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EUROPE  
& PACIFIC  
WEEKEND  
EDITION

Eddie Murphy  
revisits a cult classic  
**Movies, Pages 16-17**

# STARS AND STRIPES®

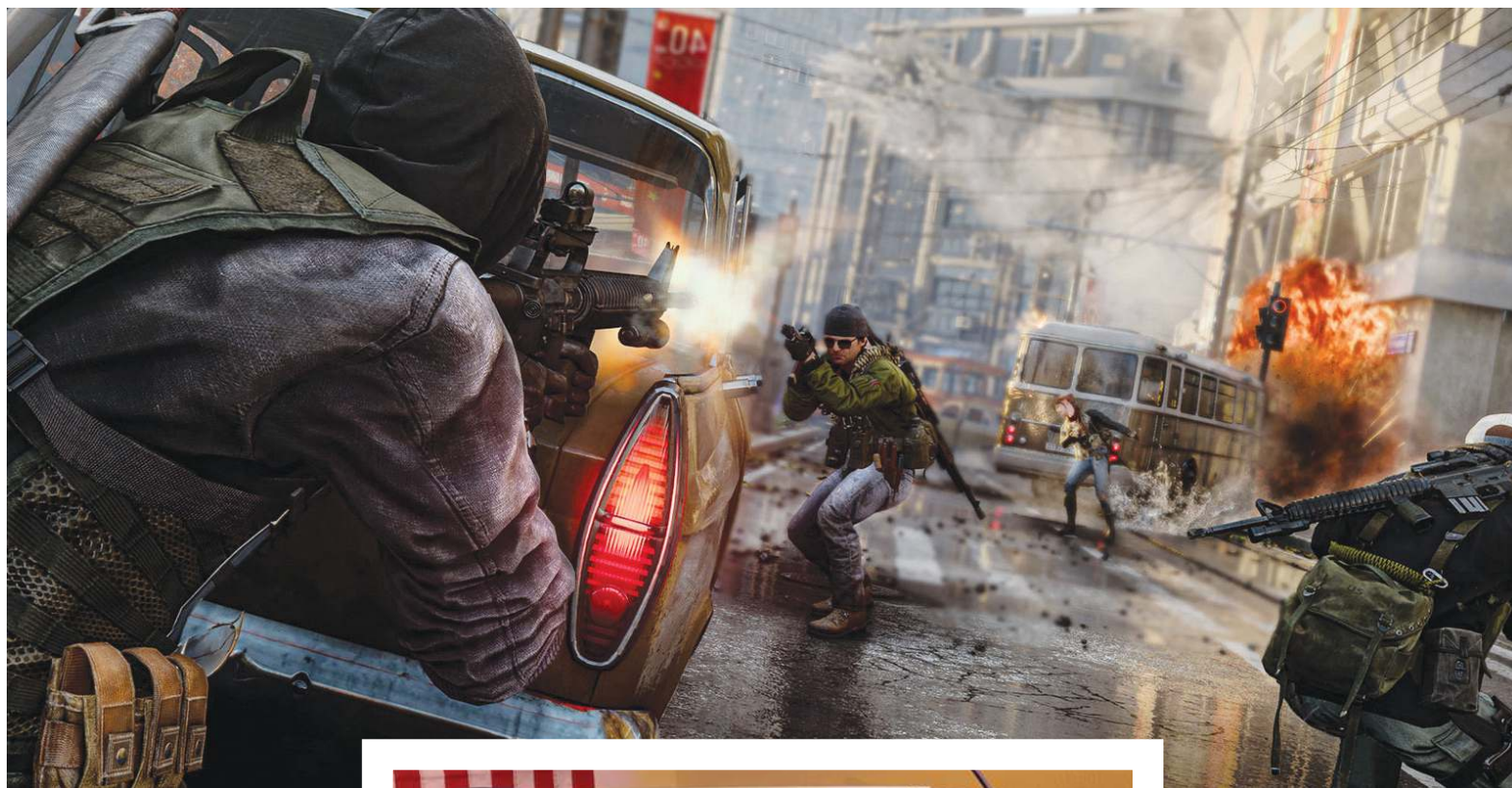
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BY J.P. LAWRENCE  
*Stars and Stripes*

**J**ody Farmer spent the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic with little to do as she struggled with injuries from her military career, until an opportunity to coach college esports came along and restored some of the camaraderie she missed from her service.

Farmer, a 38-year-old Navy and Army veteran with a spinal cord injury, never thought of herself as a gamer. But she now spends up to 20 hours a week preparing two teams for collegiate video game tournaments.

"It wasn't something I was looking for, that's for sure," Farmer said. "But [esports] opened my mind to new possibilities of how I can be productive."

She is one of several veterans leading competitive gaming at the University of Oklahoma, which has announced \$100,000 in scholarships for students who want to work in the esports industry. The university's esports department opened last year after beginning as a club founded by Mike Aguilar, another veteran.

Millions of people watch gam-



**Above: The first-person shooter "Call of Duty Black Ops Cold War" is popular for esports competitions.**

Activision

**Left: Jody Farmer, a wounded Army and Navy veteran, works as a coach for the esports team at the University of Oklahoma. She had been playing video games through online meetups hosted by the Wounded Warrior Project.**

Lillie Farmer

## Call her coach

Wounded Navy, Army veteran finds camaraderie in competitive esports

ers compete against each other in organized events, complete with live commentary like a basketball or football game. Revenues for es-

ports are projected to surpass \$1 billion this year, Business Insider reported in January.

Esports is more than just the

people playing the video games, said Aguilar, director of the university's esports department.

Each competition also has organizers, coaches, commentators, reporters and technicians working behind the scenes. He hopes his program can prepare students for these jobs in the future.

Aguilar recalled life as a military dependent in Germany in the 1980s, playing video games on an Atari 2600. The whole family would watch as he and his siblings took turns playing.

"Gaming was another method for us to stay connected," said

**SEE COACH ON PAGE 6**

## AFRICOM must get White House OK for airstrikes, report says

BY JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. Africa Command now needs White House approval to launch airstrikes against militants in Somalia as the Biden administration weighs whether to put limits on commanders for authorizing attacks, The New York Times reported this week.

The restrictions were applied while the White House examines former President Donald Trump's policy, which delegated decision-making on strikes to combatant commanders, unnamed U.S. officials said in the report.

The White House wants to develop its own rules for conducting strikes and commando raids in countries such as Somalia and Yemen, in order to reduce civilian casualties, the newspaper reported. White House approval also is being required for the CIA, the report added.

The order, issued by national security adviser Jake Sullivan on Jan. 20, was never announced publicly. AFRICOM did not immediately respond to a Stars and Stripes request for comment Thursday.

**SEE AFRICOM ON PAGE 6**



U.S. Africa Command

**A screenshot from video shows airstrikes on an al-Shabab compound in Somalia on Jan. 1.**



BUSINESS/WEATHER

EUROPE GAS PRICES									
Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel					
Germany	\$2.986	\$3.359	\$3.619	\$3.347	Azores	..	..	\$3.519	..
Change in price	+7.8cents	+7.8cents	+8.1cents	+9.9cents	Change in price	..	..	+8.1cents	..
Netherlands	..	\$3.833	\$4.134	\$3.956	Belgium	..	\$2.721	\$2.952	\$2.906
Change in price	..	+4.5cents	+4.2cents	+8.5cents	Change in price	..	No change	No change	No change
U.K.	..	\$3.258	\$3.518	\$3.246	Turkey	..	..	\$3.404	\$3.685*
Change in price	..	+7.8cents	+8.1cents	+9.9cents	Change in price	..	..	+8.1cents	No change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES									
Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel					
Japan	..	\$3.409	..	\$3.139	South Korea	\$2.789	..	\$3.419	\$3.149
Change in price	..	+8.0cents	..	+10.0cents	Change in price	+8.0cents	..	+8.0cents	+10.0cents
Okinawa	\$2.779	..	..	\$3.139	Guam	\$2.789	\$3.159	\$3.419	..
Change in price	+8.0cents	..	..	+10.0cents	Change in price	+8.0cents	+8.0cents	+8.0cents	..

\*DieselEFD \*\*Midgrade

For the week ofMarch 5-11

EXCHANGE RATES		
Military rates		
Euro costs (March 5)	\$1.17	
Dollar buys (March 5)	0.8102	
British pound (March 5)	\$1.36	
Japanese yen (March 5)	104.00	
South Korean won (March 5)	1098.00	
South Korea (Won)		1125.49
Switzerland (Franc)		.9242
Thailand (Baht)		30.37
Turkey (NewLira)		7.4216
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)		
Commercial rates		
Bahrain(Dinar)	.3771	
Britain (Pound)	1.3979	
Canada (Dollar)	1.2636	
China(Yuan)	6.4687	
Denmark (Krone)	6.1771	
Egypt (Pound)	15.6800	
Euro	.8307	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7585	
Hungary (Forint)	303.21	
Israel (Shekel)	3.3084	
Japan (Yen)	107.45	
Kuwait(Dinar)	.3026	
Norway (Krone)	8.4976	
Philippines (Peso)	48.51	
Poland (Zloty)	3.79	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7514	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3318	
INTEREST RATES		
Prime rate		3.25
Interest Rates Discountrate		0.25
Federal funds market rate		0.07
3-month bill		0.05
30-year bond		2.25

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

TODAY

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RELOCATION GUIDE

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## MILITARY

# Rocket attack raises concerns about escalation

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The rocket attack on an air base in Iraq where American troops are stationed is a “troubling development” following the recent U.S. airstrike meant to deter attacks by Iranian-backed militia groups, the Pentagon’s chief spokesman said Wednesday.

“Nobody wants to see the situation escalate,” John Kirby told reporters at the Pentagon. “That is why when we conducted the strike last weekend in Syria, we said we believed it was measured and proportionate.”

Al Asad Air Base in Iraq was hit Wednesday morning by 10 rockets fired from multiple locations east of the base, according to Kirby. No injuries of U.S. service members have been reported, but an American civilian contractor suffered a “cardiac episode” while taking shelter and later died.

The rocket attack comes after the U.S. airstrike last Thursday on a compound in Syria manned by Iranian-back militia groups that included Kait’ib Hezbollah and Kait’ib Sayyid al-Shuhada, which U.S. officials believe were behind other recent attacks against American and Iraqi forces.

Al Asad Air Base was also the site of the Jan. 8, 2020, ballistic missile attack by Iran in retaliation for the death of Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the commander of Iran’s elite Quds Force. More than 100 American service members suffered traumatic brain injuries from the attack.

On Wednesday, Iraqi security forces were at al Asad investigating and U.S. officials have yet to determine who is responsible for the attack or the extent of the damage, Kirby said. He did say, however, that the use of rockets is similar to previous attacks by

Shiite militias backed by Iran.

The base’s Counter-Rocket, Artillery, Mortar, or C-RAM systems, were engaged, but it is unclear how effective it was during the rocket attack. The C-RAM might have shot down other rockets or some of the impacts were from the rockets that were first hit by the system, Kirby said, but that is still being determined.

Last week, Kirby said the U.S. airstrike in Syria was meant to eliminate the compound’s use and send a “deterrence message” about any future attacks against American and Iraqis.

“And I said back then that we hope it will have a deterrent effect. We still do. So, nobody wants to see this escalate into as you described it, a tit for tat. That is not in our interest, it’s not in the Iraqi people’s interest,” Kirby said.

If the United States does decide to respond against those responsible for the al Asad attack, however, it will do so “in a manner of our own choosing,” Kirby said.

The activities of Iranian-backed militia groups in the region has been a concern for the U.S. for a long time, Kirby said, and he called out the previous administration’s actions regarding Iran as counterproductive, including its “maximum pressure campaign.”

“[The campaign] only emboldened Iran further to pull back its commitments under the [Iran nuclear deal] and certainly has done nothing to limit, constrain or curtail their other malign activities,” he said. “Because the previous administration pulled out of the Iran deal, now there’s no direct method of communicating as there was before.”

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ERIC DIETRICH/U.S. Air Force

**Chief of Space Operations Gen. John W. Raymond delivers remarks during a ceremony unveiling the newly decorated Space Force hallway at the Pentagon in December. Raymond is calling for a set of guidelines for operating in space.**

## Space Force general wants established rules for space

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Just like the rules of the road and laws of the sea, Space Force commander Gen. John Raymond wants to see guidelines established for operating in space as more countries increase their involvement commercially and militarily.

“There are really no norms of behavior in space. It’s the Wild, Wild West,” Raymond, the chief of space operations for the force, said Wednesday during a virtual event with the National Press Club in Washington.

Space Force is now in its second year of existence. The service has grown from one person — Raymond — to enlisting and commissioning about 600 new members each year. The newest U.S. service branch also has been working with American allies, including the United Kingdom and France, that are establishing their own versions of a Space Force.

Space is becoming more competitive as commerce increases as well as military activity, Raymond said. The United States and its allies also face a number of threats, especially from China, which is developing

space capabilities and threats including jammers that affect communication and global positioning satellites, lasers that can damage satellites and missiles that can destroy satellites in low orbit, he said.

“So they’ll enjoy the same benefits that we’ve enjoyed by integrating space into our way of war and our way of life. But most concerning is that they’re developing a spectrum of threats to negate our access to space and to keep our nation and our allied partners from being able to realize the benefits that we derive from those space capabilities,” Raymond said.

He would not say Wednesday whether an attack on a satellite would constitute an act of war, but it would depend on the larger picture of what is happening in the world.

“In my opinion, there’s no such thing as a space war. It’s war,” Raymond said. “And nations might choose to conduct operations in that war ... either on the sea, or in the air, or on the ground, or now in space. And so, I think just like every other traditional domain of warfare, this is just integrated into that larger strategic conflict.”

The first U.N. treaty to address

space was the Outer Space Treaty from 1967, and it includes principles such as not placing nuclear weapons in space and that celestial bodies such as the moon could not be militarized. Four other U.N. treaties also govern space law, with the last one enacted in 1984.

“Other than that, there’s no rules. We really believe — I really believe — there needs to be some rules [on] safe and professional conduct. I think our allies and partners that we operate with also think that,” Raymond said.

Space Force is working on developing those norms of behavior for operating in space. Raymond said Space Force is transparent about operating in a safe and professional manner, though he understands that others might not follow the U.S. lead.

“I’m not naive to think if there was a set of norms of behavior that everybody’s going to follow them,” he said. “But I do think if you have those rules, it will help identify those that are running the red lights, if you will. And I think that would be important.”

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## Pentagon probe slams ex-White House doctor’s behavior

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — The Department of Defense inspector general released a scathing report Wednesday on the conduct of Ronny Jackson, now a congressman from Texas, when he worked as a top White House physician.

The internal investigation con-

cluded that Jackson made “sexual and denigrating” comments about a female subordinate, violated the policy on drinking alcohol on a presidential trip and took prescription-strength sleeping medication that prompted worries from his colleagues about his ability to provide proper medical care.

The yearslong investigation into Jackson, who was elected to the House in November, examined allegations into his conduct during his time serving the administrations of both Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump.

Jackson, who gained notoriety for his over-the-top pronouncements

about Trump’s health, denied the allegations, and declared that he was the victim of a “political hit job” because of his close ties to the former Republican president.

After interviewing 78 witnesses and reviewing a host of White House documents, investigators found that Jackson, who achieved the rank of

rear admiral, failed to treat his subordinates with dignity and respect.

The report also said the investigation into Jackson “was limited in scope and unproductive” as Trump’s White House counsel insisted on being present at all interviews, which had a “potential chilling effect” on the probe.



MILITARY

# Greater access to service dogs for vets sought

BY SARAH CAMMARATA  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A group of House lawmakers is reigniting calls to expand access to service dogs for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder amid a growing number of studies that show the treatment works.

Rep. John Rutherford, R-Fla., on Wednesday reintroduced the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers Act that would create a \$10 million grant program led by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill proposes qualified nonprofit organizations receive a stipend worth \$25,000 per veteran to pair that person with a service dog.

Reps. Steve Stivers, R-Ohio, Michael Waltz, R-Fla., and Chris Pappas, D-N.H., joined Rutherford on Wednesday to voice support for the bill at an event to announce the legislation.

Waltz, who is a former Green Beret and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said he personally suffered from PTSD and traumatic brain injury and has seen the benefits of service dogs.

"I've walked that walk and these dogs absolutely work. ... We're gonna get this bill passed,"

he said.

When Rutherford reintroduced the PAWS Act in 2019, it drew bipartisan support in the House, but further action on it failed. The legislation was first introduced in 2016.

Rutherford said he's hopeful that it will become law this time following the release of a draft study from the VA that has "proven scientifically, it works — something that we have known all along."

The VA has not publicly released the draft study and did not immediately respond to a request Wednesday asking for a copy of the report.

The department restarted a congressionally mandated study in 2015 on service dogs and PTSD. The study's results were expected in summer 2020, but were never released.

The rate of suicide among veterans has steadily increased in recent years, according to a VA study released in 2020 that analyzed data from 2005-18. Veterans accounted for 13.8% of all deaths by suicide in 2018, according to the report, despite increased public awareness of the issue.

Rory Diamond, the CEO of K9s For Warriors, one of the largest



PHOTOS BY JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

**Veteran David Crenshaw, with his service dog, Doc, at his side, speaks at a Capitol Hill news conference to promote House bill, H.R. 1022 on Wednesday. Behind him, from left, are K9s For Warriors CEO Rory Diamond and veteran Becca Stephens and her service dog, Bobbi.**

nonprofit organizations connecting service dogs with veterans, said at the event that lowering veteran suicide rates underscores the importance of the bill.

"We have seen the magic of what a service dog can do for a disabled veteran who's suffering from truly extreme PTSD. We are on the front line of fighting veteran suicide... and we are beating the odds. That's why this act is so important and why it must be passed," he said.

Among the 660 veterans that K9s For Warriors has served, 72% of them have made a suicide attempt before they reach the group, Diamond said.

Between 20 and 22 veterans die by suicide each day, Stivers said.

The congressman, who introduced a similar bill this week, pointed to research from Kaiser Permanente that found veterans who work with service dogs show fewer symptoms of PTSD and depression, have a lower risk of substance abuse and improved overall mental health.

Stivers said there are two different bills, but "we are one, working together. One for all and all for one on dog veteran therapy."

The VA has "finally released a draft study that recognizes what the science at Purdue and Kaiser Permanente and what K9s For Warriors recognizes every time they graduate a class: Service dogs make a huge difference for our veterans suffering from PTSD. They save their lives," he said.

Funding that would be provided under the PAWS Act would benefit nonprofits such as K9s For Warriors that often train and connect service dogs to veterans with a mental illness with no charge.

Diamond said a service dog can play a variety of roles in a veteran's life, more than basic needs such as constant companionship.

In the midst of a panic attack or another mental health crisis, if the person can focus on their dog and continues to pet the animal, symptoms such as cloudy vision, sweating, heightened heart rate and anxiety can start to fade, Diamond explained.

"If they do that enough times when those things happen, it stops happening... and that's the genius. It's just like an amazing bridge



**Veteran David Crenshaw and his service dog, Doc.**

back out into the world," he said.

The VA does not fully fund service dog programs now, according to K9s For Warriors. The VA also pushed back on efforts like the PAWS Act, citing a lack of research on the benefits of the treatment, according to a 2019 New York Times report.

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**Rep. Steve Stivers, R-Ohio, speaks at the news conference.**

## Sailor killed in Calif. military convoy collision identified

Stars and Stripes

Authorities in California have identified the sailor who died Tuesday in a freeway accident that injured five others, according to The Associated Press.

Aaron Michael Fish, 26, died in the pileup on southbound Inter-

state 5 near San Onofre State Beach, just north of Oceanside, the AP reported Wednesday, citing the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office.

Stars and Stripes could not confirm Fish's rank and job title.

Four sailors in the crash were

hospitalized for minor injuries and one, in his 20s, was hospitalized with severe injuries, according to the report.

The accident happened while the sailors, assigned to the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5, were driving in a convoy en route to

Camp Pendleton to pick up equipment, according to a Facebook post from the unit's official page.

The accident happened at 6:50 a.m., according to the California Highway Patrol.

"For reasons that are still under investigation, the convoy began to

slow, causing a chain reaction collision," CHP said in a news release. "One of the truck trailers was pushed forward into a cab, causing fatal injuries to the driver."

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EUROPE

EU food import rules may leave US bases lacking

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER  
*Stars and Stripes*

Thousands of items sold in commissaries and exchange stores at U.S. military bases in Europe could soon be missing from shelves because of previously unenforced European Union rules on food imports, military and industry officials said.

The issue arose unexpectedly after 17 shipping containers destined for U.S. facilities were held up last week in Germany for not having the proper EU health certificates, said Stephen Rossetti, president of the American Logistics Association, which represents product manufacturers and distributors.

The EU requires imports with animal by-products to meet its own standards, but in the past has allowed U.S. items for consumption on American military bases in Europe to pass through without the certificates, Rossetti said. The containers were released “but with a warning — ‘no more,’” he said.

Commissary and Exchange officials said this week their stores haven’t yet experienced product shortages from port delays in Europe. They are working with federal agencies to resolve the issue with the EU and continue to monitor the flow of products, they said. Military Times first reported on the potential shortages



Stars and Stripes

**Newly enforced European Union restrictions on food imports could cause shortages of some items sold in commissaries and exchange stores.**

The restrictions apply to dry food items that contain animal components, “shipped via ocean carriers solely for U.S. service members and their families while they perform national security missions in Europe,” Defense Commissary Agency spokesman Kevin Robinson said.

The agency will “work with our military resale partners and industry suppliers to ensure our customers in Europe are supported,” he said.

Some 2,000 items sold by the commissary could be affected if more shipments are

held up, ranging from baby food and canned meats to powdered milk and pet food, officials said.

But it would not affect U.S.-shipped products kept at the Kaiserslautern cold storage facility near Ramstein Air Base, because frozen or chilled products and fresh meat already have health certificates.

“If they impose this across the board, it would be catastrophic for military families who are still coping with concerns about product shortages during the pandemic,” Rossetti said. “It could cause empty shelves; it could cause some facilities to shut down.”

The Exchange carries about 5,700 U.S.-origin food items with animal byproducts, such as honey, creamer, frosting, lunch meat and pork rinds, said Chris Ward, an Army and Air Force Exchange Service spokesman.

A million cases of food in more than 400 shipping containers in various stages of transit could be immediately affected, Rossetti said. There’s up to a six-week pipeline to get products to Europe and many items have expiration dates, so border delays could pose problems, he said.

The new enforcement actions could also affect base restaurants, the school lunch program and dining halls, officials said.

The Defense Logistics Agency’s prime food services vendor has experienced is-

suues with health certificates in Germany and Poland due to new local inspection policies, said Patrick Mackin, a DLA spokesman.

“We are continuing to keep a close watch on the situation, but at this time there hasn’t been a major impact on customer support,” he said.

The American Logistics Association contends that the certificates, which show conformity with EU health requirements, shouldn’t apply to its members “because they never have and it’s U.S. to U.S., so why now?” Rossetti said. “It’s sudden, it appears arbitrary ... and sporadic.”

The logistics association, which is working with federal agencies, would like to see a waiver or a statement from the EU that they’re not going to require the certifications, he said.

“At the very least we need time ... a delay on this so it can be sorted it out,” he said.

An official at the German Central Customs Authority referred Stars and Stripes to Germany’s veterinary and import office in Hamburg, saying entrance documents are reviewed by border veterinarians who decide whether to let in a product.

DeCA is coordinating with the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on current and future EU requirements, Robinson said.



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MILITARY



Mike Aguilar, founder of the esports department at the University of Oklahoma, gives a talk about the emerging competitive video gaming industry in a speech posted on YouTube in 2019.

Coach: Gamers drawn to teamwork

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Aguilar, who served in the military like his father and grandfather. “It was gaming that my dad and I would bond over.”  
He recruited Farmer, a fellow veteran, to become a coach for the game “Call of Duty.”  
The culture of the shooting game can be toxic at times, Aguilar said, as many of the game’s fans are used to playing alone against random people, with little accountability for bad behavior. Aguilar saw Farmer, a nontraditional student and female veteran in her 30s, as a “unique gem” who could mentor gamers.  
Farmer had initially been drawn to gaming because she missed the team spirit of the mil-

itary. She began playing the game when the pandemic hit, and felt less alone playing with other veterans in the Wounded Warrior Project.  
Without this community, “I don’t know how I would have made it through the summer,” Farmer said in a Facebook post.  
She found people, including her son and a band of disabled veterans from England, willing to help her learn the game.  
Now she teaches her players the strategy of “Call of Duty,” which Farmer likens to another war-themed game: chess. She runs her players through drills that teach them key routes in each map, situations they may face, and above all, teamwork.

Working with your teammates makes the victories sweeter, said Jonathan Tolle, an Air Force veteran who also joined the esports program at OU.  
“Actually knowing the people you’re playing with and competing for your school, that’s why I like it,” Tolle said.  
Farmer’s injuries from her military service have prevented her from doing a lot of things she once could do, such as running. And like other veterans, she misses the teamwork she experienced while serving.  
“Esports allows us to get that back,” Farmer said.

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AFRICOM: Strikes have increased in Somalia

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Since the Jan. 20 order, there have been no reported airstrikes in Somalia by AFRICOM, which conducted its last strikes there on Jan. 19. Those came days after the U.S. military finished moving about 700 troops from the country, following a Trump administration order to reposition forces.  
In recent years, the number of

strikes has increased in Somalia, where the al-Qaida-aligned militant group al-Shabab has waged a guerrilla war for more than a decade.  
AFRICOM has come under criticism by advocacy groups, which have argued that airstrikes over the years have killed more civilians than publicly acknowledged.  
The command has disputed

those claims and defended the attacks, which they say have helped blunt al-Shabab’s momentum. AFRICOM has substantiated five civilian deaths in recent years.  
In 2020, AFRICOM launched 52 airstrikes in Somalia, down from 63 in 2019.

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Report card on DOD management is a mixed record

By John M. Donnelly  
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has made progress tackling management problems in the last two years but “significant” challenges remain, the Government Accountability Office told Congress in its latest annual assessment of “high-risk” challenges across the government.

Of 36 areas identified by the GAO, five are chiefly a concern for the Pentagon. For other issues, such as cybersecurity or security clearance reviews, the Pentagon is one of the departments that plays a partial role in dealing with the problem.

The report cites Pentagon progress in a number of areas but calls out the department for falling short on several issues. One top concern, according to the GAO, is the lack of an adequate plan for replacing the functions performed by the Pentagon’s chief management officer, a position terminated a few months ago by the fiscal 2021 defense authorization act, or NDAA.

Another Pentagon problem area, the report said, is shortages of expert personnel in cybersecurity and software. And a third imperative is for the Pentagon to decide which organization will lead the way in protecting certain critical technologies.

Comptroller General Gene Dodaro, head of the GAO, presented the report Tuesday to a hearing of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.  
“Tens of billions of dollars in additional benefits and substantial improvements to the health, well-being, and security of the nation would be achieved by fully addressing high-risk issues,” Dodaro wrote in the report, referring to

GAO’s governmentwide recommendations.

The Defense Department’s chief management officer was created, at the GAO’s urging, in the fiscal 2017 NDAA to centralize control over Defense Department business operations in an office that would become, at least for a few years, one of the department’s most powerful.

However, Congress was unimpressed with the work of the new office. Lawmakers disbanded it in the latest NDAA and gave the Pentagon a year to transfer the duties to other offices.

The Pentagon expected Congress to do that and announced in January a plan to divvy up the CMO’s work, giving the Defense Department comptroller many of the CMO’s old duties. Now comes the GAO with a warning that key oversight functions could fall through the cracks during this transition.

“While DOD’s actions over the past two years demonstrate a continued leadership commitment to business transformation, uncertainty about the responsibility for spearheading DOD reform and efficiency efforts calls into question whether this leadership commitment can be sustained,” the report said.

It is not clear, the GAO said, whether the offices taking on business oversight roles will have appropriate “authorities and resources.”

The GAO also warned that such reorganizations take years.

“We have previously reported that in cases in which leadership changed — or was briefly absent — interagency collaborative mechanisms and related progress either disappeared or were considerably hindered,” it said.

Gunmen kill at least 7 workers, bomb kills doctor in Afghanistan

*Associated Press*  
KABUL, Afghanistan — At least seven Afghan civilians were shot and killed by a group of gunmen overnight in the country’s east and a physician died when a bomb attached to her rickshaw exploded on Thursday, provincial officials said.  
Islamic State in a statement claimed responsibility for the bombing, saying its fighters had detonated a so-called sticky bomb placed on the vehicle of a woman. The statement claimed she worked for the Afghan intelligence service

in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province.  
Gen. Juma Gul Hemat, provincial police chief in Nangarhar, said the shooting attack victims were workers at a plaster factory in the Sorkh Rod district. Police arrested four suspects, he added.  
The laborers were all from Afghanistan’s minority Shiite Hazara community, according to Farid Khan, spokesman for the provincial police chief. Some had come from the capital of Kabul, as well as central Bamyan and northern

Balkh provinces, to work in the factory.  
No one immediately claimed responsibility for that attack, but militants from Islamic State have declared war on Shiites and frequently target the Hazaras. Eastern Afghanistan has witnessed and increase of attacks by IS, including an attack on Tuesday in which three women who worked at a private TV station were gunned down in Jalalabad.  
ISIS claimed responsibility for killing the three women — Mursal

Wahidi, Sadia Sadat and Shahnaz Raufi. The three left work together and were gunned down in separate attacks while on their way home, almost at the same time.  
But many other attacks have gone unclaimed. The government blames most on the resurgent Taliban, who today hold sway over nearly half the country. The Taliban, in turn, deny any role in some of the attacks and blame the government.  
In Thursday’s bombing in Jalalabad, the female doctor was killed

while on her way to work at the provincial hospital’s maternity ward.  
Meanwhile in western Herat province, 39 people, both military and civilians, were wounded when security forces launched an operation to arrest a local militia commander, sparking a firefight, the governor’s office said. The wounded, including three children, are being treated.  
The militiaman was not arrested and remains on the run, said Wahid Qatali, the provincial governor in Herat.



PACIFIC

Missile agency seeks input on 2 new Hawaii radar sites

**By Wyatt Olson**  
*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Missile Defense Agency is once again seeking public feedback on potential locations in Hawaii for a radar defense array in Hawaii after earlier dropping two proposed sites in the wake of public opposition.

The agency is evaluating two sites for the Homeland Defense Radar, which would identify, track and classify long-range ballistic missile threats while still in mid-course flight.

The sites being considered are the U.S. Army Kahuku Training Area on the northern tip of Oahu and the U.S. Navy Pacific Missile Range Facility on the island of Kauai. Two sites on Oahu in

earlier consideration have been dropped, the agency said in a notice first published last month in the Federal Register.

The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act required the agency to develop plans to construct and operate a so-called “discrimination radar” to defend Hawaii against missile threats by quickly and narrowly identifying objects as lethal or nonlethal.

The most recent defense act passed in January provided further funding for “siting and development” of the Hawaii radar “should a deployment decision be made and is funded,” the agency said in the Federal Register.

Construction of a similar ra-

dar in Alaska has been mostly completed, the agency said in a news release late last month. The Long-Range Discrimination Radar at Clear Air Force Station, about 90 miles southwest of Fairbanks in central Alaska, will begin initial operations later this year.

In Hawaii, the agency held “scoping meetings” for the public in June 2018 for the original three locations, all on Oahu. Some Oahu residents expressed concern over yet another military facility on an island that already hosts the four services and thousands of service members.

Some opponents of one site were worried about overdevelopment, while some Native Ha-

waiians promised to protest a second site over cultural issues.

But the agency also determined that one of the sites — near the U.S. Air Force Kaena Point Satellite Tracking Station — was impractical because of radio frequency interference between the two facilities.

Airspace above the site ultimately selected would be restricted because the radar would emit high-intensity radiation that could adversely affect aircraft electrical systems, the agency said.

The public input now sought by the Missile Defense Agency is being gathered in advance of an environmental impact statement for the proposed sites, should the Defense Department

move ahead with funding the project, the agency said.

Due to pandemic restrictions, no in-person public meetings are being held. Instead, the agency is holding an “online open house” at <https://hdrheis.com> through April 12.

In addition, two conference-call public meetings are being held. The first on March 23 is from 4-6 p.m. Hawaii time at 855-756-7520, access code 69947. The call on March 25 is from 6-8 p.m. Hawaii time at the same number, access code 70114.

The information provided in each call is identical, the agency said.

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Police make arrest after incident at Yokota Base

**By Seth Robson and Hana Kusumoto**  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A former U.S. service member was arrested this week after allegedly throwing a sheet of glass at an entry gate late last year at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo.

Louis Bonamigo, 51, an unemployed man living in Mizuho, a city near Yokota Air Base, was taken into custody Tuesday on suspicion of forcible obstruction of business, a Tokyo Metropolitan Police spokesman said Wednesday.

Traffic and military police operations were interrupted at Gate 20 after the glass shattered there at 4:40 a.m. Dec. 15, according to the spokesman. It’s customary in Japan for

some government officials to speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

There were no injuries, according to Japanese broadcaster TBS. Police are looking into links to other incidents involving objects thrown onto the base, including a sofa in December and a large plastic box in September.

A spokeswoman for Yokota’s 374th Airlift Wing, Kaori Matsukasa, in an email Thursday declined to comment because Bonamigo is not in Japan under the status of forces agreement. She referred questions to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, which did not immediately respond Thursday.

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General relieved for security issue that allowed defection

**By Joseph Ditzler and Yoo Kyong Chang**  
*Stars and Stripes*

A South Korean major general has been relieved of his command after his troops failed to quickly apprehend a North Korean defector who crawled into the country last month through a seaside drainage pipe, the defense ministry said Thursday.

Several times, surveillance cameras spotted the intruder, who swam across the border in chilly East Sea waters wearing a dive suit. But guard troops of the 22nd Infantry Division failed to notice, according to earlier accounts from the Ministry of National Defense.

Troops took the man into custody at 7:20 a.m. Feb. 16, six hours after he entered the country and three hours after guards finally spotted him on camera at 4:16 a.m. He was captured inside the civilian control

line, a six-mile-wide swathe south of the Demilitarized Zone that the military keeps secure.

The division commander, Maj. Gen. Pyo Chang-soo, was relieved and referred to a disciplinary committee of the defense ministry, according to a text message Thursday from a ministry spokesman. The major general’s superior, Eighth Army Corps commander Lt. Gen. Kang Chang-koo, was also issued a “stark warning” in writing from the army’s chief of staff.

Four other senior officers will be referred to a disciplinary committee and 18 service members will be referred to the ground operations command for performance reviews, according to the spokesman.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Navy says J&J's vaccine is coming to Japan

**By JOSEPH DITZLER**  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — Hang in there, more coronavirus vaccines, including a new one-dose version, are bound for U.S. bases in Japan, a pair of Navy medical officers said this week.

The U.S. military in coming weeks expects further shipments of the Moderna vaccine, the two-shot series that first arrived Dec. 26 at bases in the country. It also expects shipments of a new vaccine developed by Johnson & Johnson, also called the Janssen vaccine after the pharmaceutical division of the company that developed it.

The Johnson & Johnson dose is 85% effective in preventing severe or critical cases of COVID-19 at least 28 days after vaccination, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The FDA approved the drug for emergency use on Saturday. COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

Medical officers at Yokosuka Naval Base south of Tokyo and Sasebo Naval Base on the southern island of Kyushu bolstered their audiences with encouraging news Wednesday and Thursday during



MATTHEW CAVENAILE/U.S. Navy

**A Navy hospitalman fills syringes with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine aboard the USS America at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, on Feb. 26.**

Facebook Live sessions, but they were short on details of when and how much vaccine they expect to arrive.

“I know it is frustrating. It is frustrating waiting and I am frustrated with you, and for you,” said Capt. Carolyn Rice, a physician and commander of Yokosuka Naval Hospital, on Thursday.

Ninety percent of those offered the vaccine at Yokosuka have accepted it, she said. That’s higher

than the 70% of all military personnel offered the shots, so far, the Defense Department said recently.

The Moderna vaccine is one of three approved by the FDA for emergency use, which means the military cannot mandate its use. It must be taken voluntarily. The other is the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

More than a third, 33%, of the base population has received the

first dose of Moderna and 6% has received the second, Rice said.

Bad weather and deliveries to sites that were designated after Yokosuka and other bases in Japan slowed the rollout of vaccine supplies the past three weeks, Rice said.

Her counterpart at Sasebo’s Branch Health Clinic, Cmdr. Kyle Dohm, said he expects further vaccine deliveries within two to three weeks. He appeared in a Facebook Live session Wednesday.

Everyone at Sasebo waiting on a second Moderna shot should have it by the end of March, Dohm said.

The clinic is inoculating everyone in phase 1a and 1b on the Defense Department priority list, or schema, he said. Phase 1a consists of health care workers, and emergency services and public safety personnel. Phase 1b are service members deployed or preparing to deploy, essential workers and some people 75 and older.

The remaining population, the bulk of those waiting for the vaccine, constitute phase two.

“Hopefully by the time April rolls around we’ll go into that phase two, or that healthy population,” Dohm said, “and some of

our high-risk folks may be coming sooner than that, I don’t know.”

The Defense Health Agency set a goal of inoculating 80% of the 9 million people in the military health care system by July 4, Rice and Dohm said.

Other U.S. services in Japan in some cases are ahead of the Navy in the DOD schema, both said. The reason is the Army and Air Force are 1/20th of the Navy’s population in Japan, which is about 40,000 people, according to Dohm and Rice.

“Some of the other installations they’ve maybe been able to move into that phase two way before the Navy has,” Dohm said.

A representative for U.S. Forces Japan did not respond Thursday to a request from Stars and Stripes for further information.

Dohm also said the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is coming to Sasebo.

“We do expect to get some of that vaccine here in the next month or so, maybe as soon as next week,” he said. “It may come, it may not. But we will have that as an option at some point in time.”

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US military in Japan, S. Korea report 21 cases

**By JOSEPH DITZLER**  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — U.S. Forces Korea reported 16 new coronavirus patients Thursday, the bulk of them new arrivals to the peninsula, and U.S. commands in Japan reported five new cases.

In Japan, the capital city reported another 279 infections Thursday, according to the public broadcaster NHK. About 270 people per day are still contracting the virus in Tokyo, according to metro government data.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Thursday extended the coronavirus state of emergency in Tokyo and the surrounding prefectures of Saitama, Kanagawa and Chiba another two weeks, its second extension, according to Nikkei Asia. The emergency was set to expire Sunday.

The emergency measures, though voluntary, mean restaurants and other businesses close by 8 p.m., businesses opt for telework when possible and residents refrain from unnecessary travel.

U.S. bases in and around Tokyo have imposed similar restrictions. However, some are easing off-duty travel bans as their case numbers diminish.

The Marine Corps on Thursday had four people test positive on Okinawa, two at Camp Foster and one each at camps Hansen and Kinser, according to a Facebook post. The Marines provided no further information.

Kadena Air Base, also on Okinawa, reported one new coronavirus patient, a person who tested positive before leaving quarantine; that patient had recently traveled outside Japan, according to a Facebook post.

In South Korea, the Central Disease Control Headquarters reported another 401 infections Wednesday, including 117 in Seoul and 177 in



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

**People wait to cross a busy intersection outside Osan Air Base, South Korea, on Tuesday.**

Gyeonggi province, where the largest U.S. installation, Camp Humphreys, is located.

A soldier at Camp Casey, north of Seoul, who fell ill with symptoms of COVID-19, the coronavirus respiratory disease, tested positive Wednesday, according to USFK.

Two people at Humphreys, 50 miles south of Seoul, tested positive Tuesday. One is a soldier discovered through a screening program. The other is a South Korean contractor who fell ill and last visited Humphreys on Saturday, according to a USFK press release.

Another 13 people tested positive after arriving in South Korea between Feb. 12 and Monday, according to USFK.

One service member arrived Monday from the U.S. at Osan Air Base on a government-chartered passenger flight. Another eight service members and four dependents arrived on commercial flights at Incheon International Airport on Feb. 12, 16-18, 23, Friday and Sunday, according to USFK.

Six came up positive on their first mandatory test before entering quarantine; seven tested positive on the test required to exit quarantine. They are all quarantined at Humphreys, Osan or Kunsan Air Base.

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US jobless claims tick up to 745,000

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits edged higher last week to 745,000, a sign that many employers continue to cut jobs despite a drop in confirmed viral infections and evidence that the overall economy is improving.

Thursday’s report from the Labor Department showed that jobless claims rose by 9,000 from the previous week. Though the pace of layoffs has eased since the year began, they remain high by historical standards. Before the virus flattened the U.S. economy a year ago, applications for unemployment aid had never topped 700,000 in any week.

All told, 4.3 million Americans are receiving traditional state unemployment benefits. Counting supplemental federal unemployment programs that were established to soften the economic damage from the virus, an estimated 18 million people are collecting some form of jobless aid.

In Texas, applications for benefits surged by nearly 18,000 in Texas in the aftermath of freezing weather and power outages. And jobless claims rose by more than 17,000 in Ohio, where the weekly totals have been thrown off by potentially fraudulent claims.



## NATION

# Police request 60-day stay of Guard at Capitol

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Capitol Police have requested that members of the National Guard continue to provide security at the U.S. Capitol for another two months, The Associated Press has learned. Defense officials say the new proposal is being reviewed by the Pentagon.

The request underscores the continuing concerns about security and the potential for violence at the Capitol, two months after rioters breached the building in violence that left five people dead. And it comes as law enforcement was on high alert Thursday around the U.S. Capitol after intelligence uncovered a “possible plot” by a militia group to storm the building.

The potential plot is tied to the far-right conspiracy theory promoted by QAnon supporters that former President Donald Trump will rise again to power on March

4, the original presidential inauguration day.

U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., said she learned that the request for a 60-day extension was made in the last 36 hours, and that the Guard is now seeking volunteers from states around the country to fill the need.

Defense officials confirmed that the request is under review at the Pentagon, and that the Guard has started checking states for availability of their troops, in an effort to be prepared if final Defense Department approval is given. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

The more than 5,000 Guard members currently in Washington, D.C., are all slated to go home on March 12, ending the mission.

Slotkin said some members of Congress have been concerned about whether there is a solid plan to provide security for members and staff going forward.



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

**National Guard soldiers take a break near the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday.**

“We want to understand what the plan is,” she said. “None of us like looking at the fencing, the gates, the uniformed presence around the Capitol. We can’t depend on the National Guard for our security.”

She said there has to be a plan that provides the needed security for the buildings and personnel

by the Capitol Police and local law enforcement. Slotkin said it was telling that House members hastened to complete major votes Wednesday so they wouldn’t have to be in the building where many fled violent rioters in January. Lawmakers, she said, “don’t feel totally secure” in the Capitol. U.S. Capitol Police officials

have also told congressional leaders the razor-wire topped fencing around the Capitol should remain in place for several more months.

Slotkin said, however, that she was going to her office to work on Thursday. “I’m not going to let these guys scare me away,” she said.

## Law enforcement on alert after plot threat at US Capitol

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Law enforcement was on high alert Thursday around the U.S. Capitol after authorities said intelligence had uncovered a “possible plot” by a militia group to storm the building again. The alert came two months after Donald Trump supporters smashed through windows and doors to try to stop Congress from certifying now-President Joe Biden’s victory.

The threat appeared to be connected to a far-right conspiracy theory, mainly promoted by supporters of QAnon, that former President Trump would rise again to power on March 4 and that thousands would come to Washington to try to remove Democrats from office. March 4 was the original presidential inauguration day until 1933, when it was moved to Jan. 20.

There were no signs of disturbance Thursday at the heavily secured building, with Capitol Police and National Guardsmen on duty and a large fence around the

perimeter that was put in place after the Jan. 6 riot. The Pentagon is reviewing a request to extend the Guard deployment 60 days beyond its current expiration date of March 12.

Online chatter identified by authorities included discussions among members of the Three Percenters, an anti-government militia group, concerning possible plots against the Capitol on Thursday, according to two law enforcement officials who were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Members of the Three Percenters were among the extremists who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6.

The threat came as the Capitol police and other law enforcement agencies were taking criticism from Congress in contentious hearings this week on their handling of the Jan. 6 riot. Police were ill-prepared for the mass of Trump supporters, some in tactical gear and armed, and it took hours for National Guard reinforcements to come. By

then, rioters had broken into the building and they roamed the halls for hours, stalling Congress’ certification effort temporarily and sending lawmakers into hiding.

Lawmakers, congressional staffers and law enforcement officials are still on edge after the attack on Jan. 6, even as security around the Capitol remains at an unprecedented level.

The U.S. House wrapped up its work for the week Wednesday night, but the U.S. Senate still had a busy day scheduled for Thursday with votes into the evening. Police beefed up their presence in and around the Capitol. About 5,200 National Guard members remain in D.C., the remainder of the roughly 26,000 who were brought in for Biden’s inauguration in January, which went off with no problems.

Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, the former chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee and among those briefed about the new threat, said lawmakers were

braced.

“I think we’ll see some violence here,” he said in an interview.

But unlike on Jan. 6, the Capitol is now fortified against intrusions. “We have the razor wire, we have the National Guard. We didn’t have that January 6. So I feel very confident in the security,” he said.

Initially it seemed as though the online chatter did not rise to the level of serious concern; an advisory sent earlier this week to members of Congress by Timothy Blodgett, the acting House sergeant-at-arms, said the Capitol Police had “no indication that groups will travel to Washington, D.C., to protest or commit acts of violence.”

But that advisory was updated in a note to lawmakers Wednesday morning. Blodgett wrote that the Capitol Police had received “new and concerning information and intelligence indicating additional interest in the Capitol for the dates of March 4th — 6th by a militia group.”

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# NATION

# House passes GOP-opposed voting reforms

By BRIAN SLODYSKO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats passed sweeping voting and ethics legislation over unanimous Republican opposition, advancing to the Senate what would be the largest overhaul of the U.S. election law in at least a generation.

House Resolution 1, which touches on virtually every aspect of the electoral process, was approved Wednesday night on a near party-line 220-210 vote. It would restrict partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts, strike down hurdles to voting and bring transparency to a murky campaign finance system that allows wealthy donors to anonymously bankroll political causes.

The bill is a powerful counterweight to voting rights restrictions advancing in Republican-controlled statehouses across the country in the wake of Donald Trump's repeated false claims of a stolen 2020 election. Yet it faces an uncertain fate in the Democratic-controlled Senate, where it has little chance of passing without

changes to procedural rules that currently allow Republicans to block it.

The stakes in the outcome are monumental, cutting to the foundational idea that one person equals one vote, and carrying with it the potential to shape election outcomes for years to come. It also offers a test of how hard President Joe Biden and his party are willing to fight for their priorities, as well as those of their voters.

This bill "will put a stop at the voter suppression that we're seeing debated right now," said Rep. Nikema Williams, a new congresswoman who represents the Georgia district that deceased voting rights champion John Lewis held for years. "This bill is the 'Good Trouble' he fought for his entire life."

To Republicans, however, it would give license to unwanted federal interference in states' authority to conduct their own elections — ultimately benefiting Democrats through higher turnout, most notably among minorities.

"Democrats want to use their ra-

zor-thin majority not to pass bills to earn voters' trust, but to ensure they don't lose more seats in the next election," House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy said from the House floor Tuesday.

The measure has been a priority for Democrats since they won their House majority in 2018. But it has taken on added urgency in the wake of Trump's false claims, which incited the deadly storming of the U.S. Capitol in January.

Courts and even Trump's last attorney general, William Barr, found his claims about the election to be without merit. But, spurred on by those lies, state lawmakers across the U.S. have filed more than 200 bills in 43 states that would limit ballot access, according to a tally kept by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University.

In Iowa, the legislature voted to cut absentee and in-person early voting, while preventing local elections officials from setting up additional locations to make early voting easier. In Georgia, the House on Monday voted for legislation re-

quiring identification to vote by mail that would also allow counties to cancel early in-person voting on Sundays, when many Black voters cast ballots after church.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court appeared ready to uphold voting restrictions in Arizona, which could make it harder to challenge state election laws in the future.

When asked why proponents sought to uphold the Arizona laws, which limit who can turn in absentee ballots and enable ballots to be thrown out if they are cast in the wrong precinct, a lawyer for the state's Republican Party was stunningly clear.

"Because it puts us at a competitive disadvantage relative to Democrats," said attorney Michael Carvin. "Politics is a zero-sum game."

Battle lines are quickly being drawn by outside groups who plan to spend millions of dollars on advertising and outreach campaigns.

Republicans "are not even being coy about it. They are saying the 'quiet parts' out loud," said Tiffany Muller, the president of End Citizens United, a left-leaning group

that aims to curtail the influence of corporate money in politics. Her organization has launched a \$10 million effort supporting the bill. "For them, this isn't about protecting our democracy or protecting our elections. This is about pure partisan political gain."

Conservatives, meanwhile, are mobilizing a \$5 million pressure campaign, urging moderate Senate Democrats to oppose rule changes needed to pass the measure.

"H.R. 1 is not about making elections better," said Ken Cuccinelli, a former Trump administration Homeland Security official who is leading the effort. "It's about the opposite. It's intended to dirty up elections."

Still, the biggest obstacles lie ahead in the Senate, which is split 50-50 between Republicans and Democrats. On some legislation, it takes only 51 votes to pass, with Vice President Kamala Harris as the tiebreaker. On a deeply divisive bill like this one, they would need 60 votes under the Senate's rules to overcome a Republican filibuster — a tally they are unlikely to reach.

## Cuomo to remain in office

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Wednesday said he intends to remain in office in the face of sexual harassment allegations that have weakened his support and led to calls for his resignation.

The Democratic governor, speaking somberly in his first public appearance since three women accused him of inappropriate touching and offensive remarks, apologized and said that he "learned an important lesson" about his behavior around women.

"I now understand that I acted in a way that made people feel uncomfortable," Cuomo said. "It was unintentional and I truly and deeply apologize for it."

Asked about calls for him to step aside, the third-term governor said: "I wasn't elected by politicians, I was elected by the people of the state of New York. I'm not going to resign."

Cuomo acknowledged "sensitivities have changed and behavior has changed" and that what he considers his "customary greeting" — an old-world approach that often involving kisses and hugs — is no longer acceptable.

But the allegations against the governor go beyond aggressive greetings.



**New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo addressed sexual harassment allegations Wednesday in Albany, saying, "I now understand that I acted in a way that made people feel uncomfortable."**

Former aide Lindsey Boylan, 36, accuses Cuomo of having harassed her throughout her employment and said he once suggesting a game of strip poker aboard his state-owned jet. Another former aide, Charlotte Bennett, 25, said Cuomo once asked her if she ever had sex with older men.

Both women rejected Cuomo's latest apology, doubling down on their disgust after he issued a statement Sunday attempting to excuse his behavior as his way of being "playful."

"How can New Yorkers trust you @NYGovCuomo to lead our state if you 'don't know' when you've been inappropriate with your own staff?" Boylan tweeted.

Cuomo said he will "fully cooper-

ate" with an investigation into the allegations being overseen by the state's independently elected attorney general. Attorney General Letitia James, also a Democrat, is in the process of selecting an outside law firm to conduct the probe and document its findings in a public report.

Cuomo addressed the allegations during a news conference that otherwise focused on the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic, the kind of briefings that made him a daily fixture on TV and a national star among Democrats.

Two of the women accusing Cuomo worked in his administration. The other was a guest at a wedding that he officiated.

## White House: Most in US will qualify for next relief check

By JOSH BOAK  
Associated Press

Roughly 98% of U.S. households that received a COVID-19 relief check in December will also qualify for the next round of payments being championed by President Joe Biden, according to a White House official.

Biden has said that Americans were promised \$2,000 in direct checks, but only \$600 was approved in December. The president views that promise as a cornerstone of his \$1.9 trillion relief package pending in the Senate. His proposal offers \$1,400 in additional payments that would quickly phase out based on income, so that money is better aimed at the middle class and poor.

Under the current Senate bill, the Biden administration estimates that 158.5 million households will receive direct payments, according to the White House official who insisted on anonymity to discuss private conversations. The official stressed that almost everyone gets a check twice as large as in December, although 3.5 million households that received some payment from the \$900 billion December package would no longer qualify.

The decrease is due to tighter limits in the Senate bill on who can receive checks. The Biden administration has wanted to honor the promise made to voters, but it also does not want to be viewed as sending money to the affluent.

Under the Senate bill, anyone earning up to \$75,000 qualifies for the full \$1,400 with the payment being cut off entirely at \$80,000. Couples earning up to \$150,000 also receive checks with the payments disappearing at an income of \$160,000.

Still, families that do not receive a direct check might still come out ahead in the massive \$1.9 trillion package. The bill expands tax credits for children and child care and those benefits will go to some of the households that received a check in December but no longer qualify for it.



WORLD

# Protesters march despite previous deaths in Myanmar

*Associated Press*

Demonstrators in Myanmar protesting last month's military coup returned to the streets Thursday, undaunted by the killing of at least 38 people the previous day by security forces.

New protests were held in at least three areas of Yangon, the country's largest city, that have been scenes of violence for the past few days. Police again used force to try to disperse the crowds, according to social media accounts.

Protests also continued in Mandalay, the second-biggest city. A formation of five fighter planes flew over the city Thursday morning in what appeared to be a threatening show of force.

The U.N. special envoy for Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, said 38 people were killed Wednesday, a figure consistent with other reports.

The death toll was the highest since the Feb. 1 takeover, when the military ousted the elected government of leader Aung San Suu Kyi. More than 50 civilians, mostly peaceful protesters, are confirmed to have been killed by police and soldiers since then.

The U.N. Security Council has scheduled closed-door consultations on Friday on calls to reverse the coup — including from U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres — and stop the escalating military crackdown.

Any kind of coordinated action at the United Nations will be difficult

since two permanent members of the Security Council, China and Russia, are likely to veto it. Some countries have already imposed or are considering their own sanctions.

Schraner Burgener said she warned Myanmar's army that the world's nations and the Security Council "might take huge strong measures."

"And the answer was, 'We are used to sanctions and we survived those sanctions in the past,'" she said. When she also warned the army that Myanmar would become isolated, she said, "the answer was, 'We have to learn to walk with only a few friends.'"

Schraner Burgener said the army has been taken aback by the strong opposition, which has been led by young people.

"I think that the army is very surprised that it doesn't work because in the past, in 1988 and 2007 and 2008, it worked," she said, referring to previous violent crackdowns on uprisings against military rule.

Demonstrators have flooded the streets of towns and cities across Myanmar since last month's coup, even though gatherings of five or more people are banned and security forces have repeatedly fired tear gas, rubber bullets and live rounds to disperse the crowds, and arrested protesters en masse.

Wednesday's highest death toll was in Yangon, where an estimated 18 people died. Most if not all of



AP  
**Anti-coup protesters discharge fire extinguishers Thursday to counter the impact of the tear gas fired by police during a demonstration in Yangon, Myanmar.**

the deaths occurred in the eastern neighborhood of North Okkalapa.

Stark video shot Wednesday night at the main hospital there showed grieving relatives collecting the blood-soaked bodies of family members who were shot. Some relatives sobbed uncontrollably, while others looked in shock at the scene around them.

Protesters in Mandalay flashed a three-fingered salute of resist-

ance on Thursday as they rode their motorbikes to follow a funeral procession for Kyal Sin, also known by her Chinese name Deng Jia Xi, a university student who was killed as she attended a demonstration on Wednesday. The black hearse that carried her remains had a photo of her on the windshield, and the hearse was preceded by a truck full of floral bouquets.

# 3 hurt in knife attack in Sweden

*Associated Press*

STOCKHOLM — Swedish authorities were investigating Thursday whether an knife attack by an Afghan man who stabbed seven men and left three of them in critical but stable condition had any links to terrorism.

The suspect, who was not named under Swedish policy rules, now faces several counts of attempted murder. He was shot in the leg and is being treated in a hospital, police said.

"There also was initial information in the investigation that led police to believe that they should look at terrorism as being the motive," Home Affairs Minister Mikael Damberg told reporters.

The suspect, who was formally arrested on Thursday, had been waiting to see if he would be issued a residence permit, Swedish tabloid Aftonbladet wrote quoting the Swedish Migration Board. The Board declined to confirm the report.

The other victims of Wednesday's assault in the small town of Vetlanda, 118 miles southeast of Goteborg, Sweden's second-largest city, include three people who were critically wounded, another two who sustained moderate injuries and one who was only slightly hurt, hospital officials said.

# S. Korea's first known trans soldier found dead

*Associated Press*

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's first known transgender soldier, who protested the military's decision last year to discharge her for undergoing gender reassignment surgery, was found dead at her home on Wednesday.

Shin Jeong-hwan, a fire department official in the central city of Cheongju, said rescue workers visited the home of Byun Hui-su after local mental health counselors reported that she had been out of contact for days.

The cause of death wasn't immediately known. Shin said the decomposition of the body indicated she had been dead for days.

Byun, who had been a staff sergeant and tank driver, pleaded to be allowed to continue serving as a

female soldier after the army discharged her in January 2020, triggering criticism by human rights advocates who saw the decision as discriminatory.

She said she had sex reassignment surgery in Thailand in November 2019 after suffering depression over her sexual identity for an extended period.

South Korea prohibits transgender people from joining the military and the army rejected Byun's petition for reinstatement in July last year.

South Korea's Defense Ministry spokesperson Moon Hong-sik during a briefing on Thursday expressed condolences over Byun's death but said the military has no ongoing discussions about allowing transgender people to serve.

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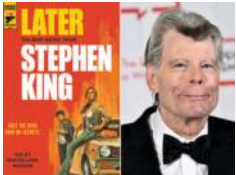


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# WEEKEND



King a man  
of many genres  
Books, Page 27



Eddie Murphy returns to Queens on another mission in “Coming 2 America.”  
PARAMOUNT PICTURES/AP

## RETURN OF THE KING

Eddie Murphy back in role of Zamundan royal in the sequel ‘Coming 2 America’

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# WEEKEND: GADGETS & TECHNOLOGY

## Driving on sunshine

### First mass-produced solar car set to roll out later this year

By Sarah Kaplan and Aaron Steckelberg  
*The Washington Post*

The dream began in 1955, with a tiny, toylike creation called the “Sunmobile.” Built from balsa wood and hobby shop tires, it was just 15 inches long. The 12 selenium solar cells that decorated its exterior produced less horsepower than an actual horse. But it was proof of a concept: Sunlight alone can make a vehicle run.

The years went on, and the dream evolved into a converted vintage buggy with solar panels on its roof. Then a glorified bicycle, a retiree’s garage project, a racecar that crossed the Mojave Desert at 51 miles per hour.

It is a dream of perpetual motion. Of travel that doesn’t do damage to the planet. Of journeys that last as long as the sun shines.

There are problems with this dream. Big ones. Clouds come. Night falls. The laws of physics limit how efficiently solar panels can turn light into energy.

But one start-up claims it has overcome those problems. Now, its founders say, the dream can be yours for as little as \$25,900.

Aptera Motors, a California company whose name comes from the ancient Greek for “wingless,” is rolling out the first mass-produced solar car this year. It’s a three-wheel, ultra-aerodynamic electric vehicle covered in 34 square feet of solar cells. The car is so efficient that, on a clear day, those cells alone could provide enough energy to drive about 40 miles — more than twice the distance of the average American’s commute.

The Aptera must undergo safety tests before the company can begin distribution, which it hopes to do by the end of this year. Even then, it’s not clear that consumers will want to buy something that looks like a cross between the Batmobile and a beetle. The shadow of an initial attempt, which ended in bankruptcy, hangs over the founders as they gear up to launch their new product.

But the Aptera’s creators, Chris Anthony and Steve Fambro, think the world needs a car like theirs. Transportation is the largest source of planet-warming pollution



JANE HAHN/The Washington Post

**The Aptera can go 150 miles after just 15 minutes at an ordinary charging station and has a starting price of \$25,900. The vehicle, which can run on solar power, is set to be released later this year.**

in the United States. The Biden administration has made it a priority to reduce vehicle emissions, and several major automakers have pledged to phase out cars and light trucks with internal combustion engines.

After years of dreaming, maybe the time for driving on sunshine is finally here.

Total reliance on solar power poses practical problems. It means the car can’t be parked in a garage or under a tree. Once the battery is full, any additional energy that hits the solar panels is lost.

“This is a niche kind of thing,” said Timothy Lipman, co-director of the Transportation Sustainability Research Center at the University of California at Berkeley. The Aptera, which seats two, wouldn’t work for a large family, a commuter in cloudy Seattle, a plumber who has to lug around equipment.

Advances in solar cars could benefit the broader automotive industry, Lipman said. They might lead to the development of lighter materials and make the case for greater efficiency in electric vehicles. Manufacturers could add solar panels to augment car batteries. Maybe the technology will find use at national parks and remote military installations.

If the Aptera was going to succeed, they decided, they couldn’t make compromises to satisfy a federal requirement or a market-research firm’s recommendation. They had to be willing to be different.

“That’s the march of technology,” Anthony said, before paraphrasing Apple founder Steve Jobs. “People don’t

know what they need until you show it to them.”

When Aptera began taking preorders last December, it sold out of its planned first batch of 330 vehicles in 24 hours. Almost 7,500 people have now put down deposits for a car.

Anthony acknowledged that the Aptera is not for everyone. But it has more appeal than its skeptics give it credit for, he said. The car’s high efficiency means it puts less demand on the grid than ordinary electric vehicles. It could be ideal for delivery trucks and Postal Service vehicles, which don’t travel far and spend lots of time idling. Outdoor enthusiasts will probably like the option to venture far from charging infrastructure without worrying about fuel. And the notion of parking an Aptera in the sun and returning to a car that has more fuel than when you left it — free, clean fuel — is a powerful idea at a time when the world is looking for transformation.

“We see solar as the main driver of our business,” Anthony said. “It enables so many things.”

He considered the dreamers who first conceived of solar cars, such as engineering students building racecars after school. He thought about the early developers of electric vehicles, who had faith in a future that didn’t run on gas. He remembered the investors who shied away from the Aptera’s first incarnation, saying “who is going to buy your weird egg-shaped creation?”

“It’s the same thing with anybody who does anything first,” Anthony said. “It’s always: Why would you do that?” When Aptera hits the road, he’ll have his answer.

## Marble wireless phone charger is both elegant and functional

By Gregg ELLMAN  
*Tribune News Service*

Is it really possible to call a wireless phone charger elegant, or attractive or a piece of art? Well, some of that might be a stretch, but after seeing **Einova by Egg-tronic’s** marble wireless phone charger, you’ll know what I mean.

The 4.65-inch rounded charger can produce 5W, 7.5W and up to 10W of fast charging for capable devices, but what makes this a winner is its appearance. It’s available in five genuine marble colors, and each has a unique cut, finish and marble pattern.

According to Einova, the chargers were designed in Italy and are rendered in 100 percent solid genuine marble or stone with artisanal quality and meticulous attention to detail.

As for the performance, there’s not a lot to say besides it worked. There are some wireless chargers I’ve tested that make you find the exact spot to lay it down and



EINOVA/TNS

**Einova marble wireless phone charger is available in five colors, and each has a unique cut, finish and marble pattern.**

charge. But with the piece of marble, as long my iPhone 12Pro was somewhat centered, the charging started.

Attached to the 20-ounce stone is a high quality and durable braided 3-foot USB cable for powering the Qi-Certified charger. A USB wall charger is included. The

bottom is lined with a soft fabric to ensure it won’t scratch any surface.

The marble wireless charger (\$49.99) is available in white marble, black marble, lava, sandstone and travertine.

The new **Firewalla Gold** multi-gigabit cyber security firewall and router is a gadget that every house truly could use.

A representative from Firewalla stated it well: Typical home routers are great for spreading Wi-Fi signals to all corners of your house, but they aren’t great to keep cyber criminals away. In a nutshell, Firewalla is like hiring a full-time security guard to watch over your home internet 24/7.

The first thing to know about the Firewalla is that the setup is straightforward and can easily be done even if you are not a tech head. And there’s no monthly fee.

It’s not a plug-and-play setup, but the Firewalla app walks you through the process and recommendations to create a

firewall. After you get going, accessing other features is done with the app to set up what you might want or do not want to be restricted. Either way, the security added to a home network is priceless and needed.

Once Firewalla is connected to your existing home router, your network has a solid layer of protection, which you probably didn’t have previously to protect any device. This includes smartphones, tablets, computers, video doorbells and other home security and smart home devices.

Parents can create rules with the Firewalla’s setup and management app to keep children off specific websites, creating a safe zone for web surfing.

The Firewalla app displays show what devices are using the network, how much bandwidth is used, behavior analytics, blocked network attacks and a whole lot more.

Online: [firewalla.com/products/firewalla-gold](https://firewalla.com/products/firewalla-gold); \$418



## WEEKEND: MOVIES

## No blockbusters? No problem

## Why a more low-key Oscar season can be a good thing

By JUSTIN CHANG  
*Los Angeles Times*

In the fall of 2018, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences proposed an idea that was so ridiculous on its face, so transparent in its cynicism, that it briefly united the industry, the media and the entire movie-loving community in a collective sneer. The plan, as you may recall, was to introduce an Oscar for best popular film, giving Hollywood's biggest cash cows a shot at a gold statuette to supplement their nine-digit-plus box office hauls. It was a pandering gesture but a telling one, an attempt to throw a bone to the big-studio Goliaths from an organization doubtless tired of seeing the best picture Oscar go to so many mid-budget art-house Davids ("Spotlight" and "Moonlight," among others).

It didn't happen. Reactions were so overwhelmingly negative that the academy swiftly backed away from the idea, though without scrapping it entirely. Declining Oscar-night ratings — and the (mis)perception that those ratings reflect the commercial stature of the movies being honored — have kept the academy in a perpetual state of anxiety over its relevance. For that reason, we were warned, some version of a popular-film Oscar might resurface in a later awards season.

One of the ironies of the whole kerfuffle is that popular films haven't exactly been excluded from the best picture race of late. Two 2018 nominees, "Get Out" and "Dunkirk," were major commercial smashes. The 2019 crop included such decided non-obscurities as "A Star Is Born," "Bohemian Rhapsody" and the highest-grossing of the lot, "Black Panther" (and, in my estimation, the one that should have won). Last year's Oscar ceremony may have taken another ratings hit, but you could hardly blame that on the films nominated, among them "Joker," "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," "Ford v Ferrari," "Little Women" and "1917." Along with "Parasite," whose groundbreaking best picture win wouldn't have been possible without its robust theatrical performance, they testified to the rude good health of moviemaking as an art form and moviegoing as a pastime.

But all that changed in 2020, which was not, to say the least, a healthy year for anyone. The COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the film industry, throwing its cherished cultural traditions and commercial imperatives into disarray. Theaters closed nationwide, some for good; others reopened in fits and starts, but their wares and receipts were shadows of their usual selves. Streaming services and virtual cinemas offered new films aplenty; drive-in theaters were reinvigorated. But a certain brand of academy favorites — the big-name auteur pictures, the thinking person's tentpoles — were in perilously short supply.

High-profile new adaptations of "Dune" and "West Side Story" (the latter from Steven Spielberg, no less) joined James Bond and various Marvel superheroes among the titles delayed until 2021. Oscar veterans Ridley Scott, Adam McKay and Wes Anderson all faced delayed productions or premieres. A few heavyweight titles attempted a kind of compromise, but in nearly every case the strategy backfired. "Mulan" and "Wonder Woman 1984" became guinea pigs for their studios' fledgling streaming platforms. Christopher Nolan's "Tenet," the one studio picture with enough name-auteur clout to brave something resembling a traditional wide release, was prematurely sold as the movie that would save theaters — and became an equally premature emblem of their obsolescence and failure.

We can only speculate about how the movies that were held back would have fared with audiences or the motion picture academy. But what seems to be inevitable is basically the opposite of what the proponents of a popular-film Oscar could have possibly wanted: a best picture race largely devoid of "popular" films, at least in the conventionally understood sense of popularity.



Netflix

**Viola Davis plays the title role in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom." The film is one of many possible contenders for a best picture Oscar following a year that shut down most movie houses and brought production to virtually a standstill.**

## COMMENTARY

These are times of adaptation, compromise and survival. If the Oscars should go forward this year — and I think they should — then surely they should reflect that precarious new reality.

They should also call for a bold new definition of what constitutes popular filmmaking, one that goes beyond the simplistic criteria of box office domination and franchise recognizability to include those pictures that fulfill the promise of smart, well-crafted, broadly accessible entertainment. And whatever you think of some of the movies that have generated traction with awards voters this season, many of them decisively fulfill that promise.

"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," "One Night in Miami ..." and "The Trial of the Chicago 7" are audience pictures through and through — talky, juicily acted ensemble showcases that merge history, politics and personality in the grand Hollywood tradition. "Da 5 Bloods" and "Judas and the Black Messiah" extend those virtues still further into the realm of the old-school, character-driven Hollywood action movie, viscerally tense and rhetorically blistering. A diminished theatrical profile hasn't kept "Promising Young Woman," with its thorny subversions of the rape-revenge thriller template, from inspiring the full gamut of reactions. "Minari," like the similarly well-received "Nomadland," strikes me as the kind of big, emotionally resonant movie that is too often dismissed, in industry-classist terms, as a small, modest one.

The 2020-21 awards season has been an aberration, a series of outmoded industry rituals desperately imposed on a pool of mixed-to-good-to-great movies that seem to have been arrived at by even more arbitrary calculations than usual. But it has also been, in some ways, a corrective and an opportunity.

This year's slate of nominees looks to be an unprecedentedly diverse one — an indication that movements including #OscarsSoWhite and #MeToo are making systemic inroads. Women filmmakers like Chloe Zhao, Regina King ("One Night in Miami") and Emerald Fennell ("Promising Young Woman") have been tipped for slots in the typically male-dominated director race. Zhao and King are both directors of color, as are other perceived contenders including Chung, Spike Lee ("Da 5 Bloods") and George C. Wolfe ("Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"). In the acting races, some of the most exciting and oft-repeated names belong to performers of color like Chadwick Boseman, Viola Davis, Andra Day, Riz Ahmed, Steven Yeun, Delroy Lindo, Yuh-Jung Yoon, Daniel Kaluuya and Leslie Odom Jr.

It's telling that one of the most inclusive award slates in memory could arise from a year when the studios were



Netflix

**From left: Isiah Whitlock Jr. as Melvin, Norm Lewis as Eddie, Delroy Lindo as Paul, Clarke Peters as Otis and Jonathan Majors as David in a scene from "Da 5 Bloods."**



Focus Features

**Carey Mulligan, left, stars as Cassandra in "Promising Young Woman," a movie about female revenge. Also pictured: Samuel Richardson.**

effectively on hiatus, which speaks to how much better represented women filmmakers and filmmakers of color have generally been in the independent sphere. It's also telling that so many of these movies recast American history and identity from the standpoint of characters so often excluded from mainstream narratives: a Korean immigrant family forging a tenuous future in "Minari"; Black men and women struggling for their own self-determination in "Da 5 Bloods," "One Night in Miami ..." and "Judas and the Black Messiah"; a movement of disenfranchised workers embracing individualism (and collectivism) in "Nomadland."

In a year without major studio competition — and with an ever-expanding, increasingly global voting membership — the academy has never been in a better position to shake up the old norms and bring long-neglected tiers of filmmaking to the fore.



## WEEKEND: MOVIES

# Triumphant return to ‘America’

Murphy back in sequel to ‘the only movie I’ve ever done that had a cult following’

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

When Eddie Murphy made the original “Coming to America,” he was, almost indisputably, the funniest man in America.

Murphy was at the very height of his fame, coming off “Beverly Hills Cop II” and the stand-up special “Raw.” They were heady times. Arsenio Hall, Murphy’s longtime friend and co-star in “Coming to America,” remembers them sneaking out during the shoot to a Hollywood nightclub while still dressed as Prince Akeem and his loyal aide Semmi. “We were insane,” says Hall.

The ’80s, Murphy says, are “all a blur.”

“I was so young; all this stuff was happening. You take everything for granted when you’re young, how successful I was,” Murphy says, speaking by Zoom with a shelf of award statuettes behind him. “Now I take nothing for granted and appreciate everything.”

Thirty-three years after “Coming to America,” Murphy and Hall have returned to Zamunda. The sequel, originally planned to hit theaters last year, was sold because of the pandemic by Paramount Pictures to Amazon, where it is now streaming.

It’s an unlikely coda to a blockbuster comedy, one that belongs so completely to the late ’80s that even the sequel tries to keep some of that era’s spirit. (A few notable R&B and hip-hop groups make cameos.) “Coming 2 America,” directed by Craig Brewer, reverses the fish-out-of-water plot to bring Queens to Zamunda after Akeem learns he fathered a son (Jermaine Fowler) on his first visit to New York.

Some elements have been updated. There’s a plot of female empowerment; KiKi Layne plays Akeem’s daughter. At the barber-shop, where Murphy and Hall also reprise their characters, the

conversation bounces from Teslas to transgender people.

“We had a draft where they had on MAGA hats and they were Republicans,” says Murphy. “It was funny, but it was like, eh, let’s not even go there.”

Instead, Murphy and his collaborators — including writers Barry W. Blaustein, David Sheffield and Kenya Barris — felt the core appeal of “Coming to America” lies in its fairy-tale premise.

“This is the only movie I’ve ever done that had a cult following,” says Murphy. “We had totally forgot about ‘Coming to America.’ Then this movie took on this life in the culture. It became like a cult movie. Lines from the movie became catchphrases. People do the mic drop now. The very first mic drop is Randy Watson from ‘Coming to America.’”

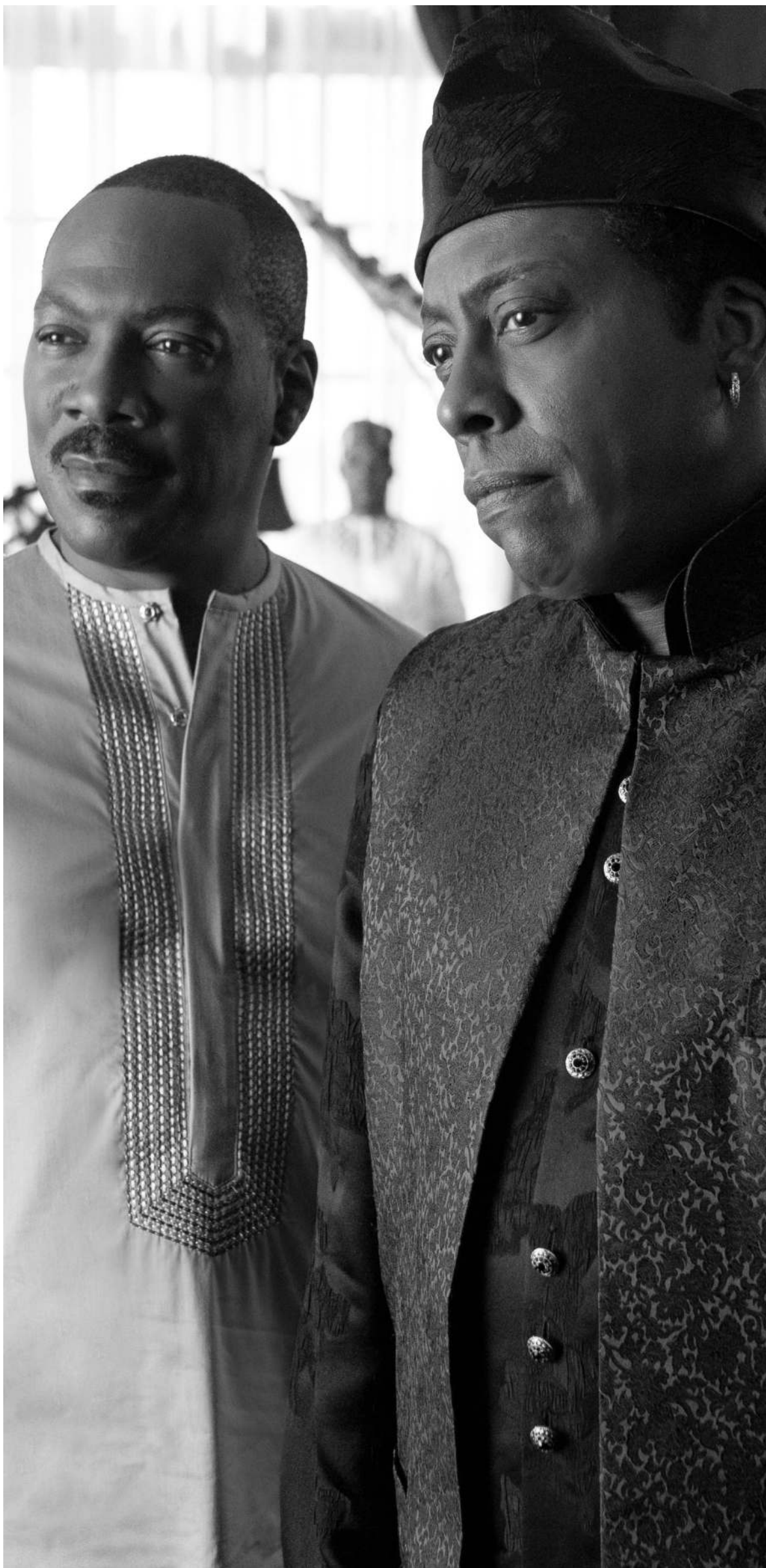
“Coming to America” has indeed played a unique role in culture since 1988. Real-life McDowell’s fast-food restaurants — the McDonald’s knockoff from the movie — have briefly popped up in Los Angeles and Chicago. Beyoncé and Jay-Z once dressed up as characters from the film for Halloween.

But the John Landis-directed movie was also a massive success on release. It was the second-highest grossing film domestically in 1988 with \$128.2 million in tickets sold — nearly double what “Die Hard” made that year. Globally, it grossed \$288.8 million, or more than \$630 million adjusted for inflation.

To Murphy, that’s the movie’s legacy.

“Coming to America’ is the first movie in the history of the movies that had an all-Black cast that traveled all around the world,” says Murphy. “They don’t give a s— about Selma and Martin Luther King and civil injustice, whatever our story is in America. They don’t give a s—

SEE MURPHY ON PAGE 17



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/AP

Eddie Murphy, left, and Arsenio Hall reprise their roles as Prince — now King — Akeem and his loyal aide Semmi in “Coming 2 America,” a sequel to the much beloved movie from 1988.



WEEKEND: MOVIES

Murphy: Family now a higher priority for actor

FROM PAGE 16

about that around the world. “It’s not about being Black. It’s about love and family and tradition and doing the right thing,” Murphy adds. “If ‘Black Panther’ was about the hood, people wouldn’t have seen ‘Black Panther’ all around the world.”

The connections between “Coming to America” and “Black Panther” — both rare depictions of Black royalty and a mythic Africa — are many. Before making “Black Panther,” Murphy has said Ryan Coogler approached him about a “Coming to America” sequel. During production on “Black Panther,” Lupita Nyong’o (once not a fan of “Coming to America” for its clichéd depiction of Africans) and other cast members threw a “Coming to America” birthday party. Ruth E. Carter designed the costumes of both “Black Panther” and “Coming 2 America.” Both were shot in Atlanta.

“I’ve had people say, ‘Zamunda isn’t a real place, right?’” says Brewer. “And I say, ‘No, it’s definitely a real place. I believe it’s just northeast of Wakanda.’”

The script for “Coming 2 America” was worked on for four years, but shooting started quickly. Murphy first suggested Brewer direct “Coming 2 America” during a dinner with John Singleton after a test screening of “My Name Is Dolemite,” the Rudy Ray Moore biopic that helped spur a revival for Murphy, now 59.

“‘Coming to America’ was one of my favorite movies as a teenager,” says Brewer. “I couldn’t help but just say ‘Yes!’ immediately. Then it became clear to me that this is going to go, like, now.”

“Coming 2 America” also rekindles the great comedic chemistry between Murphy and Hall. Murphy estimates that the close friends have seen each other two or three times a week for 40 years. But they went decades before talking about a sequel.

“All of a sudden I’m reading this script that I love and I realize this movie that we thought we never were going to do a sequel to, we’re about to head to Atlanta — which is America’s Africa,” says Hall.

The shoot took place on the Tyler Perry Studio sound stages, with Rick Ross’ nearby mansion serving as the Zamunda palace. The movie reunites most of the original cast — including James Earl Jones, John Amos and Shari Headley — and brings in many others, too, including Wesley Snipes, Leslie Jones and Tracy Morgan. Hall, who had been doing stand-up with Chris Rock and Dave Chappelle, sensed that



AP

**“Coming 2 America” director Craig Brewer, left, and Eddie Murphy pose in Toronto in 2019. “I’ve had people say, ‘[“Coming to America” setting] Zamunda isn’t a real place, right?’” says Brewer. “And I say, ‘No, it’s definitely a real place. I believe it’s just northeast of Wakanda.’”**

everyone wanted in. “One day in the dressing room, Dave is like, ‘I heard ya’ll are doing “Coming to America 2.” I said, ‘Yeah, man.’ He said, ‘I want to be in that,’” recalls Hall. (A scheduling conflict interfered and the versatile Hall, who has four roles in the movie, ended up playing the witch doctor part Chappelle might have had.)

Some things have changed with time. This “Coming to America” is rated PG-13 instead of R. Murphy was just 27 when he made “Coming to America.” Now, he has 10 children and a grandchild. His daughter, Bella, has a small role in the film.

“He joked about it on ‘Saturday Night Live,’ about him versus Cosby and who’s America’s favorite dad now. But there’s something to that,” says Brewer. “If you’re ever around Eddie and his kids — and now his grandchild — you see that he’s truly a man who loves his family and does not need the public’s constant validation and appreciation to know who he is.”

Family life figures prominently in Murphy’s newer stand-up material. A long-awaited return to performing in 2020 had been his intention before the pandemic hit. Those plans haven’t been canceled; when live performance returns, Murphy says, “then we’ll do stand-up.” Until then, Murphy, a proud hombody, has found himself back where he started.

“I had gotten off the couch to go to work. I said, ‘OK, let me get off this couch I’ve been on for eight years. Let me go do some work,’” Murphy says. “And we were rolling. We did everything we set out to do. The big thing was going back to ‘Saturday Night Live.’ We was on a high. ‘Coming 2 America’ was in the can. Then the whole world fell apart.”

“I was all ready to go,” Murphy says, grinning, “and then I had to go sit back on the couch.”



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/TNS

**Wesley Snipes, shown in “Coming 2 America” with Teyana Taylor, plays the ruler of a neighboring country.**

Wesley Snipes ‘giddy’ to be part of franchise

Actor says his upbeat character’s energy in this film is closer to his own

By PETER SBLENDORIO  
New York Daily News

“Coming 2 America” was a long time coming for Wesley Snipes.

The actor, who stars as the eccentric and autocratic ruler of Nextdoria in the long-awaited sequel, is thrilled to now be part of the “Coming to America” franchise after initially auditioning to play Darryl Jenks in the 1988 original.

“I’m giddy as a pig at Fatburger,” Snipes said. “I’m telling you, I’m happy. I wanted to be a part of that so bad, and James Earl Jones was in the original. For us theater thespians, he was an icon.

“The idea of being close to him, just enough to breathe, to listen, to have him breathe on me, was super exciting, and it was quite disappointing when I didn’t get cast in the first film. But you sit by the river long enough, sometimes you’ll see opportunity float by, and 30 years later here I am, and here it is.”

In the new comedy, now streaming on Amazon Prime Video, Snipes stars as General Izzi, whose land neighbors Zamunda, the African kingdom where Eddie Murphy’s Prince Akeem is next in line to the throne behind Jones’ King Jaffe Joffer.

Snipes’ character can be brutal and dangerous, but also loves to dance and make big entrances as he tries to persuade Prince Akeem to unite their territories.

“He is a diplomat. An ambassador,” said Snipes, 58. “Also a tyrant, and an autocrat, but he’s also a dancer and he’s also a singer. ... He does a lot of different things, and he’s there basically to make ends meet and right some wrongs that Mr. King of Zamunda did to his family in the past.”

General Izzi presents problems for Akeem, who returns to Queens to track down his long-lost son after visiting New York in the first film to find a wife.

“Coming 2 America” was directed by Craig Brewer, who worked with Snipes and Murphy on the 2019 comedy “Dolemite Is My Name.” It was during production for that movie that Brewer told Snipes he wanted him to do “Coming 2 America.”

“I was overjoyed, not knowing exactly what the role would be,” Snipes said. “I didn’t care. I just wanted to be in the movie, be a part of that legacy and a part of that history.”

Snipes, a martial artist beloved for action movies such as the “Blade” trilogy, is in the midst of a career resurgence following a two-year tax-related jail stint that ended in 2013.

He got a kick out of playing such an upbeat character in General Izzi.

“It’s closer to the energy of my nature and my personality,” Snipes said. “I’m much more of the whimsical, free-spirited type of a guy than what they see in the action films. I mean, we can go there. That is the Hyde to Mr. Jekyll, but I actually prefer and get so much thrill and jolly out of being in an ensemble of great, talented artists, and experiencing, creating, realizing and expressing all at the same time.”

Snipes says his time working on “Coming 2 America” was filled with pinch-me moments.

“The day I walked into the set where they had the Grand Hall, and I saw Eddie sitting up on the dais, on the throne, man, that was a moment,” Snipes recalled. “Amazing to see. Amazing to be in that, and then to have the vivid memory of the first film.”



## WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS

## Raw and unfiltered

‘Billie Eilish: The World’s a Little Blurry’ peeks into the life of a teenager who became a star

By LINDSEY BAHR  
Associated Press

If you’re coming to “Billie Eilish: The World’s a Little Blurry” hoping for a primer on the music sensation, you’ve come to the wrong place. Filmmaker R.J. Cutler’s two hour and 20-minute documentary about the “Ocean Eyes” singer and songwriter is not biography or reportage. It’s a verite-style plunge into her life, her home, her concerts, her process, her Tourette’s, her brother’s bedroom where they famously write all their songs and even her diary in the year in which she became a star.

It is raw and filled with music — more than 20 of her songs are played over the course of the film, including live performances, like her extraordinary Coachella showing in 2019. Some are shown in full. It is also very, very long.

Cutler, who also did “The September Issue” and “Belushi,” cited seminal verite rock docs “Gimme Shelter” and “Dont Look Back” as inspiration. But both of those came a few years and albums into The Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan’s superstardom. Eilish’s ascent is extraordinary and yet she is still in the early part of her artistic and actual life. Fans will certainly disagree, as is their right, but it is an enormous amount of unfiltered space to give to an artist who is still getting started. There’s no right or wrong way to make a documentary like this, but for the Eilish curious and not the Eilish die-hards, it’s

initiation by fire without any context.

Clearly, someone in Eilish’s camp had an eye toward legacy when they invited Cutler to her family home to see if he wanted to follow the then-16-year-old during her breakout year, during which she and her brother Finneas wrote, recorded and released her debut album “When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?”

Eilish is funny and sullen and charismatic and moody, just as you’d want and expect a teenage artist to be. She gets dreamy and protective of her followers, saying “they’re not my fans, they’re like part of me” and complains that for her, writing songs is “torture.” And she breaks the fourth wall occasionally (she’d told Cutler that she wanted it to be like “The Office”) to let the audience know that she knows they’re there.

Her brother is the driving force for a lot of the productivity in their cozy family home in the Highland Park neighborhood of Los Angeles (he’s since moved out). Their parents homeschooled them and music was always part of their life, with mom, Maggie Baird, teaching them how to write songs and dad, Patrick O’Connell, teaching instruments.

It is interesting to see her and Finneas riff about lyrics and test things out — he has anxiety about having to produce a hit, and she couldn’t care less — and the juxtaposition of her glamorous appearances and performances with the modest nor-



APPLE TV+/AP

**Billie Eilish, right, and her brother Finneas O’Connell perform in a scene from the documentary “Billie Eilish: The World’s a Little Blurry.”**

malcy of their home life.

There are some terrific moments that Cutler caught out on the road: In one instance, she meets Katy Perry who introduces Eilish to her fiancé — “a big fan.” It’s only later that Eilish realizes that was Orlando Bloom. Her brother reminds her he is “Will Turner from the ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’ movies.” She wants a redo. “I thought he was just some dude,” she says.

Another is her first meeting with Justin Bieber. She talks about her longstanding obsession in an interview, he gets in touch three days before her album release about wanting to collaborate. (She tells her manager that “he could ask me to kill my dog and I would.”) Then at Coachella, he appears as she’s greeting a horde of her fans.

She freezes and becomes a fan herself. Later she’ll sob over a heartfelt message he sends her.

Fans will eat up every morsel of this documentary and wish for more. For newcomers, however, it might benefit from watching in installments, which is one of the benefits of the film debuting on Apple TV+. There’s even an intermission to help viewers decide where to hit pause.

This does not come across as a vanity project that’s been intensely controlled by the star or the machinery around her, either. It’s refreshing. It’s also probably one of the last times we’ll all be invited into her life in this way.

“Billie Eilish: The World’s a Little Blurry” is unrated. Running time: 140 minutes. Now streaming on Apple TV+.

## Disney paints vivid world with ‘Raya and the Last Dragon’

By MICHAEL O’SULLIVAN  
The Washington Post

Taking its core inspiration from the naga of Asian folklore — semi-divine beings that shapeshift between serpent and human form, a la Nagini of the Harry Potter universe, which most famously borrowed the idea — Disney’s gorgeously animated, entertainingly told fantasia “Raya and the Last Dragon” is a visual feast. If the ingredients of the story itself, which centers on a plucky warrior princess on a quest to unite five widely scattered pieces of a magical, broken gemstone, are a bit familiar, the stirring sweep of this adventure, set in the fictional Southeast Asian land of Kumandra, and told with both cheeky humor and heart, is transporting.

Its titular teen heroine (voice of Kelly Marie Tran) is, along with her father, Benja (Daniel Dae Kim), a guardian of the aforementioned power-stone: the sole remnant of a battle that took place some 500 years before the main action of the film begins. In response to an assault by sinister beings called Druun, we learn



Disney

**Kelly Marie Tran voices a Southeast Asian princess on a quest, center, in “Raya and the Last Dragon.”**

from a prologue that several benevolent dragons once sacrificed themselves to save Kumandra, leaving behind only that mystical crystal — and a legend that one of the dragons, a water spirit named Sisu, may have somehow survived.

In the aftermath, Kumandra has fragmented into five separate kingdoms, each maintaining a kind of cold war with the other four. When peace talks organized by Benja collapse, and an attempt to steal the stone causes it

to break apart into chunks — each of which is spirited away to a different kingdom — action must be taken.

That mission falls to Raya when the Druun — described as a plague “born of human discord” — return, transforming Raya’s father and many others into stone statuary. (The textures of this world are vividly rendered. But be advised. The Druun are the scariest: Dementor-like swarms of swirling, dark, destructive evil. They’re an ef-

fective, and chillingly relevant, metaphor for human divisiveness.) Armed with a sword and a piece of the stone, which has the ability to repel Druun, and riding a giant pill bug named Tuk Tuk (Alan Tudyk, making, um, giant pill bug sounds), Raya sets out to find Sisu, steal back the other bits of crystal and save the world.

As with many a heist film before it, this film’s protagonist accumulates a few accomplices along the way: an orphaned boy-chef (Izaac Wang), a gentle man-mountain (Benedict Wong), a baby con-artist (Thalia Tran) and several adorably acrobatic, monkey-like sidekicks.

Oh, and a dragon.

Raya finds and resuscitates Sisu (Awkwafina) early on — which is great, because the character is a gem herself. Morphing between dragon and somewhat goofy adolescent human with a mop of blue hair and oversized clothing, Sisu brings spunk and comedy to the dark tale. Awkwafina’s raspy, endearingly dimbulb performance adds enormous, quirky charm to the film.

Of course, besides the Druun,

there’s also a human nemesis: Namaari (Gemma Chan), a warrior princess from another kingdom who’s a complicated foil to Raya: part Sisu fangirl, part frenemy.

In its broadest contours, “Raya” isn’t all that different from stories we’ve seen before, echoing the Lord of the Rings cycle and the Infinity Stone plot line of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. But it also evokes a world, one of sight and sound — even, at times, of smells and tastes — that we haven’t seen before.

Kumandra feels vibrantly real, even in, say, scenes in which we watch, with awe, a dragon prance on raindrops. Its overarching theme of sacrifice is also a powerful one.

In that sense, it’s an aspirational movie with its feet planted firmly in the soil of the real world: one in which the plague of human discord is sorely in need of a little magic right now.

“Raya and the Last Dragon” is rated PG for some violence, action and mature thematic elements. Running time: 90 minutes. Available on Disney Plus for an additional charge.



## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



505 GAMES/TNS

Playable character Jesse develops para-natural powers that let her launch objects and do other superhuman things in *Control*.

# More Control for all

Upgrade to popular Metroidvania-style game improves visuals, maintains quality of play

By GIESON CACHO  
*The Mercury News*

**G**ames that come with Xbox Live or PlayStation Plus can be hit or miss. The free offerings are often titles that players may already own or are projects that weren't that great to begin with. Once in a while, the services' offerings hit that sweet spot: A title comes along that has won acclaim and may have been missed.

For me, that game is *Control*. Now being offered on Xbox Game Pass and PlayStation Plus, Remedy Entertainment's 2019 action title was praised when it launched. Now, 505 Games has released an updated version for the PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X.

The iterations take advantage of the hardware by supporting ray-tracing and 4K visuals at 60 frames per second. Keep in mind, though, that the next-gen upgrades are only available to the Ultimate Edition of the game, which was free via PlayStation Plus on the PS5. The Xbox Game Pass version is the Standard Edition and doesn't have the extra content or improved visuals.

*Control: Ultimate Edition* throws players into the shoes of Jesse Faden at the secretive Federal Bureau of Control. Think of it as a U.S. agency committed to "X-Files"-type cases and run by people who have a penchant for making videos in the style one would see in TV's "Lost."

The secret institution is tasked with handling and investigating Altered World Events. These para-natural occurrences are tied to Altered Items or Objects of Power. They can be as innocuous as a rubber duckie that quacks and follows a

person, or as dangerous as a merry-go-round horse that murders people.

When Jesse enters the Control headquarters, which is itself a para-natural Place of Power called the Oldest House, she finds it in disarray. She has personal motives for visiting the agency but ultimately finds herself involved in the bureau's struggle for survival. Transdimensional entities called the Hiss have invaded the base, and the employees are battling to retake the facility.

*Control* throws players immediately into the deep end. It doesn't offer any background and forces players to solve its inner mysteries. They have to adjust to the odd reality in the Oldest House, a facility that's always in flux with shifting walls and rooms that contain enormous quarries alongside offices and soaring atriums.

Players also learn that when Jesse picks up an Object of Power called the Service Weapon, she becomes director of the bureau and everyone magically acknowledges that. The firearm also has the special ability to transform into a shotgun-type weapon, a submachine gun, a rail gun-type contraption and other weapons. It also reloads automatically. In addition, Jesse has para-natural abilities that let her handle Altered Items and Objects of Power she finds in the Oldest House.

Structurally, *Control* resembles a Metroidvania-type game. Jesse has to stabilize the bureau by helping out the Power Plant and Maintenance Sector, and afterward she'll have the freedom to investigate how the Hiss infiltrated the headquarters. Jesse is weak and the explorable world is small in the beginning, but as she meets other employees, she gains clearance to

more of the Oldest House and the objects of power that give her new abilities.

At first, she can run and gun while taking cover behind desks. Soon after, she gains the ability to launch objects at foes, dodge incoming attacks, create shields out of debris, levitate over short distances and enact mind control over adversaries. She can also upgrade these abilities and make her weapons more powerful.

All this lets players design a version of Jesse that fits their playstyle and offers depth to combat. With different power-ups, players can emphasize the use of mind control or shields, or they can focus on maneuverability and gunplay. I relied on launching objects at foes and generating the energy to do that. I also had some mind control thrown in for good measure.

As Jesse ventures deeper into the Oldest House, players will find that the world is enormous, overwhelming and easy to get lost in. Thankfully, Remedy offers players fast travel through control points and it labels players' missions so they know where to go. Some side missions can be harder than others because they require puzzle solving or looking for the right object, but they're manageable if players are methodical explorers.

Remedy tells the story by relying on collectibles to fill in the gaps. Players discover the plot outlines, but to understand the details, they'll have to grab collectibles and read through them.

Doing that disrupts the flow of the combat and exploration. It would have been better to integrate them more into the gameplay or have them read aloud so players can continue playing without stopping to read through the menu.



That's a shame, because story is a huge component to *Control*. Remedy crafts an intriguing world that interconnects with its other hit, *Alan Wake*. Together, they forge a compelling universe that's filled with odd phenomena and equally strange explanations. The atmosphere it creates is both creepy and whimsical, like "X-Files" at its peak.

On the PS5, *Control* benefits from the console's hardware. It produces ray-traced graphics that heighten the realism with lifelike reflections, while the performance mode runs the game at 4K at 60 frames per second, giving players silky-smooth visuals that flow from the screen. The additional *Alan Wake*-centric mission makes the campaign beefier but not overly long while the Foundation expansion gives players another set of quests that's serviceable, but not as good.

Two years after its release, *Control* still holds up on the latest generation of consoles, and it's a value that players shouldn't pass up if they own a PS5 and have a PlayStation Plus subscription. For Xbox Series X fans with Xbox Game Pass, the standard game is still great, especially with the speedier hard drive that cuts down on load times. The core experience is still worthwhile for those who haven't tried it yet.

Platforms: PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, PC

Online: [505games.com/games/control](https://505games.com/games/control)



WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Strolling the backstreets of Cordoba, Spain

As we've had to postpone our travels because of the pandemic, I believe a weekly dose of travel dreaming can be good medicine. Here's a reminder of the fun that awaits us in Europe at the other end of this crisis.

Wandering the Art Deco streets of Córdoba in southern Spain, I'm drawn to a commotion on a square. It's almost midnight and everyone's out, savoring a cool evening. The short men around me all seem to have raspy tobacco voices and big bellies they call *curvas de felicidad* (happiness curves). As the men jostle and bark, parents gather, nodding with approval, as a dozen little schoolgirls rattle a makeshift stage ... working on their sultry. Even with a very modern young generation, flamenco culture thrives.

Córdoba is known mostly for its Mezquita, a vast mosque with a cathedral built into its middle. The Mezquita, one of the glories of Moorish Spain, is surrounded by a zone of shops and restaurants that seems designed for big tour groups. Beyond that, there are almost no crowds. And late at night there are even fewer tourists.

Avoiding tourist crowds is important these days — especial-

ly when traveling in peak season. Because I eat late and don't mind the smoke, I'm surrounded only by happy locals. I've noticed that in Spain, a restaurant recommended in all the guidebooks is filled with Americans at eight or



Rick Steves

nine o'clock, but by 10 p.m., the tourists head for their hotels and the locals retake their turf. Suddenly, "touristy" restaurants are filled with eager local diners. I've also noticed that some restaurateurs are pleased to have their best eating zone be the smoking zone. The intended result: a hardy local following ... with few tourists.

Just wandering the back streets leaves me all alone with the town. Exploring the residential back lanes of old Córdoba, I catch an evocative whiff of the old town before the recent affluence hit.

Streets are narrow — designed to provide much-appreciated shade. To keep things even cooler, walls are whitewashed and thick, providing a kind of natural air-conditioning. To counter the boring whitewash, doors and windows are colorful. Iron grilles providing security cover the windows — a reminder of the



Rick Steves

Getting off the main roads of Cordoba can yield surprises that shouldn't be considered garden variety.

persistent gap through the ages between rich and poor. Stone bumpers on corners protect buildings from crazy drivers. As elsewhere in Andalucía, they're made from scavenged ancient Roman pillars.

In Córdoba, patios are taken very seriously. That's especially clear each May, when a fiercely competitive contest is held to pick the city's most picturesque. Patios, a common feature throughout Andalucía, have a

long history here. The Romans used them to cool off and the Moors added lush, decorative touches. The patio functioned as a quiet outdoor living room, an oasis from the heat. Inside elaborate ironwork gates, roses, geraniums and jasmine spill down whitewashed walls, while fountains gurgle and caged birds sing. Some patios are owned by individuals, some are communal courtyards for several homes, and some grace public buildings

like museums or convents. Today, homeowners take pride in these mini paradises, and they have no problem sharing them. As I stroll Córdoba's back streets, I pop my head through any wooden door that's open. The owners (who keep their inner black iron gates locked) enjoy showing off their picture-perfect patios.

Rick Steves ([www.ricksteves.com](http://www.ricksteves.com)) writes European guidebooks, hosts travel shows on public TV and radio, and organizes European tours. You can email Rick at [rick@ricksteves.com](mailto:rick@ricksteves.com) and follow his blog on Facebook.

Sites, events that celebrate women's contributions

On March 8, International Women's Day is celebrated, albeit more noticeably in some countries than in others.

In the early 1900s, oppression and inequality spurred many women to become more vocal and active in their demands for social change. In 1908, some 15,000 women marched through New York City, demanding shorter working hours, better pay and the right to vote. On Feb. 28, 1909, in accordance with a declaration made by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Woman's Day was observed in the United States.

In 1910, at the second International Conference of Working Women held in Copenhagen, Denmark, Clara Zetkin, Leader of the Women's Office for the Social Democratic Party in Germany, floated the idea of an International Women's Day. The motion was met with unanimous approval, and International Women's Day was born. In 1913, it was agreed to move the day to March 8.

Here are a few places to celebrate the spirit of this movement once coronavirus restrictions ease:

Top chef goes new ways in Bruges, Belgium

While women traditionally do the lion's share of the cooking in the home environment, fine dining establishments headed by women remain rare. Chef Karen Keygnaert was the first woman chef in Belgium's Flanders region to have garnered a Michelin star, but in 2017, she closed down the restaurant where she had earned it in order to open the Cantine Copine. Her reasoning behind the refusal was that stars come with specific expectations from diners, resulting in a loss of freedom for the cook. What was once a brush factory alongside a canal in storybook-perfect Bruges serves tasty food in a cozy bohemian

space where the dress code is as relaxed as Keygnaert strives to make her diners feel. While lunches are set menus, dinner is served a la carte. The restaurant is located at Steenkaai 34. Online: [cantinecopine.be](http://cantinecopine.be)

Germany's female monastic master brewer

Since 1869, the Poor Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Family have made their homes in an idyllic village in Bavaria's Labertal Valley. For decades, the sisters of the Kloster Mallersdorf have been operating a brewery that turns out roughly 80,000 gallons of beer annually. Sister Doris Engelhard has headed the nunnery's brewing operations since 1966, and is the country's only female monastic master brewer. Born in 1949, Sister Doris entered the monastery's school at age 13 and has remained attached to the convent with only a few short interruptions. The small operation brews malty lagers, along with various seasonal bock beers, from barley grown on the convent and hops sourced from the nearby Hallertau. The Klosterbräustüberl pub on the premises of the monastery serves soups, schnitzel, salad, and spätzle noodles to visitors alongside its brews. Online: [klosterbraeustueberl-mallersdorf.de](http://klosterbraeustueberl-mallersdorf.de)

Female artists get their due

Das Verborgene Museum (The Hidden Museum) in Berlin-Charlottenburg stages exhibitions of the works of all-but-forgotten female artists of the 20th century. Since its founding more than three decades ago, dedicated art lovers have combed the basements and archives of West Berlin museums, estates and other facilities to find pieces worthy of restoration efforts and put them on display. Its collection of works from the late 19th and early 20th century spans painting, photography, sculpture and architecture, and thanks to the museum's efforts, more than 100

female artists have been returned to the public view. Online: [dasverborgenemuseum.de](http://dasverborgenemuseum.de)

The Paula Modersohn-Becker Museum in Bremen was the first museum in the world to be dedicated to the work of a female painter. Modersohn-Becker, born in Dresden in 1876, studied painting in Berlin and Paris, where she developed a distinctive style of painting influenced by Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin and the Old Masters. A pioneer of European modern art, her works are known for their texture, tonality and ability to capture the essential character of the individuals portrayed. The building in which her masterpieces are displayed has served as a museum since 1927 and is considered one of the most important examples of Expressionist architecture in Germany. The museum's opening hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. daily except for on Mondays; adult entry costs 10 euros. Online: [boettcherstrasse.de](http://boettcherstrasse.de)

Festivals for and about women

Berlin biker Irene Kotnik is the driving force between what has in the fast few years become Europe's biggest women-only motorbike festival. Petrolettes was founded with the goal of getting women interested in motorcycles and helping them to connect with one another. A rally is scheduled to take place across several European cities from June 4-6, 2021. Online: [petrolettes.com/rally](http://petrolettes.com/rally)

The Women in Jazz Festival is a series of 22 events featuring jazz musicians hailing from Europe and those who have made the continent their home. From May 7-16, the German cities of Halle, Magdeburg and others host concerts featuring performers of rock, pop and ethnic music from Italy, Great Britain, France, Poland and other countries. The Next General Women in Jazz section shines a light on future jazz talents. Online: [womenin-jazz.de](http://womenin-jazz.de)



Karen Bradbury



# WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING



PHOTOS BY KYLE ALVAREZ/Stars and Stripes

Lucy's Restaurant offers Mediterranean-style food in the middle of the English town of Bury St. Edmunds. Lucy Davis and Francois Pretorius opened the business in November 2019, but it was only doing takeout or delivery during the coronavirus pandemic.

## Friday night comfort food

Snuggle up on the couch with a meal from Lucy's Restaurant in Bury St. Edmunds

BY KYLE ALVAREZ  
Stars and Stripes

When my wife took her first bite of the sourdough cheese pizza at Lucy's Restaurant in the English town of Bury St. Edmunds, her eyes opened wide and she said, "This is it."

I knew what she meant: we had found our Friday night cuisine for the foreseeable future. Friday night in our house means snuggle time on the couch, with comforting food for the soul. Our lives had been uprooted for two months during our move to RAF Mildenhall, and Lucy's gave us something in their food that we had been missing — something to focus on other than the craziness of moving during a pandemic.

We found Lucy's Restaurant after getting out of quarantine. There was a nearly two-hour wait to pick up food after placing an order, which can be done online or by phone, but that didn't put us off.

We were not disappointed.

Lucy's offers what it describes as Mediterranean food, inspired by the previous job of one of the duo who own the restaurant: Francois Pretorius was a chef on a yacht that cruised the Mediterranean, according to an interview published in the local paper, the East Anglian Daily Times. Pretorius owns and runs the restaurant with Lucy Davis, who's from Bury.

The menu changes every week. It offers a fairly standard selection of starters — garlic bread, salads and several dips. It's the main courses that stand out.

There are seven different pizzas. Some were very simple — like the pizza margher-



AFTER  
HOURS  
ENGLAND

ita — with the option to add more toppings. Others were more lavish — mozzarella, anchovies, olives, capers and basil on a sourdough base.

In most pizzas I have tried, the base is just a vehicle for the main act. The focus is on the topping.

But Lucy's pizza is different. They put just as much effort into their dough as what goes on top of it. The base is homemade and hand-pulled. I don't know why hand-pulling pizza dough makes it better, but every bite of the sourdough pizza seemed complete and was delicious.

The pizzas are cooked in an Italian oven with a rotating base that cooks each one evenly and perfectly.

Lucy's also does homemade pasta, and the sauces are not your run-of-the-mill tomato and garlic. In the past, they've had pappardelle with prawn bisque, but we didn't see any pasta on the menu when we ordered. Which was fine, because we wanted pizza.

There were a couple of items for dessert — brownies and Nutella calzones. Italian red, white and rose wines, beers and mineral water, soft drinks and draft British cider are available to drink.

Because of coronavirus restrictions, the restaurant was only doing takeout when we got a meal there.



A pepperoni pizza from Lucy's Restaurant in Bury St. Edmunds. The crust is made from sourdough, and it is cooked in a bespoke Italian oven with a revolving base.

### Lucy's Restaurant

**Address:** 2 Church Cottage Fornham All Saints, Bury St Edmunds IP28 6JW  
**Directions:** About 20 minutes from RAF Mildenhall, 25 minutes from Lakenheath.  
**Hours:** Tuesday — Sunday 5 - 8 p.m.  
**Phone:** +44 (0)1284 834001 Online: lucys-restaurant.co.uk  
**Prices:** From around \$2 for starters to \$15.50 for a pizza with multiple toppings. Credit cards accepted.

Kyle Alvarez

Orders can be placed over the phone or online, and picked up at the restaurant or delivered. The service is friendly and welcoming. We'll be enjoying our Friday nights on the couch eating a delicious, made-from-scratch, sourdough pizza from Lucy's.

Alvarez.Kyle@stripes.com  
Twitter: Kalv2931

## White beans get a colorful crown

BY ELLIE KRIEGER  
The Washington Post

Move over "put an egg on it" — and make way for "top it with a salad."

Just like a fried egg atop just about anything transforms it into a craveable meal (the trend has a popular Instagram hashtag to prove it), a heap of salad piled onto just about anything refreshes it instantly with a modern, healthful sensibility. Mound arugula salad on top of a slice of pizza, and presto, you have a stunning, balanced plate. Stack dressed greens onto a platform of grilled chicken breast to invert the usual presentation from boring to alluring. Layer avocado toast with a feathery pile of frisée to take it to new heights, in every sense of the word.

That's the idea behind this dish, where a crisp, jewel-toned salad crowns a warm, white bean stew for a simple but splendid meal in a bowl.

It's very weeknight-friendly, since the stew uses canned beans and comes together quickly — although you could certainly rely on dried beans that you cook yourself. The beans are simmered in broth (use vegetable broth to make this dish vegan) with toasted garlic, rosemary and a strip of lemon peel, for just 10 minutes, long enough to infuse them with aromatic flavor and allow them to break down a bit.

### White Bean Stew with Radicchio-Apple Salad

- Ingredients**
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
  - 4 cloves garlic, sliced
  - 1 teaspoon chopped fresh rosemary
  - Two (15-ounce) cans no-salt-added cannellini beans, drained and rinsed (3 cups cooked beans)
  - 1 cup low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth
  - One (½-by-3-inch) strip lemon peel
  - ½ teaspoon plus teaspoon kosher salt, divided
  - ¼ teaspoon plus teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, divided
  - 2 cups thinly sliced radicchio
  - ½ unpeeled small green apple, cored and cut into matchsticks (about ½ cup)
  - 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

**Directions**

In a medium saucepan over medium-low heat, combine 2 tablespoons of the oil and the garlic and heat until the garlic starts to sizzle lightly. Reduce the heat to low and cook, stirring frequently until the garlic is golden but not brown, 5 to 7 minutes. Stir in the rosemary, then add the beans, broth, lemon peel, ½ teaspoon of the salt and ¼ teaspoon of the pepper. Raise the heat to high and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally and mashing some of the beans against the pot with a spoon to thicken the liquid, until the mixture is thick and saucy and the ingredients have melded, about 10 minutes.

When ready to serve, in a medium bowl, toss the radicchio and apple with the remaining oil, the lemon juice and the remaining salt and pepper.

To serve, spoon the stew into shallow bowls and top with a generous mound of the radicchio-apple salad.

Serves 4.



# WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS



PHOTOS BY IMMANUEL JOHNSON/Stars and Stripes

A yellow BMW M4 sits on display beside a prototype of the BMW Vision M Next electric sports car on the main floor of the BMW Welt in Munich, Germany. The museum features new cars BMW is slated to release to the public. The BMW Welt is scheduled to be closed until at least March 7 because of coronavirus prevention measures.

## Calling all gearheads

### Rev up your day with a visit to BMW Welt in Bavaria

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

For car enthusiasts, or for those seeking a unique experience, the BMW Welt complex near the Olympic Park in Munich is an absolute must, once it reopens.

The Welt is the one-stop shop for all brands produced by the world-famous Bayerische Motoren Werke, including the Mini Cooper and Rolls Royce Marques.

The Welt, essentially a giant showroom that opened in 2007 next to the company's museum, is located together with the factory and BMW's famous headquarters tower. Normally, dozens of customers from all over Europe would come here every day to collect their vehicles, but for now the complex remains closed under coronavirus restrictions.

When it opens again, BMW aficionados will be free to roam the complex, and inspect the latest models as well as yesteryear's classics. A detailed tour of the facilities can easily take an entire day.

The Welt's architecture was designed specifically to make a visitor's first encounter with the vehicles a special experience, and its two floors are packed with all the different models of cars BMW has to offer.

When an average person thinks "BMW," they usually identify the brand with top-class German engineering. It may surprise visitors to find out that the company actually produces cars all over the world, including the United States, South Africa, China and Mexico.

The facility features four different eateries to satisfy your thirst or hunger as you stroll by the lines of cars. A quick stop for some espresso did the trick for me at the



The latest model of a BMW M3 in green sits beside the newest M4 on the main floor of the BMW Welt.

M1 bistro — named for a mid-engine sports car produced in the late 1970s.

To get there, I'd recommend parking in the BMW Welt garage. It is the cleanest parking garage you will probably ever see, and you'll get a chance to see the brand new BMWs waiting to be picked up by their new owners.

While visitors are free to roam, should you want a guided tour, you can purchase a ticket for the BMW Museum.

The trip from Grafenwoehr or Vilseck to the BMW Welt is definitely worth an all-day excursion, once the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

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### On the QT

**Location:** Am Olympiapark 1, 80809 Munich  
**Food:** The M1 Bistro, Cooper'S, Restaurants Bavarie and Ess-Zimmer are closed and will reopen as government pandemic restrictions allow.  
**Time:** Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is closed and will reopen when the government eases pandemic restrictions.  
**Cost:** Free to walk around, 7.50 euros for a tour in German or English.  
**Information:** [bmw-welt.com/en.html](http://bmw-welt.com/en.html), phone: +49 (0) 89 1250 160 01

Immanuel Johnson



The second floor of the BMW Welt features different motorcycles produced by BMW.



WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# Chase the gray away

## Vintage travel posters in a shop in Paris transport viewers to vibrant, faraway lands

**By Lily Radziemski**  
*Special to The Washington Post*

**H**ere we are again. After a tumultuous year struggling to contain the coronavirus, France is teetering on the brink of its third lockdown. Bars and restaurants are closed, movement across borders is heavily restricted, and an attestation (de facto permission slip) is required to leave the house between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Boulevard Saint-Germain, normally marked by sounds of screeching motorcycle wheels carving through bumper-to-bumper traffic, is quiet, its slate-roofed limestone apartment buildings absorbing the cloudy winter skies and raindrops. Gusts of wind shake trees of their last leaves. The ground is wet. Everything is ... gray.

But on the corner of the boulevard and Rue de Saint-Simon, a few steps away from the Musée D'Orsay, concrete sidewalks give way to Sahara sands. Clouds dissolve into Côte d'Azur sun, warming bikini-clad women lounging in beach chairs. The route of the Simplon-Orient-Express snakes under an image of Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul), the Hagia Sophia bathing in pastel oranges and deep reds. Gazing into the windows of Elbé, the Paris shop selling affiches de voyages — antique travel posters — makes these past few months recede like a bad dream. At least for a moment.

In the “before times,” I walked down this stretch of Boulevard Saint-Germain — just off Rue du Bac, a popular street for strolling and shopping — on countless occasions. Though Elbé often caught my eye, with its storefront wrapped around the corner and a rotating array of antique travel posters radiating under gallery lighting, something always seemed more pressing than investigating the shop. My need to run errands, catch the next metro, drink rosé on a sidewalk terrasse always pushed me along, with speeding Peugeot and the smell of exhaust fumes enhancing the sense of urgency. It would always be here, and there would be a moment to stop in eventually, I thought.

Then March came, and the City of Lights was shuttered completely. Haussmann's boulevards, where vehicles once cut through Paris with speed and ferocity, were suddenly desolate. Borders closed, and movement within the city was restricted to a one-kilometer radius from home (enforced through the permission-slip tactic). It felt like the apocalypse had arrived.

One afternoon on a stroll near home, down Boulevard Saint-Germain — where the sound of honking horns had been taken over by chirping birds — I finally took the opportunity to gaze into Elbé's windows. It felt like time suddenly stopped. Almost immediately, my sense of confinement faded as I viewed the dozen or so posters on display, showcasing flappers with scarves flung over their shoulders on Nice's Promenade des Anglais, canoes cruising down the Gouët River in

Brittany, and vibrant red flamenco dresses swaying in the winds of Spain. Transatlantic cruise ships and Air France jets seemed just within reach. For just a moment, travel didn't seem so impossible anymore.

These windows became a sort of lifeline during spring's confinement. I'd stop by often, each visit an adventure, a chance to escape lockdown and travel through imagination. Finally, after a long two months of lockdown, the shop reopened its doors. The posters in the windows — normally changed every 15 days — were rotated out at confinement's end. And I stepped inside.

Elbé has resided at the same corner since its founding in 1976. The name is not a reference to Europe's Elbe River, but a play on the initials of the shop's founder, Louis Bonvallet (L.B.). The current owner, Grégoire Déon, officially took over Elbé seven years ago after working in the shop with Bonvallet since 2008. He collects the posters — often found forgotten in attics and sheds — and works with a team of artists to fix them up, carefully washing the paper and brightening faded crimsons and teals, essentially bringing the works back to life. The French alps of Chamonix, recently covered in dust, now bathe in bright orange sunsets. Rosy-cheeked Vikings present a newly sparkling Oslo on a platter for the SAS Scandinavian Airlines System. And Matisse's bright violets and teals pop again on an advertisement for Nice.

Grégoire loves to talk about the posters, gesturing widely to emphasize the storytelling, his eyebrows jumping almost high enough to touch his hairline. He told me that throughout the late 19th century and into the 20th, which were the early years of modern tourism, travel companies recruited artists to design visual advertisements alluring enough to convince viewers to embark on a lengthy journey to a distant destination. Many posters were commissioned by rail and airline companies, made to last for a couple of seasons (autumn/winter or spring/summer) and placed strategically in transport hubs.

“What is marketing? It's to touch people in their stories. It's to seduce them with an image,” Grégoire said. “To travel from Marseille to Saigon would take one month. You took a boat, you met people, and it took time. There were storms. There was the spirit of adventure.”

Decades later, the images clearly haven't lost their touch. I often was not the only person lingering around the shop, under the sun or amid the glowing lights at night.

Though the posters are now displayed and sold as artworks, this wasn't always the case; it wasn't until the 1980s that affiches de voyages began to be considered collectibles. However, not all of the original posters are still in circulation. Previously, when the posters were being used as advertisements, many of the works disappeared as the seasons changed and new advertisements would replace old.



ELBE PARIS/The Washington Post

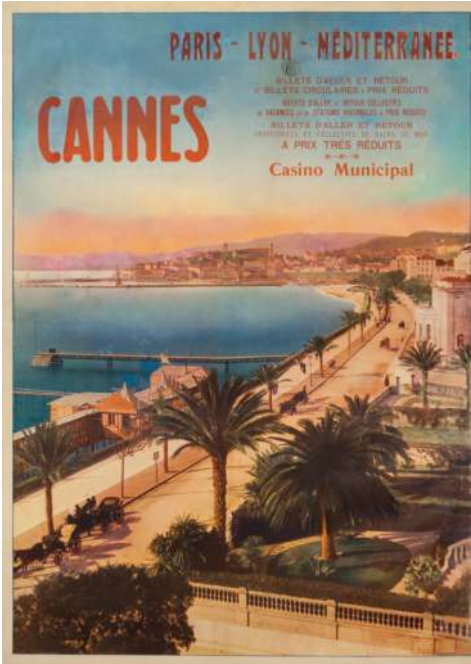
**Simplon Orient Express vintage travel poster by Roger Broders (1921) from Elbe Paris.**

“One of the reasons that I often find these in amazing condition,” he added, “is because people call me, explaining that they emptied their family homes and found these in the shed or in a box of drawings. That's how I found this one today.” He pointed to a poster laid out on the wooden table in the center of the shop.

The work has the word “Libération” written in cursive across its top. The writing towers over the image of a woman draped in a French flag — Marianne, the symbolic representation of France — holding her arms open to the sky. (Grégoire collects non-travel posters as well.) It was commissioned by the French government in 1944, to mark the country's liberation from occupation under Germany.

After selecting and authenticating the posters, Grégoire follows three fundamental criteria to assess the commercial value. First, the condition — it shouldn't be ripped, and the colors should be relatively fresh. Second, the artist's signature, which is often the primary attraction for buyers. And finally, the theme, largely because Elbé's clients often come looking for a specific place.

As we face the final weeks of winter, the posters on display are framed by frosted windows. Although the prospect of traveling seems closer than last spring — albeit with the possible complications of vaccine passports or other measures — the whimsical effect of these artworks



**Artwork from Elbe, a Paris shop that specializes in antique travel posters.**

hasn't worn off. Getting lost in colors and faraway places feels like a vacation in its own right.

But now, as I drink in the vibrant images of distant destinations, I don't focus on the travel I am missing. I think about the power of art and imagination, the Seine in cobalt and streets tinted rose. And, of course, one of the reasons we travel in the first place: liberation.



# WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING



PHOTOS BY DANIEL BETANCOURT/Stars and Stripes

The hamburger steak with demiglace sauce and potatoes at Kitchen Bittle in Higashi Zushi felt to me like a slice of home.

## Western eats with Eastern flair

Kitchen Bittle, in the heart of Japan, is meat and potatoes worth your time

BY DANIEL BETANCOURT  
Stars and Stripes

A one-minute stroll from Higashi-Zushi Station near Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, will bring you to a calm, rustic restaurant that fuses Western cuisine with Japanese flair.

Kitchen Bittle is the lone Western-style restaurant in the tranquil town of Higashi Zushi, and they even source fresh fish daily from the market in Nagai, according to the restaurant's website.

The warm entryway and soothing ambiance within are supported by welcoming greetings from the hostess of this humble establishment. The restaurant staff is a husband and wife serving up sizzling plates from an open kitchen.

They provide an English menu for their foreign patrons alongside a website that gives an early peek at what's cooking. The chef offers an a la carte menu that pairs well with the restaurant's selection of beer



AFTER  
HOURS  
JAPAN

and bottled wine. This leisurely atmosphere is fantastic for a casual visit, or a romantic excursion.

My opening plate was the prosciutto Caesar salad, which truthfully left me desiring a larger portion. The dressing was delicious and coated the salad well enough to tie the whole ensemble together; the Parmesan topping added a crisp, pleasant texture.

I followed the salad with a hearty minestrone soup that included sizable chunks of an assortment of vegetables. The steamy broth and its lovely flavor improved with every bite. After two courses I was addicted, but then the main dish arrived.

The hamburger steak with demiglace

sauce, potatoes and a cup of rice felt to me like a slice of home. The succulent beef oozed as I cut into it. The potatoes were roasted to a pillow-like consistency and the sauce provided the perfect finishing touch.

The whole dish was seasoned just right, and I would not have altered a thing.

From appetizers to entrees, prices at Kitchen Bittle range from 500 to 1,250 yen, or about \$4.76 to \$11.90. Reservations are available and the eatery will also host private events for fewer than 20 people.

The owners do not speak English, but the hostess comes prepared with an app to support any translation concerns that come up during the visit.

Lunch service stretches from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner goes from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The restaurant are closed on Thursdays. The venue is non-smoking, so families can dine there without worry.

betancourt.daniel@stripes.com  
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### Kitchen Bittle

**Location:** Chocolat M1F, 1-1-23 Numama, Zushi City, Kanagawa 249-0004

**Hours:** Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. for dinner. Hours are limited due to the state of emergency over the coronavirus pandemic. Closed on Thursday.

**Prices:** Between 500 yen and 1,250 yen for appetizers and entrees. Alcohol beverages cost up to 650 yen per glass, while bottled wine with either half or full service goes for between 2,400 and 4,600 yen.

**Dress:** Casual

**Directions:** A one-minute walk from Higashi-Zushi Station near Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

**Information:** Online: localplace.jp/t200329844

Daniel Betancourt



The prosciutto Caesar salad from Kitchen Bittle might leave you wanting more.



The hearty minestrone soup from Kitchen Bittle includes sizable chunks of an assortment of vegetables. With its steamy broth, the flavor improved with every bite.



Kitchen Bittle is a Western-style restaurant not far from Yokosuka Naval Base.



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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# Rebuilding after the meltdown

## Farmers in Fukushima plant indigo to help their devastated town recover

BY CHISATO TANAKA  
Associated Press

**B**ecause of radiation released by the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster a decade ago, farmers in nearby Minamisoma weren't allowed to grow crops for two years.

After the restriction was lifted, two farmers, Kiyoko Mori and Yoshiko Ogura, found an unusual way to rebuild their lives and help their destroyed community. They planted indigo and soon began dyeing fabric with dye produced from the plants.

"Dyeing lets us forget the bad things" for a while, Mori said. "It's a process of healing for us."

The massive earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011, caused three of the reactors at the nuclear plant to melt and wrecked more than just the farmers' livelihoods. The homes of many people in Minamisoma, 12 miles from the plant, were destroyed by the tsunami. The disaster killed 636 town residents, and tens of thousands of others left to start new lives.

Mori and Ogura believed that indigo dyeing could help people in the area recover.

Mori said they were concerned at first about consuming locally grown food, but felt safe raising indigo because it wouldn't be eaten. They checked the radiation level of the indigo leaves and found no dangerous amount.

Ten years after the disaster, Mori and Ogura are still engaged in indigo dyeing, but have different missions.

To Mori, it has become a tool for building a strong community in a devastated town and for fighting unfounded rumors that products from Fukushima are still contaminated. She favors the typical indigo dyeing process that requires some chemical additives.

But Ogura has chosen to follow a traditional technique that uses fermentation instead as a way to send a message against dangers of modern technology highlighted by nuclear power.

Mori formed a group called Japan Blue. The group holds workshops that have taught indigo dyeing to more than 100 people each year. She hopes the project will help rebuild the dwindling town's sense of community.

Despite a new magnitude 7.3 earthquake that recently hit the area, the group did not cancel its annual exhibition at a

community center that served as an evacuation center 10 years ago.

"Every member came to the exhibition, saying they can clean up the debris in their houses later," Mori said.

Ogura, who is not a member of the group, feels that a natural process is important because the nuclear accident showed that relying on advanced technology for efficiency while ignoring its negative aspects can lead to bad consequences.

"I really suffered during the nuclear accident," Ogura said. "We escaped frantically in the confusion. I felt I was doing something similar again" by using chemicals.

"We seek too much in the way of many varieties of beautiful colors created with the use of chemicals. We once thought our lives were enriched by it, but I started feeling that wasn't the case," she said. "I want people to know what the real natural color looks like."

Organic indigo dyes take more time and closer attention. Ogura first ferments chopped indigo leaves with water for a month and then mixes the result with lye, which is formed on the surface of a mixture of hot water and ashes. It has to be kept at about 68 degrees F and stirred three times a day.

Part of the beauty of the process, Ogura says, is that it's hard to predict what color will be produced.

With the support of city officials, Ogura started making silk face masks dyed with organic indigo.

She used to run an organic restaurant where she served her own vegetables before the disaster, but now runs a guesthouse with her husband in which visitors can try organic indigo dyeing.

Just 2,300 feet from Ogura's house, countless black bags filled with weakly contaminated debris and soil are piled along the roadside. They have been there since after the disaster, according to Ogura's husband, Ryuichi. Other piles are scattered around the town.

"The government says it's not harmful to leave them there. But if they really think it's not harmful, they should take them to Tokyo and keep them near them," he said.

The radiation waste stored in the town is scheduled to be moved to a medium-term storage facility by March next year, a town official said.



PHOTOS BY CHISATO TANAKA/AP

Several clothes dyed by members of indigo dye group Japan Blue are displayed at a community center where residents evacuated when the big quake hit the area 10 years ago in Minamisoma, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan.



Yoshiko Ogura washes off an indigo-dyed handkerchief on Feb. 20 in front of her studio in Minamisoma, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan.



Ogura holds up a handkerchief dyed without using any chemical substances.



Members of Japan Blue hold up their dyed clothes in front of a community center that was used as an evacuation center when the massive earthquake hit the area in 2011, in Minamisoma, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan.

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## WEEKEND: FOOD

# New bird on the block fowls short

Washington Post writers assert McDonald's long-awaited fried chicken sandwich can't compete against fan favorites

By EMILY HEIL  
The Washington Post

**T**he Golden Arches have long been the gold standard of fast food. Other chains might have edgier marketing or more innovative menus. Still, McDonald's is the category's market-dominating stalwart.

So expectations were stacked triple-high for McDonald's long-awaited crispy chicken sandwich, a menu item that has been in development for years as franchisees have clamored for an offering to compete with fan favorites from Chick-fil-A and Popeyes.

And with the splashy debut this week of the new bird on the block, it's time to check in on the status of the Great Chicken Sandwich Wars: Who has the standout sando? Does Popeyes's viral hit of 2019 still reign supreme, or has it been dethroned by the clown's?

I enlisted two brave colleagues, Tim Carman and Aaron Hutcherson, to join me in tasting popular sandwiches (each in original and spicy versions) from Chick-fil-A, KFC, McDonald's, Popeyes and Wendy's. The logistics were not as simple as they might have been pre-pandemic, but we managed, through a combination of drive-through runs, delivery orders and two Zoom sessions (along with some antacids).

Here's our consensus on how this flock stacks up:

## 5. McDonald's

The heralded new offering from the Golden Arches turned out to be our least favorite of the bunch. The regular version — basically a duplicate of the Chick-fil-A style, with a buttered bun, pickles and a chicken patty — was drier than a subcommittee hearing on C-SPAN.

The star of the show here is odd: "It gives off a whiff of processed meat," Tim complained of the thin puck.

But the bun might be this sandwich's sleeper downfall. It looks appealing, with a satiny finish and split top that gives it a fresh-from-the-bakery appeal. But the first impression does not last long. This bun is super-sweet and overwhelms the whole experience.

"It kind of reminds me of a challah," Aaron said.

"I want to make a bread pudding out of it," I said.

The spicy version fared better than the plain; the "original spicy sauce" adds a surprisingly potent kick — but not nearly enough to distract us from this disappointing clown show.

## 4. Wendy's

Unlike most of the others we tasted, this fella comes standard with mayo, tomato and lettuce, making it a little "gloppy." Tim and Aaron agreed.

The patty's uniform coating and size had a more industrial look to it than some of the others we tried. But we liked the relatively intense, smoky heat and visible flecks of black pepper in the seasoning of the spicy version.

"It's got more of a kick than Chick-fil-A," Aaron noted.

## 3. KFC

This chicken chain debuted an upgraded chicken sandwich this month to keep up with the Joneses. It's not yet available in every market, so Tim and I wound up with the new version and Aaron the older, though the differences seemed small (mainly, KFC's 2.0 sandwich boasts a thicker cut of chicken and a beefier bun). Both versions feature a pickle and mayo.

We all liked the flavorful breading, which had an almost homemade feel to it, and the quality of the bird, which tasted like ... chicken (not a small thing when you're talking about fast food).

"I'm not mad at this one," Aaron said.

## 2. Chick-fil-A

The fast food chicken sandwich that launched a thousand knockoffs was an early favorite, "politics aside," as Aaron said.

The chicken itself offers a lot to like, namely a craggy crust and evidence of a bath in a flavorful, pickle-y brine.

"It's so moist," Tim commented.

The spicy version, with a nice complex burn in the seasoning, is even better.

## 1. Popeyes

The bird to beat soared in our test.

We all dug the super-crispy coating and hefty, natural-looking (irregularly shaped) patty of this sandwich, which went viral after its 2019 debut, inspiring lines wrapped around stores and Instagram swoons.

"It's mammoth — like the size of my face," Aaron said as he brought it up to the camera to illustrate his point.

The brioche-like bun that contains this beast was a hit, too.

"It gives it a little bit of sweetness, but it doesn't dominate it," Tim said.

The hands-down winner of this chicken derby was the spicy model, which adds a peppery sauce to the mix and proves that it's still worthy of the 2019 hype.

A lot has happened since way back then, when masks were for Halloween and social distancing was a Friday night choice to Netflix and chill solo. But as competitors throw their feathers into the ring, we agreed that Popeyes still rules the roost.





WEEKEND: BOOKS

# Counting more on his change-ups, curves

Likening himself to an aging but resourceful pitcher, King doesn't mind when his stories don't fit into one particular genre

**By HILLEL ITALIE**  
*Associated Press*

**S**tephen King doesn't think of himself as a horror writer. "My view has always been, you can call me whatever you want as long as the checks don't bounce," King told The Associated Press during a recent telephone interview. "My idea is to tell a good story, and if it crosses some lines and it doesn't fit one particular genre, that's good."

Readers may know him best for "Carrie," "The Shining" and other bestsellers commonly identified as "horror," but King has long had an affinity for other kinds of narratives, from science fiction and prison drama to the Boston Red Sox. Over the past decade, he has written three novels for the imprint Hard Case Crime: "Joyland," "The Colorado Kid" and "Later," which comes out this week. He loves sharing a publisher with such giants of the past as James M. Cain and Mickey Spillane, and loves the old-fashioned pulp illustrations used on the covers.

At the same time, he enjoys writing a crime story that is more than a crime story — or hardly a crime story at all.

"Joyland" is a thriller set around an amusement park and could just as easily be called a coming-of-age story. "The Colorado Kid" has a dead body on an island off the coast of King's native Maine, but otherwise serves as a story about why some cases are best left unsolved.

"It's the beauty of the mystery that allows us to live sane as we pilot our fragile bodies through this demolition derby world," he writes in the book's afterword.

His new novel has a lot of crime in it but, as King's narrator suggests, it might actually be a horror story. Jamie Conklin is looking back on his childhood, when he was raised by a single mother, a New York literary agent. Like other young King protagonists, Jamie has special powers:



**Stephen King, shown in 2018, may be best known for "Carrie," "The Shining" and other bestsellers commonly identified as horror. But King has long had an affinity for other kinds of narratives, from science fiction and prison drama to the Boston Red Sox.**

He not only can see dead people, but when he asks them questions, they are compelled to tell the truth.

"Later" also features a bestselling novelist and his posthumous book, and a police detective who for a time is the girlfriend of Jamie's mother.

The 73-year-old King has written dozens of novels and stories, and usually has three to four ideas that "are half-baked, kind of like an engine and no transmission." He doesn't write ideas down because, he says, if something is good enough, he's unlikely to forget it.

For "Later," he started with the idea of a literary agent who needed to get her late client's manuscript finished, and thought

of having a son who communicates with the dead. He then decided the mother needed a companion.

"And I thought, 'You know what, I'm going to make the love relationship female.' Then I thought to myself, 'Cop,' and the cop is dirty and everything fell into place," he says.

King, who publishes most of his work with Simon & Schuster, is part of the founding story of Hard Case Crime. Back in 2004, Charles Ardai and Max Phillips were launching a line of books to "revive pulp fiction in all its lurid mid-century glory." Hoping for some publicity, they wrote to King and asked for a blurb. A representative for the author called and

said King did not want to write a blurb for Hard Case Crime; he wanted to contribute a book. That became "The Colorado Kid."

"I sat on the other end of the phone while this sank in and tried to sound cool, like this was the sort of phone call I got every day and twice on Fridays," Ardai wrote in an introduction to "The Colorado Kid," which came out in 2005. "But inside I was turning cartwheels."

King's passions also include politics and current events, and over the past few years he's regularly tweeted his contempt for President Donald Trump. But he doubts that Trump's loss to Democrat Joe Biden will have an effect on his work. Fiction has been an "escape" from politics, he says, not a forum.

And though he has written a famous novel about a pandemic, "The Stand," he passed on a chance to write about COVID-19 in a work of fiction coming later this year, "Billy Summers." He originally set it in 2020, but decided instead on 2019.

Toward the end of "Later," Jamie observes that his writing has improved as the story went along, "improved by doing, which I suppose is the case with most things in life." Asked during the interview to evaluate his own writing, King, the baseball fan, likens himself to an aging but resourceful pitcher.

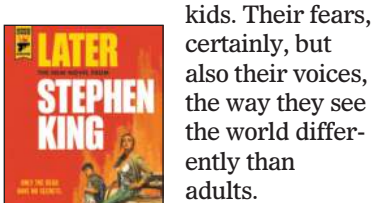
"I've gotten better in some ways, but you lose a little of the urgency. In my 40s, the ideas were like people jamming into a fire door to get out. There were so many ideas, and you couldn't wait to get to the typewriter and the words would pour out," he says.

"Nowadays, you're almost feeling people are looking over your shoulder and they're apt to be a little more critical. You slow down a little bit. I'm aware I'm getting older. You lose the blazing fastball and start to count more on your change-ups and curves and be a little more careful and mix them up."

## 'Later' combines classic King carnage, relatable young POV

**By ROB MERRILL**  
*Associated Press*

Stephen King gets a lot of credit for creating the monsters under kids' beds (here's looking at you, Pennywise), but not enough for this simple fact: The guy gets kids. Their fears, certainly, but also their voices, the way they see the world differently than adults.



To a long list that includes Danny Torrance from "The Shining" and Gordie Lachance from "The Body," we can now add Jamie Conklin, the star of King's most recent novel, "Later."

Published under the Hard Case Crime imprint, which also distributed "The Colorado Kid" (2005) and "Joyland" (2013) —

"Later" is narrated by 22-year-old Jamie, looking back on his formative years. He begins his story at age 6, when he first figured out he could see and talk to the dead.

It's this gift that propels the plot of this slim novel. Encouraged by his mother's NYPD girlfriend, Liz, Jamie gets tied up in the pursuit of a serial bomber in New York. It's not giving too much away to say he helps crack the case, but to say what happens after that would spoil all the fun.

There's classic King here for fans. Imagine the carnage on any given day in the Big Apple and then imagine being a young man seeing the mangled dead walking around in the afterlife, with holes in their heads "as big as a dessert plate and surrounded by irregular fangs of bone."

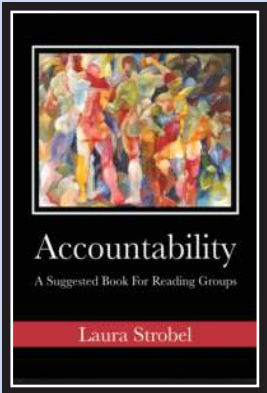
But even amid the gore and escalating tension, King finds

moments to make Jamie relatable. As Liz and his mom argue at the scene of a crime, we pop inside Jamie's head before he screams at them. "One of the worst things about being a kid,

maybe the very worst, is how grownups ignore you when they get going" on their own issues, writes King.

In the end, the story Jamie narrates to readers climaxes in a

thrilling whodunit, while uncovering truths about Jamie's life that might have been better left buried. For as the novel's cover declares: "Only the dead have no secrets."



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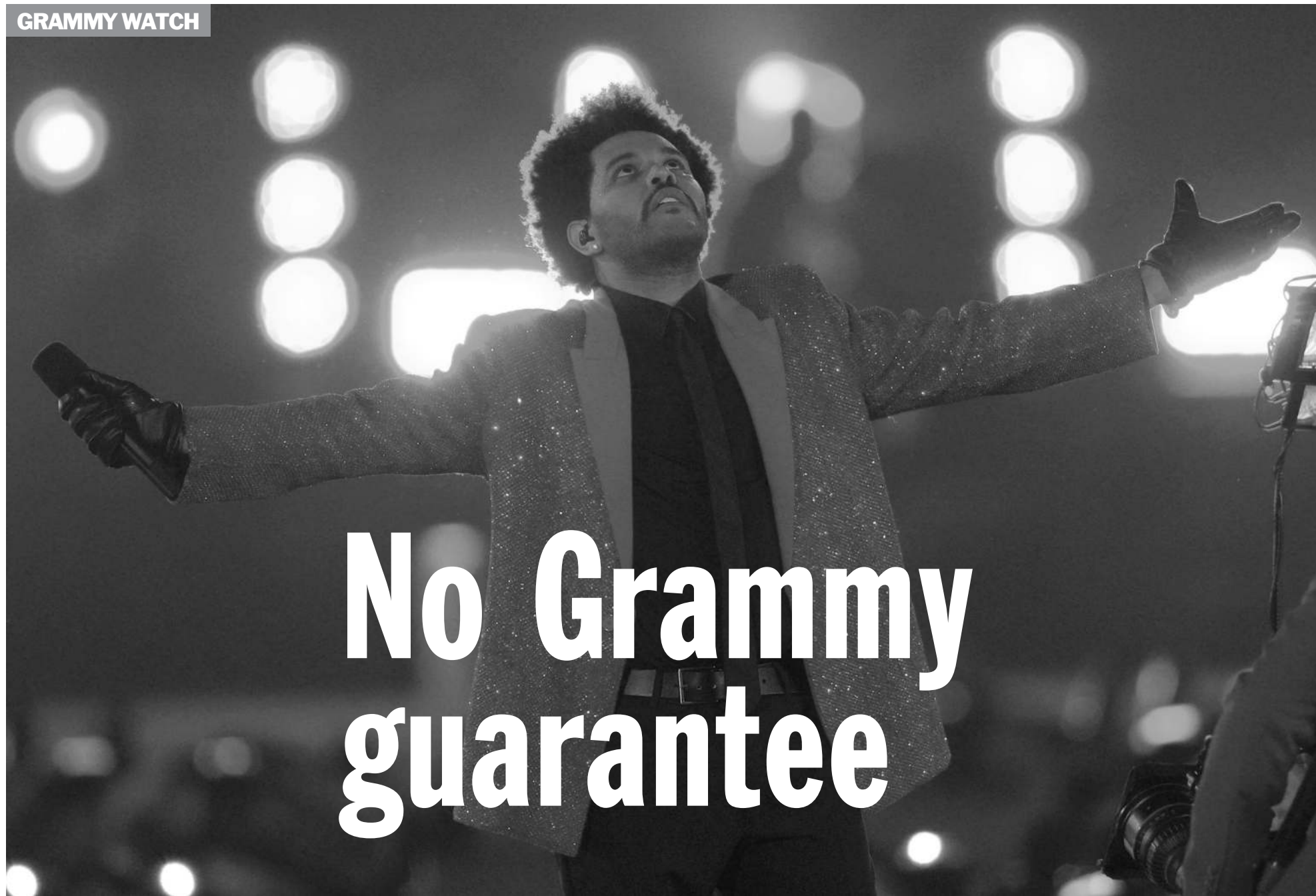
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## WEEKEND: MUSIC

## GRAMMY WATCH



# No Grammy guarantee

CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

The Weeknd performs during halftime of Super Bowl 55 in Tampa, Fla., on Feb. 7. The Weeknd had the No. 1 song of 2020 but "Blinding Lights" wasn't nominated for a Grammy.

BY MESFIN FEKADU  
Associated Press

**T**he wattage in The Weeknd's "Blinding Lights" wasn't strong enough to compete at the Grammys — but the song isn't the only electrifying No. 1 hit that the Recording Academy snubbed.

The Weeknd joins an exclusive club of songs that were crowned biggest hit of the year by Billboard but fell short at the Grammy Awards.

It's been 10 years since a song that dominated the year in music didn't garner a nomination at the Grammys, and that was "TiK ToK," the drunken party anthem and multi-platinum debut single from pop singer Kesha.

In the past 30 years, only five No. 1 songs of the year have missed out at the Grammys. Others joining The Weeknd and Kesha are the rock-pop hit "Hanging by a Moment" from Lifehouse, the top song of 2001; R&B trio Next's racy hit "Too Close," which won over 1998; and the 1996 pop culture moment that was the "Macarena," by Spanish duo Los del Río.

"It's horrible company to be in," Ron Aniello, who produced "Hanging by a Moment" and discovered Lifehouse, said with a laugh.

"We're talking about industry people voting, we're not talking about the public, so it's quite different," Aniello continued. "I think that was a very popular song for

## 'Blinding Lights' isn't the first No. 1 song of the year left in the dark by the Recording Academy



**Kesha was a chart force in 2010 with "TiK ToK," but her debut single didn't get a Grammy nomination.**

the general public, but I'm not sure how seriously (the Grammys) took the band to put them first for voting. If you remember, it was their first hit. They had no history. 'We're going to vote for Lifehouse for best song of the year? Why should we? Who are they?' They were undefined as artists, so maybe that had something to do with it."

Like Lifehouse, Kesha was a new artist marking her breakthrough when her song became the year's biggest hit. Though she launched multiple successes from her debut album, the girl who jokingly sang about brushing her teeth with Jack Daniels and described her personal style as "garbage chic" wasn't immediately seen as a serious musician, and it didn't surprise many when she didn't earn Grammy recognition in her debut year, especially for "TiK ToK."

On the other hand, there are monster tracks like "Blinding Lights" that feel like a shoo-in at the Grammys. The Weeknd's song is spending its record-extending 50th week in the Top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100 chart and is also the longest-running No. 1 hit of all time on the R&B chart, spending 47 weeks — and counting — on top.

"It is kind of surprising because you think that someone with that kind of energy behind him or push or visibility would at least have gotten the nomination," said Paul Jackson Jr., an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music and Grammy-nominated musician who played on The Weeknd's global hit "I Feel It Coming."

"I'll give you another one that's surprising — if you look in 1984, 'When Doves Cry' was not nominated," he continued. "Huge record."

While Prince's lead single from "Purple Rain" didn't score a nomination, the

soundtrack and the title track won Grammys. George Michael's "Faith" won album of the year but the title track — the No. 1 song of 1988 — did not compete in any Grammy categories.

Jackson Jr. played guitar on the No. 1 song of 1986 — Dionne Warwick's "That's What Friends Are For" — which won the Grammys for song of the year and best pop performance by a duo or group with vocals.

"It was a big collaboration," Jackson Jr. said of the tune which also featured Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight and Elton John. "It was dealing with AIDS awareness and a lot of things like that. So there was a big push behind it from a lot of the (voting) members."

"That's What Friends Are For" is just one of nine Billboard year-end No. 1 hits to win the song of the year Grammy. Ten of the top songs of the year have been named record of the year.

Since the Grammys held its first show in 1959 — to honor the music of 1958 — Billboard has named 63 No. 1 songs of the year. Of the 63 hits, only 18 songs have missed out on Grammy nominations, including "Blinding Lights." Twenty-eight of the 45 nominated No. 1 songs have won Grammys, which currently has 84 categories.

Only five year-end No. 1 tunes have won

**SEE NO. 1 ON PAGE 29**



WEEKEND: MUSIC

No. 1: Label politics can hurt a song

FROM PAGE 28

both song and record of the year, including Adele’s “Rolling In the Deep” in 2012, Kim Carnes’ “Bette Davis Eyes” in 1982, Roberta Flack’s “The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face” in 1973, Simon & Garfunkel’s “Bridge Over Troubled Water” in 1971, and Domenico Modugno’s “Nel Blu Dipinto di Blu (Volare)” in 1959.

Aniello said one of the reasons a song may not get a Grammy nomination could be the result of record label politics.

When thinking of why “Hanging by a Moment” missed out, he said: “That year we were on DreamWorks and it was ‘I’m Like a Bird’ by Nelly Furtado, that’s the song that the label chose to push for a Grammy.” Furtado’s offbeat Top 10 debut single went on to win best female pop vocal performance and was nominated for song of the year. Furtado also competed for best new artist and best pop vocal album.

“Is it fair? It’s just what it is,” he continued. “We were all just new at it. We had no idea. ... We just kind of probably thought you had to pick a unicorn to win a Grammy somewhere, like it was magical. We didn’t realize it was probably more political than anything else.”

Grammy rules state that just because a track is the most successful song of the year does not mean it deserves to be nominated — that means chart placement, radio airplay or streaming success are not part of the voting process. The academy’s voting body includes artists, producers, songwriters and engineers.

“It’s an industry award,” Jackson Jr. explained. “It’s not necessarily based on just popular vote. It’s based on people thinking that this has merits to win.”

Aniello — who produced the Bruce Springsteen albums “Wrecking Ball,” “High Hopes,” “Western Stars” and “Letter to You” — said though The Boss has won 20 Grammys, he’s never picked up big prizes such as record or album of the year, despite being one of music’s most revered performers.

“It’s just a quirky thing,” he said. “The Grammys don’t make sense to me.”

When he thinks about what Lifehouse created two decades ago — opening doors for Christian-leaning rock songs to live on pop radio — he’s proud, and content.

“The song is very deep. I’m fine with not having a Grammy,” he said. “It doesn’t matter to me because the song reached who it needed to reach.”



AP

Jason Wade performs with Lifehouse in 2009. The band’s rock-pop hit “Hanging by a Moment” was the top song of 2001, but the Grammys didn’t see it that way.



AP

Prince performs in 1984. “When Doves Cry” wasn’t nominated, but the “Purple Rain” soundtrack and title track did win Grammys.

Billboard No. 1 hits of the year

- 2020: The Weeknd, “Blinding Lights”
- 2019: Lil Nas X featuring Billy Ray Cyrus, “Old Town Road” (Won Grammy)
- 2018: Drake, “God’s Plan” (Won)
- 2017: Ed Sheeran, “Shape of You” (Won)
- 2016: Justin Bieber, “Love Yourself” (Grammy-nominated)
- 2015: Mark Ronson featuring Bruno Mars, “Uptown Funk” (Won)
- 2014: Pharrell Williams, “Happy” (Won)
- 2013: Macklemore & Ryan Lewis featuring Wanz, “Thrift Shop” (Won)
- 2012: Gotye featuring Kimbra, “Somebody That I Used to Know” (Won)
- 2011: Adele, “Rolling In the Deep” (Won)
- 2010: Kesha, “TiK ToK”
- 2009: Black Eyed Peas, “Boom Boom Pow” (Won)
- 2008: Flo Rida featuring T-Pain, “Get Low” (Nominated)
- 2007: Beyoncé, “Irreplaceable” (Nominated)
- 2006: Daniel Powter, “Bad Day” (Nominated)
- 2005: Mariah Carey, “We Belong Together” (Won)
- 2004: Usher featuring Lil Jon and Ludacris, “Yeah!” (Won)
- 2003: 50 Cent, “In Da Club” (Nominated)
- 2002: Nickelback, “How You Remind Me” (Nominated)
- 2001: Lifehouse, “Hanging by a Moment”
- 2000: Faith Hill, “Breathe” (Won)
- 1999: Cher, “Believe” (Won)
- 1998: Next, “Too Close”
- 1997: Elton John “Candle In the Wind 1997” (Won)
- 1996: Los del Río, “Macarena (Bayside Boys Mix)”
- 1995: Coolio, “Gangsta’s Paradise” (Won)
- 1994: Ace of Base, “The Sign” (Nominated)
- 1993: Whitney Houston, “I Will Always Love You” (Won)
- 1992: Boyz II Men, “End of the Road” (Won)
- 1991: Bryan Adams, “(Everything I Do) I Do It for You” (Won)
- 1990: Wilson Phillips, “Hold On” (Nominated)
- 1989: Chicago, “Look Away”
- 1988: George Michael, “Faith”
- 1987: The Bangles, “Walk Like an Egyptian”
- 1986: Dionne Warwick & Friends, “That’s What Friends Are For” (Won)
- 1985: Wham!, “Careless Whisper”
- 1984: Prince, “When Doves Cry”
- 1983: The Police, “Every Breath You Take” (Won)
- 1982: Olivia Newton-John, “Physical” (Nominated)
- 1981: Kim Carnes, “Bette Davis Eyes” (Won)
- 1980: Blondie, “Call Me” (Nominated)
- 1979: The Knack, “My Sharona” (Nominated)
- 1978: Andy Gibb, “Shadow Dancing”
- 1977: Rod Stewart, “Tonight’s the Night (Gonna Be Alright)”
- 1976: Wings, “Silly Love Songs”
- 1975: Captain & Tennille, “Love Will Keep Us Together” (Won)
- 1974: Barbra Streisand, “The Way We Were” (Won)
- 1973: Tony Orlando and Dawn, “Tie a Yellow Ribbon ‘Round the Ole Oak Tree” (Nominated)
- 1972: Roberta Flack, “The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face” (Won)
- 1971: Three Dog Night, “Joy to the World” (Nominated)
- 1970: Simon & Garfunkel, “Bridge Over Troubled Water” (Won)
- 1969: The Archies, “Sugar, Sugar”
- 1968: The Beatles, “Hey Jude” (Nominated)
- 1967: Lulu, “To Sir with Love”
- 1966: SSgt. Barry Sadler, “Ballad of the Green Berets”
- 1965: Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs, “Wooly Bully” (Nominated)
- 1964: The Beatles, “I Want to Hold Your Hand” (Nominated)
- 1963: Jimmy Gilmer and the Fireballs, “Sugar Shack”
- 1962: Acker Bilk, “Stranger on the Shore” (Nominated)
- 1961: Bobby Lewis, “Tossin’ and Turnin’”
- 1960: Percy Faith, “Theme from A Summer Place” (Won)
- 1959: Johnny Horton, “The Battle of New Orleans” (Won)
- 1958: Domenico Modugno, “Nel Blu Dipinto di Blu (Volare)” (Won)

By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

‘Robot Rock’ and retirement: Daft Punk’s greatest moments

By AUGUST BROWN  
Los Angeles Times

The French duo of Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo, known worldwide as Daft Punk, was already beloved before they took the stage at Coachella in 2006. It had three acclaimed studio albums, a decade of semiregular touring and the esteem of dance music and pop sophisticates alike.

Starting in the ‘90s, Bangalter and de Homem-Christo hid their faces under gold and silver robot masks, rarely breaking character, but became recognizable pop stars in their own right.

But when the lights went on over their gigantic pyramid in Indio, Calif., and a tent full of neophyte young ravers felt the disco thrash of “Robot Rock,” a whole EDM industry was shot into the stratosphere, remaking festival culture in the U.S.

With the release of a video exploding their robot bodies forever, the French duo announced Feb. 22 that they would retire, 28 years after forming and seven years after their smash “Get Lucky” propelled an album of the year win at the Grammys for “Random Access Memories.”

With a catalog packed with club bangers, film scores, Kanye West and the Weeknd collaborations and dance chart No. 1s, Daft Punk enjoyed what was arguably the most influential and accomplished career in modern electronic music. Here are 10 essential moments.

**1. “Da Funk” (1995):** The duo’s first hit single in its new guise after a brief indie-rock career set the template for its music to come — a hot-grease synthesizer lick, perfectly chopped samples and a Spike Jonze-directed video with a man-dog in a trench coat that became a staple of the MTV era.

**2. “Around the World” (1997):** One of the most stylish, endlessly loopable cuts from the “Homework” album that showed a softer, sophisticated approach to contemporary house, with a colorful yet droll dance video. (Daft Punk had great ones from this era with Jonze, Michel Gondry, Roman Coppola and Seb Janiak.)

**3. “One More Time” (2001):** The most reliable, hands-up exultant track in its catalog; it’s never a bad time in a DJ set to cue up this ultra-compressed triumph and watch the room burst open.

**4. “Face to Face” (2004):** A team-up with U.S. producer Todd Edwards, the fifth single from “Discovery” topped U.S. dance charts in 2004 (succeeded by Britney Spears’ “Toxic”... what a month!).



MATT SAYLES, INVISION/AP

Thomas Bangalter, left, and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo, of Daft Punk.

**5. “Interstella 5555: The Story of the Secret 5tar System” (2003):** The band’s feature-length anime film/companion to its “Discovery” album, under the tutelage of legendary animation studio Toei and director Kazuhisa Takenouchi.

**6. “Robot Rock” (2005):** The tougher edges, rock attitude and crushing dynamics of “Robot Rock” set the tone for manager Pedro Winter’s Ed Banger Records that would bring French club music into a new and genuinely thrilling era. The “Human After All” album came out to mixed reviews, but the lead singles have stood up as catalog staples for its live sets, which is where the band took its concept to entirely new heights.

**7. “Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger” (2007):** This live version off of its beloved, towering post-Coachella tour album “Alive” was released as a single and makes a strong case as its definitive take. Kanye West later used the song as the centerpiece sample of his own smash, “Stronger.”

**8. “Tron: Legacy” (2010):** The two dozen cuts the band produced from the rebooted sci-fi milestone might not get much club play today, but it shows the level of rigor and musicianship the band was capable of away from dance floors.

**9. “Get Lucky” (2013):** For most of the non-dance-music world, this track will be their calling card forevermore. Just pure, perfect throwback disco, witty and rousing and generation-spanning. Nile Rodgers on inimitable guitar, Pharrell on the just-reaching-enough vocals — it’s the gold-standard single on their Grammy-dominating “Random Access Memories.”

**10. The Weeknd, “Starboy” / “I Feel It Coming” (2016):** The group finally got its Billboard No. 1 as producers and guests on the Weeknd’s single “Starboy.” The tracks won’t top any Daft Punk superfan’s list, but it proved they could step into the background of a pop star’s vision as well as dominate festival fields.



## WEEKEND: TELEVISION

## Q&amp;A



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/AP

Cynthia Erivo portrays Aretha Franklin (inset with her Grammy Award for Best Rhythm and Blues performance of the song “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” in New York on March 13, 1972) in a scene from the National Geographic miniseries “Genius: Aretha.”

# With justice, grace and truth

Cynthia Erivo wants her portrayal of the Queen of Soul to give Franklin respect she’s owed

BY MESFIN FEKADU  
Associated Press

**T**he Tony Awards could bring Cynthia Erivo another Emmy. Days after the British performer belted Aretha Franklin’s “Ain’t No Way” during a red carpet interview at the 2019 Tonys — explaining that it’s her guilty pleasure song — she got a call from the producers of the National Geographic series “Genius: Aretha.”

“I was like, ‘I beg your pardon,’” she continued. “In my head I’m like, ‘There is another film happening and I’m excited to see that, so what is this?’”

NatGeo had already completed series on Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso, and wanted to focus on the life of Franklin, who died in 2018 and was arguably the greatest singer of all time.

When Erivo went to meet with the producers, she had a bit of an epiphany.

“Nothing else was playing in the hotel; it was just mood music,” she said. “All of a sudden ‘Day Dreaming’ comes on as I go to sit down. I’m like, ‘Am I the only one that noticed that?’”

Laughing with a huge smile on her face, she continued: “I was like, ‘Either you planned that, or someone’s trying to tell me something.’”

Fast forward two years, and Erivo is playing the Queen of Soul in the eight-episode series debuting March 21. “Respect,” a film about Franklin starring Jennifer Hudson, will be released in August.

Erivo’s exceptional performance in Broadway’s revival of “The Color Purple” won her a Tony, Emmy and Grammy, and

she was a double Oscar nominee last year for “Harriet.” In an interview with The Associated Press, edited for clarity and brevity, the 34-year-old talked about meeting Franklin, playing icons on screen and more.

**AP: What does Aretha mean to you?**

**Erivo:** She means the world to me. As a singer, I truly believe that my job is to communicate and tell the stories that sometimes are difficult for people to tell for themselves ... Aretha did that with her eyes closed. She had a wonderful way of communicating the things that she had been through, through song.

**She has this thing by which she can take someone else’s song and make it her own.**

Totally, and it’s such a special thing. Not only does she take the song and make it her own, she takes the song and you forget it was someone else’s. To me, it’s a really special thing that she was able to do. I don’t know that people realize that “Respect” wasn’t her song first.

She finds messaging in songs, in music, that you didn’t realize were there in the first place. I don’t know how, but she always managed to find a way into a song that you didn’t know existed. I know that this might not be a popular opinion, but when she did her version of (Adele’s) “Rolling in the Deep,” I was like, “Huh, never heard this song like this before. Didn’t think about this song like this before.” At that point, because she was an older woman singing this song, you’re like, all the experience that this person must have gone through to get to this point, I didn’t hear this before. Now I’m hearing it with her voice. She was one of a kind, truly.

**Did you get a chance to meet her?**

I met her the first time when she’d come to a performance of “The Color Purple.” I didn’t know she was there. When I saw her, I felt like an idiot because I was just in shock. There is Miss Aretha Franklin standing in front of me and I’ve just finished singing a show in her presence, oh my goodness. How do I do this? She was funny and lovely. She sang the last line of “I’m Here” back to me. That was a moment I had to put my heart back together. I was like, “This is happening for real.” She was wonderful. When you meet someone like that, you don’t think they’ll remember your face. I met her again at the Kennedy Center Honors. I was singing the very first time I did it. She remembered me. She said, “You’re the girl who was in that play. You can sing. You can sing.” I was like, “Yes that’s me. Thank you very much.” I remember she was wearing red. My favorite thing about that day was when I saw the recording of it, when it finally aired, during my performance they pan to Aretha and she’s singing along with her eyes closed.

**Were you hesitant to play her?**

It’s about wanting to make sure you do her justice (and) put as much truth in it as you possibly can. There is only one Aretha Franklin, so no one can be Aretha Franklin, but you can put as much grace and truth into the re-enacting of her, the realization of her, so you can tell the story in the right way. I guess if I wasn’t nervous, I wouldn’t care.

**How do you feel about the people who say, “Cynthia doesn’t really look like Aretha?”**

No, in the same way that Diana Ross didn’t really look like Billie Holiday, but she did an

incredible, incredible job when she did “Lady Sings the Blues” ... I don’t think anyone does look like Aretha. If you found someone who looks like Aretha who couldn’t do the work, who can’t sing the songs, then that’s where you have a problem. I’d rather someone that doesn’t look like her but can give me the essence.

**Are you excited to see the Jennifer Hudson version?**

I am. I know that they were close, and I know that they had a conversation. This is something she had been dreaming of doing. I am excited to see it.

**How’s it been, playing real-life icons on screen?**

It’s a huge honor and it’s part of what I want for my lifetime — to be able to tell these stories of women whose stories wouldn’t get the chance to be told, whose stories deserve to be told. The more I can do that whether it be Harriet, Aretha or a woman you don’t know about who I’ve done the research to find out about, I want to keep bringing these stories to the forefront because they deserve to be told.

**The roles you’ve played reminds me of Chadwick Boseman, who portrayed James Brown, Jackie Robinson and Thurgood Marshall on screen.**

When (he died), I really did have that thought. I thought to myself, “What a wonderful legacy to leave behind. To be the person we could look to who was telling the stories of these incredible men who wouldn’t have had their stories told if he didn’t exist.” I guess it was like a wakeup call. This is the job at hand. Maybe this is part of your calling — to be able to tell these stories when others are finding it hard to let them come to the forefront. Maybe it’s my job to be me in it or me creating it, making sure someone is in it. That’s also the task at hand for me.

**There’s been so much conversation about Black British actors taking roles away from Black American actors. What are your thoughts on that?**

I hope we get to a place where we understand that my telling a story doesn’t mean the story can’t be told again. I think the way I tell a story is one version, and this just should serve as the introduction to someone else going, “Oh I’m going to tell the story again.” We have many stories, many versions of the Marilyn Monroe story ... we have many versions of Abe Lincoln. There are so many versions of these stories, but our stories aren’t told over and over again. We don’t have that. I hope that this only serves as fire. We’ve had it told once, let’s tell that again. Let’s tell this part of the story.

Harriet’s story isn’t done yet. She lived until she was 91. I think my story ended when she was 40-something, 45. We have another 45 years of life to tell because she did keep going. I haven’t seen that story yet. I hope someone tells that story. I hope someone goes back and tells just the specific story about the war. I hope someone goes back and tells the specific story about her suffrage life. There’s so much scope. She was a spy. We don’t know that yet. I think our story on Aretha goes to the late 80’s, early ’90s. We have another 20 years of story left to tell.

As a British actress, before I am that I’m a Black woman. My job is just to tell the story just as truthfully as I possibly can. That doesn’t have to be the only story that gets told. My version shouldn’t be the only version to get told. I hope many versions get told. I think we always think this is the only and the last and it shouldn’t be. Hopefully outside of being the actress I can create a space where the stories that we want to be told again get told again.



## WEEKEND: TELEVISION



PEACOCK/TNS

Soleil Moon Frye stars in a rebooted “Punky Brewster” on Peacock.

# Positive perspective

Star of ‘Punky Brewster’ reboot says she avoided pitfalls of early fame because she was allowed to act like a kid

BY NEAL JUSTIN  
Star Tribune

**C**hild stars are destined for disaster. If that’s a surprise, you haven’t seen enough TV.

In last year’s “Showbiz Kids” documentary, Todd Bridges and Evan Rachel Wood looked back at their early careers with anything but candy-coated memories. “Framing Britney Spears,” released last month, shows how the former Mouseketeer buckled under the pressure, leading to a conservatorship that continues to stifle her artistic and financial freedom. News reports on the recent death of Dustin Diamond reminded us how the actor went from “Saved by the Bell” to time behind bars.

On March 23, YouTube debuts “Demi Lovato: Dancing with the Devil,” in which the pop star, who spent part of her childhood frolicking with Barney the dinosaur, opens up about her darkest moments, including a drug overdose in 2018.

“I was able to finally come out and talk about some of the traumas that I have had in my past and experiences in the industry, some of the reasons that kind of led up to that breaking point,”

Lovato said during a virtual press conference. “It’s not just about substances. It’s not just about that journey. It’s about self-acceptance. It’s about not conforming to what other people think you should conform to.”

There’s a way to learn that lesson without putting your life on the line. All you need is a little Punky Power.

Soleil Moon Frye hasn’t had a stupendous career since she starred as “Punky Brewster” in the 1980s. She spent much of her teenage years slumming in films like “Piranha” and “Pumpkinhead 2.” But she managed to avoid the tabloids, the courthouse and the reality shows.

The secrets to her success can be found in “Kid 90,” a documentary premiering March 12 on Hulu. In it, Frye revisits fellow child stars, including Stephen Dorff and Brian Austin Green, as they talk about how they emerged from early fame relatively unscathed.

Part of the winning formula is being surrounded by people who don’t always treat you like a mini-adult. Frye, 44, recently talked glowingly of how she and her sitcom’s young co-stars were allowed to jump off furniture

with pogo sticks, ride scooters around the lot and sneak into Johnny Carson’s office.

“It was such a dream that we were able to be kids,” she said. “I always went to summer camp, always had my childhood, which I think was so incredibly important.”

Not that she was a saint. The documentary, which relies heavily on footage Frye shot as a teen, shows her taking drugs even as she and her famous friends spoke on behalf of the “Just Say No” campaign. She also battled body-image issues.

But bitterness toward the character that made her a star never materialized. That may explain why she was eager to return to the sunny role in a new reboot now streaming on Peacock.

“Punky has really been such a part of my heart. I never wanted to run away from it,” she said. “Of course we go through the trials and tribulations of growing up and wanting to have our sense of self. And yet, for me, I’d say Punky is how I rediscovered so much of my own Punky Power. There were times in my life that I kind of lost some of that. This was an internal compass as my way back.”

## Betty White’s 50-year-old ‘Pet Set’ restored, re-released

BY LYNN ELBER  
Associated Press

On a TV show Betty White hosted 50 years ago, the perpetual charmer flirts with James Brolin, teases Della Reese and trades quips with Carol Burnett.

But White appears most delighted in the company of the real stars of “Betty White’s Pet Set,” among them elephants, lions and snakes. And dogs, lots of dogs.

“All I can say is, Charlie Brown is right: Happiness is a warm puppy,” a beaming White says in one episode, cuddling a pair of tiny brown pooches as she quotes the Peanuts comic strip character.

She and her husband, the late game show host Allen Ludden, produced the 39-episode series (originally titled “The Pet Set”) that aired in syndication in 1971 and was released Feb. 23 on DVD and streaming and digital platforms after a laborious restoration process.

Making the show was strictly a labor of love for the Emmy-winning star of “The Golden Girls” and “The Mary Tyler Moore Show” who, at the age of 99, has retained her affection and compassion for animals.

“When Allen and I started our own production company so many years ago, the one show I wanted to do was ‘The Pet Set,’” White told The Associated Press. “Allen’s offices were the most exciting in the building because we were the only show pre-screening guests who were furry and four-legged.”



AP

Actress and animal activist Betty White appears with a lion in her 1970s series “The Pet Set.” The restored series, renamed “Betty White’s Pet Set,” features a number of celebrity guests including Mary Tyler Moore and Carol Burnett.

“What a time! It remains one of my favorite shows even 50 years later,” White said in a statement.

White, a longtime advocate for animal well-being and conservation, reveled in doing a show with her husband and friends that focused on her passion for animals, said TV producer and distributor Darren Wadyko, whose company shepherded the re-release.

Her celebrity pals were invited to bring their pets and get the chance to meet wild animals — sometimes to the guest’s dismay.

Reese (“Touched by an Angel”) looked askance at White when she tried to coax her closer to a leopard, and Jim Nabors (“Gomer Pyle”) did likewise when a snake was involved.

Burnett initially hesitated when called on for the messy task of bottle-feeding a baby elephant, but then the formula and the quips flow: “These Playtex Nursers, you can’t beat ‘em,” she says.

White, however, was fearless, especially in encounters filmed at a Southern California training compound that provided animals for

TV and movies. At one point, she’s seen snuggling with a 500-pound lion.

Other guests include Doris Day, Mary Tyler Moore, Burt Reynolds, Michael Landon and game show host Peter Marshall, who was interviewed for a documentary about the series that’s part of the DVD set.

The show’s revival began when White’s longtime agent, Jeff Witjas, asked Wadyko if he could locate the episodes. After what Wadyko termed “a virtual Indiana Jones expedition,” it turned out copies were housed at the Paley Center for Media in Beverly Hills and in White’s own Los Angeles-area home.

The tapes were restored, digitized and color-corrected, with the final version cobbling together the best parts of each set to create a pristine version, Wadyko said, a process that took more than six months.

The series is available on streaming platforms Apple TV, Prime Video, Google Play and Fandango Now, with more platforms expected to be added by distribution partners Darren Wadyko Media, White’s Albets Enterprises and the MPI Media Group.

Wadyko, who produced 2015’s “Betty White’s Smartest Animals in America,” said he’s eager to see her reaction to the reborn “Pet Set,” pandemic safety allowing.

He and Witjas are planning to “present her with the wonderful DVD and spend a little time watching it with her. But that event has not happened yet,” he said.



# WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

BY ANGELA HAUPT  
*Special to The Washington Post*

By 8 a.m. on the first Friday in February, Chris Giza had biked 21 miles with a few colleagues he met on a nearby oceanfront trail — before each of them sat down at home, miles apart, for a virtual meeting. If he hadn’t carved out time for this “fake commute,” he says, he wouldn’t have done anything but grab a cup of coffee before plopping down in front of his computer.

“It’s almost a no-brainer,” Giza, a pediatric neurologist in Los Angeles, says about his morning bike-riding routine. “There’s all good and not really any downside. It helps you think better; it’s good for your mental health, it’s good for your physical health and it’s good for your social health.”

Of all the things work-from-home employees might miss about pre-pandemic life, commuting wouldn’t seem to register high on the attention meter. But nearly a year after being sent home from the office, some employees, such as Giza, have realized that losing that time in the car — or on the bus, train or street — has had some drawbacks.

Jon Jachimowicz, an assistant professor of business administration in the organizational behavior unit at Harvard Business School, says commuting provides “a temporal and spatial separation between all the different roles we play.” It’s a buffer that eases the transition from one identity to the next, a consistent dose of in-between time to reflect and reset.

Before the pandemic, the average commute was 38 minutes each way, Jachimowicz’s research indicates. Not only have employees lost that buffer, but they have also taken on more work: about 48 extra minutes per day. They are also dealing with more meetings and more communication that spills into off hours, according to findings published by the National Bureau of Economic Research in July.

When we don’t psychologically detach from work, we risk becoming exhausted and burned out, says Samantha Pieknik, a licensed clinical psychologist in Phoenix.

“We’ve lost that time to sit with ourselves and shake everything off from the day,” she says. “We’re working at home and we’re sleeping at work, and it’s really confusing for our brains.”

A fake commute, however, can help you reclaim that precious transition time and re-establish the boundaries that have been blurred from working from home, something that Giza has learned. He now “commutes” about 100 miles per week. Before adopting the practice, “I didn’t have the usual time to clear my head,” he says, which made it difficult to be focused while he was in work mode or fully present when he was in home mode.

Of course, a fake commute doesn’t have to involve biking. You can walk, meditate, stretch or listen to an audiobook, though Jachimow-



## Focus shift: When home is an office

‘Fake commutes’ among ways teleworkers can make the boundaries between office, home clearer

icz notes the practice is a “luxury” and might not be possible for everyone, such as the parents of young children.

Pieknik, who now offers telehealth services from her home rather than commuting 10 minutes to her private practice, has added a fake commute to her mornings: She drives out to get coffee. She recommends the habit to others.

“It doesn’t have to be super elaborate,” she says. “It’s just a matter of tricking your brain into starting a new routine.”

Here are tips on how to incorporate a fake commute into your work-from-home day:

■ Find the ritual that’s right for you. There are many ways to reap the benefits of a fake commute. Like so much else, the important thing is choosing the method you’ll stick to.

Robin Gibson, a social work administrator in Oklahoma City, started working from home on March 16 and soon realized that it wasn’t a short-term situation. So she resumed her old commuting routine: listening to news podcasts, such as NPR’s “Up First” and the New York Times’ “The Daily.”

“It’s about an hour and a half of listening that I start when I get in the shower,” she says. In the evening, she decompresses by tidying up, listening to more podcasts and writing down her plans for the next day.

“I missed that time of getting

myself right with the world,” she says. “I sort of have my own little commute in my head in order to take care of myself.”

■ Be strategic about timing — and strive for consistency. It’s best to engage in your chosen ritual when you’re easing into and out of

“Commuting provides ‘a temporal and spatial separation between all the different roles we play.’”

Jon Jachimowicz  
assistant professor  
Harvard Business School

the workday, Jachimowicz says. He suggests workers establish fake commutes that last at least five to 10 minutes each way and are repeated as many days of the workweek as possible.

Block out uninterrupted time on your calendar to help make it a priority. Some companies are embracing this idea: Microsoft, for example, recently announced that it

was launching a “virtual commute” feature that allows employees using its Teams software to schedule commute time at the beginning and end of the day. In a news release, the company said it hopes to help boost workers’ well-being by encouraging them to take breaks to reflect and recharge.

■ Leave home if you can. Debbie Plotnick, vice president for mental health and systems advocacy at Mental Health America, believes that those who get the most out of fake commuting are the ones who physically leave their home-turned-office. But that doesn’t mean you have to go far: Doing yoga in the backyard or jogging around the block would suffice. Plotnick, who’s based in Colorado, likes to spend time in the nature surrounding her home.

“I live in the mountains, and it’s spectacular,” she says. “I go outside and just revel in how fabulous it is.” Your time commuting doesn’t have to be solitary, she adds: Use part of it to call a friend or family member, which helps foster vital social connections.

■ Consider including your family. Kids who are learning virtually are missing out on their own commute time, Plotnick says. That means they’ve lost opportunities to socialize while walking, riding the school bus or having one-on-one conversations with the parent dropping them off.

“It’s really hard for the young

folks who are feeling so isolated now,” she says, and a fake commute can help. “So maybe there’s a restful time families spend together. Maybe it’s a little bit of a family meditation or a family gentle yoga practice.”

■ Practice role-clarifying prospecting. Commuting is an opportunity to think about and plan for the role we’re transitioning into, such as shifting from supervisor to parent, Jachimowicz says. Let work go at the end of the day by spending part of your fake commute reflecting on your upcoming role: what you want to make for dinner, which chores need to be done, what you’ll watch on TV. Similarly, on a Sunday night, coax yourself out of weekend mode by making a list of what you’d like to accomplish in the week ahead.

■ Get serious about disconnecting. Fake commutes can help us transition between our roles — but the onus is on us to actually stay in them, rather than letting our minds drift back to other parts of the day.

“It’s not just, ‘Great, all I need to do is go for a walk after work,’” Jachimowicz says. “How many of us, after we transition, continue checking emails or texting? We’re like, ‘Oh, this isn’t working.’ Of course it’s working! We’re continuously activating our work roles.” He suggests turning off your phone or silencing notifications in the name of better physical, mental and emotional health.



WEEKEND: FAMILY



When teaching kids about the stock market, keep it simple — don’t overwhelm them with too much information.

‘Mom, can I buy stocks?’

Gamestop frenzy provides opportunity to teach kids about stock market

BY SARAH SKIDMORE SELL  
Associated Press

The recent GameStop frenzy provided what parents and educators call a teachable moment — an opportunity that presents itself to lend a little insight.

So what is the best way for parents to teach kids about investing, particularly when the market behaves oddly? The Associated Press talked to a few parents and financial experts for their tips:

Keep it simple

Parents should make sure kids understand money basics before they try to conquer investing. Once they’re ready, don’t overwhelm kids with too much information at once — you risk them missing the lesson and losing interest.

Kids need to understand what stocks are, why people invest and how the market works before they can understand investing.

“The best way to get kids interested in investing is to speak their language,” said Carrie Schwab-Pomerantz, financial literacy expert and senior vice president at Charles Schwab & Co. “Start by explaining that investing is a means of using your money to try to create more money.”

Practice time

If they seem ready, let kids give investing a try.

Consider one of the many apps and games out there that allow people to simulate investing experiences. Those provide a good first step in a safe environment, said Paul Golden, spokesman for the National Endowment for Financial Education.

Try one that shows gains over a long period of time, 10 or 20 years, as that better illustrates the benefits of long-term investing.

Parents can also help kids identify companies they are interested in and track them using fictitious money just for fun. That presents an opportunity to explain why a stock might rise and fall in value at different points.

“If you are going to encourage your kid to buy stock, help them to understand and have a point of view on why they should buy a stock,” said Louis Taylor, president of Taylor Wealth Management in Oregon and father of two.

You don’t need to explain balance sheets, price to earning ratios or anything technical just yet. Just help

them establish clearer thinking about their decision-making process.

Taylor took this approach when several college students approached him during the GameStop runup asking if they should invest. Instead, he asked them why they would invest in GameStop if they don’t even shop there. He was able to help them conclude there was little underlying value in the company.

“I think you should buy stock, but know why you are buying it,” he said. “If you are passionate about (a stock) because you have a belief in a brand, that’s one thing. Don’t do it because you saw it on a message board.”

Talk risk

If the kids were intrigued by GameStop, talk about it.

Yes, some people made money. But some people lost big, too. Seize the opportunity to talk about how different investments involve different levels of risk. Higher risk investments can result in big gains, but big losses as well. Also, mention how some investors might be able to bear those losses more than others.

Ray Medeiros said he has long talked to his boys — ages 16 and 18 — about the importance of investing to build wealth. He worried they might be sucked in by the allure of a quick buck by GameStop. But he talked with them about how investing is a long-term endeavor. He also urged them to always think less like day traders, who often lose, and more like Warren Buffett.

“I told them if they wanted to invest in high risk, do it with money that you wouldn’t miss if you lost it all, kind of like the scratch tickets,” Medeiros said.

Jacklynn Manning kept it simple for her boys, ages 9 and 10. She explained some stock market basics, including how non-professional investors can “make a good profit if you play smart and conservatively, or maybe a great loss, if they get too greedy.”

Parents should also recognize that investing looks different these days. Robinhood, for example, has been accused of trying to lure young people with little or no experience trading stocks by including features on its trading platform that resemble gaming apps, such as showering a user’s screen with virtual confetti every time they make a trade.

The company has defended its practices and notes that it provides educational tools to its customers.

“While it’s a teachable moment, parents should reinforce that investing is not a game,” Golden said. “Investing helps achieve long-term goals.”

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Grass is always greener where the dog drags you

I remember it like it was yesterday. I was walking back to our stairwell apartment from dropping my daughter off at Patch Barracks Elementary School, minding my own business along Florida Strasse with our labradoodle, Dinghy.

Suddenly, Dinghy spotted a hare munching grass in General So-and-so’s backyard.

Dinghy was 110 pounds, and a keen hunter. Every place our family lived, he was on the lookout for indigenous prey as soon as we stepped outside. Prior to Germany, we lived in Virginia, where Dinghy dug a WWI trench across our backyard in pursuit of a mole. After Germany, we moved to Florida, where Dinghy frantically tunneled his head into the sand until a “crunch” indicated that he’d cornered a crustacean.

While we were in Germany, Dinghy longed to taste a hare. Anyone who has seen these long-legged rabbits run knows Dinghy didn’t stand a chance. Nevertheless, upon seeing that hare off of Florida Strasse years ago, he gave chase.

“Dinghy! No!” I yelled in a fruitless attempt to stop the inevitable. He took off like a bullet, yanking the leash, which I had wrapped around my waist, holding a full dog doo bag in one hand and my travel coffee mug in the other. Before I knew it, I was flying, hitting the ground, then being dragged 15 feet across General So-and-so’s front lawn before the leash broke loose.

As expected, the hare got away. Dinghy returned nonchalantly as if to say, “What’s the matter with you?”

I hadn’t spilled a drop of coffee; however, my white sweatshirt showed proof of the incident. No scratches on my knees, no dirt on my elbows, no mud on my rear. Just a large, round, bright green grass stain over each breast.

I wanted to bury my head in the sand. But as fate would have it, I ran into every soul I knew on my way home.

My idiocy was the hot topic at Building 2500 that day.

Living on base, we have moments when we just want to be alone, away from judgment, prying eyes, ringing doorbells, shared parking lots and communal dumpsters.

Sharing walls with your neighbors makes you involuntarily privy to every thump, groan, argument and flush. There’s always someone watching to make sure you’re picking up after your dog. There’s no sneaking out to throw a weekend’s worth of wine bottles away, because everyone hears every clink, clank, clunk in the dumpster bay. You can’t pop into the commissary undetected, because you’ll likely run into your husband’s boss when your cart contains a jumbo box of super plus tampons and a Party Size pack of Double Stuf Oreos. If you tell your children to play outside to give you a moment’s peace, your unruly kids will quickly become the subject of chitchat under the picnic pavilion.

When you hear laughing, you’ll know someone saw you in your kitchen window, spraying whipped cream into your upturned mouth. Trust me. I know this firsthand.

My family lived on base for 11 of my husband’s 28 active-duty years in the Navy. We got good at “whisper-yelling” so neighbors wouldn’t hear us arguing. I closed our shades on those mornings when I just wanted to watch “Real Housewives” reruns while eating a can of Pringles.

Even so, my only regret is that we didn’t live on base more.

The benefits of companionship and community in military housing far outweighed the sacrifice of privacy. I lost count of the moments when I relied on my base neighbors to force me outside for fun, keep an eye on kids, help carry heavy things, talk something through, cheer me up when I was feeling low. The special brand of camaraderie found only in base neighborhoods — with potluck picnics, spontaneous parties, commune-like feel and got-your-back mentality — will be remembered fondly long after one’s experience in the military is over.

Trust me, I know this firsthand.



WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

KARAOKE BARS

BY MATTHEW STOCK / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Matthew Stock, 24, who is originally from Dallas, now lives in St. Louis, where he teaches ninth-grade algebra through an AmeriCorps affiliated tutoring program. He started constructing puzzles several years ago after he attended a crossword tournament in Boston and “had a great time chatting with puzzlemakers throughout the afternoon.” This is his third crossword (and first Sunday) for The Times. — W.S.

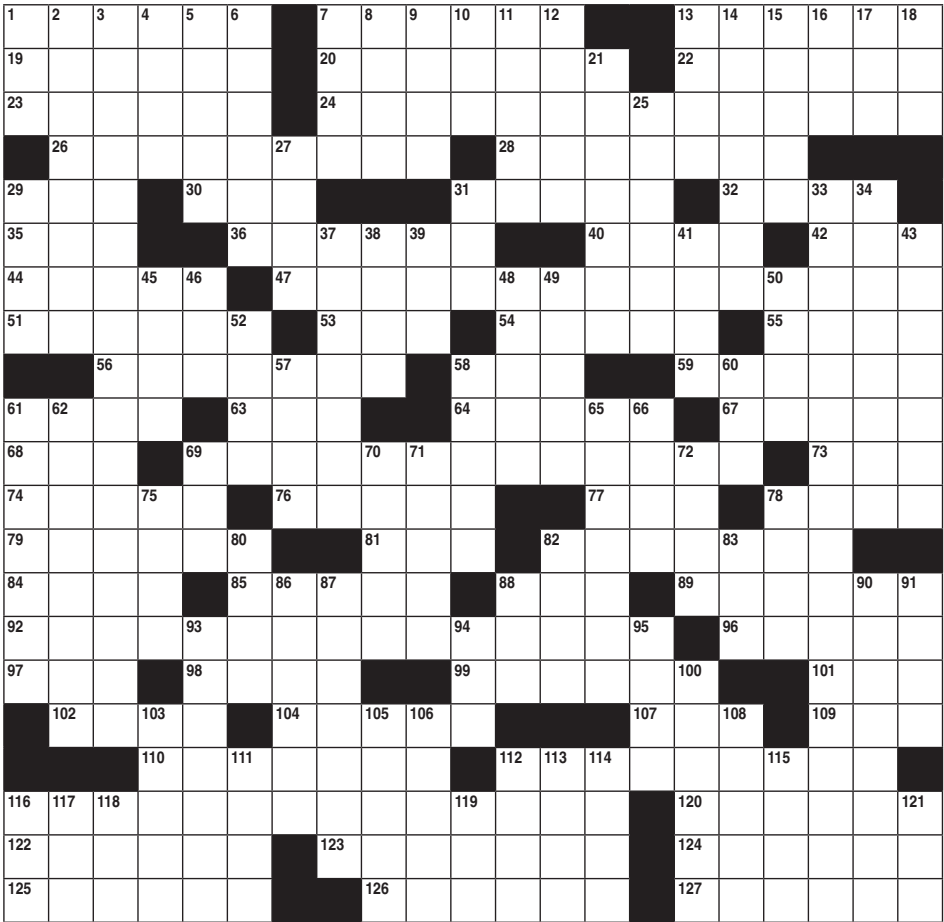
**ACROSS**

1 Prayer, e.g.  
7 Market index, for short  
13 And so on and so forth  
19 Actor Ray of “Field of Dreams”  
20 Like a certain complex  
22 Relative of the mambo  
23 High winds  
24 Space bars? [Frank Sinatra]  
26 Healthful dessert options  
28 Overhauled, in a way  
29 “\_\_\_ making a list . . .”  
30 Offering in china . . . or from China  
31 “Top Chef” chef \_\_\_ Hall  
32 Geographical name that comes from the Sioux for “sleepy ones”  
35 First prize at the Juegos Olímpicos  
36 Sink holes  
40 Biting  
42 Bird whose males incubate the eggs  
44 Mathematical proposition  
47 Wet bars? [Gene Kelly]

51 Things many people lose as they grow older  
53 Big Five studio of Hollywood’s Golden Age  
54 “Thus . . .”  
55 St. Louis symbol  
56 Strongly endorse  
58 Hot place to chill  
59 \_\_\_ Adlon, Emmy winner for “King of the Hill”  
61 Papal name last taken in 1939  
63 Smallest state in India  
64 Options for outdoor wedding receptions  
67 Like some bread and cereal  
68 Director Lee  
69 Prison bars? [Elvis Presley]  
73 Bamboozled  
74 Weight right here!  
76 \_\_\_ Austin, Biden defense secretary  
77 Misidentify something, e.g.  
78 For the lady  
79 Center of a court  
81 They’re often parked in parks  
82 Relevant  
84 Excited cry after scratching a lottery ticket  
85 Move a cursor (over)  
88 Pride : lions :: \_\_\_ : dolphins  
89 Hip  
92 Cash bars? [Abba]

96 “Same here”  
97 “I mean . . .”  
98 What goes right to the bottom?  
99 Got around  
101 “Hoo-boy!”  
102 Gist  
104 Last option in a list, maybe  
107 “That feels goo-oo-ood!”  
109 Practice  
110 Brainy?  
112 A+ earner  
116 Singles bars? [Robyn]  
120 First House speaker from California  
122 Not going anywhere  
123 Was snoopy  
124 Made square  
125 Japanese mat  
126 “We got permission!”  
127 Makes insulting jokes about

11 Where thrills provide thrills  
12 Something that’s well-kept?  
13 Comeback  
14 It’s turned, in a phrase  
15 It’s a relief!  
16 Prefix with conscious  
17 Poetic shortening  
18 Food-pantry donation  
21 Broad valley  
25 Large expanses  
27 2006 film with the tagline “Keep it wheel!”  
29 Hindu festival of colors  
31 Most-watched TV show of 2002-05  
33 Gold bars? [Queen]  
34 “Do you understand me?”  
37 Disappointing court result  
38 Black  
39 Habitat for Humanity is one, for short



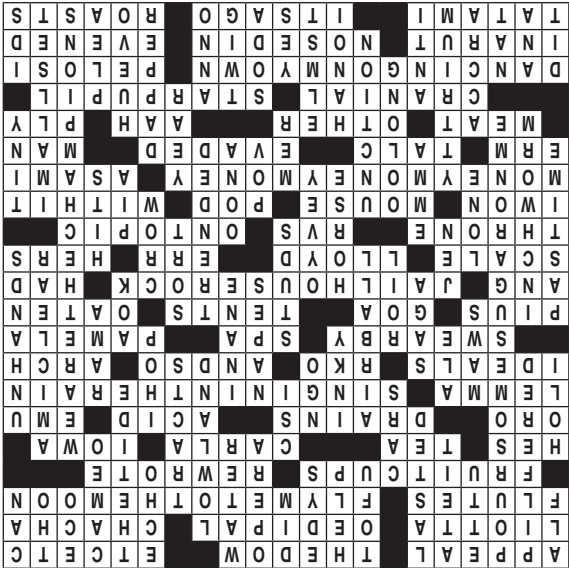
61 Solving crosswords, e.g.  
62 Insect named for the way it moves, not for its length  
65 Got hot on Twitter, say  
66 Kind  
69 \_\_\_ Psaki, Biden press secretary  
70 Gymnastics apparatus  
71 Oral equivalent of a facepalm  
72 Native American tribe of Montana  
75 Single  
78 Box score column  
80 Noted 1815 comedy of manners  
82 Actress Chaplin  
83 Flag carrier to Karachi and Islamabad  
86 Traditional Chinese drink  
87 Anointment  
88 Perspective, in brief  
90 “No more for me, thank you”  
91 Minute  
93 Element 39  
94 Big bleu expanse  
95 Alumni grouping  
100 Stylish  
103 World capital that’s home to Kotoka International Airport  
105 World capital that’s home to Noi Bai International Airport  
106 Horror film locale, in brief  
108 Egg: Sp.  
111 2016 No. 1 album for Rihanna  
112 Pop  
113 Really thin type  
114 \_\_\_ Domini  
115 “I beg of you,” e.g.  
116 Bit of Morse code  
117 Actress de Armas  
118 D.C. pro  
119 “Of course!”  
121 They’re checked at check-ins

GUNSTON STREET



“Gunston Street” is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and online at gunstonstreet.com.

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FACES

# ‘That sounds amazing!’

## Keanu Reeves on the joy of writing his first comic book

By MICHAEL CAVNA  
*The Washington Post*

It was the fall of 2017, and Keanu Reeves had been carrying around a character in his head. The actor so associated with portraying a phalanx of dark-clad fighters kept envisioning a world-weary warrior whose birth predated even human language. Who knows, he thought, this character just might be a future film role. But that was before he decided to sit with the suits at Boom! Studios. The savvy Los Angeles publishing company knew: One does not simply walk into a conference with Keanu. Be prepared to engage his perceptive questions and passionate physicality.

On a morning Zoom interview from Los Angeles last week, Reeves pithily recounts that meeting of like minds: “They went, ‘Comic book.’ I went: ‘Yeah! Why not? That sounds amazing!’”

And just like that, the man who has long performed on soundstages and rock ‘n’ roll stages decided to dive into something new. Reeves has published beautiful art books — and even played a comics-sprung detective of the occult (“Constantine”) — but nowhere on his four-decade résumé was a credit as a comic-book author.

That changes this week with Wednesday’s release of the first issue “BRZRKR” (pronounced Berzerker), a limited 12-issue series, co-created with Matt Kindt and artist Ron Garney. The comic, centering on a raven-locked title assassin who unleashes hyper-stylized violence with supernatural ability, stirs comparisons to Reeves’ own cinematic battlers, including Neo in the “Matrix” movies and title fighter John Wick in that high-body-count franchise. Yet Boom! assures that its comic series will blaze a different trail.

The first issue’s bloody hand-to-hand combat, so visceral and viscous, spares no crimson ink. As this 80,000-year-old fights his way across the epochs while trying to uncover personal truths, he embodies Reeves’ vision: “I had an im-

pression of a guy in a Viking kind of battle who could punch people’s chests and their backs and rip people’s arms off.”

“BRZRKR” opens with maximum carnage and minimal verbiage. The creative team promises that more textured themes are on the horizon. Discussing the comic’s scope, Reeves riffs until he’s in full mellifluous monologue: “We do want to take on morality, ethics, peacetime, war, violence, whose side, what’s right, what’s wrong, truth, fiction, memory, what do we believe in, who are we, with not only violence but also love — and then our own identities and who we are as humans.”

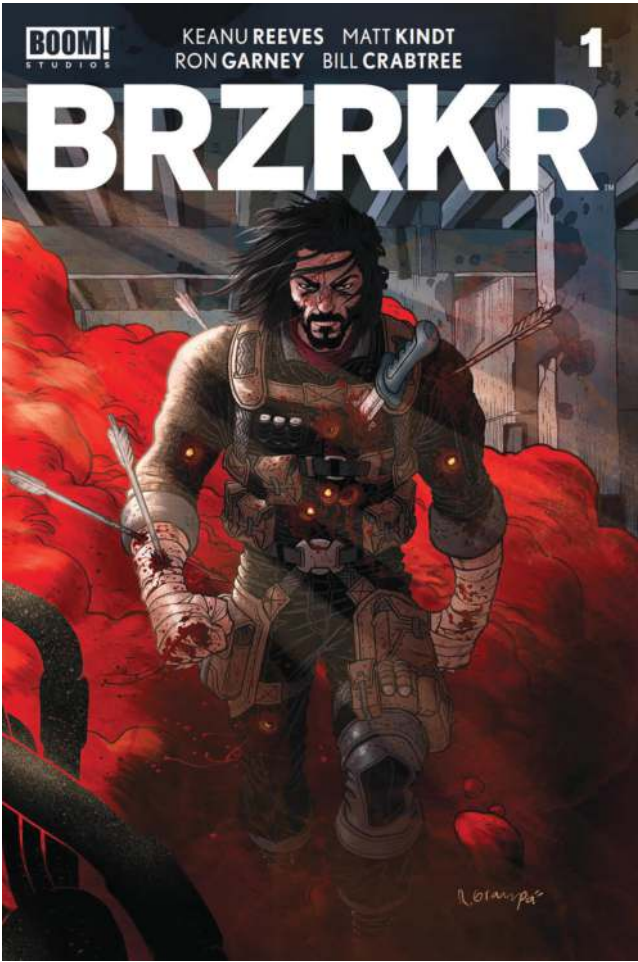
The writers met in person early on, bonding over some of their favorite cartoonists (Frank Miller and Geof Darrow) and comics (“The Dark Knight” and “Watchmen”). Once the pandemic hit, the creators texted and Zoomed for hours on end, plotting scenes and fine-tuning dialogue and joyously spurring each other on. And Reeves’ teammates agree that his truest gift as a comics storyteller is his ability to vividly inhabit a character — what Kindt calls stoking “the heat” of a creation.

Boom! wasn’t precisely sure, though, just what it had on its hands — how many readers would embrace this series? — so it launched a Kickstarter to back the books. The studio hoped to use it to sell perhaps \$400,000 in preorders; instead, it was \$1.5 million.

Now the natural question becomes: Why not adapt the comic into a film?

Reeves, the internet’s favorite “immortal” movie star in fan posts and memes, says they are looking for a movie partner to adapt the adventures of his immortal character. So would the actor consider playing himself? “That was my intention — I’m a little prec-iousss about that,” he says, laughing as he drops a quick lisping impression of Gollum. “I would love to play the role.”

Reeves says he doesn’t yet have a dream director in mind. Yet Garney, who worked on the Francis Lawrence film “I Am Legend,” has strong thoughts. He cites two



RAFAEL GRAMPA/BOOM! Studios

**Keanu Reeves adds comic book creator to his list of accomplishments with the Wednesday release of “BRZRKR.” The 12-issue limited series was co-created with Matt Kindt and graphic artist Ron Garney.**

filmmakers who have previously directed Keanu action vehicles — Lawrence and Chad Stahelski — but thinks Reeves should take the professional step and direct himself.

“I think he’d be a natural, and he has the experience at this point to do it, and this is his character,” the artist says. “There’s no one better to pull it off than him.”

# Zeta-Jones joins Sheen in ‘Prodigal Son’

By BETH HARRIS  
*Associated Press*

Catherine Zeta-Jones was already a fan of “Prodigal Son,” so when the chance came to join the show, she jumped, lured by the prospect of working alongside Michael Sheen.

The Welsh actors were born in cities about an hour apart and moved in similar circles during their youth without ever knowing each other. She was born in Swansea and Sheen was born in Newport seven months apart.

“We have all these mutual friends, but we’ve never crossed. My mom and dad know his dad,” she said Tuesday in a virtual Television Critics Association panel. “It’s bizarre. That was, of course, a huge pull for me.”

Zeta-Jones joins Fox’s “Prodigal Son” in Tuesday’s episode, directed by co-star Lou Diamond Phillips. Previously, the Oscar winner had done guest episodes and appeared in TV movies and miniseries, but never a regular series role.

She plays Dr. Vivian Capshaw, and Alan Cumming appears in two episodes as a cocky Europol agent.



AP

**Catherine Zeta-Jones, left, at the 26th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in 2020, in Los Angeles, and Michael Sheen, at the FOX Upfront party in 2019 in New York, joins the cast of “Prodigal Son.”**

“It’s a family drama with a twist of danger, and it’s a dark family,” Zeta-Jones said. “I gravitate to kind of dark material.”

Sheen’s presence increased the comfort level for Zeta-Jones to come onto a set where the cast and crew had already been together for a season. He plays an incarcerated serial killer surgeon.

“As soon as Lou shouted, ‘Cut,’ Michael and I went into inside jokes, Tommy Cooper impressions,” she said, referring to the British comedian.

Phillips said, “She came like a team player; she came to play. It was seamless.”

The show’s second season is currently airing on Fox, and the first season began streaming Tuesday on HBO Max.

## Miss Universe to air live in May

After a year and a half, the Miss Universe competition will return with a live telecast on May 16.

The 69th Miss Universe event will be held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

The last Miss Universe pageant was in December 2019 and its winner, Zozibini Tunzi of South Africa, has worn the crown longer than anyone else.

Paula M. Shugart, the president of the Miss Universe Organization, said in a press release Wednesday that they’ve spent months planning a safe competition. It will follow similar guidelines as November’s 2020 Miss USA competition held in Memphis.

It’s still under consideration whether a limited audience will be permitted to watch in person.

The Miss Universe competition will air in more than 160 territories and countries across the globe. In the U.S., it will air in Spanish on Tele-mundo and the English-language broadcasters will soon be announced.

## ‘The Simpsons’ renewed for two more seasons

Homer Simpson isn’t getting off his couch any time soon.

“The Simpsons” has been renewed for two more seasons, its 33rd and 34th, Fox announced Wednesday.

“Everyone at ‘The Simpsons’ is thrilled to be renewed once more, and we are planning lots of big surprises,” creator Matt Groenig teased in a statement. “Homer will lose a hair, Milhouse will get contact lenses, and Bart will celebrate his tenth birthday for the thirty-third time.”

Already the longest-running prime-time scripted series in history, the animated comedy, which premiered in 1990, will remain on the air until at least 2023, with 757 episodes.

Dan Castellaneta, Julie Kavner, Nancy Cartwright, Yeardley Smith, Hank Azaria and Harry Shearer will all return in their iconic voice roles around Springfield. Kevin Richardson recently joined the cast to voice Dr. Hibbert, taking over for Shearer after criticism about white actors playing nonwhite characters.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## First prison, now lawsuits for fake psychologist

**VA** FREDERICKSBURG — A Virginia woman serving an 11-year prison sentence for treating patients while pretending to be a psychologist is now facing multiple civil lawsuits seeking millions of dollars, according to court records.

Sharonda L. Avery, 44, treated more than 100 patients while posing as a doctor at the former Pediatric Partners for Attention and Learning in Stafford, The Free Lance-Star of Fredericksburg reported Tuesday. Avery was sentenced in October to 46 years in prison with all but 11 years suspended after being convicted of nine offenses.

The victims of those offenses, or their parents, have filed four civil lawsuits in Stafford Circuit Court. The lawsuits say numerous patients, most of them children, suffered as the result of faulty diagnoses and medications that were prescribed for conditions that didn't exist.

## No sign of arson found at Newman's camp

**CT** ASHFORD — A police investigation into the fire that tore through the Hole in the Wall Gang camp for seriously ill children in Connecticut could not determine the cause but found no indication it was set intentionally, officials said Monday.

The Feb. 12 fire at the Ashford camp, which was founded by the late actor Paul Newman, destroyed buildings including a large wood-frame structure that was made to look like the center of an old western town. The investigation was closed with the cause of the blaze listed as undetermined.

The camp plans to replace the lost structures with a larger, single-level complex.

The camp was built in 1988. The charity now serves about 20,000 kids a year.

## Pipe bomb, 'zip gun' found near school

**CA** SACRAMENTO — A pipe bomb and a hand-made gun were found Tuesday near a Sacramento elementary school and authorities were trying to determine who left them and why.

An employee at Ethel Baker Elementary School found the devices sitting on the sidewalk in front of the school and called authorities shortly before 8:30 a.m., the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office said.

One device was a steel pipe "sealed at both ends with an improvised fuse" that contained metal shrapnel, clay putty, firecrackers and gasoline, according to a Sheriff's Office statement.

Also found was a "zip gun" made of a steel pipe with a spring-loaded cap and containing a 12-gauge shotgun shell, the office said.

"They were both loaded and ready to go," Sgt. Rodney Grassmann told the Sacramento Bee.



MIKE SIMONS, TULSA (OKLA.) WORLD/AP

# In the habit of dining together

Sister Pierre, left, and Sister Mary Clare with St. Joseph Monastery eat lunch outside at Woodward Park on Tuesday, in Tulsa, Okla.

A sheriff's bomb disposal team made the devices safe, the statement said.

Grassman said nearly 50 students go to the campus to take part in distance learning, aided by staffers from the Boys and Girls Club. A staffer spotted the bomb and gun, and the school principal called authorities and turned away students before they could enter the school, Tara Gallegos, a Sacramento City Unified School District spokeswoman, told the Bee.

## Lawmakers OK concealed guns at more churches

**NC** RALEIGH — Churches that meet on private school campuses in North Carolina could allow members or visitors to carry concealed handguns if they're otherwise permitted in legislation approved Monday night by the state Senate.

The measure is essentially a portion of a 2020 concealed weapons bill that Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed. An override failed.

Supporters of this year's legislation say they're trying to treat churches that operate a school the same as standalone houses of worship in the name of safety and security of attendees. Current law allows a standalone church to let its parishioners and others wear concealed weapons if they have a permit or otherwise exempt. But that's prohibited at churches that hold services at the same site where the school operates.

## THE CENSUS

**12M** The approximate number of visits made to Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 2020, despite closing for more than a month because of COVID-19. The park on the Tennessee-North Carolina border had a total of 12,095,720 visits last year, its second busiest year on record, according to a news release. It saw a record 12.5 million visitors in 2019, a 1.1 million increase over 2018. Great Smoky Mountains is America's most visited national park.

## Firm fined \$280K for violating no-call laws

**MS** JACKSON — A company based in Kissimmee, Fla., has been fined for violating Mississippi's phone call laws.

The Mississippi Public Service Commission fined Arrowbridge Holdings LLC \$280,000 for 32 violations of the state's laws involving unsolicited calls. The commission said the company made unauthorized telephone solicitations and failed to register as a telephone provider, WLBT-TV reported.

The Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act of 2003 prohibits attempting to sell consumer goods and services by telephone from calling telephone numbers that appear on the "No-Call List."

## 2nd Sumatran orangutan baby in 2 years at zoo

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — It's cute, cuddly, red-haired, and critically endangered — and the second Sumatran orangutan born in two years at the zoo in New Orleans.

Veterinarians haven't yet been

able to weigh, measure and determine the sex of the baby born early Sunday to 12-year-old Reese, Audubon Zoo spokeswoman Annie Kinler Matherne said Monday.

Sumatran orangutans are one of three species of the long-haired great apes. Fewer than 14,000 are believed to live in the wild, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The baby is Reese's first, but she has seen two different orangutans giving birth and raising babies — her own mother at Albuquerque BioPark Zoo in New Mexico, and Audubon's orangutan matriarch, Feliz, in 2019, the statement noted.

## Hunter banned from 48 states after poaching

**CO** COLORADO SPRINGS — A hunter from Colorado Springs has been permanently banned from hunting in 48 states, including Colorado, after he pleaded guilty to several poaching charges across the state.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife said hearing examiner Steven Cooley decided last week to permanently suspend hunting privileges for Iniki

Vike Kapu, 28, after he pleaded guilty, KMGH-TV reported. Colorado is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, meaning the lifetime hunting ban also extends to the other 47 member states, not including Hawaii and Massachusetts.

Kapu was accused of killing 12 deer, 2 turkeys and a bighorn sheep ram across three Colorado counties.

## Couple accused of taking copper, causing outage

**SC** MANNING — A couple accused of posing as electrical workers and stealing power lines for the copper cable caused an outage in a South Carolina neighborhood, according to authorities.

Michael Wayne Buttery, 58, and Kimberly Kay Buttery, 55, of Summerville, were both charged with obtaining non-specious metals unlawfully, Clarendon County Sheriff Timothy Baxley told The State on Tuesday. The sheriff said the two used a white service truck with a bucket on the back to resemble the appearance of a power company vehicle, then tampered with the lines to take the copper wiring.

Power crews responding to an outage near Manning discovered lines had been cut down and copper wire had been stripped from the poles, the newspaper said. Someone later reported that a truck was seen near power lines in the area.

From wire reports



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Automotive 140

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Pearls Before Swine



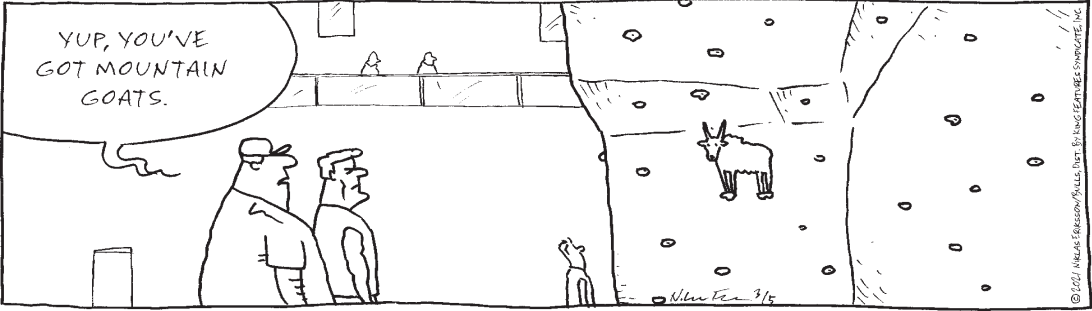
Non Sequitur



Candorville



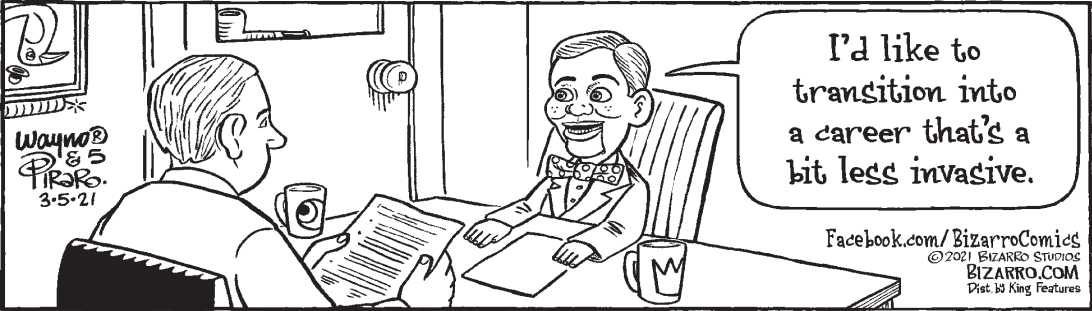
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3			4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
12					13				14				
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38						39	40			41	42	43	44
					45				46		47		
48	49	50	51								52		
53							54				55		
56							57				58		

- ACROSS
- 1 "CSI" find
- 4 West of Hollywood
- 7 Place for a watch
- 12 "Shiny Happy People" band
- 13 Non-Rx
- 14 Book after Daniel
- 15 French assent
- 16 Pop up in someone's picture
- 18 Assoc.
- 19 Justice Sotomayor
- 20 Challah unit
- 22 Chic, to Austin Powers
- 23 Pearl Harbor site
- 27 "Norma —"
- 29 Aerie builders
- 31 Farm units
- 34 Andean beast
- 35 Partner in marriage
- 37 Fr. holy woman
- 38 Full house, e.g.
- 39 Make lace
- 41 Colorless
- 45 Discard
- 47 French article
- 48 Jaw-dropping shocker
- 52 Ad- — (improvise)
- 53 Start
- 54 Hearty brew
- 55 Punk-rock subgenre
- 56 Painter of ballerinas
- 57 Nine-digit ID issuer
- 58 Enervate
- 25 Height of fashion?
- 26 Dos Passos trilogy
- 28 Ninny
- 30 Flight stat
- 31 Fire sign?
- 32 Tax pro
- 33 Director Howard
- 36 Engrave
- 37 Stable enclosures
- 40 Locales
- 42 Game sheet info
- 43 Jung's inner self
- 44 Jazz genre
- 45 Bygone fliers
- 46 Entreaty
- 48 Physique
- 49 Undivided
- 50 Flavor enhancer, for short
- 51 Actress Arthur

Answer to Previous Puzzle

F	A	B		A	V	E	R		S	P	E	W
O	W	E		V	I	L	E		C	E	D	E
B	E	R	N	A	N	K	E		A	R	I	A
		T	O	T		S	V	E	L	T	E	R
R	A	H	R	A	H		E	S	P			
E	L	I		R	I	P		C	E	R	E	S
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O	R	E	L		C	U	C	U	M	B	E	R
A	M	A	N		C	H	A	T		E	M	O
T	Y	P	E		A	R	T	Y		R	U	T

3-5

CRYPTOQUIP

GXJW VLCXW TIVAZIYU OJPP J

BADIGDAY EXIWICBJEXAB GXI

XJT ZAOIVA J OAPAZBLWU? J

TXIIWLDC TWJB.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DIMWITTED CANADIAN CARTOON CHARACTER WHO'S A REALLY HANDSOME, MACHO GUY: STUDLY DO-RIGHT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals R



Frazz



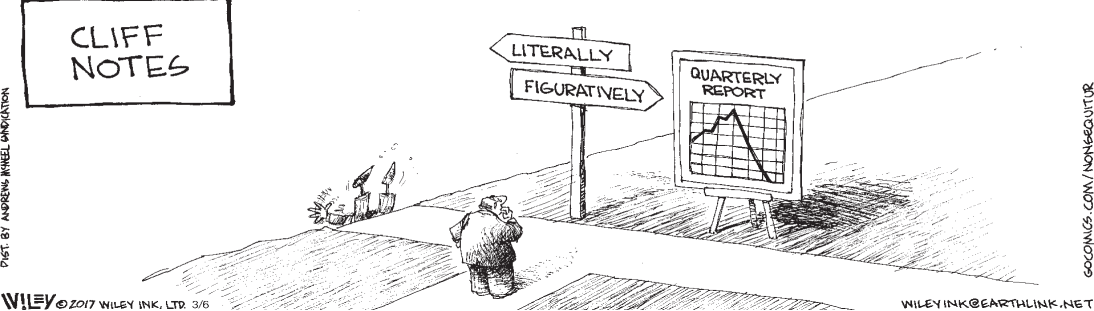
Dilbert



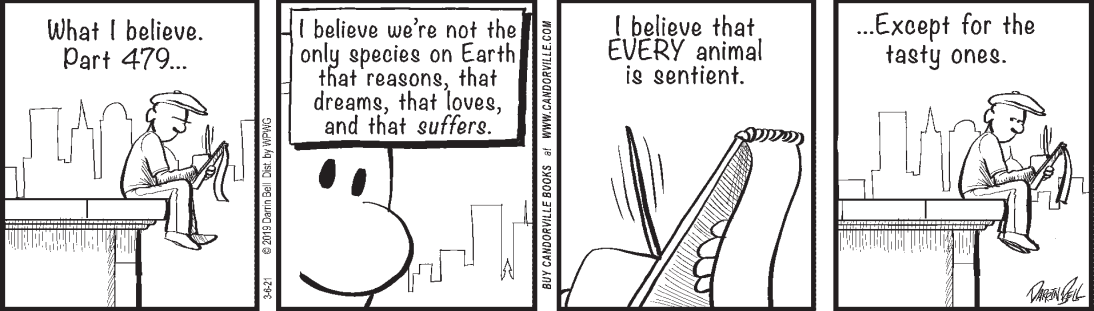
Pearls Before Swine



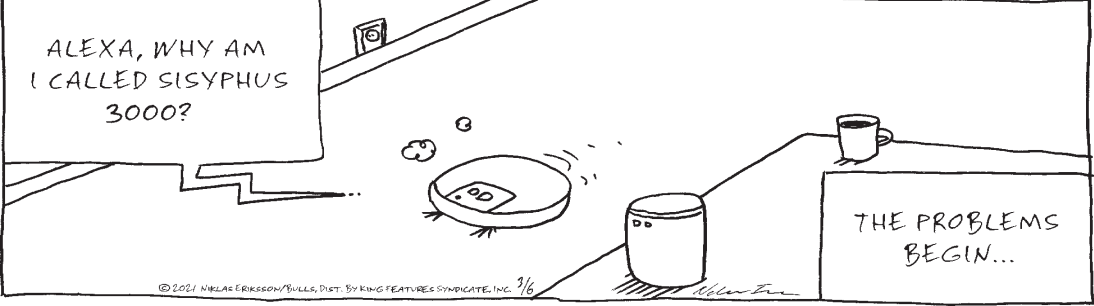
Non Sequitur



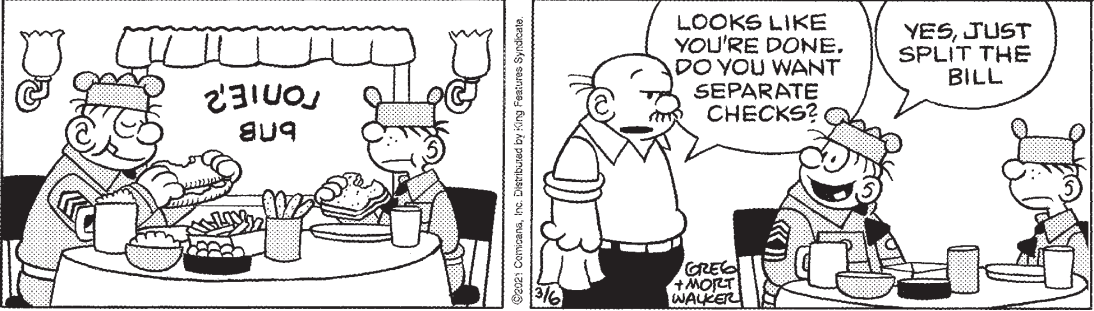
Candorville



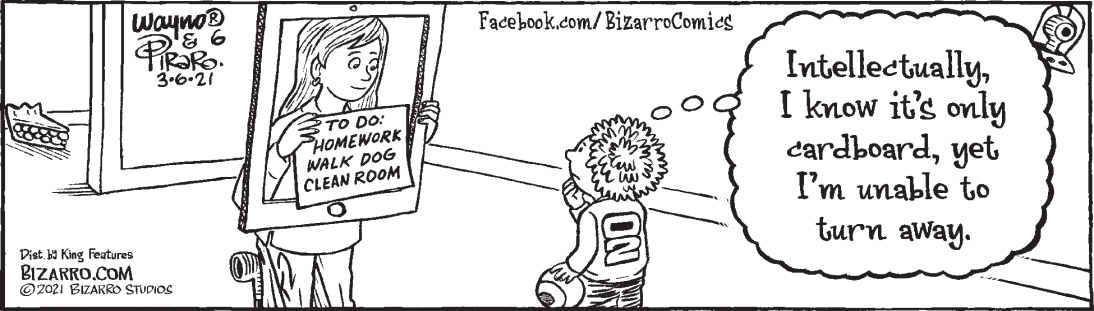
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45					46					47		
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

- ACROSS
- 52 Monopoly card
- 53 Sailor's assent
- 24 Fun and games
- 25 Consume
- 26 Satchel
- 27 Cushion
- 28 Salt Lake athlete
- 29 Part of MPH
- 31 Tracked down
- 32 "Kon- —"
- 34 "— Kapital"
- 35 Tied the knot
- 36 Donnybrook
- 37 "Frasier" pooch
- 38 Stroll
- 39 Victor's cry
- 40 Plane part
- 41 Central point
- 42 California valley
- 43 Online
- 44 Money maven
- Orman
- DOWN
- 1 Adult silkworm
- 2 Lima's land
- 3 Tennis great
- Steffi
- 4 Stopped
- 5 World record?
- 6 Ollie's pal
- 7 Backyard
- play area
- 8 Show
- indifference
- 9 Challah unit
- 10 "Dream on!"
- 11 Hair goops
- 19 Envelope part
- 20 Glutton
- 23 Bikini half

Answer to Previous Puzzle

D	N	A		M	A	E		W	R	I	S	T
R	E	M		O	T	C		H	O	S	E	A
O	U	I		P	H	O	T	O	B	O	M	B
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S	P	O	U	S	E		S	T	E			
H	A	N	D		T	A	T		D	R	A	B
				S	C	R	A	P		U	N	E
B	O	M	B	S	H	E	L	L		L	I	B
O	N	S	E	T		A	L	E		E	M	O
D	E	G	A	S		S	S	A		S	A	P

3-6 CRYPTOQUIP

BE IIWKUI'G XMF LIUI M

RKUGI BOGCIMN KE M YIMU,

ZMWYI RI LKVFN YI OMZIN

LRBOOW CRI XKKR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT SOMEBODY CALL A RENOWNED PHOTOGRAPHER WHO HAS BECOME A CELEBRITY? A SHOOTING STAR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals Y





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OPINION

In a bureaucracy no one has the answers

By ROBIN GIVHAN  
 The Washington Post

The federal bureaucracy came to a hearing room on Capitol Hill to explain itself. It failed.  
 On Wednesday afternoon, a quartet of witnesses gave testimony before a joint committee in the Senate about the security failures at the U.S. Capitol building on Jan. 6. These men and women, with their sober presence and affinity for acronyms, perfectly personified the blurry, confusing, often impenetrable — occasionally well-intentioned — officialdom in which they work. During all of the questioning and the awkward answering, there was little plain talk about biases built into the system — about minorities, about leftists, about people who call themselves patriots — and how they influence perceptions of danger, which means they barely discussed what happened at all.  
 They sat at a black-draped table. The three civilians formed a gray triptych of governmental regrets and promises to follow-up on an array of questions. The major general, his uniform adorned with a mosaic of colorful ribbons, sat at the end of the table and made a good-faith effort not to place blame where blame so clearly belonged.  
 The four-hour hearing sent the attentive citizen plummeting into a governmental morass in which no one was responsible for the calamities of that infamous day because no one was apparently in charge. The buck never stopped — least of all with the assistants and senior officials and acting undersecretaries in the hot seat. It certainly didn't come to a halt at the feet of the senators asking the questions, specifically Josh Hawley, R-Mo., and Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who stoked the mob that stormed the Capitol to overturn the election, for which both Hawley and Cruz voted. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., for his part, continues working hard to reimagine the violent insurrection as an afternoon of dress-up with a few rowdy knuckle-

heads by reading selective eyewitness narratives into the public record.  
 Other senators peppered the witnesses with pointed questions, one of the most reasonable being why the FBI did not seem to grasp the level of violence that was likely to occur that day. Jill Sanborn, the assistant director of the FBI's counterterrorism division, testified that agents do not follow public social media conversations. This lack of Twitter knowledge was pointed to as a mitigating factor in explaining why pretty much everyone except the FBI seemed well aware that serious trouble was brewing on the day Congress met to certify the 2020 election.  
 Robert Salesses, whose last name more than one senator could not get right even though it was printed out in big bold letters on a placard in front of him, is performing the duties of the assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense and global security. That is the sort of convoluted, explanatory title that only the government could have come up with, and one that could easily symbolize the tangle of officials and agencies and non-responsible parties involved in this epic security breach. Salesses could not explain in clear terms why it took more than three hours for the Defense Department to dispatch the District of Columbia National Guard to the Capitol, in part, because he was not on the phone call during which law enforcement requested the Guard — a fact that raised the question: Why was Salesses even at the hearing if he couldn't — or wouldn't — answer this most fundamental question?  
 Also in attendance was Melissa Smislova, acting undersecretary in the Office of Intelligence and Analysis at the Department of Homeland Security, who basically admitted that officials screwed up and that her job is hard — two facts no one seriously disputed.  
 Rounding out the bureaucratic representation was Maj. Gen. William Walker, who is the commander of the D.C. National Guard. He came to the hearing with a sheath of notes and

memos from which he quoted and was the only one at the witness table who was definitive about what unfolded and what went wrong, mainly because everything that transpired within the chain of command seemed to have been aimed at preventing him from doing the one thing he was trying to do, which was to get the go-ahead to send his uniformed men and women to the U.S. Capitol as quickly as possible.  
 "I just came to the conclusion that eventually I'm going to get approval," Walker said. And so he had his troops board buses and wait for the yes command. "Seconds mattered." When the buses could finally pull away, members of the National Guard arrived at the Capitol in 18 minutes, he said.  
 It was a frustrating hearing, if only because everyone seemed to be spinning in circles explaining how things unfolded, but no one could really get to the heart of why. No one drilled down on whether race influenced how dangerous authorities perceived the mostly white crowd to be. Did all the flags and declarations of patriotism slow the reaction time? Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., asked the witnesses to explain the difference in how law enforcement was deployed during the racial-justice demonstrations over the summer of 2020 compared with how it was used during the protest on the Ellipse that preceded the Capitol riot. Sanborn explained the difference by noting that precedent dictated each response, which was to suggest that rallies similar to the one that occurred on Jan. 6 with Trump followers and extremist groups had not in the past sparked violence, which is simply not true. Smislova just said there was no comparison. No similarities. Nothing to discuss.  
 The bureaucracy would not second-guess itself. There would be no follow-up. It was ready to move things along.

Robin Givhan is The Washington Post's senior critic-at-large writing about politics, race and the arts.

Emergency price gouging curbs can be detrimental

By GAVIN ROBERTS  
 AND RIK CHAKRABORTI  
 Tribune News Service

One year ago, California and Hawaii were the first states to announce emergency declarations to fight COVID-19. In doing so, they activated preexisting price gouging regulations. The reasoning, California Gov. Gavin Newsom claimed, was so that "consumers (will be) able to purchase what they need, at a fair price." Unfortunately, for some of those consumers that fair price cost them their lives.  
 Thirty-nine more states and the District of Columbia, including 11 states who didn't have previous legislation, subsequently activated price gouging regulations over the next month for health and safety reasons. The main goal of this policy, as it has been since New York enacted the first of its kind in 1979, was to make goods broadly available at low prices during a public emergency. But at what cost?  
 According to our new research, last year, that cost increased the spread of COVID-19. You may recall early on in the pandemic the phenomenon of panic shopping and hoarding. It might have taken you multiple trips to the store, causing you to be in contact with an increased number of people, to find even the smallest amounts of two-ply toilet

paper or a tiny bottle of hand sanitizer. You were not alone. Our research looked at how many individuals people came into contact with both before and after these laws were enacted. The data shows that the average individual in states with price gouging laws had more contact in commercial spaces than in states without these regulations. What they tried to do was stabilize prices, but what they actually did was subsidize hoarders and increase the number of coronavirus cases, and in turn, coronavirus-related deaths.  
 On average, the increased social contacts in these states accounted for one out of every four deaths per day in the month of April. Adding insult to injury, it is clear the burden was not shared equally. The highest-income households were able to spend more of their income in order to have less contact with people, in turn decreasing their risk of exposure. They utilized delivery apps like Postmates and TaskRabbit. They also had jobs that allowed them to work from home more easily than some essential workers, like grocery store clerks or gas station attendants. Clearly, price gouging regulations helped undermine virus mitigation efforts, often hurting the poorest among us.  
 If the intended goal is to provide sufficient quantities of essential goods, in the midst of an emergency, there has to be a safer and more effective path forward, but that means

state policymakers need to have some flexibility in their decision-making processes. There's no doubt lawmakers are in a difficult position, but they can make safer and more innovative choices. Some of the best ideas come from people working in industries most affected by these regulations. For example, in Denmark, one grocer was able to prevent hoarding by charging consumers a higher price if they intended to purchase a second bottle of hand sanitizer, proving there are ways to stop the spread of the virus while making sure people have the goods they need without trading one at the expense of the other.  
 As we continue to contemplate the deaths of 500,000 Americans, we need to examine all policies — no matter the justification — ensuring they achieve their intended goals.  
 Policymakers in states with price gouging laws have a clear trade-off before them: they can try to stabilize prices or they can mitigate the spread of a virus. But trying to do both simply doesn't work well. In this case, the choice is an easy one, remove the regulations and let prices temporarily rise.

Gavin Roberts and Rik Chakraborti are the authors of "How Price-Gouging Regulation Undermined COVID-19 Mitigation," published by the Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University. Gavin is an assistant professor of economics at Weber State University and Rik is an assistant professor of economics at Christopher Newport University.



SCOREBOARD/NFL

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Wednesday's men's scores

**EAST**  
Boston U. 69, Lehigh 58  
George Washington 53, Fordham 49  
Penn St. 84, Minnesota 65  
Saint Joseph's 72, La Salle 66  
St. John's 81, Providence 67  
Syracuse 64, Clemson 54  
UConn 69, Seton Hall 58  
Villanova 72, Creighton 60  
Wagner 64, Merrimack 59

**SOUTH**  
Belmont 78, SIU-Edwardsville 61  
Florida A&M 65, NC Central 58  
Florida St. 93, Boston College 64  
Louisiana Tech 99, Our Lady of the Lake 66  
Missouri 72, Florida 70  
Morehead St. 61, SE Missouri 54  
New Orleans 92, Northwestern St. 83  
Wichita St. 78, Tulane 70

**MIDWEST**  
NC State 80, Notre Dame 69  
Northwestern 60, Maryland 55

**SOUTHWEST**  
Abilene Christian 63, Stephen F. Austin 61  
Cent. Arkansas 88, SE Louisiana 71  
Houston Baptist 72, Incarnate Word 67  
Mississippi St. 63, Texas A&M 57  
Sam Houston St. 84, Texas A&M-CC 61

**FAR WEST**  
Colorado St. 87, New Mexico 73  
Idaho St. 68, E. Washington 63  
Oregon 82, UCLA 74  
Oregon St. 75, Utah 70  
San Diego St. 71, UNLV 62  
Southern Cal 79, Stanford 42

Wednesday's women's scores

**EAST**  
Buffalo 75, Miami (Ohio) 70

**SOUTH**  
Belmont 54, Austin Peay 50  
Boston College 67, Pittsburgh 56  
Campbell 52, UNC-Asheville 51  
Florida 69, Auburn 62  
New Orleans 65, Northwestern St. 48  
Nicholls 71, McNeese St. 68  
Norfolk St. 83, NC Central 64  
Presbyterian 67, Winthrop 50  
UT Martin 65, E. Illinois 56

**MIDWEST**  
Akron 71, Ohio 67  
Bowling Green 82, Kent St. 65  
Cent. Michigan 87, Ball St. 81, 2OT  
Indiana 89, Iowa 80  
Iowa St. 83, Kansas 53  
N. Illinois 75, E. Michigan 66  
Toledo 82, W. Michigan 73  
West Virginia 72, Kansas St. 64

**SOUTHWEST**  
Cent. Arkansas 44, SE Louisiana 43  
Incarnate Word 68, Houston Baptist 59  
Sam Houston St. 64, Texas A&M-CC 47  
Stephen F. Austin 82, Abilene Christian 55  
Utah Valley 67, Tarleton St. 54

**FAR WEST**  
Montana St. 61, Sacramento St. 57  
N. Colorado 84, Weber St. 60  
Nevada 59, Air Force 56  
Oregon St. 71, California 63  
S. Utah 58, Portland St. 51  
Southern Cal 71, Arizona St. 65  
Washington 68, Colorado 54  
Washington St. 57, Utah 48

AP SPORTLIGHT

March 5

**1924** — Frank Carauta, of Buffalo, N.Y., becomes the first to bowl two straight perfect 300 games. Carauta throws five strikes to open his third game, giving him 29 straight strikes.

**1931** — WGL radio broadcasts the first game of the American Basketball League championship series. The Brooklyn Visitations beat the Fort Wayne Hoosiers 14-10 in the first professional basketball game to be broadcast live on radio.

**1981** — Scott Hamilton wins the men's title at the World Figure Skating Championships held in Hartford, Conn.

**1985** — Mike Bossy of the New York Islanders scores his 50th goal, becoming the first NHL player to score 50 goals in eight consecutive seasons.

**2004** — Ottawa and Philadelphia combine for an NHL-record 419 penalty minutes, with the Flyers setting a single-team mark with 213. There are five consecutive brawls in the final two minutes, including one involving both goalies. The previous record for penalty minutes was 406 by the Minnesota North Stars and Boston Bruins in 1981. The Flyers beat the Senators 5-3.

**2016** — Makai Mason scores 22 points to lead Yale to a 71-55 victory over Columbia, clinching the Bulldogs' first NCAA Men's Tournament bid since 1962. The Bulldogs shared the Ivy championship last year with Harvard, but lost the playoff game with the Crimson. The win ends the second longest NCAA drought of any team that has made the tournament previously.

**2016** — Clemson beats Boston College 66-50, completing the Eagles' winless regular season in Atlantic Coast Conference play. The Eagles (7-24, 0-18) are the first men's ACC team to go winless in their conference regular-season games since Maryland went 0-14 in 1986-87. Worse, BC's football team went 0-8 in league play, making the school the first in ACC history to go winless in both sports in the same academic year.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Friday's game

**EAST**  
Albany (NY) at New Hampshire

Saturday's games

**EAST**  
Maine at Delaware  
Villanova at Stony Brook

**SOUTH**  
ETSU (1-0) at Wofford (1-1), ppd.  
VMI (1-0) at W. Carolina (0-5)  
Chattanooga (1-1) at The Citadel (0-5)  
Samford (1-1) at Furman (1-1)  
Presbyterian at Gardner-Webb (1-0)  
William & Mary at Richmond  
Jackson St. (1-0) at Grambling St.  
James Madison (2-0) at Elon (1-1)  
Ark.-Pine Bluff at Southern U. (1-0)  
Nicholls (2-0) at Northwestern St.  
McNeese St. (1-1) at SE Louisiana (0-1)  
Alabama A&M at MVSU, ppd.

**MIDWEST**  
S. Illinois (2-1) at Youngstown St. (0-2)  
W. Illinois (0-1) at S. Dakota St. (1-1)  
N. Dakota St. (2-1) at Missouri St. (1-3)  
Illinois St. (0-1) at N. Iowa (1-1)

**SOUTHWEST**  
Mississippi College at Tarleton St. (1-2)  
Incarnate Word (1-0) at Lamar (0-1)  
Texas Southern at Prairie View

**FAR WEST**  
Weber St. (1-0) at Cal Poly, ppd.  
Idaho St. (0-1) at S. Utah (0-1)  
UC Davis at Idaho (1-0)  
N. Arizona (1-0) at E. Washington (0-1)

Sunday's games

**EAST**  
Wagner at Merrimack College, ppd.  
Sacred Heart at Duquesne  
Bryant at LIU

**SOUTH**  
E. Illinois (0-1) at UT Martin (0-1)  
Jacksonville St. (4-1) at Tennessee St. (0-1)

**MIDWEST**  
Murray St. (1-0) at SE Missouri (1-1)

**FAR WEST**  
Dixie State (1-0) vs. New Mexico St. (0-1) at El Paso, Texas

PRO BASEBALL

Spring training

**Tuesday's games**  
Detroit 6, Pittsburgh 1  
Boston 9, Tampa Bay 3  
Atlanta 6, Minnesota 0  
N.Y. Yankees 4, Baltimore 2  
St. Louis 0, Miami 0  
Toronto 4, Philadelphia 2  
N.Y. Mets 2, Houston 0  
Chicago Cubs 3, Kansas City 2  
Texas 5, Chicago White Sox 5  
Cleveland 6, Seattle 1  
Oakland 2, Milwaukee 1  
San Diego 7, Arizona 2  
Cincinnati 7, L.A. Angels 5  
L.A. Dodgers 1, San Francisco 1

**Wednesday's games**  
St. Louis 14, N.Y. Mets 9  
Tampa Bay 3, Pittsburgh 1  
Boston 14, Minnesota 6  
Philadelphia 4, Detroit 2  
Baltimore 8, Atlanta 1  
Miami 8, Washington 5  
Seattle 8, Chicago Cubs 8  
Kansas City 6, Chicago White Sox 5  
Arizona 9, Cleveland 4  
Milwaukee 8, San Diego 5  
Colorado 10, Oakland 7  
L.A. Angels 6, Texas 2  
N.Y. Yankees 4, Toronto 1  
Cincinnati 4, L.A. Dodgers 4

**Thursday's games**  
Boston vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla.  
Toronto vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.  
Tampa Bay vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.

Atlanta vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.  
N.Y. Yankees vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla.  
Washington vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.  
San Diego vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.  
Chicago White Sox vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
Colorado vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.  
Cleveland vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix  
L.A. Angels vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
St. Louis vs. Houston at West Palm Beach, Fla.  
Kansas City vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz.  
Chicago Cubs vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz.

**Friday's games**  
Tampa Bay vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.  
Pittsburgh vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla.  
Minnesota vs. Atlanta at North Port, Fla.  
Detroit vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.  
Houston vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla.  
Baltimore vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla.  
L.A. Dodgers vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.  
Seattle vs. Chicago White Sox at Glendale, Ariz.  
L.A. Angels vs. Oakland at Mesa, Ariz.  
Cleveland vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.  
Milwaukee vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
St. Louis vs. Washington at West Palm Beach, Fla.  
Arizona vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz.  
San Francisco vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.

TENNIS

Lyon Open

**Wednesday**  
**At Palais des Sports Gerland**  
**Lyon, France**  
**Purse: Euro 189,708**  
**Surface: Hardcourt indoor**  
**Women's Singles**  
**Round of 32**  
Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, def. Vera Lapko, Belarus, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.  
Clara Burel, France, def. Alize Cornet (5), France, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3.

**Women's Singles**  
**Round of 16**  
Clara Tauson, Denmark, def. Timea Babos, Hungary, 6-2, 6-3.  
Fiona Ferro (2), France, def. Tereza Martincova, Czech Republic, 6-2, 4-1, ret.  
Camila Giorgi, Italy, def. Nina Stojanovic, Serbia, 2-6, 6-1, 7-6 (5).

**Women's Doubles**  
**Round of 16**  
Renata Voracova, Czech Republic, and Makoto Ninomiya (2), Japan, def. Katarzyna Kawa and Magdalena Frech, Poland, 6-2, 6-4.  
Laura-Ioana Paar, Romania, and Julia Wachaczyk, Germany, def. Margarita Gasparyan, Russia, and Cornelia Lister, Sweden, 6-4, 6-2.  
Eugenie Bouchard, Canada, and Olga Danilovic, Serbia, def. Sabrina Santamaria and Kaitlyn Christian (3), United States, 6-3, 6-4.

**Women's Doubles**  
**Quarterfinals**  
Lidziya Marozava, Belarus, and Anna Danilina, Kazakhstan, def. Yana Sizikova and Ekaterina Alexandrova (4), Russia, 6-1, 6-4.

ABN AMRO World Tournament

**Wednesday**  
**At Ahoy Rotterdam**  
**Rotterdam, Netherlands**  
**Purse: Euro 980,580**  
**Surface: Hardcourt indoor**  
**Men's Singles**  
**Round of 32**

Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, def. Alexander Zverev (3), Germany, 7-5, 6-3.  
Tommy Paul, United States, def. Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, 6-4, 7-6 (7).  
David Goffin (6), Belgium, def. Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, 6-4, 6-0.  
Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, def. Daniil Medvedev (1), Russia, 7-6 (4), 6-4.  
Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, Spain, def. Roberto Bautista Agut (5), Spain, 6-2, 7-6 (3).

**Men's Singles**  
**Round of 16**  
Kei Nishikori, Japan, def. Alex de Minaur, Australia, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5.  
Andrey Rublev (4), Russia, def. Andy Murray, Britain, 7-5, 6-2.  
Karen Khachanov, Russia, def. Cameron Norrie, Britain, 6-2, 6-2.

**Men's Doubles**  
**Round of 16**  
Stefanos Tsitsipas and Petros Tsitsipas, Greece, def. Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen, Belgium, 6-2, 6-3.  
Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, and Henri Kontinen, Finland, def. Robert Farah and Juan Sebastian Cabal (1), Colombia, 4-6, 6-3, 11-9.

**Men's Doubles**  
**Quarterfinals**  
Fabrice Martin and Jeremy Chardy, France, def. Lukasz Kubot, Poland, and

DEALS

Wednesday's transactions

**BASEBALL**  
**Major League Baseball**  
**American League**  
**BALTIMORE ORIOLAS** — Named Gary Kendall manager, Kennie Steenstra pitching coach, Tim Gibbons hitting coach, Ramon Sambo fundamentals coach, Malcom Holland development coach, Chris Poole athletic trainer and Trey Weidman strength and conditioning coach for Norfolk (Triple-A East); Buck Britton manager, Justin Ramsey pitching coach, Ryan Fuller hitting coach, Jeff Kunkel fundamentals coach, Marty Brinker athletic coach and Jon Medici strength and conditioning coach for Bowie (Double-A Northeast); Kyle Moore manager, Josh Conway pitching coach, Tom Eller hitting coach, Tim DeJohn fundamentals coach, Ryan Goll development coach and Adam Sparks athletic trainer for Aberdeen (High-A East); Dave Anderson manager, Robbie Aviles pitching coach, Patrick Jones hitting coach, Matt Packer fundamentals coach, David Barry development coach, Gary Smith athletic trainer and Liz Pardo strength and conditioning coach for Delmarva (Low-A East); Kevin Bradshaw and Alan Mills managers, Adam Bleday and Joe Haumacher pitching coaches, Brandon Becker and Anthony Villa hitting coaches, Christian Frias and Collin Woody fundamentals coaches, Adam Schuck development coach, Alikis Lorie athletic trainer and Brandon Farish strength and conditioning coach for the Complex League staff.  
**LOS ANGELES ANGELS** — Optioned LHP Jose Quijada to Salt Lake (Triple-A West).  
**NEW YORK YANKEES** — Announced manager Aaron Boone to take immediate leave of absence for medical reasons and named Carlos Mendoza acting manager.  
**National League**  
**MIAMI MARLINS** — Agreed to terms with LHP Glo Gonzalez on a minor league contract.  
**FOOTBALL**  
**National Football League**  
**ARIZONA CARDINALS** — Signed DE J.J.

Jets may be open to trading Darnold

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sam Darnold's time as the face of the New York Jets franchise might be nearing a disappointing end.

The 23-year-old quarterback was considered an untouchable player on the roster only a year ago. General manager Joe Douglas has backed off that stance, though, and it could signal a major change at the position as free agency and the NFL Draft approach.

"I will answer the call if it's made," Douglas said Wednesday when asked if he'd listen to offers for Darnold. "As it pertains to Sam, Sam's, we think, a dynamic player in this league with unbelievable talent and who really, really has a chance to really hit his outstanding potential moving forward.

"But, you know, like I said earlier, if calls are made, I will answer."

Douglas' comments during a video call that included new coach Robert Saleh marked the first time the GM directly acknowledged being willing to trade Darnold. And that has the quarterback's future with the Jets murky — just three years after being hailed as a potential long-term solution at a position that has long lacked consistent production.

"Our stance on Sam hasn't changed," Douglas insisted. "He's an extremely talented player and he's very smart, very tough. And we have no doubt that Sam is going to achieve his outstanding potential. Obviously, we're in the process of getting as much information as we can leading up through free agency and the draft."

Then-GM Mike Maccagnan traded up in the draft to select Darnold with the No. 3 overall pick in 2018, but the quarterback has not lived up to those lofty expectations because of inconsistency and injuries. Former coach Adam Gase acknowledged he didn't help Darnold enough to thrive, and the Jets lacked play-making talent to help him take the next step in his development.

New York currently holds the No. 2 overall pick in the draft next month, and BYU's Zach Wilson and Ohio State's Justin Fields are among the names being mentioned as options for the Jets.



Darnold



# NHL

## AROUND THE NHL

# No fun NHL? Well, not exactly

Players say restrictions make them appreciate the sport that much more

By Stephen Whyno  
Associated Press

Instead of going out to dinner with his fiancée after coming home from practice, Brandon Carlo takes his dogs on long walks to get out of the house and enjoy some fresh air.

“It’s nice that I can still do those things,” the Boston defenseman said.

NHL players and their families are limited in what things they can do this season by coronavirus protocols designed to keep them safe and games on track, and those rules go further than other leagues. There aren’t NHL-approved restaurants to frequent on the road like in the NBA, and players are limited to their home or the team hotel and the rink except for emergencies, so there isn’t much to do outside of playing hockey.

“Hockey’s our life, for sure,” Philadelphia’s Kevin Hayes said. “It’s what we get paid to do. It’s how we make a living. But now that you actually can’t do anything else, it definitely makes you appreciate it more.”

It has never been easier for players to say they’re doing it for the love of the game, especially given that 20% of their paychecks are being held in escrow and 10% deferred to future years because of pandemic revenue losses. Already strict protocols were updated in February to “strongly recommended that household members limit their discretionary activities outside of the home” and encourage things like grocery and food delivery to reduce public contact.

Restricting some personal freedom, players say, is a worthwhile price to pay to get to earn a six- or seven-figure salary.

“It’s tough, a little bit, but we’re so lucky to be able to come into the rink and do what we love to do and be working,” Edmonton captain and league-leading scorer Connor McDavid said. “We don’t forget about that.”

It’s still an unnatural existence, confined to the rink and the hotel on the road and encouraged not to leave home much the rest of the time. Though, as Stanley Cup-winning Tampa Bay forward Tyler Johnson pointed out, “This is way better than the bubble life” that was required to complete the 2020 playoffs.

Now, it’s more of a balancing act for players, who know what they’re missing and have their eyes on the prize this season.



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Vegas Golden Knights right wing Mark Stone, right, celebrates after left wing Max Pacioretty, left, scored against the Minnesota Wild on Monday in Las Vegas. With little to do outside the rink, players say they appreciate being kept busy with games.

## “Hockey’s our life, for sure. ... It’s how we make a living. But now that you actually can’t do anything else, it definitely makes you appreciate it more.”

Kevin Hayes  
Philadelphia Flyers center

“You definitely miss the moments, especially with new guys, of being able to go out to dinner, have a couple drinks and just interact with their spouses, as well,” Carlo said. “That’s definitely missed and it’s been a hard adjustment, but for the most part during the year, I feel like we’re pretty dialed in to hockey and we kind of just want to get our rest when we can. On those days off, it definitely becomes longer.”

Calgary captain Mark Giordano said, “Trying to find ways to break up your day is the No. 1 challenge” this season. Washington’s Nicklas Backstrom said the activities vary to pass the time alone in hotel rooms: “There’s video games, movies, stuff like that. You’ve just got to adjust to it, I think, for now.”

Adjust but not complain. McDavid and Giordano said there will be none of that, given the havoc the virus has wreaked on life and work around the globe. And the focus on hockey isn’t such a bad thing with so many games packed into a condensed schedule.

“We’re so busy with games every other day, so a lot of the times

we’re just trying to prepare for that next one and getting your body rested and recovered,” Johnson said. “Even if we could be doing stuff, I don’t know how much we really would be.”

### No road Blues

The St. Louis Blues have won eight of their first 10 road games. Defenseman Justin Faulk said even though players haven’t being able to enjoy a postgame “soda” together and hang out away from the rink, the on-ice product is working.

“Our team’s comfortable being on the road,” Faulk said. “It doesn’t bother us. ... You’re very limited on what you can do, but we’re still trying to enjoy our time around each other and try to create as much of team chemistry as we can on the road with what we’re limited to.”

### Scuffling Sabres

The Buffalo Sabres are in yet another seemingly annual tailspin, and no one appears to have an explanation of how they might escape it.

“I don’t have a cliché answer for you,” captain Jack Eichel said Sunday, after the Sabres dropped back-to-back 3-0 shutouts to the Philadelphia Flyers last weekend. “If we had answers, I think we would be spitting them out.”

The Sabres are on a 2-8-1 skid after losing Tuesday night at the New York Rangers, ranking last in the NHL with 44 goals in 20 games.

Second-year coach Ralph Krueger is running out of answers, and his messaging has been placed in question. With first-time general manager Kevyn Adams declining media requests, speculation is rising regarding Krueger’s status, and whether Eichel might be on the trade block.

### COVID-19 update

The NHL on Tuesday reached a season best with three players on the COVID-19 protocol list. All three are stars — Pittsburgh’s Sidney Crosby, Nashville’s Ryan Johansen and San Jose’s Tomas Hertl — but the rules appear to be working to cut down on cases and outbreaks.

“As I said to our players, we can do all the right things and this kind of stuff could happen,” Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. “The other thing I would say is just because someone’s on the COVID protocol list doesn’t necessarily mean that they have COVID.”

### Game of the week

The first game in Philadelphia with fans this season comes Sunday when the Flyers host the Capitals in front of just over 3,000 fans.

## Scoreboard

East Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	22	13	5	4	30	75	70
N.Y. Islanders	22	12	6	4	28	58	50
Boston	20	12	5	3	27	60	52
Philadelphia	19	11	5	3	25	63	59
Pittsburgh	21	12	8	1	25	65	67
N.Y. Rangers	20	8	9	3	19	53	54
New Jersey	18	7	9	2	16	46	54
Buffalo	20	6	11	3	15	46	60

Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	20	15	4	1	31	71	39
Carolina	22	15	6	1	31	76	60
Florida	21	13	4	4	30	67	60
Chicago	23	12	7	4	28	73	68
Columbus	24	9	10	5	23	66	78
Nashville	22	10	12	0	20	51	68
Detroit	25	7	15	3	17	52	82
Dallas	17	6	7	4	16	46	47

West Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	19	14	4	1	29	61	41
St. Louis	23	13	8	2	28	75	73
Colorado	20	12	7	1	25	61	48
Minnesota	20	12	7	1	25	62	54
Arizona	22	10	9	3	23	59	66
Los Angeles	21	9	8	4	22	62	59
San Jose	20	8	10	2	18	59	77
Anaheim	23	6	12	5	17	48	69

North Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	24	18	4	2	38	87	56
Winnipeg	22	14	7	1	29	74	59
Edmonton	25	14	11	0	28	80	78
Montreal	21	10	6	5	25	68	61
Calgary	23	10	11	2	22	59	70
Vancouver	26	9	15	2	20	74	90
Ottawa	25	8	16	1	17	67	95

#### Wednesday's games

Toronto 6, Edmonton 1  
Arizona 3, Los Angeles 2  
Colorado 4, San Jose 0  
Washington 2, Boston 1, SO  
St. Louis 3, Anaheim 2  
Vegas 5, Minnesota 1

#### Thursday's games

Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders  
Detroit at Carolina  
N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey  
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh  
Winnipeg at Montreal  
Florida at Nashville  
Tampa Bay at Chicago  
Columbus at Dallas  
Ottawa at Calgary  
Toronto at Vancouver

#### Friday's games

Washington at Boston  
Tampa Bay at Chicago  
Anaheim at Colorado  
Minnesota at Arizona  
St. Louis at Los Angeles  
Vegas at San Jose

#### Saturday's games

Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders  
N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey  
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh  
Florida at Nashville  
Minnesota at Arizona  
Toronto at Vancouver  
Winnipeg at Montreal  
Anaheim at Colorado  
Columbus at Dallas  
St. Louis at Los Angeles  
Calgary at Edmonton  
Vegas at San Jose

#### Sunday's games

Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders  
Tampa Bay at Chicago  
Florida at Carolina  
New Jersey at Boston  
Washington at Philadelphia  
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh  
Nashville at Dallas  
Ottawa at Calgary

#### Monday's games

Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders  
Tampa Bay at Chicago  
Florida at Carolina  
New Jersey at Boston  
Washington at Philadelphia  
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh  
Nashville at Dallas  
Ottawa at Calgary

# 5

The Tampa Bay Lightning, the defending Stanley Cup champions, have won five consecutive games and seven of their past 10 games.

SOURCE: NHL.com



## HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA PACIFIC



KATHLEEN PACLIPAN/Special to Stripes

**Leo Schinker won't get the chance to play his senior baseball season at E.J. King; DODEA Japan schools are limited to conditioning and skills development due to the coronavirus pandemic.**

# Limited spring seasons OK'd

## South Korea approved for 4 sports; Okinawa gets nod for 3

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

While track and field got the go-ahead this week, DODEA Pacific athletes in other spring sports could be practicing by themselves, just getting together with teammates or playing against other schools depending on local conditions.

DODEA's high schools in Korea got the approval to play the four traditional sports offered in the spring: baseball, softball, soccer and track. On Okinawa, baseball, softball and track got the nod, with soccer still being discussed, officials said.

But baseball, softball and soccer teams in DODEA Japan are limited to just conditioning and individual skills development.

While Japan coaches and athletics directors are pushing back against that, DODEA Pacific officials say it's the best they can do at the moment, given the coronavirus pandemic.

Competition is allowed for some schools and districts and not others, "based on what lo-

cal conditions allow and what those conditions are like, and that varies from base to base and within the districts," DODEA Pacific chief of staff Todd Schlitz said.

While understanding the policies are a product of a coronavirus world, coaches and athletics directors in Japan also pointed out that their student-athletes already lost their spring season a year ago and now are faced with losing yet another.

"The proof is in the competition," longtime Yokota athletics director Tim Pujol said. "If you take that away, it's like, 'Coach, why should I keep coming to practice if there's nothing to practice for?'"

On Okinawa, Kubasaki's and Kadena's baseball and softball teams can only play each other, not off-base Japanese teams.

In Korea, Humphreys, Osan and Daegu can face off with each other, but not play their regular Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference schedule against international schools.

And unlike track, no Far East tournaments are scheduled in the other spring sports, DODEA officials said.

Coaches whose teams can at least take the field said it's far better than being limited to just practicing.

"Of course, we're disappointed about Far East, but that's not our decision, though. Way above us," longtime Kubasaki baseball coach Randy Toor said. His team had one game against Kadena last March before schools shuttered for the rest of the spring. "But we're all just happy to be out there on the field."

Okinawa's baseball schedule has Kadena playing Kubasaki on Tuesdays and Thursdays weekly, with softball teams playing Wednesdays and Fridays until April 29. Korea's season schedules are being worked on, DODEA officials said, and will be released when available.

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# Track season to conclude with virtual meet

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

Tyler Gaines and Reagan Cheramie already have Far East cross country titles.

They'll have a chance to add to that cachet: DODEA Pacific announced Wednesday that track and field will join a small amount of Far East events held virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"I'm excited to see what Reagan can do at distances shorter than five kilometers," Yokota coach Dan Galvin said of Cheramie, a sophomore who won the virtual Far East cross country in 19 minutes, 10 seconds. That meet was conducted late last year, with results announced Jan. 9.

Cheramie appears to be a candidate to run the 3,200, 1,600 and perhaps the 800 during track, as might Gaines, an E.J. King freshman who won the boys Far East cross country event in 16:59.

"Right now, we're looking to see where he fits best," Cobras track coach McKinzy Best said.

This will be the 11th DODEA Pacific Far East track and field meet but the first done without all the entrants gathered in one location. That was necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic, which wiped out the 2020 spring sports season entirely.

International schools that traditionally compete with DODEA schools will not be participating. All spring sports are still on hold in Europe.

Yokota athletics director Tim Pujol and Matthew C. Perry coach Jason Perdew will serve as meet directors.

Pujol has directed every Far East meet since 2012. Perdew set



**Left: E.J. King freshman Tyler Gaines won both the boys Division II title and the overall race in DODEA Pacific's Far East cross country meet, held virtually last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. He's projected to run distance events for the Cobras during the Far East virtual track and field meet. Right: Yokota sophomore Reagan Cheramie won the Far East girls cross country title and posted the best time overall, 19 minutes, 10 seconds. She's expected to run distance events in the Far East virtual meet.**

up and scored the Far East Junior ROTC drill meet – also held virtually – earlier this year. Late last month, he made a presentation to

the DODEA Pacific athletics directors regarding virtual Far East track.

"He's the brains behind the vir-



E.J. KING, LEFT, AND GRACE TRUE, RIGHT/For Stars and Stripes

tual track meet concept," Perry athletics director George Williams said.

The meet will be held over two

days -- April 30 and May 1 -- before the two-week Advanced Placement testing period, DODEA Pacific athletics coordinator Tom McKinney said.

"Details are being worked on," he said.

Some school-by-school variables can come into play regarding a virtual meet with athletes competing under different conditions in different locales, longtime Far East meet marshal Bruce Carrick said.

"The sprint variable is wind; it can make a big difference," he said. "Wind can also affect the long jump, and it and shot put and discus can be significantly impacted by judges' measuring practices. Time between throws and jumps is specified in the rules, but are they followed?"

There are other disadvantages for some schools such as Nile C. Kinnick in Japan, which does not have its own track, coach Luke Voth said.

"Without facilities to practice at, we have no chance to truly compete as a team," he said, citing jumpers, hurdlers and throwers as ones being "hurt the most." A solution, Voth said, would be for Kinnick to bus to Zama or Yokota, which have on-campus tracks.

Humphreys is the only Division I school in Korea and that "puts us at a disadvantage if we do not get to run against D-I competition," coach Ron Merriwether said.

Despite those caveats, "track, unlike most sports, can be competed remotely; there is something to compete for," Carrick said.

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# MLB/GOLF/HOUSTON

## Miami playing waiting game

Marlins' top prospects still developing

By Steven Wine  
Associated Press

MIAMI — Miami Marlins outfield prospect Monte Harrison says he surprised himself when he made his major league debut last year.

It wasn't just that he didn't hit; it was how he reacted when he didn't hit.

"I said I was not going to be that guy who gets called up to the big leagues and struggles mentally," Harrison said. "And then when I got to the big leagues, I struggled mentally. That's very humbling."

Harrison's experience wasn't isolated in Miami last season; several other Marlins prospects also scuffled in their first crack at the majors. In fact, while the farm system rebuilt under CEO Derek Jeter brims with young talent, it has yet to produce a hitter who busts out in the majors.

With pitching it's different. The Marlins have stockpiled young arms so successfully their rotation is expected to be the strength of this year's team, with no starter older than 26.

Development of hitters lags. That's baseball. "There are a few young guys who don't struggle; the majority do," Marlins manager Don Mattingly said Wednesday. "There are very few Sotos, Griffey Jrs. and Acunas of the world who are instantly stars. It doesn't happen that often."

For the Jeter regime, instant success hasn't happened at all. Four of the Marlins' top 12 prospects made their MLB debuts last year, and none batted above .170.

Harrison went 8-for-47 with 26 strikeouts. Outfielder Jesús Sánchez went 1-for-25 with 11 strikeouts. First baseman Lewin Díaz went 6-for-39 with 12 strikeouts. Infielder Jazz Chisholm went 9-for-56 with 19 strikeouts.

Other heralded youngsters, including second baseman Isan Díaz and outfielder Mag-



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

The Miami Marlins' Monte Harrison scores on a single hit by Connor Scott during a spring training game against the Washington Nationals on Wednesday in West Palm Beach, Fla.

neuris Sierra, also have been unable to win a starting job.

Outfielder Lewis Brinson feels their pain. A prospect acquired in the Christian Yelich trade with Milwaukee, Brinson has a .189 career average in 761 at-bats, although he did show progress in 2020 and might have a role on this year's team.

His advice for scuffling young hitters? "Embrace that struggle," Brinson said. "Embrace getting slapped, getting humbled a little bit.

"We've killed it in the minors; when you get to the big leagues it's a different ballgame. You can't succeed without failing sometimes. You've got to take your lumps."

Mattingly said he doesn't believe the Marlins have been calling up youngsters too soon. Instead, he thinks the game has changed since 1984, when he won the American League batting title at age 23 by hitting .343.

"There is a bigger separation now between Triple-A and the big leagues," Mattingly said. "It almost always takes that getting slapped, as Lew would say, and then going back and working on your game, and the next time it's usually a little better.

"We're seeing it with Lew. He's making

strides, and it has taken a little bit. Hopefully it's not going to take two or three years with guys, but sometimes that's what it takes."

Or, as Mattingly noted, success may never come. But that's where the Marlins' depth of young talent helps their chances of building on last year's surprising run to their first playoff berth since 2003.

The Marlins remain high on their 2020 rookie class, and even if the entire group flops, there are more young prospects on the way. That includes outfielders JJ Bleday, Kameron Misner, Peyton Burdick and Connor Scott, and shortstop Jose Devers.

Harrison, for one, embraces getting slapped last year. A dynamic player and personality, he failed to make the roster out of camp last summer, and saw only spot duty after later joining the Marlins.

"I think the best thing that ever happened to me was in that time period where I got sent down and called back up and I had to sit on the bench," Harrison said. "The best of Monte will come out. I can't wait for the fans of Miami to see that, and the world."

The Marlins remain confident, too, that they won't continue to strike out with their young hitters.

## Detectives look at 'black box' from Woods crash

By Stefanie Dazio  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Detectives are looking at data from the "black box" of Tiger Woods' SUV to get a clearer picture of what occurred during the Southern California rollover crash that seriously injured the golf star, authorities said Wednesday.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said traffic investigators executed a search warrant Monday to retrieve data from the device from the Genesis SUV that Woods was driving.

There was no immediate information regarding what was found in the black box, Deputy Trina Schrader said in a statement.

The 2021 GV80, made by the Hyundai luxury brand, is likely to have a newer version of event data recorders nicknamed "black boxes" after more sophisticated recorders in airplanes. The devices store a treasure trove of data for authorities to review.

Woods suffered a serious leg injury when the SUV he was driving went off a Los Angeles County road and rolled over on a downhill stretch known for crashes. Sheriff Alex Villanueva said Woods was not drunk and was driving alone in good weather when the SUV hit a raised median, went across oncoming lanes and rolled several times. The crash injured his right leg, requiring surgery.

Deputies will review data from the black box to "see if they can find out what was the performance of the vehicle, what was happening at the time of impact," said Villanueva, who previously faced criticism for almost immediately calling the crash "purely an accident."

During a live social media event on Wednesday, the sheriff said the new data could provide more information on the cause of the accident.

"And that's all it is, and we'll leave it at that," he said.



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

A vehicle rests on its side after a rollover accident involving golfer Tiger Woods on Feb. 23 outside of Los Angeles.

## Wreck: Not much to cheer for lately in Houston

FROM FROM 48

These are uncertain and depressing times for Houston sports fans. Harden's messy departure was just another headline of bad news and the nine-time All-Star joined what has seemed like a mass exodus of superstar athletes from the fifth-largest metropolitan area in the nation.

Standout receiver DeAndre Hopkins was first to go when former Houston Texans coach Bill O'Brien shipped him to Arizona for very little in return. Harden then forced a trade from the Rockets in January and Astros outfielder and 2017 World Series MVP George Springer signed with the Blue Jays about a week later, another blow after the team was embroiled in a cheating scandal.

The biggest blow came when defensive end J.J. Watt asked for and was granted his release from the Texans before joining Hop-

kins in Arizona this week.

And after dealing with all that, fans are now bracing for the possibility they could soon lose Deshaun Watson, too, after the quarterback requested a trade amid turmoil within the Texans. O'Brien was fired after an 0-4 start last season and Houston sank to 4-12 after winning the AFC South the previous two years.

John P. Lopez was a columnist for the Houston Chronicle for 17 years and has hosted a daily show on Sports Radio 610 in Houston since 2007. He said most callers believe the departures of Harden and Springer were inevitable but they are disconsolate about their NFL team — and he can relate: "I legitimately cannot understand how a team that had that much going for it can become this dysfunctional almost overnight."

"Sports are so emotional and personal, and I think people that have identified with the Texans

just feel deceived and let down," Lopez said. "People are legitimately, genuinely just crushed emotionally. They're an emotional wreck that this is happening."

Lopez, like many fans who call in to his show, blames the problems on executive vice president of football operations Jack Easterby, a former chaplain for the Patriots with no personnel experience who gained power in the wake of O'Brien's dismissal. Anger has shifted to owner Cal McNair, who took charge after his father Bob McNair died in 2018.

"McNair, I think, right now is as despised and resented as Bud Adams ever was in this city," Lopez said, referring to the late owner of the Houston Oilers who moved that team to Tennessee.

Watt leaves as one of the most beloved figures in Houston sports history, a three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year who did as much off the field as he did on it.

His community efforts were unmatched, highlighted by raising more than \$40 million for Hurricane Harvey relief.

Sports Radio 610, which is the flagship station of the Texans, set up the J.J. Watt Goodbye Hotline that received hundreds of messages.

Perhaps the most emotional call came from a 62-year-old man, who said he'd been a Houston sports fan for more than half his life.

"It hurts me," he said between sobs. "Man, you did everything for us and I'm going to miss you. It's gut-wrenching and mind blowing but I'll quit my crying and just tell you how much I love you."

As for Sawyer, her parents have decided to use a different tack with the news that Springer and Watt are also gone.

"We haven't even told her," Chris Brown said. "So, it's been tough."



NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference					
Atlantic Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	24	12	.667	—	
Brooklyn	24	13	.649	½	
Boston	18	17	.514	5½	
New York	18	18	.500	6	
Toronto	17	18	.486	6½	
Southeast Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Charlotte	17	18	.486	—	
Miami	17	18	.486	—	
Atlanta	16	20	.444	1½	
Washington	13	20	.394	3	
Orlando	13	23	.361	4½	
Central Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	21	14	.600	—	
Indiana	16	18	.471	4½	
Chicago	16	18	.471	4½	
Cleveland	14	22	.389	7½	
Detroit	10	25	.286	11	
Western Conference					
Southwest Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
San Antonio	18	13	.581	—	
Dallas	18	16	.529	1½	
Memphis	16	15	.516	2	
New Orleans	15	20	.429	5	
Houston	11	23	.324	8½	
Northwest Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Utah	27	9	.750	—	
Portland	20	14	.588	6	
Denver	20	15	.571	6½	
Oklahoma City	14	21	.400	12½	
Minnesota	7	29	.194	20	
Pacific Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Phoenix	23	11	.676	—	
L.A. Clippers	24	13	.649	½	
L.A. Lakers	24	13	.649	½	
Golden State	19	17	.528	5	
Sacramento	14	21	.400	9½	
Tuesday's games					
Memphis 125, Washington 111 Atlanta 94, Miami 80 Boston 117, L.A. Clippers 112 San Antonio 119, New York 93 Denver 128, Milwaukee 97 Phoenix 114, L.A. Lakers 104 Detroit at Toronto, ppd					
Wednesday's games					
Indiana 114, Cleveland 111 Detroit 129, Toronto 105 Philadelphia 131, Utah 123, OT Brooklyn 132, Houston 114 Charlotte 135, Minnesota 102 Atlanta 115, Orlando 112 Chicago 128, New Orleans 124 Dallas 87, Oklahoma City 78 Portland 108, Golden State 106 Sacramento 123, L.A. Lakers 120					
Thursday's games					
L.A. Clippers at Washington Toronto at Boston Detroit at New York Denver at Indiana Milwaukee at Memphis Miami at New Orleans Oklahoma City at San Antonio Golden State at Phoenix Sacramento at Portland					
Friday's games					
No games scheduled					
Saturday's games					
No games scheduled					
Leaders Through Tuesday					
Scoring					
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Beal, WAS	31	359	229	1020	32.9
Embiid, PHI	29	271	288	865	29.8
Lillard, POR	32	296	220	947	29.6
Curry, GS	34	330	180	1004	29.5
Rebounds					
	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Capela, ATL	32	159	294	453	14.2
Drummond, CLE	25	101	236	337	13.5
Gobert, UTA	35	115	348	463	13.2
Assists					
	G	AST			AVG
Harden, BKN	30	331			11.0
Westbrook, WAS	26	254			9.8

# Happy return: Harden leads Nets

He puts up triple-double in his first game back in Houston since his trade

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The No. 13 on his jersey, James Harden won so many games for the Houston Rockets.

On Wednesday night in the first meeting with his former team, No. 13 had a triple-double for the Brooklyn Nets to send the reeling Rockets to their 13th straight loss.

“A lot of mixed emotions from the fans but I knew that was going to happen,” Harden said. “I just wanted to come out here and give them a show.”

He did that with 29 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists in the 132-114 victory. The Nets set a franchise record with their seventh straight road victory. They’ve won 10 of their last 11 overall.

Harden has meshed well with his new team and Brooklyn is 17-7 since the trade.

“So far, so good,” he said. “It’s everything that I signed up for. Top to bottom it’s been great.”

It’s the longest skid for the Rockets, who had just eight players available because of injuries, since they dropped 15 in a row in 2001. They’ve had a tough time since Harden was traded Jan. 14 and haven’t won since Feb. 4.

AROUND THE NBA

## All-Star break could lead to testing pratfalls

Concern is over players who won't be at the game, with time to kill

By TIM REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

MIAMI — The NBA should be worried about this weekend, and that has nothing to do with holding an All-Star Game during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

It’s about when players won’t be in Atlanta.

If everyone plays by the rules at the All-Star Game, the system the NBA has come up with there for health and safety during the pandemic — strict testing for players and their guests, only flying private, staying in closed-off hotels, holding no outside events—should and probably will work. That won’t be the issue.

“We know how to operate a bubble,” NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said.

The bigger issue is what’s going to happen outside of that All-Star bubble, and the 450 or so players who won’t be going to Atlanta dur-



MARK MULLIGAN / AP

**Brooklyn Nets guard James Harden, center, battles for a rebound with Houston Rockets forward Jae'Sean Tate, left, and Houston Rockets forward P.J. Tucker. Hardin had 29 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists during the Nets' 132-114 win Wednesday in Houston.**

Houston used a 10-0 run, with five points from John Wall, to cut the lead to eight with about eight minutes left in the fourth. But the Nets scored the next eight points, with two threes from Harden, to extend it to 113-97 midway through the quarter.

Harden got a mixed reception from the crowd. Many of the 3,615 fans booed when he was introduced before the game and more boos came the first few times he touched the ball.

He said it was a “little weird” being on the visitor’s side but denied having any extra emotions.

“Once I get on that court I’m just trying to win,” he said.“So that was kind of my feeling. I wasn’t trying to show off.”

that will be a challenge. Players who stay at home or travel to another NBA city will have to go to that team’s facility or another site set up in those cities for testing each day. Players within a 45-minute drive of testing sites will have to make that commute each day as well. Otherwise, players and coaches will be given at-home self-collection test kits by the teams and must find ways to overnight them to labs.

Somebody missing a test will lead to problems. Going out to clubs, or even dining indoors at a restaurant, will lead to problems. Inadvertently being exposed to someone who has COVID-19 could, obviously, lead to problems. It could even mean that players might end up missing some games when the second half of the season starts next week.

“There’s nothing that’s risk-free,” Silver said.

He’s right, though the rules that teams have thought under this season — while not necessarily fun — have seemed to minimize risk.

Players are being tested twice a day. There are limits on where

ing their time off.

Brace for positive COVID-19 tests. Maybe a lot of them.

Players, for the first time since teams began revving up for training camps in November, are going to be free to do pretty much whatever they want, provided they have no plans to travel internationally. Dozens are expected to come to Miami for a few days of sun and fun; given the climate in the rest of the country, it’s doubtful they’ll even notice that a cold front is forecast to come through South Florida and knock high temperatures all the way down to the mid-70s this weekend. Others are planning to go to Las Vegas, or hop on yachts, or go back to their offseason homes.

All players and coaches except any who may already be vaccinated — Gregg Popovich is in a very exclusive club there — still must test daily during the break, and



Silver



# COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Villanova forward Damien Jefferson drives past Creighton guard Marcus Zegarowski during the Wildcats' 72-60 win Wednesday in Villanova, Pa.

## TOP 25 ROUNDUP

# Villanova beats Creighton to wrap up Big East title

Creighton coach McDermott said plantation remark was an “awful mistake”

*Associated Press*

VILLANOVA, Pa. — Creighton coach Greg McDermott said he made an “awful mistake” for using language that caused pain for the players “that look to me as a mentor and as a leader.” He was on the bench for the Bluejays for the first time since he apologized on social media for urging his players over the weekend to “stay on the plantation.”

“We need to get back to Omaha and regroup a little and have some more conversations which we need to have so that I can help them and they can help me,” McDermott said.

McDermott’s use of a phrase evoking slavery overshadowed what was expected to be fantastic showdown between the top two

teams in the Big East.

Justin Moore scored 24 points and helped No. 10 Villanova capture the Big East title with a 72-60 win over 14th-ranked Creighton.

“The pain I saw in their eyes was immense,” McDermott said after the game. “That’s a cross that I’m going to have to bear for a while. I’m going to come out of this on the other end a better person because of it. But it’s going to be a process.”

McDermott did not answer any questions about his remarks and stood by an apology he issued on social media.

McDermott said on Creighton’s pregame radio show that he offered to resign. The coach said he had a long meeting with players on Sunday night and said he saw “pain in their face(s)” and hoped

“one mistake doesn’t define you.”

McDermott said he wanted to make sure the Bluejays (17-7, 13-6 Big East) wanted him to remain as coach and apologized for the “distraction that I brought to this team for the choice that I made.”

**No. 11 Florida State 93, Boston College 64:** M.J. Walker scored 18 points, hitting six three-pointers, and RaiQuan Gray added 16 points to help the host Seminoles beat the Eagles for their 25th straight ACC home win.

**No. 19 San Diego State 71, Unlv 62:** Matt Mitchell scored 19 points and Jordan Schakel added 16 for the Aztecs, who beat the Mountain West Conference regular-season title for the second straight year.

# Mamukelashvili carries Seton Hall over UConn

*Associated Press*

STORRS, Conn. — Sandro Mamukelashvili scored 22 points and hit a series of clutch baskets in the second half as Seton Hall held off UConn 80-73 on Saturday, earning its first win at Gampel Pavilion since 1997.

Myles Cale added 20 points, making three three-pointers, for the Pirates, who were playing at

UConn for the first time since 2010. The Huskies had won 13 of the previous 14 meetings.

Seton Hall (11-8, 8-5 Big East Conference) saw a nine-point halftime lead quickly cut down to 38-36 as UConn scored the first seven points of the second half.

The Pirates stopped the rally with five straight points. Mamukelashvili stepped up with one of his two three-pointers. Jared Rhoden

## Conference tournaments

<b>America East Conference Semifinals Saturday, March 6</b> UMass Lowell at UMBC Hartford at Vermont <b>Championship Saturday, March 14</b> Semifinal winners <b>American Athletic Conference Thursday, March 4 Quarterfinals</b> Kennesaw St. vs. Liberty North Alabama vs. North Florida Florida Gulf Coast vs. Lipscomb Stetson vs. Bellarmine <b>Semifinals Friday, March 5</b> lowest remaining seed vs. highest remaining seed second lowest remaining seed vs. second highest remaining seed <b>American Athletic Conference First Round Wednesday, March 3</b> Saint Joseph's 72, La Salle 66 George Washington 53, Fordham 49 <b>Second Round Thursday, March 4</b> Duquesne vs. Richmond UMass vs. Saint Joseph's Rhode Island vs. Dayton George Mason vs. George Washington <b>Quarterfinals Friday, March 5</b> St. Bonaventure vs. Duquesne-Richmond winner Saint Louis vs. UMass-Saint Joseph's VCU vs. Rhode Island-Dayton winner Davidson vs. George Mason-George Washington <b>Big South Conference Quarterfinals Monday, March 1</b> Winthrop 83, High Point 54 Radford 67, Hampton 52 Longwood 77, UNC Asheville 61 Campbell 63, Gardner-Webb 57 <b>Semifinals Thursday, March 4</b> Winthrop vs. Longwood Radford vs. Campbell <b>Championship Sunday, March 7</b> Semifinal winners <b>Colonial Athletic Association First Round Saturday, March 6</b> Towson vs. Elon UNC-Wilmington vs. William & Mary <b>Quarterfinals Sunday, March 7</b> Delaware vs. Hofstra Towson-Elon winner at James Madison UNC-Wilmington-William & Mary winner vs. Northeastern Drexel vs. Coll. of Charleston <b>Horizon League Quarterfinals Tuesday, March 2</b> Cleveland St. 108, Fort Wayne 104, 3OT N. Kentucky 70, Detroit Mercy 69 Milwaukee 94, Wright St. 92, OT Oakland 87, Youngstown St. 83, OT <b>Semifinals Monday, March 8</b> Cleveland St. vs. Milwaukee Oakland vs. N. Kentucky <b>Missouri Valley Conference First Round Thursday, March 4</b> S. Illinois vs. Bradley Illinois St. vs. Northern Iowa <b>Quarterfinals Friday, March 5</b> S. Illinois-Bradley winner vs. Loyola Chicago Evansville vs. Indiana St. Illinois St.-N. Iowa winner vs. Drake Valparaiso vs. Missouri St. <b>Semifinals Saturday, March 6</b> Loyola Chicago-S. Illinois-Bradley winner vs. Evansville-Indiana St. winner Drake-Illinois St.-Northern Iowa winner vs. Valparaiso-Missouri St. winner	<b>Championship Sunday, March 7</b> Semifinal winners <b>Ohio Valley Conference Quarterfinals Wednesday, March 3</b> Belmont 78, SIU-Edwardsville 61 Morehead St. 61, SE Missouri 54 <b>Thursday, March 4</b> Murray St. vs. Jacksonville St. Austin Peay vs. Eastern Kentucky <b>Semifinals Friday, March 5</b> Murray St.-Jacksonville St. winner vs. Belmont Morehead St. vs. Austin Peay-Eastern Kentucky winner <b>Championship Saturday, March 6</b> Semifinal winners <b>Patriot League First Round Wednesday, March 3</b> Loyola at Holy Cross, cancelled Boston University 69, Lehigh 58 <b>Quarterfinals Saturday, March 6</b> Loyola at Navy American at Army Bucknell at Lafayette Boston University at Colgate <b>Southern Conference First Round Friday, March 5</b> W. Carolina vs. The Citadel Samford vs. Mercer <b>Quarterfinals Saturday, March 6</b> W. Carolina-The Citadel winner vs. UNC-Greensboro ETSU vs. Chattanooga Samford-Mercer winner vs. Wofford VMI vs. Furman <b>Semifinals Sunday, March 7</b> UNC-Greensboro, W. Carolina-The Citadel winner vs. ETSU-Chattanooga winner Wofford-Samford-Mercer winner vs. VMI-Furman winner <b>Summit League Quarterfinals Saturday, March 6</b> Omaha vs. South Dakota St. W. Illinois vs. South Dakota <b>Sunday, March 7</b> North Dakota vs. Oral Roberts Kansas City vs. North Dakota St. <b>Sun Belt Conference First Round Friday, March 5</b> Arkansas St. vs. Georgia Southern Appalachian St. vs. Little Rock South Alabama vs. Louisiana-Monroe Texas-Arlington vs. Troy <b>Quarterfinals Saturday, March 6</b> Louisiana vs. South Alabama-Louisiana-Monroe winner Georgia St. vs. Arkansas St.-Georgia Southern winner <b>Semifinal Sunday, March 7</b> Georgia St.-Arkansas St.-Georgia Southern winner vs. Louisiana-South Alabama-Louisiana-Monroe winner Coastal Carolina-Texas-Arlington-Troy winner vs. Texas St.-Appalachian St.-Little Rock winner <b>West Coast Conference First Round Thursday, March 4</b> San Diego vs. San Francisco Portland vs. Santa Clara <b>Second Round Friday, March 5</b> San Diego-San Francisco winner vs. Loyola Marymount Portland-Santa Clara winner vs. Pacific <b>Quarterfinals Saturday, March 6</b> Loyola Marymount-San Diego-San Francisco winner vs. Saint Mary's Pacific-Portland-Santa Clara winner vs. Pepperdine
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**Northwestern 60, Maryland 55:** Boo Buie scored 15 points and Chase Audige added 14, and the host Wildcats scored the last six points of the game to end the Ter-rapins' five-game win streak.

Northwestern (8-14, 5-13 Big Ten) has won two straight since halting a 13-game losing streak. The Wildcats also snapped a five-game skid against Maryland and beat them for the first time at

home.

The Terps (15-11, 9-10) took their first lead of the second half, 51-50, on Aaron Wiggins' three-pointer with 4:50 remaining and led 55-54 with 2:32 to play. The Wildcats' Ryan Young made a layup and then two free throws with 13 seconds remaining. Darryl Morsell missed a three on the other end and Buie sealed it with a pair of free throws.



## COLLEGE BASKETBALL



DAVID ZALUBOWSK/AP

Colorado guard McKinley Wright IV scores against UCLA on Saturday, Feb. 27, in Boulder, Colo.

# Do-it-all guard Wright has Buffaloes ranked, on track

BY PAT GRAHAM  
Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — McKinley Wright IV often chats with himself in the heat of a close game.

Just a quick on-court pep talk: “Come on, 25, pick it up,” the do-it-all point guard for No. 24 Colorado will say, referring to himself by his uniform number. “Go-time, Two-Five.”

Nobody motivates Wright quite like Wright. Nobody motivates the Buffaloes quite like Wright, either, with the team following his speedy tempo.

His time in Boulder is drawing to a close as the school’s all-time assists leader takes the court in his final home game Thursday against Arizona State.

It will be an emotional moment for him. But the emotions are nothing that can’t be calmed through a quick chat with himself. That always does the trick.

“I just want people to say that every game he played his heart out,” the 6-foot senior from North Robbinsdale, Minn., said. “That he did whatever it takes to help this team win ball games and keep this program going in the right direction.”

Talk about life ending up imitating his art: He had an early brush with one of Colorado’s most famed basketball players but didn’t know it at the time.

Wright was assigned a project in grade school where he designed a poster of four basketball players he most admired. The late Kobe Bryant was pictured on there. So were Michael Jordan and Steve Nash.

The fourth member of his poster was longtime NBA standout Chauncey Billups, who transformed Colorado into an NCAA Tournament team during his two seasons in Boulder.

“I didn’t even know he played for Colorado,” Wright said. “I just knew him from the Pistons and Nuggets.”

Over the years, he’s become tight with Billups, who’s known as “Mr. Big Shot.” No surprise that when Wright recently became the first men’s Pac-12 player to eclipse 1,700 points, 600 rebounds and 600 assists for a career, Billups was among the first to text him.

“It’s just crazy to be able to work out with Mr. Big Shot and be able to talk to him and have his phone number,” Wright said. “It’s like a big-brother mentor for me.”

The respect is mutual. “He plays the right way,” Billups said in an interview several months ago. “He’s tough. He’s gritty. He’s a leader.”

To think, Wright nearly left after his junior season as he tested the NBA draft process before returning for final year.

Unfinished business, he explained.

He’s driven the Buffaloes to a 19-7 mark (13-6 Pac-12) and back into the rankings. They appear in line for an NCAA Tournament berth — perhaps even the sort of team that could make a deep run.

“We do have the group for that,” said Wright, whose parents have been among the limited number of fans allowed into the arena the past two home games.

He’s always finding ways to get everyone involved. The best illustration may have been last week against a then-ranked Southern California squad. Wright set a career-high with 14 assists — one away from the school record — and also added 15 points.

“He only had four rebounds so I might have to bench him,” coach Tad Boyle cracked.

Boyle and Wright have been close since the coach first met with Wright, who was set to go to Dayton out of high school before a coaching change altered those plans. As part of Colorado’s recruiting pitch, Wright said Boyle wrote out a potential lineup with Wright’s name on it.

One caveat: The spot had to be earned.

Wright did, too, putting together one of the best first-year campaigns in Colorado history. He even broke the assists record by a freshman for a season, which had belonged to Billups.

Since then, Wright has taken his game to another level. He just earned Pac-12 player of the week honors for a sixth time in his career.

“I wouldn’t trade him for anybody,” Boyle recently said. “He’s a special player.”

Technically, Wright could return next season after the NCAA granted an additional year of eligibility to winter athletes. But he won’t.

“I feel like I’m ready for the next level,” Wright said.

Wright became the school’s all-time assists leader on Jan. 14 in a win over California.

## Oklahoma St. freshman Cunningham breaking out

BY CLIFF BRUNT  
Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. — Cade Cunningham waited patiently before striking.

Oklahoma State’s star freshman was coming off a 40-point performance in an overtime win at Oklahoma last Saturday and fans anticipated an encore in a rematch two nights later.

Instead, the 6-foot-8 point guard went nearly 33 minutes into the game without a field goal.

When he turned it on, everything changed. His only three baskets came during a two-minute span that turned a five-point deficit into a three-point lead. He scored 13 of his 15 points in the final 10 minutes, and the Cowboys won 79-75.

Cunningham’s grasp of how to be most effective is the main reason Oklahoma State is one of the nation’s hottest teams. The 17th-ranked Cowboys have won five straight heading into Thursday’s game against No. 3 Baylor, including three in a row against Top 25 teams.

“I think earlier on in the year, whenever I felt like it was my turn, I would kind of force it a little bit more and kind of force my looks, especially if I had been passive earlier,” Cunningham said. “I think now after some time and just building chemistry with the team, getting more comfortable on the court, things like that, I feel like it’s now more of what I see each play. I’m playing with more pure

intentions of just trying to find the right play, whereas earlier, I would kind of predetermine things probably in my head a little more than I needed to.”

Cunningham’s physical tools are impressive and the star from Arlington, Texas, has an NBA-ready frame at age 19.

Now, his brain has caught up. After he made 12 of 21 field goals and 13 of 14 free throws in the first game against Oklahoma, Oklahoma State coach Mike Boynton said the race to determine the top pick in this year’s NBA draft should be over.

“There’s no question in my mind he’s the best player in the country,” Boynton said. “And there’s no question in my mind, though there’s a lot of really good players out there, whoever has the No. 1 pick — they can overthink this. This one’s not that hard.”

Cunningham leads the Big 12 with 19.5 points per game, but he does much more. He’s eighth in the Big 12 in rebounding (6.3), eighth in field goal percentage (.451), 12th in assists (3.5), third in free throw percentage (.854), sixth in steals (1.5), and ninth in both blocked shots and three-pointers made per game.

“Cade just takes the pressure off the rest of us,” guard Bryce Williams said. “He’s got so much pressure on him, but it’s not really pressure to him. He can handle the situation. But he’s got a team behind him that can back him up every day.”



GARETT FISBECK/AP

Oklahoma State guard Cade Cunningham (2) passes the ball to guard Bryce Williams (14), away from Oklahoma guard De’Vion Harmon (11) and forward Jalen Hill (1), on Saturday, Feb. 27, in Norman, Okla.



# SPORTS



**Phone lines are open**  
N.Y. Jets would listen to offers for QB Darnold, GM says » **NFL, Page 41**

## ‘Emotional wreck’

Watching All-Stars leave for greener pastures has been difficult for Houston fans

By KRISTIE RIEKEN  
Associated Press

**F**ive-year-old Sawyer Brown was inconsolable. Her father, Chris Brown, had told her James Harden wouldn't be with the Houston Rockets anymore after being traded to Brooklyn.

"I want James Harden to be on the Texas team," she said, tears filling her eyes, in a video he shared on Facebook. Her dad went on to list other players on the team she could root for instead, but she was not having it. She just shook her head, her blonde hair bouncing across her face.

"James Harden... I just want him," she said.

Sawyer, who has performed twice at Rockets games with her youth basketball program, hasn't cared much about the team since.

"It's been hard because James Harden's very big to her," said her mother, Ellie Brown. "He's bigger than life ... he packs a lot of punch and she was especially fond of his beard. So, I think looking on the court now, she can just see ... how different everything is, and I think that it doesn't have the pizzazz. You can just see that she's not interested."

SEE WRECK ON PAGE 44

Numerous Houston fan favorites have departed the city's sports teams in recent months, including, clockwise from top left, former NBA MVP James Harden, World Series MVP George Springer and three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year JJ Watt.

Photo illustration; AP photos



**"I want James Harden to be on the Texas team. James Harden... I just want him."**

Sawyer Brown  
5-year-old Houston Rockets fan

**Harden has triple-double, Nets top Rockets** » Page 45

