



Top NBA training camp storylines as players begin reporting for 2025-26 season

SPORTS, 1B

The Gleaner

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 | THE GLEANER



PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Comey blasts federal indictment charges



President Donald Trump celebrated the indictment of former FBI Director James Comey in social media posts on Sept. 25. KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS

Trump critics say move undermines rule of law

Bart Jansen, Josh Meyer and Aysha Bagchi
USA TODAY

Former FBI Director James Comey pleaded innocent in the court of public opinion after a federal grand jury indicted him Sept. 25 on charges of lying to Congress and obstruction. His formal arraignment is scheduled for Oct. 9.

“My heart is broken for the Department of Justice, but I have great confidence in the federal judicial system,” Comey said in a video on Instagram. “I’m innocent, so let’s have a trial.”

President Donald Trump celebrated the indictment on social media.

“JUSTICE IN AMERICA! One of the worst human beings this Country has ever been exposed to is James Comey, the former Corrupt Head of the FBI,” Trump posted on Truth Social. “He has been so bad for our Country, for so long, and is now at the beginning of being

held responsible for his crimes against our Nation.”

In another post, he wrote, “He is a Dirty Cop, and always has been... He just got unexpectedly caught.”

Bondi issued a statement on X addressing the charges.

“No one is above the law,” she posted Sept. 25. “Today’s indictment reflects this Department of Justice’s commitment to holding those who abuse positions of power accountable for misleading the American people. We will follow the facts in this case.”

The indictment relates to testimony by Comey on Sept. 30, 2020, as part of special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into the 2016 Trump campaign’s possible connections to Russia. Prosecutors allege that Comey falsely said he hadn’t “authorized someone else at the FBI to be an anonymous source in news reports” in The Wall Street Journal about an investigation into former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The Justice Department’s inspector general previously reviewed the allegations and in 2018 found Andrew McCabe, the former FBI deputy director, “lacked candor” in his statements about the leak.

Patrick J. Fitzgerald, a former senior Justice Department official who is one of Comey’s defense lawyers, said in an emailed statement to USA TODAY that

Comey denies the charges “in their entirety” and the defense team looks forward “to vindicating him in the courtroom.”

Comey struck a personal note, while voicing defiance, in his video statement.

“My family and I have known for years that there are costs to standing up to Donald Trump, but we couldn’t imagine ourselves living any other way,” he said, while looking straight into a close-up camera. “We will not live on our knees, and you shouldn’t either.”

He also referenced a reported statement from his daughter, Maurene Comey, after Trump fired her from the Manhattan federal prosecutor’s office. She has since sued the Trump administration.

“Somebody that I love dearly recently said that fear is the tool of a tyrant, and she’s right, but I’m not afraid, and I hope you’re not either,” James Comey said. “I hope instead, you are engaged, you are paying attention, and you will vote like your beloved country depends upon it, which it does.”

The indictment drew instant criticism from Democrats.

Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, the top Democrat on the House Judiciary

See COMEY, Page 2A

NASA names new class of astronauts

10 recruits to undergo 2 years of training

Eric Lagatta
USA TODAY

The next generation of American astronauts have been introduced and they could be part of the landmark NASA missions back to the moon and eventually to the surface of Mars.

On Sept. 22, NASA unveiled its 10 newest recruits who will undergo extensive training to become eligible for future spaceflight missions that could carry humans deeper into the cosmos than ever before. Chosen from more than 8,000 applicants, the incoming astronaut class includes test pilots, engineers and scientists – including one woman who has already spent time in orbit. Sean Duffy, NASA’s acting administrator, said in a statement that the men and women will help “unlock the Golden Age of exploration.”

“I’m honored to welcome the next generation of American explorers to our agency,” Duffy continued in the statement. “The 10 men and women sitting here today embody the truth that in America, regardless of where you start, there is no limit to what a determined dreamer can achieve – even going to space.”

The candidates – six women and four men – are the first class of astronaut recruits in four years, since 10 new astronauts were selected as part of the 2021 class. They include:

- **Ben Bailey**, 38, of Charlottesville, Virginia: an active member of the U.S. Army and graduate of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School
- **Lauren Edgar**, 40, of Sammamish, Washington: a geologist who worked on the Artemis II lunar geology team and who has helped support NASA’s robotic rovers on Mars
- **Adam Fuhrmann**, 35, of Leesburg, Virginia: a major in the U.S. Air Force with 400 combat hours
- **Cameron Jones**, 35, of Savanna, Illinois: a major in the U.S. Air Force and a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School with more than 1,600 flight hours in more than 30 different aircraft
- **Yuri Kubo**, 40, of Columbus, Indiana: a previous SpaceX employee who served as launch director for Falcon 9 rocket launches, among other roles
- **Rebecca Lawler**, 38 of Little Elm, Texas: a former lieutenant commander

See ASTRONAUTS, Page 2A

FL bill on shooter drug tests has Scientology link

Ana Goñi-Lessan
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

A Florida Democrat has filed a bill backed by the Church of Scientology in response to a spate of mass shootings in Florida and across the country.

The measure, filed by state Sen. Barbara Sharief, would require Florida medical examiners to conduct a toxicology report and test for psychotropic drugs – including antidepressants, antipsychotics, mood stabilizers and

anti-anxiety medications – on anyone suspected of committing a mass shooting.

The bill also requires medical examiners to consult with a suspect’s primary care physician or mental health professional.

Law enforcement, first responders and teachers would also be required to train “on the adverse effects of psychotropic drugs, illicit drugs, and controlled substances, including irrational, violent, or suicidal behavior that may be

demonstrated by persons under the influence of such drugs or substances.”

In an interview with the USA TODAY Network – Florida, Sharief said she was inspired to file the bill after she was approached by a group called The Citizens Commission on Human Rights of Florida, or CCHR. That group is a “flag service organization” within the Church of Scientology, according to the church’s website.

See SCIENTOLOGY, Page 2A



Florida state Sen. Barbara Sharief said she wants to know if mass shooters are on prescription medication when they commit the crime. ALICIA DEVINE/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT FILE

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to thegleaner.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 141 | No. 195
Subscribe 1-844-900-7104
©2025 \$2.50



6 74341 22222 5