

Taking a closer look at June's economic picture

Index shown exclusively to USA TODAY examines consumer behavior and forecast. **In Money**

In 'MaXXXine,' Mia Goth revamps horror final girl

"It's fun to be the one holding the gun," she says of character turning trope on its head. **In Life**

Rookie joins veterans on MLB All-Star Game rosters

Pirates' Paul Skenes (left) makes history in his first season. Other selections: Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani (center) and Yankees' Aaron Judge. **In Sports**

USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024

FROM LEFT: CHARLES LECLAIRE/USA TODAY SPORTS; ED SZCZEPANSKI/USA TODAY SPORTS; BRAD PENNER/USA TODAY SPORTS



NATO summit looms large for Biden



President Joe Biden will host world leaders this week for a NATO summit as he and his campaign face questions over his ability to win a second term. SAUL LOEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Spotlight will be focused on his fitness, leadership

Joey Garrison and Francesca Chambers
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON - President Joe Biden faces a pivotal moment this week as he prepares to host the leaders of more than 31 nations in Washington with a sudden new mission: command the world stage and stabilize a reelection campaign in crisis.

Much was already riding on Biden's performance at the summit marking the 75th anniversary of the NATO alliance. While his election opponent, former President Donald Trump, has ques-

tioned America's role in the organization, Biden has sought to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to NATO.

Yet after Biden's dismal debate performance 11 days ago, he must now allay the fears of worried Democrats openly discussing whether he should drop out of the race or remain their party's presidential nominee. Biden is under immense pressure to calm his critics by demonstrating competence and coherence as he welcomes NATO allies and partners to Washington for the three-day summit and as he tries to prove his case against Trump.

Biden's interactions with his European counterparts will be under especially intense scrutiny after incidents

See NATO SUMMIT, Page 3A

Biden to Democrats: I'm in 'to the end'

Francesca Chambers
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON - President Joe Biden told congressional Democrats in a letter Monday that he's not dropping out of the 2024 race.

"I am firmly committed to staying in this race, to running this race to the end, and to beating Donald Trump," Biden wrote.

Biden's campaign released the letter as lawmakers returned to Washington from recess. An increasing number

See BIDEN, Page 3A

DOJ sets target on corrupt landlords

Fines pay those sexually harassed, intimidated

Michael Loria
USA TODAY

An Ohio woman finds her locks changed after she refuses her landlord's demands for sex. A Colorado family finds the new landlord gropes the children. Paying rent for a Georgia woman becomes a chance for the landlord to forcibly kiss her.

Such instances of sexual harassment are among many transgressions the Department of Justice cited in recent cases against landlords as part of its Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative, a program that prosecutors tout as a groundbreaking program that's nabbed \$17 million in funds in dozens of cases; the money is then paid to victims.

But experts and federal officials say the program, begun in 2017, is barely scraping the surface of a deeply entrenched problem that the law has only just begun to address.

"That's only a tiny drop in the bucket," said University of Missouri School of Law professor Rigel C. Oliveri of the federal government's settlements. "That's a vanishingly tiny number of cases where the overall number has to be so many orders of magnitude greater."

Most cases wind up as lawsuits because of the legal mechanics of the Fair Housing Act, Oliveri said, though a few egregious cases have gone to trial.

Victims tend to be low-income women renting from private landlords operating free of oversight, according to experts.

Meanwhile, federal officials say the only way to discover unscrupulous landlords is for tenants to come forward.

The National Fair Housing Alliance documented 2,490 complaints based on sex in 2022, according to its most recent report, the highest number since the group of over 200 nationwide housing organizations and civil rights watchdogs began tracking the issue in 2005. The complaints also included discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Tenants can report landlords to federal officials by calling 1-800-669-9777

See LANDLORDS, Page 2A



Concepcion Martinez, 60, rakes up in front of a trailer home destroyed in Hurricane Beryl as Loel Lemus, 37, uses a machete to chop broken tree limbs Monday in Midfield, Texas. ANGELA PIAZZA/USA TODAY NETWORK

Deadly Beryl leaves 2M without power

Category 1 hurricane floods Texas coast with storm surge

Doyle Rice, Thao Nguyen, Cheryl McCloud and Christopher Cann
USA TODAY

Beryl made landfall along the Texas coast as a Category 1 storm early Monday, unleashing a barrage of severe weather as it moved inland before weakening into a tropical storm still capable of widespread damage.

Through the morning much of eastern Texas was inundated with "life-threatening storm surge," torrential rain and powerful wind gusts up to 97 mph. The dangerous conditions prompted rescue operations, disrupted hundreds of flights, left more than 2 million people without power and caused at least two deaths.

Beryl had sustained winds of over 80 mph as it made landfall around 4 a.m. near Matagorda, a coastal community between Corpus Christi and Galveston, according to the National Hurricane Center. More than five hours later, it weakened to a tropical storm, continuing to push inland with sustained winds at 70 mph, uprooting trees and knocking over power poles.

In a suburban part of Harris County, just northeast of Houston, a man was killed when a tree fell on his home and

See BERYL, Page 4A



A police officer fights fierce winds from Beryl as he searches Monday for occupants of an overturned tractor-trailer in Freeport, Texas. ADREES LATIF/REUTERS



RECYCLED PAPER
©COPYRIGHT 2024
USA TODAY
A division of
Gannett Co., Inc.

HOME DELIVERY
1-800-872-0001, USATODAYSERVICE.COM