

USA TODAY WEEKEND



Loyola-Chicago this year's first bracket buster

11th-seeded Ramblers knock Miami (Fla.) out of NCAA Tournament with buzzer-beating three-pointer. **In Sports**

TIM HEITMAN/USA TODAY SPORTS

NEWSLINE

IN NEWS

At least 4 killed in Miami bridge collapse

Newly installed 950-ton pedestrian walkway fell on busy highway

IN OPINION

Let college athletes be like Jodie Foster

Mitch Albom: Student musicians, actors earn money. Why not jocks?

IN MONEY

Celebs raise toast to profitable liquor biz

With sales of liquor on the rise, A-Listers are cashing in on cachet

IN LIFE



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Vikander's Lara Croft in step with 2018

"Tomb Raider" hero no longer sporting cartoonish, hyper-sexualized outfits

Hitman Hader catches acting bug in 'Barry'

Former "SNL" star lives parallel lives in alternately hilarious and violent series



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About **6 in 10** Americans plan to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and 83% will wear green.

SOURCE National Retail Federation survey of 7,675 consumers
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USA TODAY ILLUSTRATION, PHOTO BY GETTY IMAGES

WHERE THERE'S STREAMING, THERE'S SMOKE

New entertainment outlets face fewer limits on lighting up

Bill Keveney
USA TODAY

Many young fans have embraced the retro, 1980s world of Netflix's *Stranger Things*, but its atmosphere conveys more than moodiness. There's a lot of cigarette smoke, too.

"While You Were Streaming," a new study from the anti-smoking group Truth Initiative, counted 182 scenes with smoking or images with cigarettes in the eight-episode first season of the supernatural drama.

Stranger Things topped the list in an examination of smoking on 14 shows the group's survey found were most popular with Americans ages 15 to 24, the age group most likely to take up smoking.

Researchers worry that scenes of smoking, often featured to convey authenticity in a growing genre of period programs that trace back to *Mad Men*, may reverse a trend of declining use by glamorizing and re-normalizing cigarettes.

The study found a prime offender in Netflix, the increasingly popular streaming service, which has fewer content restrictions and no advertisers to push back.

In an examination of 230 TV episodes from the 2015-16 season, the study found 458 smoking-related instances (including smoking

See **SMOKING**, Page 2A

Incidents of smoking on select TV shows during the 2015-2016 season:

Netflix
319

- Stranger Things (182)
- Orange Is the New Black (45)
- House of Cards (41)
- Fuller House (22)
- Making a Murderer (20)
- Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt (9)
- Daredevil (0)

Broadcast/Cable shows
139

- The Walking Dead (94)
- Modern Family (20)
- American Horror Story (15)
- Bones (9)
- Pretty Little Liars (1)
- The Big Bang Theory (0)
- Once Upon a Time (0)

SOURCE: TRUTHINITIATIVE.ORG

Russian sanctions are largely symbolic

Meddling penalties long overdue, senator says

Gregory Korte
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON - Sanctions imposed by the Trump administration Thursday include its first use of a new law intended to punish Russia for allegedly interfering in the 2016 presidential election campaign.

A closer look at the five entities and 19 individuals added to the sanctions list shows that the move is largely symbolic: About a third had already been sanctioned under the Obama and Trump administrations, and the individual-level sanctions are unlikely to have an effect on the Russian economy.

"Symbolism is important when it comes to sanctions," said Andrew Keller, a former deputy assistant secretary.

See **SANCTIONS**, Page 2A



Toys R Us may close all U.S. stores. AP

Toymakers have less play with Toys R Us gone

Charisse Jones
USA TODAY

Roger Dreyer was about to get the chance of a lifetime — his Fantasma toy company's Nuclear Neon Slime was going to get the sweet spot of being in the checkout lane of Toys R Us stores across America.

Then word came that the toy store chain was on the verge of going out of business. And "that (chance) ended as quick as it started," Dreyer said.

Toys R Us' announcement that it intends to liquidate and potentially close its remaining 735 U.S. stores is a blow to major toy makers. But it's the small companies, such as Dreyer's, that will get hurt the most.

Toy making giants Mattel and Hasbro counted on Toys R Us for a sizable chunk of their sales. But smaller

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Cigarette nicotine levels could drop

FDA explores ways to reduce power to addict

Josh Hafner
USA TODAY

In what he called a “pivotal step,” Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb announced Thursday a plan to explore lowering nicotine levels in cigarettes to make them less addictive — or not addictive at all.

About 15% of U.S. adults smoke, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Courts ordered ads in which tobacco companies had to admit their products kill 1,200 Americans every day.

“This unprecedented public health opportunity, contrasted against the cost of doing nothing, weighs heavily on me,” Gottlieb said in a statement.

Thursday’s announcement kicks off a long process that will seek comment, research and data for public review. The agency plans to announce similar explorations to regulate menthol cigarettes and premium cigars.

“We’re interested in public input on critical questions such as: What potential maximum nicotine level would be appropriate for the protection of public health? Should a product standard be implemented all at once or gradually?” Gottlieb said.

Gottlieb cited an FDA-funded study published Thursday in *The New England Journal of Medicine* estimating that a hypothetical version of a policy lowering nicotine levels could result in as many as 5 million people quitting smoking within a year.

The FDA does not want to make cigarettes harder to get. Gottlieb noted, “We must make it possible for current adult smokers who still seek nicotine to get it from alternative and less harmful sources.”

The move could result in massive shifts for the tobacco industry.

“As this process gets underway, we look forward to working with FDA on its science-based review of nicotine levels in cigarettes and to build on the opportunity of establishing a regulatory framework that is based on tobacco harm reduction and recognizes the continuum of risk,” James Figlar, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco’s executive vice president of research and development, said in a statement to NPR.



The anti-smoking group Truth Initiative expresses concern that smoking is slipping back into popular television shows outside standard network constraints. PHOTOS BY AMC; NETFLIX



Smoking

Continued from Page 1A

products used or seen). More than 400 series aired that year, so the survey is not representative of TV overall.

AMC’s *The Walking Dead* finished second with 94 incidents, followed by four more Netflix series: *Orange Is the New Black* (45); *House of Cards* (41); and family sitcom *Fuller House* (22), though Netflix says plot points in that family sitcom take an anti-smoking stance.

Streaming content “has grown astronomically in the last few years, with a lot of great shows. As all of us are watching, nobody was paying attention to the fact that tobacco imagery is all over this content. We’re really concerned,” says Truth Initiative President and CEO Robin Koval.

Reynolds American, the parent of R.J. Reynolds and other tobacco companies, says it doesn’t pay for or otherwise encourage the placement of cigarettes in TV or films, and Altria, which owns Philip Morris USA, refuses to grant permission to use its brands.

Research from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services shows that youths exposed to smoking in film and TV are twice as likely to become smokers.

Koval suggests smoking on TV shows could increase if streaming services continue to rapidly expand programming and don’t adopt policies discouraging smoking like those in

“As all of us are watching, nobody was paying attention to the fact that tobacco imagery is all over this content.”

Robin Koval
Truth Initiative president and CEO

place at the broadcast networks.

“The (broadcast) networks have grown up in an era of stricter standards and practices, and they’re beholden to advertisers, all the things that tend to restrict content, whereas Netflix, Hulu, Amazon, that’s the brave new world and advertiser-free for the most part,” she says.

According to a study in 2017 sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the smoking rate among high school students continues to decline, from 23% in 2000 to 5.4% today. “Yet all this imagery is going up,” Koval says. “What frightens us is that all this progress could be undone as smoking gets re-glamorized and normalized.”

Asked for a response to the findings, Netflix said in a statement that “while streaming entertainment is more popular than ever, we’re glad that smoking is not.”

Broadcast networks discourage smoking in shows and permit it only when it frowns upon the behavior. In films, Disney won’t allow smoking

scenes in films rated G, PG or PG-13, except in the case of historical figures or if the activity emphasizes the negative consequences.

Smoking was a common sight during TV’s early years. After the U.S. surgeon general and National Cancer Institute reported on the health and cancer risks posed by cigarettes, Congress banned cigarette commercials, starting in 1971, and the networks cut back on scenes with smoking.

Because there were no programming alternatives, “it was very narrowly controlled,” TV historian Tim Brooks says.

More recently, cable and streaming services have created more narrowly focused shows and don’t worry about language or behavior that might offend mass audiences (or advertisers), Brooks says. Their content isn’t regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, which grants broadcast licenses.

Smoking “is not making that kind of comeback ... on the major broadcast or cable network shows that a lot of people see, but it is more visible” on other outlets, Brooks says.

Koval acknowledges the study’s narrow focus and hopes the results lead to broader research efforts that would track smoking in other popular shows such as *Westworld*, *Veep* and *Saturday Night Live*.

Apart from recommending that programmers eliminate all smoking references, Koval says they should be factored into TV’s content ratings system and state governments should take a show’s presentation of smoking into account when awarding tax breaks.

Toymakers

Continued from Page 1A

brands often got a game-changing amount of exposure when they were featured on the shelves of the chain, which had the space and year-round focus to promote lesser-known items.

“They were the one bastion where you could show the full line of your products at bricks and mortar, and it’s going to be a shame to see them go,” says Neil Friedman, CEO of Alex Brands, a toy company based in Fairfield, N.J.

Walmart and Target, the other key players in the toys space along with Amazon, are more likely to stock up on top-selling gadgets and action figures than to take a chance on new products, says Ray Wimer, a professor of retail at Syracuse University.

“They’re only going to carry the best-selling toys and games,” he says. “They’re not going to experiment. ... So losing Toys R Us for the small toy manufacturer is a big hit for them.”

Fantasma Toys, a 17-year-old New York City-based company, specializes in magic products along with remote-control spiders and various slime concoctions. Dreyer said Toys R Us gave him a wider berth, featuring seven of his products as compared with other retailers that just sold two or three.

But there may be good news for some. Dreyer says he has been approached by two large retailers that are now looking to expand their selection of toys.

“Toy companies like us are going to be hurt for a short period,” he says. “But there are a lot of retailers that are now looking to capitalize on Toys R Us’ demise.”

Sanctions

Continued from Page 1A

tary of State for sanctions in the Obama administration. That’s particularly true here, he said, because “it’s really the first statement of the Trump administration, from a sanctions standpoint, with regard to Russia’s election meddling.”

“That said, as a practical matter, these sanctions may not be particularly impactful,” he said.

Among the five entities sanctioned Thursday by the Treasury Department is the Internet Research Agency, which was indicted by a grand jury last month as part of special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russians to interfere in the election. The agency is accused of being a propaganda outfit that used fake identities as Americans on social media to sow divisiveness during the presidential campaign.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the new round of sanctions shows that the Trump administration is “confronting and countering malign Russian cyber activity, including their attempted interference in U.S. elections, destructive cyberattacks and intrusions targeting critical infrastructure.”

It’s the first round of sanctions under the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act — a bill President Trump signed reluctantly last year in the face of a veto-proof congressional majority. The Treasury Department uses that law to target the Russian Federal Security Service, or FSB; the Main Intelligence Directorate, or GRU; and six GRU officials.

The sanctions freeze any assets of the Russian agents held in U.S. dollars and block U.S. citizens from engaging in business with them.

Senate Intelligence Committee Vice Chairman Mark Warner, D-Va., said the sanctions were long overdue.

Many targets of Thursday’s actions were already on U.S. sanctions lists. Yevgeniy Prigozhin, a Russian oligarch was sanctioned for the third time after designations under the Obama and Trump administrations.

He joins the Internet Research Agency and 12 others indicted by Mueller’s grand jury last month. They were all sanctioned under an Obama-era executive order targeting malicious cyber-related activity.

Also cited in the sanctions: the NotPetya cyberattack, which affected hospitals and disrupted shipping last year. In February, the White House attributed that attack to the Russian military, calling it the “most destructive and costly cyberattack in history.”

The sanctions had been in the works for weeks, but they came just as the United States accused Russia of using a nerve agent to poison a former double agent in the United Kingdom. Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, were poisoned in the English town of Salisbury. As a sign of solidarity with European allies, the United States signed on to a joint statement condemning Russia in the incident.

At the Oval Office on Thursday, Trump said, “It certainly looks like the Russians were behind it.” It’s “something that should never, ever happen, and we’re taking it very seriously, as I think are many others,” he said.

National security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said more sanctions are in the works.

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4 killed in university bridge collapse

Cars passing on freeway below buried under tons of falling rubble

Doug Stanglin
and Alan Gomez
USA TODAY

MIAMI — A newly installed 950-ton pedestrian bridge at Florida International University collapsed Thursday, crushing vehicles on a busy highway below and killing at least four people.

Miami-Dade County Fire Chief Dave Downey confirmed at briefing Thursday night that four people had been found dead at the scene. Nine victims were taken to hospitals “early on,” he said, without elaborating on their conditions.

Teams were in an “urgent search-and-rescue mode” and mobilized search dogs and heavy cranes, Miami-Dade Deputy Mayor Maurice Kemp said. Kemp said eight cars traveling on the seven-lane highway were trapped under tons of rubble.

One girl seated in the front of a car escaped injury when a slab of the bridge crushed the rear half of the vehicle, the *Miami Herald* reported.

The National Transportation Safety Board tweeted that it sent investigators to the site.

Leslie Vazquez was driving home along 8th Street — also known as U.S. Route 41 — when she realized something felt strange. “I was thinking, ‘Oh my God, the bridge isn’t there,’” said Vazquez, 43, a housewife who lives nearby and traveled the route two days ago.

She pulled over and saw victims crawling out of the rubble. Some were bloodied, all were frantic. “They were screaming,” she said.

Vazquez said the painful irony of the collapse is that the bridge was built specifically to ensure the safety of FIU students who have to cross fast-moving traffic along the wide street. “I was just telling my husband how good this is, how they’re not running the risk of getting hit,” she said. “This is so sad.”



Emergency workers respond to a collapsed pedestrian bridge at Florida International University on Thursday in the Miami area. Search-and-rescue teams used dogs and cranes to go through the rubble. ALAN GOMEZ/USA TODAY

“That could’ve been me. A lot of people died. It really is sad. We’ve got to stay together after this.”

Tana Melvin
Florida International University sophomore

The main part of the \$14.2 million structure, which was installed Saturday, spanned 174 feet over the highway, linking the university’s campus to the city of Sweetwater. It was scheduled to open in early 2019.

Tana Melvin was sitting in his dorm room a couple of hundred yards away from the bridge when his social media feeds blew up with news of the collapse. Then came the calls from family and

friends checking on him. Melvin, 20, a sophomore studying accounting, said he had several friends who moved into the off-campus housing that the bridge was designed for. He struggled to contact them Thursday afternoon, hoping they weren’t among the victims.

“That could’ve been me,” Melvin said. “A lot of people died. It really is sad. We’ve got to stay together after this.”

FIU spokesperson Maydel Santana-Bravo said the university was “shocked and saddened about the tragic events.” The school is on spring break.

MCM Construction, the Miami-based, family-owned company that built the bridge, issued a statement on its Facebook page saying its “thoughts and prayers go out to everyone affected by this terrible tragedy.”

It said the bridge was under construction and “experienced a catastrophic collapse causing injuries and

loss of life.” MCM pledged to cooperate fully with investigators to determine what went wrong.

Gov. Rick Scott tweeted, “I will be in constant communication with law enforcement throughout the day.”

In a news release Saturday about the bridge’s installation, the university said workers lifted the main span of the bridge from temporary supports, rotated it 90 degrees across the highway and lowered it into its permanent position.

“FIU is about building bridges and student safety. This project accomplishes our mission beautifully,” FIU President Mark Rosenberg said in a statement accompanying the news release. “We are filled with pride and satisfaction at seeing this engineering feat come to life and connect our campus to the surrounding community where thousands of our students live.”

Stanglin reported from McLean, Va.

IN BRIEF

Trump Organization documents subject of Mueller subpoena

Special counsel Robert Mueller has issued a formal demand for documents from the Trump Organization as part of his inquiry into Russian meddling in the 2016 election, two people with knowledge of the matter said Thursday. The subpoena is the first acknowledged demand for records from President Trump’s firm. The development was first reported Thursday by *The New York Times*.

Trump Organization attorney Alan S. Futerfas said the company has been “fully cooperative” with Mueller’s inquiry, though he did not specifically address the subpoena.

Prosecutors drop assault charges in Penn State hazing death

Pennsylvania prosecutors dropped all assault charges Thursday against members of a now-closed Penn State fraternity in the hazing death of a pledge. The state attorney general’s office said it will continue to pursue involuntary manslaughter charges against four former members of Beta Theta Pi in the February 2017 death of pledge Tim Piazza, 19, of Lebanon, N.J.

Navy jet crashes off Key West, killing both crew members

A U.S. Navy fighter jet crashed Wednesday off the coast of Key West, killing its two crew members. The F/A-18 Super Hornet was on approach to land at a naval air station about 4:30 p.m. ET when it crashed about a mile east of the runway.

Slovakia’s government resigns over slain journalist crisis

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico and his government resigned Thursday as a way out of the crisis triggered by the slayings of an investigative journalist and his fiancée.

Tens of thousands of Slovaks protested last week to demand a thorough investigation into the shooting deaths of Jan Kuciak and Martina Kusnirova.

From staff and wire reports

Asylum seekers sue government: ‘What we got was a prison’

Homeland Security holds many in indefinite detention

Alan Gomez
USA TODAY

Asylum seekers who have been held in U.S. detention centers since applying to enter the country filed a class-action lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security on Thursday in the latest legal attack against President Trump’s attempts to limit immigration.

The suit claims that Homeland Security has violated U.S. law by refusing to allow entire groups of asylum seekers to be released on parole from prisons and detention centers while their applications are decided.

The lawsuit, filed by a group of civil rights organizations in federal court in the District of Columbia on behalf of nine plaintiffs, estimates that more than 1,000 asylum seekers face indefinite detention even though they have passed initial screenings to verify their stories and pose no threat to national security.

“We came to the U.S. seeking freedom, and what we got was a prison,” Abelardo Asensio Callol, 30, a software engineer from Cuba, said by phone from the York County, Pa., Prison where he’s been held for several months.

Asylum is an immigration status granted to people already in the USA who fear they will be persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality or political views if forced to return to their home country. The United States has approved an average of 23,668 asylum applications a year over the past decade.

People who present themselves at U.S. borders are allowed to claim asylum. Homeland Security agents interview those people, and if the agent de-

termines the applicant has a “credible fear” of returning home, the asylum seeker is allowed to present his or her case before an immigration judge. In 2009, the Obama administration instituted a policy that made it easier for asylum applicants to be released on parole while their cases were decided.

The Trump administration has used a variety of measures to limit legal and illegal immigration, from its controversial travel ban mostly targeting majority-Muslim countries to its attempts to limit refugee admissions to the USA. The asylum program has not been spared.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the asylum system is fraught with abuse by immigrants coached on what they have to say and “dirty immigration lawyers” who exploit loopholes in the system. During a speech in October, Sessions said more than half of asylum applicants released on parole never show up for their court hearings, indicating “their claim of fear was simply a ruse to enter the country illegally.”

“The system is being gamed,” Sessions said.

Immigration advocates disputed those numbers and said the only ones gaming the system are Homeland Security officials who treat asylum seekers as criminals.

Hardy Vieux, legal director for Human Rights First and one of the attorneys who filed the lawsuit, said every presidential administration has the authority to implement its own policies, but the Constitution and the 72-year-old Administrative Procedure Act require that new regulations be implemented through a formal process to ensure they are legal and constitutional. Vieux said the Trump administration has violated those tenets by keeping the 2009 Obama-era memo in place, yet eliminating the possibility of parole for asylum seekers.



Callol

Parkland video shows deputy standing by during shooting

Ashley May
USA TODAY

Surveillance video released Thursday shows Deputy Scot Peterson standing outside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School while Nikolas Cruz fatally shot 17 students and staff.

The Broward County Sheriff’s Office, which released the video, identified Peterson in the footage, adding that it “speaks for itself.”

On the afternoon of Feb. 14, Peterson, the school’s armed resource officer, responded to the building where the shooting was unfolding within 90 seconds of the start of gunfire, Sheriff Scott Israel said. He positioned himself outside the building but never went in throughout the six-minute shooting, Israel said.

In the video, a man runs toward a school building at 2:23 p.m., when the initial 911 calls came in, and stands outside for several minutes.

President Trump and Israel criticized Peterson’s actions. The deputy resigned.

After multiple media organizations, including the USA TODAY NETWORK, petitioned for the release of the video, a Florida judge ordered this week that it be made public.

Peterson’s lawyer, Joseph DiRuzzo, said his client was unfairly described as a “coward” for following protocol. DiRuzzo said Peterson believed the shooting was taking place outside the school, and protocol for such an incident would require taking up a “tactical position” outside the building and initiating a Code Red lockdown.

DiRuzzo said Peterson had the “presence of mind” to have school administrators go to the school’s video room and review the closed-circuit cameras to locate the shooter and obtain a description for law enforcement.

Other Broward County deputies are under investigation for staying outside the school during the mass shooting.

Contributing: John Bacon

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Natalie Martin | **Chiara Olayer**, Team Health, East Cooper Medical Center | **Caleb Pearson**, The Caleb Pearson Team | **Beth Pope**, Celgene | **Lisa Richart-Hernandez**, The Lisa Richard-Hernandez Team of Keller Williams | **Lisa Roins**, Color Studios | **Katie Strumpf-Rackley**, General Data Healthcare | **Mark W. Weeks**, Weeks & Irvine, LLC | **Todd Wigfield**, Greystar Real Estate Partners | **MIDLANDS (COLUMBIA):** **Eric Bopp**, South Carolina DMV | **A. Jewitte Dooley**, Jewitte Dooley Law | **Michele Keys**, US Lawns | **Angela Klosterman**, First Citizens Bank | **Zach Minton**, K2 Tech | **Mee Jean Sasine**, blueCross BlueShield of South Carolina
Mary Lane Sloan, The ART of Real Estate | **Kevin Vamadore**, Crescent Construction
UPSTATE (GREENVILLE/SPARTANBURG): **Liz Blackwood**, International Ballet Company
Olivia Esquivel, Southern Pressed Juicery | **Addie Finch**, Tufin | **Tamara Gunter**, Allstate

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STATE-BY-STATE

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Vestavia Hills: The city has captured 13 coyotes and says its traps are humane; People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals disagrees.

ALASKA Ketchikan: The Taku, a ferry that served in the state system for 52 years, has left for Singapore after being sold for \$171,000.

ARIZONA Phoenix: Yolanda Young, 46, suspected of six bank robberies since last year, has been arrested.

ARKANSAS Little Rock: Sixty-one counties have been designated federal disaster areas, making farmers and ranchers eligible for assistance.

CALIFORNIA San Diego: Two Tasmanian devils from Australia are settling in at the San Diego Zoo.

COLORADO Denver: The administrator of the state Senate has warned staff, aides and interns that policy forbids them from speaking to journalists about workplace issues.

CONNECTICUT Hartford: A University of Connecticut medical official has been disciplined in the case of a professor who continued to receive payment for months after he was slain.

DELAWARE Dover: Two recent flu-related deaths brought Delaware's season total to 30.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: The peak bloom period for the city's cherry blossoms is March 27-31.

FLORIDA West Palm Beach: Officials say a 6-year-old kindergartner put his father's loaded gun in his backpack and brought it into his class.

GEORGIA Savannah: Vice President Pence will attend the St. Patrick's Day parade this weekend.

HAWAII Honolulu: Workers have begun replacing street lamp light bulbs with energy-efficient lights.

IDAHO Boise: Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter has signed a bill that would allow motorists or passers-by to humanely dispatch an injured animal.

ILLINOIS Rockford: A new elemen-

tary school will be named for Constance Renick Lane, the city's first black public school teacher.

INDIANA Kokomo: Six-year-old Malachi Fronczak's lemonade stand raised more than \$7,000 for the family of a slain Boone County sheriff's deputy, Jacob Pickett.

IOWA Des Moines: Senate Republicans have elected Jack Whitver of Ankeny as their majority leader.

KANSAS Lawrence: University of Kansas sororities say they support suspending social activities for fraternities until a safer environment is created.

KENTUCKY Owensboro: Former University of Kentucky board of trustees Chairman Billy Joe Miles has died.

LOUISIANA St. Joseph: The town's tap water is safe to drink after \$8.6 million in repairs.

MAINE Portland: Ready Seafood Co. plans to build lobster processing facilities in Saco, south of Portland.

MARYLAND Baltimore: University of Maryland men's basketball coach Mark Turgeon is again the highest-paid state employee, earning \$2.72 million last year.

MASSACHUSETTS Revere: Necco candy company will shut down unless it finds a buyer.

MICHIGAN Lansing: Schools Superintendent Brian Whiston is taking long-term disability leave.

MINNESOTA Minneapolis: A Minneapolis man who claimed his girlfriend distracted him with a kiss before he slammed his car into a stoplight, killing her, was convicted of criminal vehicular homicide.

MISSISSIPPI Biloxi: The city is closing the 88-year-old Saenger Theater for repairs, WLOX-TV reports.

MISSOURI Jefferson City: The state Senate gave initial approval to a bill that would prohibit pregnant prisoners in some jails from being restrained while giving birth.

MONTANA Helena: Timothy Adams, Green Party candidate for U.S. Senate, was on the state Republican Party payroll, documents show.

NEBRASKA Lincoln: Hundreds gathered Tuesday to celebrate the life of former governor Charley Thone, who died March 7 at 94.

NEVADA Carson City: Officials say Nevada's population is quickly approaching 3 million.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Portsmouth: Preliminary designers for repair work on the Piscataqua River Bridge estimate construction could take until 2021.

NEW JERSEY Atlantic City: Revenue from table games and slot machines fell 6.5% last month compared with February 2017.

NEW MEXICO Albuquerque: State Democrats have 60 days to find a new leader after Richard Ellenberg resigned.

NEW YORK New York: The city's first sake brewery has opened in Brooklyn.

NORTH CAROLINA Raleigh: A judge is again delaying the trial of Basit Sheikh, accused of trying to join al-Qaeda-linked fighters in Syria.

NORTH DAKOTA Bismarck: The federal Education Department has awarded grants to build elementary schools serving the Standing Rock and Spirit Lake Sioux communities.

OHIO New Miami: Ordered to repay \$3 million in citations stemming from automated traffic cameras, New Miami has asked the Ohio Supreme Court to hear its appeal.

OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City: A plan to give schoolteachers a pay raise has fallen short in the Senate.

OREGON Salem: The Oregon Supreme Court has suspended Marion County Circuit Court Judge Vance Day, who refused to marry gay couples in the state, for three years.

PENNSYLVANIA Harrisburg: Gov. Tom Wolf will be co-chairman with

Auditor General Eugene DePasquale of the School Safety Task Force.

RHODE ISLAND Providence: The state House has passed a bill to allow children in public schools to bring in sunscreen without a doctor's note.

SOUTH CAROLINA Columbia: The Department of Corrections is subjecting prisoners to cruel and unusual punishment by not testing them for hepatitis C, an inmate's lawsuit says.

SOUTH DAKOTA Sioux Falls: Emily Fodness, who survived a collapsed building in Sioux Falls, is suing its developer and construction company, the *Argus Leader* reported.

TENNESSEE Nashville: All 56 state parks will offer free hikes March 24.

TEXAS Austin: A new report says legislators in 2017 diverted attention from topics like education and taxes to focus on a failed "bathroom bill."

UTAH Salt Lake City: Health officials say Utah pharmacies dispensed about 4,275 doses of naloxone, used to reverse the effects of overdoses, *The Deseret News* reported.

VERMONT Burlington: The University of Vermont has recovered a rhinoceros horn stolen last year.

VIRGINIA Alexandria: No one was hurt when a police officer accidentally fired his gun while at a middle school.

WASHINGTON Seattle: Gov. Jay Insee directed state agencies to take steps to protect killer whales.

WEST VIRGINIA Charleston: A company building a natural gas pipeline was ordered to halt construction.

WISCONSIN Madison: Officials are launching the state's first elk hunt this fall in Sawyer, Bayfield, Ashland and Price counties.

WYOMING Cheyenne: Gov. Matt Mead has vetoed a bill that would provide tougher penalties for protesters at facilities such as oil pipelines, *The Casper Star-Tribune* reports.

From staff and wire reports

WEATHER WEATHER ONLINE USATODAY.COM

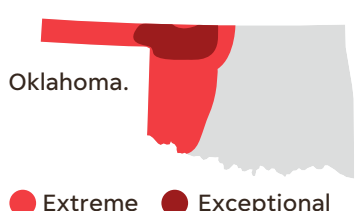
Breaking News Ground Download our free app, now with virtual reality.

FRONT & CENTER

Almost all of New England has picked up 1-2 feet of snow so far this month.

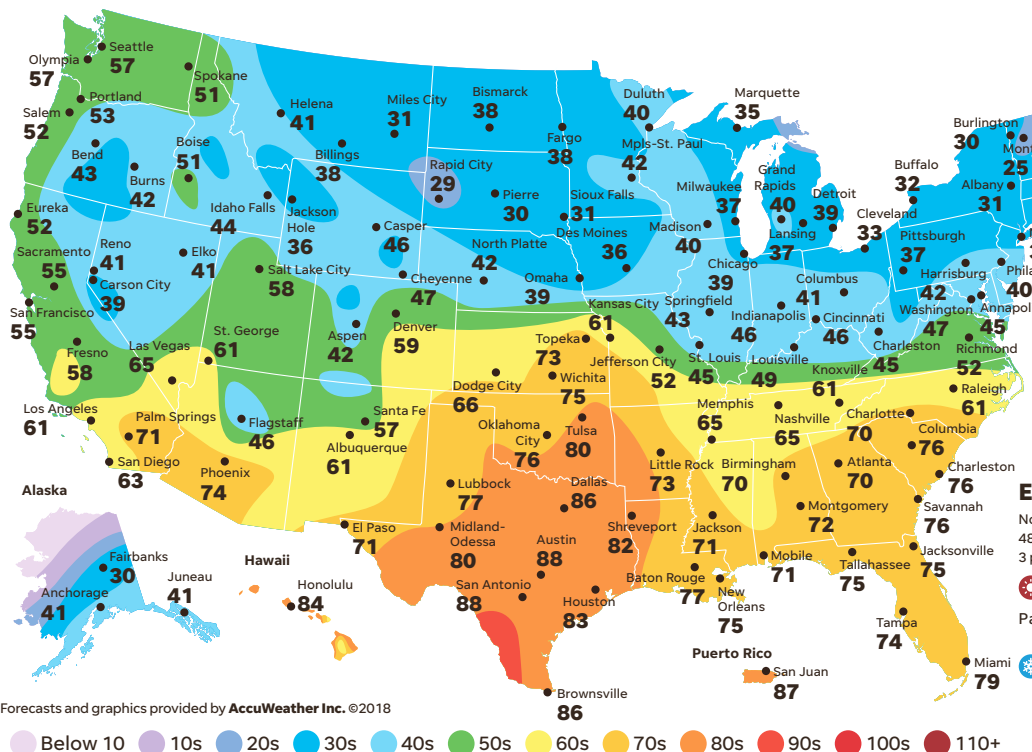
On this date in 1990, with a low of 68 degrees, Raleigh, N.C., had its warmest March night on record.

Where is the USA's worst drought now?



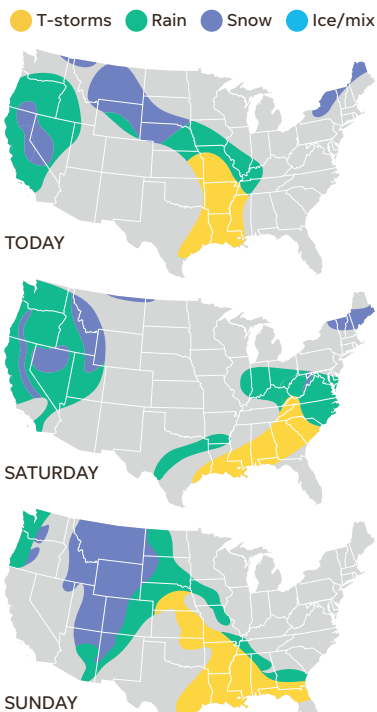
● Extreme ● Exceptional SOURCE National Weather Service, AccuWeather, U.S. Drought Monitor DOYLE RICE, KARL GELLES/USA TODAY @USATODAYWEATHER

TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES



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PRECIPITATION FORECAST



TOP TRAVEL CITIES Air quality index (AQI)

CITY	FRI	SAT	SUN	AQI
ATLANTA	Partly sunny 70/56	T-storms 74/54	Partly sunny 73/54	Moderate
BALTIMORE	Partly sunny 45/26	A.P.M. shower 49/28	Mostly sunny 50/27	Good
BOSTON	Windy 39/24	Mostly sunny 36/15	Mostly sunny 32/18	Good
CHARLOTTE	Partly sunny 70/46	A few showers 66/48	Partly sunny 64/45	Good
CHICAGO	Some sun 39/31	Clearing 45/28	Not as cool 54/33	Moderate
DALLAS	Sun, clouds 86/57	Partly sunny 85/64	Shower, t-storm 80/58	Moderate
DENVER	Partly sunny 59/30	Mostly sunny 65/33	Rain, snow 52/26	Good
DETROIT	Mostly sunny 39/25	Milder 47/27	Mostly sunny 54/29	Good
HONOLULU	A.P.M. shower 84/69	Some sun, mid 84/72	Incr. clouds 83/72	Good
HOUSTON	Shower, t-storm 83/67	T-storm 85/69	T-storm 84/64	Good
LAS VEGAS	Some sun, cool 65/50	Shower 61/44	Some sun, cool 61/45	Good
LOS ANGELES	Shower 61/50	Clearing 61/47	Some sun, cool 64/50	Good
MIAMI	Sunny, nice 79/65	Mostly sunny 81/64	Mostly sunny 83/65	Good
MPLS-ST. PAUL	Mostly sunny 42/25	Sunny, milder 49/30	Partly sunny 51/33	Good
NEW ORLEANS	A.P.M. t-storm 75/65	T-storms 79/64	Shower, t-storm 79/67	Good
NEW YORK	Partly sunny 75/55	Mostly sunny 46/26	Sunny 43/29	Good
ORLANDO	Sunny, nice 78/52	Partly sunny 84/56	Mostly sunny 86/60	Good
PHILADELPHIA	Windy, cold 40/28	Mostly sunny 50/27	Mostly sunny 46/28	Good
PHOENIX	Partly sunny 74/53	Partly sunny 71/50	Partly sunny 68/48	Good
SALT LAKE CITY	Milder 58/44	A little rain 52/30	A bit of snow 46/36	Good
SAN DIEGO	Shower 63/56	A few showers 62/53	Partly sunny 63/51	Good
SAN FRANCISCO	Showers 55/46	Shower 57/44	Partly sunny 58/45	Good
SEATTLE	Partly sunny 57/38	A.P.M. shower 53/39	Shower 54/39	Good
WASHINGTON	Partly sunny 47/31	A.P.M. shower 47/30	Partly sunny 55/32	Good

CITY	TODAY	SAT	CITY	TODAY	SAT	CITY	TODAY	SAT
Akron, Ohio	35/22pc	42/21c	Cincinnati	46/34pc	47/28r	Hartford, Conn.	36/22w	38/14pc
Albany, N.Y.	31/22pc	33/12s	Cleveland	33/24pc	39/24c	Indianapolis	46/34c	47/27sh
Albuquerque	61/39c	65/38pc	Colorado Springs	62/28s	60/32s	Islip, N.Y.	39/25w	44/23pc
Allentown, Pa.	63/22w	48/22pc	Columbia, S.C.	76/50s	73/55sh	Jackson, Miss.	71/62t	81/60t
Amarillo, Texas	75/37s	70/43pc	Columbus, Ohio	41/28s	42/24i	Jacksonville, Fla.	75/48s	82/57pc
Anaheim, Calif.	62/49c	63/46pc	Corpus Christi, Texas	81/68c	82/69pc	Jacksonville, Fla.	61/38t	54/31pc
Anchorage, Alaska	41/26c	36/29pc	Dayton, Ohio	41/29pc	42/24i	Key West, Fla.	78/70s	81/71pc
Aspen, Colo.	42/24pc	49/27pc	Daytona Beach, Fla.	74/49s	81/55pc	Knoxville, Tenn.	61/49pc	72/47t
Atlantic City, N.J.	43/29w	46/30s	Des Moines, Iowa	36/32i	44/34c	Laredo, Texas	91/69pc	94/69pc
Augusta, Ga.	75/49s	75/56t	Duluth, Minn.	40/18s	47/22s	Lexington, Ky.	49/39c	51/25s
Austin, Texas	88/62pc	86/65t	Durham, N.C.	60/38s	60/41sh	Lincoln, Neb.	50/30r	52/30c
Bakersfield, Calif.	62/44r	60/43pc	El Paso, Texas	71/53c	72/54c	Little Rock, Ark.	73/55t	78/49c
Baton Rouge, La.	77/64c	83/64t	Fairbanks, Alaska	30/18pc	35/21s	Long Beach, Calif.	62/51c	62/47pc
Billings, Mont.	38/24sn	37/28pc	Flagstaff, Ariz.	46/27pc	41/22pc	Louisville, Ky.	49/43c	59/48pc
Birmingham, Ala.	70/58c	78/55t	Fargo, N.D.	39/13pc	41/20s	Lubbock, Texas	77/42s	75/48pc
Bismarck, N.D.	38/20c	41/20pc	Fort Myers, Fla.	79/56s	81/62s	Madison, Wis.	40/23pc	47/27s
Boise, Idaho	51/33c	48/34c	Fort Smith, Ark.	78/46t	74/50pc	Manchester, N.H.	37/20pc	31/10pc
Buffalo, N.Y.	32/23sf	35/17s	Fort Wayne, Ind.	40/29s	41/25i	Memphis, Tenn.	65/59t	75/49r
Burlington, Vt.	30/21c	23/7pc	Fresno, Calif.	58/41sh	58/40c	Milwaukee	37/29pc	43/31s
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	40/29c	46/29c	Grand Rapids, Mich.	40/23s	47/28s	Mobile, Ala.	71/61c	78/61t
Charleston, S.C.	76/50s	74/59c	Green Bay, Wis.	39/22s	62/39sh	Modesto, Calif.	56/42sh	57/37c
Charleston, W.Va.	45/32s	46/29r	Greensboro, N.C.	61/39pc	62/39sh	Montgomery, Ala.	72/49pc	79/61t
Cheyenne, Wyo.	47/21c	55/24s	Greenville, S.C.	72/49pc	70/50sh	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	71/50s	70/54c
			Harrisburg, Pa.	42/26pc	48/26pc			

WORLD CITIES

CITY	TODAY	SAT
Beijing	49/32c	40/32pc
Buenos Aires	77/60s	81/65t
Cancun, Mexico	82/72s	85/73s
Dubai, UAE	86/71s	87/71pc
Frankfurt	51/30sh	34/24c
Hong Kong	78/67pc	75/68pc
Istanbul	59/54pc	67/59c
Jerusalem	60/44pc	64/48s
Johannesburg	83/54s	64/53sh
London	55/33sh	37/29c
Mexico City	80/53pc	81/53pc
Montreal	28/16pc	21/7s
Moscow	19/1c	17/0pc
Mumbai, India	92/78pc	92/80pc
Paris	55/40sh	42/31sh
Rio de Janeiro	90/79t	86/77t
Rome	61/49c	57/47t
Seoul	52/30s	52/39pc
Singapore	91/78t	90/78pc
Sydney	80/71c	87/72s
Toronto	33/23pc	38/21s
Tokyo	63/39c	51/45s

OPINION

TODAY'S DEBATE: CONFRONTING THE KREMLIN

Our view: Russia's assassination attempt in Britain hits a nerve

If a foreign power was reckless enough to enter the United States and dispense one of the world's deadliest poisons in an assassination attempt, injuring civilians in the process, Americans would rightly be outraged and demand a response.

Nothing short of this happened March 4 in Salisbury, Britain, roughly the same distance from London as Richmond, Va., is from Washington.

The British and U.S. governments, along with Germany and France, have accused Russia of using the highly toxic nerve agent Novichok in the attack that left former Soviet-era spy Sergei Skripal, 66, and his 33-year-old daughter in critical, comatose conditions; a police officer hospitalized; 18 other people injured; and biohazard crews flocking into neighborhoods.

This is far beyond Cold War "spy vs. spy" stuff. It is the latest abomination by a Russian government that has flouted international norms by supporting a despotic regime in Syria, seizing Crimea, subsidizing insurrection in Ukraine, violating international trade sanctions, doping Olympic athletes and — closest to home — using an information warfare campaign to undermine American elections.

Britain has historically enjoyed a "special relationship" with the United States as one America's staunchest allies. After North Korea employed VX, another deadly nerve agent, in assassinating Kim Jong Nam — the half-brother of dictator Kim Jong Un — Washington levied sanctions against the Pyongyang regime in response.

Russia's similar crime deserves a similarly forceful response.

A good, if belated, start were the sanctions announced Thursday by the Trump administration in reaction to Moscow's interference in the presidential election. But targets of the new sanctions are low-hanging fruit: the same 13 Russians and three Russian companies already indicted by special counsel Robert Mueller in February for U.S. election sabotage, along with six



British responders in biohazard suits in Salisbury. AFP/Getty Images

Russian military intelligence officials.

If nothing else, these sanctions validate Mueller's Russia investigation, which President Trump has dismissed as a "witch hunt."

The Treasury Department has bigger fish to fry, including wealthy members of President Vladimir Putin's inner-circle elite. Treasury was required to assemble this classified "Kremlin List" under a sanctions law passed by Congress last summer. Treasury Undersecretary Sigal Mandelker, who heads the agency's terrorism section, says it is ready to be employed. All it needs is an order from the Oval Office.

"One should go for the Putin inner circle so that the people see there is a cost," says Anders Aslund, a Russian economy expert with the Atlantic Council who advised Treasury officials on the list.

It's long past time for Trump to shake off his puzzling reluctance to criticize Russia's autocratic president and start getting tough, especially because U.S. intelligence officials are convinced that Moscow will try to subvert the upcoming midterm elections.

Otherwise, Putin, a former KGB spy master headed for an easy re-election victory of his own on Sunday, will continue to be emboldened to believe he can act with thuggish impunity, even in the heart of the democratic West.

Opposing view: 'We have nothing to do with it'

The Russian Embassy didn't respond to a request for an opposing view. Excerpts from Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's answers to news media questions on Tuesday about whether Russia was involved in the poisoning of ex-spy Sergei Skripal and daughter Yulia on British soil:

According to the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons, in cases of suspected use of a toxic substance banned by the convention, the country affected should immediately address the country that is suspected of the production of this particular poisonous substance.

The query must be answered within 10 days. If the answer does not satisfy the first country (Britain in this case) it should address the OPCW Executive Council and the conference of the states party to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The side that is being asked about the substance has every right to receive

an access to it so as to conduct its own analysis. We did this as soon as the rumors spread, by almost everyone in British leadership, that the substance was produced in the Russian Federation.

We sent an official note asking for access to this substance so our experts could analyze it in accordance with the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. In the same note, we requested access to the facts linked with the investigation, considering that one of the victims, Yulia Skripal, is a Russian national.

It is all nonsense. We have nothing to do with it. Everyone seems to be so brainwashed that our blogosphere is already full of comments that turn things upside down. Russia is not guilty.

Russia is ready to cooperate in accordance with the (chemical weapons pact), if the United Kingdom condescends to fulfill its international obligations under the same document.



CHRISTOPHER WEYANT, THE BOSTON GLOBE, POLITICALCARTOONS.COM

Let college athletes be like Jodie Foster

Student actors, musicians earn money. Why not jocks?

Mitch Albom

As we grapple with the evils of money and college sports, we might want to remember Jodie Foster. When she enrolled at Yale University at age 17, she had already been nominated for an Oscar, been paid for many Disney movies, and even hosted *Saturday Night Live*.

At Yale, she studied drama, and in her freshman year, she appeared in a school theater production. Then during her summer break, she went off to make another movie. And guess what? No one got fired or investigated. No one declared she would never act in a school play again.

Why is college sports so different? Why is it that if a basketball player lets an agent buy him lunch, he has violated rules and put his program in hot water? Why can't a college quarterback make his own milk commercial?

Why is it OK for a college flute player, on a music scholarship, to play in the school band and then get paid for a nightclub gig — but if "student-athletes" take money for playing five minutes somewhere, they've sacrificed their college eligibility forever?

The answer lies in the NCAA and its antiquated yet profitable adherence to amateurism. But given the insanity over a recent FBI probe that suggests major NCAA violations by many well-known schools (and why the FBI is wasting taxpayer money on these mostly non-criminal activities is beyond me), we should rethink the idea of amateurism and college sports. Especially since it's been dead for years.

If you are new to the topic, you need know only this. The president of the NCAA, Mark Emmert, makes \$3 million a year. The coach of the Duke Blue Devils, Mike Krzyzewski, makes about \$9 million a year. The TV broadcasting rights for college hoops were recently extended for more than \$1 billion a year.

And the players get paid nothing. That's not amateurism. It's a sham. Instead of schools shaking in their boots over who paid for a player's pizza, we should rethink the whole model.

The first thing people say is "pay the players." After all, there's billions com-

ing in from TV rights and shoe deals, right? The problem is, college sports are ruled by Title IX, a federal law that demands equal treatment for men's and women's sports programs at schools. Which means if you paid the men's football players, you might well have to pay the women's lacrosse players — and at the same rate.

That's not likely to happen. But if the schools and the NCAA are going to get rich, they should at least allow athletes to do the same on their own.

Which brings us to the Olympics sports model. Don't pay for participation in competition, but allow athletes to earn money outside of it. If a figure skater wants to do a Hertz commercial or an autograph session, fine.

If we just allowed this for college players, we'd eliminate a good chunk of the wasted time, money and sweaty nerves our current system produces.

How about getting paid for non-college competition? If there are sanctioned all-star games in the summer, why can't an athlete get paid the way Foster got paid to make a movie? And if a college kid wants to go to a camp and charge for it, why not?

It may all seem radical, but that's because we've gotten used to the system as it is. We've bought into the notion that a scholarship should be enough. But one side can't be told, "That's enough," while the other side keeps saying, "Give us more." This chasing of phone calls, lunch bills and bus tickets is a colossal waste of resources. And given the NCAA's wealth, it's hypocrisy.

The only policing we should worry about is if a player is directly paid to attend a school. That's wrong. Plus, the NBA needs to let players enter directly from high school. Forcing kids into college who don't belong or want to be there is both folly and injustice. The NBA used to allow it (that's how LeBron James got there) and the reasons it stopped are no longer strong.

Meanwhile, a huge gap could be closed if the Olympic model were adopted right now. It would at least allow players some income. And who bought whom lunch wouldn't be a federal issue.

Mitch Albom is a sports columnist at the Detroit Free Press, where this piece first appeared.

YOUR SAY

Enough with the 'fake,' biased news

As part of the Trusting News Project, we asked our readers how USA TODAY can improve:

It's quite simple, report the "actual" news and tell the truth. Everything else is embellishment and fake news.

Lisa Mangel
Simpsonville, S.C.

I believe readers desire the facts to be presented to them in a fair and unbiased manner. That includes politically balanced articles, fair content and tone, headlines that don't mislead, equitable

article placement, and clear printing of corrections. The decline of printed news subscriptions is known to everyone. It seems newspaper companies, like Gannett, would want to appeal to the broadest audience. That means USA TODAY will need to report from a true political center, and give conservatives a fair space, no matter the staff's opinions.

Chuck Salo
Reno

Keep up the good work. It's truly impressive that USA TODAY is listening to us who hunger for more accurate and

complete information that's not biased.

Cathi Morrison

Casa Grande, Ariz.

Pretending to be impartial and claiming the moral high ground that their politics don't enter into their reporting is folly. These people are human.

Mark Harman

Ridgeland, S.C.

I subscribe to the USA TODAY online and read it extensively, daily. It is, by far, the best source of news anywhere. I especially appreciate the editorials and the inclusion of an opposing view by a person who articulates that view very well (although I agree with the editorial

about 95% of the time).

Glenn Verbrugge

Cadillac, Mich.

We need the honesty back in news, and respect for individuals and ideas. If an opinion is going to be expressed, it should be in the form of an editorial.

Carol Muehlenkamp

Cape Coral, Fla.

Thank you for your responses. We hear you and we're working on it. Keep sharing at debrown@usatoday.com.

WANT TO COMMENT? Have Your Say at letters@usatoday.com, @usatodayopinion on Twitter and facebook.com/usatodayopinion. Comments are edited for length and clarity.

'I had to climb over so many bodies'

Nightmares and heartache accompany 50th anniversary of My Lai massacre in Vietnam

Thomas Maresca

Special to USA TODAY

SON MY, Vietnam – Fifty years later, Pham Thanh Cong still has trouble sleeping.

He was 11 on March 16, 1968, living a relatively carefree life in this central Vietnam village, even though his country was in the middle of a war.

Everything changed that morning when about 100 American soldiers arrived on a search-and-destroy mission to hunt for Viet Cong guerrillas. Instead, they found a quiet village filled mostly with women, children and the elderly.

What followed was perhaps the most infamous incident from the Vietnam War, which lasted from 1965 to 1973. American soldiers systematically herded and slaughtered the terrified, unarmed villagers, raping women and burning homes along the way.

Before the day was over, 504 villagers were killed in what would be known as the My Lai massacre, named for one of the hamlets of Son My.

Cong was forced into his family's dugout shelter with his mother and four siblings. An American soldier tossed in a grenade. Cong was the only survivor — lying wounded and unconscious for hours before his father and neighbors found him.

As Friday's 50th anniversary of the massacre approached, Cong said he is haunted by nightmares from that day. One image that sticks in his mind is the sight of his 2-year-old sister, Chinh, who was cut in half by the grenade blast and laid out on a bamboo mat used for drying rice. "Whenever the anniversary day comes near, I think about her so much," Cong said. "And my heart hurts. This year especially."

Cong, 61, was the director of the My Lai Massacre Museum until he retired last year. Like him, many survivors are reliving their memories.

Pham Thi Thuan, 80, recalled hearing gunfire but thought it was from the South Vietnamese army, perhaps coming to kill chickens or pigs. Americans forced her and her two daughters, ages 5 and 3, into a small irrigation ditch along with hundreds of neighbors.

The soldiers fired round after round, stopping to look for survivors before firing again. Thuan somehow avoided being shot, desperately keeping her daughters quiet. Her eyes teared up as she recalled climbing out of the ditch long after the shooting stopped.

"I had to climb over so many bodies," she said. "I was crying so much. I wondered what had happened, why we were the only ones left to survive." There were 170 people killed in that ditch.

Her daughter, Nguyen Thi Linh, who was 3 at the time, remembers only glimpses of the day — the screaming, the blood. She recalled that the American GIs were chewing gum. "Afterward, I was always scared," she said. "I would close my eyes when I ran through the rice fields. I got scared when the wind whistled through bamboo groves."

Cao Thi Do, 80, pointed out a mass grave in a rice paddy. She had been in a neighboring village that morning and returned to find two of her children were killed in the carnage.

As sorrow showed on her face, she expressed a stunning sentiment repeated by many survivors: forgiveness.

"I still think always about what happened, but I forgive them," she said. "I have to do it for the future. If I keep the hatred, then my children will keep it, and their children. I'm still very sad, but I have to forgive."

Neighbor Do Ba, now 60, was herded into the irrigation ditch with his mother and two siblings. They were killed, but he survived, grazed by a bullet that left a scar on his chest.

His story highlights one of the few heroic moments of the day. He was rescued by helicopter pilot Hugh Thompson and crew member Larry Coburn, who took him to nearby Chu Lai. From there, he was sent to a hospital in Quang Ngai. Thompson and his crew helped stop the massacre, landing their helicopter between American soldiers and fleeing villagers and even threatening to fire on their own troops if the killing continued. "Thompson is like a father to me," he said. "I wouldn't have survived without him."

Another soldier, Ron Ridenhour, brought the massacre to light. Ridenhour heard the stories about My Lai from other soldiers, investigated it on his own and sent letters to President Nixon, Defense Secretary Melvin Laird and members of Congress, recounting the stories of soldiers "slaughtering villagers like so many sheep."



Tombstones mark the graves of 13 Vietnamese villagers killed by American soldiers on March 16, 1968. PHOTOS BY THOMAS MARESCA/SPECIAL TO USA TODAY



"I still think always about what happened, but I forgive them. I have to do it for the future. If I keep the hatred, then my children will keep it, and their children. I'm still very sad, but I have to forgive."

Cao Thi Do, 80

She lost two children during the My Lai massacre March 16, 1968



Do Ba, 60, was rescued by the helicopter crew of Hugh Thompson and Larry Coburn during the My Lai massacre, but his mother and two siblings were killed.

The letters led to an investigation a year after the massacre, which brought only one conviction: Lt. William Calley, leader of a platoon that had done much of the killing. Calley served 3½ years under house arrest.

The massacre wasn't widely known to the public until freelance journalist Seymour Hersh broke the story in November 1969.

The horrifying details of his account would amplify the growing anti-war movement in the USA.

"The revelation of My Lai was critical," said Michael Uhl, an author, teacher and charter member of the group Veterans for Peace.


He returned to Vietnam with a group of veterans who will attend 50th-anniversary ceremonies at My Lai.

Uhl was a military intelligence officer stationed in Quang Ngai, the main city near My Lai, eight months after the massacre. He said the everyday brutality he witnessed by fellow soldiers and officers on a daily basis turned him against the war and drove him into activism when he returned to the USA.

"My Lai was the tip of the iceberg," he said. "Once that had broken in the press, it created an opening for us to be able to expand on that and give our version of what was happening in the wider war."


As the anniversary again triggers sleepless nights and brings widespread attention to the massacre, Cong said it is vital to keep the message of My Lai alive for new generations.

"Through (My Lai) we understand more about the horrors of war," he said. "I hope that the young generations of both countries can keep the peace in the world."




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James Hinchcliffe,
Honda Indy Car Driver



Pictured with Honda Genuine Accessories. ©2018 American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

USA TODAY MONEY



SUBARU

IN MONEY

- iHeartMedia files for bankruptcy**
But radio station operator will still play tunes. **4B**
- Cryptocurrencies continue to slide**
Latest plunge adds to investor misery. **4B**

AUTOS

- Subaru Crosstrek: Small SUV to beat**
Subcompact sets standard for value, safety. **6B**

MONEYLINE

NORTH POLE BLOCKBUSTER STORE TO CLOSE IN APRIL

One of the last remaining Blockbuster stores will close next month. The store in North Pole, Alaska, had a loyal following but too few customers, store general manager Kevin Daymude told the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*. The Fairbanks Blockbuster, one of four remaining in Alaska after the North Pole closure, is safe for now, Daymude said. Blockbuster's website lists three open locations outside of Alaska: two in Oregon and one in Texas.



Shares rose 4.75% Thursday. AP

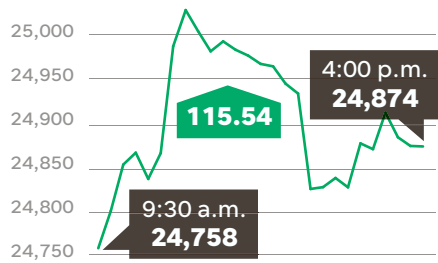
DOLLAR GENERAL BOASTS STRONG SAME-STORE SALES

Dollar General's light revenue during the fiscal fourth quarter was outshined by booming sales at established stores and a strong outlook. The retailer reported fourth-quarter revenue of \$6.13 billion that fell short of Wall Street expectations, but the 3.3% jump in same-store sales easily surpassed expectations of 2.5%, according to FactSet. Dollar General expects same-store sales to increase in the mid-2% range for the fiscal year ending Feb. 1, 2019.

30-YEAR MORTGAGE RATES FALL FOR 1ST TIME THIS YEAR

The average rate on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages slipped to 4.44% from 4.46% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said. The average rate on 15-year, fixed-rate loans declined to 3.90% from 3.94% last week.

Dow Jones Industrial Avg.



THURSDAY MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHG
Nasdaq composite	7481.74	15.07
S&P 500	2747.33	2.15
T-note, 10-year yield	2.82%	0.01
Oil, light sweet crude	\$61.19	0.23
Gold, oz. Comex	\$1316.80	8.80
Euro (dollars per euro)	\$1.2303	0.0072
Yen per dollar	106.24	0.01

SOURCES: USA TODAY RESEARCH, MARKETWATCH.COM
 ■ USA MARKETS, 4B

USA SNAPSHOTS®

Average CD yields

	This week	Last week	Year ago
6-month	0.27%	0.27%	0.20%
1-year	0.49%	0.49%	0.33%
2½-year	0.71%	0.70%	0.52%
5-year	1.10%	1.07%	0.89%

Note: As of Wednesday. Find more interest rates at rates.usatoday.com. SOURCE: Bankrate.com
 JAE YANG, VERONICA BRAVO/USA TODAY



CARMINE GALASSO/USA TODAY NETWORK

TOYS R GONE

Better use those gift cards — now
The retailer plans to honor gift cards for the next 30 days, company spokesperson Taylor O'Donnell said. **2B**

What went wrong?

America's dream factory for millions of kids fell victim to a holiday season disaster and the digital revolution. **3B**

CELEBRITIES DRINK IN BIG BUCKS ON BOOZE



Zlati Meyer USA TODAY

Actor Ryan Reynolds, who bought an ownership stake in Aviation Gin last month, is the latest Hollywood A-lister turned spirit monger. This month, rumors flew that the band Metallica, which won a Grammy for the song *Whiskey in a Jar* in 2000, planned to get into the whiskey business. Other stars have sought a piece of the action, from Ludacris with Conjure Cognac to Dan Aykroyd, who co-founded Crystal Head Vodka in 2007.

"It's a natural extension of celebrity," Aykroyd, the *Saturday Night Live* alum who went on to a film career that includes *Ghostbusters* and *Trading Places*, said in an interview. "This isn't showing up at 5:30 a.m. at a movie set, staying late at a studio laying tracks. I can contribute to the manufacture of actual products."

Those products are in hot demand. Liquor sales hit \$26.2 billion last year, up 4% over the previous year and the eighth consecutive an-



See **BOOZE**, Page 2B

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE BY GETTY IMAGES; JAY-Z BY INVISION/AP; RYAN REYNOLDS BY GETTY IMAGES FOR TIME; BETHENNY FRANKEL BY GETTY IMAGES FOR SKINNYGIRL JEANS; GEORGE CLOONEY BY GETTY IMAGES FOR PARAMOUNT PICTURES; DAN AYKROYD BY STEVE ZAK PHOTOGRAPHY; ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER DYE/USA TODAY NETWORK

Behind the scenes of Theranos' dramatic rise, fall

Whistle-blower saw past big names, big money

Marco della Cava
 USA TODAY

SAN FRANCISCO — How did disgraced biotech start-up Theranos become a \$9 billion darling? The old-fashioned way: Through star power, dazzling promises, deep pockets and devout believers.

But the Palo Alto, Calif., company, whose founder Elizabeth Holmes was stripped of her leadership role Wednesday by the Securities and Exchange Commission, wound up with a story line worthy of Icarus.

Theranos rose quickly from being a college dropout's idea to revolutionize the blood analysis industry to a hot tech bet that accrued \$700 million in funding and many famous names for its board.

Anchoring it all was Holmes, now 34, whose smarts, fierce determination and Steve Jobs-inspired look (a black turtleneck was her staple) were critical to recruiting believers for a secretive company that ultimately could not deliver the technology required to do complex blood work based on drops of blood rather than vials.

Here's a look at some of the cast members in Theranos' dramatic tale:

Elizabeth Holmes



Holmes in 2014

Holmes dropped out of Stanford University at 19 in 2003, determined to create a company that would help anyone who, like herself, was afraid of needles and dreaded taking blood tests. She worked

on the technology with a small group of collaborators for the next decade before debuting Theranos in 2014 to an admiring media and eager investors.

But no more than a year later, the company's foundation began to crack. A *Wall Street Journal* investigation, citing former employees' misgivings about the accuracy of the key equipment that was testing the blood, peeled back the curtains on what the SEC concluded was a "massive fraud" that ultimately deceived customers, investors and board members.

Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani

Balwani, 52, served as Theranos president until departing the company in 2016 after the SEC and the U.S. at-

See **THERANOS**, Page 2B

Better hurry: Toys R Us gift cards are good for 30 days

Nathan Bomey
USA TODAY

Toys R Us gift cards are likely to become worthless within weeks.

The best advice: Spend them immediately, if possible.

Make haste because after the big-box icon of American retail said Thursday that it would close all of its U.S. stores, there's not much time left. The chain plans to honor gift cards for the next 30 days, Toys R Us spokesperson Taylor O'Donnell told USA TODAY in an email.

In bankruptcy, retailers technically don't have to honor gift cards at all. But most ask a bankruptcy court judge for permission to do so — at least for a while. Toys R Us has been honoring gift cards since it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in September. But now that the company has filed to liquidate its U.S. operations, the end is near.

Even if the chain had decided to honor gift cards until the bitter end, customers might not find anything worthwhile to spend them on after a few weeks of going-out-of-business sales.

One lawmaker is hoping Toys R Us will take the unusual step of redeeming gift cards for cash.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., sent a letter Wednesday to the acting chairwoman of the Federal Trade Commission, asking her to act to ensure that consumers have time to use their existing gift cards. Ide-



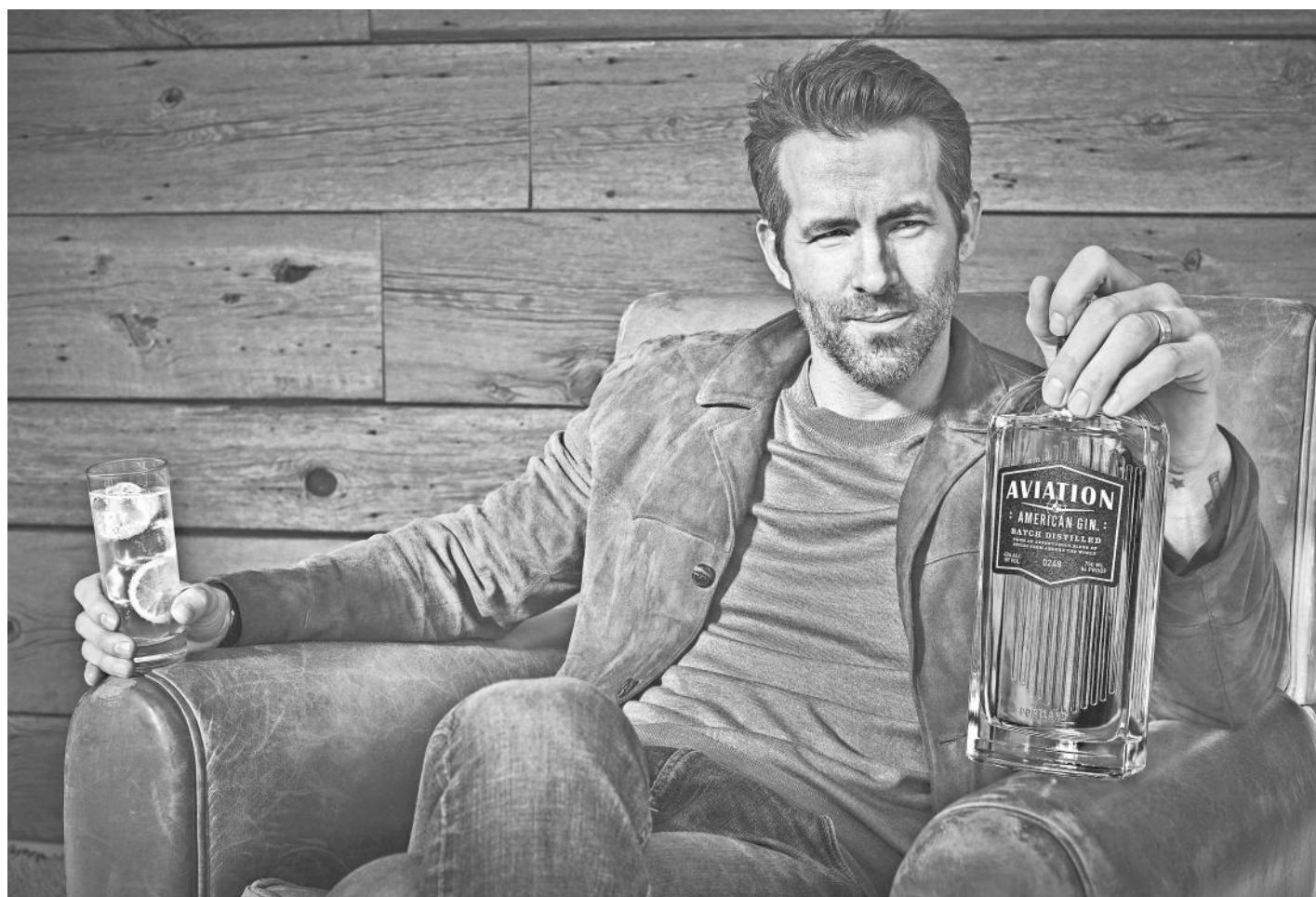
Angela Oberle of Ramsey, N.J., used up her Toys R Us gift cards for her three children on Thursday in Paramus, N.J. TARIQ ZEHAWI/USA TODAY NETWORK

ally, consumers would be able to redeem the gift cards for cash, Schumer wrote.

"Use those gift cards ASAP," the Better Business Bureau said on its website in advice for customers of bankrupt companies. "BBB advises consumers who are holding gift cards spend them as soon as possible or risk getting stuck with a worthless piece of plastic."

Contributing: Chris Woodyard, Jon Campbell

**Senate Minority Leader
Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., is
hoping Toys R Us will take
the unusual step of redeeming
gift cards for cash.**



Aviation Gin says Ryan Reynolds will appear in ads and provide brand strategy and marketing input. AVIATION GIN

Booze

Continued from Page 1B

nual increase, according to the Distilled Spirits Council, a Washington, D.C.-based trade association.

Big names attract millions of potential consumers — and millions of dollars in sales, celebrity branding experts say. In the booze world, where branding and caché matter as much as taste, having a star's name attached can make all the difference. Sales soar, and so do profits.

"I haven't heard of anyone selling their T-shirt company for \$2 billion," said Shep Gordon, a celebrity branding expert, explaining that calculating how much celebs make off booze deals is impossible — but it's a lot of money.

But these aren't just endorsement deals. Entertainers are taking equity stakes while also lending their names in a way that can drive sales.

"Celebrities can bring the X factor," said Jeetendr Sehdev, author of the book *The Kim Kardashian Principle: Why Shameless Sells (and How to Do It Right)*. "Audiences want to buy products celebrities are personally invested in. No longer can a celebrity stick a face on a product they have no real connection to or investment in and have credibility in the marketplace."

In August, actor George Clooney and partners sold their Casamigos tequila venture for \$700 million, with the possibility of another \$300 million if the tequila continues to sell well. He co-founded Casamigos in 2013 with friend Mike Meldman, a real estate investor,

and Rande Gerber, a nightclub developer who is married to model Cindy Crawford. The new owner is liquor giant Diageo, whose brands include Johnnie Walker, Ketel One and Captain Morgan.

"When people see someone cash out, it is like the gold rush and everyone is running to California to try and get a piece," said Skinnygirl founder and reality TV star Bethenny Frankel, whose signature product is low-calorie margaritas. In 2011, the *Real Housewives of New York City* star sold Skinnygirl for a reported \$100 million.

Loyal fans are known to buy what their idols are hawked, and if it's a higher-priced item, all the better for the stars.

"They have such intense followings. They have such solid personal brands," said Robert Familetti, managing director at Platinum Rye Entertainment, a large talent broker that connects celebrities with companies. "Liquor is sexy. It's also lucrative."

But the pairing has to be well thought out. A celebrity with a drunk-driving conviction would be a no-no, and some stars don't want to tarnish their wholesome images. "You're not going to see a Disney star getting into liquor," he said.

Even well-made matches sometimes fail, such as actor Danny DeVito's Premium Limoncello and singer Pharrell Williams' Q Cream liqueur.

Aviation Gin now sells an estimated 300,000 bottles annually, but owner Davos Brands said it expects to double that this year, thanks to Reynolds, who will appear in ads and provide brand strategy and marketing input.

"He can introduce more and more

people to gin and to Aviation Gin," CEO Andrew Chrisomalis said. The company declined to say what Reynolds' stake was worth but called it "significant."

Other A-listers diving into the liquor game:

■ **Jay-Z:** The music and business mogul's investments in Armand de Brignac champagne and D'Ussé cognac, in part, launched him to the top of this year's list of the wealthiest hip-hop artists, according to *Forbes*.

■ **Sean Combs:** The multifaceted singer and businessman joined up with Ciroc Vodka in 2007 to oversee lifestyle branding initiatives. In October, he helped launch Ciroc French Vanilla. In 2014, he and liquor titan Diageo bought DeLeón Tequila.

■ **Justin Timberlake:** The singer co-founded Sauza 901 Tequila in 2014 because he "wanted to bring the passion and dedication that went into every bottle of his 901 Tequila to his fans," according to the brand's website.

■ **AC/DC:** In 2016, the hard-rock band launched a line of tequilas, which they named after their album *Thunderstruck*.

■ **David Beckham:** The soccer star/underwear model returned to his British roots for Haig Club scotch whiskey. Since 2014, he has promoted it and starred in commercials. According to the company, Haig Club was his grandfather's favorite whiskey.

Theranos

Continued from Page 1B

torney in San Francisco announced investigations into whether Theranos misled investors and regulators about its technology and operations.

A boyfriend of Holmes', Balwani did not appear to have any deep background in phlebotomy or blood sciences. According to the SEC's suit against him, he had guaranteed a line of credit for the company when it was on the ropes in 2009 and joined the company, becoming its president and COO, that year.

Although Holmes settled her complaint with the SEC on Wednesday, agreeing to penalties without admitting guilt, Balwani did not settle with the SEC, which will continue investigating him.

The investors

Among those who bought into the disruptive dream, according to a 2016 *Wall Street Journal* report, were media titan Rupert Murdoch and family-owned Cox Enterprises, each betting \$100 million; Walgreens parted with around \$140 million through its partnership deal that aimed to build Theranos centers in all its stores; and Safeway provided \$30 million aiming for a similar in-store deal.

Some of the bold-faced Silicon Valley names who also heeded Holmes' call were Oracle founder Larry Ellison, Riley Bechtel, chairman of closely held construction giant Bechtel Group, and the investment firm of Draper, Fisher & Jurvetson, the report said.

What's more, when things started to get hot for Theranos, she had a steadfast defender in Marc Andreessen, a storied tech figure who made a mint creating the early browser Netscape. His firm didn't invest in Theranos, but he backed her publicly.

The board members

Seldom has such a high-profile list of board members signed on to such an unproved company.

Theranos' board heft was anchored to a 2011 meeting Holmes had with former secretary of State George Shultz, who recruited his fellow former secretary, Henry Kissinger. Other notables were former U.S. senators Sam Nunn and Bill Frist, former secretary of Defense William Perry and current Defense Secretary James Mattis.

Mattis came up in the SEC's investigation. It found that while Mattis was leading the U.S. Central Command, he lobbied for Holmes' tech to be used in the military, though regulators flagged issues before the notion took wing. Mattis resigned from Theranos' board when he became Defense secretary in 2016.

The whistle-blower

Tyler Shulz likely thought he had stepped into a dream job when he joined Theranos in 2013, thanks in part to his grandfather, former secretary of State George Shultz, being on the board.

But eight months later, he was convinced something was rotten at the company and attempted to get Holmes to address his concerns about doctoring research and test results.

Instead of an audience with the founder, Shultz received a scathing reply from company president Balwani, who noted that he bothered to respond only because of the employee's famous relative, according to Shultz's recounting of the incident to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Shultz quit and decided to contact New York state's public-health lab, alleging that Theranos had manipulated its test results. This was the first known regulatory complaint about Theranos, whose issues would soon grow exponentially.

The skeptic

John Carreyrou was already a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner for *The Wall Street Journal* when, in 2015, he turned his attention to Theranos.

Carreyrou's stories, which were consistently met with denials from Holmes and Theranos, were integral in changing the tenor of Theranos coverage from laudatory to critical.

Carreyrou won awards for his work, but his biggest reward may well be helping enshrine Theranos in a pop culture pantheon in a way that only Hollywood can do.

The reporter is writing a book-length take on the Theranos saga to be called *Bad Blood*, and the movie version is slated to star Jennifer Lawrence as Holmes.

Out of cash, Toys R Us had no other choice

Poor holiday sales pushed it over the brink

Joan Verdon
and Charisse Jones
USA TODAY NETWORK

Toys R Us, the toy superstore that became a dream factory for kids nationwide, said in a U.S. Bankruptcy Court filing Thursday that it must liquidate, a move that would close 735 stores, leave 33,000 people without jobs and wrap up a 70-year run for a once-beloved holiday shopping spot.

The chain, whose chipper mascot Geoffrey the giraffe beckoned families to stores, said poor holiday sales caused its final demise. Online sales had undercut the popularity of its stores, and rampant discounting from the likes of Walmart and Target shaved away profits.

Saddled with enormous debt and piling up losses, the chain said it had no choice but to shut down. "The stark reality is that the (chain is) projected to run out of cash in the U.S. in May," it said in its bankruptcy filing.

"I am devastated that we have reached this point," CEO Dave Brandon told corporate staff in a speech at company headquarters the day before.

Toys R Us said going-out-of-business sales would begin at all stores immediately. Gift cards can be redeemed for the next 30 days. Employees will be paid for "no fewer than 60 days," the filing said.

Sad customers

The chain has been a critical part of the American retail landscape, one that still brings back fond memories for those who grew up around the store.

Dan Skinner of Naperville, Ill., in an email to USA TODAY, said he was awed by the size of the Toys R Us store that he used to visit growing up in Morristown, N.J.

"Toys and board games and bikes were stacked stories high," he wrote. "When you were 8 years old, those displays felt like skyscrapers."

He couldn't wait to visit.

"The drive over was always filled with anticipation. Typically we would go in



Shoppers pack a store in Paramus, N.J., on Thursday after Toys R Us announced it would liquidate every store in the United States. Gift cards can be redeemed for the next 30 days. TARIQ ZEHAWI/USA TODAY NETWORK

celebration of a great report card or if I had birthday money to spend," he said.

Toys R Us said in its filing that its main lenders "have determined that the best way to maximize their recoveries is to liquidate the existing inventory in all ... 735 remaining U.S. stores and begin an orderly wind-down of the U.S. operations."

The company had initially hoped to be able to keep 400 stores open, according to the filing, but realized it didn't have enough cash to preserve that many. "Projected cash burn" according to the motion, was \$50 million to \$100 million a month, without even investing in any of the planned improvements to stores.

One sliver of hope: It said in the filing that it still hoped that 200 stores in the U.S. could be preserved in combination with its Canadian stores. It said is seeking a buyer for the Canadian operation.

Still, store fans were sad.

An adult customer, Bobby Armes, tweeted that Geoffrey the giraffe played a big role in his kids' lives.

"I remember that Geoffrey would give my children a phone call every year to wish them a happy birthday," Armes

tweeted. "That was special, and it was very appreciated."

Holiday disaster

At a meeting Wednesday with corporate staff at the company's headquarters in Wayne, N.J., CEO Brandon said Toys R Us found itself "in serious default on our financing covenants" after a disastrous holiday season, according to a recording of the talk reviewed by *The Record* in Bergen County, N.J. For Christmas 2017, earnings were about half of what the company might expect in a normal year.

The holiday results showed lenders that Toys R Us is "a company that consumes cash" for most of the year and earns money only during the holidays. When the holiday period underperformed, investors became justifiably nervous, he said.

While U.S. operations are "subject to likely liquidation," Brandon said the Canadian, Central Europe and Asian divisions would be sold. At the court hearing, "There is going to be an invitation sent around the world that all of these assets are available."

If a buyer offers more than the liquidation value, there could be a sale.

Brandon also said the company would maintain the Babies R Us registry and the Web stores for the time being in hopes someone might want to buy that asset.

Born in a post-war baby boom

Toys R Us started as a children's furniture store founded in 1948 by returning World War II vet Charles Lazarus. Taking advantage of the baby boom, Lazarus started opening toy superstores by 1957 as toy hits such as Slinkys and Barbie dolls started hitting the market.

The chain's superstore concept triumphed as other chains with smaller stores and less selection fell. Yet Toys R Us finally was facing a foe it couldn't conquer: discounters such as Walmart and online shopping dominated by Amazon. The digital era left it with too many stores.

Toys R Us shuttered dozens of stores as it attempted to deal with close to \$5 billion in debt that resulted from a leveraged buyout in 2005 by private equity investors Bain Capital and KKR, and real estate trust Vornado.

'Here to stay'

When the company filed for bankruptcy protection in September, Brandon promised the court, in his opening declaration, that "Toys R Us is here to stay."

Toy manufacturers and lenders who were owed money by Toys R Us, and landlords who owned store properties, backed nearly every request Toys R Us made as it attempted to reorganize.

Toy makers said they needed the retailer to survive because it provided the best year-round showcase for all of their products, unlike retailers that only stock up on toys in November and December and shrink their toy aisles after the holidays.

Toys R Us attempted to turn itself into a top destination once again, creating play areas where kids could try out toys and introducing augmented reality to make its products come alive on screens as well as shelves. But it wasn't enough to stop its slide.



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OPENING PREVIEW

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MONEY

Radio giant iHeartMedia files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy

Mike Snider
USA TODAY

The nation's largest radio station operator, iHeartMedia, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to shed billions of debt it has carried for more than a decade.

The San Antonio-based company, which has more than 850 radio stations, says it will continue to keep operating after reaching an agreement with creditors for more than \$10 billion of its \$20 billion in debt.

That means its popular iHeartRadio streaming radio app, which has 270 million monthly listeners, will continue to be found on smartphones, video game consoles and other devices. Its local radio stations will continue to broadcast.

iHeartRadio will also continue to conduct its splashy, big-name events such as Saturday's iHeartRadio Music Awards, which featured Ed Sheeran, Cardi B, Chance the Rapper and Bon Jovi. And it's still planning the iHeartCountry Festival featuring Luke Bryan, Keith Urban and Maren Morris (May 5 in Austin) and the iHeartRadio Music Festival, usually held in September in Las Vegas.

"The agreement we announced today is a significant accomplishment, as it allows us to definitively address the more than \$20 billion in debt that has burdened our capital structure," iHeartMedia CEO and chairman Bob Pittman said in a statement about the deal.

Originally known as Clear Channel, the company changed its name to iHeartMedia in 2014 as part of its evolving online strategy. Its iHeartRadio streaming radio app lets users tune into thousands of stations, some live broadcasts and some customized such as the current Shamrock Radio station.

iHeartMedia also includes Clear Channel Outdoor, one of the nation's



The band N.E.R.D performs at the 2018 iHeartRadio Music Awards in Inglewood, Calif. INVISION/AP

largest billboard advertising companies. That unit is not part of the bankruptcy proceeding.

The company's debt ballooned after it was acquired in a leveraged buyout in 2008 by private-equity firms Bain Capital and Thomas H. Lee Partners.

Like other media companies, iHeartMedia has struggled with declining advertising revenue. At the same time, the radio operator has faced growing competition from music streaming services such as Spotify and Pandora.

Revenue growth has been anemic. iHeartMedia has been negotiating with debtors for more than a year on a restructuring plan.

The filing in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas in Houston came just more than a month after the company missed a \$106 million debt payment, which triggered a 30-day grace period and multiple extensions for talks with creditors.

Contributing: Nate Raum, The (Nashville) Tennessean

Investors cringe as bitcoin, other crypto prices plunge

Adam Shell
USA TODAY

Cryptocurrency investments that were minting millionaires back in December are now an increasing source of misery.

Blame the pain on periodic sell-offs, such as the one in the past 24 hours that has wiped out \$50 billion of value in bitcoin and other digital currencies.

A crackdown by regulators has hit this fledgling area of investment in recent months, as some authorities around the world try to tame what they see as a Wild West-type market.

More recently, two other events have darkened the investment outlook for digital currencies: Google decided to ban cryptocurrency-related advertising, and there has been massive selling by a trustee of the collapsed Mt. Gox bitcoin exchange.

"Unfortunately, the future of crypto is still quite foggy," Arnaud Masset, a market analyst at Swissquote Bank, told USA TODAY. "The honeymoon is over, and it is time to face reality."

All 10 of the biggest cryptocurrencies measured by market value have suffered price declines in the past 24 hours, with losses ranging from 4% to 15%, according to coinmarketcap.com.

That slide has slashed the market value of all the world's 1,565 digital currencies by \$50 billion as of 1:30 p.m. ET on Thursday. The total value of the market is now \$322.9 billion, down from \$372.9 billion Wednesday and less than half the total value at the peak in mid-December 2017.

Bitcoin, the world's best-known and most valuable cryptocurrency, has slid 6.5% in the past 24 hours to \$8,118.80 a coin, nearly 60% below its peak of roughly \$19,500 in mid-December 2017.

"The honeymoon is over, and it is time to face reality."

Arnaud Masset
Market analyst at Swissquote Bank

Investors, excited by bitcoin's nearly 1,400% gain last year, flooded into this volatile investing space in search of big gains. Critics warn that the huge rally in 2017 is a sign of a classic speculative bubble that will eventually burst.

Factors driving down the price for cryptocurrency investments:

Regulatory scrutiny: The latest setback came recently when the Securities and Exchange Commission warned that many of the online cryptocurrency trading platforms might be "potentially unlawful." Wall Street's so-called "top cop" also stressed that investors might have gotten the "misimpression" that these online trading platforms are registered with and regulated by the SEC, "when they are not."

Ad bans: Google, this week, joined Facebook in banning all cryptocurrency-related ads. The ban, which goes into effect in June, includes advertisements for initial coin offerings, digital wallets and investment advice. Protecting consumers from fraud was cited by Google as the main reason for the ban.

Forced selling: The trustee of Japan-based cryptocurrency exchange Mt. Gox, which collapsed in 2014 after 850,000 Bitcoins went missing, is in the process of selling large amounts of Bitcoin to pay back creditors. And that temporary forced selling is weighing on the price of the digital currency.

Bitcoin bulls say the wild price swings are normal and that Bitcoin and other cryptos will rise again.

AMERICA'S MARKETS

ALL THE MARKET ACTION IN REAL TIME
MARKETS.USATODAY.COM

DJIA
+115.54
INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE
CLOSE: 24,873.66
%CHANGE: +.5%
YTD % CHG: +.6%

SPX
-2.15
STANDARD & POOR'S
CLOSE: 2,747.33
%CHANGE: -.1%
YTD % CHG: +2.8%

COMP
-15.07
NASDAQ
COMPOSITE
CLOSE: 7,481.74
%CHANGE: -.2%
YTD % CHG: +8.4%

RUT
-7.69
RUSSELL
RUSSELL 2000 INDEX
CLOSE: 1,576.62
%CHANGE: -.5%
YTD % CHG: +2.7%

WHAT TO WATCH

Why a trade war could dent 401(k)s

Adam Shell
USA TODAY

President Trump says trade wars "are good and easy to win." Wall Street fears a trade war. A Google search of "trade war" nets 23.8 million results.

What exactly is a "trade war" anyway? It is "a situation in which two or more countries raise import taxes ... to try to protect their own economies," Cambridge Dictionary says. It's not a military fight; it's an economic brawl.

Can such a skirmish impact your investments? It depends on how much the protectionist rhetoric heats up — and whether Trump, who already has slapped tariffs on coal and aluminum entering the U.S., delivers on threats to target specific countries, including ones with economic clout such as China, says Luca Paolini, chief strategist of London-based Pictet Asset Management.

Trump is currently using the imposition and threats of import taxes as a "negotiating tactic" to help gain concessions from trading partners and get a better deal for the U.S., Paolini says. But that strategy can "backfire."

If Trump goes ahead and taxes more imports to the U.S. and other countries — especially China — retaliate by placing tariffs on U.S. goods entering their countries, things could get ugly.

"The risk is if everyone goes after everybody else and the world's major trading partners can't agree on the rules," Paolini says.

Strangling free trade will slow growth, cause higher inflation and hurt investor and business confidence. The tipping point for markets will be when a powerful trading partner strikes back at the U.S.

"You need retaliation," Paolini says.

S&P 500'S BIGGEST GAINERS/LOSERS

GAINERS		Company (ticker symbol)	Price	\$ Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
	Dollar General (DG)	Strong fourth-quarter numbers ease price war concerns.	93.44	+4.24	+4.8	+5
	Alexion Pharmaceuticals (ALXN)	Reports positive results for recent Phase 3 clinical study.	126.83	+4.15	+3.4	+6.1
	Broadcom (AVGO)	Reinstated to buy with Bank of America Merrill Lynch.	267.76	+7.17	+2.8	+4.2
	Scana (SCG)	Positive merger note, shares make up recent losses.	40.38	+96	+2.4	+1.5
	Ingersoll-Rand (IR)	Shares even up March on analyst day.	90.22	+1.90	+2.2	+1.2
	Ulta Beauty (ULTA)	Misses quarterly view but finishes strong on solid forecast.	206.14	+4.15	+2.1	-7.8
	McDonald's (MCD)	Makes up March loss on weak outlook, analyst defense.	161.61	+3.37	+2.1	-6.1
	Pentair (PNR)	Analyst more confident after presentation, shares rise.	72.13	+1.49	+2.1	+2.1
	Akamai Technologies (AKAM)	Stock rating upgraded to sector weight, shares follow.	74.71	+1.46	+2.0	+14.9
	Verisign (VRSN)	Favorable stock market movements, reaches 2018 high.	125.31	+2.30	+1.9	+9.5
LOSERS		Company (ticker symbol)	Price	\$ Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
	EQT (EQT)	Unexpected CEO resignation pushes shares lower.	49.73	-2.72	-5.2	-12.6
	Williams Companies (WMB)	Dips to lowest since 2016 in negative tax environment.	26.69	-1.45	-5.2	-12.5
	Monsanto (MON)	Bayer deal faces antitrust hurdles, shares decline.	117.20	-5.95	-4.8	+4
	J.M. Smucker (SJM)	Shares erase gains since consensus hold rating.	124.85	-6.00	-4.6	+5
	Synchrony Financial (SYF)	Extended drop places stock at March's low.	34.67	-1.43	-4.0	-10.2
	Incyte (INCY)	Reverses early gain, announces portfolio presentation.	88.69	-3.57	-3.9	-6.4
	Qorvo (QRVO)	Rating downgraded on sluggish, competitive market.	79.00	-3.22	-3.9	+18.6
	AbbVie (ABBV)	Gets hold rating, shares slip on cautious note.	114.93	-4.01	-3.4	+18.8
	CF Industries (CF)	Shares fall another day since stock rating downgrade.	38.99	-1.32	-3.3	-8.3
	TechnipFMC (FTI)	Another drop since analyst day erases March's gain.	29.18	-.95	-3.2	-6.8

SOURCE: Bloomberg and The Associated Press

MARKET PERFORMANCE BY SECTOR

Sector	Close	Chg.	4wk ¹	YTD ¹
Technology	69.90	+0.04	+3.9%	+9.3%
Consumer discret.	105.60	-0.11	+0.3%	+7.0%
Financials	28.95	+0.01	-0.2%	+3.7%
Health care	85.69	-0.14	+1.0%	+3.6%
Industrials	76.48	+0.22	-1.0%	+1.1%
Materials	59.38	-0.79	-2.2%	-1.9%
Telecom	58.31	-0.17	-0.2%	-3.7%
Utilities	50.20	-0.03	+1.0%	-4.7%
Consumer staples	53.53	-0.38	-3.3%	-5.9%
Energy	67.19	-0.35	-1.6%	-7.0%

MARKET NOTEBOOK

Issues	NYSE	NASDAQ
Advancing	1,051	1,225
Declining	1,800	1,597
Unchanged	140	176
Total	2,991	2,998
Issues at		
New 52 Week High	30	79
New 52 Week Low	135	48
Share Volume		
Total	3,482,434,265	1,973,505,320
Advancing	1,116,488,120	747,735,038
Declining	2,284,686,261	1,192,579,751
Unchanged	81,259,884	33,190,531

TOP 10 EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

ETF, ranked by volume	Ticker	Close	Chg.	% Chg	%YTD
Alps Alerian MLP	AMPL	9.74	-0.52	-5.1%	-9.7%
SPDR S&P500 ETF Tr	SPY	275.00	-0.30	-0.1%	+3.1%
iShs Emerg Mkts	EEM	49.32	-0.18	-0.4%	+4.7%
SPDR Financial	XLF	28.95	+0.01	unch.	+3.2%
CS VS 2x Vix ShTm	TVIX	7.10	-0.43	-5.7%	+28.2%
Barc iPath Vix ST	VXX	40.17	-1.36	-3.3%	+43.9%
VanEct Gld Miners	GDX	21.45	-0.28	-1.3%	-7.7%
PowerShs QQQ Trust	QQQ	171.53	-0.15	-0.1%	+10.1%
ProShs Ultra VIX ST	UVXY	14.74	-0.71	-4.6%	+44.4%
iShares EAFE ETF	EFA	70.52	-0.04	-0.1%	+0.3%

INTEREST RATES

Type	Close	6 mo ago
Prime lending	4.50%	4.25%
Federal funds	1.42%	1.16%
3 mo. T-bill	1.77%	1.03%
5 yr. T-note	2.62%	1.80%
10 yr. T-note	2.82%	2.20%

MORTGAGE RATES

Type	Close	6 mo ago
30 yr. fixed	4.29%	4.29%
15 yr. fixed	3.71%	2.96%
1 yr. ARM	3.66%	3.07%
5/1 ARM	4.04%	3.14%

SOURCE: BANKRATE.COM

COMMODITIES

Commodities	Close	Prev.	Chg.	% Chg.	% YTD
Cattle (lb.)	1.22	1.23	-0.01	-0.9%	-0.9%
Corn (bushel)	3.87	3.84	+0.03	+0.5%	+10.3%
Gold (troy oz.)	1,316.80	1,324.40	-7.60	-0.6%	+0.8%
Hogs, lean (lb.)	.66	.67	-0.01	-1.7%	-8.4%
Natural Gas (Btu.)	2.68	2.73	-0.05	-1.8%	-9.2%
Oil, heating (gal.)	1.89	1.89	unch.	+0.3%	-8.8%
Oil, lt. swt. crude (bar.)	61.19	60.96	+0.23	+0.4%	+1.3%
Silver (troy oz.)	16.35	16.47	-0.12	-0.7%	-4.1%
Soybeans (bushel)	10.41	10.36	+0.05	+0.8%	+9.4%
Wheat (bushel)	4.79	4.96	-0.17	-2.0%	+12.1%

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Currency per dollar	Close	Prev.	6 mo. ago	Yr. ago
British pound	.7178	.7156	.7369	.8129
Canadian dollar	1.3058	1.2942	1.2179	1.3320
Chinese yuan	6.3241	6.3175	6.5426	6.9115
Euro	.8128	.8081	.8376	.9334
Japanese yen	106.24	106.25	110.88	113.39
Mexican peso	18.7371	18.5770	17.6595	19.2338

FOREIGN MARKETS

Country	Close	Prev.	Change	% Chg.	YTD %
Frankfurt	12,345.56	12,237.74	+107.82	+0.9%	-4.4%
Hong Kong	31,541.10	31,435.01	+106.09	+0.3%	+5.4%
Japan (Nikkei)	21,803.95	21,777.29	+26.66	+0.1%	-4.2%
London	7,139.76	7,132.69	+7.07	+0.1%	-1.1%
Mexico City	47,817.05	48,156.44	-339.39	-0.7%	-3.1%

SOURCE: Morningstar, Dow Jones Indexes, The Associated Press

PAID ADVERTISING

SPECIAL PAID ADVERTISING FEATURE

PAID ADVERTISING

New State Silver 100's to go quick

U.S. residents get 48 hours to snap them up at just state minimum

The phone lines are ringing off the hook.

"It's like a modern day 'Gold Rush,'" said Mary Ellen Withrow, the emeritus 40th Treasurer of the United States of America.

"Everyone wants to get their hands on the first and only State Silver 100's now being handed over to U.S. residents at just the state minimum set by the private Federated Mint before they're all gone," Withrow said.

"But don't bother calling local banks and credit unions because they can't even get their hands on these never before seen State Silver 100's," Withrow said.

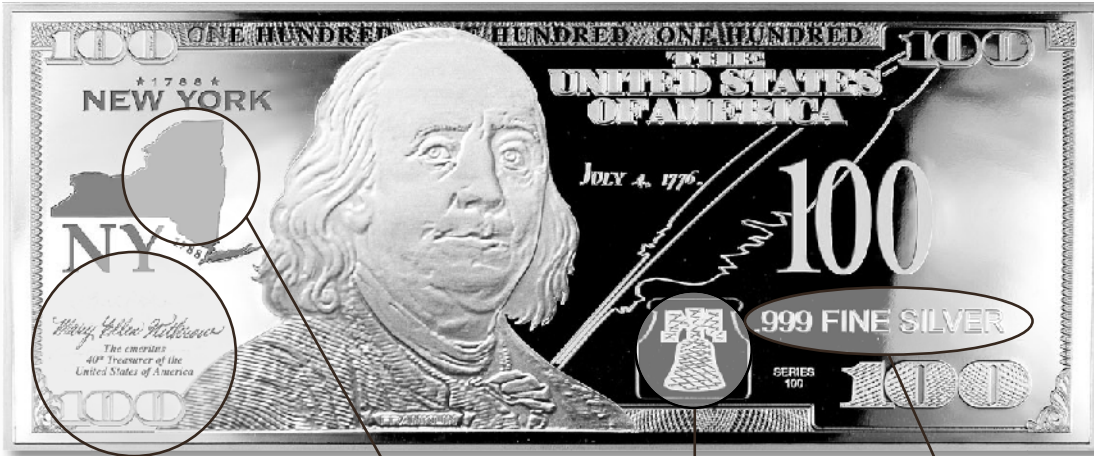
That's because these valuable, proof finish State Silver 100's are not being released and minted by the U.S. Gov't. That's right; they're being released directly to the first 17,544 U.S. residents who beat the 48 hour order deadline exclusive-

ly from the vaults of the private Federated Mint.

"But you better hurry because these full one ounce State Silver 100's are struck in high relief .999 solid silver proof finish and will always be a valuable precious metal which is why everyone is snapping up as many as they can before they're all gone," Withrow said.

"As Executive Advisor to the Federated Mint I get paid to deliver breaking news. So if you're a U.S. resident you better call right away because only the first 17,544 callers are guaranteed to get these valuable State Silver 100's at just the \$99 state minimum set by the Federated Mint," Withrow said.

"Here's my advice. Don't wait to call. Pick up the phone right now and get as many of the new State Silver 100's as you can before they're all gone," said Withrow. ■



New State Silver 100's handed over to U.S. residents

U.S. residents who find their zip code listed below and are among the first 17,544 callers who beat the 48 hour order deadline are guaranteed to get the first and only State Silver 100's at just the state minimum set for U.S. residents

NON-U.S. RESIDENTS Residents living outside the U.S. must pay double the state minimum for the State Silver 100's

The vaults at the Federated Mint are nearly empty.

"We can barely keep up with all the orders," said Mary Ellen Withrow, the emeritus 40th Treasurer of the United States of America.

That's because the first and only State Silver 100's in existence are actually being handed over at just the state minimum set by the private Federated Mint to the first 17,544 U.S. residents who find the first two digits of their zip code printed in today's publication.

The only thing residents need to do is call the Toll Free Hotlines before the 48 hour order deadline ends.

Everyone who does is getting individual State Silver 100's at just the state minimum of \$99 set by the Federated Mint. That's why everyone should be taking full Vault Stacks (pictured in the bottom right hand corner of today's newspaper) each loaded with three State Silver 100's before they're all gone.

And here's the best part. U.S. residents lucky enough to be among the first callers to claim the entire 50 State Silver 100's Collection™, pictured right, are also getting 20 State Silver 100's absolutely free.

"I'm advising everyone who finds their zip code on today's Distribution List to get to their phones right now because the new State Silver 100's are only being released to the first 17,544 callers," Withrow said.

Remember, this is not legal tender paper money issued by the U.S. Gov't. These historic State Silver 100's are a magnificent adaptation of the United States Treasury's one hundred dollar Federal Reserve Note. They are the first and only State Silver 100's struck in high relief .999 solid silver proof finish released exclusively from the vaults of the private Federated Mint.

Just imagine how thrilled your children and grandchildren will be when you give them one of these impressive collections for their birthday, Christmas or any special occasion. Just be absolutely sure to keep the new .999 solid silver one ounce State Silver 100's and numbered certificates of authenticity inside the protective Vault Cases.

These stunning Vault Cases are custom made to hold, secure and protect both the State Silver 100's and the numbered certificates of authenticity in a heavy-duty transparent Vault Case that allows the valuable State Silver 100's to be viewed without ever being touched by human hands, thus preserving their valuable collector condition.

"We're bracing for all the calls and doing everything we can to make sure no one gets left out. So if lines are busy keep trying, all calls will be answered," said Withrow. ■



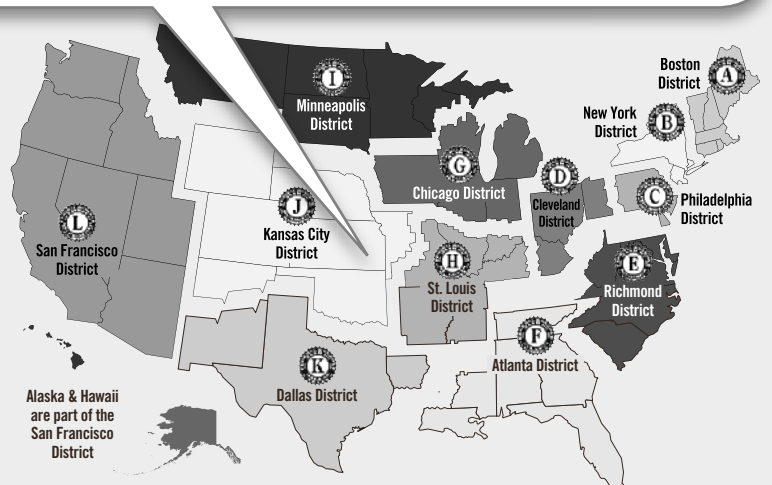
U.S. RESIDENTS GET 20 STATE SILVER 100'S FREE: Pictured above is the never before seen entire 50 State Silver 100's Collection™ shown off by officials from the Federated Mint that everyone is trying to get. Lucky U.S. residents who are among the first 17,544 callers who beat the 48 hour order deadline to claim the 50 State Silver 100's Collection are actually getting 20 State Silver 100's absolutely free, the custom made State Treasury Display Chest is \$285, but it's absolutely free for U.S. residents plus free shipping and free handling too. That means U.S. residents cover just the \$99 state minimum set by the Federated Mint for the remaining 30 State Silver 100's which is a real steal because it's saving every U.S. resident over two thousand dollars today.

U.S. RESIDENTS CALL: 1-866-964-2344 and use EXT. FMP743 if you find the first two digits of your zip code listed on the Distribution List below

AK 99	CO 80, 81	GA 30, 31, 39	IL 60, 61, 62	LA 70, 71	MI 48, 49	NC 27, 28	NJ 07, 08	OH 41, 43, 44, 45	RI 02	TX 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 88	WA 98, 99
AL 35, 36	CT 06	HI 96	IN 46, 47	MA 01, 02, 05	MO 63, 64, 65	ND 58	NM 87, 88	OK 73, 74	SC 29	UT 84	WI 53, 54
AR 71, 72	DE 19	IA 50, 51, 52	KS 66, 67	MD 20, 21	MS 38, 39	NE 68, 69	NV 88, 89	OR 97	SD 57	VA 20, 22, 23, 24	WV 24, 25, 26
AZ 85, 86	FL 32, 33, 34	ID 83	KY 40, 41, 42	ME 03, 04	MT 59	NH 03	NY 00, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14	PA 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	TN 37, 38	VT 05	WY 82, 83

The Toll Free Hotlines open at precisely 8:30am this morning for U.S. residents only. If lines are busy keep trying, all calls will be answered. If you miss the deadline you'll be turned away from this offer and forced to wait for future announcements in this publication or others, if any.

The first 17,544 U.S. residents who find the first two digits of their zip code on today's Distribution List above and call before the 48 hour deadline ends are authorized to get individual State Silver 100's at just the state minimum of \$99 set by the Federated Mint. That's why everyone should be taking full Vault Stacks each loaded with three State Silver 100's before they're all gone. And here's the best part. Every U.S. resident who gets at least two Vault Stacks is also getting free shipping and free handling too. That's a real steal because non U.S. residents must pay over six hundred dollars for each Vault Stack. All residents living outside of the U.S. must pay one hundred ninety-eight dollars for the State Silver 100's.



FEDERATED MINT, LLC IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, A BANK OR ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY. IF FOR ANY REASON WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM SHIPMENT YOU ARE DISSATISFIED, RETURN THE PRODUCT FOR A REFUND LESS SHIPPING AND RETURN POSTAGE. PRICES IN THE WORLD GOLD AND SILVER MARKET ALWAYS FLUCTUATE AND ARE NEVER GUARANTEED. THE STATE SILVER 100'S ARE HIGHLY COLLECTIBLE AND NOT OFFERED FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES. THIS SAME OFFER MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE AT A LATER DATE OR IN A DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION. OH RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX. NO SHIPMENTS TO MN. FEDERATED MINT 7600 SUPREME AVE. NW, NORTH CANTON, OH 44720 ©2018 FEDERATED MINT P7117A OF 20669R-1



WHAT EVERYONE WANTS: Pictured left reveals for the very first time the valuable State Silver 100's struck in high relief .999 pure fine silver loaded inside each Vault Stack. Pictured right are the Vault Stacks containing three of the only State Silver 100's known to exist. Residents who find their zip code listed above are authorized to get individual State Silver 100's at just \$99 U.S. resident minimum set by the Federated Mint. That's why everyone should be taking full Vault Stacks each loaded with three State Silver 100's before they're all gone. And here's the best part. Every U.S. resident who gets at least two Vault Stacks is also getting free shipping and free handling too. That's a real steal because all non-U.S. residents must pay over six hundred dollars for each Vault Stack.

AUTOS

REVIEW

Subaru Crosstrek sensible, cool

All-new compact SUV should be hit with teens

Mark Phelan
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The name is a mouthful, but it has become the small crossover to beat.

Subaru's 2018 Crosstrek 2.0i Limited subcompact SUV sets the standard for value and safety features in a small SUV. For those who can afford it, parents may consider it the vehicle of choice for kids with new driver's licenses.

Most teens won't mind. Unlike conservative clothes, early curfews, getting plenty of rest and eating balanced meals, the Crosstrek isn't just sensible, it's cool.

The Crosstrek, which is all-new for 2018 despite looking a lot like last year's model, also offers good fuel economy in chic SUV wrapping.

Need I mention it works with your iPhone and has a good sound system, or do you want me to shut up before your kids hear us talking about this?

A 152-horsepower, 2-liter 4-cylinder engine and all-wheel-drive are standard on all Crosstreks. Like other Subarus, that engine is unique — horizontally-opposed, to use industry speak, meaning the cylinders are aligned in a different way than in most engines.

I tested a well-equipped Crosstrek 2.0i Limited with the continuously variable transmission. The Crosstrek's engine is smooth but doesn't generate a lot of power. Acceleration is adequate but unexceptional.

It was loaded with features, including a raft of safety gear: adaptive cruise control; front-collision alert; front and rear autonomous braking; lane-departure alert and assist; backup camera; blind spot and cross-traffic alerts and automatic high beams.

At 14.6 feet long, the Crosstrek is among the largest vehicles in the grow-



What stands out

■ **Size:** Bigger than competitors.

■ **Power:** Adequate but not great.

■ **Safety:** Lots of bells and whistles.

SUBARU

Subaru 2018 Crosstrek 2.0i Limited

■ **What:** A subcompact SUV

■ **When:** On sale now

■ **Where:** Made in Gunma, Japan

■ **What makes it go:** A 2-liter 16-valve horizontally opposed 4-cylinder engine producing 152 hp

■ **How thirsty:** 27 miles per gallon in the city, 33 mpg on the highway and 29 mpg overall

■ **How big:** 14.6 feet long

■ **How much:** \$29,745 as tested (excluding destination charge)

■ **Overall:** Great for young drivers

ing and popular class of subcompact SUVs. The front seat has plenty of leg and head room and a small but useful storage bin in the center armrest. Rear legroom is as good as anything in the class. At 20.8 cubic feet behind the rear seat and 55.3 cubic feet with the back seat folded flat, cargo space is among

the best in the class.

In addition to its many safety features, the Crosstrek comes with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto for easy, hands-free access to smartphone features, including music and navigation.

The steering is responsive, and the ride is smooth. The Crosstrek's small size makes it exceptionally easy to park in tight spaces.

The adaptive cruise control, in addition to being rare on vehicles in this class, works well, smoothly maintaining space between vehicles in traffic.

Road and wind noise are very noticeable on rough surfaces and at highway speeds. It's hard to carry on a conversation with the hands-free phone system at highway speeds.

The Crosstrek is an all-new vehicle, based on a modern new vehicle architecture, but it looks so much like the old model that owners will be excused if they walk up to the wrong car in parking lots.

Crosstrek prices start at \$21,795 for a six-speed manual transmission and \$22,795 for a variable automatic transmission.



The 2019 RAV4 will debut March 28 at the New York Auto Show. TOYOTA

RAV4, Altima redesigns to debut in NY

Nathan Bomey
USA TODAY

New versions of two of the nation's most popular vehicles — one a sport-utility vehicle and the other a small sedan — are about to get splashy introductions.

Toyota is set to introduce a redesigned RAV4 sport-utility vehicle, and Nissan will reveal a redesigned Altima sedan at the New York Auto Show this month. The RAV4 was the best-selling crossover SUV in the U.S. in 2017, and the Altima was the fifth-best-selling passenger car, according to Autodata.

The planned announcements by Toyota and Nissan set the stage for the New York show, typically known as a hot spot for luxury vehicles, to exhibit two of the most popular mainstream models in the auto industry.

Toyota said it would reveal the 2019 RAV4 in New York on March 28, marking the fifth generation of the vehicle. The RAV4 overtook the stalwart Camry sedan as Toyota's best-selling vehicle in the U.S. last year, representing a shift by consumers to the higher-riding, boxier vehicles.

And Nissan is hoping to reinvigorate the Altima with a total overhaul that will be seen for the first time the same day. Altima recently lost its crown as Nissan's best-selling vehicle to the popular Rogue crossover.

Tomorrow

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★★★★★

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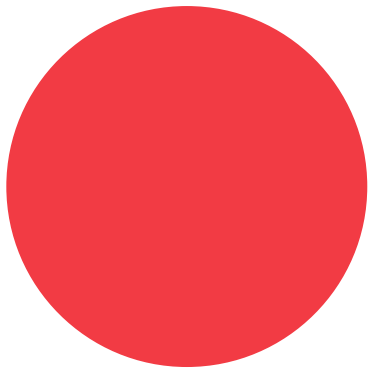
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SPORTSLINE



MARK J. REBILAS/USA TODAY SPORTS

FIRST WORD

“In December, someone from whom I bought cocaine attempted to extort me.”

John Skipper to *The Hollywood Reporter*, explaining his abrupt resignation as president of ESPN on Dec. 18. Skipper, 62, has admitted to a substance abuse problem and says he has had treatment.

NOTABLE NUMBERS

30 years in prison for Ronald Gasser, after being sentenced Thursday for killing ex-NFL player Joe McKnight during a road-rage incident, according to the Jefferson Parish (La.) district attorney's office. Gasser, 56, was convicted of manslaughter for the Dec. 1, 2016, shooting.

10 years in a row with at least one tournament win for Gonzaga after avoiding the upset by North Carolina-Greensboro 68-64.

7 seed Texas A&M as the pick to win the national title by George H.W. Bush. The 41st president has the Aggies knocking off Virginia, Villanova, Xavier, North Carolina and Michigan along the way. He has an honorary degree from A&M and the campus houses his presidential library.

\$22.5M

In base salary next season in addition to a \$500,000 workout bonus for new Vikings QB Kirk Cousins, whose contract became official Thursday. Other elements: \$3 million signing bonus, 2019 base of \$27.5 million with \$500K workout, 2020 base of \$29.5 million with \$500K workout.

LAST WORDS

“My opening statement is I saw that Tiger Woods just birdied. He's 4 under with a double bogey.”

UNC coach Roy Williams, beginning his NCAA news conference Thursday in Charlotte.

“I can't comment. I'm employed at Memphis East.”

Former NBA and Memphis star Penny Hardaway, amid speculation he will be named his alma mater's coach. His high school team is in the state semifinals Friday.

From staff and wire reports

NCAA TOURNAMENT



Marques Townes, left, and Donte Ingram celebrate Loyola's NCAA tournament win Thursday against the Miami Hurricanes. TIM HEITMAN/USA TODAY SPORTS

Divine bracket busting

Loyola beats Miami with help of 98-year-old nun

Josh Peter
USA TODAY

DALLAS – The 98-year-old woman waited at the corner of the basketball court as the jubilant players for Loyola-Chicago celebrated their 64-62 upset victory Thursday over Miami (Fla.).

If she weren't restricted to a wheelchair, Sister Jean Dolores-Schmidt

surely would have joined the fun.

Sister Jean, the longtime team chaplain, could barely contain her own glee inside American Airlines Center.

“Thank God, thank God we did it,” she said at the end of the televised broadcast. “We just knew we would do this. Our team is so great and they don't care who makes the points as long as we win the game.”

“I said we want to get the big W up

there, and we did it.”

Before each game, Sister Jean, white-haired and bespectacled, leads the team in prayer. She also provides a scouting report — in person and by email.

On Thursday, before No. 11 seed Loyola-Chicago played No. 6 seed Miami in the first round of the NCAA Tourn-

See LOYOLA, Page 4C

Woods gets 'tournament feels' at Bay Hill

Steve DiMeglio
USA TODAY

ORLANDO – Tiger Woods was trudging back up the hill toward the tee box on the third hole at Bay Hill during Thursday's first round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational, a 275-yard journey that gave him time to calm down.

Behind Woods was the spot where his ball wound up 4 inches out of

bounds, forcing him to take the long trip back to the tee. After hitting another tee shot with his 3-wood, Woods went on to make a double-bogey 6.

It was his only spot of bother in the round.

Adding another positive day to his latest comeback, Woods, who finished tied for second last weekend in the Val-

See TIGER, Page 6C

“I'm going out there and hitting shots and I'm scoring.”

Tiger Woods
On his opening-round 68 at the Arnold Palmer Invitational



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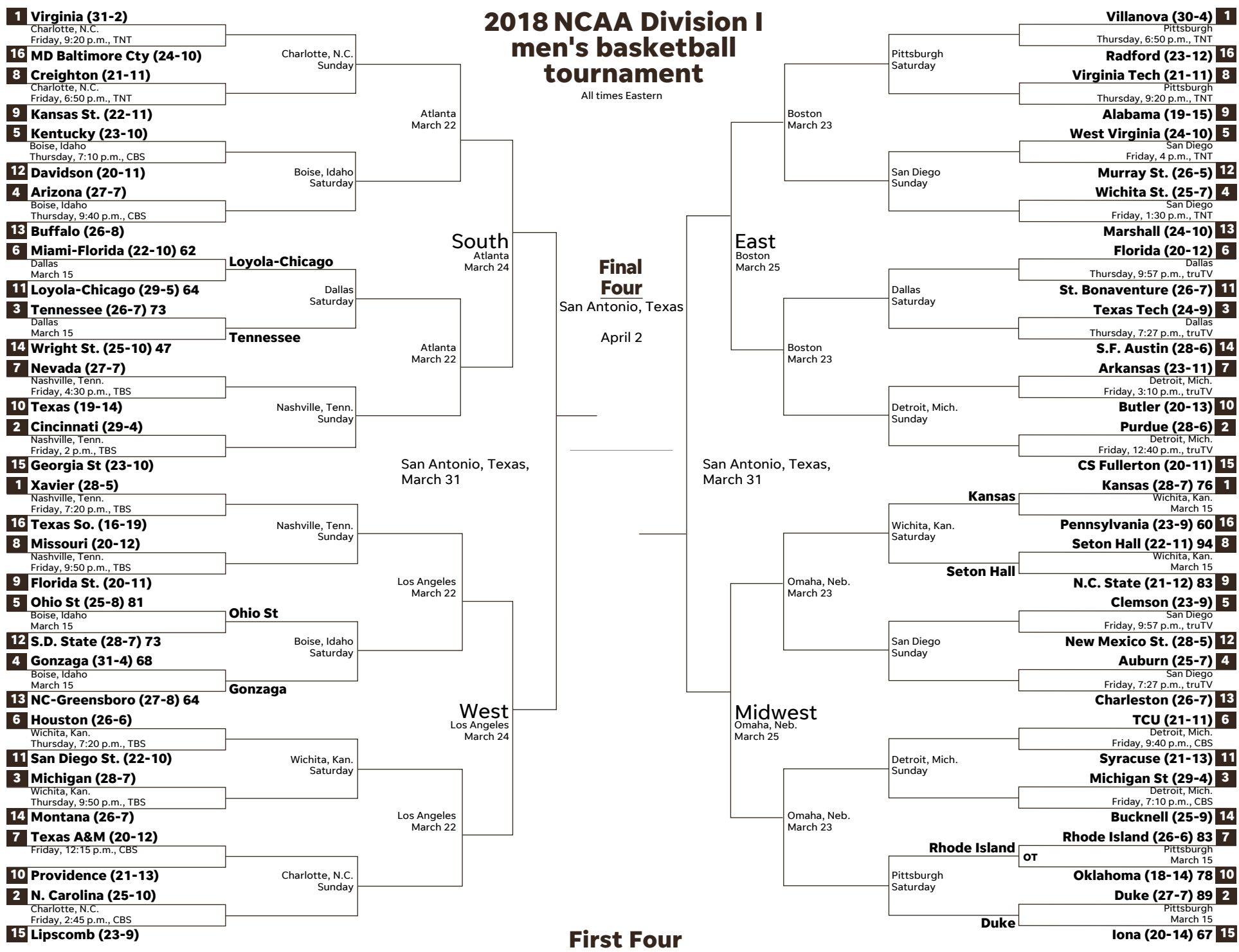
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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

2018 NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament

All times Eastern



LIU Brooklyn 61	N.C. Cent. 46	St. Bonaventure 65	Syracuse 60
Final	Final	Final	Final
Radford 71	Texas So. 64	UCLA 58	Ariz. State 56

Source: USA TODAY Sports

NCAA TOURNAMENT FRIDAY'S GAMES

CHARLOTTE

No. 7 Texas A&M (20-12) vs. No. 10 Providence (21-13)

West Region

Time, TV: 12:15 p.m. ET, CBS

Why Texas A&M will win: No denying size and talent on roster Billy Kennedy has assembled. Big man Robert Williams is projected lottery pick and co-SEC defensive player of year, and 6-9 D.J. Hogg is matchup problem as 38.5% shooter on threes.

Why Providence will win: Ed Cooley always gets his guys to play as hard or harder than opponent, though sometimes their offensive challenges (No. 105 in Ken Pomeroy efficiency ratings) get in way.

No. 2 North Carolina (25-10) vs. No. 15 Lipscomb (23-9)

West Region

Time, TV: approx. 2:45 p.m. ET, CBS

Why UNC will win: Despite losing so many key players off their national title team, Tar Heels turned into high-powered offensive unit that rebounded better than anyone in ACC (+10.0 per game).

Why Lipscomb will win: Bisons have won 12 of last 13 and will try to overcome lack of size with precise ball movement and shooting. Guard Garrison Mathews scored 20 or more points 21 times.

No. 8 Creighton (21-11) vs. No. 9 Kansas State (22-11)

South Region

Time, TV: 6:50 p.m. ET, TNT

Why Creighton will win: Bluejays' best player, Marcus Foster (20.3 ppg), spent two seasons at Kansas State before transferring.

Why Kansas State will win: Bruce Weber has made four NCAA tournaments in six years but is yet to get out of first round, so he's overdue. Wildcats don't wow you in any area but shot 47.2% from field.

No. 1 Virginia (31-2) vs. No. 16 UMBC (24-10)

South Region

Time, TV: approx. 9:20 p.m. ET, TNT

Why Virginia will win: It's hard to find fault with team that passed every test this season, including ACC regular-season and tournament titles. With Cavaliers' No. 1 defense, it's hard to see them getting upset this early, even if they struggle to shoot. Sixth man De'Andre Hunter's broken wrist, announced this week, is long-term concern.

Why UMBC will win: There's little to suggest these Retrievers can become first No. 16 seed to knock off a No. 1, as their forays into playing high-major competition this season didn't go well (lost to SMU, Arizona and Maryland by average of 19 points).

— Dan Wolken

DETROIT

No. 2 Purdue (28-6) vs. No. 15 Cal State-Fullerton (20-11)

Time, TV: 12:40 p.m. Friday, truTV

East Region

Why Purdue will win: Boilermakers are 12th in country in field goal percentage (.497) and tied for 35th in points per game (81.1). They lost in Big Ten Conference tournament final to Michigan on March 4.

Why Fullerton will win: A No. 15 seed has upset a No. 2 seed as recently as 2016 (Middle Tennessee vs. Michigan State). However, only eight No. 15s have advanced past opening round.

No. 7 Arkansas (20-9) vs. No. 10 Butler (20-13)

Time, TV: approx. 3:10 p.m. Friday, truTV

East Region

Why Arkansas will win: Razorbacks average 81.1 points, 38th in country, with Daniel Gafford, Jaylen Barford and Daryl Macon each averaging 11.9 or more.

Why Butler will win: Bulldogs made tournament despite losing six of their final nine (No. 1 seeds Xavier and Villanova accounted for three of those losses). That should be motivation enough in a winnable first-round contest.

No. 3 Michigan State (29-4) vs. No. 14 Bucknell (25-9)

Midwest Region

Time, TV: 7:10 p.m. Friday, CBS

Why MSU will win: Spartans failed to reach Sweet 16 in each of last two seasons. Add underwhelming appearance in Big Ten tournament, and they will want to prove they are better than what they have recently shown.

Why Bucknell will win: Bison average 81.1 points per game. After losing their first four games to open season, they've won 18 of 19 games, including their last eight.

No. 6 TCU (21-11) vs. No. 11 Syracuse (21-13)

Midwest Region

Time, TV: approx. 9:40 p.m. Friday, CBS

Why TCU will win: Horned Frogs average 83 points per game, tied for 19th in Division I, and are eighth best in field goal percentage (.499). They played fellow Big 12 NCAA tournament teams Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Kansas to close losses during regular season. This is their first tournament bid since 1998.

Why Syracuse will win: Trust the Jim Boeheim pedigree. In 2016, the Orange became the first team in NCAA tournament history to reach the Final Four as a 10-seed. Keep an eye on freshman Oshae Brissett.

— Brandon Folsom

NASHVILLE

No. 2 Cincinnati (30-4) vs. No. 15 Georgia State (24-10)

Time, TV: 2 p.m. ET, TBS

South Region

Why Cincinnati will win: Cincinnati's tough defense allows second-fewest points in nation (57.1 points per game), and its balanced scoring keeps opponents from shutting down go-to-scorer.

Why Georgia State will win: Panthers have formula for shocker. They have elite scorer in D'Marcus Simmonds, a hot three-point shooting team and a turnover-forcing defense.

No. 7 Nevada (27-7) vs. No. 10 Texas (19-14)

Time, TV: approx. 4:30 p.m. ET, TBS

South Region

Why Nevada will win: Loss of point guard Lindsey Drew to injury a month ago might prevent a Sweet 16 run. But Nevada's lineup is talented enough to win here, led by Caleb Martin (19.1 ppg), Jordan Caroline (17.9 ppg), Cody Martin (13.6 ppg) and Kendall Stephens (13.2 ppg).

Why Texas will win: If projected NBA lottery pick Mo Bamba is fully recovered from late-season toe injury, Texas will have clear advantage in paint. Bamba is a double-double producer and, more important, a shot-blocking presence.

No. 1 Xavier (28-5) vs. No. 16 Texas Southern (16-19)

Time, TV: 7:20 p.m. ET, TBS

West Region

Why Xavier will win: Musketeers tout talent and experience, led by senior Trevon Bluiett (19.5 ppg). Xavier's seniors are 3-0 in first-round games as No. 2, No. 6 and No. 11 seeds.

Why Texas Southern will win: Tigers started season 0-13, but it put things together late. That type of turnaround requires plenty of swagger, regardless of opponent, and Texas Southern will need it.

No. 8 Missouri (20-12) vs. No. 9 Florida State (20-11)

Time, TV: approx. 9:50 p.m. ET, TBS

West Region

Why Missouri will win: Michael Porter Jr., a projected NBA lottery pick, returned from season-long back injury last week. If Porter can shake off rust and coach Cuonzo Martin's grinding defense can take hold, Missouri should advance.

Why Florida State will win: Seminoles play fast pace and score lot of points (81.7 ppg), so their best chance might be pushing Missouri to up-tempo.

— Adam Sparks

SAN DIEGO

No. 4 Wichita State (25-7) vs. No. 13 Marshall (24-10)

Time, TV: 1:30 p.m. ET, TNT

East Region

Why Wichita State will win: Shockers rank in national top 10 in rebounds per game. If Marshall gets hot from three-point range, guard Landry Shamet might be perfect answer.

Why Marshall will win: Thundering Herd run and shoot like crazy, ranking seventh nationally in three-point attempts, led by junior guards averaging more than 20 points per game: Jon Elmore and C.J. Burks.

No. 5 West Virginia (24-10) vs. No. 12 Murray State (26-5)

East Region

Time, TV: 4 p.m. ET, TNT

Why West Virginia will win: Senior guard Jevon Carter has 97 steals, tied for most in nation. Big man Sagaba Konate ranks third nationally with 3.3 blocked shots per game.

Why Murray State will win: Tulane transfer Jonathan Stark has paced red-hot Racers to 13 consecutive wins. Racers could catch Mountaineers off guard in neutral-site game.

No. 4 Auburn (25-7) vs. No. 13 Charleston (26-7)

Midwest Region

Time, TV: 7:27 p.m. ET, truTV

Why Auburn will win: Behind guards Mustapha Heron and Bryce Brown, Tigers average 83.4 points per game and are stellar from foul line. Brown has been bothered by injuries, and Auburn is 2-4 since losing forward Anfernee McLeMore because of an ankle injury.

Why Charleston will win: Guards Grant Riller and Joe Chealey, along with forward Jarrell Brantley, each average at least 17 points on a team that ranks fourth nationally in fewest turnovers.

No. 5 Clemson (23-9) vs. No. 12 New Mexico State (28-5)

Midwest Region

Time, TV: 9:57 p.m. ET, truTV

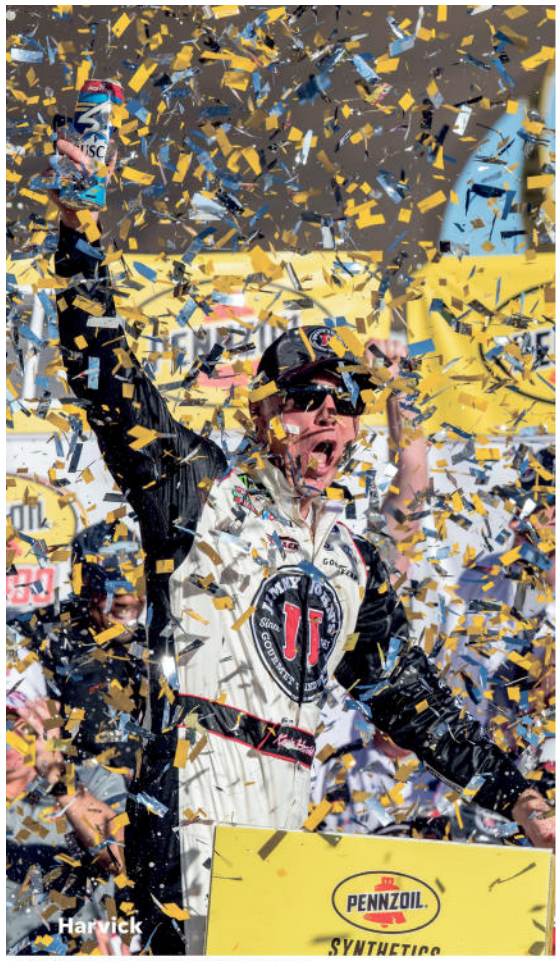
Why Clemson will win: Experience and balance. Guards Marcquise Reed, Gabe DeVoe and Shelton Mitchell average at least 12 points.

Why New Mexico State will win: Graduate transfer Zach Lofton averages 19.8 points per game for his fifth college team. He leads cast of transfers and foreign-born players who comprise one of nation's 10 best teams in rebounding and field goal percentage defense.

— Brent Schrotenboer

NASCAR

Harvick streaking toward hallowed marks



JEROME MIRON/USA TODAY Sports

NASCAR Cup consecutive wins leaders

Kevin Harvick has won three races in a row heading into Sunday's race in Fontana, Calif.

10 WINS	
Richard Petty	1967
SIX WINS	
Richard Petty	1971
FIVE WINS	
Bobby Allison	1971
FOUR WINS	
Dale Earnhardt Sr.	1987
Bill Elliott	1992
Harry Gant	1991
Jeff Gordon	1998
Jimmie Johnson	2007
Mark Martin	1993
David Pearson	1966, 1968
Billy Wade	1964
Darrell Waltrip	1981
Cale Yarborough	1976

Mike Hembree
USA TODAY

Streaking is a difficult assignment in NASCAR.

The topic of winning consecutive races takes on added interest this weekend because Kevin Harvick, who has bounced out of the gate this season with all burners blazing, can score a fourth consecutive win in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series on Sunday (3:30 p.m. ET, Fox) at Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, Calif.

Those in a wagering mood might be interested in taking Harvick against the rest of the field. He dominated in wins at Atlanta Motor Speedway and Las Vegas Motor Speedway and came on strong late Sunday to rack up win No. 3 at ISM Raceway near Phoenix.

Cup drivers have won four in a row five times since 1991. The most recent is seven-time series champion Jimmie Johnson, who won four in a row in October and November 2007 on the way to his second championship. Johnson is the only driver who has scored four consecutive wins in this century.

Other drivers with four consecutive victories: Richard Petty, Bobby Allison, Dale Earnhardt Sr., Bill Elliott, Harry Gant, Jeff Gordon, Mark Martin, David Pearson, Billy Wade, Darrell Waltrip and Cale Yarborough.

Petty and Allison, once fierce rivals, are the only two drivers with five or more wins in a row. Allison won five in a row in 1971. Petty won six in a row that year after winning a barely believable 10 in a row in 1967, the year he won 27 total.

Can Harvick score again at Auto Club? He has one win there, in 2011, and has a noteworthy record over the last 10 races at the fast 2-mile track. Besides the victory, he has three runner-up finishes during that stretch.

Harvick obviously would love to extend the streak, but he also has other goals in mind.

"I'd love to win at Pocono and Kentucky to mark those two racetracks," he said. "Those are the only two racetracks we haven't won at on the Cup schedule.

"Really, it's about winning championships and races. Winning any race, whether it's a sprint car race or a Cup race or late model race, that's what we sit in these things for. That's what we show up to do."

And he has another target. Tony Stewart, co-owner of the Stewart-Haas Racing team that fields Harvick's Fords, retired from Cup racing with 49 victories. Harvick's win at Phoenix was his 40th.

"I'd love to catch this guy in wins," Harvick said, referring to Stewart. "That would be fun. That would be a good conversation in the shop, anyway."

Busch aims to finish one spot higher

Mike Hembree
USA TODAY

FONTANA, Calif. — A streaking driver could be the favorite in Sunday's Auto Club 400 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race at Auto Club Speedway.

Kevin Harvick, who has won three races in a row? Maybe, but the other streaker is Kyle Busch, who has back-to-back runner-up finishes and probably is staying up late at night wondering how to gain that other position.

Busch was second at Las Vegas Motor Speedway and second last weekend at ISM Raceway near Phoenix despite leading a race-high 128 laps. A late-race pit miscue — Busch's car fell off the jack — prevented him from challenging Harvick down the stretch.

Busch has strong numbers at the



Kyle Busch

2-mile track in Fontana. He has won there three times, and he's second only to seven-time champion Jimmie Johnson in several statistical categories among drivers who have made at least three starts — average finish (10.1), laps led (611) and laps in the top 15 (3,382).

Auto Club Speedway also was the site of Busch's first Cup victory in September 2005.

The track, Busch said, is one of the series' most challenging.

"That place is tough," he said. "It's really a hard racetrack to get a hold of, especially when it's hot and the sun is out. There are two completely different types of racing when you run the top

versus the bottom groove. You can run from the top to the bottom but, when you run the bottom, you really feel like you're puttering around the racetrack. You feel like you aren't making up any time on the bottom. But when you are running the top groove, you feel like you're getting the job done. The guys who run the bottom have a little bit more patience and handle it better than the guys who are on the gas on top."

Busch and Harvick drive for the two top teams coming out of Arizona. Both Joe Gibbs Racing and Stewart-Haas Racing put all four of their drivers in the top 10 of the Phoenix finish order.

Beyond those groups, Kyle Larson of Chip Ganassi Racing should be a top threat this weekend. He won last year's Auto Club race, leading 110 of the 202 laps.

USA SNAPSHOTS®



6
Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series drivers hail from California, site of this weekend's race at Auto Club Speedway.

SOURCE NASCAR

ELLEN J. HORROW, ALEX GONZALEZ/USA TODAY

Key drivers looking for their first win at Fontana are defending series champion Martin Truex Jr., Denny Hamlin and Joey Logano.

NFL

Inexpensive free agents might pay off big

Nate Davis
USA TODAY

Most of the big names on the NFL's free agent market have signed, many commanding headline-making mega-contracts.

But it's the shrewd deals made in the offseason that often determine a team's fortunes. It was just a year ago that the Eagles signed backup quarterback Nick Foles amid little fanfare — though there was fanfare aplenty months later when he earned Super Bowl MVP honors while bringing Philadelphia its first Lombardi Trophy.

It's a stretch to think any of these guys can replicate Foles' impact, but here are 10 less-heralded players who could pay off well beyond their respective teams' investments.

1. QB AJ McCarron, Buffalo Bills: He has only four NFL starts (including a near-victory in the 2015 playoffs) but might prove a prime value on a two-year, \$10 million pact. McCarron, lauded for his leadership while leading Alabama to college titles, now gets his big pro shot, while Buffalo gets at least a bridge quarterback — and perhaps much more — whose pocket-based game clearly held more appeal for team brass than Tyrod Taylor's more frenetic style.

2. WR Danny Amendola, Miami Dolphins: He's never been about the numbers, either on the field (no seasons with 700 receiving yards) or — relatively speaking — at the bank after taking a two-year, \$12 million offer from Miami. But Amendola is famed for his work ethic and always saves his best performances for the postseason, where his skills out of the slot and on special teams contributed to several memorable New England victories. The Dolphins are banking on those intangibles



AJ McCarron played in 11 games, 10 as quarterback, for the Bengals in three seasons. DAVID KOHL/USA TODAY SPORTS

to help return them to relevance.

3. DE Julius Peppers, Carolina Panthers: Five million? For a surefire Hall of Famer? Peppers might be 38, but he's not playing like his age, posting 11 sacks in 2017 while shifting to a role that allowed him to play more exclusively on passing downs. He's certainly a nice asset in a division featuring so many capable quarterbacks.

4. CB Patrick Robinson, New Orleans Saints: A first-round pick of New Orleans in 2010, he's back in The Big Easy after knocking around the league. Robinson hasn't always played up to his draft pedigree but was a major contributor to the Eagles' Super Bowl push, picking off a team-high four passes in the regular season. His 50-yard pick six in the NFC title game helped turn the tide against the Vikings. If Robinson continues to produce at that kind of level in a nickel role, he's a steal at \$20 million over four years.

5. G Andrew Fico, Atlanta Falcons: In a year when guards including Andrew Norwell and Josh Kline are getting nutty money, Fico comes at a fiscally sound \$12.75 million over three seasons. He's also a tough blocker who

should solidify an Atlanta line that struggled to replace retired G Chris Chester in 2017.

6. RB Isaiah Crowell, New York Jets: A tough runner who racked up more than 2,300 yards from scrimmage over the past two seasons — for a Cleveland team that had no passing game to deter defenses from loading the box — Crowell has distinguished himself even while toiling in near anonymity. The Jets might have hit a home run after reaching a three-year, \$12 million agreement with their new lead back.

7. DB T.J. Carrie, Cleveland Browns: He was often overshadowed in Oakland, which is probably why he's underrated league-wide. Carrie's stats won't impress, but his play on film often does. At four years and \$31 million, he's much more reasonably priced than a player such as Trumaine Johnson.

8. DE DaQuan Jones, Tennessee Titans: Base ends in 3-4 schemes (also known as five techniques) rarely get recognition they deserve, and Jones is no different. But he's been a valuable starter in Nashville over the past three seasons, and the Titans knew it ... and also realized that keeping him through the 2020 season for \$21 million is a win for them.

9. WR Donte Moncrief, Jacksonville Jaguars: The question has never really been about his ability but rather his availability. Moncrief, just 24, has missed 11 games over the past two seasons but is an effective target with a nose for the end zone when he's right. The Jags need that kind of presence after losing Allen Robinson and should profit greatly in 2017 if Moncrief avoids the injury report while pulling down \$7 million.

10. LB Avery Williamson, Jets: He is not a big name but has quietly become one of the NFL's better all-around line-

Pelicans-Saints owner Benson dies

New Orleans Saints and Pelicans owner Tom Benson died Thursday, a month after he was first hospitalized with the flu. He was 90.



Tom Benson

Benson died at Ochsner Medical Center in Jefferson, La., with his wife, Gayle, at his side, the Saints said in a news release.

Benson, who parlayed his beginnings as a car salesman into an auto dealership empire, purchased the Saints in 1985 for \$70 million and the franchise made the playoffs for the first time in its then two-decade existence two years later.

The Saints won their only NFL championship, a victory against the Indianapolis Colts and New Orleans native Peyton Manning, by prevailing in Super Bowl XLIV in February 2010.

Benson brought the NBA to New Orleans in 2012.

"Tom loved New Orleans, where he was a generous and caring philanthropist. Within the NFL, he was a true leader among NFL owners," Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement.

— A.J. Perez

backers. He'll pull down \$22.5 million over the next three years — good money — but a better value given what comparable players such as Antonio Hitchens, Zach Brown and Demario Davis are suddenly commanding.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Bennett has UVA locked in for long run



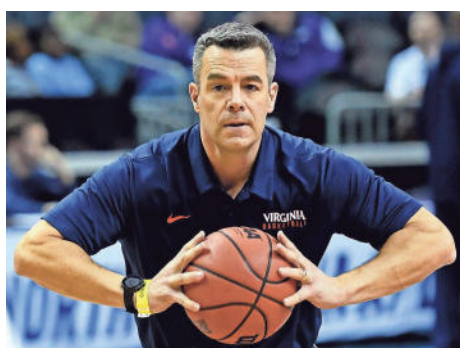
Dan Wolken
Columnist
USA TODAY

CHARLOTTE — Tony Bennett is a man of deep religious faith, bedrock basketball principles for which he offers no apology and an inner peace so unshakable that it can seem almost eerie.

Year after year, those attributes have brought him back here with Virginia teams that play above their recruiting rankings and exhibit the sport's most admirable qualities. Discipline. Unselfishness. Toughness.

But never before has this entire era of Bennett's career hinged on one NCAA tournament in the way it does this year. If not now for the No. 1 Cavaliers, when will they shed their reputation as a March Madness sob story? If not this time with a 31-2 team that rolled to the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season and tournament titles, why would anyone believe the future will be any different?

"Every program wants to win a national championship, get a Final Four berth, those kinds of things," Bennett said. "But I know the way to do that is to lock in and say, all right, earn the right to get to the next game. There's so many good things that have happened for us this year that won't be taken away (if we don't get there), but how you choose to judge your program, you look at our league with Duke and North Carolina and the national championships, they've done that and that's why we'll just continue to knock."



Virginia Cavaliers coach Tony Bennett's team is 31-2 and one of the favorites to win the NCAA tournament.
BOB DONNAN/USA TODAY SPORTS

Indeed, in Charlottesville, the Cavaliers have a door knocker mounted in their locker room, a metaphor for how Bennett has molded one of the nation's most consistently great programs in arguably the toughest league.

But for all the regular-season spoils Virginia has earned, there has been a jarring lack of NCAA tournament success. And at some point, that hole on the résumé becomes a burden weighing on any program, no matter how unflappable its leader seems to be.

"My faith helps me in situations like that, to see a bigger picture and perspective," Bennett said. "It doesn't mean it doesn't sting and you don't want to be there, but that's life. You're not always going to get what you want."

"Every tough loss brings incredible wisdom, and that's one of our pillars about thankfulness is will you be thankful for whatever adversity or losing

teaches you? And if you're able to look at it, as not enjoyable as it is, and really glean from it, I think you can grow in ways you probably wouldn't grow in success."

That isn't just lip service from Bennett. Two years ago, Virginia was a No. 1 seed, totally in control of an Elite Eight game with eight minutes left and on the verge of silencing those critiques that the Cavaliers play too slow, that his system relies too much on defensive perfection, that they don't have the kind of next-level athletes who you need to rise above the pressure when baskets get hard to come by late in a game.

But Virginia totally collapsed that day, squandering a 13-point lead against a Syracuse team it had handled earlier in the season, missing out on the chance to go to its first Final Four since 1984.

After the game, Bennett was beyond stoic. His composure hadn't changed; his demeanor was barely any different than it had been two days earlier after beating Iowa State. At arguably the most painful moment of his career, he seemed so anchored to his lack of emotion that it seemed almost unnatural.

Bennett's steadiness is useful in a sport, and in a tournament, where only one team walks away happy and the rest suffer some level of regret about what might have been. It explains how he lost nearly every key contributor from that run, reset the roster and came back this season with a team that started unranked but ripped through its schedule without a hint of adversity.

At least until now.
Freshman wing De'Andre Hunter,

who was named the ACC's sixth man of the year, will miss the tournament after suffering a broken left wrist, even though he played with the injury in the ACC tournament. It's potentially a crushing loss for the Cavaliers, robbing them of one of their most versatile and athletic players and raising the degree of difficulty on their quest to break through to the Final Four.

"He's a great player, and he's been great for us," guard Ty Jerome said. "We'll miss him tremendously, but there's no time to hang our heads. He's a big loss, but we have all the pieces we need in this room."

In the end, though, the biggest missing piece at Virginia is its own NCAA tournament history, a burden the Cavaliers have to reckon with even if they had little or nothing to do with the Syracuse meltdown or the ugly 65-39 loss last season against Florida in the second round or getting exposed by Michigan State in this same building three years ago when they entered the NCAA tournament 29-3 and couldn't even make it to the second weekend.

"Of course, that's always in the back of your mind," junior center Jack Salt said. "You want to give Coach Bennett a good team that gets to that historic stage, but to get there, as hard as it is, you can't be focused on it. Especially right now. It can be used as motivation in the summer, but right now we need to lock in for Friday."

As always, the Cavaliers will keep knocking. But given the opportunity they earned by going 31-2 this season, it's time to finally kick the door down.

Rams' Fatts shows he's freshman phenom

Erik Brady
USA TODAY

PITTSBURGH — Trae Young, the famous frosh, was dribbling up court when another freshman, not nearly so famous, picked his pocket and promptly dropped in a three-point bomb.

Meet Fatts Russell.

Rhode Island beat Oklahoma 83-78 in overtime Thursday, and much of the thanks belongs to the freshman named Fatts who introduced himself to America in the NCAA tournament's first game of the first round.

Young is widely expected to leave Oklahoma for the NBA. And Fatts? He and his Rams will face Duke on Saturday in the second round.

Russell's steal-and-three wasn't decisive — it gave Rhode Island a 55-50 lead that it wouldn't hold in regulation — but the play will remain memorable as emblematic of the day.

"I told him when I recruited him: The only point guard I saw better than him at the Peach Jam last year was Trae Young," Rams coach Dan Hurley said afterward of scouting Russell at the summer showcase. "And he told me I was wrong about that and he was going to prove me wrong today. And he put on a show."

Hurley stuck with Russell through much of the second half and overtime, though he hadn't played as much through the regular season on the senior-laden Rams.

"I just try to get in and give the team whatever they need," said Russell, who scored 15 points. "We have a lot of great seniors on this team, so my role hasn't been as big as I may have wanted it to be. ... Coach has a lot of confidence in me. Every time I get in the game, he doesn't tell me not to be myself. They tell me to be myself. Myself is confident."

Senior guard Jared Terrell said may-

be America was surprised, but the Rams weren't.

"We see him do that every day," Terrell said. "That's nothing new to us, but to see him do it on the national stage, it's great."

The Rams' game plan was to limit Young to 15 shots and let the other Sooners beat them. Young ultimately took 18 shots, which was right on target given overtime.

"It felt like if we could funnel the ball to those others enough that we'd have a great chance to win," Hurley said.

Russell matched up against Young on defense for parts of the game.

"First, I want to say Trae Young's a very good player," Russell said. "But we just tried to contain him the whole time. We didn't want to change our style of play and not be aggressive against him just because of who he is. We just tried to contain him, and it worked."

Young scored 28 points, right at his average of 27.4 points per game that led the nation.

"We knew he would make incredibly tough shots," Hurley said. "The kid has no weakness and it's going to be an amazing NBA career ahead for him. It was a pleasure to — I played against Allen Iverson and Ray Allen in college. It's a pleasure to be on the court with a guy that good and that great and compete against him. I'm proud of the way our guys rose to the challenge."

Young was only 3-for-9 from three and the Sooners overall were just 4-for-20 from three. Meanwhile, the Rams were 11-for-28, including three three-pointers each from Russell, Terrell and E.C. Matthews.

Matthews, another senior guard, hit the go-ahead three-pointer in overtime and another that helped to put the game away. When the ball was in the air on that first one, Hurley said, "it's almost like you're saying to the basketball gods, like, please take of this guy. Everything



Rhode Island's Fatts Russell (2) drives against Oklahoma's Jordan Shepherd in the Rams' overtime win Thursday. GEOFF BURKE/USA TODAY SPORTS

he's been through with the injuries and the heart that that kid has. ... It's beyond even feeling good about winning. It's just he deserved that."

Actually, it was when Matthews was hurt early in the season that Russell got some of his most extended playing time. "He was electrifying" then, Hurley said, "and put on similar performances" to Thursday's.

Early in the season, of course, is when Young was electrifying the nation. The Sooners ended up losing nine of their last 11, but they began 12-1 as Young announced himself to the world.

"I made the big mistake of watching their early-season games first" in scouting the Sooners, Hurley said. "And I didn't sleep for a day and half. ... I coached the J.R. Smiths and Tristan Thompsons as a high school coach, and he's as special as anyone I've ever been on the court with."

So will it be the NBA or another season in Norman?

"Right now, I'm not worried about that," Young said. "Right now my focus is my teammates. Those are my brothers, and those are the people I care about most right now. It's tough after a loss to think of anything besides that."

And then in the next breath: "But when you get back to me later this week, I'll sit down with my family and we'll discuss that. But right now that's not my main focus. My main focus is my teammates."

It all started so well for the Sooners and ended with so many losses — 14, counting Thursday's — that Young can scarcely comprehend it.

"I hate losing," he said. "That's not in my DNA, losing. I tried — I left everything I could, and I know my teammates did as well — everything they could on that floor. ... This is all — this is a chapter in my book. This season, that chapter is closed now. They got to move on to, I mean, whatever's next. Whatever's next for me."

Loyola

Continued from Page 1C

ment, Sister Jean advised that the Ramblers keep an eye on each of the Hurricanes because of Miami's balanced scoring attack.

And then she cheered and prayed and prayed some more — yes, right before Donte Ingram hit the game-winning three-pointer from well beyond the top of the key with 0.3 seconds left — until the game was over and the victory sealed.

"Sister Jean is our team chaplain, and she's our comfort blanket," Loyola-

Chicago coach Porter Moser told USA TODAY. "She just has so much spirit. She's got an unbelievable energy level to her that I connect with."

"You know how much she's praying for you. You know how much she's doing for you and she means the world to this university and our team."

When the players' on-court celebration ended, each stopped and greeted Sister Jean and many had brief exchanges with her. The final hug came from Ingram, the game's hero.

"Sister Jean, she has meant so much to me personally and obviously the team," Ingram said, noting the scouting report they get from her before and after the game. "She's just so special,

her spirit. She's just so bright, and she means so much to the city of Chicago and Loyola obviously and the team."

Clayton Custer, who led Loyola-Chicago in scoring with 14 points, indicated Sister Jean provides something special with her pregame prayers that begins, "Good and gracious God."

"I mean, I think her prayers definitely mean a little bit extra when she prays for us," Custer said. "She's huge for us, and she's huge for our success."

She's huge on it. Loyola-Chicago faces No. 3 seed Tennessee on Saturday, and Sister Jean said she filled out a bracket that has Loyola-Chicago advancing to the Sweet 16.

"I say, 'Tennessee, watch out. Watch

out for us,'" Sister Jean said.

So now that we have our first Cinderella, what makes them able to live up to Sister Jean's expectations?

Moser is a Rick Majerus disciple who has the Ramblers spreading the floor as well as any team in the country and shooting better than 50%. Loyola's defense also ranks top 10 nationally.

But as Sister Jean says, it's unselfish play and chemistry that make them a serious threat to knock off Tennessee.

"Coach trusts all of us," Ingram said after the game. "This team is special. We've had that laserlike focus all year. We've got five guys in double-digit scoring, we're a very unselfish team."

Contributing: Scott Gleeson

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tournament has curious Eastern slant/bias

Nine schools west of Kansas made NAAs

Brent Schrottenboer
USA TODAY

SAN DIEGO — Only nine of the 68 best college basketball teams in the nation are from west of the Kansas border this year, according to the NCAA Tournament men's selection committee.

The other 59 teams in the tournament — 87% — come from the Central and Eastern time zones, leaving a big void out West, where the basketball teams just aren't as bountiful or as good, depending on the viewpoint.

At least one strange side effect of this imbalance has developed this week as a result:

A bunch of Deep South and red-state teams have been forced to fly into Southern California to fill the bracket at Viejas Arena, a first-and second-round site that was determined years in advance. This happened despite committee guidelines instituted in 2002 to keep teams closer to home.

"If anybody's equipped to do it, we can do it," West Virginia coach Bob Huggins said Thursday, putting a positive spin on his team's many long travels.

His team is seeded fifth in the East Region, of all places, and yet was required to come all the way out here to play Murray State of Kentucky on Friday in the first round.

Some might see this as fallout from an alleged East Coast bias, especially after the selection committee snubbed the Southern California Trojans and Saint Mary's College of California, both of which finished second in their leagues. After all, seven members of the 10-member committee are from the Central and Eastern time zones.

This year, the amount of teams from those time zones (59) is tied for the most ever from that part of the country, tied with last year, according to data from STATS. The only time there were fewer



Bob Huggins' West Virginia Mountaineers will play Murray State in San Diego in a first-round game. If the Mountaineers win two games, they'll advance to a Sweet 16 game in Boston. AMY KONTRAS/USA TODAY SPORTS

than nine teams from the Mountain, Pacific and Hawaii time zones was in 1986, when there were seven, according to STATS.

But the lopsided map also has an innocent explanation: Less than 20% of all Division I teams are from west of the Central time zone to begin with, and teams from that side of the country have never earned more than 15 NCAA Tournament berths in one year anyway, which happened in 2013.

The basketball teams out West this year also weren't as good, according to several metrics and the committee. Of the nine tournament teams from out West, the committee seeded only three higher than an 11-seed: Nevada, a 7 seed, and Arizona and Gonzaga, both 4 seeds.

"Teams will remain in or as close to their areas of natural interest as possible," according to NCAA tournament seeding guidelines that were designed to reduce team travel and increase local

fan interest.

But if there aren't enough good teams from out West, this is what happens: The first-round games in San Diego are filled with teams from the East and Midwest Regions of the bracket: Clemson, Charleston, Auburn, West Virginia, Marshall of West Virginia, Murray State (Ky.) and Wichita State. New Mexico State is the lone team in San Diego from west of Kansas.

Tickets were still available Thursday at Viejas Arena, which seats about 11,000 for tournament games. It's not clear how many fans each school will bring even if the schools have sold all of their allotments.

Some still won't be fazed by the travel distance, especially the Buchanan family from Mississippi. Brothers Shunn and Leroy "Shaq" Buchanan play for New Mexico State and Murray State, respectively, in separate games in San Diego.

"I have a big group of family coming out," Shunn Buchanan told USA TODAY. "They're excited. I'm just happy for my mom."

The committee has tried to keep teams closer to home by matching certain "pods" of four-team mini-brackets with one of eight first- and second-round sites that were determined several years ago. The best teams in those pods are seeded 1, 2, 3 or 4 and receive geographic priority as much as possible.

"If you look at the overall seed list, of all the teams on the top 12 lines (the 1, 2 and 3 seeds), none are Mountain (time) or Western teams," NCAA media coordinator David Worlock said in an e-mail. "That means all of the sites were taken except for the two Western sites (Boise and San Diego)."

Arizona and Gonzaga went to Boise for first-round games, along with Kentucky, Buffalo, Ohio State and two teams from North Carolina.

Asked why Arizona, a four-seed in the South Region, was not sent to San Diego instead of Wichita State or Auburn, also both 4 seeds, Worlock said the committee looks at other factors besides geography.

"When there is minimal relative distance between sites, the committee may exercise discretion when assigning teams to a site," Worlock said. "The reasons could relate to ease and flexibility of travel options, competitive balance and natural geographic region."

Besides Arizona, UCLA and Arizona State were the only other tournament teams from the Pac-12, the best league in the West. Both were relegated to preliminary play-in games this week in Dayton, Ohio.

And then they both lost to teams from New York.

In San Diego, the two teams that advance from here to the Sweet 16 will proceed to either Omaha or Boston.

Their fans might want to pick up some fish tacos from the beach before they leave. It's cold out there, and it's a long trip.

New Mexico State coach makes most of second shot

Brent Schrottenboer
USA TODAY

SAN DIEGO — Chris Jans never would be in this position if nobody dared to take another chance on him.

He knows it. He almost blew it.

In April 2015, Bowling Green fired him after his only season there as men's basketball coach. He brought it on himself and apologized for what he did — getting intoxicated, behaving badly and slapping a woman's buttocks at a bar.

But later that year, Wichita State coach Gregg Marshall pulled him back up and hired him as a staff consultant.

New Mexico State officials picked him to lead their program last April, setting off a series of moves that have placed Jans and the Aggies on the national stage Friday as a fashionable pick to upset fifth-seeded Clemson in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

"I'm very fortunate to have an inner circle of people that believe in me," Jans told USA TODAY this week. "It starts with my wife, and certainly I relied on my faith to get us through a very trying time. And like I tell everybody, I'm forever grateful to Gregg Marshall and the Wichita State administration for allowing me to get back on my feet and put myself in a position to have another chance to run my own program."

Fittingly for Jans, Marshall's Wichita State also is among the eight teams at Viejas Arena for first-round games Friday. Even more fittingly, Jans got here with a New Mexico State team that is stocked with second-chance cases like himself, including transfers from several other colleges. His star player, Zach Lofton, is even getting a fifth chance of sorts. He's playing for his fifth college after graduating from Texas Southern and getting dismissed from Minnesota for not meeting team obligations.

Together they call themselves the Junkyard Dogs. The Aggies roster lists nine transfers, including point guard A.J. Harris, who transferred from Ohio State before Jans arrived, as well as transfers from Utah and Denver who aren't eligible to play until next season.

All had their own reasons for trying over at New Mexico State, such as hopes for a better fit. Transfers from junior colleges usually were unqualified or over-



New Mexico State coach Chris Jans led the Aggies to a 28-5 overall and 12-2 WAC record. Daniel Clark/USA TODAY Sports

looked out of high school. This is a fresh start for them, too.

"We play scrappy and grind," said Shunn Buchanan, a transfer Jans recruited from Northeast Mississippi Community College.

They have come together to stress defense and rebounding and have won 28 of 33 games despite undergoing drastic turnover after coach Paul Weir left to take over rival New Mexico.

"They like one another," Jans said. "We've been blessed that way. They've bonded well with a lot of guys of different backgrounds and not being together as a group very long."

"They bought into playing with that nasty type of attitude and that approach that we're not the biggest bunch, and we don't shoot the ball extremely well from (three-point range)," said Jans, who previously led Bowling Green to a 21-12 record in his only other season as a Division I head coach. "We're one of the worst free throw shooting teams in the country, but we're going to fight you tooth and nail to the end. And we're going to rely on defense and rebounding and toughness to pull us through on those nights when the ball is not going through the hoop."

It's a far cry from where they were at the beginning of the season in November after losing an exhibition game to Texas Tech 84-54 in Midland, Texas.

"We got our tails whacked," Jans said. "It was a wake-up call for us, and I really believe that was the impetus for change."

Sometimes that's just what it takes, as long as there's another chance to try again.

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Isaiah Thomas: 'I'm not no sixth man'

Lakers guard says he wants to start

Sam Amick
USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES — Isaiah Thomas was a happy man on Monday.

His Los Angeles Lakers were hours removed from downing Cleveland in a game he swears didn't qualify as revenge. The win was even sweeter because Thomas' wife, Kayla, and their two sons, Jaiden and James, were in town after making their weekly trip from Seattle.

But amid these brutal past 10 months — from Boston MVP candidate to grieving brother to Cavs fall guy to Lakers sixth man, with the hip injury, a seven-month recovery and two jarring trades — the root of Thomas' joy had nothing to do with hoops.

Thomas, whose 22-year-old sister, Chyna, died in a single-car crash at the start of Boston's postseason run last April, was eager to head to South La Cienega and Pico Boulevard.

That's the location of a recent Sean John billboard, with Jaiden and James featured alongside the sons of Houston's Chris Paul and Oklahoma City's Carmelo Anthony.

"That (photo shoot) was a couple months ago, and it's a nationwide thing, so they have billboards up in Times Square, Houston, OKC, LA," Thomas said. "I just drove by there, and it was a dope moment to see my boys on a billboard."

One of these days — doubters be darned — Thomas plans to be a head-

liner again, too.

"I'm not no sixth man," he declared in an interview with USA TODAY this week. "And I won't be a sixth man. I just want everybody to know that, like clear as can be. I'm a two-time All-Star and a starter who has done things that a lot of people in this league haven't done (when) given that opportunity."

"But I got traded into a situation I can't control. There's nothing bad against (Lakers coach) Luke Walton. There's nothing bad against the Los Angeles Lakers. I'm taking advantage of the opportunity they've given me, and then (we'll) end the season off strong."

Thomas has done that lately, averaging 18.4 points and 5.8 assists since Feb. 23 while helping the Lakers win eight of their past 11. He made his first start Wednesday, but only because starter Kyle Kuzma was injured.

"I'm here to help," Thomas said. "I'm here to continue to get better, and I'm still — (expletive), I can reach levels that I know I haven't reached yet, and I'm here to help along the way in whatever they need me to do, and I'm going to be a professional."

When Thomas sat down in a Dallas steakhouse with Walton and Lakers associate head coach Brian Shaw on Feb. 9, it was the beginning of one of the NBA's most complicated partnerships. By sending Jordan Clarkson and Larry Nance Jr. to Cleveland in exchange for Thomas, Channing Frye and a 2018 first-round pick, the Lakers had finally created the two maximum-salary slots that they hope go to James and Oklahoma City's Paul George. Yet in this candid conversation between the new co-workers, the future didn't matter as much as the present.

Walton's rebuilding Lakers had a sensitive situation of their own. They were winning and this was no time to change the starting lineup — especially when the point guard was prized rookie Lonzo Ball.

Thomas would be coming off the bench again.

"Could he start?" Walton said of Thomas. "One hundred percent. Does he deserve to start? Yeah, with what he's done in his career. Absolutely. (But) we're in a unique situation here. We have a young team. ... I kind of just challenged (Thomas), that even though he fully wants to start, I said, 'Look, you've been out a long time, (and) to me there's only, however much, two months left in the season at the time — find the joy. Go find the (joy).'"

The three men sat there for more than two hours. Walton, who believes honesty and directness with players ensures a genuine connection, made sure Thomas was heard.

And ever since, Walton says he has appreciated his professionalism.

"Like every day in practice, he's in here, he's (got a) smile on his face, (he's) talking to teammates, so most of the credit goes to him and the type of person he is, honestly," Walton said. "He's been a tremendous help for our guys, a complete professional, talks in the film room, talks on the court in practice, talks on the court during the game, and not just to try to look good, like he's really telling people what they need to hear."

Whether Thomas sticks with the Lakers, he'll finally have some control over his situation this summer.

"At the end of the day, when free agency comes, I'm going to go where I'm wanted, and wanted the most, and



Isaiah Thomas says he wants to be in the Lakers' starting lineup and not come off the bench.

BRENDAN MALONEY/USA TODAY SPORTS

wanted to be Isaiah Thomas," he said, before making a point about his current role.

"My opportunity is not the same as it was when I was in Boston. Even when I was in Cleveland, it wasn't the same as it was in Boston, so you can't expect me to go out and average 30 points when I'm not given that same opportunity. If that opportunity comes back, and when it does — because I know it will — I promise you: I'll be more than ready to take advantage of that opportunity, and be back on top."

Tiger

Continued from Page 1C

spar Championship, shot 4-under-par 68 to stand four shots back of Henrik Stenson, who missed the cut last week but shot 64 Thursday. Aaron Wise and Talor Gooch shot 65 and were in second place. Jimmy Walker holed out from 132 yards for eagle on the 18th to shoot 67, which was matched by Rickie Fowler and Bryson DeChambeau.

Woods, who has won this event a record eight times, including in 2013 when he last played it, started on the 10th tee and made six birdies. This is his fifth PGA Tour start since spinal fusion surgery, and for the first time he made birdies on each of the four par-5s in a round.

"I've got my tournament feels now, which is nice," Woods said. "That was only going to come with time and with patience and just playing golf tournaments. I'm going out there and hitting shots and I'm scoring. I've been away



Tiger Woods shot 4-under-par 68 Thursday in the first round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

REINHOLD MATAY/USA TODAY SPORTS

from it for so long that when I first came back it was just a matter of just getting my feel for tournament golf again. I think I have. I feel like I'm not really thinking as much around the golf course. I can just see and feel it and go."

Stenson let it go on the back nine, when he made six birdies. Last week in the Valspar, he made one birdie in 36 holes.

"I hit some lovely shots out there today," said Stenson, who needed just 20 putts before signing his scorecard. "Last week the putter was so cold, but I did some work on my setup and posture."

Woods needed a little time to warm up as the Orlando area woke to chilly temperatures. Shortly into his round he started to author a variety of impressive shots, including a 350-yard drive on the 16th that was aided by a cart path and led to a birdie. After his out-of-bounds fiasco on the third, he came back with a 296-yard drive up the hill and into the wind at the par-5 fourth, then knocked a 3-wood from 270 yards just over the green, from where he made birdie. On the sixth hole, he spun a pitch shot off a dicey lie from 34 yards to 4 feet — "That was money," Woods said — for another birdie. On the next hole, he canned a 70-footer for birdie.

"It was a good day," Woods said. "Another good step forward."

With his fused back no longer an issue, neither are any shots he wants to hit. The winner of 79 Tour titles and 14

majors can shape every shot and hit stingers, fades, draws and the full-bore driver. His short game is superb.

All of which means the narrative during his comeback has changed, the queries no longer dealing with his health but dealing with the state of his game. He was the betting favorite heading into this week and for the Masters.

Patrick Reed, who tied for second with Woods in the Valspar Championship, also shot 68. He's not surprised that Woods has become a contender again so quickly in his return to the game. "He's Tiger Woods, OK," Reed said. He's glad he can go toe-to-toe with the former No. 1.

"I love being on top of the leaderboard when Tiger's around because it means that he's playing well, which is good not only for the tournament but also good for golf. There's also the electricity that goes around the entire place when he's playing well. For some reason, it just kind of gets me going and hopefully I can continue playing some solid golf and see him late on Sunday."

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SPORTS

FIFA's demands highlight greed and arrogance



Nancy Armour
Columnist
USA TODAY

FIFA's greed and arrogance will be its downfall.

If that wasn't clear almost three years ago, when the U.S. Justice Department came knocking on its gilded door with arrest warrants in hand, it was made painfully obvious in Thursday's announcement of potential host cities for the 2026 World Cup. Glaring by their absence were Chicago, host of the opening game of the 1994 World Cup, and Vancouver, site of the championship game for the Women's World Cup in 2015.

Both cities, along with Minneapolis, cited FIFA's demands and the burden they would create.

"FIFA could not provide a basic level of certainty on some major unknowns that put our city and taxpayers at risk,"

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's office said in a statement Wednesday night. "The uncertainty for taxpayers, coupled with FIFA's inflexibility and unwillingness to negotiate, were clear indications that further pursuit of the bid wasn't in Chicago's best interests."

That isn't a polite rebuff. It's a slam-the-door-in-your-face rejection of the world's greatest sporting event. By the city that is home to U.S. Soccer, no less.

And FIFA, much like the International Olympic Committee, has no one to blame but itself.

Cities and countries have grown tired of these modern day robber barons, who make exorbitant demands in exchange for the "privilege" of holding events that will leave their hosts with white elephant venues and decades of debt. Local leaders and residents have gotten wise to FIFA and the IOC's games, becoming increasingly willing to say they don't want to play.

There are 23 cities included in the United States, Mexico and Canada's joint bid for the 2026 Cup. That list would be narrowed to 16 if FIFA selects the United Bid, with the decision June 13 during its congress in Russia.

At least the IOC pretends to be aware of its spendthrift ways, touting reforms to its bidding process. FIFA makes no such pretense, posting a 12-page document outlining the tax breaks and funding guarantees it required for a 2026 bid on its website last fall. Among its demands, what amounts to a 10-year tax exemption.

Yes, what a horror it would be if FIFA officials were forced to stay at a five-star hotel instead of a seven. Or have boxed lunches instead of canapes in the FIFA family lounges. Or, shudder, rely on a coach bus for transportation rather than chauffeured cars.

The indignity and injustice would be almost too much to bear.

Another of FIFA's requirements is that it be allowed to import and export unlimited amounts of foreign currency. Without being taxed, of course.

For an organization that's been repeatedly rocked by bribery scandals, which has officials that won't set foot in North America for fear of arrest, that's mind-bogglingly audacious. No word on whether the hosts also are supposed to provide briefcases and paper bags to make for easier transfer of kickbacks.

FIFA's requirements are not new. It made similar demands during the bidding process for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

But the climate has changed. The world has seen the financial toll the World Cup exacted on South Africa and Brazil, and is appropriately wary. The FBI's crackdown in 2015 laid bare just how morally bankrupt FIFA is.

FIFA and, by extension, its crown jewel, have been tainted.

FOR THE RECORD

NBA

All Times ET EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	50	17	.746	—
x-Boston	46	22	.676	4½
Philadelphia	36	30	.545	13½
New York	24	44	.353	26½
Brooklyn	21	47	.309	29½

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	39	30	.565	—
Miami	36	33	.522	3
Charlotte	29	39	.426	9½
Orlando	21	48	.304	18
Atlanta	20	48	.294	18½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	43	28	.606	—
Cleveland	39	28	.582	1½
Milwaukee	36	32	.529	4
Detroit	30	37	.448	9½
Chicago	23	44	.343	16½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Houston	53	14	.791	—
New Orleans	39	28	.582	14
San Antonio	38	30	.559	15½
Dallas	22	46	.324	31½
Memphis	18	49	.269	35

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	41	26	.612	—
Oklahoma City	41	29	.586	1½
Minnesota	40	29	.580	2
Utah	38	30	.559	3½
Denver	37	31	.544	4½

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Golden State	52	16	.765	—
L.A. Clippers	37	29	.561	14
L.A. Lakers	31	37	.456	21
Sacramento	22	47	.319	30½
Phoenix	19	50	.275	33½

x-clinched playoff spot

Wednesday's Games

Orlando 126, Milwaukee 117
 Washington 125, Boston 124, 2OT
 Sacramento 123, Miami 119, OT
 Golden State 117, L.A. Lakers 106
Thursday's Games
 Toronto at Indiana
 Charlotte at Atlanta
 Philadelphia at New York
 Chicago at Memphis
 L.A. Clippers at Houston
 New Orleans at San Antonio
 Detroit at Denver
 Phoenix at Utah
 Cleveland at Portland
Friday's Games
 Boston at Orlando, 7 p.m.
 Brooklyn at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
 Dallas at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
 L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
 Miami at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
 Sacramento at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Saturday's Games
 Atlanta at Milwaukee, 6 p.m.
 Houston at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
 Indiana at Washington, 7 p.m.
 Charlotte at New York, 7:30 p.m.
 Dallas at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
 Cleveland at Chicago, 8 p.m.
 Denver at Memphis, 8 p.m.
 Minnesota at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
 Sacramento at Utah, 9 p.m.
 Detroit at Portland, 10 p.m.
 Golden State at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
Sunday's Games
 Oklahoma City at Toronto, 1 p.m.
 Boston at New Orleans, 6 p.m.
 Houston at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
 Portland at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

NHL

All Times ET EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Tampa Bay	70	48	18	4	100	257 178
Boston	68	44	16	8	96	232 176
Toronto	70	41	22	7	89	234 202
Florida	67	34	26	7	75	205 212
Montreal	70	26	32	12	64	179 221
Detroit	69	26	32	11	63	180 211
Ottawa	69	25	33	11	61	193 240
Buffalo	69	22	35	12	56	165 224

Metropolitan Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Washington	69	39	23	7	85	209 202
Pittsburgh	71	40	26	5	85	232 215
Philadelphia	70	35	24	11	81	205 205
New Jersey	70	36	26	8	80	212 211
Columbus	70	37	28	5	79	193 195
Carolina	70	30	29	11	71	188 218
N.Y. Rangers	71	32	32	7	71	205 227
NV Island-ers	69	30	29	10	70	222 245

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Nashville	69	45	14	10	100	225 174
Winnipeg	70	41	19	10	92	230 185
Minnesota	70	39	24	7	85	217 203
Dallas	71	38	26	7	83	205 190
Colorado	69	37	24	8	82	220 203
St. Louis	69	37	27	5	79	191 182
Chicago	70	30	32	8	69	197 207

Pacific Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Vegas	70	45	20	5	95	238 195
San Jose	70	38	23	9	85	207 192
Los Angeles	70	38	26	6	82	203 177
Anaheim	71	35	24	12	82	198 193
Calgary	71	35	26	10	80	198 206
Edmonton	70	30	35	5	65	196 226
Vancouver	71	25	37	9	59	183 231
Arizona	69	23	35	11	57	167 222

Wednesday's Games

Toronto 6, Dallas 5, SO
 N.Y. Rangers 4, Pittsburgh 3, OT
 San Jose 4, Edmonton 3, OT
 New Jersey 8, Vegas 3
 Anaheim 3, Vancouver 0
Thursday's Games
 Washington at N.Y. Islanders
 Columbus at Philadelphia
 Toronto at Buffalo
 Pittsburgh at Montreal
 Boston at Florida
 Chicago at Winnipeg
 Colorado at St. Louis
 Detroit at Los Angeles
 Nashville at Arizona
Friday's Games
 Dallas at Washington, 7 p.m.
 N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
 Nashville at Colorado, 9 p.m.
 San Jose at Calgary, 9 p.m.

Detroit at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
 Minnesota at Vegas, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Chicago at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 Edmonton at Florida, 2 p.m.
 New Jersey at Los Angeles, 4 p.m.
 Montreal at Toronto, 7 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Carolina, 7 p.m.
 Ottawa at Columbus, 7 p.m.
 Boston at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
 N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
 Minnesota at Arizona, 9 p.m.
 San Jose at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Detroit at Colorado, 3 p.m.
 Calgary at Vegas, 4 p.m.
 Edmonton at Tampa Bay, 5 p.m.
 Carolina at N.Y. Islanders, 5 p.m.
 Washington at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.
 Dallas at Winnipeg, 7:30 p.m.
 St. Louis at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
 New Jersey at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

TENNIS

BNP Paribas Open

Indian Wells, Calif.
Surface: Hard; **Purse:** \$797 million
Men's Singles — Quarterfinals: Borna Coric, Croatia, def. Kevin Anderson (7), South Africa, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3).
Women's Singles — Quarterfinals: Daria Kasatkina (20), Russia, def. Angelique Kerber (10), Germany, 6-5, 6-2.
Women's Doubles — Semifinals: Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, and Barbora Strycova, Czech Republic, def. Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, and Xu Yifan (3), China, 7-6 (2), 6-3; Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina (1), Russia, def. Tímea Babos, Hungary, and Kristina Mladenovic (4), France, 6-4, 6-2.

MLB

All Times ET Spring Training AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.
Houston	14	6	.700
New York	12	7	.632
Baltimore	13	8	.619
Cleveland	12	8	.600
Boston	11	8	.579
Oakland	9	7	.563
Minnesota	10	8	.556
Kansas City	10	10	.500
Chicago	9	9	.500
Los Angeles	10	12	.455
Toronto	9	11	.450
Tampa Bay	8	11	.421
Detroit	7	11	.389
Texas	7	12	.368
Seattle	7	12	.368

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.
Miami	12	6	.667
Milwaukee	13	7	.650
Chicago	12	7	.632
Arizona	11	9	.550
Los Angeles	11	9	.550
San Diego	9	8	.529
San Francisco	10	9	.526
Atlanta	10	10	.500
St. Louis	9	9	.500
Washington	9	9	.500
Philadelphia	8	12	.400
Colorado	8	12	.400
Pittsburgh	6	12	.333
Cincinnati	7	14	.333
New York	5	15	.250

Thursday's Games

Baltimore 1, St. Louis 0
 Atlanta 8, Detroit 1
 Houston 12, Washington 3
 Minnesota 8, Tampa Bay 1
 N.Y. Yankees 9, Pittsburgh 5
 Boston 7, Toronto 5
 Miami 7, N.Y. Mets 6
 Arizona 3, Chicago Cubs 2
 Cincinnati 10, Cleveland 6
 Kansas City 14, L.A. Dodgers 8
 Texas 6, Milwaukee 5
 L.A. Angels (ss) 10, Colorado 8
 Chicago White Sox vs. L.A. Angels (ss) at Tempe, Ariz.
 San Francisco vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.
 Seattle vs. Oakland at Mesa, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.
Friday's Games
 Atlanta vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Cleveland vs. St. Louis (ss) at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Philadelphia (ss) vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Tampa Bay vs. Minnesota (ss) at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 St. Louis (ss) vs. Washington at West Palm Beach, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 N.Y. Yankees vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla., 6:35 p.m.
Saturday's Games
 Atlanta (ss) vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Houston vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 N.Y. Mets vs. Washington at West Palm Beach, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 N.Y. Yankees vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Tampa Bay vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Toronto (ss) vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 St. Louis vs. Atlanta (ss) at Kissimmee, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Canada Jr. vs. Toronto (ss) at Dunedin, Fla., 1:07 p.m.
 Texas (ss) vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
 Cleveland (ss) vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
 Colorado vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, 4:05 p.m.
 L.A. Dodgers vs. Chicago White Sox at Glendale, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.

San Francisco (ss) vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
 Seattle (ss) vs. Oakland at Mesa, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.

San Diego vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.
 L.A. Angels vs. Seattle (ss) at Peoria, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.
 Cleveland (ss) vs. Chicago Cubs at Las Vegas, NV, 7:05 p.m.
 Oakland (ss) vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz., 7:05 p.m.
 Kansas City (ss) vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz., 9:05 p.m.

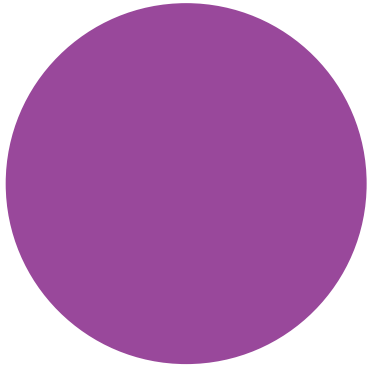
MLS

All Times ET EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	2	0	0	6	5	2
NY City FC	2	0	0	6	4	1
New York	1	0	0	3	4	0
Philadelphia	1	0	0	3	2	0
N. England	1	1	0	3	2	3
Atlanta FC	1	0	3	3	5	5
Orlando City	0	1	1	2	3	3
D.C. United	0	1	1	2	4	4
Chicago	0	1	0	0	3	4
Montreal	0	2	0	0	3	5
Toronto FC	0	1	0	0	2	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
L.A. FC	2	0	0	6	6	1
Vancouver	2	0	0	6	4	2
Houston	1	1	0	3	5	2
San Jose	1	0	3	2	2	2
Minnesota	1	1	0	3	4	4
LA Galaxy	1	1	0	3	3	3
Sporting KC	1	1	0	3	4	5
FC Dallas	0	0	1	1	1	1
Salt Lake	0	1	1	2	2	6
Colorado	0	1	0	0	1	2
Seattle	0	1	0	0	1	1
Portland	0	2	0	0	1	6



USA TODAY LIFE



IN LIFE

Put your 'Trust' in Sutherland
 Veteran actor takes on J. Paul Getty in series. **2D**

Get a first look at 'Adrift'
 Survival film stars Shailene Woodley, Sam Claflin. **2D**

All aboard, Thomas fans
 He and his friends are headed to Pittsburgh. **4D**

OLIVER UPTON/FX

MOVIES

Hello 2018: This is not your '00s Lara Croft

Vikander's take is an update on sexed-up Jolie

Bryan Alexander
 USA TODAY

Alicia Vikander is a new kind of Lara Croft.

The Oscar-winning actress assumes the role of the aristocratic British explorer in the *Tomb Raider* remake (in theaters Friday) with all the female empowerment of Angelina Jolie breaking into the male action-hero world in 2001's blockbuster *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*.

But Vikander's Croft is noticeably in step with 2018 wokeness: She's no longer wearing her predecessor's hyper-sexualized outfits.

"It's a very different take," says Vikander, 29. "It has the essence of the Lara Croft character we all know. But it really feels like it's been taken to our time."

A breakdown of the variations:

The outfit is more practical than purient

Jolie's cartoonishly tight short shorts and bodysuits (based on the original 1996 *Tomb Raider* video game) have been replaced by Vikander's tank top and khaki combat pants.

Vikander chalks up this sensible look to social evolution and a toned-down ensemble introduced in the rebooted 2013 video game.

"If you would ask boys and girls on the street what they find inspiring or attractive or even sexy, it's a hell of a

See **LARA CROFT**, Page **3D**



Alicia Vikander's Lara Croft carries an ax, not a couple of handguns, in "Tomb Raider." WARNER BROS.

USA SNAPSHOTS®



Other states on the rise: Texas, 275 firms; Washington, 247 firms; New York, 231 firms
 SOURCE Milken Institute
 MIKE B. SMITH, KARL GELLES/USA TODAY

TELEVISION

Bill Hader hopes for a hit with 'Barry'

Former 'SNL' star's hitman tapped by the acting bug



Bill Hader traded "SNL" funny business for not-so-funny business as hitman "Barry" on HBO. ROBERT DEUTSCH/USA TODAY

Gary Levin
 USA TODAY

Barry Berkman is a hitman from Cleveland who's paid to kill strangers. But when a Los Angeles job for a Chechen mobster leads him to a theater class, he gets bitten by the acting bug, finding a new purpose in life — and a burning desire to escape his old one.

Bill Hader, the former *Saturday Night Live* star who stars as a Marine-turned-assassin in HBO's dramedy *Barry* (March 25, Sundays at 10:30 ET/PT), says parallel lives make for good television.

"If he gets to his goal of becoming a stage actor, he then becomes known and will probably have to be killed," Hader says of the alternately hilarious and violent series he created with Alec Berg (*Silicon Valley*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*). So "he's putting his life at risk to pursue this dream of being able to feel again."

What's wrong with Barry? He's lonely: His only contact is with his boss, Fuches (Stephen Root), until he meets acting coach Gene Cousineau (Henry Winkler) and a kindred spirit in aspiring thespian Sally Reed (Sarah Goldberg).

"Everyone's born with the thing



Unsuspecting acting teacher Gene Cousineau (Henry Winkler) helps Barry Berkman (Hader) find new purpose in his life. JOHN P. JOHNSON/HBO

you're good at," Hader says. "But what if the thing you're good at is destroying you, and the thing you really want to be good at, you're terrible at?"

He can relate. "The idea of doing voices and impressions, that comes easily to me. I really wanted to direct." And he did, finally, on the first three epi-

sodes of the new show.

"My heroes were filmmakers. I was reading books about Martin Scorsese. So finally being able to do that was great." The Tulsa native, 39 and divorced with three daughters, says he

See **HADER**, Page **3D**

LIFELINE



DANIEL LEAL-OLIVAS/ AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ROYALS REPORT A RACHEL BY ANY OTHER NAME ...

Rachel Meghan Markle? Who's she? She is the American actress who will marry Prince Harry in May, but the world knows her as Meghan Markle. Her soon-to-be grandmother-in-law, Queen Elizabeth II, helped remind the world that Markle's actual first name is Rachel. The reminder came in the queen's letter Wednesday to her Privy Council, in which she formally gives her consent to the May 19 marriage between her "most dearly beloved grandson, Prince Henry Charles Albert David of Wales," and his fiancée, "Rachel Meghan Markle."

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MOVIES

Woodley keeps love afloat in 'Adrift'

Romantic plan turns into tale of a woman's survival

Bryan Alexander
USA TODAY

Tami Oldham (Shailene Woodley) and her fiancé Richard Sharp (Sam Claflin) set out on what promised to be the romantic sea adventure of a lifetime in 1983.

But after a hurricane crippled their yacht, which the couple were delivering from Tahiti to San Diego, the trip turned into a survival tale, as depicted in *Adrift* (in theaters June 1). USA TODAY reveals exclusive first photos from the movie.

In *Adrift*, with Sharp injured in the storm, Oldham sails for 41 days to reach safety.

"The idea of portraying the life of a woman whose mere inner strength and sheer willpower carried her through one of the most treacherous situations one could face as a human being was so extremely moving to me," says Woodley, who learned to sail for the sea story.

Oldham wrote about the ordeal in her 1998 book, *Red Sky in Mourning: A True Story of Love, Loss and Survival at Sea*. The New Zealand-based *Adrift* crew spent more than five weeks shooting on the open sea.

"Every single stunt you see in the film where Sam or I are in the ocean is really us in the deep sea," says Woodley. "Honestly, it was the most fun I've ever had filming."

Director Baltasar Kormákur, who has helmed adventure stories such as 2015's *Everest*, says the romantic tale takes a big turn when it becomes an Oldham-led survival epic.

"First of all, we don't have many survival stories where the survivor is a young woman, or a woman at all," says Kormákur. "How the story intertwines the love between Richard and Tami and



Sam Claflin and Shailene Woodley hit a storm at sea in the survival story "Adrift," out in June. PHOTOS BY STXFILMS



The film is based on the real-life story of Tami Oldham, played by Woodley, and her fiancé, Richard Sharp, played by Claflin.



Woodley learned to sail: "Honestly, it was the most fun I've ever had filming."

the survival tale is compelling. And it asks us the question, 'What is it that makes us survivors?'

Woodley, set to return for the second season of *Big Little Lies*, says she was inspired meeting the real Oldham.

"I learned that in spite of any adversity or trauma Tami has faced in her life, she has chosen to embrace the gift of simply living — the gift of being alive," Woodley says.

TELEVISION

Donald Sutherland gets a taste of Getty in 'Trust'

Actor's wide-ranging career leads him to series

Bill Keveney
USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES — Donald Sutherland can add richest man in the world to one of acting's most illustrious résumés.

Sutherland, 82, plays the imperious billionaire J. Paul Getty in FX's *Trust* (March 25, 10 ET/PT), which opens with the 1973 kidnapping of Getty's teenage grandson. It's merely the latest in an eclectic mix of characters over a half-century career for Sutherland, who recently received an honorary Oscar.

The Canadian actor, whose professional career got rolling in the United Kingdom with a heavy dose of theater, took a circuitous route to success that focused on unique roles, rather than a traditional Hollywood path.

"Normally, with people who have a vertically organized career, it's because they have an ambition for success and a desire to establish themselves as an entity within this industry," Sutherland says in an interview, wearing a suit and tie in typically casual L.A. "I've always had a horizontally organized career. You've got a big plate of fruit and cheese, and you can take a piece here and there. You won't like all of it, but you'll like some of it."

There's much to like. A sampling of Sutherland's broad range includes Hawkeye Pierce in 1970's *M*A*S*H* (before Alan Alda took on the role for TV); two World War II oddballs in 1967's *The Dirty Dozen* and 1970's *Kelly's Heroes* (one actually named Oddball); a historical womanizer in 1976's *Fellini's Casanova*; a pod person in 1978's *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*; a Kennedy assassination conspirator in 1991's *JFK*; and a devilish professor in 1978's *Animal House*.

He's reached younger generations with guest-voiced roles on *The Simpsons* — after portraying a character named



Donald Sutherland plays billionaire J. Paul Getty in FX's series "Trust." "I felt anguish for him," the veteran actor says. OLIVER UPTON, FX

Homer Simpson in 1975's *The Day of the Locust* — and playing tyrannical President Snow in *The Hunger Games* films.

A few years ago, "I was walking through the airport, and suddenly somebody was pulling at my leg. I looked down and it was a young girl" asking to take a picture with him, Sutherland recalls. "As we're waiting for her mother to take the picture, the girl turned and whispered in my ear, 'Look mean.'"

He smiles, while revealing an affection for the ruthless Snow that would put him at odds with most *Hunger Games* fans. "I thought he was terrific. I loved him."

Sutherland feels the same about Getty, a brilliant, rigid authoritarian who initially refused to pay ransom for 16-year-old J. Paul Getty III (Harris Dickinson), believing the teen staged his own

kidnapping in Rome. (*Trust* differs from the 2017's *All the Money in the World*, starring Christopher Plummer in the patriarch role, by showing scenes revealing the initial abduction as the teen's plan to get money from his family.)

Getty, a Minnesota native living at a grand English estate with a harem of sorts and a pet lion, employs a brutal logic similar to that of many governments: He reasons that a payoff would set a precedent, and encourage kidnappings of his other grandchildren, Sutherland says. "He is cold. He is pragmatic."

Initially, the family response is more tepid than urgent, except for the abducted teen's mother, Gail (Hilary Swank), who gets information and assistance from the father's security chief, James Fletcher (Brendan Fraser).

Getty, who's disappointed by his own

children and hopes his grandson will become heir to his business empire, initially refuses to pay ransom. He decides to negotiate after he receives a severed ear and realizes his grandson is in grave danger.

"I felt anguish for him," Sutherland says. "There are lot of people who can't make a jump from what they know is the correct thing to what they know love should be. He didn't know how to love."

Sutherland's acting skills, similar age and familiarity with Italian (spoken in the series) made him the perfect Getty for executive producers Danny Boyle and Simon Beaufoy (*Slumdog Millionaire*).

"Then we heard he was obsessed with the Getty story (and) Simon and I got on a plane to Florida," where Sutherland has a home, Boyle says. "He's an extraordinary craftsman and utterly fearless."

Unlike Getty, Sutherland, married to his third wife, Francine, takes pride in the accomplishments of his five children, who have successfully followed their father into the entertainment industry.

Kiefer, 51, best known for playing Jack Bauer in *24*, stars in ABC's *Designated Survivor*; his twin sister, Rachel, is a post-production supervisor in Canada; actor Rossif, 39, worked with his father in 2010's *The Con Artist* and NBC's *Crossing Lines*; Roeg, 44, oversees film finance at talent agency CAA; and Angus, 35, is a producer.

Donald Sutherland, who acted with Kiefer in 2015's *Forsaken*, would like to work with him again. "I would love for him to direct something, and I would love for me to be in it."

The younger generations likely inherited some of his passion for acting and film, which burns brightly as he talks about a seminal moment from his early 20s — the day he saw two film classics, Federico Fellini's *La Strada* and Stanley Kubrick's *Paths of Glory*.

"I was so exhilarated," says Sutherland. "I walked out of the theater, and everything in my life had changed."

Corrections & Clarifications

Some editions of the USA TODAY Best-Selling Books List for March 15 misidentified the publisher for *The Last Jedi: Expanded Edition* by Jason Frey. The publisher is Del Rey.

USA TODAY is committed to accuracy. To reach us at any time, call 800-872-7073 or e-mail accuracy@usatoday.com. Please indicate whether you're responding to content online or in the newspaper.



Alicia Vikander's Lara isn't keen on the family money, working as a messenger.

Lara Croft

Continued from Page 1D

different answer you would get today than you would have had in 1996," says Vikander.

Lara Croft isn't packing the dual pistols

Croft's hardcore pistol-in-each-hand look is missing. But it isn't a political statement about guns: It's because the new movie is an origin story.

The emerging explorer starts off with a bow and arrow (from her childhood archery lessons) and picks up her lethal climbing ax.

Once again, it's the 2013 video game that "showed an inexperienced Lara Croft seen in the movie," says Rich Briggs, senior brand director for Crystal Dynamics, which creates the *Tomb Raider* games. "She doesn't use the dual pistols, she hasn't gotten to that point yet."

She isn't related to her screen dad in real life

In a fascinating 2001 *Tomb Raider* casting choice by director Simon West, Croft's explorer father was played by Jolie's real-life father, actor Jon Voight (before their now-resolved, but prolonged falling out).

In the rebooted version, Vikander's Croft goes searching for her missing father played by Dominic West. No relation to Vikander or Simon West.



Dominic West plays Richard Croft, Lara's missing adventurer father, in the update. PHOTOS BY WARNER BROS.

She's not rich

Jolie's *Tomb Raider* showed Croft at her aristocratic finest, living in amazing Croft Manor. But Vikander's version is a struggling East London bike messenger who doesn't want the money.

"She isn't accepting her dad's inheritance, because that to her means accepting her dad is dead. So she's distanced herself from the family fortune," says Briggs. "She can go to Croft Manor if she wants to, but she doesn't use it."

She takes some hits

Jolie's Croft landed most of the stylized blows. But Vikander's first scene shows her in a kickboxing ring, taking a blow to the face from her opponent.

It immediately sets the tone. "Lara Croft still has a long way to go. She's not the superhero or invincible when we start out," says director Roar Uthaug.

Hader

Continued from Page 1D

suffered from anxiety during most of his eight seasons on *SNL*. "Some of that is good, because it keeps you sharp and focused. Mine would spill over into shaking, I couldn't project my voice, I was quiet, I would flub stuff, because I was a wreck."

But the sense of community he felt at the late-night show was much like Barry's, when he's invited to hang out at a bar with unsuspecting acting students in the premiere episode.

"That's me, sitting with Tina (Fey) and Amy (Poehler) and Seth Meyers and Fred" Armisen, he says. "I just so badly wanted to fit in there. I thought, 'I will understand comedy better, maybe grow up a little.' There was a part of me that, you know, wasn't as naive as Barry, but I just watched a lot of movies and read a lot of books, and I didn't really experience life. I was kind of someone who didn't really go after things."

After landing the job in 2005, when *Will & Grace's* Megan Mullally recommended Hader to *SNL* producer Lorne Michaels, "I saw how relaxed they were and how hard they worked and I thought I just wanted that. Barry feels the same thing."

Hader spent eight seasons on *SNL*, exiting in 2013 to continue a varied movie career that included leading roles in Amy Schumer's *Trainwreck* and *The Skeleton Twins*, a dramatic turn with Kristen Wiig (they played

damaged siblings). He also teamed up with Armisen and Meyers for *Documentary Now*, a series of pitch-perfect parodies of acclaimed docs that will return for a third season on IFC, though Hader won't be on camera.

He also returns to *SNL* Saturday for his first hosting stint since 2014. And his vocal talent will surface on Sunday's *The Simpsons* as Manacek, a 1970s detective based on George Peppard's Banacek.

Which speaks perfectly to Hader's rarefied tastes. In his *SNL* audition, he did impressions of James Mason and Vincent Price, actors probably unfamiliar to most of the show's audience.

"Growing up in Oklahoma, his dad just introduced him to so much in the comedy world," says Michaels. "He knew everything; the most obscure stuff. His tastes overtook his experience, and his talent was up there with his tastes. In a sense, what he brought to the show, aside from the fact that he was brilliant, was that he was going into corners alone. It takes a little longer for people to find their voice in the show."

Hader says he "couldn't get an original character to save my life," but hit pay dirt with Stefon, the androgynous hipster he played on *Weekend Update*, which he's destined to revive Saturday.

"By the time he did Stefon, which was completely original, the anxiety stuff he went through wasn't showing up on air," Michaels says. Instead, writer John Mulaney would change jokes after dress rehearsal just to crack up Hader — and the audience. "He had that level of ease by the time he left the show. He'll be all right in the real world."



Bill Hader made his mark as Stefon on "Saturday Night Live." Hader hosts the show this week. Will the androgynous hipster make a return? DANA EDELSON/AP

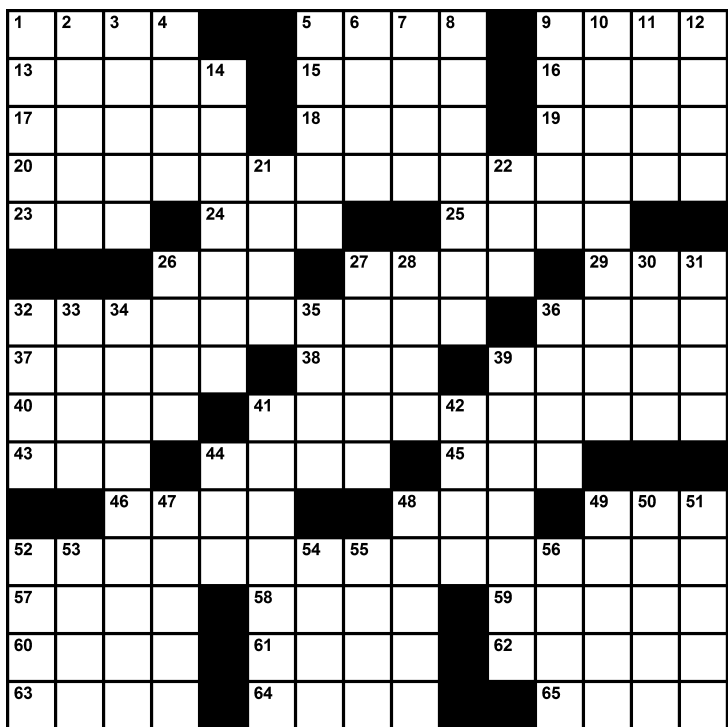
PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

EDITED Fred Piscop
BY Patrick Jordan

EXCUSES, EXCUSES

- ACROSS**
- Green Giant canfuls
 - Theater ticket datum
 - Seize forcibly
 - Stew server's need
 - Trebek of "Jeopardy!"
 - Nevada slots site
 - Consume totally
 - 2014 Russell Crowe epic
 - Taiwanese PC giant
 - Lame excuse for missing homework
 - Reassuring touch
 - Risk a perjury rap
 - Moe's Tavern serving
 - Shortened term of endearment
 - Monty Python bit
 - Go defunct
 - Lame excuse for missing homework
 - Circulatory blockage
 - Starts to bubble, perhaps
 - Search engine's find, briefly
 - Loses steam
 - Comrade in arms
 - Lame excuse for missing homework
 - Do cross-country, say
 - Serengeti grazers
 - Assault on the ears
 - Make a bonehead move
 - Family nickname
 - "That's it!"
 - Lame excuse for missing homework
 - Treat on a hotel pillow
 - Tantrum-throwing performer
 - Some Arab leaders
 - Not before, and not since
 - In perpetuity



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3/16

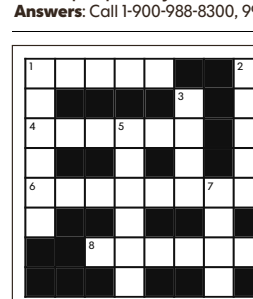
- Move like a crab
- Sharp as a tack
- Living a hermit's life
- Word after scratch or screen
- Like a saint
- Minority in Kosovo or Croatia
- Shut off, as an engine
- "The Music Man" state
- Handicrafts-selling site
- Degrees for execs
- Egg-white omelet's lack
- Persistent effort
- "Black Swan" skirt
- Highlands group
- "Nothing but net" sounds
- Pagan or atheist, to some
- Make more readable, perhaps
- Pulled a prank on
- Much more than 60-Across

Thursday's Answer



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3/15



TXTPERT

- Across
- 62228
 - 582632
 - 27877357
 - 626262
- Down
- 625226
 - 52467
 - 6253
 - 627728
 - 5663

© USA TODAY and Rich Coulter

Today's theme Capital cities



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

Yesterday's solution

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

3/16

- Find and Circle:
- Three words ending with ZZ
 - Three eight-letter words
 - Three Best Picture winners
 - Three citrus fruits
 - Three four-letter bodies of water

Thursday's answer: DIMAGGIO RIZZUTO GEHRIG MANTLE MARIS BERRA RUTH / MARCH APRIL JUNE JULY / PRINCE EDWARD / AFRICA ASIA / GRAY GOLD



© Andrews McMeel

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes

3/16

Clemson coach Swinney

District

Alabama coach Saban

N.Y. store on 5th Avenue

Rather and Patrick

Solo song

"Where It's At" artist

Popular tree types

Thursday's Answer

ABOUT ROSE GWEN OLDS

QUICKCROSS ON YOUR PHONE mobilegames.usatoday.com

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UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt

3/16

1. MAKING

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7. THAT

Clues:

- Advancing
- Update
- Student's evaluation
- Expert poker player, e.g.
- Chum
- _____ switch
- This _____

Thursday's Answer

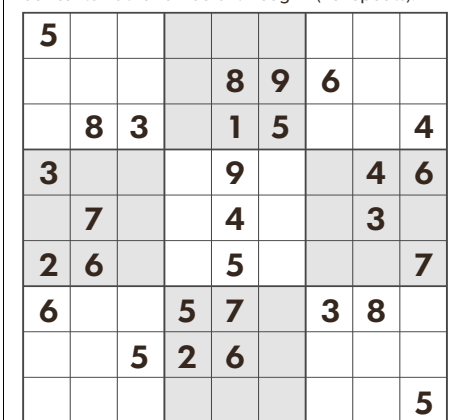
REALITY CHECK MARK TIME TRAVEL TRAVEL AGENT AGENT CARTER CARTER CASH

PLAY ONLINE PUZZLES.USATODAY.COM

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SUDOKU

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

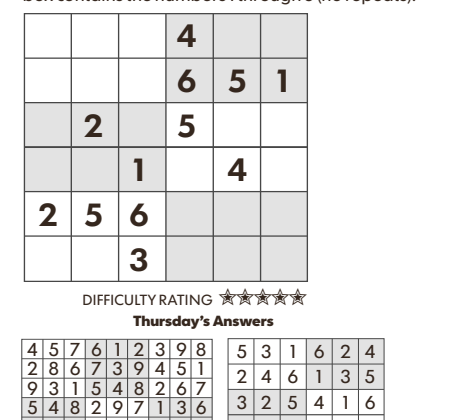


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3/16

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★★★★

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).



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3/15

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★★★★

DON'T QUOTE ME

Naturalist Edward Abbey jokes about human nature.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.

ALONE BEAT BUT DUMB PRETTY REAL STUPIDITY TEAMWORK

ONE MAN _____ CAN BE _____

SOMETIMES, _____ FOR _____ BONA FIDE _____

THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' CAN _____

Thursday's Answer: "There are two types of education. One should teach you how to make a living, and the other how to live." - John Adams

© WIGGLES 3D GAMES

TRAVEL

DISPATCHES



Boeing employees celebrate the 10,000th 737 jet to come off the assembly line. BOEING

Major milestone for popular plane

Boeing rolled out its 10,000th 737 jet Tuesday, marking the latest milestone for the workhorse airplane that just celebrated its 50th anniversary in April 2017.

For the 10,000th 737, thousands of employees gathered at Boeing's factory in Renton, Wash., to commemorate the occasion.

"This incredible milestone is a testament to the work we do every day to build the most reliable and efficient single-aisle airplane in the world," Boeing Commercial Airplanes CEO Kevin McAllister said in a statement.

The 737 is the best-selling commercial passenger jet of all time.

Boeing continues to rake in sales for the plane, including the new "Max" versions of the jet that represent the latest update to the model. The plane that rolled out on Tuesday is a 737 Max 8 variant bound for Southwest, the world's top operator of the 737.

Boeing's Renton assembly line remains busy with 737 activity.

Boeing says it will increase 737 production from the current rate of 47 airplanes per month to 52 airplanes per month later this year. The 737 program has more than 4,600 airplanes still on order, according to Boeing.

— Ben Mutzabaugh



New Mexico's Chile Capital license plate was named the USA's best.

NEW MEXICO

Chile license plate puts the heat on

New Mexico's "Chile Capital of the World" license plate is the winner of America's Best License Plate Award for 2017, the state announced in a news release.

This is the second time New Mexico has received the award, issued annually by the Automobile License Plate Collectors Association, the release stated. In 2011, the state won the award for the turquoise Centennial License Plate.

Gov. Susana Martinez said she was proud to accept the award.

"Chile plays a significant role in our state's culture and is one of our greatest treasures," she said. "This license plate lets the world know that New Mexico is — without a doubt — the Chile Capital of the World."

ALPCA president Cyndi McCabe noted the plate was "simply stunning."

Seventeen license plates were nominated for the award, the release stated. Hawaii came in a distant second place, followed by Wyoming and Oklahoma.

Since the launch of the license plate in July 2017, the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division has issued nearly 140,000 "Chile Capital of the World" license plates.

ALPCA sponsors the annual Best License Plate Award program. Pennsylvania won the first award in 1971.

— Las Cruces Sun-News



It's a long way from the U.K.'s Island of Sodor to Pittsburgh. Still, Thomas the Tank Engine will be making the transatlantic journey to Kennywood amusement park. MATTEL

Thomas the Tank Engine chugging to Kennywood

Arthur Levine

Special to USA TODAY

It's a long way from the U.K.'s Island of Sodor to Pittsburgh. But Thomas the Tank Engine will be making the transatlantic journey. The cheeky little engine and his pals will be taking up residence at Kennywood when the historic amusement park opens Thomas Town this summer.

Based on the popular Nick Jr. series *Thomas & Friends*, the highlight of the new land will be a ride aboard a train led by a full-size replica of the blue locomotive. Four additional rides themed to other characters on the program, along with an indoor play area and a show, also will be making their debut. Like the Nick Jr. series and the Thomas line of toys, Thomas Town will be geared to young children.

Thomas will commandeer the existing Olde Kennywood Railroad. According to Nick Paradise, the park's director of public relations, the seven-minute train ride will chug along the same route it has been taking for years. It will meander along a bluff that overlooks the Monongahela River and offer views of the Edgar Thomson Steel Works, one of the nation's oldest mills. "It's an industrial, yet natural setting," Paradise says. "Riders will feel like they've been transported to the Island of Sodor."

The park's 36-inch narrow-gauge railway trains have a colorful history. They date to 1939, when visitors at the New York World's Fair first rode them. After the fair, Gimbels, the department store in downtown Pittsburgh, bought the trains. In 1945, Kennywood moved the trains to its park, where they have remained. Coincidentally, the first of the Railway Series books, which later introduced Thomas the Tank Engine, was published in 1945.

Some Six Flags parks had small Thomas-themed areas for a couple of seasons, but they have since removed the branding. In 2015, Edaville Family Theme Park in Carver, Mass., opened a Thomas Land. Kennywood's land will mark the second permanent location in North America where kids and their families will be able to visit Thomas and his friends.

Hemmed in by the river, and located on hilly terrain, Kennywood has precious little space to expand. "We have to get creative when adding new things," Paradise says. The park was able to carve out just less than an acre next to its Auto Race ride for Thomas Town. Despite its small size, the land will incorporate a slew of new features.

The other attractions will be similar to ones at Edaville's Thomas Land, including Harold's Helicopter Tour, a Dumbo-style spinning ride. Passengers will be able to move the helicopter vehicles up and down using a joystick. Riders aboard fire trucks will circle a faux burning building and shoot water



The cheeky little engine and pals will be taking up residence at Kennywood when the amusement park opens Thomas Town this summer. KURT MILLER/KENNYWOOD



Kennywood is known for its wooden coasters, which date to the 1920s. Jack Rabbit opened in 1920. KENNYWOOD

from cannons to try and extinguish the flames for Flynn's Fire Training. Diesel Drivers will send a convoy of diesel engines around a short track. Passengers aboard Cranky's Drop Tower will ascend 45 feet and plummet down.

Other than infants, riders of virtually any age will be able to experience all of the Thomas Town rides except for the drop tower, which will have a 42-inch height requirement.

The land will have an indoor play zone with a climbing structure and a model railroad display area where kids will be able to become conductors and engineers. Clips from the Thomas and Friends series will be screened in the climate-controlled space. Three times daily, the park also will present Steel City Adventures, an outdoor show featuring Sir Topham Hatt, the imposing head of the railway, and Gordon, James, Emily and Percy, four of the trains at Tidmouth Sheds. Paradise says that the show will

"It's an industrial, yet natural setting. Riders will feel like they've been transported to the Island of Sodor."

Nick Paradise
Kennywood director of public relations

help explain why Thomas and the gang are in Pittsburgh. "The audience will learn that the trains are bringing special things to Kennywood, like wood for the wooden roller coasters," he says.

Kennywood is known for its trio of wooden coasters, which date to the 1920s. The oldest, Jack Rabbit, opened in 1920. Kennywood traces its origins to 1898, when, appropriately enough, it was a trolley park. Around the turn of the century, railway companies built and operated parks at the ends of their lines to encourage weekend ridership. Kennywood is located on the outskirts of Pittsburgh in West Mifflin. While there used to be hundreds of trolley parks, Kennywood is one of a handful that remain in operation today and is designated a National Historic Landmark.

The park's Kiddieland was one of the amusement industry's first areas dedicated to rides for young children. Thomas Town will offer Kennywood's first new kiddie rides in 10 years.

Unlike modern theme parks, Kennywood is a classic amusement park. It's more of a random collection of rides than attractions designed to tell stories and conform to unified themes. For the park's 120th anniversary, Thomas Town marks a departure. "We have to walk a fine line," Paradise says. "We continue to evolve and offer new attractions for today's guests. But we also stay true to our roots."

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Sing the praises of Snoop Dogg's 'Bible of Love'

Maeve McDermott
USA TODAY

Normally, hearing that a rapper is preparing a 32-track album is cause for concern.

Yet, Snoop Dogg these days is less a rapper than a multichannel entrepreneur and media personality. Just look at how he spent the lead-up week to his new album, *Bible of Love* (out Friday), his first release on his new gospel record label All the Time Entertainment.

His venture capital firm Casa Verde, which focuses on making investments within the cannabis industry, closed its debut round of funding with \$45 million. He posed for photos with Elon Musk and voiced support for London Breed's mayoral run in San Francisco. He teased a new line of shiny gold cleats he collaborated on with Adidas. And, in a development that's actually related to music, he added new dates to his Mount



Snoop Dogg curates the 32-song "Bible of Love," adding vocals only occasionally. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Kushmore Wellness Retreat tour.

Snoop is a busy guy, which is perhaps why he decided against recording a full-length rap album and opted instead to curate a sprawling gospel collection, appearing only occasionally to contribute a verse or share some wisdom.

And, from a fan's perspective, it's a master-level decision. Snoop attributes his desire to make a gospel album to his

ongoing quest to preach peace and love. That's the same worldview that inspired the rapper's ill-advised reggae phase in 2013, when he changed his name to Snoop Lion and clumsily sang his way through his *Reincarnated* album.

With *Bible of Love*, Snoop smartly reserves vocal duties for names including Faith Evans, Tye Tribbett, Rance Allen, B. Slade, Kim Burrell and Charlie Wilson.

With hip-hop trending toward overstuffed releases, Snoop smartly uses *Bible of Love* to spotlight his army's worth of gospel stars, making the album's impressive runtime feel less like an egregious play for streaming numbers than it otherwise would. In reality, the album is 32 songs of spiritual uplift, consistently enjoyable and even moving at times, with Snoop making just enough appearances to remind listeners of his involvement, and doing some soul-baring in the process, like on his spoken-word storytelling on *Pain*:

"A lot of times, you see me performing for thousands of people, filling their hearts with love and joy, not knowing that I'm going through so much pain. But God knows everything, and I mean everything, that I'm going through."

Above all, *Bible of Love* is another argument in favor of Snoop's impressive longevity, not just cooking alongside Martha Stewart, but as one of the most prolific rappers of his generation. Cedding the spotlight to curate a gospel album may seem like a cop-out for an artist wanting to appear to be productive. But Snoop just released his 15th studio album, *Neva Left*, a collection of original music largely praised by critics.

For Migos and the other members of hip-hop's younger generation joining Snoop on tour, the rapper — who, at 46, is hardly a fossil — continues to provide a blueprint for how artists can continue innovating, and as heard on *Bible of Love*, can continue thriving.

TONIGHT ON TV

Critic's Corner
Kelly Lawler
USA TODAY

Jane the Virgin
CW, Friday, 9 ET/PT

The smart and emotional dramedy knows how to package its humor and gut punches, as it did last week, with the revelation that *Xiomara* (Andrea Navedo) has a lump on her breast. The Villanueva family tries to cope with the news, although their attempts to comfort Xo are rebuffed as she wants to deal with her health scare alone. The episode also sees the return of Brooke Shields as River Fields.



Xo (Andrea Navedo) needs space to deal on her own. CW

Brooklyn Nine-Nine
Fox, Sunday, 8:30 ET/PT

The superb sitcom returns from a hiatus, and it was sorely missed. The new episode employs a reliably funny formula: mixing Holt's (Andre Braugher) personal life with police business. When Holt's husband, Kevin (Marc Evan Jackson), is threatened, Holt puts him in a safe house with Jake (Andy Samberg) as his guard.



"Brooklyn Nine-Nine" is at its best outside the box. FOX

Instinct
CBS, Sunday, 8 ET/PT

Alan Cumming stars in this new drama, which looks like a typical CBS crime procedural with a small twist: Cumming's character is, according to CBS, the first openly gay lead on a network-TV drama. It's a small step for representation that might be the most significant thing about the show, which tries to capture *Castle*-style charm but mostly falls flat. Cumming, however, is always a treat, and does his best to elevate the series.

NETWORK	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
ABC	Once Upon a Time Rogers makes a deal with Eloise. (N)		Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. (N)		20/20 Investigative reporting on world news.		Local Programs	Jimmy Kimmel Live
CBS	2018 NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: Bucknell Bison vs. Michigan State Spartans (Live)		2018 NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: Team TBD vs. TCU Horned Frogs from Little Caesars Arena in Detroit (Live)					
Fox	MasterChef Junior Milkshakes and chicken-and-waffles dish. (N)		9-1-1 Three people get a taste of karma.		Local Programs			
NBC	Blindspot A prisoner alerts the team about a dangerous plot. (N)		Taken Extracting a nuclear physicist. (N)		Dateline NBC Investigative features and profiles.		Local Programs	Tonight Show Jimmy Fallon (N)
PBS	Wash. Week (N)	#MeToo	Art: 21 - Art in the Twenty-First Century		Art: 21 - Art in the Twenty-First Century		Amanpour (N)	News (N)
CW	Dynasty A faux engagement. (N)		Jane the Virgin Rafael tracks sister. (N)		Local Programs			
ION	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	
Telemundo	José José: El príncipe de la canción (N)		Al otro lado del muro (N)		Enemigo intimo (N)		Al rojo vivo (N)	Boxeo TLM D
Univision	El rico y Lázaro Drama biblico.		Papá a toda madre (N)		Por amar sin ley Bufete de abogados.		Primer (N)	Noticiero Univ. (N)
CABLE								
A&E	Live PD: Rewind (N)		Live PD Cameras record the challenges police officers face. (N)					
AMC	The Devil Wears Prada Meryl Streep (2006) (7:00)		Mr. & Mrs. Smith Married assassins are shocked to learn that their next targets are each other. (2005)					
Animal Planet	Tanked: Tank Madness (N)		Tanked: Tank Madness Shaq returns with new tank commission. (N)				Tanked: Sea-Idol Edition	
BBC America	Sin City Tough outlaws battle in a corrupt city. Jessica Alba (2005) (7:30)				The Graham Norton Show (N)		Live at the BBC (N) (Series premiere)	
BET	Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son Two men dress in drag to catch a killer.				The Quad Merger is finalized.		Black Card	BET's Mancave
Bravo	Married to Medicine		Married to Medicine (N)		Relative Success with Tabatha (N)		What Happens	Married to Medicine
Cartoon	King of the Hill	Cleveland Show	Cleveland Show	American Dad!	American Dad!	Bob's Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy
CMT	Just Married Four weddings are occurring, and each leads towards the same conclusion. (2009)				Made of Honor A man realizes he loves his best friend.			
CNBC	Shark Tank Seven-figure offer.		Shark Tank Gold-mining bucket.		Shark Tank Chris Sacca.		Back in the Game	
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360° (N)		Anderson Cooper 360° (N)		CNN Tonight with Don Lemon (N)		CNN Tonight with Don Lemon (N)	
Comedy	Hot Tub Time Machine Middle-aged friends return to the 1980s. (2010) (7:30)				Hot Tub Time Machine 2 Friends alter lives with time machine. (2015)			
Discovery	Gold Rush (N)	Gold Rush (N)	Gold Rush Past and future. (N)		Gold Rush: White Water (N)		Gold Rush Past and future.	
Disney	Stuck in Middle (N)	Bizaardvark (N)	Andi Mack	Raven's Home	Gravity Falls	Gravity Falls	Stuck in the Middle	Bizaardvark
DisXD	Star vs. Forces	Gravity Falls	Milo Murphy's Law	Milo Murphy's Law	Milo Murphy's Law	Milo Murphy's Law	Milo Murphy's Law	Milo Murphy's Law
DIY	Texas Flip N Move Hidden room.		Texas Flip N Move (N)		Texas Flip N Move Tile in and out.		Texas Flip N Move	
E!	Bring It On Cheerleaders prepare for a competition. Kirsten Dunst (2000)				10 Things I Hate About You Girl seeks date for older sister. Julia Stiles (1999)			
Food	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives		Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives (N)		Diners, Drive-Ins		Diners, Drive-Ins	
Fox News	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)		Hannity (N)		The Ingraham Angle (N)		Fox News @ Night (N)	
Freeform	Georgia Rule A woman takes her rebellious teen daughter to live with her strict grandmother. Jane Fonda (2007) (8:20)				The 700 Club (N)			
FX	The Equalizer Former commando comes out of self-imposed retirement to rescue a young girl. Denzel Washington, Marton Csokas (2014)							
FX	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons
GSN	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Cash Cab	Cash Cab
Hallmark	Campfire Kiss A mother camps with her teenage son. Danica McKellar (2017)				Meet the Peetes Room decoration.		The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls
HGTV	My Lottery Home	My Lottery Home	My Lottery Home	My Lottery Home	House Hunters (N)	International (N)	House Hunters	International
History	Ancient Aliens: Declassified Theorists suggest that extraterrestrial beings have changed human evolution. (N)							
HLN	Death Row Stories Quick conviction.		Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files
ID	Homicide Hunter: Lt. Joe Kenda		Homicide Hunter: Lt. Joe Kenda		A Mystery in Florida (N)		Homicide Hunter: Lt. Joe Kenda	
IFC	Inception In a world where entering dreams is possible, a man steals valuable secrets. Leonardo DiCaprio (2010)							
Lifetime	Bring It! A sibling rivalry. (N)		Bring It! Texting problem. (N)		Laurieann Gibson: Beyond (N)		Bring It! Texting problem.	
MSNBC	All in with Chris Hayes (N)		The Rachel Maddow Show (N)		Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell (N)		The 11th Hour with Brian Williams (N)	
MTV	Ridiculousness "Superhumans."		Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness
NatGeo	Locked Up Abroad A naval officer.		Locked Up Abroad A Turkish prison.		Locked Up Abroad Steroids in Mexico.		Locked Up Abroad Two drug smugglers.	
NatGeo Wild	America's Wild Frontier (N)		Jane A look is taken at the life of Jane Goodall, who studied chimpanzees. (2017)		America's Wild Frontier			
Nick	Diary of a Wimpy Kid An 11-year-old enters middle school. (2010)				Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends
OWN	The Paynes	The Paynes	The Paynes (N)	The Paynes	The Paynes	The Paynes	The Paynes	The Paynes
Oxygen	Dateline: Secrets Uncovered (N)		Mysteries & Scandals (N)		Enough Abused woman trains to protect herself. Jennifer Lopez (2002)			
Paramount	The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997)		Jurassic Park A billionaire invites scientists to tour a park featuring living dinosaurs. Sam Neill, Laura Dern (1993)		The Lake House Man lives two years in the past. (2006)			
Pop	The Lake House A doctor and an architect living two years in the past fall in love. (2006)							
Science	Outrageous Acts of Science		Outrageous Acts of Science		Outrageous Acts of Science		Outrageous Acts of Science	
Sundance	Law & Order Web-content murder.		Law & Order Murder on market.		Law & Order Student murdered.		Law & Order Dead gold digger.	
Syfy	Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (2001) (7:00)		Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama
TBS	NCAA Basketball Tournament Team TBD vs. Xavier (Live)							
TCM	Suddenly, Last Summer A Southern family harbors secrets. (1959)				Reflections in a Golden Eye Man denies homosexuality. Elizabeth Taylor (1967)			
TLC	Trading Spaces A painted carpet.		Trading Spaces A decorating editor.		Trading Spaces Ty gets playful.		Trading Spaces No power tools.	
TNT	NCAA Basketball Tournament (Live)		NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: UMBC Retrievers vs. Virginia Cavaliers (Live)				The Alienist	
Travel	Josh Gates' Destination Truth		Josh Gates' Destination Truth		Josh Gates' Destination Truth		Josh Gates' Destination Truth	
TruTV	NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: College of Charleston vs. Auburn (Live)				NCAA Basketball Tournament New Mexico State Aggies vs. Clemson Tigers (Live)			
TV Land	Loves Raymond	Loves Raymond	Loves Raymond	Loves Raymond	Mom	Mom	King of Queens	King of Queens
USA	Modern Family	Modern Family	Secret Life Kid (N)	Secret Life Kid (N)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
Velocity	Roadkill Classics	Roadkill Classics	Roadkill Classics (N)	Roadkill Classics (N)	Last Stop (N)	Last Stop Garage	Roadkill Classics	Roadkill Classics
VH1	Love & Hip Hop Atlanta		Love & Hip Hop Atlanta		Love & Hip Hop Atlanta		Love & Hip Hop Atlanta	
Viceland	The Beach Leonardo DiCaprio (2000)		The Beach Three travelers join an island commune. Leonardo DiCaprio (2000)				Slutever	Slutever
WE	Marriage Boot Camp: Reality Stars (N)		Bridezillas Family clash. (N)				Love After Lockup	Garrett's night.
Weather	Secrets of the Earth Python; killer bee.		Secrets of the Earth Countering danger.		Secrets of the Earth Sinkholes.		So You Think You'd Survive?	
WGN America	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H
MOVIE NETWORKS								
Cinemax	Hacksaw Ridge Desmond Doss fights in WWII on front lines without a weapon. Andrew Garfield, Sam Worthington (2016) (7:40)				Strike Back Section 20 seeks an ex-CIA contractor. (N)		Strike Back Ex-CIA contractor.	
Encore	Scrooged TV executive gets an attitude adjustment. Bill Murray (1988) (7:17)		A Knight's Tale A squire pretends to be a noblewoman. Heath Ledger, Rufus Sewell		knight and contends for the heart of a noblewoman. (2001)		Out of Time Police chief is implicated in murders. Denzel Washington (2003)	
FXM	Man of Steel A young Clark Kent embarks on an arduous journey to discover his extraterrestrial heritage and become the symbol of hope for all mankind. (2013)				Man of Steel A young Clark Kent embarks on an arduous journey to discover his extraterrestrial heritage and become the symbol of hope for all mankind. (2013)			
Hallmark Movies	Psych Shawn and Gus hunt a masked vigilante.		Garage Sale Mystery: Guilty Until Proven Innocent Antique store owner probes a murder after a college friend becomes implicated. Lori Loughlin (2016)		Murder, She Wrote A hypnotist is found dead.			
HBO	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 (2016)		Real Time with Bill Maher (N)		High Maintenance An alternative. (N)		Real Time with Bill Maher	
Lifetime Movie	Mistress Hunter A woman hires a mistress hunter to punish her husband for his affair. Laurelee Bell, Lydia Look (2018)				Stalked by My Ex A man wants to live a life that only includes his daughter and not his ex. Tamara Braun, Yves Bright (2017)			
Showtime	The Girl on the Train Commuter becomes involved in mystery. (2016) (7:00)		Beyond the Opposite Sex A transgender man and woman face the challenges of maintaining relationships. (2018)		Sleepless Undercover cop has one night to rescue son and bring kidnappers to justice. Jamie Foxx (2017)			
Starz	Churchill Churchill faces fears prior to D-Day. Brian Cox (2017) (7:11)		Power Angela learns Jamie and Ghost's secret.		Counterpart High emotional toll of school discovery.		Ash vs. Evil Dead Ruby reveals.	Legion Paul Bettany (2010) (11:28)
TMC	The Family That Preys A scandal threatens the lives of two families, so the mothers must save them. Kathy Bates, Alfre Woodard (2008)							
SPORTS NETWORKS								
ESPN	2018 NCAA Wrestling Championship Semifinals from Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland (Live)						SportsCenter	
ESPN2	2018 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament (Live)		NCAA Women's		2018 BNP Paribas Open Tennis Women's Semifinals (Live)			
FS1	NASCAR Qualifying		NHRA Qualifying		UFC Tonight		UFC Unleashed	
Golf	LPGA Tour Golf (Live)		PGA Central		PGA Tour Golf from Bay Hill Club & Lodge in Orlando, Fla.			
MLB	MLB Spring Training Minnesota Twins vs. Boston Red Sox from JetBlue Park						MLB Spring Training	
NBA	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Clippers at Oklahoma City Thunder (Live)				NBA Basketball Miami Heat at Los Angeles Lakers (Live)			
NBCSports	2018 Paralympic Winter Games from PyeongChang, South Korea (Live)							
NFLN	21st & Prime	NFL Total Access: Free Agency Frenzy			NFL Total Access: Free Agency Frenzy		21st & Prime	NFL Total Access: Free Agency Frenzy

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LISTEN UP

SONG OF THE WEEK

Pearl Jam: 'Can't Deny Me'

These are hopeful days for Pearl Jam fans. The band kicked off a busy week by sharing the new song *Can't Deny Me* and confirming that the track will be part of a forthcoming album, their first since 2013's *Lightning Bolt*. The track got its live premiere at Lollapalooza Chile on Tuesday, the band's first live show in two years, where Eddie Vedder dedicated the fiery protest anthem — with the chorus "The higher, the farther, the faster you fly / You might be rich, but you can't deny me" — to the survivors of the Parkland, Fla., school shooting.



Eddie Vedder

"(To) the incredible students in Florida, and the United States, who survived a terrible tragedy. We will all be protesting tomorrow throughout the United States," Cornell said, referencing Wednesday's national school walkout. "We'd like to play this for them, and us."

— Maeve McDermott

PLAYLIST

- To Follow and Lead** Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith: Joyful, inventive, catchy — one of my favorite releases of last year by a long shot.
- Walkie Talkie** Palm: One of the best bands doing it right now. Watching them live is an ecstatic experience.
- The Married Men** The Roches: God, the Roches were just the best. Honest, direct song-writing, funny without being a joke, heart-wrenching without being maudlin. Uncomfortably real.
- It Can Feel So Good** Zammuto: This song is like getting your brain tickled. It calms me when I'm anxious and soothes me when I'm sad.
- I Don't Want Children** Loma: There are some decisions you just can't do halfway. For every decision made, there's a whole set of possible outcomes you have to abandon, another possible life you'll never know. This is an anthem for the outliers among us.
- Black Origami** Jlin: The first time I heard this record I was completing a 15-hour drive to Chicago, alone, in the pouring rain, with a lightning storm behind me and the city skyline up ahead.
- To the Moon and Back** Fever Ray: Supremely grateful that we got another Fever Ray record this year, and it's just as wild and fearless as you'd expect.
- The Magician** Andy Shauf: Beautifully written, perfectly produced, plus one of my favorite opening lines of a song in recent memory.
- Heart Attack** Tune-Yards: I, too, fear I've lost my soul to the nightmare of living in our racist, sexist, violent, corrupt country. Blow off some steam to this jam, I guess? I'm only human.



Jenn Wasner and Andy Stack have a new album next month. SHERVIN LAINEZ

Ahead of Baltimore indie rockers Wye Oak's new album *The Louder I Call, the Faster It Runs* (out April 6), singer/guitarist Jenn Wasner shares a playlist of beautifully curated favorites with USA TODAY.

USA TODAY AIRPLAY CHARTS

COMPILED BY MEDIABASE ● Increase in Spins ● Debut

T This week L Last week

TOP 40

T	L	ARTIST	SONG	SPINS
1	2	G-EAZY & HALSEY	Him & I	16,671
2	1	NF	Let You Down	16,529
3	4	BRUNO MARS & CARDI B	Finesse	14,973
4	3	ED SHEERAN	Perfect	14,196
5	6	SELENA GOMEZ X MARSHMELLO	Wolves	12,686
6	5	DUA LIPA	New Rules	12,414
7	7	MAX f/GNASH	Lights Down Low	11,913
8	10	ZEDD/MAREN MORRIS/GREY	The Middle	11,502
9	9	BEBEREXHA f/FLORIDA GEORGIALINE	Meant To Be	11,358
10	12	CAMILA CABELLO	Never Be The Same	9,087
11	11	MACKLEMORE f/KESHA	Good Old Days	9,026
12	13	THE WEEKND & KENDRICK LAMAR	Pray For Me	8,734
13	---	DRAKE	God's Plan	6,738
14	15	JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE f/CHRIS STAPLETON	Say Something	6,406
15	---	MAROON 5	Wait	6,360

COUNTRY

T	L	ARTIST	SONG	POINTS
1	1	THOMAS RHETT	Marry Me	23,440
2	2	CHRIS STAPLETON	Broken Halos	22,391
3	4	LUKE BRYAN	Most People Are Good	19,630
4	5	DEVIN DAWSON	All On Me	18,443
5	6	BRETT ELDRIDGE	The Long Way	18,005
6	7	JORDAN DAVIS	Singles You Up	17,545
7	8	HIGH VALLEY	She's With Me	16,638
8	3	SCOTTY MCCREERY	Five More Minutes	16,417
9	9	BEBEREXHA f/FLORIDA GEORGIALINE	Meant To Be	15,800
10	11	JASON ALDEAN	You Make It Easy	14,446
11	10	DARIUS RUCKER	For The First Time	13,362
12	13	KANE BROWN	Heaven	12,579
13	12	GRANGER SMITH	Happens Like That	11,960
14	---	BLAKE SHELTON	I Lived It	10,870
15	15	LEE BRICE	Boy	10,452

URBAN

T	L	ARTIST	SONG	SPINS
1	1	DRAKE	God's Plan	5,946
2	2	CARDI B f/21 SAVAGE	Bartier Cardi	4,570
3	3	BLAC YOUNG STA	Booty	4,399
4	4	BRUNO MARS & CARDI B	Finesse	4,290
5	7	JACQUEES f/DEJ LOAF	At The Club	3,650
6	9	DEREZ DE'SHON	Hardaway	3,632
7	5	KENDRICK LAMAR f/ZACARI	LOVE.	3,626
8	10	MIGOS	Stir Fry	3,480
9	12	RICH THE KID f/KENDRICK LAMAR	New Freezer	3,207
10	13	KENDRICK LAMAR & SZA	All The Stars	3,091
11	14	SZA	Broken Clocks	2,554
12	---	BLOCCBOY JB f/DRAKE	Look Alive	2,402
13	11	MIGOS f/NICKI MINAJ & CARDI B	MotorSport	2,287
14	---	REMY MA f/CHRIS BROWN	Melanin Magic (Pretty Brown)	2,214
15	---	BALL GREEZY	Nice & Slow	2,193

RHYTHMIC

T	L	ARTIST	SONG	SPINS
1	1	DRAKE	God's Plan	7,400
2	2	BRUNO MARS & CARDI B	Finesse	6,447
3	4	KENDRICK LAMAR & SZA	All The Stars	4,973
4	5	THE WEEKND & KENDRICK LAMAR	Pray For Me	4,964
5	3	G-EAZY & HALSEY	Him & I	4,954
6	10	MIGOS	Stir Fry	3,577
7	11	CARDI B f/21 SAVAGE	Bartier Cardi	3,342
8	6	KENDRICK LAMAR f/ZACARI	LOVE.	3,216
9	8	MIGUEL f/TRAVIS SCOTT	Sky Walker	3,124
10	7	DUA LIPA	New Rules	2,883
11	14	BLOCCBOY JB f/DRAKE	Look Alive	2,603
12	9	A\$AP FERG f/NICKI MINAJ	Plain Jane	2,565
13	---	POST MALONE f/TY DOLLA SIGN	Psycho	2,558
14	15	BAZZI	Mine	2,558
15	---	STEFFLON DON f/FRENCH MONTANA	Hurtin' Me	2,271

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HOT ADULT CONTEMPORARY

T	L	ARTIST	SONG	SPINS
1	1	ED SHEERAN	Perfect	6,642
2	3	CHARLIE PUTH	How Long	5,785
3	2	CAMILA CABELLO f/YOUNG THUG	Havana	5,300
4	6	MAX f/GNASH	Lights Down Low	5,236
5	4	IMAGINE DRAGONS	Thunder	5,066
6	7	PINK	Beautiful Trauma	4,802
7	8	DUA LIPA	New Rules	4,721
8	5	HALSEY	Bad At Love	4,458
9	---	BEBEREXHA f/FLORIDA GEORGIALINE	Meant To Be	4,245
10	10	BRUNO MARS & CARDI B	Finesse	3,995

ADULT CONTEMPORARY

T	L	ARTIST	SONG	SPINS
1	1	ED SHEERAN	Perfect	2,720
2	2	PINK	What About Us	2,505
3	3	SHAWN MENDES	There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back	2,501
4	4	THE CHAINSMOKERS & COLDPLAY	Something Just Like This	2,224
5	5	ED SHEERAN	Shape Of You	1,812
6	6	PORTUGAL. THE MAN	Feel It Still	1,721
7	9	CAMILA CABELLO f/YOUNG THUG	Havana	1,322
8	7	CHARLIE PUTH	Attention	1,305
9	8	ZEDD & ALESSIA CARA	Stay	1,223
10	---	MAROON 5 f/SZA	What Lovers Do	958

URBAN ADULT CONTEMPORARY

T	L	ARTIST	SONG	SPINS
1	1	SZA f/TRAVIS SCOTT	Love Galore	2,049
2	2	DANIEL CAESAR f/KALI UCHIS	Get You	1,737
3	3	KHALID	Location	1,652
4	5	CHILDISH GAMBINO	Redbone	1,644
5	6	CHARLIE WILSON	Chills	1,552
6	4	BRUNO MARS	That's What I Like	1,540
7	7	TANK	When We	1,397
8	8	DVSN	Mood	1,334
9	10	BRUNO MARS & CARDI B	Finesse	1,181
10	9	MAJOR.	Honest	1,068

CHRISTIAN

T	L	ARTIST	SONG	SPINS
1	1	TENTH AVENUE NORTH	Control (Somehow You Want Me)	2,070
2	2	LAUREN DAIGLE	O'Lord	1,999
3	4	CROWDER f/TAUREN WELLS	All My Hope	1,735
4	3	MICAH TYLER	Different	1,679
5	7	TAUREN WELLS	When We Pray	1,615
6	5	SIDEWALK PROPHETS	Come To The Table	1,592
7	8	BIG DADDY WEAWE	Jesus I Believe	1,466
8	6	MATT MAHER	Your Love Defends Me	1,432
9	---	TOBYMAC	I Just Need U	1,373
10	9	MATTHEW WEST	Broken Things	1,359

ALTERNATIVE

T	L	ARTIST	SONG	SPINS
1	2	IMAGINE DRAGONS	Whatever It Takes	3,418
2	1	AJR	Sober Up	3,189
3	1	PORTUGAL. THE MAN	Live In The Moment	3,143
4	6	FOSTER THE PEOPLE	Sit Next To Me	2,751
5	7	KILLERS	Run For Cover	2,513
6	5	WALK THE MOON	One Foot	2,508
7	4	ALICE MERTON	No Roots	2,424
8	8	LOVELY THE BAND	Broken	2,419
9	10	MUSE	Thought Contagion	2,085
10	---	MOONTAXI	Two High	1,718

ACTIVE ROCK

T	L	ARTIST	SONG	SPINS
1	2	GRETA VAN FLEET	Safari Song	1,958
2	3	POPEVIL	Waking Lions	1,879
3	1	PAPA ROACH	Born For Greatness	1,700
4	4	BREAKING BENJAMIN	Red Cold River	1,530
5	6	THREE DAYS GRACE	The Mountain	1,501
6	8	FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH	Gone Away	1,362
7	9	NOTHING MORE	Do You Really Want It?	1,213
8	5	METALLICA	Spit Out The Bone	1,139
9	---	RISE AGAINST	House On Fire	922
10	---	IN THIS MOMENT	Roots	917

ADULT ROCK

T	L	ARTIST	SONG	SPINS
1	1	NATHANIEL RATELIFF/NIGHTSWEATS	You Worry Me	730
2	3	DECEMBERISTS	Severed	609
3	5	BRETT DENNEN	Already Gone	573
4	2	U2	Get Out Of Your Own Way	571
5	4	ST. VINCENT	Los Angeles	510
6	8	IMAGINE DRAGONS	Whatever It Takes	489
7	7	BRANDI CARLILE	The Joke	486
8	---	VANCE JOY	Saturday Sun	420
9	10	ALICE MERTON	No Roots	410
10	---	JADE BIRD	Lottery	399

LATIN

T	L	ARTIST	SONG	SPINS
1	1	CHRISTIAN NODAL	Me Deje Llevar	2,252
2	3	MALUMA f/NEGO DOBORE	Corazon	1,863
3	4	LUIS FONSI & DEMI LOVATO	Echame La Culpa	1,819
4	8	DADDY YANKEE	Dura	1,722
5	2	LAARROLLADORA BANDA EL LIMON	Entre Beso Y Beso	1,710
6	6	REGULO CARO	Como Vuelvo A Enamorarte	1,691
7	---	GERARDO ORTIZ	El Aroma De Tu Piel	1,578
8	---	GERU Y SU LEGION 7	Vete	1,528
9	5	OUZUNA f/CARDI B	La Modelo	1,484
10	---	ALFREDO OLIVAS	El Problema	1,480

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