summary petition language is “fair and truthful.”

OKLAHOMA Norman: Dozens of students at the University of Oklahoma have ended a sit-in outside the school’s administrative offices following two instances in which professors used racial slurs in their classrooms.

OREGON Portland: A federal judge said he wouldn’t block new city housing screening and security deposit rules that took effect over the weekend because a rental industry group waited too long to file a challenge.

PENNSYLVANIA Philadelphia: A man stole an ambulance and tried to run over an officer who shot him three times, leading to a low-speed chase through the city that lasted more than an hour Friday night, authorities said.

RHODE ISLAND Providence: Former British Prime Minister Theresa May is speaking at Brown University this week. May will deliver an address about global affairs at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the university’s campus in Providence.

SOUTH CAROLINA Travelers Rest: Investigators shut down an entire state park Saturday as they searched for a man wanted for murder, but they didn’t find the suspect. Greenville County deputies found an SUV they think was driven by Ryan Kedar just outside Paris Mountain State Park and decided to close it, sheriff’s spokesman Lt. Ryan Flood said. About 100 officers searched all day Saturday but did not find Kedar or anything else but the vehicle tying him to the park, Flood said.

SOUTH DAKOTA Sturgis: A motorcycle club is opposing a move by the city to annex some of the club’s property on the western edge of town. Jackpine Gypsies Motorcycle Club President Brett Winsell said that the annexation goes beyond the potential for higher property taxes. He said the club is more concerned with current and future city ordinances concerning noise, signage and other issues that may prevent the club from staging its races and other events on the grounds.

TENNESSEE Manchester: More than three months before the start of the 2020 Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival, the event is already sold out in record time, organizers say.

TEXAS San Antonio: State health officials say people who visited the cattle barn at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo last month may need to be assessed for possible rabies exposure because a cow there had the virus.

UTAH Salt Lake City: Polygamy wouldn’t be a felony crime in the state for the first time in 85 years under a bill that passed the Legislature on Friday and appears to be supported by the governor.

VERMONT Ferrisburgh: Oliver the camel, a quirky roadside attraction and social media darling, has died at age 17 in Vermont. “Ollie” delighted travelers along Route 7 in Ferrisburgh for nearly two decades.

VIRGINIA Richmond: Officials from southwest Virginia have mounted a last-minute push to oppose the possible early closure of one of the country’s newest coal plants.

WASHINGTON Seattle: A man who recently served prison time on a gun charge amassed an arsenal of homemade “ghost guns” after his release even though he was on federal supervision, according to a criminal complaint unsealed in U.S. District Court. Nathan Brasfield, 40, of Edmonds, was sentenced to four years in prison after a 2014 arrest for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

WEST VIRGINIA Charleston: The state may soon stiffen fines for restaurants that fail to secure the lids of grease pits after a young girl fell into one of the collection traps last year. The House of Delegates on Friday unanimously approved a measure to increase fines from \$5 to \$50 per day for businesses that don’t secure the grease pit lids.

WISCONSIN Milwaukee: Gov. Tony Evers vetoed Republican lawmakers’ tough-on-crime legislation Friday. The vetoes were hardly a surprise, as the governor campaigned on cutting the state’s prison population in half.

WYOMING Cheyenne: A measure to impose a 5% statewide lodging tax appears likely to pass the Legislature after the state Senate approved it. *From USA TODAY Network and wire reports*

South Korea's Im rallies for first PGA Tour victory

A year after being the halfway leader, the 21-year-old captures the Honda Classic. **Page 3C**

Price and Betts fire up new Los Angeles teammates

Dodgers' pitcher loves the Southern California market while outfielder gives pep talk. **Page 8C**



Iowa 6-11 center Luka Garza is putting up big numbers: 23.6 points and 9.6 rebounds. JEFFREY BECKER/USA TODAY SPORTS

March Madness watch: Stars and giant killers

Scott Gleeson
USA TODAY

With conference tournaments beginning this week, here's everything you need to prepare for March Madness:

5 must-watch college basketball stars

Obi Toppin, Dayton: The 6-9 athletic forward averages 19.8 points and 7.8 rebounds and shoots 63%. He's the centerpiece to a Dayton team ranked No. 3 in the Coaches Poll and poised to be a No. 2 seed in the NCAA tournament.

He's also a human highlight-reel because of his acrobatic dunks.

Luka Garza, Iowa: The 6-11 big man is putting up big numbers – 23.6 ppg and 9.6 rpg – in helping the Hawkeyes contend in a crowded Big Ten that features 11 NCAA-caliber teams.

Markus Howard, Marquette: A senior, the 5-11 guard averages 27.2 points while shooting 40% from beyond the arc after averaging 25 points as a junior. He's once again made the Golden Eagles a tournament team.

Udoka Azubuike, Kansas: The 7-footer's return after missing 2018-19 with a hand injury has been one of the

main reasons the No. 1-ranked Jayhawks are the obvious national title favorite right now. Combining with dynamic guard Devon Dotson for the inside-out game, Azubuike is averaging 13.4 points and 10.4 rebounds. He had 23 points and 19 boards in a Feb. 22 statement win over Baylor.

Malachi Flynn, San Diego State: The junior transfer from Washington State was the key player in the Aztecs' unexpected 26-0 start before they suffered their first loss last week. He is averaging 16.9 points and 5.1 assists and

See MADNESS, Page 4C

NFL WINNERS, LOSERS

Simmons stands alone

Michael Middlehurst-Schwartz
USA TODAY

The true effect from the NFL scouting combine might not be known for months, if ever. But while the impact of draft prospects' performances over the last week might be hard to determine, several prospects this year distinguished themselves from their peers, for better or for worse. Here is our look at the biggest winners and losers of this year's combine:

NFL combine winners

1. Isaiah Simmons, LB, Clemson: Abstaining from positional workouts might typically preclude a player from being labeled the scouting combine's top performer, but Simmons didn't have much to prove after his athletic testing. The 6-4, 238-pound reigning Atlantic Coast Conference defensive player of the year recorded a 4.39-second 40-yard run, the second-best time of any linebacker since 2003, along with a 39-inch vertical leap and an 11-0 broad jump. Though Simmons might face a ceiling in the draft given questions of the relative value of an off-ball linebacker, he reinforced his athleticism and his skill set put him in a singular class that makes him worthy of consideration in the top five picks.

2. Justin Jefferson, WR, LSU: So much for the questions about his athleticism. The 6-1, 202-pound target notched a sterling set of numbers in testing: a 4.43-second 40 (tied for eighth among receivers), 37½-inch vertical leap and 10-4 broad jump. Jefferson also had perhaps the smoothest on-field workout of any player at his position, highlighting his primary value as a trusted outlet for any quarterback. A spot in the first round now seems like a solid bet.

3. Jonathan Taylor, RB, Wisconsin: With no real pecking order for the top running backs, Taylor made quite a

See COMBINE, Page 2C



Isaiah Simmons showed off his athleticism. TREVOR RUSZKOWSKI/USA TODAY SPORTS

SPORTSLINE

FIRST WORD

“Our client, Vanessa Bryant, is absolutely devastated by allegations that deputies from the Lost Hills Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department publicly disseminated photos from the helicopter crash site.

Part of a statement Sunday from lawyers for Vanessa Bryant, wife of NBA legend Kobe Bryant, reacting to reports that deputies in the Los Angeles sheriff's department might have shared graphic photos of human remains from the site of the Jan. 26 helicopter crash that killed her husband, 13-year-old daughter and seven other people.

NAME TO KNOW

Every future U.S. Women's Open champion will know the name Mickey Wright. The USGA announced this weekend that the medal presented each year to the winner of the golf championship

has been renamed in honor of Wright and redesigned with an image of her iconic swing. Wright, who won 82 tour events including 13 majors, died Feb. 17 at the age of 85.

LAST WORDS

“I'm thankful for this guy who tweeted and said I don't have that fire in my eye no more. That game right there for him. That's what I do. I prove people wrong each and every night, and that's for him.”

Grizzlies rookie Ja Morant to Fox Sports Southeast about being motivated by a fan's tweet saying he “doesn't look like he wants it more than others.” Moran had 27 points and 14 assists as the Grizzlies took down the Lakers 105-88 on Saturday.

“The decision became less about going for skate and more about, am I willing to walk away from snow?”

Snowboard legend Shaun White, deciding he will not try to qualify for the 2020 Summer Olympics in the debut of skateboarding.

From staff and wire reports

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Top defender perfect fit for hometown



Jarrett Bell
Columnist
USA TODAY

INDIANAPOLIS – This might be too good to be true.

Chase Young is supposedly a better prospect than Jadeveon Clowney, Julius Peppers and Myles Garrett – not all three of them together, silly, but something like that. You know what comes with this NFL draft business. There are always comparisons.

The Ohio State defensive end, a year after Nick Bosa came out of the same program en route to NFL defensive rookie of the year honors, is what they call a “generational talent.” Guess that means that if he isn’t the next Bruce Smith, Reggie White or Deacon Jones, we’ve been duped.

Just don’t think these hyped-up expectations have penetrated past Young’s dreadlocks and gone to his head. Sure, he allowed himself during a Thursday media session to assert he’s the best player in the draft. No problem. Young (6-5, 264) can make that argument. He missed two games last season and still led the nation with 16 ½ sacks and had 21 tackles for loss. I’ll take him at his word until Joe Burrow, Tua Tagovailoa or someone else can prove otherwise.

Yet Young was also quick to declare that he is proud to be a grinder, which is probably as essential as his freak athleticism when assessing his true potential.

“Two of my biggest things are my hard work and dedication,” he said, “and I’m going to bring those two with me to the NFL.”

It’s hard have a storybook NFL career without all of that. Young, though, has another thing going for his alignment-of-stars theme. It’s a good bet that Young, who grew up in the Maryland



Ohio State defensive end Chase Young played against Clemson in the Fiesta Bowl College Football Playoff semifinals. MATTHEW EMMONS/USA TODAY SPORTS

suburbs of Washington, D.C., will wind up with his hometown team.

Washington owns the second pick in the upcoming draft. Barring some unforeseen twist of fate, it seems that not even Dan Snyder can mess this up.

“It’d mean a lot,” Young said of landing with Washington. “Playing in front of my hometown people, it’d definitely be a blessing. Everybody who has known me since I was younger could come to a game and things like that. But right now, I’m not focused on who could draft me.”

Young doesn’t claim to have grown up as some rabid fan who bled burgundy and gold (and there are so many of those in the proximity of the Capital Beltway), but he paid attention.

“I always watched the Redskins just because I grew up around them,” he said.

“I never really had a team,” he added. “I would always just be a fan of players. Growing up, I was always a fan of Sean Taylor, Clinton Portis and players like that.”

There’s an even fresher connection for Young with Dwayne Haskins, the former Ohio State quarterback drafted in the first round by Washington last year. Interestingly, Haskins has DMV roots, too, having attended the Bullis School in Potomac, Maryland after moving from New Jersey while in high school. Young went to DeMatha High School in Hyattsville, Md., a school better known athletically for its powerful basketball tradition.

It’s no surprise that Haskins has talked to Young about reuniting as teammates.

“Yeah, me and Dwayne talk all the time,” Young said. “I’ve known Dwayne

since high school. He definitely loves the organization and obviously wants me to come play with him. We’ll see how this whole thing turns out.”

Young would be quite the centerpiece for new coach Ron Rivera to build a new defense around as he tries to turn around the fortunes of a franchise that has tried some of everything during Snyder’s two-decade ownership reign – big-money free agent splashes, bringing back Joe Gibbs, trading a cache of picks to draft RGIII, gambling on Steve Spurrier and then some – but has been woefully inept at sniffing the Super Bowl glory of another generation.

If defense wins championships, then picking Young makes too much sense.

Rivera generated buzz this week by revealing that he will visit with Burrow and Tagovailoa during the draft process. There’s also the thinking that a franchise quarterback is even more important than an impact pass-rusher. Last year, the Arizona Cardinals drafted Kyler Murray with the No. 1 pick overall after picking quarterback Josh Rosen in the first round the previous year. A new coach, Kliff Kingsbury, dictated a new plan for the Cardinals, who traded Rosen to Miami.

Yet it seems unlikely that Washington would similarly give up on Haskins – and pass on Young – to snag one of the draft’s top two-rated quarterbacks. Maybe Rivera is merely exercising due diligence in evaluating the highly rated passers. Yet strange stuff happens. And passing on Young in this scenario would be so strange.

Regardless, this is not something to sweat for a man who contends that he lives in the moment.

“I’m not really worried about who might draft me,” he said. “I feel like it’s all in God’s hands. Wherever I go, I’ll go.”

Including back to his old stretching grounds as some type of hometown hero.

Iowa’s Epenesa inspired by father, heritage

Mike Jones
USA TODAY

INDIANAPOLIS – The array of pass-rushing techniques were unheard of for players so young, and more often than not, offensive linemen were helpless to defend the jab, swim or rip moves utilized by Eppy Epenesa’s Little Tigers defensive linemen.

The former Iowa standout wouldn’t settle for simple bull-rushes. He demanded more from his Pee-Wee charges, including his 9-year-old son, A.J., and wanted to pass on as much as possible from the lessons of his own playing days. The younger Epenesa thrived.

“I was pretty lucky being able to have a mentor like him in the house all the time, someone who knows the game of football as well as he does,” A.J. Epenesa said Thursday from the NFL scouting combine. “Anyone who has a football dad who played the same position as them are lucky to have coaching like that. It made it a little bit easier to start off.”

The tutelage not only provided a foundation on that elementary level of play but also helped carry Epenesa on his journey as a three-time All-American in high school and a decorated career at Iowa.

Now three years after he followed in his father’s footsteps to Iowa, Epenesa is poised to take his talents even further as one of the top pass-rushing prospects in this year’s NFL draft.

Ohio State’s Chase Young has garnered a lot of attention as a generational talent at edge rusher. But the 6-foot-5, 275-pound Epenesa, who recorded double-digit sacks in his sophomore and junior seasons, came to the NFL scouting combine on a mission to prove he belongs in the same conversation.

He certainly checked the boxes in the measurements department. And in the coming days, he will get the chance to showcase his strength and athleticism with the bench press and on-field drills.

“That was something I was looking forward to, just kind of being able to compare numbers to all these guys” Epenesa said. “You’ve got all the best guys in college football here at this position, and we’re all gathered in one place, doing the same events on the same day, same jump pad or same lane running, so there’s no excuses, no one can say anything, it’s all about how you perform in that moment and that’s what I’m looking forward to.”

In addition to his size and strength, Epenesa has impressed NFL talent evaluators with his versatility. Although he lined up primarily on the edge, he also



A.J. Epenesa registered double digit sack totals the last two seasons for Iowa. KIM KLEMENT/USA TODAY SPORTS

showed flashes of dominance when used as an interior pass rusher for the Hawkeyes. It’s expected that Epenesa’s NFL future will feature him as an end in either a 3-4 or 4-3 defense.

Epenesa admittedly doesn’t watch a lot of pro games. However, he does study pass rusher J.J. Watt, aiming to implement the same blend of power, speed and relentlessness into his game.

“He’s a bigger guy as well, he’s not your typical slim, shredded edge,” Epe-

nesa said. “He’s able to rush off the edge with speed, he’s able to rush on the inside and that’s what I want to be able to do, be versatile enough to be placed where the coaches think a mismatch is there or where I would fit best in the game.”

Epenesa’s boyhood dream of playing football was fueled by his father’s love for the game, but also out of admiration for former NFL stars.

“I grew up as just another Polynesian kid who adored the big Polynesian players like Junior Seau and Troy Polamalu, and it’s just kind of something that showed the Polynesian kids around the country, no matter where you’re from, can make it to the NFL and be like that as well,” Epenesa said.

Now Epenesa’s dreams are becoming real, and as they do, he aims to make a similarly dominant impact wherever his journey takes him next.

“I think teams should take me because I bring a lot of passion and a lot of energy to the game,” Epenesa said. “I feel like I can be a momentum changer no matter what time of the game it is. Whether it’s trying to get a strip sack and get the ball back to the offense or helping the defense score itself. I feel like I bring a certain kind of energy that brings confidence that the offense or defense is going to pull through.”

Combine

Continued from Page 1C

case for himself to be the first ball carrier selected. His 4.39-second 40 was the best at his position and particularly impressive for someone weighing in at 226 pounds. Taylor also fared well catching the ball during drills, helping assuage some concerns about his potential limitations in the passing game.

4. Ezra Cleveland, OT, Boise State: Tristan Wirfs grabbed the spotlight among offensive linemen as one of the biggest names in action, but Cleveland’s performance was superlative, albeit in a more subtle fashion. His 4.46-second short shuttle – typically one of the better barometers for athleticism among tackles – was easily the best of his group, as was his 7.26-second three-cone drill. Though he has to become stronger to more effectively engage pass rushers, Cleveland has substantial upside as a blindside blocker and could be selected in the second round.

5. Willie Gay Jr., LB, Mississippi

State: Covering tight ends and receivers downfield is Gay’s calling card, and he showcased his highly sought-after skill set on display at the combine. The 6-1, 243-pound linebacker boasted outstanding numbers in the 40 (4.46 seconds), vertical leap (39½ inches) and broad jump (11-4). His interview sessions were likely integral to his draft stock given some missteps at Mississippi State, including an altercation with a teammate and multiple suspensions, but Gay is an ascendant prospect.

6. Tristan Wirfs, OT, Iowa: Louisville’s Mekhi Becton stands alone in this class when it comes to size, but Wirfs is in his own tier among offensive tackles when it comes to athleticism. The 6-5, 320-pound former high school wrestling champion set a combine record for offensive linemen with a 36½-inch vertical leap and tied another with a 10-1 broad jump. Wirfs’ swift footwork was evident in his on-field workout, and a 4.85-second 40 (best of all offensive linemen) and 7.65-second three-cone drill further underscored his movement ability. All of the top offensive tackles fared well, but Wirfs might

have been the biggest standout.

NFL combine losers

1. Jauan Jennings, WR, Tennessee: In the Southeastern Conference, Jennings regularly pulled down jump balls and racked up yards after the catch. After netting a 4.72-second 40 and a 29-inch vertical leap, both second worst at his position, the 6-3, 215-pound target will face questions about whether he can do either effectively in the NFL. In a deep receiver class, Jennings might have a hard time standing out given his disconcerting athletic profile.

2. Jared Pinkney, TE, Vanderbilt: The downward trajectory of Pinkney’s last year continued in Indianapolis, as his 4.96-second 40 was worst among all tight ends. Rigid in his on-field workout, he might be at risk of falling in the draft if his potential as a pass catcher comes under further scrutiny.

3. Trey Adams, OT, Washington: Standing 6-8 and 318 pounds, Adams is in a no-man’s land as a left tackle who lacks the athletic tools needed to handle NFL pass rushers. His 5.60-second 40

and 1.89-second 10-yard split were among the worst of the group, and his performance during the agility portion of his workout was lacking. Any team drafting Adams will need to not only be comfortable with those shortcomings, but also his medical outlook after his torn anterior cruciate ligament in 2017 and back surgery in 2018.

4. Calvin Throckmorton, OL, Oregon: His standing was on the downswing early in the week, when his 32½-inch arms portended a move to guard. The real hit, though, came in testing, as his 4.98-second short shuttle and 8.07-second three-cone drill served as red flags for any potential matchups against any nimble defensive linemen. Throckmorton brings value as a versatile backup, but teams might see that as his ceiling.

5. Salvon Ahmed, RB, Washington: His 4.62-second 40 was jarring, particularly for a player said to have clocked a 4.32 mark in college. A choppy runner with questionable vision, Ahmed needed to show he offered breakaway speed to entice teams, and he instead only raised further questions.

21-year-old Im earns PGA Tour win

Adam Schupak
Golfweek | USA TODAY Network

Sungjae Im finally backed up his reputation as one of the emerging stars of the PGA Tour by earning his first victory in the Honda Classic in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

The 21-year-old reigning Tour rookie of the year, Im played the infamous Bear Trap, three consecutive water-laden holes beginning at 15 at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Champion course at PGA National Resort and Spa, in 2 under en route to shooting a final-round 4-under 66 Sunday. Im had to scramble for par at the par-5 18th to finish at 6-under 274 and edged Canadian Mackenzie Hughes by one stroke.

“I’ve been in this spot many times. I just felt like the experiences really helped, especially on the last few holes,” Im said through his caddie, Albin Choi, who served as an interpreter. “I just wanted to get a little more aggressive (on the last four holes). I was just happy to finish the way that I did.”

Im, who turned pro at 17, played a Tour-high 35 tournaments last season, recording seven top-10 finishes, and was the only rookie to qualify for the 30-man Tour Championship.

His teammates at the Presidents Cup called him “the weapon,” and his swing has been compared to the USGA ball-testing robot Iron Byron because it is so repeatable. The South Korean also doesn’t have a permanent residence and lives week-to-week at hotels, with his parents joining him in a separate room and helping him in his adventure.

On a wild day when no less than four golfers held or shared the lead, Im birdied four of the five first holes to cut into the lead of 54-hole leader Tommy Fleet-



Sungjae Im holds up the champion’s trophy after winning the Honda Classic at PGA National (Champion). REINHOLD MATAY/USA TODAY SPORTS

wood. Im took just 11 putts in his first 10 holes before back-to-back bogeys at Nos. 12 and 13 temporarily slowed his march to victory.

Hughes, 29, nearly went from the cutline to the winner’s circle. After making the cut on the number at 3 over, Hughes shot 66, the low round of the

day on Saturday, to improve 51 spots. Playing alongside Im on Sunday, Hughes holed a bunker shot at 13 and played his first 15 holes without a bogey to join the trophy chase.

Fleetwood, No. 12 in the world, has won five times on the European Tour but he’s the only player in the top 20 of the world ranking without a victory on the PGA Tour.

Fleetwood, runner up at the 2018 U.S. Open and the 2019 British Open, raced to a three-stroke lead with birdies on the first two holes in the final round but failed to make another birdie until 17 and hit his second shot at 18 in the water to blow another chance to put an end to the questions of when he will win on the PGA Tour. Fleetwood finished alone in third after a 1-over 71.

Im seized the moment at 15, where water guards both the front and right sides of the green and a large bunker to the left is a magnet for those who bail out. Im stuck a 5-iron to 8 feet and canned the putt for birdie, then knocked his tee shot to 8 feet again at 17 and rolled the downhill putt in moments after Hughes poured in a 54-foot birdie putt to momentarily tie for the lead.

But Hughes, who had missed five cuts in a row and hadn’t recorded a top-10 finish since the Charles Schwab Challenge in May, hooked his second shot into the stands at 18 and failed to make birdie. He finished with a second consecutive 66.

Im was the 36-hole leader at Honda a year ago, but the moment proved to be too big for him and he ballooned to a Saturday 77 and finished T-51. Not this time. Im became the youngest champion of the Honda Classic and the 14th international player to win the title in the last 27 years.

Woods could be out in cold for Olympic gold



Eamon Lynch
Columnist
Golfweek – USA TODAY Network

The announcements came 24 hours apart, and while differing in gravity both served to illustrate the narrowing focus of legends in their waning years.

On Thursday, 38-year-old Roger Federer revealed he had had knee surgery and would be out until the summer grass court season. A day later, his old Gillette commercials co-star, 44-year-old Tiger Woods, said he’s skipping this week’s Arnold Palmer Invitational owing to a rusty back. Both decisions were made with an eye on the prizes that matter most: Wimbledon for Federer, the Masters for Woods.

While Federer will miss one major – the annual Rafa Nadal coronation formerly known as the French Open – Woods won’t, but the paring of his schedule bodes ill for an event that could use the energy injection he provides: Olympic golf. The top 15 in the world ranking qualify for the Games in Tokyo. Woods is currently No. 10, but a maximum of four golfers are allowed from each nation and there are five Americans ahead of him, raising the specter that he’ll be out in the cold in

the race for gold. This of course assumes the Games proceed unfettered by the fallout from coronavirus, which is far from certain. I asked the vice president of the International Golf Federation, Ty Votaw, about fears the Olympics might be canceled. “As far as the IGF is concerned, we are committed to doing everything we can to ensure successful men’s and women’s golf competitions in the 2020 Tokyo Games,” came his commendably upbeat and characteristically tenebrous reply.

The Games won’t need Woods to be successful, but Olympic golf would undeniably benefit from his presence. If nothing else, Woods competing would go some way to erasing the air of apathy that attended golf’s return in Rio four summers ago, when many players stayed home, ostensibly for fear of the Zika virus. But even Woods can’t alter the reality of where gold for golf ranks.

An Olympic gold medal ought to be the pinnacle of achievement in a sport, and in most it is. But in golf, as in tennis, that gold might rank (at best) fifth among the prizes competitors most want to own, lower if you consider The Players Championship and FedExCup. Brooks Koepka admitted as much last month. “To me, the four majors are definitely more important, and the FedEx-



Tiger Woods must be among the top-four ranked Americans to qualify for Tokyo. ORLANDO RAMIREZ/USA TODAY SPORTS

Cup, too, is a goal of mine,” he said. “We’ll see where everything else falls.”

Olympic athletes don’t usually say offhandedly that they’ll see where the Games fall in the list of priorities. But then, Olympians wait four years for the podium while golfers have four a year.

The ripple effects of Woods’ increasingly limited schedule extend beyond disappointed fans at Bay Hill and per-

haps Tokyo. He said last month that his goal is to play roughly a dozen events a year, which wouldn’t recommend him for the prospective Premier Golf League splinter circuit. The CEO of the League has acknowledged there isn’t much wiggle room for golfers to play fewer than the 18 proposed but non-existent tournaments on the proposed but non-existent tour.

Tiger’s decision to skip Bay Hill for the second straight year is not conclusively cause for concern – he missed 2019 with a neck strain but that didn’t hamper him at Augusta National a month later – but nor is it grounds for optimism if he’s too physically compromised to play a flat golf course on which he has won eight times. It’s simply a sign of the new reality we must live with – that Woods’ appearances on the PGA Tour will, like papal audiences, be much sought after and highly anticipated, but sparingly granted.

What remains of Woods’ career, like that of Federer, is now about prioritizing. If he doesn’t qualify for Tokyo, that would in truth be a minor blip for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad. His absence from one of golf’s major championships would be much more impactful. So if the feast Woods provides must be rationed, then let golf fans eat and the Games go hungry.

Bowman doesn’t let Auto Club 400 win slip away

Kelly Crandall
Racer Magazine | USA TODAY Network

A week after feeling like he would have made a run at Ryan Blaney for the win at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Alex Bowman left no doubt at Auto Club Speedway.

In a dominating performance in the Auto Club 400 in Fontana, California, Bowman led five times for 110 laps and won for the second time in his NASCAR Cup Series career. He did so by nearly nine seconds on Kyle Busch, who took the runner-up spot after Blaney had to pit with three laps to go for a vibration.

“The first (win), that was a really enjoyable experience, and then we sucked for six months,” said Bowman. “We started this year so strong; I feel like I’ve got a lot on my side that I’m doing better. My life is kind of a lot more organized than it was back then, and Greg (Ives, crew chief) and all the guys, they’re just on point.

“We’ve unloaded the last two weeks, I don’t think we’ve had a change in the race car from how it came off the truck. That makes my job a heck of a lot easier. I’m just so proud of this team, Hendrick



NASCAR Cup Series driver Alex Bowman took the checkered flag in the Auto Club 400. KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

Motorsports, Hendrick horsepower under the hood, the whole shop back home. They work their butts off. We put

a lot of effort into this new car, and it’s obviously working well.”

Bowman finished 13th in the Pennzoil 400 at Las Vegas after he and Blaney pitted when the caution came out with six laps to go. As the fastest car on the track, Bowman lamented, “Damn it; we had him,” over the radio when the caution came out and changed the complexion of the race.

Sunday, Bowman started third and led 44 of the first 60 laps on his way to winning the first stage. With Blaney pacing the field for much of the second stage, leading 50 of its 60 laps, Bowman stayed steady inside the top five.

The No. 88 Hendrick Motorsports team then took back control of the race off of the restart to start the final stage. Bowman cycled back to the top spot for the final time with 34 laps to go after green flag pit stops and kept extending his lead over Blaney throughout the run to the checkered flag.

A second-place finish for Busch was welcome after his steady progression all afternoon. Busch started 17th and didn’t make much noise inside the top five until the final stage.

“We have a lot of work to do,” said

Busch. “Guys did a great job here though with just trying to work on it and trying to make everything we could out of it all day long, all weekend long. Interstate Batteries Camry wasn’t a second-place car, but thankfully we got a good finish with trying to get some points.”

Kurt Busch finished third, rebounding after he missed his pit stall at the end of Stage 1. Chase Elliott finished fourth, and Brad Keselowski was fifth.

Jimmie Johnson finished seventh after starting on the front row at his home track. Johnson also led 10 laps.

Blaney was 8.7 seconds behind Bowman when he complained about a vibration, which turned out to be a corded tire. After pitting with three laps to go, Blaney, who won the second stage, finished a lap down in 19th position.

Pole-sitter Clint Bowyer led the first 10 laps but was never again a factor. Bowyer ran between 10th and 20th for much of the afternoon and finished 23rd off the lead lap following a flat left front tire on lap 94.

Despite back-to-back disappointing finishes, Blaney continues to lead the points standings as the series heads to Phoenix Raceway.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL WINNERS, LOSERS

Could struggling Baylor lose 1 seed?

Scott Gleeson
USA TODAY

March is on the horizon, and the madness is already kicking in two weeks out from Selection Sunday. While NCAA tournament bubble teams are sweating whether they will hear their names called, college basketball's best teams are focused on closing out their conference seasons strong and securing a favorable seed for the tournament.

Here's a look at the biggest winners and losers in that regard from Saturday:

Winners

Virginia: The Cavaliers have won six consecutive games, including Saturday's 52-50 defensive statement victory against Duke, to play themselves off the bubble and inch closer to a No. 7 seed. Jay Huff's 10 blocks in the win showcase how good this team can be defensively, while leading the nation with 52.7 points allowed to opponents. Coach Tony Bennett won't have the same offense he had for last year's national title team, but his defense is good enough for Virginia to beat just about anyone.

Kansas: The Jayhawks (26-3, 1 NET score) took command of the Big 12 last weekend with a résumé-building win over Baylor. They were in jeopardy of an upset in a back-and-forth game with Kansas State on the road before pulling it out for a 62-58 win behind Devon Dotson's 25 points. Kansas is a lock at this point to notch an NCAA tournament No. 1 seed, and if it finishes strong, will be the tourney's top overall seed. Baylor's loss to TCU also means Kansas is positioned to win the Big 12 outright this year after a second-place finish last year for the first time in 15 years.

Kentucky: The Wildcats (24-5, 18 NET score) clinched the SEC regular-season title with a 73-66 home win against Auburn. It also avenges Kentucky's last loss on Feb. 1 at Auburn. Now the Wildcats have won eight in a row heading into March. In the big scheme of things, this marquee victory keeps Kentucky in the mix for a No. 2 or No. 3 seed in the NCAAs.

San Diego State: The Aztecs (28-1, 5 NET score) looked sloppy in their 83-76 road win over Nevada but got back into the win column this past week nonethe-



Baylor guard Mark Vital reacts during the second half against TCU at Ed and Rae Schollmaier Arena. KEVIN JAJRAJ/USA TODAY SPORTS

less after suffering their first defeat of the season to UNLV last Saturday. As great as SDSU's record is, it has to keep winning if it wants to secure a No. 1 seed in the tourney because a large chunk of the team's wins occurred in Quadrant 3 and 4 — showcased by a non-conference strength of schedule outside the top 100.

Iowa: The Hawkeyes (20-9, 29 NET score) entered the day as a projected No. 5 seed on USA TODAY Sports' latest bracketology projection, and a 77-68 home win against Penn State gives Iowa a total of eight Quadrant 1 victories to inch closer to the No. 4 line. Meanwhile, Penn State entered the day as a No. 4 and could find itself drifting closer to No. 5. With top player Jordan Bohannon suffering a season-ending injury in December, Iowa coach Fran McCaffery has seen his team elevate its play in a crowded Big Ten, where its identity is starting to take full shape.

Seton Hall: The Pirates (21-7, 15 NET score) are in the mix for a No. 2 seed in the NCAA tournament, and Saturday's 88-79 win over Marquette only bolsters that possibility. It also helps that projected No. 2 seed Florida State and No. 3

seed Villanova lost on Saturday — paving the way for Seton Hall to leapfrog ahead. This is a team that has 11 Quadrant 1 victories with no bad losses on its tourney résumé and has proved itself as the best team in the country's toughest conference, the Big East.

Losers

Baylor: The Bears (25-3, 2 NET score) were upset 75-72 against TCU on the road in a Quadrant 2 loss that saw the Horned Frogs stage an 18-1 run to close out the win. Counting last Saturday's loss to Kansas, that's now two of the last three games Baylor has lost after winning 23 in a row. It moves the Bears out of first place in the Big 12 standings and could even affect their pursuit of an NCAA tournament No. 1 seed.

Just last week, Baylor was the front-runner to secure the top overall seed, but this late-game collapse opens the door for other top-seed candidates to catch the Bears if they falter in the closing stretch of the regular season. While coach Scott Drew's team has been fantastic all year, it isn't exactly peaking heading into March. Still, Baylor's overall profile will be hard to turn into a No. 2 seed unless it completely unravels.

Duke: The Blue Devils (23-6, 6 NET score) are not on their A-game as the calendar turns to March. They managed just 50 points in a two-point road loss to Virginia. Duke's now lost three of four and is reeling with just two regular-season ACC games to go. While this team was in the mix for a No. 1 seed a week or so back, now it's looking closer to a No. 3 or No. 4 seed on Selection Sunday — where first-round upsets are much more dangerous.

Maryland: Just a week ago the Terapins (23-6, 9 NET score) seemed poised to vault to the No. 1 seed line in bracketology. Then they lost to Ohio State, barely escaped Big Ten Conference basement team Minnesota and now lost 78-66 at home to Michigan State. Maryland still is out front of the Big Ten standings, but its chances of a No. 2 seed could take a hit with Saturday's loss to the Spartans.

Florida State: The Seminoles (24-5, 7 NET score) fell on the road to bubble team Clemson 70-69 to snap a four-game winning streak and could drift closer to the No. 3 line, where Seton Hall is creeping up. FSU only has five Quadrant 1 wins and will need to add to that if it wants to keep its seeding line for Selection Sunday.

West Virginia: The Mountaineers (19-10, 17 NET score) have lost six of seven following Saturday's 73-62 home loss to Oklahoma. On top of being below .500 in the Big 12, West Virginia continues to plummet with its projected seeding. After starting the day at a No. 6 seed, the Mountaineers likely dipped to a No. 7 seed. At the beginning of the month they were in contention for a No. 2 seed. What's aiding this team is the second best strength of schedule in the country.

Texas Tech: The Red Raiders (18-11, 20 NET score) had played themselves off the bubble to enter Saturday as a possible No. 9 seed. But after a 68-58 home loss to Texas, coach Chris Beard's team is less safe than it would like heading into March. It's also the second consecutive loss just this past week, and Tech's schedule closing out the Big 12 season is as hard as it gets: At Baylor on Monday and versus Kansas next Saturday. Yikes.

Madness

Continued from Page 1C

ranks 10th nationally in assists-to-turnovers ratio.

4 mid-major giant killer team candidates

East Tennessee State: The Buccaneers (27-4) will get into the field — either as an at-large or automatic bid. They're that good, having played Kansas tight and upset LSU in non-conference. They've also beaten mid-major juggernauts Furman and North Carolina-Greensboro, teams capable of beating power conference foes themselves.

Northern Iowa: The Panthers are also a bubble team that could secure an at-large bid should they not win the Missouri Valley Conference tournament this week. Coach Ben Jacobson has piloted Cinderella teams before (stunning Kansas in 2009) and has a team fully capable of making it to the Sweet 16 behind high-IQ guard AJ Green (19.7 ppg, 3.0 assists per game).

Stephen F. Austin: The Lumberjacks (26-3) have won 13 consecutive games and most notably shocked Duke in overtime in November, proving they can beat a blueblood on its home court. They lead the nation with 10.7 steals per game and have a balanced offense behind guard Kevon Harris (17.6 ppg) that ranks in the top 10 nationally (80.7 ppg).

Liberty: The Flames pulled off a stunner in last year's tournament by upsetting Mississippi State in the first round. They very well could be back for more in 2020 if they can win the Atlantic Sun tournament. This team is second in the country in defense, allowing opponents 52.8 points per game, and that makes sense since head coach Ritchie McKay is a Tony Bennett disciple at Virginia. Senior guard Caleb Homesley (15.0 ppg) is back as this team's star.

4 most upset-prone top seeds

Duke: The Blue Devils have lost three of their last four and are hardly peaking in March. Coach Mike Krzyzewski has a great floor leader in sophomore point guard Tre Jones and a dynamic big man in Vernon Carey Jr., but Duke has looked



Stephen F. Austin guard Kevon Harris (1) and forward Charlie Daniels (12) react after defeating Duke 85-83 in overtime in November. ROB KINNAN/USA TODAY SPORTS

stagnant defensively, and that's only put more of a focus on a mediocre half-court offense. A 22-point loss to North Carolina State on Feb. 19 illustrated this group's lack of improvement.

Maryland: Just a week ago the Terapins (23-6) seemed poised to vault to the No. 1 seed line in bracketology. Then they lost to Ohio State, barely escaped Big Ten bottom-feeder Minnesota and collapsed Saturday at home to Michigan State 78-66. Maryland still is out front of the Big Ten standings, but this team is showing its colors as a vulnerable No. 2 or No. 3 seed in March.

Butler: The Bulldogs (20-9) started the season strong (15-1) so will likely secure a No. 5 seed. But if this team is facing a strong No. 12 seed, be on upset watch. Butler went 3-5 in February.

West Virginia: The Mountaineers (19-10) have dropped six of seven following Saturday's 73-62 home loss to Okla-

homa. On top of being below .500 in the Big 12, WVU continues to plummet with its projected seeding. What's aiding this team is the second-best strength of schedule in the country.

3 Final Four sleepers

Dayton: The Flyers will likely secure a No. 2 seed barring a late-season collapse in the Atlantic 10, but this power mid-major is far from a blueblood expected to get past the Sweet 16. Coach Anthony Grant has a player of the year candidate in Toppin but also one of the deepest and most dynamic teams in the country with six players having led the team in scoring this year. Dayton leads the country in field-goal percentage. As electric as the Flyers are in the open court, they're extremely patient in the halfcourt, a sign of a wise, veteran group.

Seton Hall: The Pirates (21-7) are out front in the Big East, the country's toughest conference based on the NCAA's NET metric. They might not garner a No. 1 or a No. 2 seed but could easily beat a higher-ranked team. Coach Kevin Willard's team doesn't have the household name as a Villanova, and the last time Seton Hall got to the second weekend was 2000. But behind senior guard Myles Powell (21.5 ppg) and a vastly improved defense, this group has a high March ceiling.

Virginia: The defending national champion Cavaliers (21-7) were on the bubble at the start of February and now have won six consecutive games to drift closer to a No. 7 seed. The offensive firepower is nowhere near what it was last season, but head coach Tony Bennett has this team leading the nation in defense, allowing 52.7 points per game.

Sexually abused gymnasts have fight ally

Nancy Armour
USA TODAY

Sexual abuse survivors have made it clear they will not accept a settlement offer from USA Gymnastics that releases the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) without it making a significant financial contribution.

They have a powerful ally: the judge overseeing the case.

During a Feb. 10 status call, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robyn Moberly took the USOPC to task, saying it needed to be “actively participating, particularly with their pocketbook.”

“It isn’t news to anybody on this phone call, nor is it news to me, that the U.S. Olympic Committee needs to be an active participant, and I mean beyond just throwing in their insurance coverage in this,” Moberly said, according to a transcript of the call obtained by USA TODAY Sports.

(The U.S. Olympic Committee is now known as the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee.)

The USOPC disagreed with Moberly’s characterization in a response provided by spokesman Jon Mason and said she might not be aware of its involvement in the proposed \$215 million settlement. “Virtually all” of the funds for the settlement are from policies that insure the USOPC, it told USA TODAY Sports, and a “substantial contribution” are from policies that only cover the USOPC.

The USOPC said it could not give a dollar figure or say what percentage of the settlement it is solely responsible for because the court has ordered that mediation proceedings remain confidential.

Olympic champions Simone Biles and Aly Raisman are among more than 500 girls and young women who have sued USA Gymnastics, saying they were sexually abused by Larry Nassar, their coach or someone else affiliated with the sport. The lawsuits were put on hold when USA Gymnastics filed for bankruptcy in December 2018 and the federation must reach a settlement with survivors as part of its plan to emerge from the proceedings. If not, the judge could dismiss the bankruptcy and allow the lawsuits to resume.

“Still want answers from USAG and USOPC. Wish they BOTH wanted an independent investigation as much as the survivors & I do,” Biles said Saturday on Twitter, posting as she traveled to a national team training camp. “And don’t THEY also want to know HOW everything was allowed to happen and WHO let it happen so it NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN?” Biles added. “Shouldn’t people be held accountable?”

USA Gymnastics announced



USA Gymnastics is one of the defendants in a lawsuit filed by more than 500 girls and women who say they were sexually abused by Larry Nassar, their coach or someone else affiliated with the sport. RON JENKINS/AP

Jan. 30 that it was offering the survivors \$215 million. In a Feb. 21 disclosure letter that spelled out the specifics, the federation said the sum would be \$217.125 million, with the insurers for a gym owned by former U.S. Olympic coach John Geddert contributing \$2.125 million.

The payments would be distributed based on “the geographic location of the abuse.” Gymnasts who said they were abused at the Olympics, a national team training center or a national team event would receive the most money, roughly \$1.25 million each before attorney’s fees. Gymnasts abused at a USA Gymnastics-sanctioned event would get almost \$509,000 each, while gymnasts abused at a “non-USAG location” – the gym where they trained, for example – would get a little less than \$175,000 each.

Attorneys representing the survivors criticized the tiered system, calling it outrageous that payments would be determined based on where the abuse happened rather than the abuse itself, as has been the case in many other lawsuits.

“That’s the grossest thing I’ve ever heard, and an insult,” said John Manly, who represents many of the women abused by Nassar, the longtime team physician for USA Gymnastics and Michigan State.

But the larger issue is with the release of third-party defendants, which essentially protects them from any future legal action.

The USOPC is among those that would be released in the proposed settlement, along with former USA Gymnastics CEO Steve Penny; former U.S. national team coordinators Martha and Bela Karolyi; and Don Peters, a former coach who has been banned for life for sexual misconduct involving a minor.

Participating with their pocketbook

While the practice is not uncommon in bankruptcy cases involving lawsuits, legal ex-

perts said very rarely are releases granted without something being given in exchange. Money for the settlement, perhaps. Or information about the wrongdoing that led to the original lawsuit.

It is, essentially, a hedging of bets against the possibility of being found liable for greater damages and having to disclose sensitive information, and the court takes a dim eye of third parties getting off too easily.

“The law generally requires if a third party is going to get released, you have to make a substantial contribution in exchange for that release. You don’t just get it for free,” said Rob Kugler, a Minneapolis at-

torney who has represented sexual abuse survivors in lawsuits against the Catholic church. “It’s not clear to me that these third parties are making any contributions.”

Indeed, the only third party who clearly has is Geddert, currently suspended pending an investigation for allegations of misconduct by the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

The USOPC, like USA Gymnastics, appears to be making the argument that the only money it has to offer for a settlement is through its insurance coverage. But the survivors and their attorneys aren’t buying that, a doubt echoed by Pamela Foohey, an associate professor of law at Indiana University who specializes in bankruptcy, commercial law and consumer law.

USA Gymnastics and the USOPC might be not-for-profits, but that doesn’t mean they don’t make money, Foohey said. Sponsorship deals, TV contracts and ticket sales all generate income, and the USOPC had enough money to give disgraced former CEO Scott Blackmun a \$2.4 million severance after he stepped down in February 2018.

The USOPC brought in almost \$323 million in 2018, according to its tax form. It said it had net assets of nearly \$266 million.

There’s no reason both organizations can’t use their fu-

ture earnings to fund a bigger settlement, Foohey said.

More than money

But the settlement is about more than money, Manly and Cornwell said. Survivors have been asking for a full accounting of what USA Gymnastics and the USOPC knew about Nassar, as well as why neither organization did more to protect young athletes from abuse.

They also want Penny and the Karolyis, who they say fostered the culture that made the sport ripe for abuse, to face some kind of reckoning.

“This is a massive coverup,” Raisman said Saturday, blasting the USOPC and USA Gymnastics in a series of tweets. “The only way for anyone to know what really happened is if someone forces them to release ALL documents & data to investigate.”

As it is written now, however, the settlement does not include anything like that.

“That’s a classic symptom in the culture of hiding sexual abuse,” said Tim Hale, an attorney who has represented hundreds of sexual abuse survivors in lawsuits against the Boy Scouts and several Catholic organizations. “Because the hierarchy doesn’t want anyone to know.”

According to the disclosure letter, the survivors have until May 8 to vote on the offer.

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IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re: BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA AND DELAWARE BSA, LLC, Debtors.

Chapter 11 Case No. 20-10343(LSS) (Jointly Administered) EIN: 22-1576300 Date case filed for chapter 11: February 18, 2020

NOTICE OF CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY CASE

For each of the debtors listed above, a case has been filed under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. An order for relief has been entered. This notice has important information about the case for creditors, debtors, and trustees, including information about the meeting of creditors and deadlines. Read all pages carefully.

The filing of the case imposes an automatic stay against most collection activities. This means that creditors generally may not take action to collect debts from the debtor or the debtor’s property. For example, while the stay is in effect, creditors cannot sue, assert a deficiency, repossess property, or otherwise try to collect from the debtor. Creditors cannot demand repayment from the debtor by mail, phone, or otherwise. Creditors who violate the stay can be required to pay actual and punitive damages and attorney’s fees.

Confirmation of a Chapter 11 plan may result in a discharge of debt. A creditor who wants to have a particular debt excepted from discharge may be required to file a complaint in the bankruptcy clerk’s office within the deadline specified in this notice. (See line 11 below for more information.)

To protect your rights, consult an attorney. All documents filed in the case may be inspected at the bankruptcy clerk’s office at the address listed below or through PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records at www.pacer.gov) or at the website maintained by the Debtors’ claims and noticing agent, Omni Agent Solutions, at www.omniagentsolutions.com/bsa.

The staff of the bankruptcy clerk’s office cannot give legal advice. Do not file this notice with any proof of claim or other filing in the case. Valid Picture ID is required for access to the J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building.

1. Lead Debtor’s full name: Boy Scouts of America
2. All other names used in the last 8 years: BSA
3. Jointly Administered Case, Case No., Tax ID, Address: Delaware BSA, LLC, 20-10342 (LSS), 84-2764311, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, Texas 75038.
4. Address: 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, Texas 75038
5. Debtors’ attorneys and claims and noticing agent: SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP, Jessica C.K. Boelter, jboelter@sidley.com, 787 Seventh Avenue, New York, New York 10019, Contact phone: (212) 839-5300, – and – SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP, James F. Conlan, jconlan@sidley.com, Thomas A. Labuda, tlabuda@sidley.com, Michael C. Andolina, mandolina@sidley.com, Matthew E. Linder, mlinder@sidley.com, One South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603, Contact phone: (312) 853-7000, – and – MORRIS, NICHOLS, ARSHT & TUNNELL LLP, Derek C. Abbott (No. 3376), dabbott@mnat.com, Andrew R. Remming (No. 5120), aremming@mnat.com, Joseph C. Barsalona II (No. 6102), jbarsalona@mnat.com, Paige N. Topper (No. 6470), ptopper@mnat.com, Eric Moats (No. 6441), emoats@mnat.com, 1201 North Market Street, 16th Floor, P.O. Box 1347, Wilmington, Delaware 19899-1347, Contact phone: (302) 351-9314. Debtors’ Claims and Noticing Agent: If you have questions about this notice, please contact Omni Agent Solutions. Contact phone: (866) 907-2721 (toll-free), Email: BSAInquiries@omniagent.com, Website: www.omniagentsolutions.com/bsa.

6. Bankruptcy clerk’s office: 824 Market Street, 3rd Floor, Wilmington, DE 19801. Hours open: Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Contact phone 302-252-2900. Documents in this case may be filed at this address. You may inspect all records filed in this case at this office or online at www.pacer.gov.

7. Meeting of creditors: April 15, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time). Location: J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building, 844 King Street, 3rd Floor, Room 3209, Wilmington, DE 19801. The meeting may be continued or adjourned to a later date. If so, the date will be on the court docket. The debtor’s representative must attend the meeting to be questioned under oath. Creditors may attend, but are not required to do so.

8. Proof of claim deadline: Deadline for filing proof of claim: Not yet set. If a deadline is set, notice will be sent at a later time. A proof of claim is a signed statement describing a creditor’s claim. A proof of claim form may be obtained at www.uscourts.gov or any bankruptcy clerk’s office. Your claim will be allowed in the amount scheduled unless: • your claim is designated as *disputed*, *contingent*, or *unliquidated*; • you file a proof of claim in a different amount; or • you receive another notice. If your claim is not scheduled or if your claim is designated as *disputed*, *contingent*, or *unliquidated*, you must file a proof of claim or you might not be paid on your claim and you might be unable to vote on a plan. You may file a proof of claim even if your claim is scheduled. You may review the schedules at the bankruptcy clerk’s office or online at www.pacer.gov. Secured creditors retain rights in their collateral regardless of whether they file a proof of claim. Filing a proof of claim submits a creditor to the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court, with consequences a lawyer can explain. For example, a secured creditor who files a proof of claim may surrender important nonmonetary rights, including the right to a jury trial.

9. Exception to discharge deadline: The bankruptcy clerk’s office must receive a complaint and any required filing fee by the following deadline. If § 523(c) applies to your claim and you seek to have it excepted from discharge, you must start a judicial proceeding by filing a complaint by the deadline stated below. Deadline for filing the complaint: June 15, 2020.

10. Creditors with a foreign address: If you are a creditor receiving notice mailed to a foreign address, you may file a motion asking the court to extend the deadlines in this notice. Consult an attorney familiar with United States bankruptcy law if you have any questions about your rights in this case.

11. Filing a Chapter 11 bankruptcy case: Chapter 11 allows debtors to reorganize or liquidate according to a plan. A plan is not effective unless the court confirms it. You may receive a copy of the plan and a disclosure statement telling you about the plan, and you may have the opportunity to vote on the plan. You will receive notice of the date of the confirmation hearing, and you may object to confirmation of the plan and attend the confirmation hearing. Unless a trustee is serving, the debtor will remain in possession of the property and may continue to operate its business.

12. Discharge of debts: Confirmation of a chapter 11 plan may result in a discharge of debts, which may include all or part of your debt. See 11 U.S.C. § 1141(d). A discharge means that creditors may never try to collect the debt from the debtor except as provided in the plan. If you want to have a particular debt owed to you excepted from the discharge and § 523(c) applies to your claim, you must start a judicial proceeding by filing a complaint and paying the filing fee in the bankruptcy clerk’s office by the deadline.

The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, together with the last four digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, are as follows: Boy Scouts of America (6300) and Delaware BSA, LLC (4311). The Debtors’ mailing address is 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, Texas 75038.

For more information on how to place your legal notice in Marketplace Today, call 1-800-872-3433 (Toll-free in the U.S. only)

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NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

In compliance with Senate Bill No. 493, TEXAS 20 Purchasing Cooperative is soliciting vendors interested in submitting a proposal, for the purchase of school food service products.

#3015 Main Food, #3016 Specialty Foods:
Group A-Austin area and Group B-San Antonio area

Proposal pricing and documents must be submitted electronically via Bid Forge (Fidelis Information Systems Corp) by 3:00 p.m., April 2, 2020 for #3015 Main Food, and by 3:00 p.m. April 9, 2020 for #3016 Specialty Foods. Proposals to be opened upon submission due date. Evaluation criteria to include cost, product specifications and financial stability. Refer to proposal terms and conditions for complete list. Proposal awarded on best value.

Interested bidders contact: Jennifer Tinney, jennifer.tinney@esc20.net, 210-370-5491

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CALL FOR OPEN TENDER

The New York office of the Italian Trade Commission (33 East 67th Street, New York, NY 10065) has launched an open call for Open Tender, pursuant to Legislative Decree 50/2016, to award Travel Services for the activities of the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) Offices operating in the USA (New York, Chicago, Miami, Houston and Los Angeles) from 06.01.2020 to 05.31.2022.

Description: Travel organization service for the activities of the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) Offices operating in the USA (New York, Chicago, Miami, Houston and Los Angeles) from 06.01.2020 to 05.31.2022 **CIG (Identification code of tender): 8226020672**

Total amount of the contract: US\$ 3,500,000.00, including local taxes amounting to € 3.235.348,50, including local taxes. Bids and all the documentation required in the tender documents and regulations shall be received by the Italian Trade Commission – New York office - 33 East 67th Street, New York, NY 10065, no later than **04:30pm (EST) on 03/13/2020. Late submissions will not be accepted.** This call for open tender is governed by the rules sent for publication in the Official Journal of the European Union on **02/25/2020** and the regulations available on the Italian Trade Commission’s website (www.ice.it), together with all the required documentation and the forms for declarations and self-certifications. Please check all tender documents on the following link: <http://ice.amministrazionetrasparente.it/bando/63698>. Official languages for tender offers, information and correspondence: English or Italian.

Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) - (RUP): Antonino Laspina
Italian Trade Commission, New York Office

Digitally signed by: Antonino Laspina
Organization: ICE-AGENZIA/12020391004
Date: 26/02/2020 11:27:44

Antonino Laspina, Italian Trade Commissioner

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Rupp runs away in marathon

Dan Wolken
USA TODAY

ATLANTA – Galen Rupp, one of the most accomplished American long-distance runners in history and a bronze medalist at the Rio Games in 2016, qualified for his fourth Olympics with a dominating 42.50-second win in the U.S. Marathon trials.

Both Rupp and second-place finisher Jake Riley, who made his first Olympic team, were sidelined in recent years by Achilles surgery but found themselves the strongest finishers Saturday in cold and windy conditions on a difficult, hilly course that befuddled several of the favorites on both the men's and women's side. Abdi Abdirahman finished third to claim the final spot on the team and, at 43, will become the oldest American male marathoner to make the Olympics.

"I had confidence in my preparation," said Rupp, who finished in 2:09:20, nearly two minutes faster than his winning 2:11:12 time at the 2016 Olympics trials. "I did a lot of runs longer than 26 miles, so I felt really good about where I was at physically. The more and more the race went on the more confidence I got. The last three or four miles everyone is hurting at that point. I don't think anyone feels great, especially on a course like this."

On the women's side, Aliphine Tuliamuk qualified for her first Olympics with a 7.74-second victory over Molly Seidel. The third and final spot on the team went to Sally Kipyego, a 34-year-old who won a silver medal at the 2012 Olympics while competing for Kenya in the 10,000 meters and became an American citizen in 2017.

"I moved to America 15 years ago and even though I came here to go to college (at Texas Tech), I always knew I wanted to be American and that had nothing to do with running," Kipyego said. "What that scholarship did for me allowed me to grow as an athlete, to be an Olympian and a professional athlete, and with that there was a lot of ripple effect. My family has been supported because of that. I've been able to support my extended family. My husband and I are both Americans now, so to represent this country is



Galen Rupp qualified for his fourth Olympics team, winning Saturday's U.S. Olympic Team Trials marathon in 2:09:20. KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

a privilege, an honor, and I'm beyond words. I'm really grateful and I wanted to run for this great nation because of the privileges and opportunities this country afforded me."

The men's and women's races couldn't have played out more differently. While the men's race featured early breakaways that left contenders wondering when it was time to make their move, the women ran in a lead pack that was as large as 11 halfway through. It wasn't until the 22nd mile that Tuliamuk and Seidel started to get separation from the rest of the field, and they eventually finished 88.54 seconds ahead of Kipyego, who was another 10.98 seconds ahead of Des Linden in fourth.

Rupp, if healthy, was a heavy favorite to make the U.S. team given his marathon résumé including a second at Boston and a win at Chicago in 2017 as well as the Prague Marathon championship in 2018. He also won a silver medal at the 2012 Olympics in the 10,000.

But even for someone of Rupp's experience, it was a bit unnerving to watch Brian Shrader dominate the early part of the race, opening up a 31.51-second lead at the halfway mark. Though his game plan was to make a move in the final six or seven miles, a group led by Rupp started closing the gap with 15 miles to go and easily took the lead as Shrader faded and ultimately dropped out.

Seidel on to Tokyo after 1st 26.2 miler

JR Radcliffe
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel | USA TODAY Network

She was unlike anyone the Wisconsin distance-running community had seen before, and now she's unlike anyone the U.S. Olympic team has seen before.

Molly Seidel came out of nowhere to become the first in U.S. women's history to qualify for the Olympics in her first-ever marathon.

Competing Saturday in Atlanta, Seidel took second place (2 hours, 27 minutes, 31 seconds), just seven seconds behind Kenyan-born Aliphine Tuliamuk for the closest women's finish in the trials. Tuliamuk was a 14-time All American at Wichita State and became a U.S. citizen in 2016.

To repeat: It was Seidel's first sanctioned marathon ever. Earlier this year, she placed as the third American in the Aramco Houston Half Marathon.

"I definitely did not expect to be up here," Seidel said. "I wasn't paying attention to the miles or pace and just going off feel, and when we made our move I just wanted to keep running the pace I felt good at. But all the sudden it was kind of just the two of us. The last part definitely hurt but it was calming to know, it's supposed to feel like this. ... A lot of it was trying to keep my emotions steady because it was a high-tension situation."

Seidel had been off the map since 2016, when she finished her career at Notre Dame, a tenure that included the NCAA Division I cross-country national title and three track and field titles. An injury kept Seidel from competing in the 2016 trials, and her battles with an eating disorder and other mental and physical ailments are documented in a lengthy piece by Runner's World.

The top-three earned spots.
Contributing: Dan Wolken



Seidel

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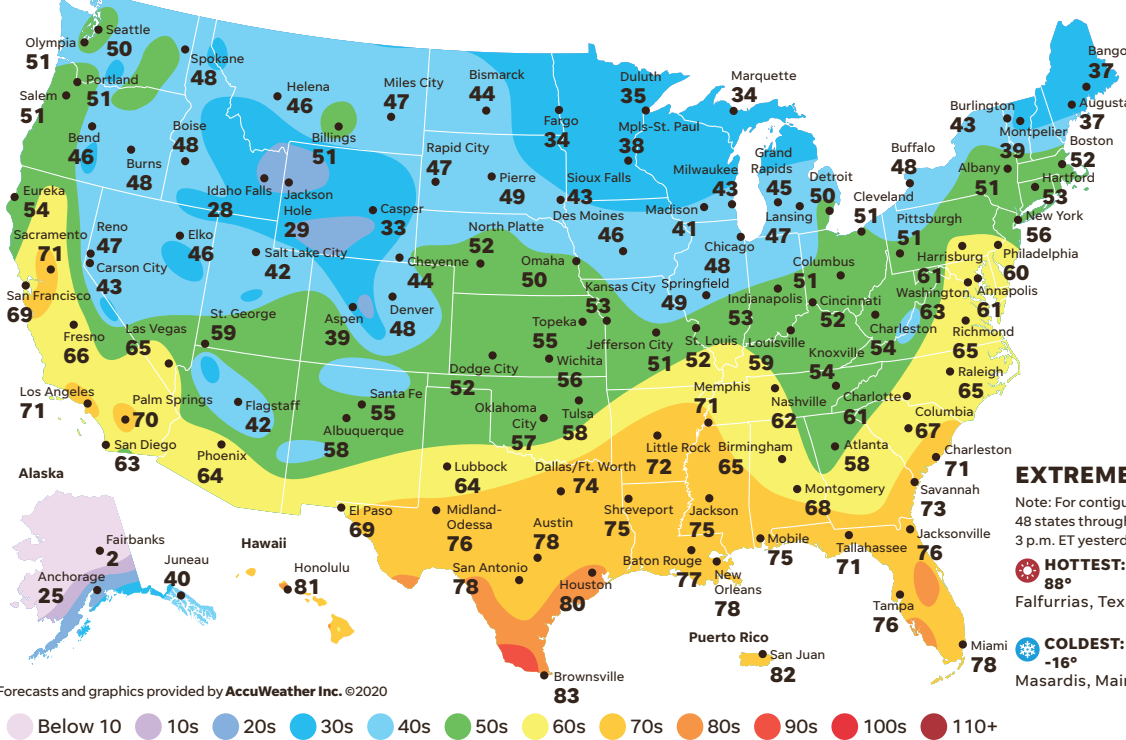
TODAY'S FORECAST

A cold front will bring a mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain to northern **New England** today. The same front will usher in periods of rain from **New York** state, through western **Pennsylvania** to the **Ohio River Valley**.

Eastern parts of the **Northeast**, from **Massachusetts** to eastern **Virginia** and **North Carolina**, will be mostly dry, with perhaps a shower late in the day.

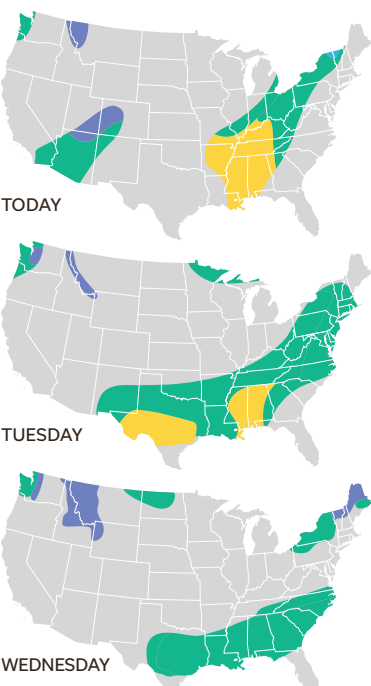
Showers and thunderstorms are forecast from the **Tennessee Valley** to the **Gulf Coast** today; some downpours may bring flash flooding. High pressure will allow dry weather to move into the **Upper Midwest** and the **Plains**.

TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES



PRECIPITATION FORECAST

● T-storms ● Rain ● Snow ● Ice/mix



EXTREMES
Note: For contiguous 48 states through 3 p.m. ET yesterday
HOTTEST: 88°
Falfurrias, Texas
COLDEST: -16°
Masardis, Maine

TOP TRAVEL CITIES

Air quality index (AQI)

ATLANTA	BALTIMORE	BOSTON	CHARLOTTE	CHICAGO	DALLAS/FT. WORTH	DENVER	DETROIT	HONOLULU	HOUSTON	LAS VEGAS	LOS ANGELES
MON ☁ Brief showers 58/55	MON ☁ Mostly cloudy 63/45	MON ☁ Mostly cloudy 52/46	MON ☁ Rain 61/50	MON ☁ Cooler 48/31	MON ☁ Morning mist 74/52	MON ☁ Cloudy 48/27	MON ☁ A little rain 50/28	MON ☁ A few showers 81/69	MON ☁ Mostly cloudy 80/67	MON ☁ Windy 65/48	MON ☁ Warmer 71/54
TUE ☁ Showers 67/54	TUE ☁ A few showers 62/46	TUE ☁ Cloudy 61/35	TUE ☁ A little rain 69/52	TUE ☁ Partly sunny 52/34	TUE ☁ Rain 63/52	TUE ☁ Mostly sunny 54/31	TUE ☁ Partly sunny 48/34	TUE ☁ Partly sunny 82/70	TUE ☁ Rain 78/66	TUE ☁ Sunny 70/49	TUE ☁ Sunny 76/50
WED ☁ Heavy rain 59/48	WED ☁ Clearing 62/40	WED ☁ A little rain 56/39	WED ☁ Rain at times 60/47	WED ☁ Partly sunny 52/35	WED ☁ Rain, breezy 58/45	WED ☁ Mostly sunny 61/35	WED ☁ Partly sunny 46/29	WED ☁ Showers around 82/70	WED ☁ Rain at times 74/50	WED ☁ Sunny 71/51	WED ☁ Mostly sunny 73/50
AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good
MIAMI	MPLS.-ST. PAUL	NEW ORLEANS	NEW YORK	ORLANDO	PHILADELPHIA	PHOENIX	SALT LAKE CITY	SAN DIEGO	SAN FRANCISCO	SEATTLE	WASHINGTON
MON ☁ Partly sunny 78/70	MON ☁ Mostly sunny 38/29	MON ☁ T-storm 78/66	MON ☁ Not as cool 56/48	MON ☁ Shower 80/60	MON ☁ Mostly cloudy 60/46	MON ☁ Showers 64/48	MON ☁ Sunny, cold 42/27	MON ☁ Some sun 63/50	MON ☁ Windy 69/51	MON ☁ Rain 50/46	MON ☁ Mostly cloudy 63/48
TUE ☁ Shower 83/73	TUE ☁ Mostly cloudy 42/28	TUE ☁ T-storms 80/66	TUE ☁ Showers around 58/48	TUE ☁ Turning sunny 85/64	TUE ☁ Showers around 60/46	TUE ☁ Sunny, nice 71/49	TUE ☁ Partly sunny 47/31	TUE ☁ Sunny 69/52	TUE ☁ Sunny 68/48	TUE ☁ Shower 53/42	TUE ☁ Shower 63/48
WED ☁ Partly sunny 86/74	WED ☁ Sunny, mild 47/36	WED ☁ Rain 76/58	WED ☁ Clearing 58/40	WED ☁ Some sun 90/68	WED ☁ Clearing 60/39	WED ☁ Sunny, nice 73/52	WED ☁ Partly sunny 54/36	WED ☁ Mostly sunny 68/52	WED ☁ Partly sunny 69/49	WED ☁ A stray shower 52/38	WED ☁ Clearing 63/42
AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good

c Cloudy f Fog i Ice r Rain sf Snowflurries sn Snow w Windy dr Drizzle h Haze

pc Partly cloudy s Sunny sh Showers t Thunderstorms

U.S. CITIES	TODAY	TUE
Akron, Ohio	49/37r	53/35c
Albany, N.Y.	51/40r	54/40sh
Albuquerque	58/36pc	61/35c
Allentown, Pa.	60/44c	60/46c
Amarillo, Texas	55/35c	58/35c
Anaheim, Calif.	71/48pc	79/47s
Anchorage, Alaska	25/2sf	13/1pc
Aspen, Colo.	39/14sf	44/16s
Atlantic City, N.J.	55/46c	55/48sh
Augusta, Ga.	68/57r	72/57sh
Austin, Texas	78/60c	72/58t
Bakersfield, Calif.	64/40s	74/44s
Baton Rouge, La.	77/66t	80/66r
Billings, Mont.	51/34w	57/36w
Birmingham, Ala.	65/57t	69/55t
Bismarck, N.D.	44/29s	44/28sn
Boise, Idaho	48/34s	55/36pc
Buffalo, N.Y.	48/33r	46/35c
Burlington, Vt.	43/35r	47/34c
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	42/28pc	51/33pc
Charleston, S.C.	71/58s	72/59c
Charleston, W.Va.	54/46r	61/40r
Cheyenne, Wyo.	44/25pc	50/26s

Indianapolis, Ind.	51/34r	52/35pc
Islip, N.Y.	53/44c	55/44sh
Jackson, Miss.	75/63t	72/58r
Jacksonville, Fla.	76/60s	81/62pc
Jefferson City, Mo.	51/35c	60/40pc
Kansas City, Mo.	53/35c	62/41s
Key West, Fla.	79/74st	82/76pc
Knoxville, Tenn.	54/51s	65/49r
Laredo, Texas	87/67pc	84/59pc
Lexington, Ky.	53/47r	59/36r
Lincoln, Neb.	52/32c	61/35s
Little Rock, Ark.	72/54t	64/50r
Louisville, Ky.	69/43pc	74/50s
Louisville, Ky.	59/49r	61/40r
Lubbock, Texas	66/41s	56/41r
Madison, Wis.	41/22pc	46/29pc
Manchester, N.H.	49/42c	59/43c
Memphis, Tenn.	71/57t	65/51t
Milwaukee	43/30pc	48/33c
Mobile, Ala.	75/62t	76/61t
Modesto, Calif.	70/41w	72/43s
Montgomery, Ala.	68/62t	73/58t
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	65/57t	67/57c

Nashville, Tenn.	62/55t	67/47t
Newark, N.J.	59/47c	60/46c
New Haven, Conn.	50/43c	54/44c
Norfolk, Va.	66/52pc	65/52sh
Oakland, Calif.	71/51w	72/47s
Oklahoma City	57/38c	65/45c
Omaha, Neb.	50/34c	59/39s
Palm Springs, Calif.	70/53sh	83/52s
Pensacola, Fla.	74/65t	76/65t
Pierre, S.D.	49/31s	52/31s
Pittsburgh	51/43r	53/36r
Portland, Maine	41/39c	53/40c
Portland, Ore.	51/44c	56/44sh
Providence, R.I.	51/43c	58/44c
Raleigh, N.C.	67/46c	69/53sh
Rapid City, S.D.	47/24c	51/26c
Reno, Nev.	47/26s	57/28s
Richmond, Va.	65/48pc	64/47sh
Rochester, N.Y.	51/33r	45/35r
Sacramento, Calif.	71/43c	74/42s
San Antonio	78/65c	73/59t
San Jose, Calif.	69/46c	73/47s
Santa Fe, N.M.	55/27pc	58/29c

Savannah, Ga.	73/58P	77/61Pc
Scottsdale, Ariz.	62/46Sh	69/47s
Shreveport, La.	75/61C	71/56S
Sioux Falls, S.D.	43/34s	47/33C
South Bend, Ind.	45/29C	50/32Pc
Spokane, Wash.	48/37Pc	53/38Sh
Springfield, Mo.	52/37C	61/40Pc
Springfield, Ill.	49/33C	56/38Pc
St. Louis	52/36C	61/42Pc
St. Petersburg, Fla.	79/63S	81/67S
Syracuse, N.Y.	52/34P	47/37P
Tallahassee, Fla.	71/59Pc	78/63Pc
Tampa, Fla.	76/64S	79/67S
Toledo, Ohio	51/29S	50/34Pc
Tonopah, Calif.	63/47S	63/47S
Tucson, Ariz.	62/42C	58/41P
Tupelo, Miss.	69/58P	71/51P
Tulsa, Okla.	58/39C	67/46C
Virginia Beach, Va.	65/51Pc	63/51Sh
Wichita, Kan.	56/34C	64/35Pc
Wilmington, Del.	60/44C	60/45Sh
Winston-Salem, N.C.	59/48C	65/51P
Worcester, Mass.	48/40C	55/40C

	TODAY	TUE
Beijing	52/28s	50/26s
Buenos Aires	86/72s	84/71s
Cancun, Mexico	83/76s	85/77s
Dubai, UAE	84/68h	77/66w
Frankfurt	50/37r	48/33pc
Hong Kong	74/66w	75/64w
Istanbul	57/50pc	63/50h
Jerusalem	56/40pc	63/48s
Johannesburg	74/54t	77/58t
London	47/36r	48/35pc
Mexico City	82/54s	80/53s
Montreal	39/30i	39/30pc
Moscow	41/35c	40/36r
Mumbai, India	80/57h	88/74h
Paris	55/35s	47/39c
Rio de Janeiro	77/72r	80/73r
Rome	62/50s	58/40r
Seoul	47/29h	51/33h
Singapore	91/77pc	90/77pc
Sydney	63/68w	73/69sh
Toronto	44/29r	39/32c
Tokyo	51/46r	59/47w

WORLD CITIES

	TODAY	TUE
Beijing	52/28s	50/26s
Buenos Aires	86/72s	84/71s
Cancun, Mexico	83/76s	85/77s
Dubai, UAE	84/68h	77/66w
Frankfurt	50/37r	48/33pc
Hong Kong	74/66w	75/64w
Istanbul	57/50pc	63/50h
Jerusalem	56/40pc	63/48s
Johannesburg	74/54t	77/58t
London	47/36r	48/35pc
Mexico City	82/54s	80/53s
Montreal	39/30i	39/30pc
Moscow	41/35c	40/36r
Mumbai, India	89/73h	88/74h
Paris	50/35r	47/39c
Rio de Janeiro	77/72r	80/73t
Rome	62/50s	58/40r
Seoul	47/29h	51/33h
Singapore	91/77pc	90/77pc
Sydney	93/68w	73/69sh
Toronto	44/29r	39/32c
Tokyo	51/46r	59/47w

FOR THE RECORD

All times ET

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	42	17	.712	—
Boston	41	18	.695	1
Philadelphia	37	24	.607	6
Brooklyn	26	33	.441	16
New York	18	42	.300	24½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	38	22	.633	—
Orlando	27	33	.450	11
Washington	21	37	.362	16
Charlotte	21	39	.350	17
Atlanta	19	43	.306	20

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	52	8	.867	—
Indiana	36	24	.600	16
Chicago	20	40	.333	32
Detroit	20	41	.328	32½
Cleveland	17	43	.283	35

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	39	20	.661	—
Dallas	37	24	.607	3
Memphis	29	31	.483	10½
New Orleans	26	33	.441	13
San Antonio	25	33	.431	13½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	40	19	.678	—
Utah	37	22	.627	3
Oklahoma City	37	23	.617	3½
Portland	26	35	.426	15
Minnesota	17	42	.288	23

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	45	13	.776	—
L.A. Clippers	41	19	.683	5
Sacramento	25	34	.424	20½
Phoenix	24	37	.393	22½
Golden State	13	47	.217	33

x-clinched playoff spot

Saturday's Games

New York 125, Chicago 115	
Atlanta 129, Portland 117	
Miami 116, Brooklyn 113	
Indiana 113, Cleveland 104	
Memphis 105, L.A. Lakers 88	
San Antonio 114, Orlando 113	
Houston 111, Boston 110, OT	
Golden State 115, Phoenix 99	

Sunday's Games

Milwaukee 93, Charlotte 85	
Dallas 111, Minnesota 91	
L.A. Clippers 136, Philadelphia 130	
Detroit at Sacramento	
Toronto at Denver	
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans	
Washington at Golden State	
Monday's Games	
Houston at New York, 7 p.m.	
Portland at Orlando, 7 p.m.	
Utah at Cleveland, 7 p.m.	
Memphis at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.	
Milwaukee at Miami, 7:30 p.m.	
Dallas at Chicago, 8 p.m.	
Indiana at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.	

Tuesday's Games

San Antonio at Chicago, 7 p.m.	
Brooklyn at Boston, 7:30 p.m.	
L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.	
Minnesota at New Orleans, 8 p.m.	
Golden State at Denver, 9 p.m.	
Toronto at Phoenix, 9 p.m.	
Philadelphia at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.	
Washington at Sacramento, 10 p.m.	

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	66	41	13	12	94	218	167
Tampa Bay	65	41	19	5	87	230	183
Toronto	66	35	23	8	78	233	218
Florida	66	33	26	7	73	224	224
Montreal	67	30	28	9	69	203	207
Buffalo	65	29	28	8	66	188	205
Ottawa	66	31	12	58	178	224	224
Detroit	67	15	47	5	35	135	255

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	64	39	19	6	84	222	196
Philadelphia	65	38	20	7	83	220	190
Pittsburgh	64	37	21	6	80	204	178
NY Islanders	64	34	24	6	74	181	175
Columbus	66	31	21	14	76	170	176
Carolina	64	35	24	5	75	207	183
NY Rangers	65	26	35	4	74	217	203
New Jersey	64	25	27	12	62	174	216

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	66	39	17	10	88	213	184
Colorado	64	39	18	7	85	221	172
Dallas	65	37	21	7	81	177	168
Nashville	64	32	24	8	72	204	204
Winnipeg	67	33	28	6	72	201	198
Minnesota	64	32	25	7	71	203	202
Chicago	65	29	28	8	66	195	207

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	66	36	22	8	80	215	198
Edmonton	65	34	23	8	76	204	201
Calgary	67	34	26	7	75	201	206
Vancouver	64	34	24	6	74	211	199
Arizona	67	32	27	8	72	187	178
Anaheim	64	26	30	8	60	168	202
San Jose	65	28	33	4	60	169	209
Los Angeles	65	24	35	6	54	160	205

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Saturday's Games

Boston 4, N.Y. Islanders 0	
Los Angeles 2, New Jersey 1, OT	
Tampa Bay 4, Calgary 3	
Chicago 3, Florida 2, SO	
Colorado 3, Nashville 2	
Toronto 4, Vancouver 2	
Ottawa 4, Detroit 3, SO	
Montreal 4, Carolina 3, OT	
Arizona 5, Buffalo 2	
St. Louis 4, Dallas 3, SO	
Edmonton 3, Winnipeg 2	
San Jose 5, Pittsburgh 0	

Sunday's Games

Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Rangers 3	
Calgary 3, Florida 0	
Vancouver at Columbus	
New Jersey at Anaheim	
Washington at Minnesota	
Los Angeles at Vegas	

Monday's Games

Colorado at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.	
Edmonton at Nashville, 8 p.m.	

Tuesday's Games

Montreal at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.	
Ottawa at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.	
St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.	
Boston at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.	
Buffalo at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.	

Nashville at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Vegas, 10 p.m.
Toronto at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

XFL

East Division

	W	L	Pct	PF	PA
St. Louis	3	1	.750	91	62
DC	2	1	.666	67	58
New York	2	2	.500	49	73
Tampa Bay	0	3	.000	39	74

West Division

	W	L	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	3	0	1.000	99	68
Dallas	2	1	.666	88	65
Los Angeles	1	3	.250	88	88
Seattle	1	3	.250	64	87

Saturday's Games

New York 17, Los Angeles 14	
St. Louis 23, Seattle 16	

Sunday's Games

Houston at Dallas	
DC at Tampa Bay	

Saturday's Games

Seattle at Houston, 2 p.m.	
New York at Dallas, 5 p.m.	

Sunday's Games

St. Louis at DC, 3 p.m.	
Tampa Bay at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.	

Saturday's Games

Seattle at Houston, 2 p.m.	
New York at Dallas, 5 p.m.	

Sunday's Games

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Sunday's Games

St. Louis at DC, 3 p.m.	
Tampa Bay at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.	

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New York	1	0	0	3	3	2
Montreal	1	0	0	3	2	1
Atlanta	1	0	0	3	2	1
Columbus	1	0	0	3	1	0
Toronto FC	0	0	1	1	2	2

Price loves new Dodgers life

Bob Nightengale
USA TODAY

PHOENIX – David Price, standing by his locker with the music blaring, watches Mookie Betts dive across the floor playing pingpong in a laid-back clubhouse without the suffocating presence of a huge media throng.

He closes his eyes, exhales and starts laughing. It’s almost surreal.

“It’s such a big difference from Boston to here,” says Price, who makes his Dodgers spring training debut Monday. “Really, it’s night and day.”

Price, 34, kept laughing as he recalled his first experience in Dodgers camp. He was facing hitters for the first time in nearly six months after having wrist surgery in September to help his circulation, which plagued him all of last season with the Red Sox. He threw pain-free then shook hands with the coaching staff and general manager Andrew Friedman before entering the clubhouse, where he was expecting to be greeted by a big group of reporters.

“That was a big day for me, a very big day,” Price says, recounting the details. “I came in, got undressed, showered, came back to my locker and stood there for 10 or 15 minutes. There were maybe two or three (reporters) hanging out, talking to other guys, and nobody came over to talk to me about my day. I couldn’t believe it.

“It was like after me and Mookie had our introductory press conference at Dodger Stadium, we walk off the field when it was all done, and Mookie says, ‘That’s it? Is this a joke?’”

Price and Betts relayed the story to Lakers legend Magic Johnson and Friedman last week at dinner in Phoenix, and they were told this hardly was an anomaly. LA is certainly a big market, Johnson and Friedman told them, but with a small media market feel.

“I’ve only been here a couple of weeks but I really couldn’t be happier,” Price says. “Look, it’s not like I wanted to be traded. I was grateful for my four years in Boston. I went there to win, and we won. But if I had a list of the top three or four teams I would have wanted to be traded to, LA would definitely have been on it. I’m honored to be part of this fran-



David Price spent four years with the Red Sox, winning the 2018 World Series. He wants to do the same before departing LA. JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/USA TODAY SPORTS

chise, and it’s place in history.’”

Price, who was included in the Betts trade for salary relief, isn’t bitter toward his former team. He carved out his own piece of history and will forever be remembered in Boston for winning the 2018 World Series against these Dodgers. He wants to make sure he does the same before departing Los Angeles.

“I couldn’t imagine losing two World Series in a row,” Price says of the Dodgers, who also lost in 2017 to the Astros. “I can’t. That’s brutal.

“I know what that feeling is like winning it all, what it meant to me, and that’s why I want so bad for these guys to experience that same feeling.”

It has been 32 years since the Dodgers last won the World Series, and it’s as if Price and Betts want to personally erase all of the angst. Price is already mentoring the young pitchers every day.

“He’s awesome,” three-time Cy Young winner Clayton Kershaw says. “You can tell he’s genuinely invested in everybody. It’s easy for a starting pitcher to get caught up in your own routine, but he’s helping everyone.”

The Red Sox might have thought they were saving money by dumping Price, but what if he performs well in the last

three years of his contract?

“I’m so excited that David is out of that market, because people were trying to question his character,” says Mets starter Marcus Stroman, who was briefly teammates with Price in Toronto. “If you ask anybody that ever met or anyone who’s ever been around David, character has never been an issue. He’s the best teammate I ever had. He continues to be one of the best mentors in my life. It’s comical to me when I read things questioning his character. He’s a role model to every single guy who comes into that clubhouse. “You watch what he does now that he’s out of Boston.”

Price, who pitched only 107 innings last year, insists he’s not coming into the season with a vengeance. As long as he’s healthy, he’s confident he’ll get the last laugh.

“For me it’s not about proving people wrong,” says Price, “it’s about proving myself right. I know I can still bring a lot to the table. I know if I’m healthy, the back of my baseball card will look just fine. So whether I’m running out there to the mound or my days in the dugout when I’m not pitching and talking to young guys, I know I can help.”

Betts stuns new team with bold challenge

Bob Nightengale
USA TODAY

PHOENIX – David Price’s cellphone rang on the eve the Dodgers’ first spring training workout. Mookie Betts, his teammate with the Red Sox who was traded with him to LA, had an idea he wanted to run by Price. Price listened, gave his blessing, but wasn’t sure how this would come across.

After all, they were the new kids on the block, and now Betts wanted to lecture the team on how to go about their spring drills?

“I told him, ‘If it’s something you feel very strongly about, something you need to address, go ahead and do it,’” Price said. “But make sure you choose your words wisely. Do it the right way. The one thing I worried about is that Mookie is brutally honest. ... To me, that was the most impressive thing about him is speaking the way he did it. He did it the right way. ... Given the circumstances and this the team we beat two years ago in the World Series, it’s not an easy thing to do. I thought he did it really well.”

The Dodgers might have won seven consecutive National League West titles, but it was no time to be complacent, Betts told them. You can’t shut it on and off. If you want to be World Series champions, act like it now.

“I thought it was awesome, a great message,” outfielder A.J. Pollock said. “It definitely impacted our camp. The intensity went up right after that. He’s treating every ground ball, every fly ball, like it’s Game 7 of the World Series, and there are ramifications if you mess it up.

“I mean, it’s easy to come to spring training and glide in here, but he said we need to treat everything like it’s Game 7 of the World Series, so when we get to the World Series, it’s going to feel like it’s another day at the office.”



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†Offer expires 3/6/20. Redeem at participating Goodyear Auto Service locations only; void where prohibited by law. Must present coupon. Offer applies to most vehicles. No other discounts or offers for similar services apply. One coupon per customer per vehicle. Free battery check includes a visual inspection of your battery, and a starting and charging system check. Additional repairs or diagnostics may be recommended and charges may apply. Additional terms may apply. See store for complete details. Redemption subject to review and verification. Cash value 1/50¢.
**Offer expires 3/6/20. Redeem at participating Goodyear Auto Service locations only; void where prohibited by law. Must present coupon. Offer applies to most vehicles. No other discounts or offers for services apply. One coupon per customer per vehicle. Discount will be deducted from participating retailer's regular price at the time of purchase. Additional terms, conditions and fees may apply to services. See store for complete details. Redemption subject to review and verification. Cash value 1/50¢.

Luke Bryan hopes his Two Lane lager strikes a chord

Singer's low-calorie beer made with Blue Ridge water and "a real American feel." **Page 3D**

See here: 'Invisible Man' is widely visible with \$29M

Elisabeth Moss' thriller draws diverse crowd and opens at No. 1 as "Sonic" slips to second. **Page 4D**

LIFELINE



MARC PIASECKI/WIREIMAGE

STYLE STAR
KIM KARDASHIAN WEST

★ The “Keeping Up With the Kardashians” star, 39, stepped out in Paris after husband Kanye West held one of his signature Sunday Service shows during Paris Fashion Week. Kardashian West wore a skin-tight, caramel latex suit from designer Balmain’s Fall/Winter 2020-2021 collection, complete with matching gloves, light-colored sandals and a suede clutch.



JASON MENDEZ/WIREIMAGE

MAKING WAVES
RYAN REYNOLDS

The actor, who owns Aviation Gin, helped an 84-year-old woman celebrate her first “legal drink.” Thanks to being born on Leap Day, Arlene Manko has only had a true birthday every four years. 2000 marks her 21st official birthday. To celebrate finally being of legal drinking age, Manko starred in a new ad for the liquor brand, joking she was “technically 5 years old when I got married. ... I had seven kids in 10 years. Did you think sometimes I didn’t want a drink?”



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY

Rebel Wilson is 40. Daniel Craig is 52. Jon Bon Jovi is 58.

USA TODAY SNAPSHOTS®

Top paid iPhone apps

App Store Official Charts for the week ending Feb. 23:

- 1. Minecraft, Mojang
- 2. Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations
- 3. TouchRetouch, ADVA Soft GmbH
- 4. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
- 5. Bloons TD 6, Ninja Kiwi



ASSOCIATED PRESS

TELEVISION



Walter White (Bryan Cranston, left) and Hank Schrader (Dean Norris) were brothers-in-law on opposite sides of the law in “Breaking Bad.” LEWIS JACOBS/AMC

Norris is happy to break back to Hank

Bill Keveney
USA TODAY

Dean Norris is happy to revisit Hank Schrader, his “Breaking Bad” character, on AMC prequel “Better Call Saul.” He’s even happier with the version he’s playing in two episodes starting Monday (9 EST/PST): the cocky, gung-ho DEA agent from the early part of the original series.

“I told (producers) it’s going to be fun to play Hank before all the depression, before he took a turn for the worse” after killing a drug lord in “Bad,” Norris says. “You know, the loud-mouth, strong, tough, not-a-care-in-the-world kind of guy that I only got to play in the first two seasons.”

In “Saul,” which is in its fifth and penultimate season, Hank appears years before the Tuco Salamanca shootout, which marked the start of a PTSD spiral for Hank that rubbed off on Norris, who lost both his parents during that show’s run.

“You can’t play that level of depression without it affecting you a bit,” says Norris, whose bond with Hank extends to producing a real-world version of the DEA agent’s home brew, Schrader-bräu. “So it was great to come back and



In “Better Call Saul,” Norris reprises his “Breaking Bad” role as Schrader, a gung-ho DEA agent. GREG LEWIS/AMC/SONY PICTURES TELEVISION

play him fun again.”

The “Saul” episodes reunite Norris and Steven Michael Quezada, who played Hank’s DEA partner Steven Gomez on “Bad,” which ended in 2013. “Batman and Robin back together!” Norris says.

The original series, which claimed Hank’s life in the final season, “meant a lot to me in my life, so it was kind of emotional to be back there and reconnect with all the people” on “Saul” who

See NORRIS, Page 3D

STREAMING NEWS & VIEWS

‘Not Okay With This’ is more than OK



Kelly Lawler
Columnist
USA TODAY

While watching Netflix’s new teen supernatural series “I Am Not Okay With This,” it’s easy to be reminded of all the TV shows and movies it borrows from.

There’s a hefty dose of “Carrie,” a “Breakfast Club” homage, a bit of the Spider-Man origin story and the teen drama of “Buffy the Vampire Slayer.”

But unlike most of the other 1980s and 1990s pastiches that have become popular in Hollywood these days, “Okay” is more than just a generic copycat trying to get your attention via a streaming algorithm.

Don’t get me wrong: There are elements to the excellent new series (now streaming) that make it seem as if it were created in a lab, by combining



Sophia Lillis stars as Syd in “I Am Not Okay With This.” NETFLIX

Netflix series such as “Stranger Things” and “Sex Education” into a new one designed to keep viewers’ eyes glued to their screens as long as possible. But “Okay” uses familiar story beats and characters to craft a story that has so

much charisma it practically jumps off the screen. With a short first season and great star, it has the potential to stand out from Netflix’s weekly dump of new series.

Set in a small town in Pennsylvania (reminiscent of “Stranger” locale Hawkins, Indiana), “Okay” centers on Sydney Novak (Sophia Lillis), an angry, misanthropic teen who recently lost her father to suicide. She hates her mother, is protective of her younger brother and has just one friend, Dina (Sofia Bryant), for whom she may have more than just platonic feelings. When Dina starts dating preppy jock Brad (Richard Ellis), Syd is even madder. Lonely and upset, she is drawn to Stanley (Wyatt Oleff), a part-time pot dealer who embraces his dorky, awkward aesthetic.

Oh, and when Syd’s anger gets a little too intense? She destroys things

See OKAY, Page 3D

MUSIC



In Taylor Swift’s new music video, the singer, center, plays a male character with the help of hair and makeup. TAYLOR SWIFT/VEVO VIA YOUTUBE

Swift’s video sticks it to ‘The Man’

Patrick Ryan
USA TODAY

Wait, that was Taylor Swift?!

That’s the question many Swifties are asking themselves after watching her jaw-dropping new music video for feminist anthem “The Man,” in which she sports heavy prosthetics and a beard to play a pompous, high-achieving businessman.

Throughout the four-minute clip, Swift imagines all the things she could do as a man with no consequences or judgment: partying with models on a yacht, “manspreading” on the subway, marrying a much younger woman, and urinating on a wall out in public with a “no scooters” sign (a nod to her feud with music executive Scooter Braun, as

eagle-eyed fans pointed out).

In a meta twist at the end of the video, bearded Swift, voiced by Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, walks over to blond-haired Swift in a director’s chair and asks how the last take went.

Director Swift responds with a sarcastically sexist note: “Can you try to be sexier? Maybe more likable this time?”

As the credits roll, side-by-side photos reveal Swift in the makeup chair having her prosthetics applied.

“The Man” is the first music video solely directed by Swift, who had co-directed her video for “You Need to Calm Down” with Drew Kirsch and co-executive produced with Todrick Hall. Asked during a YouTube Q&A with fans what her favorite part of heading the video was, Swift replied “all of it.”

“I loved the months of prep, meetings, location scouting, set design, mood boards, deciding every detail down to the wardrobe each actress/actor wore + working with them on set,” Swift wrote.

The pop star also thanked Johnson on Twitter for his surprise voiceover cameo and “being so supportive” through the years.

The pro wrestler turned action star replied it was a “pleasure.”

“What a transformation and more importantly, great message about women’s equality and the importance of straight up being kind and good to people,” Johnson said. “Next we sing our duet. You bring the guitar, I’ll bring the tequila.”

“The Man” is the fourth single from

Swift’s latest album “Lover,” after “ME!”, “You Need to Calm Down” and the title track. In January, she released a Netflix documentary, “Miss Americana,” which takes an intimate look at her creative process, life in the spotlight and political awakening.

One scene in the film shows Swift in the studio writing “The Man” with producer Joel Little, who says how exhausting it must be for the singer to have to be “on” all the time.

“You are kind of doing a constant strategy in your head as to how not to be shamed for something on any given day, but then you get accused of being calculated for having strategy,” Swift tells him. “I’m good, but you do sort of have to twist yourself into a pretzel on an hourly basis.”

PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

EDITED Erik Agard
BY Rachel Fabi

JIBBER JABBER

ACROSS

1 Conspiratorial group
6 Possesses
9 “Hey, you!” but quieter
13 Greeting that may be accompanied by a 36-Across
14 Choose
15 Jazz singer
16 Not decisive
18 Sign on again
19 Green prefix
20 Itty-bitty
21 Persistent offensive
22 Reserved
24 Each
25 Candy-coated popcorn brand
31 Name that rearranges to spell “Robyn”
34 Lion’s sound
35 Long fish
36 Hawaiian welcome gift
37 Small caves
40 Undergrad degrees
41 “Who am ___ say?”
42 Greek letter l
43 Form of yoga
45 Sound of little feet
49 Model Hadid
50 Religious manifestos
54 Anatomical trunk
56 Baby deer of film
59 “___ me tell you ...”
60 Makes a mistake
61 Dawdle
63 Color hidden in “pie crust”
64 “Fine!”
65 Motrin alternative
66 Word before “gaze” or “bonding”
67 “Gosh!”
68 Dressed to the ___

DOWN

1 Made a crow’s sound

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

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek 3/2

Find and Circle:
Six words starting with EA (four-letter min.)
Four four-letter musical instruments
Three celestial stars
Two Asian countries
Two-syllable Scandinavian sea

Friday’s answer: BALM CALM FILM PALM / CHAIR TABLE DESK SOFA / ETHIOPIA ECUADOR EGYPT / ROCKIES ANDES ALPS / BOOT SOCK

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes 3/2

Swedish-founded global store

Catacomb

Swedish auto brand

German soprano Harteros

“___ girl!”

Zen paradox

Key with four sharps (Abbr.)

Swedish pop group

Friday’s Answer
SALT
UTAH
MAKE
OBEY
2/28

QUICKCROSS ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

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

3/2

DIFFICULTY RATING ★☆☆☆☆

SUDOKU FUSION ON YOUR PHONE
puzzles.usatoday.com

UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt 3/2

1. **PROM**

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

SNOW

Clues:
1. 1980 horror movie
2. 1975 Gene Hackman film
3. Begins to occupy
4. For the most part
5. Conglomerate founded by Thomas Edison
6. _____ Orchestra
7. Dusting

Friday’s Answer
BREAKING BAD
CHECK MARK
CHECK MARK
TIME TRAVEL
TRAVEL LIGHT
LIGHT BREEZE

PLAY ONLINE
PUZZLES.USATODAY.COM

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TXTPERT

Across
1. 67372
4. 5883
6. 386
7. 843
8. 62567
10. 724
11. 729

Down
1. 68378873
2. 38833
3. 2586
5. 362673
9. 247

Today’s theme
Music

1 a
2 abc
3 def
4 ghi
5 jkl
6 mno
7 p qrs
8 tuv
9 wxyz

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues.
For example:
2 could be A, B or C... and 5678 could be LOST

Friday’s solution

3 T
4 I
5 R
6 S
7 K
8 U
9 E
10 Y
11 E
12 S
13 O
14 I
15 L

2/28

DON’T QUOTE ME

Journalist E.W. Howe talks about human nature.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.
GOOD ONLY PEOPLE SLEEP THAT THEM THING

“THERE IS _____ ONE _____ LIKE _____ IS GOOD FOR _____; A _____ NIGHT’S _____”
3/2

Friday’s Answer: “You can easily judge the character of others by how they treat those who can do nothing for them or to them.” - Malcolm Forbes

© WIGGLES 3D GAMES

Bryan’s new path leads to Two Lane Lager

Morgan Hines
USA TODAY

Luke Bryan is a beer guy. That’s not news to any of the two-time ACM and two-time CMA Entertainer of the Year’s fans who have heard his hits including “Drink a Beer,” “Just a Sip” or “Cold Beer Drinker.” “Beer means putting yourself in a mental space where you can chill out,” Bryan told USA TODAY. “This business is tricky for me, it’s hard work, and you get offstage and nothing feels better than getting off a hot stage in the summertime and enjoying a cold beer.” Now, Bryan manifested that *ahhh* feeling into a brew of his own. The singer partnered with Constellation Brands to create Two Lane American Golden Lager, a 99-calorie beer with 4.2% alcohol by volume and 3 grams of carbs. Bryan’s collaboration with Constellation Brands, whose portfolio includes beers such as Corona, wines such as Kim Crawford and spirits such as Svedka Vodka, began several years ago. Eventually they landed on making a beer after toying with other ideas.

From there, through testing, Bryan said it took about two years to get right. He wanted to create a beer that was low-calorie but that didn’t lack flavor, which wasn’t an easy feat. To do that, Bryan said, there was some give and take as he worked closely with Constellation.

The brew features American-grown barley and water from the Blue Ridge Mountains. “We knew we wanted it to have a real American feel,” Bryan said. The “Play It Again” singer said he wants his beer to bring beer back to its roots. To him, beer is about connection. “I wanted my beer to get back to what it’s really all about,” he said. “Beer is all about sharing it with friends, sharing it in the outdoors and sharing it in a rural spot where you will never forget sharing that beer with somebody for the first time.”



Luke Bryan hopes his Two Lane American Golden Lager has “a real American feel.” MORGAN HINES/USA TODAY

To field-test his beer, he brought some cans home to Georgia at Thanksgiving for his friends to try. He wanted to make sure they enjoyed it, so he sneaked a couple of cans into their coolers. The highest approval he needed, though? His mom’s. “At 7 o’clock every day, she opens a beer,” Bryan said, explaining that she winds down on her patio while watching the waves and enjoying a cold one.

“It’s a home run for me: If I can get my mother to like my beer, it checks all the boxes.” Bryan’s beer will be available regionally this month, but he does hope to take it nationwide at some point. “I built my music by playing the Southeast, working hard and gaining fans, one by one,” he said. “(I want to) grow it the good old-fashioned way, create a great beer and gain each beer

fan, one by one.” Two Lane American Golden Lager will be available March 2 in select states including Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The beer will be sold in cans and available in six-packs, 12-packs, 16-ounce single-serve cans and on draft. A 12-pack of cans has a suggested retail price of \$15.99.



Dean Norris, from left, and Steven Michael Quezada, chatting with Bob Odenkirk during a shooting break during Season 2 of “Breaking Bad,” appear in two episodes of “Bad” prequel “Better Call Saul.” URSULA COYOTE/SONY PICTURES TELEVISION/AMC

Norris

Continued from Page 1D

had worked on “Bad,” too, says Norris, 56, who went on to CBS’ “Under the Dome” and is shooting the final season of TNT’s “Claws.” “Hank is a blowhard, but he’s also really good at what he does,” Norris says. So why didn’t he realize his brother-in-law Walter White (Bryan Cranston) was a drug kingpin until the final season? “I get asked that all the time. Walt was too close. It made perfect sense that Hank didn’t know until the moment he found out. ... It’s the old ‘Purloined Letter.’ It’s right in front of your face and sometimes you don’t see it.” Hank is the first of the six characters credited in all 62 “Bad” episodes to make a guest appearance on the prequel, which spotlights the earlier years of Walt’s shady lawyer, Saul Goodman (Bob Odenkirk), and gives new prominence to two other “Bad” supporting characters, retired cop and master fixer Mike Ehrmantraut (Jonathan Banks) and drug kingpin Gustavo “Gus” Fring (Giancarlo Esposito). Several minor “Bad” characters have resurfaced, too.

Monday’s episode marks the initial encounter between Hank and Saul, who sparred a couple of times on “Bad,” including a clash in Odenkirk’s debut, a Season 2 episode “Better Call Saul.” Executive producer Peter Gould rewatched that episode several times to make sure that “Bad” scene didn’t look like their first meeting. “When we watched it, it felt like these two guys had engaged before, that they didn’t particularly like each other. ... Phew!” says Gould, who created “Saul” with “Bad” creator Vince Gilligan. Hank and partner Steven also squared off against Saul in Season 5 of “Bad,” when the lawyer defends an incarcerated Mike. Retrofitting “Saul” to sync up with the “Bad” storyline has been more challenging than the producers expected. One writer rewatches all 62 “Bad” episodes before the start of production each season to make sure “Saul” avoids conflicts. “It’s like doing a Rubik’s Cube, and I’ve never finished a Rubik’s Cube,” Gilligan says. “Peter and I foolishly thought it’d be easier to do a spinoff series because so much was already in place. But that only makes it harder, because you’ve got to match things (to) the pre-existing series.” The “Saul” creators say they’ve tried

to avoid gratuitous “Bad” cameos, insisting on having a rationale for such appearances. Hank’s return made sense when they needed Saul to clash with “some very tough law enforcement folks,” Gould says. “If we went by just who we wanted to see, we would have had the whole cast back in Episode One.” There’s not much time left to bring back more of the main “Bad” characters, led by Walt and his meth business partner, Jesse Pinkman (Aaron Paul). Viewers won’t see Walt or Jesse this season, but “you’re going to definitely see some familiar faces from ‘Breaking Bad’ who you haven’t seen before on ‘Better Call Saul,’” Gould says. As for whether Walt and Jesse will show up in the 13-episode final season, due next year, Gould says it hasn’t been determined (although fans will be surprised if they don’t appear). “We don’t plan these things super far ahead. We kind of go inch by inch. ... Anything can happen, which is great, but also a little scary.” Norris says he’d enjoy seeing other “Bad” characters, including Hank’s wife, Marie (Betsy Brandt), return as the prequel moves closer to its finale – and the original show’s beginning. “I’d love to see them in it.”

Okay

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around her with surprise telekinetic powers. “Okay” is chockful of tropes you’ve seen before. Superpowers as a metaphor for puberty, sexuality and emotion. Quirky kids stuck in small towns. Dead parental figures. But it succeeds precisely because it feels so novel in spite of these familiar building blocks. It outstrips the higher-profile would-be “Stranger” successor “Locke & Key,” which made a solid effort but sometimes had trouble nailing down a cohesive identity. The “Okay” writers know exactly what show they are making, and there isn’t a wobbly moment in its seven-episode first season. It is a singularly focused series riding high on a fabulous young actress that makes its journey from Point A to Point B immensely successful. Lillis has been making waves in Hollywood for a few years now. She stole scenes as Young Beverly in “It,” popped up as a younger version of Amy Adams in “Sharp Objects,” led a Nancy Drew movie and recently anchored another strong horror showing in “Gretel and Hansel.” “Okay” moves her fully from “up-and-coming” talent to “arrived.” The series simply would not have power (super or otherwise) without her as a sympathetic protagonist. It is a slight shame that the three teens around her are not nearly as fully drawn characters, although Stanley comes close. But you can get good story and performances in hundreds of TV series these days (yes, hundreds). But “Okay” has gloriously short episodes, a feature it shares with Netflix’s similarly angry teen dramedy “The End of the F***ing World” (both series are based on graphic novels by Charles Forsman and adapted for the screen by Jonathan Entwistle). “Okay” whizzes by in seven 20-ish minute episodes. When I finished the first season, which concludes with a tantalizing cliffhanger, I was sad that there wasn’t more to watch, instead of feeling exhausted from slogging through hours of bloat. “Okay” is a small, comforting slice of television that you can finish in an afternoon and not feel bad about how much time you’ve spent on the couch. Sydney may not be OK with her current situation, but I’m more than OK letting her into my life.

MOVIES

‘The Invisible Man’ is the year’s first horror hit

Lindsey Bahr
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES – The Elisabeth Moss-led thriller “The Invisible Man” rode a wave of good reviews to a very visible spot atop the box office this weekend.

Studio estimates Sunday show that the horror film from writer/director Leigh Whannell earned \$29 million from North American theaters. Internationally, it picked up an additional \$20.2 million.

Whannell helped dust off the classic H.G. Wells story and update it for modern audiences by focusing on Moss’ victim character instead of the Invisible Man, who is depicted here as an abusive ex-boyfriend.

“The Invisible Man” was shot on a relatively slim budget, costing less than \$10 million to produce, and exceeded expectations by a few million dollars.



Cecilia Kass (Elisabeth Moss) peeks at her ex’s high-tech handiwork in “The Invisible Man,” which made \$29 million in its first weekend. UNIVERSAL PICTURES

The film, which has been well-received by critics, drew diverse audiences to the theaters (46% Caucasian, 20% African American and 18% Hispanic), according to exit polls.

“We couldn’t be more pleased,” says Jim Orr, Universal’s president of domestic distribution. The new version “brought this century-old character to life in a very clever and relevant way.”

The studio expects the movie to continue to play well into March, although it will have some competition when “A Quiet Place Part II” opens March 20.

“Sonic the Hedgehog” slid to second place in its third weekend in theaters, adding \$16 million and bringing its domestic total to \$128.3 million. “The Call of the Wild,” with Harrison Ford, placed third in its second weekend with \$13.2 million.

Fourth place went to the anime superhero film “My Hero Academia: Heroes Rising,” which opened to \$6.3 million from just 1,260 screens.

“We should never underestimate films like this that may not have broad recognition among the general public,” says Comscore senior media analyst

Paul Dergarabedian. “Bad Boys for Life” rounded out the top five with \$4.3 million in its seventh weekend.

The Will Smith and Martin Lawrence buddy cop movie is just shy of reaching the \$200 million mark in North America and has earned more than \$400 million globally.

In limited release, “Wendy,” Benh Zeitlin’s long-awaited follow-up to his Oscar-nominated film “Beasts of the Southern Wild,” got off to a bumpy start with just \$30,000 from four theaters. The Peter Pan-inspired film has garnered mixed reviews from critics and will be expanding in the coming weeks.

Although it’s still early in the year, overall the box office is up nearly 3.5%.

This weekend, “people went to the movies to escape the trials and tribulations of the real world,” Dergarabedian says.

Final numbers are expected Monday.

TONIGHT ON TV

	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
NETWORK								
ABC	The Bachelor As airplane pilot Peter Weber prepares to select a bachelorette, the eliminated women from the 24th season join one another to hash out the drama. (N)				The Good Doctor Dr. Shaun Murphy and the staff must take some big risks. (N)		Local Programs	Jimmy Kimmel Live
CBS	The Neighborhood Grover vs. bully.	Bob Hearts Abishola Parenting advice.	All Rise Lola helps husband get FBI job; Mark and Amy’s relationship gets more serious.		Bull Team must work around defendant’s fame and popularity during assault case.		Local Programs	The Late Show with Stephen Colbert
Fox	9-1-1: Lone Star Rattlesnake infestation and a man with dementia; Owen adopts a dog. (N)		Prodigal Son Malcolm investigates killer who copes murders from one of his favorite books.		Local Programs			
NBC	The Voice The blind auditions continue; the hopeful vocalists compete in efforts to be selected by one of the coaches for an opportunity to win the singing competition. (N)				Manifest Michaela questions Jared’s loyalties; Saanvi presents a medical breakthrough. (N)		Local Programs	The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon (N)
PBS	Antiques Roadshow Film credits; Womb Settee.		Antiques Roadshow Ming bowl; Evel Knievel leathers.		Independent Lens At-risk students get a second chance.			
CW	All American Coop gets an offer. (N)		Black Lightning Ready for war. (N)		Local Programs			
ION	Criminal Minds Three children go missing.		Criminal Minds Man claims to be Tara’s brother.		Criminal Minds Remains found along a river bed.		Criminal Minds Tommy Yates’ latest victim.	
Telemundo	Exatión Estados Unidos (N)		La Doña (N)		Operación Pacífico (N)		Noticias Telemundo (N)	Titulares y más
Univision	Ringo Boxeador que quiere ser campeón.		Amor eterno Jóvenes se enamoran, pero su amor se pondrá a prueba.				Noticiero Univisión (N)	Noti. Univí. Ed. noc. (N)
CABLE								
A&E	Live PD: Police Patrol (N)	Live PD: Police Patrol (N)	Live Rescue Paramedics and first responders are followed as they answer emergency calls. (N)				Live PD: Police Patrol	Live PD: Police Patrol
AMC	Hacksaw Ridge Man fights in war without weapon.		Better Call Saul Jimmy enters uncharted territory. (N)		Dispatches from Elsewhere Clues followed. (N)		Better Call Saul Jimmy enters uncharted territory	
Animal Planet	Alaska: The Last Frontier: The Frozen Edge		Alaska: The Last Frontier: The Frozen Edge		Alaskan Bush People: Alaskan Grit (N)		Alaskan Bush People: Alaskan Grit Hunt for food. (N)	
BBC America	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Quark as female.		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Untamed Molly.		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Stranded officer.		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Sisko leads attack.	
BET	BET Star Cinema		BET Star Cinema					
Bravo	Below Deck Sailing Yacht		Below Deck Sailing Yacht (N)		Spy Games The contestants break codes. (N)		What Happens (N)	Below Deck
Cartoon	We Bare Bears	We Bare Bears	American Dad!	American Dad!	Bob’s Burgers	Bob’s Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy
CMT	Last Man Standing		Last Man Standing		Tommy Boy Underachiever teams up with snide accountant to try and save his dad’s business. (1995)			
CNBC	Shark Tank Wearable technology for napping.		Shark Tank Soft dress shirts are pitched.		American Greed: Scams Financial advisor. (N)		American Greed: Scams, Scoundrels and Scandals	
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360° (N)		Cuomo Prime Time (N)		CNN Tonight with Don Lemon (N)		CNN Tonight with Don Lemon (N)	
Comedy	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	Daily Show (N)	Lights Out (N)
Discovery	Street Outlaws The underground world of street racing is examined. (N)				The Fastest Cars in the Dirty South			
Disney	Disney Fam Jam	Sydney to the Max	Raven’s Home	Just Roll with It	Coop & Cami Ask	Sydney to the Max	Gabby & the Unsittables	Disney Fam Jam
DisXD	Player Select		Parker Plays		DuckTales Brazilian city.		DuckTales	
DIY	Maine Cabin Masters Wildlife sanctuary.		Maine Cabin Masters Historic cabin. (N)		Maine Cabin Masters Empty nesters.		Maine Cabin Masters Six week deadline.	
E!	Chrisley Knows Best	Chrisley Knows Best	Chrisley Knows Best	Chrisley Knows Best	Chrisley Knows Best	In The Room Chris Pratt.	Meet the Frasers (N)	Nightly Pop (N)
Food	Kids Baking Championship: Extra Icing (N)		Kids Baking Championship 3D dinosaur cookies. (N)		Kids Baking Championship (N) (Season finale)		Chopped Sweets Twist on cookies. (N)	
Fox News	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)		Hannity (N)		The Ingraham Angle (N)		Fox News at Night (N)	
Freeform	Guardians (2014) (6:00)	Back to the Future A time-traveling 1980s teen accidentally stops his own parents from meeting. Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd (1985)					The 700 Club	
FX	Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle Kids whisked into game’s jungle setting. Dwayne Johnson (2017) (7:30)				Breeders Go to sleep. (N) (Series premiere)		Breeders The children will not sleep; Ally’s father.	
FXX	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons
GSN	America Says	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud
Hallmark	A Novel Romance A romance novelist begins a promising new relationship with a book critic. (2015)				The Birthday Wish A woman makes her 30th birthday wish. Jessy Schram, Luke MacFarlane (2017)			
HGTV	Home Town		Home Town (N)		Home Town		Home Town	
History	American Pickers Guys check on old-school pick.		American Pickers Historic marina. (N)		Pawm Stars Vintage equine equipment. (N)		Pawm Stars Fake ID cards used by Nazi spies.	
HLN	Forensic Files II	Forensic Files II	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files
ID	American Monster Grandfather dead.		Twisted Love Nurse falls in love with her patient. (N)		Stranger Among Us A double murder. (N)		Betrayed An overworked woman hides a secret.	
IFC	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men
Lifetime	A Walk to Remember The cruelest boy in school romances a girl who is dedicated to helping others. (2002)				Easy A A high school student uses a lie about her virginity to her advantage. Emma Stone (2010) (10:03)			
MotorTrend	Bitchin’ Rides Pontiac Tempest.		Bitchin’ Rides Pontiac project.		Bitchin’ Rides The crew pieces together a Nova.		Bitchin’ Rides: Beyond Bitchin’ Former builds.	
MSNBC	All in with Chris Hayes (N)		The Rachel Maddow Show (N)		The Last Word with Lawrence O’Donnell (N)		The 11th Hour with Brian Williams (N)	
MTV	Ridiculousness		Ridiculousness		Ridiculousness (N)		Ridiculousness	
NatGeo	Brain Games: Bonus Round Subconscious and love. (N)		Brain Games Actors play several games. (N)		Brain Games Music’s impact on the brain is explored.		Brain Games Actors play several games.	
NatGeo Wild	Man vs. Shark Marine biologists tests an armored suit.		700 Sharks School of 700 sharks in Polynesia.		Great Shark Chow Down Sharks feed.		Man vs. Shark Marine biologists tests an armored suit.	
Nick	Alvin and the Chipmunks Jason Lee (2007) (7:00)		Friends		Friends		Friends	
OWN	Dateline on OWN Nancy Phister.		The Real Story with Maria Elena Salinas		Deadline: Crime with Tamron Hall Case goes cold.		Dateline on OWN Nancy Phister.	
Oxygen	NCIS Helping a DEA agent with a cold case.		NCIS Marine is found dead in Quantico.		NCIS Murder case linked to a former agent.		NCIS Abby enters into a hostage situation.	
Paramount	Cops Motorcyclist crash.		Cops Second chance at life.		Cops Bicycle getaway.		Cops Night bike ride.	
Pop	NCIS: New Orleans Sailor hit by bus.		NCIS: New Orleans Pride finds he is being watched.		Cops Bus-stop problem. (N)		Cops Armed driver.	
Science	How the Universe Works How the universe could have suddenly erupted out of nothingness into existence. (N)				NCIS: New Orleans Parade murder.		NCIS: New Orleans Hotel murder.	
Sundance	The Patriot The son of a war veteran joins the Continental Army to fight the British, and when he is taken prisoner, his father goes on a bloody quest for vengeance.				Mel Gibson (2000)		Gen. Daughter (1999)	
Syfy	R.I.P.D. Officers fight monstrous criminals. (2013)		Underworld: Blood Wars Selene and allies try to stop the ongoing war between Lycans and Vampires. (2017)		Futurama		Futurama	
TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad!	American Dad!	Conan (N)	Seinfeld Pez ruins recital.
TCM	Laura A detective becomes obsessed with a beautiful murder victim. (1944)		The Ghost and Mrs. Muir A woman befriends the ghost of a sailor. Gene Tierney, Rex Harrison (1947) (9:45)		My Fair Lady (1964)			
TLC	90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days Tom’s messages must be decrypted.				90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days		sMothered Cristina faced with issues in marriage.	
TNT	Beauty and the Beast Belle realizes the Beast may not be as terrible as he seems. Emma Watson, Dan Stevens (2017)				The Curious Case of Benjamin Button A man is born old and ages backwards.			
Travel	Beyond the Unknown Strange artifacts.		Beyond the Unknown Strange artifacts.		Beyond the Unknown Strange artifacts.		Beyond the Unknown Strange artifacts.	
TruTV	Impractical Jokers		Impractical Jokers		Impractical Jokers		Impractical Jokers	
TV Land	Loves Raymond		Loves Raymond		Everybody Loves Raymond Being polite.		The King of Queens	
USA	WWE Monday Night Raw				Two and a Half Men		Two and a Half Men	
VH1	Love & Hip Hop (N)		Love & Hip Hop Miami (N)		Love & Hip Hop		Love & Hip Hop Miami	
Viceland	Ax Men Job on line; mines found; deadly choice. (N)		Ax Men Thick fog; tough trees; river ravages. (N)		Ax Men Momentum shifts; great find; tough test. (N)		Ax Men Incompetence may cause job vacancies. (N)	
WE	Criminal Minds Kidnapper seeks victim’s twin sister.		Criminal Minds Sniper strikes in broad daylight.		Criminal Minds Serial killer preys on vacationers.		Criminal Minds Undercover cop vanishes.	
Weather	So You Think You’d Survive? Hunted by bear.		So You Think You’d Survive? Volcano; tsunami.		So You Think You’d Survive? Plane crash; more.		Ice Pilots: NWT The Electra’s landing gear is stuck.	
WGN America	Last Man Standing		Last Man Standing		Last Man Standing		Last Man Standing	
MOVIE NETWORKS								
Cinemax	Strike Back Kogan moves stolen military tech.	The Hurt Locker The members of an Army bomb squad try to survive the final days of their rotation in Iraq after they are saddled with a reckless new leader. Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie (2009) (8:50)				The Whole Ten Yards A former neighbor interrupts a retired hitman’s idyllic lifestyle. Bruce Willis (2004)		
Encore	Scarface A Cuban refugee becomes a Miami drug lord and struggles to maintain his power. Al Pacino (1983)		White Boy Rick When a teenage boy becomes an undercover informant for the FBI, he soon turns to a life of drug trafficking and is abandoned by his handlers. Matthew McConaughey, Richie Merritt (2018)				Searching When a man’s teen daughter goes missing, he searches her laptop for clues. John Cho (2018)	
FXM	Why Him? An overprotective father meets his daughter’s billionaire boyfriend and is dismayed to learn that he wants to marry his little girl. James Franco, Bryan Cranston (2016) (7:55)				Why Him? An overprotective father meets his daughter’s billionaire boyfriend and is dismayed to learn that he wants to marry his little girl. James Franco, Bryan Cranston (2016) (10:10)			
Hallmark Movies	Flower Shop Mysteries: Mum’s the Word Flower shop owner tracks down driver. Brooke Shields (2016)		Aurora Teagarden Mysteries: Real Murders A woman discovers that a member of her crime buff group, the Real Murders Club, has been killed in a way that closely resembles a case studied by the group. (2015)				Murder, She Wrote Jessica seeks out a secret ingredient in the ice cream, while keeping a promise.	
HBO	Gangs of New York A young man infiltrates a violent New York gang with plans for vengeance. (2002) (6:05)		The New Pope Sofia retrieves Brannox from Dolomites; Voiello is forced to fix things. (N)		McMillion\$ FBI listens to an important call; technical error threatens indictments. (N)		The New Pope Sofia retrieves Brannox from Dolomites; Voiello is forced to fix things.	
Lifetime Movie	The Wrong Nanny When an adopted child finds her birth mother and learns about her seemingly ideal family life, she becomes their nanny in efforts to get back into the family. Lindsay Hartley, Freya Tingley (2017)				The Babysitter’s Revenge While a teenage babysitter holds a grudge following an embarrassing family scandal, she discovers that the town’s Queen Bee may be to blame and seeks revenge. (2020)			
Showtime	Homeland Saul prepares to make an announcement; Carrie receives a surprise.		Kidding Lifetime Achievement Award.		Kidding Jeff starts a new Pickles family.		Homeland Saul prepares to make an announcement; Carrie receives a surprise.	
Starz	Wrong Man Two experts share their theory that the victims were killed after disappearance.		Aquarela A filmmaker travels to capture images of the beauty and power of water. (2019)		Outlander A militia must be assembled; setter needs to save himself and his brother.		The Aviator Wealthy Texan’s aeronautical fame.	
TMC	The House With A Clock In Its Walls After a young boy is sent to live with his warlock uncle, he is exposed to a world of magic after discovering that a doomsday clock is hidden in his home. Jack Black (2018)				The Dark Tower An 11-year-old boy and a lone Gunslinger begin a journey to save civilization. Idris Elba, Matthew McConaughey (2017)			
SPORTS NETWORKS								
ESPN	College Basketball North Carolina State vs. Duke		College Basketball Texas Tech Red Raiders at Baylor Bears from Ferrell Center (Live)				SportsCenter	
ESPN2	Women’s College Basketball (Live)		All-Star Football Challenge from AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas				2019 World Series of Poker Main Event	
FS1	PBA Bowling PBA Indianapolis Open		PBC Collection Berto vs. Alexander		PBC Countdown Adam Kownacki vs. Robert Helenius		XFL Football Houston Rougneys vs. Dallas Renegades	
Golf	Feherty Henrik Stenson		Feherty Scott Van Pelt		Feherty Scott Van Pelt		Golf Central	
MLB	MLB Spring Training Tampa Bay vs. Baltimore		MLB Spring Training San Francisco Giants vs. Arizona		Diamondbacks from Salt River Fields at Talking Stick			
NBA	NBA Basketball Milwaukee Bucks at Miami Heat from AmericanAirlines Arena (Live)				NBA Postgame (Live)		NBA GameTime (Live)	
NBCSports	American Ninja Warrior Four-part course.		American Ninja Warrior Four-part course.		American Ninja Warrior Final four-stage course.		American Ninja Warrior Stage two of the final course.	
NFLN	A Football Life		A Football Life		A Football Life		NFL Total Access: Endgame	