

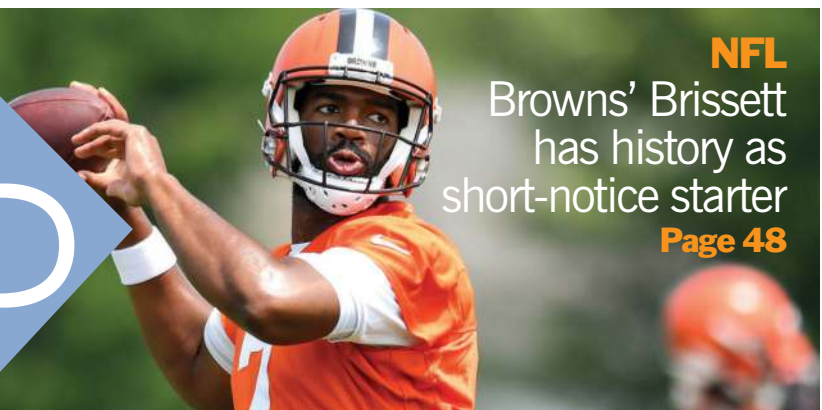
**GAMES:** New tech makes face a controller **Page 18**

**MOVIES:** Howard saves 'Thirteen Lives' **Page 16**

**MUSIC:** ODESZA back with 'Last Goodbye' **Page 28**

# EUROPE & PACIFIC WEEKEND EDITION

**NFL**  
Browns' Brissett has history as short-notice starter **Page 48**



# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## China conducts missile strikes in Taiwan Strait

By JOHNSON LAI  
AND HUIZHONG WU  
*Associated Press*

KEELUNG, Taiwan — China conducted “precision missile strikes” Thursday in the Taiwan Strait and in the waters off the eastern coast of Taiwan as part of military exercises that have raised tensions in the region to their highest level in decades.

China earlier announced that military exercises by its navy, air force and other departments were underway in six zones surrounding Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary.

Five of the missiles fired by China landed in Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone off Hateruma, an island far south of Japan's main islands, Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi said. He said Japan protested the missile landings to China as “serious threats to Ja-

SEE MISSILE ON PAGE 3



In this image taken from video by China's CCTV, a projectile is launched from an unspecified location in China on Thursday.

### RELATED

Pelosi places focus on Korea during her visit to Seoul **Page 3**



KOSTIANTYN LIBEROV/AP

A couple embraces after Russian shelling in Mykolaiv, Ukraine, on Wednesday. According to local media, a supermarket, high-rise buildings and a pharmacy were damaged. Ukraine's presidential office said that nine Ukrainian regions came under fire in 24 hours.

## Russia attacks multiple regions

Several Ukrainian cities shelled, including one near country's biggest nuclear plant

By SUSIE BLANN  
*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Powerful explosions rattled the southern Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv on Thursday and a city close to the country's biggest nuclear power plant sustained a barrage of shelling, part of a series of new Russian attacks in several regions, Ukrainian officials said.

Ukrainian authorities said shelling of a town in the eastern Donetsk region, where fighting has been focused in recent weeks, left at least

### RELATED

US says Russia aims to fabricate evidence in prisoner of war deaths **Page 7**

eight people dead. And the mayor of the separatist-held city of Donetsk said six were killed in shelling there.

Ukraine's presidential office said in its daily update that nine Ukrainian regions came under fire over the previous 24 hours. Two districts of Mykolaiv, which has been targeted frequently in recent weeks, were shelled early Thursday morning.

Russian forces reportedly fired 60 rockets at Nikopol, in the central Dnipropetrovsk region. Some 50 residential buildings were damaged in the city of 107,000 and some projec-

SEE ATTACKS ON PAGE 7

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## EUROPE GAS PRICES

The Army and Air Force Exchange Services did not provide gas prices for facilities in Europe

## PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel	South Korea	Guam
Japan	..	\$5.079	..	\$5.199	\$4.269	\$4.269
Change in price	..	-13.0 cents	..	-13.0 cents	-14.0 cents	-14.0 cents
Okinawa	\$4.259	..	..	\$5.199	\$4.269	\$4.779
Change in price	-14.0 cents	..	..	-13.0 cents	-14.0 cents	-13.0 cents

\*DieselEFD \*\*Midgrade  
For the week of Aug. 5-11

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 5)	\$0.99
Dollar buys (Aug. 5)	0.9577
British pound (Aug. 5)	\$1.18
Japanese yen (Aug. 5)	130.00
South Korean won (Aug. 5)	1276.00

South Korea (Won)	1308.04
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9588
Thailand (Baht)	35.93
Turkey (NewLira)	17.9496

(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)	0.3770
Britain (Pound)	1.2105
Canada (Dollar)	1.2860
China (Yuan)	6.7514
Denmark (Krone)	7.3025
Egypt (Pound)	19.1106
Euro	0.9813
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8498
Hungary (Forint)	387.97
Israel (Shekel)	3.3459
Japan (Yen)	133.45
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3067
Norway (Krone)	9.7533
Philippines (Peso)	55.58
Poland (Zloty)	4.63
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7579
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3782

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Interest Rates Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	2.32
3-month bill	2.49
30-year bond	2.97

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### FRIDAY IN EUROPE



### SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

## TODAY IN STRIPES

- Classified ..... 36,38
- Comics ..... 34,40,41
- Crossword ..... 34,40,41
- Opinion ..... 39
- Sports ..... 42-48

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## STARS AND STRIPES

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## MILITARY

## Pelosi focuses on Korea in Seoul visit

By SETH ROBSON  
AND DAVID CHOI  
*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi talked security and economic issues in Seoul, South Korea, on Thursday, a day after her high-profile stop in Taiwan.

Pelosi arrived at Osan Air Base with her five-member congressional delegation Wednesday evening, leaving behind an effective blockade of self-governing Taiwan by Chinese military forces mounting an expansive exercise.

Pelosi, whose Asia tour also includes Singapore, Malaysia and Japan, met Thursday with senior lawmakers, including South Korean National Assembly Speaker Kim Jin Pyo.

“A relationship that began from urgency and security many years ago has become the warmest of friendships,” Pelosi said during a press conference with Kim.

The speaker had no meeting planned with South Korean President Yoon Seok Youl, who is on vacation, said presidential office spokeswoman Kang In-sun. Instead, the U.S. delegation shared a 40-minute phone call with Yoon and discussed a variety of topics, including the war in Ukraine and regional security.

Yoon called the lawmakers’ visit a sign of a strong U.S.-South Korean alliance and a deterrent against North Korea.

Pelosi and the delegation landed late Thursday at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, where they were greeted by a group that included U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel and the commander of U.S. Forces Japan, Lt. Gen. Ricky Rupp.

Earlier in the day, China’s navy, air force and other forces began

exercises in six zones surrounding Taiwan, The Associated Press reported. The drills are expected to conclude at noon Sunday and include missile strikes on targets in the seas north and south of the island.

Twenty-seven Chinese warplanes entered Taiwan’s air defense identification zone on Wednesday evening, according to the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense. The ministry reported 22 planes breached the median line, the informal boundary between the island and the mainland that splits the Taiwan Strait.

Tension between the U.S. and China surrounding Taiwan, a democracy that China regards as a rebellious province, spiked during Pelosi’s visit.

One U.S. response to China’s aggression toward Taiwan should be joint military exercises of the type it carries out with other nations in the region, according to retired U.S. Marine Col. Grant Newsham, a senior researcher with the Japan Forum for Strategic Studies in Tokyo.

The U.S.’s unofficial military presence on the island last year grew from 20 to 39 personnel, government-run Voice of America reported Dec. 2. It was unclear whether the figures include a U.S. special-operations contingent and Marines training the Taiwan military, according to the report.

“Does sending small training teams to Taiwan have much effect on Chinese thinking? Not really,” Newsham wrote in an email Wednesday to Stars and Stripes.

Battalion-sized training by U.S. forces with Taiwan, either on the island or on U.S. territory, would be a good start, he said.

“Planning exercises would be



JUAN KING/Stars and Stripes

**U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi greets 374th Airlift Wing commander Col. Andrew Roddan upon her arrival at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Thursday.**

good as well,” he said. “Keep in mind that the U.S. military has done near zero joint training with Taiwan armed forces over last 40+ years. Near zero! And nobody else has.”

That lack of training has kept Taiwan’s military from improving, Newsham said. “How are the Americans and Taiwan forces going to cooperate to defend Taiwan if they have nothing to do with each other?”

China’s military exercises around Taiwan are the most concerning response to Pelosi’s visit so far, said Norah Huang, director for international relations at the Prospect Foundation, a security and foreign affairs think tank in Taipei.

Medium- to long-term impact depends on whether China’s military normalizes training in areas surrounding Taiwan, which

would increase the chance of a miscalculation, she said in an email Wednesday.

China has no need to make Pelosi’s Taiwan trip a crisis, said Brad Glosserman, deputy director and visiting professor at the Center for Rule-Making Strategies at Tama University in Tokyo.

However, Beijing has an internal audience to assuage and wants to make sure neighbors don’t get the wrong idea about supporting Taiwan, Glosserman said in an email Wednesday.

“China is at the peak of its training period and has lots of [military] assets in the area,” he said. “The danger isn’t a deliberate confrontation but an accident and escalation — but that is always the danger.”

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## Missile: Japan issues complaint

FROM PAGE 1

pan’s national security and the safety of the Japanese people.”

Japan’s Defense Ministry also speculated that four missiles flew over Taipei, the capital city, crossing the mainland, according to a statement its embassy in D.C. posted on Twitter. Taiwan’s Defense Ministry did not deny the claim, saying that the flight path was “outside the atmosphere and is not harmful to the vast area on the ground it flies over.”

The drills were prompted by a visit to the island by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi this week and are intended to advertise China’s threat to attack the self-governing island republic. Along with its moves to isolate Taiwan diplomatically, China has long threatened military retaliation over moves by the island to solidify its de facto independence with the support of key allies including the U.S.

China fired long-range explosive projectiles, the Chinese military said in a statement. It also said it carried out multiple conventional missile launches in three different areas in the eastern waters off Taiwan.

“All missiles hit the target accurately,” the Eastern Theater Command said in its announcement.

Taiwan’s Defense Ministry said it tracked the firing of Chinese Dongfeng series missiles beginning around 1:56 p.m. Thursday. It later said it counted 11 Dongfeng missiles in the waters in the north, east and south.

## Navy confirms death of sailor who went overboard in Baltic

By ALISON BATH  
*Stars and Stripes*

A U.S. sailor who went overboard from the destroyer USS Arleigh Burke in the Baltic Sea earlier this week has died, the Navy announced Thursday.

Seaman Recruit David Spearman was the subject of a search by U.S., Swedish and German military personnel after going overboard Monday, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet said in a statement.

The Navy has not recovered the North Carolina native’s body, said Cmdr. Richlyn Ivey, a spokeswoman for U.S. 6th Fleet.

It wasn’t clear how Spearman went into the sea, but on Monday afternoon a lookout saw a man in the water and the ship conducted

man-overboard procedures, Ivey said.

Weather and sea conditions as well as the details of the Arleigh Burke’s operations are part of an investigation, she said.



Spearman

Spearman enlisted in November, completing basic training at the Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill., in February, according to his Navy biography. He reported to the Arleigh Burke April 21 following training at Surface Warfare Engineering School Command in Great Lakes, Ill., the statement said.

## Israeli study shows higher risk of Parkinson’s in PTSD patients

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
*Stars and Stripes*

Researchers in Israel have found that post-traumatic stress disorder may be associated with an increased risk of Parkinson’s disease, buttressing a previous study of U.S. veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Published online Thursday in the Journal of the American Medical Association, the new study accumulated 20 years of data.

Its authors concluded that there is a “robust” association between PTSD and Parkinson’s risk in men, particularly among elderly male patients.

“These findings are consistent with the results of a recent study

... among male veterans in the U.S. showing a 2.7-fold excess risk” for Parkinson’s disease, they wrote.

The 2020 study they referenced found that both traumatic brain injury and PTSD — the “signature wounds” of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars — were associated with increased Parkinson’s disease risk.

The Israeli study involved 8,336 people diagnosed with PTSD compared with 8,336 people of the same age and sex without PTSD. About half were men and all were born before 1970.

Traumas they had encountered include the Holocaust and terrorist attacks.

Israel ranks high in the propor-

tion of people exposed to trauma, the study said. An estimated 9.4% of the Israeli adult population has PTSD, more than twice the global prevalence of 3.9%, according to the researchers.

The study found that PTSD patients have nearly 1.5 times more risk of Parkinson’s than people who don’t. The risk was higher for men who were diagnosed with PTSD in their 70s.

Parkinson’s disease is a slowly progressive disorder that affects movement, muscle control and balance.

Its cause is unknown, but multiple environmental, behavioral and biological factors are associated with risk of contracting the ailment.

## MILITARY

## Hiroshima survivor donates Obama painting

BY HANA KUSUMOTO

*Stars and Stripes*

HIROSHIMA, Japan — President Barack Obama's impromptu embrace of an atomic bombing survivor inspired a work of art that was unveiled near Hiroshima ahead of the event's 77th anniversary.

The emotional moment between Obama — the first sitting U.S. president to lay a wreath at Peace Memorial Park — and Shi-geaki Mori was broadcast around the world on May 27, 2016, and roused artist Hofu Saida to pick up her brushes and paint "A Hopeful Sign."

"I was touched, and I was moved to tears naturally," she recently told *Stars and Stripes* by phone.

Obama, in the painting, symbolizes peace while Mori, who was 8 years old when the atomic blast threw him into a river on Aug. 6, 1945, represents war fire, said Saida, who lives and works out of Toyama prefecture. Obama's peace extinguishes Mori's fire, she added.

Saida gifted the painting to Mori, who kept it in his home for several years until deciding last month to donate it to the Ikachi Lonesome Lady Peace Memorial Museum in Yanai city.

The small, private museum is dedicated to the memory of six U.S. aviators taken prisoner of war after their B-24 Lonesome Lady bomber crashed in Yanai on July 28, 1945. They were taken to Hiroshima and were among the 12 American troops who perished in the world's first atomic bomb-



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN SNYDER/STARS AND STRIPES

President Barack Obama's impromptu embrace of an atomic bombing survivor in May 2016 inspired a painting titled "A Hopeful Sign" that was unveiled near Hiroshima ahead of the event's 77th anniversary.

ing.

"I was surprised to learn that he had treasured it, but also that he thought it was the right thing to do to donate it to the museum so that many people could see it," Saida said. "I was honored."

The plan was to unveil "A Hopeful Sign" at the museum in time for the 77th anniversary of the Lonesome Lady crash. However, an uptick in COVID-19 cases caused museum owner Masanori Takenaga to hold off on in-

viting large crowds into his small space.

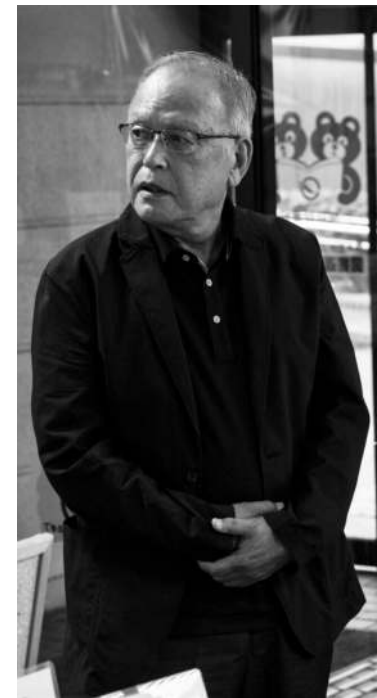
Yanai city officials came to the rescue, offering to display the painting temporarily at their public library. Visitors can see "A Hopeful Sign" there until Aug. 31, library director Masaaki Ishioka said during the painting's unveiling on July 27. It's about a 40-minute drive from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

"We will be displaying the painting as an opportunity for

people to once again think about how horrifying the war is while the tragic situation continues in Ukraine," he said. "We also hope it will be an opportunity for many local residents to learn about the B-24 crash."

Mori, an amateur historian, spent nearly 50 years researching and identifying American prisoners of war who died in the Hiroshima bombing.

"We were able to learn through researching about U.S. service



Masanori Takenaga, owner of the Ikachi Lonesome Lady Peace Memorial Museum, stands next to "A Hopeful Sign" at the public library in Yanai city, Japan, on July 27.

members, who were exposed to the atomic bomb, that race or nationality doesn't matter when there is a nuclear war and that war should never happen," Mori, appearing via video link from his home in Hiroshima, said during the library unveiling.

"The painting we are introducing to you today symbolizes the importance of peace," he said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jonathan Snyder contributed to this report.  
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## US military infections remain stable amid virus surge in S. Korea

BY DAVID CHOI

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Cases of COVID-19 continued to increase in South Korea over the past two weeks while the U.S. military infections remained around 300 for the same period.

U.S. Forces Korea reported 316 new cases in the week ending Monday, according to an update on its website Tuesday. The command reported 294 cases between July 19 and 25, and 380 cases July 12 to 18.

The command reported its record weekly high of 1,599 cases in January.

USFK's health protection condition remains at Alpha, which signifies a limited alert and the beginning of community transmission. The command, which is responsible for about 28,500 troops, still allows its personnel to visit most off-base busi-

nesses.

Most USFK pandemic mandates, including a mandatory seven-day quarantine for arriving personnel, were rescinded by June.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 is surging again in South Korea, which reported 107,894 cases Wednesday and a three-month high of 119,922 cases on Tuesday, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency.

The country's one-day record of 621,328 new infections was reported on March 17.

South Korea has recorded over 20 million COVID-19 cases, roughly 39% of its population, since Jan. 20, 2020, according to the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.  
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## Japan-based F-35Bs hone long-range strike skills on USS Tripoli deployment

BY SETH ROBSON

*Stars and Stripes*

A squadron of F-35B Lightning II stealth fighters practiced skills needed to strike distant targets during a six-week Pacific Ocean deployment aboard America's newest amphibious assault ship.

The USS Tripoli left its San Diego homeport for its maiden deployment on May 2, just under two years after its July 2020 commissioning, according to the Navy.

The 855-foot America-class amphibious assault ship stopped at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, and on May 22 loaded 200 members of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, the Green Knights. Fourteen F-35Bs from the squadron flew aboard the next day, the unit's commander, Lt. Col. Timothy Farag, told *Stars and Stripes* by phone Monday.

Over the next six weeks the Marines exercised skills they'd need to support advanced basing operations, he said.

Advanced basing involves small contingents of Marines operating within range of an adversary's weapons. Members of the newly formed 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment practiced tactics needed for such operations during the annual Balikatan drills in the Philippines in April.

The Green Knights used their Tripoli deployment to figure out how they could employ their aircraft in advanced basing operations, Farag said.

"We can put airplanes in those places, too," he added.

The squadron used the Tripoli to move its aircraft forward and conduct long-range missions into advanced basing locations, he said.

"It's the ability to be expeditionary and rapidly deploy to these locations and operate," he said. "It's significant to be able to get 14 airplanes wherever I need to get them at a range where I can launch."

Ahead of the Tripoli deployment the squadron sent Marines to Okina-

wa to practice forward arming and refueling, he said.

"Now we are doing that from a ship to get to these expeditionary airfields," he said. "The ship can be used as a lily pad for arming and refueling."

The Tripoli has an expanded hangar bay instead of a well deck, to accommodate the F-35Bs' short takeoffs and vertical landings.

Dubbed a "Lightning carrier," the Tripoli in April loaded 16 F-35s, breaking a record for the number of fighters aboard an amphibious assault vessel, according to USNI News. The ship can also carry MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotors and a variety of helicopters such as the MH-60S Seahawk.

The Tripoli is the second America-class ship, preceded by the USS America, which is homeported at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan.

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## MILITARY

## Senate votes in favor of Finland, Sweden joining NATO

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Wednesday ratified the accession of Finland and Sweden into NATO, approving one of the most significant expansions of the military alliance in decades as the West fortifies Europe against Russian aggression.

Senators voted 95-1 to endorse membership for Finland and Sweden, more than the required two-thirds majority of 67 votes. Most of NATO's 30 members have already signed off on the accession protocols for Finland and Sweden, ushering in a historic end to the many years of neutrality and military nonalignment for the Nordic nations.

The U.S. had hoped to be the first to approve the addition, said Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., but it was the 23rd.

"Today — at a moment when democracy in Europe is under attack, as belligerent autocrats like [Russian President Vladimir] Putin clamor for European dominance — the U.S. Senate is voting in overwhelming bipartisan fashion to approve Finland and Sweden's accession to the NATO alli-

ance," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "This is important substantively and as a signal to Russia: They cannot intimidate America or Europe."

Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., described the ratification as a "slam dunk for national security" and admonished those who opposed it.

Senators on Wednesday also approved an amendment proposed by Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, that reinforced NATO members' defense spending levels.

The legislatures of all NATO allies need to agree to admit Finland and Sweden before the countries could be protected by the alliance's mutual defense clause, which states an attack on one member is an attack against all members. The process is expected to take a year. In the meantime, Finland and Sweden can attend NATO meetings and have greater access to intelligence.

The two countries applied for membership in May, less than three months after Russian forces stormed Ukraine in late February. The invasion shattered the Nordic region's long-standing

sense of stability and spurred a dramatic surge of public support for joining an alliance formed 73 years ago to counter the growing power of the former Soviet Union.

Putin partly blamed Ukraine's ambitions to enter NATO for provoking his invasion and Russia has repeatedly warned Finland and Sweden against joining the alliance.

The U.S. and NATO have long partnered with Finland and Sweden on defense and troops from both countries have contributed to missions in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. But their official inclusion in the alliance is expected to significantly alter the security landscape in Northern Europe, where melting Arctic ice is opening new opportunities for transit and exploration and increasing naval and air activity, experts have said.

With the addition of Finland, NATO's border with Russia will extend by 830 miles.

Finland is an outlier in Europe for holding onto its ground forces after the end of the Cold War and can quickly muster some 300,000 troops within 30 days of a crisis,

said William Alberque, director of strategy, technology and arms control at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, a research think tank in London.

The country also has the third largest artillery force in Europe, behind Russia and Ukraine, and is building up one of the largest fleets of F-35 fighter jets on the Continent, he said.

The Finns regularly train for a Russian attack, a lasting effect of the four-month attempt by Soviet troops to seize Finnish territory shortly after the outbreak of World War II, Alberque said. Finland was outmanned and outgunned in the Winter War but repelled the massive invasion and inflicted mass casualties on the Red Army.

"It's funny when people say, 'No one could've imagined this scenario,'" Alberque said of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "Well, the Finns thought about it all the time."

Sweden offers NATO one of the most robust defense industries in Europe with an ability to manufacture its own fighter jets, armored vehicles and artillery, Alberque said. The Swedish army is

small but growing after a military exercise held in the aftermath of Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea showed Sweden would hold out only two or three days against a Russian invasion, he said.

Sweden also has a Navy with five submarines and dozens of smaller ships.

The combined firepower and geographic footprint of Finland and Sweden will force Russia to spread its forces thinner, Alberque said. It also will need to bulk up defenses around St. Petersburg and rush more troops to the crucial Kola Peninsula, a landmass 110 miles east of the Finland-Russia border where Russia bases its nuclear submarine fleet and Arctic navy.

"You've got Swedish and Finnish air radars, anti-aircraft, anti-ship and land attack capabilities. You've got a massive Finnish army within days of a crisis initiating. You've got Poland with U.S. forces, Lithuania with German forces, Estonia with more and more NATO forces," Alberque said. "It's looking more and more like a nightmare for Russia."

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## MIDEAST

# Taliban: Unaware al-Zawahri was in country

BY RAHIM FAIEZ  
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The Taliban said Thursday they are investigating what they described as “claims” that al-Qaida chief Ayman al-Zawahri was killed in a U.S. drone strike in the Afghan capital.

However, the group insisted in a statement that it “has no knowledge of the arrival and residence” of al-Zawahri in Afghanistan.

The statement marked the first time the Taliban leadership addressed the U.S. announcement that al-Zawahri was the target of Sunday’s strike. However, despite the Taliban’s denial of knowledge of al-Zawahri’s presence, U.S. offi-

cial have said the al-Qaida head was staying at a Kabul safe house linked to the deputy leader of the Taliban. The strike killed al-Zawahri when he stepped out onto the safe house’s balcony.

His presence in Kabul and the killing have further strained relations between the Taliban and the West, particularly as Afghanistan’s rulers seek an urgent infusion of cash to handle the catastrophic collapse of the economy that came after the U.S. withdrawal a year ago.

The Taliban had promised in the Doha Agreement not to harbor al-Qaida members or those seeking to attack the U.S. In the accord, the U.S. committed to withdraw its

troops from Afghanistan and not to attack the Taliban.

On Tuesday, the Taliban’s first statement on the strike only confirmed it had taken place, without mentioning al-Zawahri. In it, they condemned the strike as a “clear violation of ... the Doha Agreement.”

In the new statement Thursday, the Taliban appeared to be trying to avert escalated tensions, particularly at a time when they and U.S. officials have been holding talks over \$3.5 billion in Afghan assets frozen in the United States.

The Taliban said they ordered “the investigative and intelligence agencies to conduct serious and comprehensive investigations on

various aspects of the mentioned event.”

The statement also assured the West “there is no danger from the territory of Afghanistan to any country, including America.”

U.S. officials have said al-Zawahri had been staying for months at the Kabul home of a top aide to Sirajuddin Haqqani.

Haqqani is the top deputy of the Taliban movement’s supreme leader, Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada. He also serves as interior minister in the Taliban-run government and heads the Haqqani network, a powerful faction within the movement.

The Haqqani network is an Afghan Islamic insurgent group,

built around the family of the same name. In the 1980s, it fought Soviet forces and over the past 20 years, it battled U.S.-led NATO troops and the former Afghanistan government. The U.S. government maintains a \$10 million bounty on Sirajuddin Haqqani for attacks on American troops and Afghan civilians.

However, the Haqqanis also have opponents within the Taliban leadership, some of whom feel Sirajuddin Haqqani is amassing too much power. Haqqani’s apparent sheltering of al-Zawahri could exacerbate frictions within the movement, though his power in the leadership leaves him nearly untouchable.

## ‘Flying Ginsu’ used to limit collateral damage in strike

BY NOMAAN MERCHANT  
AND LOLITA C. BALDOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For a year, U.S. officials have been saying that taking out a terrorist threat in Afghanistan with no American troops on the ground would be difficult but not impossible. Last weekend, the U.S. did just that — killing al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri with a CIA drone strike.

Other high-profile airstrikes in the past had inadvertently killed innocent civilians. In this case, the U.S. carefully chose to use a type of Hellfire missile that greatly minimized the chance of other casualties.

Although U.S. officials have not publicly confirmed which variant of the Hellfire was used, experts and others familiar with counterterrorism operations said a likely option was the highly secretive Hellfire R9X — known by various nicknames, including the “knife bomb” or the “flying Ginsu.”

That potential use of the R9X, said Klion Kitchen, senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a former intelligence analyst, suggests the U.S. wanted to kill al-Zawahri with “limited likelihood of collateral death and destruction and for other relevant political reasons.”

A look at the Hellfire, and how al-Zawahri likely was killed:

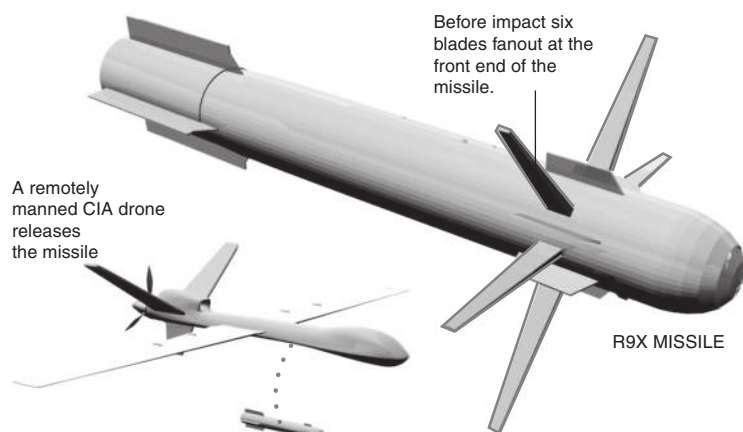
### ■ What is a Hellfire missile?

Originally designed as an anti-tank missile in the 1980s, the Hellfire has been used by military and intelligence agencies over the last two decades to strike targets in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen and elsewhere.

The precision-guided missiles can be mounted on helicopters and unmanned drones and are used widely in combat around the world. More than 100,000 Hellfire missiles

### Precision missile that carries no explosives

The R9X doesn’t explode but instead deploys six sharp blades, shredding what they hit. Unlike fragments from an explosion, a blade has a specific maximum range - its length.



SOURCE: AP

NOGA AMI-RAV/Stars and Stripes

have been sold to the U.S. and other countries, according to Ryan Brobst, an analyst at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, a Washington think tank.

“It can do enough damage to destroy most targets such as vehicles and buildings while not doing enough damage to level city blocks and cause significant civilian casualties,” Brobst said.

The U.S. military has routinely used Hellfire missiles to kill high-value targets, including a senior al-Qaida leader in Syria last year, and al-Qaida propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki in Yemen in 2011.

### ■ What killed al-Zawahri?

The U.S. had multiple options for the attack. It could have used a traditional Hellfire, a bomb dropped from a manned aircraft, or a far more risky assault by ground forces.

U.S. Navy SEALs, for example, flew into Pakistan on helicopters and took out Osama bin Laden in a raid.

In this case, the CIA opted for a

drone strike. And while the CIA generally doesn’t confirm its counterterrorism missions and closely guards information about strikes it conducts, U.S. government officials have said that two Hellfire missiles were fired at the balcony of the building where al-Zawahri was living in Kabul.

Online images of the building show damage to the balcony, where the U.S. says al-Zawahri was, but the rest of the house is standing and not badly damaged.

Unlike other models of the Hellfire, the R9X doesn’t carry an explosive payload. Instead, it has a series of six rotating blades that emerge on its final approach to a target, Kitchen said.

“One of their utilities is in opening up vehicles and other obstructions to get to the target without having to use an explosive warhead,” he said.

### ■ Avoiding civilian casualties.

U.S. officials and experts made clear this week that avoiding civilian casualties was a crucial element



JASON SWEENEY/AP

**General Atomics contractors load Hellfire missiles onto an MQ-1C Gray Eagle at Camp Taji, Iraq, in 2011. Last weekend, the U.S. used two Hellfire missiles in a strike in Kabul, Afghanistan, to kill al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri.**

in the choice of weapon.

Less than a year ago, a U.S. drone strike — using a more conventional Hellfire missile — struck a white Toyota Corolla sedan in a Kabul neighborhood and killed 10 civilians around and near the car, including seven children.

In the midst of the chaotic U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan, American forces believed there were explosives in the car and that it posed an imminent threat to troops on the ground. It was, military leaders said, a “tragic mistake.”

One former U.S. official said the likely choice of an R9X is an example of the administration’s effort to find ways to minimize collateral damage and prevent the loss of innocent life.

That missile is a very accurate weapon that strikes in a very small area, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss counterterrorism operations.

An administration official said Monday that the U.S. investigated the construction of the house where al-Zawahri was staying in order to

ensure that the operation could be done without threatening the structural integrity of the building and also minimizing the risks of killing civilians, including members of his family who were in other parts of the house.

The choice of missile is ultimately one part of reducing the possibility of killing civilians or causing other collateral damage.

“I would say this is by far a lower-risk option,” said Tom Karako, an expert on missile defense at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. Using the Hellfire, he said, “reflects a high degree of caution as opposed to a riskiness.”

### ■ Is the US providing Ukraine with drones that can fire Hellfire missiles?

No. While the U.S. has delivered billions of dollars in military assistance to help Ukraine fight the invading Russian troops, it is wary of providing weapons that could fire deep into Russia, potentially escalating the conflict or drawing the U.S. into the war.

## EUROPE

# US: Russia to fabricate evidence in deaths

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials believe Russia is working to fabricate evidence concerning last week's deadly strike on a prison housing prisoners of war in a separatist region of eastern Ukraine.

U.S. intelligence officials have determined that Russia is looking to plant false evidence to make it appear that Ukrainian forces were responsible for the July 29 attack on Olenivka Prison that left 53 dead and wounded dozens more, a U.S. official familiar with the intelligence finding told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Separately, a Western government official, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity, said explosive experts who have reviewed photos of the prison released by the Russians following the incident have determined that the destruction wasn't likely caused by "a high-explosive strike from the outside" and that it was "much more likely to be incendiary and from inside the location."

Russia has claimed that Ukraine's military used U.S.-supplied rocket launchers to strike the prison in Olenivka, a settlement controlled



MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES/AP

**A view of the Olenivka detention center, in Eastern Donetsk province, after a July 29 attack on the prison reportedly killed Ukrainian soldiers.**

by the Moscow-backed Donetsk People's Republic.

The Ukrainian military denied making any rocket or artillery strikes in Olenivka. The intelligence arm of the Ukrainian defense ministry claimed in a statement Wednesday to have evidence that local Kremlin-backed separatists colluded with the Russian FSB, the KGB's main successor agency, and

mercenary group Wagner to mine the barrack before "using a flammable substance, which led to the rapid spread of fire in the room."

The U.S. official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the classified intelligence — which was recently downgraded — shows that Russian officials might even plant ammunition from

medium-ranged High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, as evidence that the systems provided by the U.S. to Ukraine were used in the attack.

Russia is expected to take the action as it anticipates independent investigators and journalists eventually getting access to Olenivka, the official added.

Ukraine has effectively used HIMARS launchers, which fire medium-range rockets and can be quickly moved before Russia can target them with return fire, and have been seeking more launchers from the United States.

Earlier Wednesday, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he is appointing a fact-finding mission in response to requests from Russia and Ukraine to investigate the killings at the prison.

Guterres told reporters he doesn't have authority to conduct criminal investigations but does have authority to conduct fact-finding missions. He added that the terms of reference for a mission to Ukraine are currently being prepared and will be sent to the governments of Ukraine and Russia for ap-

proval.

The Ukrainian POWs at the Donetsk prison included troops captured during the fall of Mariupol. They spent months holed up with civilians at the giant Azovstal steel mill in the southern port city. Their resistance during a relentless Russian bombardment became a symbol of Ukrainian defiance against Russia's aggression.

More than 2,400 soldiers from the Azov Regiment of the Ukrainian national guard and other military units gave up their fight and surrendered under orders from Ukraine's military in May.

Scores of Ukrainian soldiers have been taken to prisons in Russian-controlled areas. Some have returned to Ukraine as part of prisoner exchanges with Russia, but other families have no idea whether their loved ones are still alive, or if they will ever come home.

U.S. and U.K. officials, before the war and in its early stages, repeatedly went public with what they said were Russian plans to stage fake videos and events that the Kremlin would blame on Ukraine but in fact were perpetrated by Russia.

## Report: Ukrainian bases are endangering civilians

Associated Press

POKROVSK, Ukraine — Ukrainian forces have exposed civilians to Russian attacks at times by basing themselves in schools, residential buildings and other places in populated areas, according to a report Amnesty International published Thursday.

Ukrainian officials denounced the report from the human rights group as "unfair" and part of a "disinformation and propaganda campaign."

AP journalists observed several scenes in recent weeks that mirrored the findings of Amnesty's researchers, including the aftermath of weapon strikes in eastern Ukraine where Ukrainian fighters, their vehicles or items such as ammunition were at attack sites.

At two locations, the AP was told a soldier or soldiers had been killed. At a third, emergency workers blocked media from filming victims of a Russian strike on a residential building, which was unusual; locals said military personnel had been staying there.

In a report released Thursday, Amnesty International said its researchers between April and July "found evidence of Ukrainian forces launching strikes from within populated residential areas, as well as basing themselves in civilian buildings in 19 towns and villages" in three regions of

the country.

Amnesty also said it found Ukrainian forces using hospitals as military bases in five places, which the human rights group called "a clear violation of international humanitarian law." The report noted that "international humanitarian law requires the parties to a conflict "to avoid locating, to the maximum extent feasible, military objectives within or near densely populated areas."

Combatants also must remove civilians from the "vicinity of military objectives" and provide warnings about possible attacks, the report said, adding that "viable alternatives were available that would not endanger civilians such as military bases or densely wooded areas nearby, or other structures further away from residential areas."

At the same time, its authors stressed that the "Ukrainian military's practice of locating military objectives within populated areas does not in any way justify indiscriminate Russian attacks."

Ukrainian authorities have repeatedly asked the remaining residents of the Donetsk region to evacuate, but starting anew elsewhere is not that easy. Tens of thousands of people who left their homes since Russia's invasion have returned after running out of support or feeling unwelcome.

## Attacks: Fighting continues in Donetsk

FROM PAGE 1

tiles hit power lines, leaving city residents without electricity, according to Ukrainian authorities.

Nikopol is located across the Dnieper river from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which was taken over by Russian troops early in the war.

Experts at the U.S.-based Institute for the Study of War believe that Russia is shelling the area intentionally, "putting Ukraine in a difficult position."

"Either Ukraine returns fire, risking international condemnation and a nuclear incident (which Ukrainian forces are unlikely to do), or Ukrainian forces allow Russian forces to continue firing on Ukrainian positions from an effective 'safe zone,'" the Institute's latest report said.

The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency earlier this week voiced alarm over the situation at the Zaporizhzhia plant.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Thursday that the Russian military had struck two Ukrainian munitions depots near the village of Novoivanivka in the Zaporizhzhia region and a fuel depot near the Zaporizhzhia railway station.

In northern Ukraine, the country's second-largest city, Kharkiv, was being shelled from Russia, the presidential office said. Several industrial facilities were hit in the city, which has been a fre-

quent target. In the nearby city of Chuhuiv, a rocket hit a five-story residential building.

Fighting continued in the fiercely contested Donetsk region, with Ukrainian authorities saying a school was destroyed in the village of Ocheretyne. The region is struggling without gas supplies and, in part, without power and water supplies; its residents are being evacuated.

In the town of Toretsk, artillery shells hit a bus stop, a church and apartment buildings, killing at least eight people and wounding four, regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

In the city of Donetsk, Russian-backed separatist authorities blamed Ukrainian forces for shelling the central part of the city Thursday. The area hit was near a theater where a farewell ceremony for a prominent separatist officer killed a few days ago was being held. Donetsk Mayor Alexei Kulemzin said six people

were killed and seven more wounded.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, denied Ukrainian involvement. He alleged, without offering evidence, that Russian or separatist forces were responsible for the shelling.

Russia and Ukraine have repeatedly accused each other of firing on territories under their own control.

Russian forces have already seized the Luhansk region that neighbors Donetsk. Its Ukrainian governor, Serhiy Haidai, said on social media that local residents are being mobilized to fight against Kyiv's forces and that "even indispensable mine workers are being taken."

Ukrainian authorities reported another abduction of a mayor who reportedly refused to collaborate with the Russians in the southern Kherson region, which is also almost entirely occupied.

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## NATION

# Indiana congresswoman dies in car crash

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski was killed Wednesday in a car crash in her northern Indiana district along with two members of her congressional staff and another person, police said.

The crash happened about 12:30 p.m. when a car crossed the center line on a state highway and collided head-on with the SUV Walorski was riding in, the Elkhart County Sheriff's Office said. Three people in the SUV, including Walorski, 58, were killed, as was a woman driving the other car, authorities said.

Walorski, who served on the House Ways and Means Committee, was first elected to represent Indiana's 2nd Congressional District in 2012. She previously served six years in the state's Legislature.

"She has returned home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers," Walorski's chief of staff Tim Cummings said in a statement.

Walorski and her husband, Dean Swihart, were previously Christian missionaries in Romania, where they established a foundation that provided food and medical supplies to impoverished children. She worked as a television news reporter in South Bend before turning to politics.

Also killed in the crash were Zachery Potts, 27, of Mishawaka, Ind.; Emma Thomson, 28, of Washington, D.C.; and Edith Schmucker, 56, of Nappanee, Ind., according to the sheriff's office.

Cummings confirmed that Potts and Thomson were members of Walorski's congressional staff. Thomson was Walorski's communications director, while Potts was her district director and the Republican chairman for northern Indiana's St. Joseph County.

Schmucker was driving the other

car, according to the sheriff's office. The crash, which occurred in a rural area near the town of Wakarusa, is still under investigation.



Walorski

She was active on agriculture and food policy in Congress, often working across the aisle on those issues. A co-chair of the House Hunger Caucus, she introduced legislation with Democrats to bring back a Nixon-era White House event on food insecurity.

President Joe Biden pointed to that work in a statement crediting Walorski for years of public service.

"We may have represented different parties and disagreed on many issues, but she was respected

by members of both parties for her work," Biden said. "My team and I appreciated her partnership as we plan for a historic White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health this fall that will be marked by her deep care for the needs of rural America."

Indiana Republican U.S. Sen. Todd Young said he was devastated by Walorski's death.

"Jackie loved Hoosiers and devoted her life to fighting for them," Young said in a statement. "I'll never forget her spirit, her positive attitude, and most importantly her friendship. All of Indiana mourns her passing, along with the tragic deaths of her staff Emma Thomson and Zach Potts."

Walorski was a reliable Republican vote in Congress, including against accepting the Arizona and Pennsylvania electoral votes for Biden following the Capitol insurrection.

As a member of the Indiana House, Walorski pushed anti-abortion legislation opposed gambling expansion proposals. She became a favorite of the conservative tea party movement.

Walorski lost a close 2010 congressional race to Democrat Joe Donnelly before narrowly winning the seat in 2012 as Donnelly made a successful run for the Senate. She had easily won her reelection campaigns since then.

House Republican Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy called Walorski a "no-nonsense, straight shooter."

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Walorski "lived a life of service."

"She passionately brought the voices of her north Indiana constituents to the Congress, and she was admired by colleagues on both sides of the aisle for her personal kindness," Pelosi said in a statement.

## Firefighters partially surround Calif. fire

Associated Press

KLAMATH RIVER, Calif. — Firefighters have gotten their first hold on California's deadliest and most destructive fire of the year and expected that the blaze would remain stalled through the weekend.

The McKinney Fire near the Oregon border was 10% contained as of Wednesday night and bulldozers and hand crews were making progress carving firebreaks around much of the rest of the blaze, fire officials said at a community meeting.

The southeastern corner of the blaze above the Siskiyou County seat of Yreka, which has about 7,800 residents, was contained. Evacuation orders for sections of the town and Hawkinsville were downgraded to warnings, allowing people to return home but with a warning that the situation remained dangerous.

About 1,300 residents remained under evacuation orders, officials said. The fire didn't advance on Wednesday, following several days of brief but heavy rain from thunderstorms that provided cloudy, damper weather.

"This is a sleeping giant right now," said Darryl Laws, a unified incident commander on the blaze.

In addition, firefighters expected Thursday to fully surround a 1,000-acre spot fire on the northern edge of the McKinney Fire.

The fire broke out last Friday and has charred nearly 90 square miles of forestland, left tinder-dry by drought. More than 100 homes and other buildings have burned

and four bodies have been found.

The blaze was driven at first by fierce winds ahead of a thunderstorm cell.

More storms earlier this week proved a mixed blessing. A drenching rain Tuesday dumped up to 3 inches on some eastern sections of the blaze but most of the fire area got next to nothing, said Dennis Burns, a fire behavior analyst.

The latest storm also brought concerns about possible river flooding and mudslides. A private contractor in a pickup truck who was aiding the firefighting effort was hurt when a bridge gave out and washed away the vehicle, said Courtney Kreider, a spokesperson with the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office. The contractor had non-life-threatening injuries, she said.

However, no weather events were forecast for the next three or four days that could give the fire "legs," Burns said.

The good news came too late for many people in the scenic hamlet of Klamath River, which was home to about 200 people before the fire reduced many of the homes to ashes, along with the post office, community center and other buildings.

At an evacuation center Wednesday, Bill Simms said that three of the four victims were his neighbors. Two were a married couple who lived up the road.

"I don't get emotional about stuff and material things," Simms said. "But when you hear my next-door neighbors died ... that gets a little emotional."



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Paul Pelosi, right, husband of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, through his lawyer pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor charges related to a collision in California.

## Nancy Pelosi's husband pleads not guilty to misdemeanor DUI, crash charges

The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Paul Pelosi, husband of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, pleaded not guilty Wednesday to misdemeanor charges two months after a vehicle collision in Napa County.

According to The Associated Press, Paul Pelosi did not attend Napa County Superior Court, but his lawyer entered the pleas for him.

The speaker's husband faces two charges: driving under the influence of alcohol causing injury and driving with 0.08% blood alcohol level or higher causing injury.

On June 23, Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley's office issued a criminal complaint against Pelosi "based upon an automobile collision and driving under the influence arrest" on May 28. Pelosi had a 0.082% blood alcohol content, according to the DA's office. Haley filed misdemeanor charges; DAs have discretion in cases like Pelosi's to either file misdemeanor or felony charges.

"This decision is consistent with how our office handles these cases with similar injuries," Haley said.

Pelosi's Porsche collided with another vehicle at 10:17 p.m. on

May 28; the blood sample was taken at 12:32 a.m.

The victim of the collision, referred to as John Doe in Haley's filed complaint, turned down medical treatment on the scene.

The victim said in an interview with Napa County investigators that on the day following the collision "it was difficult to lift things with his right arm and he was suffering from headaches that had not been present prior to the collision."

According to court records, a settlement conference is scheduled for Pelosi on Aug 23.

## NATION

# Water now needed in flood-ravaged Kentucky

Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — National Guard soldiers rushed to distribute bottled water to flood-ravaged eastern Kentucky as forecasters warned of more rain coming to the region.

In the days since historic flooding swamped the Appalachian region, the availability of water surfaced as a concern for victims after the floodwaters badly damaged water systems. As donations poured into the region, water was a top priority, along with cleaning supplies.

“We are moving water as fast as we can,” Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said Wednesday.

National Guard soldiers had distributed more than 2,400 cases of water by early Wednesday, the governor said, as intense heat and humidity added to the misery as people continued shoveling out from the immense wreckage left by flooding that struck in the middle of the night a week ago.

Water service has been restored to many people in the region, the governor said. But work is continuing on heavily damaged water systems. Other systems were “wiped out,” Beshear said. In some areas, it could take weeks or even months to repair water systems, he said.

“It’s going to take significant



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

A camper is seen under water in Carr Creek Lake on Wednesday near Hazard, Ky.

time and significant dollars to restore what was destroyed,” he said.

Water crews from across the state are assisting in the repairs, Beshear said.

Beshear said a special legislative session will likely be needed to devise a relief package for the flood-stricken region. The governor holds the power to reconvene lawmakers for a special session.

Beshear said a state relief pack-

age should include aid to repair water systems to spare the region’s ratepayers from footing the repair costs through higher water rates.

“Because otherwise, they’re going to go to ratepayers,” he said. “So people who just lost everything that are rebuilding would have their water rates just skyrocket in what it would cost.”

While the stifling heat and humidity continued to be a concern

Thursday, the National Weather Service warned of more rain in the forecast for the region. Slow-moving thunderstorms could dump heavy rainfall and lead to more high water Thursday and Friday in areas still reeling from massive flooding a week ago, the weather service said.

Scattered thunderstorms with high winds were expected mainly Thursday afternoon and evening.

Along with heavy rain, the storms could produce strong and damaging wind gusts.

The statewide death toll from the historic flooding is 37, the governor said. Amid the massive cleanup, families were preparing to bury loved ones killed in the flooding. Initial expenditures from a relief fund opened by Beshear were being distributed to pay funeral expenses of flood victims.

The outpouring of support was evident across the area. Volunteers helped remove debris from homes, while others served meals. Beshear said it’s a time for people to lean on each other and urged them to seek help in dealing with the trauma.

“Remember, it’s OK not to be OK,” the Democratic governor said. “I don’t think our brains or hearts are designed to deal with trauma and loss at this level.”

Teams searching streams in boats and combing debris-clogged creekbanks have rescued more than 1,300 people and crews were still trying to reach some people cut off by floods or mudslides. A few thousand customers still lacked electricity in eastern Kentucky. Emergency shelters and area state parks housed hundreds of residents who fled homes that were destroyed or badly damaged. Many more are staying with relatives and friends.

## Sandy Hook attorney: Jan. 6 panel asks for Alex Jones’ texts

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — An attorney representing two parents who sued conspiracy theorist Alex Jones over his false claims about the Sandy Hook massacre said Thursday that the U.S. House Jan. 6 committee has requested two years’ worth of records from Jones’ phone.

Attorney Mark Bankston said in court that the committee investigating the attack on the U.S. Capitol has requested the digital records. A day earlier, Bankston revealed in court that Jones’ attorney had mistakenly sent Bankston the last two years’ worth of texts from Jones’ cellphone.

Jones’ attorney Andino Reynal sought a mistrial over the mistaken transfer of records and said they should have been returned and any copies destroyed.

He accused the Bankston of trying to perform “for a national audience.” Reynal said the material included a review copy of text messages over six months from late 2019 into the first quarter of 2020. Attorneys for the Sandy Hook parents said they followed Texas’ civil rules of evidence and that Jones’ attorneys missed their

chance to properly request the return of the records.

“Mr. Reynal is using a fig leaf (to cover) for his own malpractice,” Bankston said.

Bankston said the records mistakenly sent to him included some medical records of plaintiffs in other lawsuits against Jones.

“Mr. Jones and his intimate messages with Roger Stone are not protected,” Bankston said, referring to former President Donald Trump’s longtime ally.

Rolling Stone, quoting unnamed sources, reported Wednesday evening that the Jan. 6 committee was preparing to request the data from the parents’ attorneys to assist in the investigation of the deadly riot.

A jury in Austin, Texas, is deciding how much Jones should pay to the parents of a child killed in the 2012 school massacre because of Infowars’ repeated false claims that the shooting was a hoax created by advocates for gun control.

Last month, the House Jan. 6 committee showed graphic and violent text messages and played videos of right-wing figures, including Jones, and others vowing that Jan. 6 would be the day they

would fight for Trump.

The Jan. 6 committee first subpoenaed Jones in November, demanding a deposition and documents related to his efforts to spread misinformation about the 2020 election and a rally on the day of the attack.

In the subpoena letter, Rep. Bennie Thompson, the Democratic chairman, said Jones helped organize the Jan. 6 rally at the Ellipse that preceded the insurrection. He also wrote that Jones repeatedly promoted Trump’s false claims of election fraud, urged his listeners to go to Washington for the rally, and march from the Ellipse to the Capitol. Thompson also wrote that Jones “made statements implying that you had knowledge about the plans of President Trump with respect to the rally.”

The panel was interested in what Jones said after Trump’s now-infamous Dec. 19, 2020, tweet in which he told his supporters to “be there, will be wild!” on Jan. 6.

“You went on InfoWars that same day and called the tweet ‘One of the most historic events in American history,’” the letter continued.

## Applications for US jobless claims up again last week

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More Americans applied for jobless benefits last week as the number of unemployed continues to rise modestly, though the labor market remains one of the strongest parts of the U.S. economy.

Applications for jobless aid for the week ending July 30 rose by 6,000 to 260,000 from the previous week’s 254,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. First-time applications generally reflect layoffs.

The four-week average for claims, which evens out the weekly ups and downs, also rose from the previous week, to 254,750.

The total number of Americans collecting jobless benefits for the week ending July 23 rose by 48,000 from the previous week, to 1,416,000. That figure has been near 50-year lows for months.

On Tuesday, the Labor Department reported that American employers posted fewer job openings in June as the economy contends with persistently high inflation and rising interest rates.

Job openings fell to a still-high 10.7 million in June from 11.3 million in May. Job openings, which never exceeded 8 million in a

month before last year, had topped 11 million every month from December through May before dipping in June.

The Labor Department’s jobs report for July, due out Friday, is expected to show that employers tacked on another 250,000 jobs last month, which would be a healthy number in normal times but would be the lowest since December 2020, when the global economy was being ravaged by the pandemic.

Economists expect the unemployment rate to hold at 3.6% for the fifth straight month.

Though the labor market is still considered strong, there have been some high-profile layoffs announced recently by Tesla, Netflix, Carvana, Redfin and Coinbase. A host of other companies, particularly in the tech sector, have announced hiring freezes.

Other indicators point to some weakness in the U.S. economy. The government said last week that the U.S. economy shrank 0.9% in the second quarter, the second straight quarterly contraction.

Consumer prices are still soaring, up 9.1% in June compared with a year earlier, the biggest yearly increase in four decades.

## NATION

# Christian flag in speech battle flies over Boston

BY MARK PRATT  
Associated Press

BOSTON — The Christian flag that became the focus of a free speech legal battle that went all the way to the Supreme Court was raised — briefly — outside Boston City Hall on Wednesday to cheers and songs of praise.

The flag-raising took place about three months after the Supreme Court in a unanimous decision ruled the city discriminated against Harold Shurtleff and his Camp Constitution group because of his “religious viewpoint” when it refused permission for him to fly the banner on City Hall Plaza on Constitution Day 2017.

“We’re so pleased for this day,” Shurtleff, a Boston native, said at a ceremony to raise the white flag, which has a red cross on a blue background in the upper left corner.

“We have a great Constitution, and we have a wonderful First Amendment, but just like when it comes to muscles, if you don’t use it, they get weak,” he said. “When I got the rejection email from the city, and it said separation of church and state, I knew we had a case.”

There are three flagpoles outside City Hall that fly the U.S., Massachusetts and Boston flags. The city flag is sometimes taken down and temporarily replaced with another.

The city between 2005 and 2017

approved 284 consecutive applications to fly flags, with no denials before it rejected Shurtleff’s proposal, according to Liberty Counsel, which represented Shurtleff.

The only reason it was denied was that the word “Christian” was on his application, and he was told to replace the word if he wanted approval, Mat Staver, Liberty Counsel’s founder and chair, said Wednesday.

City Hall Plaza “is for the people to be able to represent their views and perspectives without government telling them that they can’t,” said Jonathan Alexandre, Liberty Counsel’s senior counsel for government affairs. “And if they open it up to one group, they must open it up to every other group.”

The flag was up for about two hours Wednesday before Camp Constitution took it down, both the city and Liberty Counsel confirmed.

The Supreme Court case revolved around whether the flag-raising was an act of the government or private parties.

“Boston did not make the raising and flying of private groups’ flags a form of government speech,” the court wrote in the ruling. “That means, in turn, that Boston’s refusal to let Shurtleff and Camp Constitution raise their flag based on its religious viewpoint” curtailed their First Amendment free speech rights.

## Judge denies bond for La. rapper accused of rape

Associated Press

GONZALES, La. — A Louisiana judge has refused to set any bond for rapper Mystikal, who is accused of raping and choking a woman at his home outside Baton Rouge.

State District Judge Steven Tureau ruled on Tuesday that evidence against Michael Tyler, 51, his past history and the victim’s fears met the standard for holding him without bail, The Advocate reported.

Tyler served six years in prison after pleading guilty in 2003 to sexual battery.

In December 2020, prosecutors in Caddo Parish, in northwest Louisiana, dropped rape and kidnapping charges that had kept him jailed for 18 months.

Mystikal, who grew up in New

Orleans and now lives in Prairieville, is accused of attacking the woman, taking her keys and holding her against her will, according to an arrest warrant.

Sheriff’s Detective Garrett Keith testified Tuesday that the woman went to Tyler’s home about 8 p.m. Saturday to talk about alleged financial commitments he had made to her.

He said the woman reported that Tyler’s behavior changed abruptly after he went into the bathroom and returned: He accused her of stealing cash, choked her and pulled out her hair, Keith testified.

Tyler later apologized, prayed with her and threw rubbing alcohol on her to cleanse her “bad spirits” before raping her, Keith testified.



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

People hug after police showed them the aftermath of a fatal accident on Tuesday.

## Car hits tents, killing 2 in LA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A driver who was fleeing police crashed into a homeless encampment in South Los Angeles, killing a man and a woman, authorities said.

A man suspected of domestic

violence drove off at around 12:30 p.m. Tuesday. Police didn’t chase the man but found his car a short time later.

Police told KABC-TV that the driver lost control, hit a curb and rammed into two tents on a sidewalk, killing a

man in one tent and a sleeping woman in another.

Their names weren’t immediately released.

Police said the driver received minor injuries.

He could face manslaughter charges, investigators said.

## Suspect mistakenly released in Lady Gaga’s dog theft recaptured

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A suspect mistakenly released from a Los Angeles County jail where he was being held on suspicion of shooting Lady Gaga’s dog walker and stealing her French bulldogs has been recaptured, authorities said.

James Howard Jackson, 19, was arrested Wednesday nearly five months after he was released from jail while awaiting trial “due to a clerical error,” the county Sheriff’s Department said in a statement.

Jackson was one of five people arrested in connection with the Feb. 24, 2021, attack in Hollywood.

Last month, the U.S. Marshals Service announced a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to his arrest.

Jackson’s arrest comes as one of three men charged in the case pleaded no contest to second-degree robbery.

Jaylin Keyshawn White, 20, was immediately sentenced to four years in state prison, Deputy District Attorney Michele Hani-see told NBC4.

Prosecutors said Jackson and

two other alleged gang members had driven around looking for expensive French bulldogs to steal, then spotted, tailed and robbed Ryan Fischer as he walked Lady Gaga’s dogs near the famed Sunset Boulevard.

Fischer was with the pop star’s three dogs named Asia, Koji and Gustav.

During a violent struggle, Fischer was hit, choked and then shot in an attack captured by the doorbell camera of a nearby home.

The video captured Fischer screaming, “Oh, my God! I’ve been shot!” and “Help me!” and “I’m bleeding out from my chest!”

Fischer lost part of a lung. About a month after the crime, he posted on Instagram that his recovery has gone well.

The pop star’s dogs were returned two days later by a woman who claimed she had found them tied to a pole and asked about Lady Gaga’s offer of a \$500,000 reward if the dogs were returned “no questions asked.” The singer was in Rome at the time filming a movie.

The woman was charged with



Photo Date: 04/27/21

U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE/AP

James Howard Jackson

receiving stolen property and the father of another suspect is charged with helping him avoid arrest.

Jackson already had been charged in the attack and had pleaded not guilty when the county district attorney’s office filed a superseding indictment that charged him with attempted murder, conspiracy to commit a robbery and assault with a semiautomatic firearm.

## WORLD

# Nuclear talks with Iran resume in Vienna

By JON GAMBRELL  
Associated Press

Negotiators from Iran, the U.S. and the European Union resumed monthslong, indirect talks over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal Thursday, as international inspectors reported that the Islamic Republic is expanding its uranium enrichment.

The resumption of the Vienna talks, suddenly called Wednesday, appeared not to include high-level representation from all the countries that were part of Iran's 2015

deal with world powers.

The negotiations come as Western officials express growing skepticism over the prospects for a deal to restore the accord. The EU's top diplomat has warned that "the space for additional significant compromises has been exhausted."

Iran's top negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, met with EU mediator Enrique Mora, Iranian media reported. As in other talks, the U.S. won't directly negotiate with Iran. Instead, the two sides will speak

through Mora.

U.S. Special Representative for Iran Rob Malley also was on hand, tweeting Wednesday that "our expectations are in check."

Mora also met Thursday with Russian Ambassador Mikhail Ulyanov, who has represented Moscow's interests in the talks. Ulyanov also separately met with Bagheri Kani.

"As always we had a frank, pragmatic and constructive exchange of views on ways and means of overcoming the last outstanding is-

suces," Ulyanov wrote on Twitter.

But going into the negotiations, Iran laid out a maximalist stance. Through its state-run IRNA news agency, Tehran denied that it had abandoned its effort to get America to delist its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard as a terrorist organization as a precondition to a deal. That has been a main sticking point.

IRNA also quoted Iran's civilian nuclear chief as saying turned-off surveillance cameras of the International Atomic Energy Agency

would be switched back on only if the West abandons an effort to investigate man-made traces of uranium found at previously undisclosed sites in the country.

Those positions could doom the talks.

Iranian officials have been trying to offer optimistic assessments of the negotiations while blaming the U.S. for the deadlock. They may be worried that a collapse of the talks could send the country's rial currency plunging to new lows.

## Russian judge sentences WNBA's Griner to 9 years

By JIM HEINTZ  
Associated Press

KHIMKI, Russia — U.S. basketball star Brittney Griner was convicted Thursday in Russia of drug possession and sentenced to nine years in prison following a politically charged trial that came amid soaring tensions between Moscow and Washington over Ukraine and could lead to a high-stakes prisoner exchange between the two world powers.

The 31-year-old Griner, a two-time U.S. Olympic champion and an eight-time all-star with the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury listened with a blank expression as an interpreter translated the verdict by Judge Anna Sotnikova. The judge also fined her about \$16,700.

President Joe Biden denounced the verdict and sentence as "unacceptable."

"I call on Russia to release her immediately so she can be with her wife, loved ones, friends, and teammates," Biden said, adding that he would continue to work to bring home Griner and Paul Whelan, an American imprisoned in Russia on an espionage conviction.

Outside the court, the U.S. Embassy's charge d'affaires Elizabeth Rood called the verdict "a miscarriage of justice."

Before the unusually swift verdict was reached, an emotional Griner apologized to her family, teammates and the Russian city of Yekaterinburg, where she plays in the WNBA offseason, "for my mis-

take that I made and the embarrassment that I brought on them."

With her voice cracking, she added: "I hope in your ruling it does not end my life."

A conviction is usually a prerequisite to arranging a prisoner exchange and also allows Griner to apply for a presidential pardon. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said last month that the "necessary judicial procedures" must be completed before any other steps can be taken.

The disclosure in July that the U.S. government was seeking a prisoner swap involving Griner reflected the growing pressure on the Biden administration to do more to bring her home. The U.S. State Department had earlier declared Griner to be "wrongfully detained" — a charge that Russia has sharply rejected.

Griner, recognized as one of the greatest players in WNBA history, has been detained since Feb. 17 after police said they found vape cartridges containing cannabis oil in her luggage upon landing at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport. She was returning to Russia, where she has competed since 2014.

When she took the stand at her trial July 7, Griner said: "I would like to plead guilty on the charges against me. But I had no intention of breaking any Russian law." She added that she brought the vape canisters into Russia because she had packed in haste for her flight.

In later testimony, Griner described a confusing scene while

being held at the airport, saying an interpreter provided by authorities translated only a fraction of what was being said to her and that officials told her to sign documents, but "no one explained any of it to me." She also said she was not informed of her rights.

Russian media have speculated repeatedly that Griner could be swapped for Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout, nicknamed "the Merchant of Death," who is serving a 25-year sentence in the U.S. after being convicted of conspiracy to kill U.S. citizens and providing aid to a terrorist organization. Russia has agitated for Bout's release for years.



Griner

## Volcano near main Icelandic airport erupts after pause

Associated Press

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — A volcano in southwest Iceland began erupting Wednesday, the country's meteorological authorities said — just eight months after its last eruption officially ended.

The Icelandic Meteorological Office urged people not to go near the Fagradalsfjall volcano, which is located some 20 miles southwest of the capital, Reykjavik.

The eruption in an uninhabited valley is not far from Keflavik Airport, Iceland's international air traffic hub. The airport remained open and no flights were disrupted.

A live video feed from the site showed magma spewing from a narrow fissure about 109 to 218 yards long over a field of lava from last year's eruption, the first on the Reykjanes Peninsula in almost 800 years.

Scientists had anticipated an eruption somewhere on the peninsula after a series of earthquakes over the past week indicated volcanic activity close to the crust.

Volcanologist Magnus Tumi Gudmundsson told The Associated Press that the eruption appeared to be small.

"But we don't know where in the process things are



MARCO DI MARCO/AP

**A close-up of the lava flowing from Fagradalsfjall volcano in Iceland on Wednesday, which is located 20 miles southwest of the capital of Reykjavik and close to the international Keflavik Airport.**

at," he said as he boarded a helicopter for a first look.

The 2021 eruption in the same area produced spectacular lava flows for several months. Hundreds of thousands of people flocked to see the sight.

Iceland, located above a volcanic hotspot in the North Atlantic, averages an eruption every four to five years.

Shares in Iceland's flagship airline, Icelandair, rose 6% when news of the eruption broke Wednesday. Investors and residents alike had been spooked by the possibility of a much more disruptive eruption in a populated area of the peninsula.



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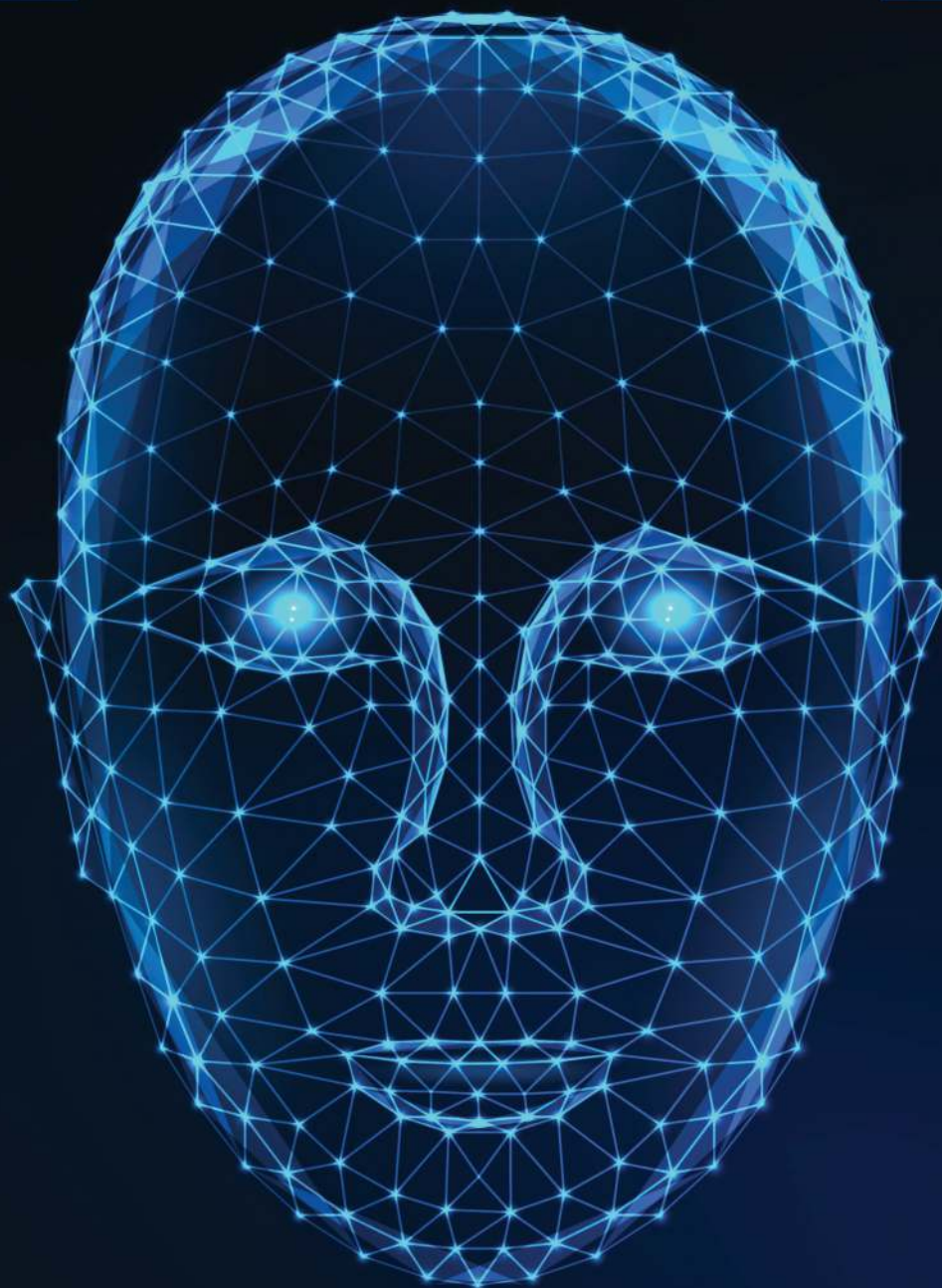
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# WEEKEND



ODESZA back,  
still experimenting  
**Music, Page 28**



## Controller that's raising eyebrows

New assistive technology translates movements and expressions into mouse clicks and thumbstick movements

**Video games, Page 18**

iStock

## WEEKEND: GADGETS &amp; TECHNOLOGY



iStock

Development of tech-embedded clothing to help us stay healthy and improve daily life is rapidly advancing.

# Wearable wonders

Researchers say robotic clothing could soon be widely available

By PRANSHU VERMA  
*The Washington Post*

In the Wallace and Gromit clay-animated movie “The Wrong Trousers,” a pair of futuristic pants lets people walk on walls and ceilings.

Researchers in England said the film sparked an idea: Robotic clothes could help society. They created “The Right Trousers,” a set of pants embedded with electrical pumps to force air into tiny tubes that expand and can help elderly or disabled people with issues like getting up or improving blood circulation.

Now, in university labs across the world, material scientists, computer programmers and fabric designers are working to advance robotic clothing at a rapid pace, inching us closer to a reality where the clothes we wear help us keep healthy or improve daily life.

“We’re sort of at the pre-iPhone announcement [stage],” said Yoel Fink, a materials science professor at MIT. “It’s very, very exciting.”

In June, researchers in Australia created robotic textile fibers, which can make fabric move automatically. Last year, scientists at MIT fabricated computer programmable threads and built fiber batteries using battery gels that could embed into clothes and power robotic textiles. In a sign that the technology is approaching maturity, the intelligence community announced in July it’s looking to develop smart clothes for soldiers and spies.

Researchers said their work is at a turning point, and could soon unlock an era where clothing will act more like a computer, sensing how your body feels and telling your clothes how to help. In the coming decade, scientists said, customers can expect a whole range of futuristic offerings: pants that can help lift elderly or disabled people up; athletic socks that can promote blood flow through automatic compression; maternity clothes that could passively track fetal heart rates to improve pregnancy outcomes.

In recent years, companies have begun releasing smart clothing that connects to cellphones. Google — through its Jacquard project — partnered with brands like Levi’s, Yves Saint Laurent and Adidas to put sensors in denim jackets, backpacks and shoes, letting users access their phones instantly, swiping sleeves to change music. Fashion technology start-up Wearablex built yoga pants that

emit vibrations to improve your posture, also through a smartphone.

But these connected clothes are just the first wave of smart clothing technology, researchers said, and technological advances they’re working on will create clothing that can do far more.

At the University of New South Wales in Australia, researchers are creating fabrics that can shape shift. Than Nho Do, a senior lecturer at the school, said his team has created tiny silicon tubes, similar to the size of yarn and inspired by muscle fibers, that can weave into sheets of fabric. These tubes, triggered by electronic or thermal stimulation, can make fabric take various preprogrammed shapes.

But challenges still remain for Do’s team, notably around making these robotic tubes smaller so they can weave easily with yarns and other fabrics. Currently, they have a .5-mm diameter and are aiming for 0.1mm, roughly the size of a syringe needle tip. Yarn can average around 3 to 4 mm.

To make smart clothing truly transformational requires computing power inside fabrics, so they can monitor physiological signs and direct the technology, Fink said. Researchers are attempting to build computing fabrics that could process data being generated by the human skin and turn it into commands that clothes obey.

“Software is going to determine what services you’re receiving,” he said, “and that thing is going to look like your T-shirt and your pants that you’re wearing right now.”

To that end, Fink and other researchers from MIT have created fibers with hundreds of silicone microchips to transmit digital signals — essential if clothes are to automatically track things like heart rate or foot swelling. These fibers are small enough to pass through a needle that can be sown into fabric and washed at least 10 times.

Rebecca Kramer-Bottiglio, a professor of mechanical engineering at Yale University, said that many challenges remain before smart textiles “reach their full potential.”

Kramer-Bottiglio noted that size will be a challenge. “The added bulk of specialized fibers could make wearable smart textiles uncomfortable or difficult” to put on or remove. But she says that researchers will figure out a way forward.

“Recent breakthroughs,” she said, “point toward a not-so-distant future where smart textiles will be a part of our everyday wardrobe.”

## GADGETS

## Smartmi Purifier 2 quickly and quietly cleans the air

By GREGG ELLMAN  
*Tribune News Service*

Without being a medical professional or making any bold predictions, an air purifier is probably an essential gadget you can add to the house. The Smartmi Air Purifier 2 is a user-friendly home-use device to clean the air of pollutants.

The freestanding, vintage blue-colored cylinder with air vents measures 10.2 by 22.1 inches and weighs 12 pounds. The alternating current (AC)-powered device does high-efficiency air scrubbing for up to 484 feet of cleaning area, removing airborne particles down to 0.08 micrometers in size.

The air purifier set at high can remove airborne particles in the time it takes an average person to change a T-shirt, according to Smartmi. The size makes it ideal for living areas, bedrooms, workspaces and classrooms.

The need for a small home appliance such as the Smartmi Air Purifier 2 is explained by Smartmi: “As both the number of indoor and outdoor allergens increases, it’s difficult to locate individual allergens quickly and remove allergens effectively, making the need for an Allergy Care Certified air purifier in your home even more important.”

It’s essentially just a plug-and-play, self-contained unit and comes fully assembled.

For those wanting technical data, the Smartmi website has specifics on pollutants captured and the size of the particles. A top-sided OLED touch screen displays the room temperature and air quality in real time. It has a power button and cycles through auto, favorite and sleep modes. A pollen indicator shows

those levels for allergy sufferers. An included AC power cord plugs into the back.

Its beneficial effects are powerful, but not obvious. It works in the background, in silence, eliminating the dangerous aspects of the air that could make you sick or set off allergies.

Inside is a high-quality H13 true HEPA filter, the key to the system that includes a pre-filter and a high-efficiency activated carbon filter for capturing 99.98% of airborne particles and 0.3um allergens. This includes dust, pollen, pet dander and smoke.

In addition, a ultraviolet sterilization light eliminates bacteria and viruses. Those who don’t want the UV sterilization can turn it off with the Smartmi Link app. The whisper-quiet Smartmi Air Purifier 2 uses 40 watts of energy and has noise levels ranging from 30 to 64 decibels.

The app allows you to power the Smartmi Air Purifier 2 on and off, choose the modes and turn the UV lamp, sound and child lock on or off. Displays for the air quality, indoor temperature and humidity are also on the app.

A top grille is easily removed to clean dust buildup quickly. The primary filter’s lifespan is shown on the display. When the filter has less than a 10% lifespan, the display shows a QR code for a replacement (\$49.99 at Amazon). A backside hatch opens to remove the filter.

The Smartmi Air Purifier 2 works with Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant and Apple HomeKit smart home assistants, along with the free Smartmi Link app.

**Online:** [us.smartmiglobal.com](http://us.smartmiglobal.com); \$259.99, or on sale at Amazon for \$220.99



SMARTMI/TNS

The Smartmi Air Purifier 2 can clean the air in an area of up to 484 feet, removing airborne particles down to 0.08 micrometers in size.

## WEEKEND: MOVIES



Netflix

Ram Charan and N.T. Rama Rao Jr. in “RRR,” a three-hour Telugu-language action epic that has ranked among Netflix’s top 10 non-English language films for 11 straight weeks.

# ‘I didn’t expect this kind of reception’

Global success of Rajamouli’s action epic ‘RRR,’ about real-life Indian revolutionaries, signals breakthrough for Tollywood

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

India’s film industry is one of the most vast and varied in the world — it’s really not one but many separate industries, including Bollywood, Tollywood and others — yet few of the country’s roughly 2,000 annually produced movies ever make much of a dent with Western audiences.

“We have a long tradition of storytelling in India. We have probably the oldest and most colorful stories,” says director S.S. Rajamouli. “Not being able to travel across borders has been a disappointment.”

That has changed emphatically with Rajamouli’s “RRR,” a three-hour Telugu-language action epic that has not only become one of India’s biggest hits ever but climbed U.S. box-office charts before finding an even wider audience on Netflix. For 11 straight weeks, “RRR” has ranked among the top 10 non-English language films on the streaming service. Dubbed in Hindi and subtitled in 15 languages, “RRR” is the most popular film from India ever on Netflix, charting among the top 10 films in 62 countries.

For many, “RRR,” based on Hindu mythology and the freedom fighters that fought British colonialism, is their first encounter with Tollywood, the Telugu movie industry, or Indian films at all. What many have seen is a movie filled to the brim with over-the-top action sequenc-

es and sprawling dance numbers, and an energy that today’s Hollywood blockbusters seldom match. Motorbikes are juggled. Tigers are thrown. Suspenders prove a surprisingly pliable dancing prop.

“There is never enough for me,” Rajamouli said in a recent interview from Hyderabad in India. “The only thing too much is my producer coming in and saying, ‘We’re crossing our budget. You need to stop somewhere.’ That is the only thing that will stop me. If given a chance, I will go even bigger and wilder, no doubt about it. To the brink, and nothing less.”

That go-for-broke style has earned the endorsements of some of Hollywood’s blockbuster filmmakers. James Gunn and Scott Derrickson, who have each helmed Marvel movies, have heaped their praise on “RRR” since it began streaming.

The “RRR” success has come while Netflix is reeling from subscriber loss and a stock decline, a downturn that has thrown its movie model into debate. But one less disputable aspect of Netflix’s platform is its ability to foster non-English global hits.

“RRR” comes in the wake of global series hits like the Korean “Squid Game” and France’s “Lupin.” Theatrical-first movies like the South Korean best-picture-winning “Parasite” have already toppled what director Bong Joon Ho has called “the one-inch barrier” of subtitles.

“Frankly, I didn’t expect this kind of reception from the West,” Rajamouli says.

“In the country and across the Indian diaspora all over the world is what we expected. But the reception from the West was a complete surprise for me. I always thought that Western sensibilities are different from my kind of films. I mostly cater to Eastern or Indian sensibilities.”

But while “RRR” has certain effects-heavy Hollywood characteristics that make it not so dissimilar from a superhero movie, it’s deeply engrained in Indian myth and present-day circumstance. “RRR” stands for “Rise Roar Revolt,” but it also refers to Rajamouli and his two stars, N.T. Rama Rao Jr. and Ram Charan. They’re each from movie-star dynasties that have previously been more like rivals. This is Charan and Rao’s first film together, which is a little like a meeting of Al Pacino and Robert De Niro, if they were also the sons of Marlon Brando and James Dean.

They play real-life Indian revolutionaries Alluri Sitarama Raju (Charan) and Komaram Bheem (Rao), who team up in 1920s British-controlled India. In returning to the origins of modern-day India, “RRR” inevitably relates to today’s India, where, like in many other countries in recent years, nationalism has been on the rise.

Since being elected in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emboldened India’s Hindu majority, sometimes at the expense of its Muslim minority.

Rajamouli, 48, has risen as one of the

country’s biggest names in directing over the same time period. He launched his two-part “Baahubali” epic in 2015. Its 2017 sequel ranks as the country’s biggest box-office smash. (Both are also streaming on Netflix.)

“Baahubali” was a Telugu triumph that signaled that Tollywood in India’s South had perhaps surpassed Bollywood as the country’s top movie factory. In “RRR,” the most expensive Telugu film ever made with a budget of \$72 million, Rajamouli is juggling both Telugu traditions and Bollywood song-and-dance aesthetics.

Surely, many of the cultural references and connections in “RRR” will sail right over the heads of most Western viewers. But the sheer verve of its filmmaking isn’t getting lost in translation — and that may mean more cultural crossovers for Tollywood and India to come.

Rajamouli is prepping his next highly anticipated film. He’s now often asked about whether he’d ever want to make a Hollywood movie or a Marvel one. “RRR,” though, hints more at Western audiences coming to Indian films than vice versa. And Rajamouli’s focus is in making Indian films for India and beyond.

“Because of the success of ‘RRR’ with Western audiences, I am trying to make a film for the entire world, not just India,” Rajamouli says. “But I wouldn’t try to locate Western sensibilities and try to match up and change my story according to that. I think that would never work.”

## WEEKEND: MOVIES



METRO GOLDWYN MAYER PICTURES/AP

From left, Colin Farrell, Joel Edgerton and Viggo Mortensen are British divers who attempt a daring and unlikely cave rescue in the Ron Howard-directed "Thirteen Lives."

# On a mission to get 'Thirteen Lives' right

Director Ron Howard says he felt a deeper responsibility on behalf of those involved than in any of his other films

By LINDSEY BAHR  
Associated Press

It may be common etiquette to not spoil the end of a film, but Ron Howard learned years ago on "Apollo 13" that knowing the outcome of a story is different from knowing the story itself. And though the 2018 rescue of the Thai boys' soccer team and their coach is considerably fresher in our collective memories, Howard saw in it a similar opportunity.

"You may know on a headline basis that things worked out well, but you don't know what kind of personal struggles may be in store for the key characters," Howard said. "Through dramatization, through good acting and scenes and moviemaking, you begin to connect emotionally with the characters in a way that you just can't with a straight documentary or with news coverage."

The story was in some ways tailor-made for a Hollywood film with its happy ending and straightforward acts of heroism. The 18-day saga has already inspired a great documentary, "The Rescue," and several other projects. But the reality of making "Thirteen Lives," now playing in theaters in select cities and available on Prime Video, was an enormously complex and sometimes harrowing endeavor. Even Howard said it ranks in the "upper quadrant" of his most challenging films.

And it wasn't just about the difficulties of filming the dangerous cave diving in the narrow, underwater corridors of Tham Luang Lang Non, which were re-created for the film by production designer Molly Hughes, but of telling the stories of all the people who helped make the impossible mission successful. As everyone would quickly come to realize, there were quite a

few people worthy of the camera's focus. There were the British divers and the Thai Navy SEALs, of course, but also the parents, the boys and the coach in the cave, the public servants managing the crisis and the thousands of foreign and local volunteers who contributed in big and small ways.



Howard on set

"I felt a little bit like a conductor," Howard said. "Logistically, it was very complicated. And I felt a deeper responsibility to getting this right on behalf of those involved than probably any other movie that I've made based on real events." Because of COVID-19 travel restrictions, the bulk of filming took place in Queensland, Australia, with additional photography in Thailand that Howard had to direct remotely. It was a hurdle for him because top of mind was making sure the story was as authentically Thai as possible. He enlisted a team of Thai artists and producers to help, including the great cinematographer Sayombhu Mukdeeprom ("Call Me By Your Name").

"I knew that that was not only the right thing to do, but I sensed that it would be, you know, terrible if we got it wrong," Howard said.

Another was producer Raymond Phathanavirangoon, who was tasked with infusing William Nicholson's ("Gladiator") script with details and nuances of Northern Thai culture, from the proper way to style a visiting Burmese Monk, to the use of prayer and regional accents.

"A large portion of the film is in Thai, which is quite an unusual thing for a Hol-

lywood film," Phathanavirangoon said. "We painstakingly tried to get the accents right. Even in Thai cinema, you rarely hear people speak with a Northern accent."

Naturally, though, there is a focus on the British divers who swam the boys and the coach out of the cave one by one. The roles attracted the likes of Viggo Mortensen (as Rick Stanton), Colin Farrell (as John Volanthen) and Joel Edgerton (as Dr. Harris), who developed close relationships with their real-life counterparts.

"What they do as a pastime is kind of beyond my comprehension," said Farrell. "They really are subterranean explorers. And talking to them, I suppose the most amazing thing was the normality that they exude. They're not adrenaline junkies."

Going in, the plan was for the actors to do some of the cave diving and to supplement it with stunt double work. There would be a dive supervisor in Andrew Allen and an underwater director of photography in Simon Christidis. But somewhere in the intense three-week training, the decision was made that the actors would do most of the cave scenes themselves.

"I kind of blame Viggo," Farrell laughed. "He was the one that was insisting that we should do it. But I was in for a penny, in for a pound."

Stanton and Jason Mallinson (played in the film by Paul Gleeson) were also on set, and often in the water alongside the actors coaching them through the process. And it was scary at times, especially for Farrell who said he is not the strongest swimmer.

"It was as safe and controlled as it could be. But there was a couple of times it was rather nerve-racking," Farrell said. "Full scale panic attack maybe wasn't exactly

what I had, but there were moments of anxiety, a very real anxiety. I suppose I'm describing a panic attack of sorts, albeit a light one."

But everyone was also keenly aware that their experience was just a small fraction of the life-and-death stakes of the actual mission. It wasn't a set, Mortensen said, where people were complaining about the breakfast burritos, the coffee or the weather, especially with the real divers close by.

"It was high demand. It was difficult," said Tom Bateman, who plays diver Chris Jewell. "But we're just holding the candle up to some incredible people. Never once did anyone complain."

And in "Thirteen Lives," everyone had a shared sense of purpose. It is, after all, a rare real-life example of selflessness and global collaboration that didn't have to be dramatized much at all.

"I'm very happy to be in it not just because it's Ron Howard and it's a great adventure story and also very entertaining. But it's an important story," Mortensen said. "It's an important example of people doing the right thing together and a huge amount of people selflessly volunteering for the right reasons, for the common good, and that's remarkable these days."

"It should be more common rather than selfish, greedy, power grabbing, competitive, dishonest behavior, which is exemplified by many leaders around the world. When you see people not do that, you say, 'Oh yeah humans are capable of that. It's possible.' Why not have more of that? It's not just some Hollywood movie. It's like, 'Oh, this really happened. These people did that together,'" he added. "That is the best of us."

## WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS

# Murder on the disorient express

Pitt delivers even as 'Bullet Train' goes off the rails

BY JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

**A**board the speeding locomotive of "Bullet Train" ride at least five assassins, one venomous reptile (a snake on the train), countless glib Guy Ritchie-esque slo-mo action sequences and one bucket-hat-wearing Brad Pitt.

It's a lot of ingredients that go into this candy-colored, battle royale of a movie. But the only one that really matters is that last one. At 58, Pitt's star power has never seemed so easy and so natural. Radiant in "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," delicious in "The Lost City," Pitt glides into "Bullet Train" in an rarefied state of cruise control. Seldom has a movie star seemed to be having so much fun.

In "Bullet Train," now in theaters, Pitt plays a hired gun by profession but little else. His code name is Ladybug. He doesn't like guns. And in his first job back after a hiatus of self-reflection and therapy, he goes into lethal fights with great reluctance, spouting self-help slogans like "Hurt people hurt people" in the midst of hand-to-hand combat. Pitt, a maximum movie star with a minimalist bent, is a hit man with no taste for hitting.

Ladybug, tasked to grab a very particular briefcase off a train headed from

Tokyo to Kyoto, might not be up for the job, but the bigger question is whether "Bullet Train" is a good enough vehicle for its biggest star. Director David Leitch, the stuntman-turned-director of "Atomic Blonde" and "Deadpool 2," has brought the style and energy of a "John Wick" film (he co-directed the first) to a setting that has traditionally been associated with more subtle methods of killing.

But with films like Bong Joon Ho's "Snowpiercer" and the Liam Neeson-led "The Commuter" greasing the wheels, train movies have chugged along since the original "Murder on the Orient Express." Adapted from Kotaro Isaka's pulpy novel, "MariaBeetle," "Bullet Train" amps the carnage further and shifts the action to Japan.

But the location here is mostly just a neon-lit stage for a high-speed melee with an international ensemble, including Brian Tyree Henry (best of the bunch) and Aaron Taylor-Johnson as bickering British "twins"; Andrew Koji as a Japanese assassin; a Mexican cartel veteran named the Wolf (Benito A. Martinez Ocasio, aka Bad Bunny); a dangerous young woman called Prince who fake cries her way out of nearly everything (Joey King); and Zazie Beetz's killer known as the Hor-



SONY PICTURES/AP

**Bad Bunny, left, and Brad Pitt appear in a scene from "Bullet Train." In the film, Pitt plays a reluctant hit man who is tasked with retrieving a briefcase.**

All are on the train for various criminal reasons ultimately connected to a Russian kingpin named the White Death. The actor playing this most fearsome character is best left to the third-act reveal, but that's just one way "Bullet Train" plays around with star persona. There's a cameo that answers Pitt's in "The Lost City." Another "Lost City" star, Sandra Bullock, is mostly only heard on the other end of a phone line, as Ladybug's handler.

The copious flashbacks and quirky banter (Henry's character has an outlook based around Thomas the Tank Engine) that accompany the juggling of all these characters in between bloody encounters is a familiar kind of framework recalling a long line of Quentin Tarantino knockoffs. In "Bullet Train," a movie that proudly

opts for style over substance, characters are introduced like video game fighters, running gags get run into the ground and a winking irreverence lands somewhere in between playful and exhausting.

It's no train wreck. Leitch's film is colorful, cartoonish and well-choreographed. But the more-is-more manic energy of "Bullet Train" eventually peters out, since that's all the movie was ever running on. Well, that and Pitt. His charm alone does wonders for the movie, raising it at least to the level of watchable. When, in the finale, Ladybug sails comically unharmed through the wreckage, it captures the situation exactly. "Bullet Train" might go off the rails, but Pitt remains bulletproof.

"Bullet Train" is rated R for strong and bloody violence, pervasive language and brief sexuality. Running time: 126 minutes.

## 'Thirteen Lives' a thrilling depiction of Thailand cave rescue

BY MARK MESZOROS  
The News-Herald  
(Willoughby, Ohio)

The effort to rescue 12 boys and their soccer coach from a flooded cave in Thailand that captured the world's attention in 2018 is rivetingly depicted in one of the best directorial efforts by prolific filmmaker Ron Howard.

"Thirteen Lives" — which opened in theaters last week before landing on Prime Video this weekend — is an engrossing dramatization of that operation, which involved Thai officials, experts and Navy SEALs, as well as thousands of volunteers from around the world, including a handful of experienced cave divers.

"Thirteen Lives" benefits from strong performances by its two leads, Viggo Mortensen and Colin Farrell, as two of those divers. However, their work takes a back seat to the deft storytelling hand of Howard, elevated by the work of myriad collaborators.

Perhaps none is more important to making this film work as well as it does — to feel as realistic as it does — as cinematog-



METRO GOLDWYN MAYER PICTURES/AP

**Teeradon "James" Supapunpinyo as Coach Ek, center, in a scene from "Thirteen Lives," based on the true story of the effort to rescue 13 soccer players from a flooded cave in Thailand in 2018.**

rapher Sayombhu Mukdeeprom ("Call Me By Your Name"), who helps bring the diving sequences in the narrow, water-filled corridors of the Tham Luang cave network to harrowing life. Unavoidably disorienting at times, these stretches are necessarily claustrophobic, pulling the viewer into the tight spaces and the life-or-death moments that occur within them.

"Thirteen Lives" begins on June 23, when, after some soccer and before a birthday party for one of the players, the team decides to ride their bikes to Tham Luang in Northern Thailand. After they enter the cave, a downpour begins, causing locals to fear the region's monsoon season is coming early. Soon, it is understood that the boys are trapped in the cave and will need

to be rescued if they are to survive.

By the fifth day, British cave diver John Volanthen (Farrell) has been contacted, and he reaches out to one of his peers, Rick Stanton (Mortensen), who at first doesn't think they'll actually be needed to fly to Thailand.

"I don't even like kids," he quips.

Soon, though, they're on the scene and learning how to best navigate this cave, spending hours swimming hundreds of meters. They get a little push-back from local officials on the ground, which understandably frustrates Rick, who carries bravado borne of three decades of cave diving.

The possibility that the operation ultimately will conclude with lifeless bodies being retrieved from Tham Luang becomes what feels like more of an inevitability with each passing hour.

However, John and Rick find 13 very hungry but living souls deep with the cave, much to the excitement of them and the many folks outside the cave, including the boys' parents, and the many

following the ordeal on TV.

Finding them is one thing, though; getting them out safely is another. And the clock is ticking, with oxygen levels in the cave becoming a concern, the threat of more rain another.

In fact, while everyone else is celebrating, Rick is adamant the group will perish, that there is no way any of them will be able to make the long, treacherous journey back to the cave entrance without any training.

That leads him to come up with a long shot idea involving another peer, Australian diver Dr. Richard Harris (Joel Edgerton), who possesses a skill set none of the other divers does. Whether anyone else, Harris included, will go along with it is another matter.

If you followed the story closely when it was happening as it stretched into July of that year, many of the facts presented in "Thirteen Lives" may not be new to you, but that doesn't make this movie any less thrilling and emotionally charged.

"Thirteen Lives" is rated PG-13 for some strong language and unsettling images. Running time: 147 minutes.

## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



Enabled Play assistive tech takes accessibility to a whole new level by translating users' head movements, expressions and real-time speech

BY AMANDA FLORIAN  
*The Washington Post*

Over decades, input devices in the video game industry have evolved from simple joysticks to sophisticated controllers that emit haptic feedback. But with Enabled Play, a new piece of assistive tech created by self-taught developer Alex Dunn, users are embracing a different kind of input: facial expressions.

While companies such as Microsoft have sought to expand accessibility through adaptive controllers and accessories, Dunn's new device takes those efforts even further, translating users' head movements, facial expressions, real-time speech and other nontraditional input methods into mouse clicks, keystrokes and thumbstick movements. The device has users raising eyebrows — quite literally.

"Enabled Play is a device that learns to work with you — not a device you have to learn to work with," Dunn, who lives in Boston, said via Zoom.

Dunn, 26, created Enabled Play so that everyone — including his younger brother with a disability — can interface with technology in a natural and intuitive way. At the beginning of the pandemic, the only thing he and his New Hampshire-based brother could do together, while approximately 70 miles apart, was game.

"And that's when I started to see firsthand some of the challenges that he had and the limitations that games had for people with really any type of disability," Dunn said.

At 17, Dunn dropped out of Worcester Polytechnic Institute to become a full-time software engineer. He began researching and developing Enabled Play 2½ years ago, which initially proved challenging, as most speech recognition programs lagged in response time.

"I built some prototypes with voice commands, and then I started talking to people who were deaf and had a range of disabilities, and I found that voice commands didn't cut it," Dunn said.

That's when he started thinking outside the box.

Having already built Suave Keys, a voice-powered program for gamers with disabilities, Dunn created Snap Keys — an extension that turns a user's Snapchat lens into a controller when playing games such as "Call of Duty," "Fall Guys" and "Dark Souls." In 2020, he

won two awards for his work at Snap Inc.'s Snap Kit Developer Challenge, a competition among third-party app creators to innovate Snapchat's developer tool kit.

With Enabled Play, Dunn takes accessibility to the next level. With a wider variety of inputs, users can connect the assistive device — equipped with a robust CPU and 8 gigabytes of RAM — to a computer, game console or other device to play games in whatever way works best for them.

Dunn also spent time making sure Enabled Play was accessible to people who are deaf, as well as people who want to use nonverbal audio input, such as "ooh" or "aah," to perform an action. Enabled Play's vowel-sound detection model is based on "The Vocal Joystick," which engineers and linguistics experts at the University of Washington developed in 2006.

"Essentially, it looks to predict the word you are going to say based on what is in the profile, rather than trying to assume it could be any word in the dictionary," Dunn said. "This helps cut through machine learning bias by learning more about how the individual speaks and applies it to their desired commands."

Dunn's artificial-intelligence-enabled controller takes into account a person's natural tendencies. If a gamer wants to set up a jump command every time they open their mouth, Enabled Play would identify that person's individual resting mouth position and set that as the baseline.

In January, Enabled Play officially launched in six countries — its user base extending from the United States to Britain, Ghana and Austria. For Dunn, one of his primary goals was to fill a gap in accessibility and pricing compared with other assistive gaming devices.

"There are things like the Xbox Adaptive Controller," he said. "There are things like the Hori Flex [for Nintendo Switch]. There are things like Tobii, which does eye-tracking and stuff like that. But it still seemed like it wasn't enough."

Compared with some devices that are only compatible with one gaming system or computer at a time, Dunn's AI-enabled controller — priced at \$249.99 — supports a combination of inputs and outputs. Speech therapists say that compared with augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices, which are medically essential for some with disabilities, Dunn's



Enabled Play

**Users can connect the Enabled Play assistive device — equipped with a robust CPU and 8 gigabytes of RAM — to a computer, game console or other device to play games in whatever way works best for them.**

device offers simplicity.

"This is just the start," said Julia Franklin, a speech language pathologist at the Community School of Davidson in Davidson, N.C. Franklin introduced students to Enabled Play this summer and said it's a better alternative to other AAC devices on the market that are often "expensive, bulky and limited" in usability. Many sophisticated AAC systems can range from \$6,000 to \$11,500 for high-tech devices, with low-end eye-trackers running in the thousands. A person may also download AAC apps on their mobile devices, which range from \$49.99 to \$299.99 for the app alone.

"For many people who have physical and cognitive differences, they often exhaust themselves to learn a complex AAC system that has limits," she said. "The Enabled Play device allows individuals to leverage their strengths and movements that are already present."

The device isn't limited to the gaming sphere. It's also being used in schools to make computer labs more accessible. With the rise in remote work and online learning environments brought on by the pandemic, Jaipreet Viridi, a historian, author and professor at the University of Delaware, said the device may serve as a model for "inclusive participation" in schools.

In some therapy programs in the United States, specialists use Enabled Play to track facial expressions and gamify treatment sessions. Alissa McFall, a speech language pathologist and orofacial myologist in Sacramento, Calif., said it can be used to analyze how a patient's muscles work so that health professionals can then use that feedback to develop customized treatment plans.

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# Palio di Siena: 90 seconds of sheer madness

“For the Sienese, here’s one’s life story: You’re born ... there’s the Palio ... and then you die.”

That’s how my friend Roberto explains the importance of Italy’s world-famous horse race, the Palio di Siena, which takes place twice every summer on July 2 and August 16. During the race, the city’s residents hurl themselves into the traditional revelry of the event with abandon.

Siena is divided into 17 neighborhoods, or *contrade*, of which 10 are selected by a drawing to vie for the coveted Palio banner — and all-important bragging rights. Each competing *contrada*’s horse is chosen randomly by lottery. The neighborhood then adopts it, showering it with love, washing and grooming it and keeping it in a five-star stable. The *contrade* — each with its own parish church, fountain and square — are staunch rivals. Each *contrada* is represented by a mascot (porcupine, unicorn, she-wolf, and so on) and a dis-

tinctive flag. Its colors are worn and flown all year long.

While the race itself lasts just 90 seconds, it’s preceded by days of festivities. As



Rick Steves

the big day approaches, processions break out across the city, including one in which the Palio banner — featuring the Virgin Mary, to whom the race is dedicated — is held high as it’s paraded to the cathedral. Locals belt out passionate good-luck choruses. With the waving flags and pounding drums, it all harkens back to medieval times, when these rituals boosted morale before battle.

The day before the August 2016 race, I joined a crowd in the main square, Il Campo, to see the jockeys — mostly hired hands from out of town — get to know their horses in a practice run called the “charge of the carabinieri.” At midnight, the streets were filled with eating, drinking,



Rick Steves/Rick Steves' Europe

**Paganry and people at Siena’s Palio. The twice-a-summer race is treated with the utmost seriousness.**

singing and camaraderie, as neighborhoods gathered to pump themselves up.

On race day, bets are placed on which *contrada* will win — and lose. The horses are taken into their *contrada*’s church to be blessed. “Go and return victorious,” says the priest. It’s considered a sign of luck if a horse leaves droppings in the church.

Meanwhile, Il Campo is converted into a racetrack. Clay is brought in and packed down to create the surface, while mattresses pad the walls of surrounding buildings. The most treacherous spots are the sharp corners, where many a rider has bitten the dust.

The entire city of Siena packs into Il Campo. Bleacher and balcony seats are expensive, but

it’s free to join the masses in the square. The well-connected get to watch from the comfort of an apartment window.

Finally, it’s time. A cart pulled by oxen carries the Palio banner into the arena. The crowd goes wild. As the starting places are announced, 10 snorting horses and their nervous riders line up to await the start. Silence takes over. And then ...

They’re off! Once the rope drops, there’s one basic rule: There are no rules. The jockeys ride bareback while spectators go berserk. Life stops for these frantic three laps.

And then, it was over. The winner: Lupa, the she-wolf district! Ecstatic mobs course toward the cathedral. I’ll never forget the crush and the tribal

energy. Just standing in the street while celebrants surged by is a memory I’ll long cherish. The happy “Lupa-Lupa-Lupa!” horde thundered by, weeping with joy. At the cathedral, the crowd packed in, and the winning *contrada* received the beloved banner. They were champions — until the next race.

Seeing euphoria overcome members of the winning *contrada* — it was Lupa’s first win in 27 years — reminded me that it’s impossible for a tourist to really understand what this ritual race means to the people of Siena.

It represents 500 years of proud tradition, still going strong.

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.

## Italian holidays signal that summer has reached peak sizzle

Most everyone loves a summer day, and despite the heat this time of the year, the Italians are no exception to the rule. Full-on vacation vibes pulse at fever pitch in mid-August, when two popular holidays signal that high season has reached its sizzling peak.

The first occasion for celebration is the **Feast of San Lorenzo**, traditionally marked on the night between Aug. 10 and 11. Lorenzo counts among one of many saints with an extraordinary backstory. Born around 225 A.D. in Spain, it was there he made the acquaintance of the man who was to become Pope Sixtus II. Upon the latter’s election as Pope in the year 257, Lorenzo was ordained as a deacon and soon thereafter appointed first among the seven deacons who served in the cathedral church. Among the duties entrusted to him were custody of the church’s wealth and the distribution of alms to the poor.

In 258, the Emperor Valerian issued an edict condemning all bishops, priests and deacons to death. While Pope Sixtus II was executed immediately, Lorenzo requested and was granted a short reprieve in order to gather up the church’s assets. Within a few short days, he had given away much of the church’s fortune to the most destitute and ailing. When ordered to bring forth the church’s treasure, he presented the wretched masses, saying they represented the true wealth of the church. This so angered the prefect that he sentenced Lorenzo to be roasted alive on a gridiron above burning coals. The way in which the saint achieved his martyrdom earned him the patronage of bakers, chefs and firemen.



Karen Bradbury

The Aug. 10 date of the feast of San Lorenzo coincides with another phenomenon. Around this time of year, the earth passes through a meteor stream known as the Perseids. Those who cast their eyes up to the nighttime skies are often rewarded by a glimpse of one or several shooting stars. In Italy, as elsewhere, such sightings are seen as an occasion for making wishes.

While gazing skyward is a traditional activity that can be enjoyed almost anywhere, there are other ways to mark the occasion. Florence fetes San Lorenzo, one of its two patron saints, throughout the day. Celebrations kick off at 9:45 a.m. with the Historical Parade of the Florentine Republic, in which costumed participants march from the Palagio di Parte Guelfa and through the neighborhoods surrounding the Basilica of San Lorenzo. The Piazza San Lorenzo comes alive again in the early evening, when a free communal meal of lasagna, followed by watermelon, is served, and the sound of live music rings out. Online: [tinyurl.com/2r2rerh2j](http://tinyurl.com/2r2rerh2j)

When it comes to places to seek out stars, those in Naples are spoiled for choice. Within the city itself, the area near the Astronomical Observatory or the palace grounds of Capodimonte are popular options, as is the viewpoint of San Martino on Vomero. Those willing to venture further afield seek out beaches with as little light pollution as possible; good examples of such are those between Pozzuoli and Monte di Procida, including Bacoli and Baia, or near the shores of the volcanic crater lake known as Lago d’Averno. On the night between Aug. 9 and 10, the Nabilah Beach near Bacoli traditionally organizes a bonfire accompanied by music, artistic installations and a midnight swim.

Elsewhere in Italy, wineries that are members of the Movimento Turismo del Vino, or Wine Tourism Movement, are just the place for wine and dining beneath the stars. The nonprofit association organizes events throughout the year; one of its most popular initiatives is “Calici di Stelle,” or Goblets of Stars. On the night itself and through Aug. 15, many of the country’s leading wineries invite lovers of the bounty of the grape to linger late into the night in vineyards, village squares and wine taverns while sampling the best of local varieties. See a list of participating wineries online at [tinyurl.com/374npjvs](http://tinyurl.com/374npjvs).

Following on the heels of San Lorenzo is **Ferragosto**, a legal holiday throughout the land. While originally the August 15 date was celebrated by Christians as the day of the Virgin Mary’s Assumption into the sky, nowadays it’s better known as the date kicking off a period in time when city dwellers flock to vacation hotspots in droves. While official governmental entities such as offices, post offices, banks and educational institutions will be closed, most museums, cultural attractions and leisure facilities will remain open.

One of the most traditional activities this season is to watch the famous Palio di Siena, a horse race that takes place on Siena’s Piazza del Campo twice annually, on July 2 and Aug. 16 (see Rick Steves article above). The race is preceded by a historical parade that gets underway shortly after 3 p.m., and the race itself takes place at 7 p.m. While it costs nothing to view the race from the central piazza, tickets are essential for access to grandstand or balcony seating. Another option is to attend one of the race rehearsals held Aug. 13-15. Online: [ilpalio.org/palio\\_english.htm](http://ilpalio.org/palio_english.htm)

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL



PHOTOS BY SELINA KOK/For The Washington Post

The Pfanderbahn cable car in Bregenz, Austria, takes six minutes to reach Pfader, a 3,490-foot peak where visitors can also look out over Germany, Switzerland and a sparkling Lake Constance. Lake Constance is 39 miles long and straddles the three countries. A 168-mile bike trail around the lake passes through each country.

# A 3-country tour

168-mile bike route around Lake Constance takes riders through Germany, Austria and Switzerland

BY DIANE DANIEL

Special to The Washington Post

**A**n 18th-century baroque basilica awash in pink and surrounded by vineyards. Reconstructed prehistoric stilt-house dwellings above the water. A medieval castle perched atop a hill. A museum devoted to zeppelins, plus an actual zeppelin high in the sky.

Those were the sights during our first 12 hours at Lake Constance. In between, we encountered towns with tolling church bells, lakeside parks, lively cafes and shimmering blue water.

It's easy to see why the 39-mile-long lake, which straddles Germany, Austria and Switzerland, has long been a popular European resort area. (If you want to

check off a fourth country, Liechtenstein is only about 30 minutes away by car.)

With more than a dozen marked bicycle routes and boosted by the surge of electric bikes, the region has also become one of Europe's most popular cycling destinations. That's how my wife, Selina, and I explored the area, following the signposted 168-mile Lake Constance Bike Route, which roughly circumnavigates the lake.

The lake, located about an hour north-east of Zurich, is fed by the Rhine River and is made of two linked parts: the larger Obersee (upper lake) and the Untersee (lower lake). Its outline, frequently seen on tourist signs, improbably resembles a scuba diver. (There are dive spots in the

**SEE BIKE ON PAGE 21**



Crossing into Austria on the 168-mile Lake Constance Bike Route.

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# Bike: Route more or less follows the Lake Constance shoreline

### FROM PAGE 20

lake, too.) Germany claims most of the shoreline — 107 miles — and Lake Constance is commonly referred to by its German name, Bodensee (pronounced Boden-zay). (For more information visit [bodensee.eu](http://bodensee.eu))

Historic resort towns, most with public beaches, ring the shoreline, while farmland, orchards and vineyards lie just beyond. The closer views are hilly, with the towering Alps visible in the distance in certain spots. On the water, ferries crisscross from one town to another, interspersed with sailboats and other recreational vessels.

Some visitors park themselves in one town and use public transportation, including ferries, buses and trains, to reach the rest of the lake and beyond. Depending on how much you plan to see and do, one option that can save time and money is to buy a Bodensee Card Plus, which includes entrance to more than 160 attractions around the lake, plus some transportation.

As for the cycling, although the sections near the shoreline are flat, the route otherwise has more ups and downs than I had expected. Overall, the cycling felt safe, though routes were not always separated from traffic. Surfaces included pavement in urban areas, crushed gravel in parks and dirt roads through forests. We brought our own bikes from our home in the Netherlands, but there are plenty of rental shops in the region, as well as a long list of organized and self-guided bike tour outfitters.

We are usually in the minority when arriving at a hotel by bicycle. Here we blended right in. On one day of our ride, a sunny Saturday during a holiday weekend in late May, there were so many bikes on the paths that it felt like a cycling event.

We were among the few English speakers visiting the area. So if you're looking for a European destination with few Americans, this is one. With that in mind, most signs were in German, and many Germans we encountered spoke very little English, even at hotels.

We followed the bike route clockwise, starting from the town of Radolfzell, on the western end of the lower lake.

After pedaling along the shoreline and passing miles of fruit orchards and strawberry fields (many with tempting farm stands), we reached the Birnau Basilica. The pale-pink jewel built atop a hill around 1750 is so large that we later spotted it from different vantage points as we circled the lake. The church's interior is a breathtaking rococo riot, with a ceiling that looks like a collection of upside-down wedding cakes. (For more information, visit [birnau.de](http://birnau.de))

Thirty minutes later, we went even further back in time at the Pfahlbauten, or pile dwellings, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of 111 locations of prehistoric stilt houses found around the Alps. Based on excavations, the village was reconstructed and can be toured. Child-friendly exhibits make this a great family stop, and it also abuts a large waterfront park. (For more information, visit [pfahlbauten.de](http://pfahlbauten.de))

We had to skip the famous Meersburg Castle (and "newer" 18th-century palace) to reach the town of Friedrichshafen before the Zeppelin Museum closed for the day. Ferdinand von Zeppelin, who grew up on the lake, invented the zeppelin and started building airships in Friedrichshafen in the late 1890s. Most of us know of the zeppelin through the Hindenburg, which burst into flames in New Jersey in 1937, killing 36 people. But before that, hundreds of passenger trips were completed on the dirigibles. The museum documents this fascinating form of air travel. The centerpiece is a reproduction of the 108-foot-long passenger section of the Hindenburg, down to its toilets and decorative wall panels. (For more information, visit [zeppelin-museum.de](http://zeppelin-museum.de))

The next day, we sped past several lovely lakeside towns to reach Lindau, which bills itself as the "Bavarian Riviera." Its "Altstadt," or old town, is on an island with a pedestrian-only center and lively harborside. We climbed the lighthouse at the end of the harbor for a fantastic view



PHOTOS BY SELINA KOK/For The Washington Post

These centuries-old buildings in Stein am Rhein, Switzerland, are covered with detailed artwork.



The author explored the lakeside town of Lindau, Germany, which bills itself as the "Bavarian Riviera."

of the lake and the colorful buildings lining cobblestone streets.

Heading farther east, we saw our first clear outlines of snow-covered mountains and finally crossed the border into Austria. In Bregenz, we hopped aboard the city's famed Pfänderbahn cable car, which takes six minutes from the heart of the city to reach Pfänder, a 3,490-foot peak. At the top, we could look out over a panorama of three countries and a sparkling blue lake. Clouds obscured the 240 Alpine peaks one can supposedly see on a clear day. Still, the views were majestic. (For more information, visit [pfaenderbahn.at/en](http://pfaenderbahn.at/en))

We checked Switzerland off the list the next day on our way to the biggest city on the lake: Konstanz, Germany, with about 85,000 residents. The vibrant university town on the lake's northwest shore boasts a large historic center with timber-framed buildings, some with strikingly painted facades.

Konstanz is also known for its two neighboring islands, Mainau and Reichenau. Mainau, a small island with an admission fee, is a popular attraction, especially for families. Its gardens and arboretum were thankfully less manicured than I'd expected and were quite beautiful. A baroque castle punctuates the eastern end near the ferry harbor. (For more information, visit [mainau.de](http://mainau.de) and [reichenau-tourismus.de](http://reichenau-tourismus.de))

On the west side of Konstanz sits Reichenau, another UNESCO World Heritage site. During the Middle Ages,

its Benedictine monastery, founded in 724, became one of the continent's most important spiritual centers and produced splendid illuminated manuscripts and frescoes. Three remaining churches can be visited, each with its own small museum. The most popular is St. Georg, known for its elaborate fresco-covered walls.

Today, Reichenau is also famous for its vegetable farms. Thanks to a mild climate and a sprawling irrigation network across the 1.7-square-mile island, farmers here harvest four times yearly. Family greenhouses virtually cover the island. Some island families also fish for a living, catching mostly whitefish, perch, pike and trout. We had lunch at the picturesque Georg's Fischerhütte, one of a few small family-run fish restaurants on the island, where we feasted on unadorned grilled whitefish straight from the lake. (For more information, visit [bit.ly/georgs-reichenau](http://bit.ly/georgs-reichenau))

Although the number of Konstanz's painted facades could fill an art gallery, the ones we saw the next day in Stein am Rhein, Switzerland, counted toward a full museum's worth. The town, home to about 3,500 people along the Rhine, has passed down its folklore in vivid, richly detailed artwork on centuries-old buildings, many of them half-timbered structures. Bustling shops and cafes flank the cobblestone main street, but the architecture steals the show.

From Stein am Rhein, you can take a boat down the Rhine to Schaffhausen, Switzerland, which is near Rheinfall, or the Rhine Falls. At about 500 feet wide and 75 feet high, the falls are among the largest and most powerful in Europe. As we approached by bike, we could feel the wind gusts before we could hear or see the water. Although "it's no Niagara," as several friends mentioned, it does have an attraction I can't imagine seeing in the United States: Tourist boats take visitors through churning waters to a set of stairs that lead to a viewing platform atop a tall rock in the middle of the falls. (For more information, visit [rheinfall.ch](http://rheinfall.ch))

Another water attraction we loved in Schaffhausen is the Rhybadi, or Rhine River Bath, an enclosed pool constructed in the river that has been there for more than a century.

On our last day of riding, we finally stopped at a farm stand for strawberries. I'd been eyeing the plump, ripe berries all week, but we didn't have a good way to transport them. We got them safely to the car and ate them like candy on the way home, sweet reminders of our ride around Lake Constance.

## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS



The Docu Center Ramstein, in Ramstein-Miesenbach, Germany, houses an exhibit showcasing the history of Americans in the German state of Rheinland-Pfalz. The museum exhibits are located in a series of shipping containers.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes



A display shows a photo of people buying American ice cream during an air show at Ramstein Air Base. The base for years hosted an annual air show that drew hundreds of thousands of visitors from across Germany and Europe.



A guard shack from a former U.S. military housing area in Kaiserslautern can be seen at the Docu Center Ramstein.

# Community contains rich history

## Anniversary exhibit details decades of German interaction with Ramstein Air Base

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

The story of how Ramstein Air Base came to be and how much local sway the largest U.S. military community overseas carries is told in a rather unlikely place: inside a series of brightly lit shipping containers.

The Docu Center Ramstein houses a collection of photographs, documents and other materials aimed at preserving and sharing the history of Americans in the state of Rheinland-Pfalz.

Central to that record is the air base, which put the small farming village of Ramstein on the map 70 years ago, and the center is marking the anniversary with a special exhibit. Running through the end of August, it looks back at seven decades of U.S. presence at Ramstein.

When construction began in April 1951 on two separate but adjacent bases, “thousands of workers came from all over Germany,” said Mario Aulenbacher, the center’s director. “It was a very small village. Then suddenly, thousands of strangers were around here.”

Landstuhl Air Base opened in August 1952, followed by Ramstein Air Station the next spring. The border between the former bases runs roughly along the current Kissling Memorial Drive.

### On the QT

Docu Center Ramstein  
**Address:** Schernauer Strasse 46, Ramstein-Miesenbach. Near the Azur swimming pool, across the street from the Reichswald-Gymnasium.  
**Hours:** 2-5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday from March to November.  
**Cost:** Free.  
**Information:** Online: dc-ramstein.de; email: info@dc-ramsteinde; phone: +49 6371-838-005. Most displays are in English and German. Guided tours are available upon request.

Jennifer H. Svan

“The Americans brought their big cars; there were airplanes flying around. Many houses here have been built because of the money Americans brought,” Aulenbacher said. “It changed everything.”

The anniversary exhibition aims to highlight important “points of this whole very complex history,” Aulenbacher said. “We cannot show the whole history, but we try to show interesting parts of it.”

The temporary display includes black-and-white photographs that reveal glimpses of base life over the decades. In the 1950s, bingo was popular for both Americans and Germans at the former Ramstein NCO club, as evidenced in one of many photos by photographer Walter Matheis.

A late-1970s photo by Hans Paque portrays a crowd stream-



Mario Aulenbacher, the director of the Docu Center Ramstein, talks about photographs on display depicting life on Ramstein Air Base as part of a special exhibit marking 70 years of Americans in the area.

ing past an old Ramstein Air Base sign on the way to the annual air show.

Other items in the exhibit include a June 13, 1958, copy of a yellowed Ramstein-Landstuhl “RAMJET,” an old base newspaper. One of the headlines announces the availability of the polio vaccine. A black rotary telephone from 1965 was once used in a general’s office.

Among more modern memorabilia is a T-shirt from an annual memorial run to honor Airman 1st Class Zachary Cuddeback, who was killed in a shooting attack at Frankfurt Airport on March 2, 2011.

The “container village” was set up in 2013 in Ramstein-Miesenbach with funding from the city’s community association.

Besides the 70th anniversary exhibit, there are permanent

exhibits that explore the broader history of the American presence throughout the region.

Docu Center research found more than 170 U.S. military sites in Rheinland-Pfalz during the past six decades. One of the smallest of these was just a radio mast atop about 10 square feet.

A map with color-coded pins contrasts the number of abandoned facilities with those still in use. The former far outnumber the latter, showing just how large the U.S. military footprint in the area once was.

One container explores the importance of base clubs for cultural development in postwar Germany, a place where locals were introduced to big bands, dancing and legendary American jazz musicians such as Ella Fitzgerald, Chet Baker and Count Basie.



A promotional flyer for a 1964 Paul Anka show at Ramstein Air Base is on display.

Another container is devoted to the history of the Ramstein air show, including the 1988 disaster that killed 70 people and injured hundreds of spectators, putting an end to future air shows in Germany.

A compilation of witness observations includes a command chief master sergeant who watched the disaster unfold from the VIP area on the roof of the control tower building.

“This container was meant to be a little place where people can come and remember the victims,” Aulenbacher said.

Before the air show crash, the annual event drew hundreds of thousands from across Europe and was a high point of the year for many living in the region, Aulenbacher said.

The center highlights some of the happier memories associated with the day, such as a photograph of people in line to buy American ice cream.

The ice cream “was very popular and it was hard to get,” Aulenbacher said. “People would come early and get ice cream, bring it back home and then go see the show.”

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## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

# Don't miss Sakura, an understated star

Unassuming Lakenheath restaurant scores with broad range of Chinese and Japanese fare

By KYLE ALVAREZ  
Stars and Stripes

You'd be forgiven for missing Sakura Japanese and Chinese restaurant. With its simple two-tone color scheme, it blends into many of the surrounding buildings in Lakenheath, England.

However, its appearance belies the quality and variety of food. Just five minutes from RAF Lakenheath, Sakura has more than 160 items on its menu.

Though many COVID-19 restrictions were lifted awhile ago, I still find myself leaning toward takeout. But doing so takes away from the dining experience.

That's especially the case at Sakura, where the food you bring home loses freshness and crispiness quickly. I'd highly recommend staying there to eat, despite there being only six or so tables.

My wife and I recently took our 4-year-old daughter and 1-year-old son to the restaurant for dinner.

I chose the roast duck with plum sauce donburi. It was scrumptious. Duck meat in restaurants normally has a decent amount of fat, which can add to the flavor. But these slices were lean and fried well, which suits my preference. Each bite was crunchy on the outside and tender on the inside.

My only criticism is that the chef went too heavy on the sauce. It was excellent on the duck, but the white rice was drowned in it. If I want something more in my rice, I'll order it fried instead.



**AFTER  
HOURS  
ENGLAND**

## Sakura

**Address:** 44 High St., Lakenheath, England

**Hours:** Sunday and Monday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, closed; Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

**Prices:** Tempura, 7-9 pounds; sushi rolls, 7-12 pounds; donburi, 10-11.30 pounds; curry rice, 8.50-10.50 pounds.

**Information:** Online: [offbase.uk/sakura-restaurant/menu.htm](http://offbase.uk/sakura-restaurant/menu.htm); Phone: +44 1842 860444

Speaking of which, we normally order fried rice for my son, who loves eating the vegetables and chicken with his hands, like one of the Lost Boys from the movie "Hook."

My wife and I tend to eat a few spoonfuls for ourselves. The fried rice wasn't greasy at all and more than met our expectations.

My wife, who grew up on the water, went with a salmon Philadelphia maki and the sashimi salmon and tuna don, which is raw salmon and tuna slices on a bed of white rice.

We were supposed to split the sushi roll, but I was so caught up in my meal that she sneaked a slightly larger portion than the agreed-on half. I'll just have to be quicker next time.

The real surprise for us came from our daughter, who devoured her Chinese-influenced



PHOTOS BY KYLE ALVAREZ/Stars and Stripes

The salmon Philadelphia maki roll at Sakura Japanese and Chinese Restaurant in Lakenheath, England. The restaurant is just minutes down the road from RAF Lakenheath, home to many U.S. airmen.



The roast duck with plum sauce donburi is one of more than 160 items on the menu at Sakura.

beef ramen. She's not exactly a picky eater, but she doesn't tend



Sakura's chicken fried rice.

to finish all her food and instead grazes on it over an extended period of time.

Not on this night. Maybe it was

because Sakura has child-friendly chopsticks and she was enjoying eating with them, or maybe it was because the flavors in the dish were excellent.

Having tried a few bites of it myself, I want to believe the latter, but this dad is not complaining. She wolfed down the thick noodles, the soft and juicy beef slices and the vegetables, all of which came in a clear broth.

It was one of the better bowls of ramen I've had in quite some time. I'll order that for myself on our next visit.

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## Secret ingredient from summer corn lifts Cajun maque choux

By CHRISTOPHER KIMBALL  
For The Associated Press

The star of maque choux, one of the classic dishes of Louisiana's Cajun country, is fresh summer corn. Naturally sweet kernels are in delicious balance with a savory mix of vegetables and crawfish. But it can veer to the heavy side, thanks largely to the addition of cream.

To lighten the recipe for our book "Milk Street Tuesday Nights," which limits recipes to 45 minutes or less, we utilize an element that most cooks throw out — the corn cobs. Instead of weighing down the dish with dairy, which tends to dull other flavors, we extract the "milk" of the corn. After cutting the kernels off, we use the back of the knife to scrape the cobs, releasing their starchy liquid to add



MILK STREET/AP

**Maque Choux with Andouille Sausage is quick and fresh.**

rich, creamy body that doesn't overwhelm other ingredients.

Pronounced "mock shoe," which is said to be a French inflection of a Native American word, this Creole classic usually is made with crawfish and/or tasso ham. Both are hard to come by, so we opted for andouille sausage for its smoky, meaty

flavor. We also swapped the standard green bell pepper for a poblano chili, which has an earthy flavor and mild heat.

Stirring a tablespoon of cider vinegar into the finished hash brightened it even more.

### Maque Choux with Andouille Sausage

#### Ingredients

3 ears of corn, husks and silk removed

1 tablespoon grapeseed or other neutral oil

6 ounces andouille sausage, halved lengthwise and cut into 1/2-inch pieces

2 tablespoons salted butter

1 small yellow onion, finely chopped

1 small red bell pepper, stemmed, seeded and finely chopped

1 poblano chili, stemmed, seeded and finely chopped

Kosher salt and ground black pepper

2 medium garlic cloves, minced

1/2 teaspoon dried thyme

1 tablespoon cider vinegar

4 scallions, thinly sliced

#### Directions

Using a chef's knife, cut the kernels from the ears of corn. Set aside. One at a time, stand each stripped cob in a wide bowl, then use the back of the knife to scrape from top to bottom all around it, allowing the liquid to fall into the bowl. Add the kernels to the bowl and set aside.

In a 12-inch skillet over medium-high, heat the oil until shimmering. Add the sausage and cook, stirring, until well browned, about 3 minutes.

Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate and discard any fat in the skillet.

Set the skillet over medium and melt the butter. Add the onion, bell pepper, poblano chili and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Cook, scraping up any browned bits and stirring occasionally, until the vegetables soften, 5 to 7 minutes. Stir in the garlic and thyme, then cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Increase to medium-high and add the corn kernels and liquid, 3/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Cook, stirring, until the corn is crisp-tender, 3 to 5 minutes.

Return the sausage to the skillet, stir and cook until heated through, about 1 minute. Stir in the vinegar, then taste and season with salt and pepper. Stir in the scallions.

# WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS



PHOTOS BY KELLY AGEE/Stars and Stripes

People gather near a giant green pipe that leads to Super Nintendo World at Universal Studios Japan in Osaka.

## Pipeline to a unique experience

Super Nintendo World theme park exists only at Universal Studios Japan, for now

BY KELLY AGEE  
Stars and Stripes

**L**arge crowds gather near a giant green pipe that leads to Super Nintendo World at Universal Studios Japan in Osaka.

Once inside, they are warped into the lobby of Princess Peach's Castle, a prominent landmark in the Mushroom Kingdom of the Super Mario Bros. video games.

Guests are greeted by walls covered with photos of characters from the games. When they exit the castle, they enter the colorful world of the classic Super Mario World game franchise.

It can be a little overwhelming. It's a magical world where music from Super Mario World plays and animatronics move around just like they do in the games.

This one-of-a-kind section of the park opened in March 2021 and is an attraction found only at Universal Japan. Universal Studios Hollywood is building the park to open in 2023, according to its website.

For the easiest access to Super Nintendo World, I recommend the Area Timed Entry Ticket: Advance Booking. The ticket guarantees guests entry right at their booked time.

Also, the Universal Express Pass lets guests skip the long lines at the two rides inside the Nintendo park, which can be an



A statue of Bowser greets guests at the Mario Kart: Koopa's Challenge attraction.

hour or more wait.

The power-up wristbands are another fun option. The bands, which provide a way to interact with various elements inside the park, cost 3,800 yen, or about \$29. With them, guests can battle enemies, collect coins by hitting question mark blocks and unlock stamps. The bands can also be used on Nintendo Switch games to unlock costumes and assists.

My favorite attraction is Mario Kart: Koopa's Challenge, which places riders into the Mario Kart games. Guests ride in a four-person "kart" along a track. They



Toad plush toys, and many more fun things, are for sale inside the 1UP Factory.

wear augmented reality headsets that simulate throwing shells and collecting coins as they steer their virtual karts. It is not too intense and though there are twists and turns, it's a perfect ride for the whole family.

Yoshi's Adventure is a more relaxing ride. Guests get to ride Yoshi as they hunt for three mysterious Yoshi eggs. This is also a way to snap photos and get a full view of the park.

At souvenir shops at the 1UP Factory and Mario Motors, Mario aficionados may purchase plush toys, pillows, socks, pens,

### On the QT

**Directions:** Universal Studios Japan, 2 Chome-1-33 Sakurajima, Konohana Ward, Osaka 554-0031. The park is walking distance from Universal-City Station.

**Times:** Open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

**Costs:** One-day passes cost 8,400 yen for adults, 5,400 yen for children and 7,600 yen for seniors.

**Food:** Kinopio's Café serves the Mario Bacon Cheeseburger for 2,100 yen, Luigi's Green Curry Chicken Sandwich for 2,100 yen and the Super Mushroom Pizza Bowl with Mushroom Tomato Sauce for 1,600 yen. Yoshi's Snack Island has a Green Shell calzone with yakisoba and cheese for 800 yen. Pit Stop sells a Mario Kart Popcorn Bucket for 4,500 yen or a Super Star Popcorn Bucket for 3,800 yen.

**Information:** Online: usj.co.jp

Kelly Agee

shirts, backpacks and key chains of their favorite characters.

When guests get hungry there is a restaurant, Kinopio's Café, open 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Menu offerings include burgers and pizza named after your favorite Mario characters.

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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL &amp; FOOD

## Oodles of noodles

Learn about, then consume ramen at Yokohama museum

By KELLY AGEE  
Stars and Stripes

A mechanical bowl of noodles bobs up and down on a sidewalk in Yokohama, Japan, greeting guests as they approach an expansive museum dedicated to the history of ramen.

The Shin-Yokohama Ramen Museum is more than just a museum. It is a food-themed, three-floor indoor experience where guests can shop for vintage treats or make their own noodles.

After the museum fires up your appetite, the 10 ramen shops in the building's basement will fulfill your noodle desire.

On the first floor, guests learn the history of ramen from the Muromachi period to the present day through documents, books and static displays of ramen dishes and bowls. An English guidebook is available, and exhibits are placarded in English.

Guests learn how ramen came to be. As various cuisines entered Japan after the country's ports opened in 1859, ramen was created from Chinese noodles and Japanese ingredients.

On an interactive screen in the middle of the museum, guests may click on a ramen symbol on a map of Japan that displays the ramen that originates from that region. Japan boasts at least 30 regional varieties of ramen, all with different tastes and flavors.

The ramen book wall displays 1,000 books about ramen, all in Japanese; another wall holds 380 different ramen bowls.

For 4,000 yen, or about \$30, guests can participate in The Ramen Making Experience and learn how to make their own ramen the traditional Japanese way.

Reservations are required and may be made on the museum's website. Up to 10 people at a time can attend the course. Also, if you have any food allergies or if you are a vegetarian, note it on the reservation. They were able to make a vegetarian ramen for me.

I had a one-on-one lesson. The instructor spoke pretty good English and was welcoming and hilarious.

The class has several phone stands so you can video record your experience.

Using spelt wheat, visitors make noodles using the traditional technique, in which they use bamboo poles to beat the ramen dough, a process called "blue bamboo beating."

The course isn't very difficult, even for the culinary averse, and requires just 60 minutes to complete. Your noodles are then prepared in a bowl of ramen for your consumption.

A gift shop sells a wide variety of instant ramen and ramen-themed shirts, pins, keychains, books and even a candle shaped like a cup of instant ramen.

As guests descend to the two basement floors,



**The Shin-Yokohama Ramen Museum is much more than just a museum. It's a three-floor indoor experience where guests can also shop for vintage treats and make their own noodles.**

they are transported to an area that resembles the narrow alleyways of 1950s Showa-era Tokyo.

Vintage movie posters and neon lights cover the walls. The "alleyways" are packed with ramen restaurants. Guests purchase their ramen outside at the ticket vending machines, which have six languages available, including English. There is an option to buy a small portion, so guests may sample something from each of the restaurants.

I went to Komuraski, a ramen shop originally from Kumamoto. Founded in 1954, it is the only ramen shop that has been open since the opening of the museum.

I had the vegetarian ramen for 760 yen. The broth is made of a soymilk soup, with kombu, an edible kelp, sesame flavor and coconut oil. The dish is topped with fried eggplant, green onion, bean sprouts, wood ear mushrooms and bamboo shoots. It was delicious, I was also happy to find good vegetarian ramen in Tokyo. Most of the basement restaurants, in fact, offer a vegetarian option.

On the B1 floor is an old-fashioned sweets and toys shop called Dagashi-ya, which were popular during the Showa era. This retro snack shop is filled with old-school candies covered in brightly colored packaging. It also sells snacks of the past like dice caramel and bon bon ice cream.

Another retro shop on this floor is the Kateko Café and Snack Restaurant. It offers old-fashioned, handmade pudding, cream soda, parfaits, bavaois and floats.

I had a Japanese favorite, a melon soda float. I made it special by topping it with classic soft serve ice cream, which is lighter than regular ice cream.

The ramen museum prepares you for the complete experience, from history to dessert. It's worth the trip.

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PHOTOS BY KELLY AGEE/Stars and Stripes

**Visitors to the Shin-Yokohama Ramen Museum learn how ramen came to be. As various cuisines entered Japan after the country's ports opened in 1859, ramen was created from Chinese noodles and Japanese ingredients.**



**After the Shin-Yokohama Ramen Museum fires up your appetite, 10 ramen shops in the building's basement will feed your noodle desire.**

## Shin-Yokohama Ramen Museum

**Location:** 2-14-21 Shinyokohama, Kohoku-ku, Yokohama-City, 222-0033, Japan

**Directions:** An 11-minute walking distance from Shin-Yokohama Station

**Hours:** Open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday to Friday, and 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Ramen shops take orders until 30 minutes before closing.

**Prices:** Museum entry is 380 yen for adults and 100 yen for students. Free for seniors 60 and older. Annual passes cost 800 yen.

**Information:** Online: raumen.co.jp

Kelly Agee

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## WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE



In their first few months of life, dogs need socialization around other dogs and people, a behavioral expert says.

Dreamstime/TNS

# Keeping canines calm when home alone

Dog trainers, pet sitters and a veterinarian offer tips for how to deal with your pet's separation anxiety

By KAREN GARCIA  
*Los Angeles Times*

**P**andemic-related shutdowns in 2020 gave many people who believed they didn't have time for pets the push they needed to adopt.

But with many offices haltingly bringing employees back and vacations in full swing, pet owners and people who work with dogs are starting to grapple with animals' separation anxiety and other problems.

Nicole Adams, a dog walker and sitter in Castaic, Calif., has had an uptick in new clients who are also new to dog ownership. She's been fielding requests for walks, feedings and boardings. But some pets she's taking in are struggling with being alone or socializing with other dogs.

Adams recently boarded a 5-month-old Lhasa Apso, Brody, for a week. The owners were worried Adams would call them to pick up their dog because he wouldn't do well with the other pets. But when they picked the puppy up at the end of the week, they were surprised at his progress — Brody just needed to practice being in a social setting.

"Dogs who are isolated or not socialized prior to 16 weeks of age are more likely to develop behavior problems later on," Rachel Malamed, a veterinary behavioral specialist, said.

The stakes are serious. Malamed said behavior problems are a leading cause of relinquishment and euthanasia.

But the new pet owners Adams works with are passionate about getting help for their dogs. It's just that many don't know where to start or what resources are available.

Seeking help from a qualified professional early on can help keep pets in the home, improve pet welfare and repair the human-animal bond, Malamed said.

Depending on your pup's situation, you can seek help from certified dog trainers, a veterinarian or pet sitters. The Times spoke with all three about how to tell if a dog is experiencing separation anxiety, tips on what owners can do at home and beyond, and resources.

## Understanding your pet

Malamed said she's seeing a lot of pets with separation anxiety as well as other fears and phobias — including the fears of people, noises, walks and other animals.

## What you can do at home now

If your dog is showing mild signs of separation anxiety or if you're waiting for your scheduled veterinarian appointment, Ralf Weber, a certified dog trainer based in Corona, Calif., shared tips on what you can do at home:

- For five minutes a day, everyone in the home should ignore the dog. The animal may whine or bark but eventually will entertain itself or lie down. Once the dog is comfortable at five minutes, gradually increase the time.
- Having your dog crate-trained is valuable. A crate is a dog's own comfortable space, away from the owner. It's also needed when transporting your pet, leaving them at a kennel or if they have to stay at the veterinarian's office.
- Similar to Komisar's technique of leaving your pet alone for however long the pet is comfortable with, Weber recommends gradually increasing the dog's alone time. But don't rush the process; go at your dog's pace.

These fears, she said, can be due to a lack of early socialization caused by the pandemic.

Ingrid Komisar said they also can result from a lack of training as well as genetic predisposition. Komisar — a certified trainer for Calm Canine Academy, a virtual dog-training service — said the coronavirus lockdowns halted in-person trainings for many dogs and their owners. It also stopped many pets from simply seeing and interacting with other humans and dogs.

Anxiety in pets can manifest itself in a number of ways. Physical changes can look like loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea or house-soiling.

Behavioral changes to be aware of may include hiding and avoidance, shaking, tail tucking, ears back, licking the lips and yawning, not taking treats readily and not following commands. In some cases pets will become aggressive to household members, unfamiliar people or other animals.

Don't wait to see if the problem will go away. Most behavior problems worsen if left unaddressed.

"The first thing that people should do when they notice any behavioral or physical signs or change, especially those that are sudden or uncharacteristic for their pet, is to consult with their vet to make sure that there are no underlying medical reasons for these behaviors," Malamed said.

## How can a veterinarian help?

Karen Sueda, a veterinary specialist in the behavior department at VCA West Los Angeles Animal Hospital, said illness can affect your pet's behavior, so it's important to rule out physical causes first.

"For example, many diseases can cause house-soiling, and a dog that is in pain may pant, vocalize and appear anxious," Sueda said.

A vet visit allows the doctor to ask specific questions to make an accurate behavioral diagnosis and create a treatment plan if a physical cause has been ruled out, she said.

If the problem behavior is mild, your veterinarian may refer you to a trainer who uses positive-reinforcement training techniques. Sueda said that if the problem is more concerning, the doctor might refer you to a veterinary behaviorist — a specialist in treating behavioral issues in pets.

Veterinarians also may prescribe medications that reduce anxiety. Lowering anxiety, Sueda said, allows the pet to learn new behaviors and coping strategies through positive reinforcement.

## Training techniques

If your veterinarian recommends a trainer for your dog's separation anxiety, Komisar advises finding a certified professional. The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior has tips on how to choose a trainer based on specialty.

Komisar acknowledges that a dog dealing with separation anxiety can be incredibly distressing for the owner too. But separation anxiety is treatable.

"If we put in the time, if we put in the effort, it is possible to see success and to see [your pet] start to be comfortable with alone time," she said.

How much time and effort? Komisar said she usually tells clients that the process can take months.

Through Calm Canine Academy, she starts with suspending absences — so if you have to go to work or school and don't have someone who can stay with your dog, hire a pet sitter.

Next, Komisar works with the owner to understand at what point the dog begins to panic. If it's within 10 minutes of the owner leaving home, then they'll start by training the dog to be comfortable being alone for less than 10 minutes and work their way up.

## WEEKEND: BOOKS

# Going more than skin deep

‘The Last White Man’ asks what would happen if white people suddenly got darker

By **RON CHARLES**  
*The Washington Post*

**M**ore than a century ago, Gregor Samsa woke from troubled dreams and found himself transformed into a monstrous insect in the book “Metamorphosis” by Franz Kafka.

Mohsin Hamid’s new novel, “The Last White Man,” buzzes with an ironic allusion to that unsettling metamorphosis. In the opening sentence, a white man named Anders awakens one morning to discover that his skin has turned “a deep and undeniable brown.” Following Kafka’s lead, the cause of this sudden alteration remains unknown; its meaning is equally elusive. What follows sometimes feels like a curious thought experiment — or conservative political commentator Tucker Carlson’s worst nightmare.

Confronted in the groggy dawn hours with his altered appearance, Anders panics. His first instinct is to assume that someone else is in his bed. But, no, he is the dark-skinned man he sees in his phone’s selfie.

“He was overtaken by emotion,” Hamid writes, “not so much shock, or sorrow, though those things were there too, but above all the face replacing his filled him with anger, or rather, more than anger, and unexpected, murderous rage. He wanted to kill the colored man who confronted him here in his house, to extinguish the life animating this other’s body, to leave nothing standing but himself, as he was before.”

Rage at his new situation, twinned with nostalgia for his lost identity, sends Anders back to bed.

“He realized that he had been robbed,”

Hamid writes, “that he was the victim of a crime, the horror of which only grew, a crime that had taken everything from him, that had taken him from him.” In such moments, which lurk all over this novel, one feels the fierce sting of Hamid’s insight, his ability to articulate the cherished premises of white superiority.

Hoping against hope that his condition might spontaneously reverse itself, Anders tells his manager he’s too sick to come into work. Only hunger eventually forces him outside, back into the company of others. No one at the grocery store seems to notice his transformation — or seems to notice him at all, in fact — but Anders suspects “flickers of hostility or distaste” from white people. And he quickly comprehends the social exigencies of his revised appearance. He knows instinctively that “it was essential not to be seen as a threat, for to be seen as a threat, as dark as he was, was to risk one day being obliterated.”

Despite its Kafkaesque opening, “The Last White Man” plays closer to the register of José Saramago. The novel’s existential absurdity quickly gives way to a parable of what might be called racial mourning. The darkening that befalls Anders is happening all over town. Everywhere, formerly white people are waking up with skin “a deep and undeniable brown.”

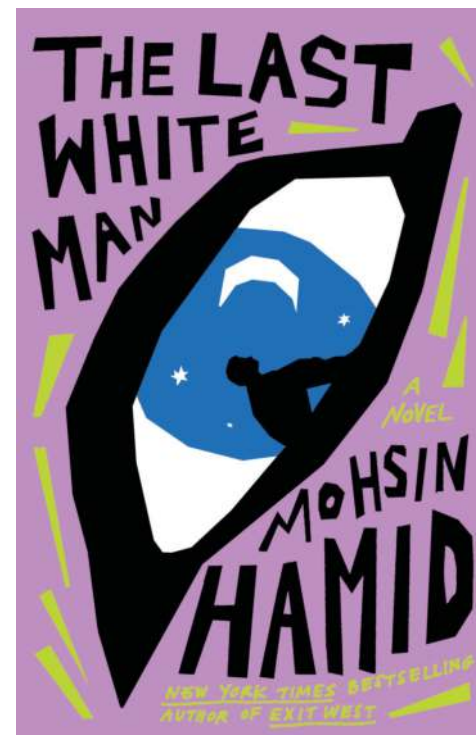
To the conspiracy minded, hypnotized by incendiary websites and radio shows, this skin-deep change is a calamity, the horrifying culmination of a diabolical “plot against their kind.” Violence flares. “Pale-skinned militants, some dressed almost like soldiers in combat uniform,” take to the streets. Social media lights up with frantic talk of “a miracle drug ... to undo

the horror.” In despair, some newly darkened people kill themselves.

“The Last White Man” is a discomfiting little book, which I suspect resists what some readers would like it to be. It’s too sincere for dystopian satire, too earnest for cultural parody. It describes the apocalypse long feared by white supremacists by subjecting that paranoia to blistering attention. Even the book’s style reflects the agility of its racial reflection. Hamid’s extravagantly extended sentences feel driven by an indefatigable impulse to refine and qualify his thoughts as they surge across the page. To quote a passage from this novel is to do violence to its tightly laced phrases of reconsideration. In an age aflame with strident tweets, Hamid offers swelling remorse and expansive empathy.

Such a story could be written only by an author who is entirely candid about his awkward journey along the racial spectrum. Hamid’s eloquent and elegant 2017 novel, “Exit West,” imagined a world where magical portals erode the dynamics of nationalism and xenophobia by permitting unfettered travel for refugees. In an essay published recently in the Guardian, Hamid explained that “The Last White Man” evolved from his sudden loss of white privilege after 9/11.

“I had always been a brown man with a Muslim name,” he writes. “But I had been white enough — as a relatively well-paid, university-educated inhabitant of cosmopolitan cities — to partake in many of the benefits of whiteness. And now my partial membership was being revoked.” In the anxious days and months after al-Qaida’s surprise attack on the United States, Hamid found himself detained for question-



ing at airports and eyed with fear by fellow passengers on buses and trains. In a moment, it seemed, his skin had turned dark and suspicious.

The tone of “The Last White Man” echoes that complicated, shameful grief. Contemplating “the odd wrapper he was wrapped in,” Anders mourns the loss of his whiteness and the advantages with which it once endowed him — even as he comes to realize the artificiality and cruelty of the vanishing system that held him aloft.

For a novel that explores the functions and presumptions of racism, “The Last White Man” is a peculiarly hopeful story. Its method may be fantastical speculation, but its faith eventually leads to the inevitability of social enlightenment. It anticipates that sweet day — not forever deferred, surely — when we finally close the casket on the whole horrific construct of racial hierarchies and see each other for what we are.

## New novel puts a feminist twist on ‘Dr. Moreau’

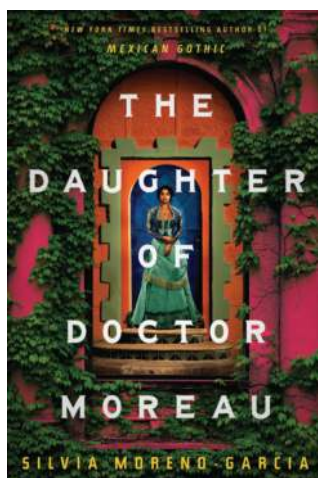
By **CAROL MEMMOTT**  
*The Washington Post*

In H.G. Wells’ “The Island of Doctor Moreau,” a mad British scientist sets up shop on a remote island where he reshapes animals into beastly caricatures of human beings. This 1896 science-fiction classic has inspired film versions starring Burt Lancaster, Marlon Brando and Val Kilmer as well as numerous references in novels and pop culture, including an episode of “The Simpsons.”

Silvia Moreno-Garcia’s “The Daughter of Doctor Moreau” offers yet another twist: Here, the mad scientist has a daughter named Carlota who is nothing like her dad. Carlota pushes back on antiquated notions about women’s capabilities and their place in the world, turning the Victorian-era novel into an atmospheric feminist tale that melds horror, history and a little romance.

The novel’s first half is laid out as objectively as Moreau’s scientific journals: Moreau, over the years, was “afflicted with a strange creative streak,” Moreno-Garcia writes, and “had made furry hybrids with hunched shoulders and short forearms, but also apelike things whose knuckles could brush the ground when they walked.” These horrible creatures suffer with tumors, painful joints and other infirmities. And yet, Moreau insists his work is a higher calling.

Moreau claims his experiments will someday unlock cures for human diseases, and he offers no more powerful example than Carlota, whom he claims is kept alive



similar to that of the lifeless dolls which she plays with and mimics in dress.

The novel’s second half burns hot with the appearance of Eduardo Lizalde, son of Moreau’s benefactor. A handsome, privileged dandy, Eduardo falls for the 19-year-old Carlota. He also has reasons for wanting the hybrids. When the creatures and the Moreaus are threatened, Carlota extends her claws literally and figuratively. Her gradual awakening is hypnotic and a nod to Moreno-Garcia’s ability to write female characters whose self-discovery empowers them: “Sometimes she imagined

with injections that derive their healthful properties from jaguars. Science aside, Carlota pushes the novel forward as she grows up alone with her father in a hacienda that also is home to more than two dozen hidden-away hybrids. Moreno-Garcia’s creatures are more human than Wells’; many speak fluently and have human mindsets. Some seem even more human than Carlota, whose cloistered life feels

herself stretched out, under the rays of the sun, in the shape of a jaguar, the taste of meat thick on her tongue.” You may guess how this plot unfolds, but it still surprises.

The Mexico-born Moreno-Garcia sets her novel in 1871, during the Caste War of Yucatán, when native Maya people were rebelling against the Mexicans and Europeans who abused them and forced them to work on their farms and ranches. This setting adds a powerful historical sensibility to a tale that reflects an era fraught with anti-feminism, misogyny, racism, and class and caste differences. As in the original, “Daughter” also features a thought-provoking consideration of the moral responsibilities of scientists as well as the controversies surrounding eugenics.

Despite its dark story of oppression and cruelty, Moreno-Garcia — whose previous books include “Mexican Gothic” (2020) and “Velvet Was the Night” (2021) — instills the novel with action sequences showcasing violent conflicts between humans and hybrids. And she injects the novel’s gory battles with cinematic energy equal to that seen in Universal Studios’ monster movies and other genre classics.

What Moreno-Garcia really does, though, is explore who the real monsters are in the world. Those are definitely not the hybrids, despite “the fur and fang and fury” that Moreno-Garcia unleashes as justice claws its way through the book’s final pages.

## WEEKEND: MUSIC



# Unpacking after years on the road

Q&A: ODESZA on the influences behind 'The Last Goodbye'

BY RAGAN CLARK  
Associated Press

**A**fter a four-year hiatus, electronic duo Clayton Knight and Harrison Mills of ODESZA are back with "The Last Goodbye" — a dance-friendly record that nods to the friends and family who made them and continue to support them.

Being pulled off the road during the pandemic, ODESZA used the time to self-reflect. The result is an album that is experimental but returns to the group's sampling roots.

Knight and Mills spoke to The Associated Press about the new album, the pressure creating a follow-up after "A Moment Apart" received two Grammy nominations and their excitement to get back to touring.

Responses have been edited for brevity and clarity.

**AP: What inspirations did you pull from when working on "The Last Goodbye"?**

**Mills:** When we finally started writing this thing, COVID times and being trapped inside, we took a long time to reflect on ourselves, and we ended up deep diving into who we are and who we've become because we had basically been touring for seven years straight. And then suddenly: full stop. And it led to a lot of self-reflection. We ended up reconnecting with our parents and our family and friends, and we dove into ourselves. We started watching home videos and all this stuff from our past and recognized how much our parents were within us and how much we really missed and had gratitude towards the people we

**Clayton Knight, left, and Harrison Mills of ODESZA pose for a portrait at Angel of the Winds Arena on July 18 in Everett, Wash. The electronic duo pays tribute to family and friends on their new album, "The Last Goodbye."**

SEE UNPACKING ON PAGE 29

LINDSEY WASSON / AP

# WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS

## Maggie Rogers

Surrender (Capitol Records)

It's all in the title. Do as Maggie Rogers asks. Give in to her.

The 12-track "Surrender" is the follow-up to "Heard It in a Past Life," her 2019 debut that announced a major talent. The new album only solidifies Rogers as one of the most interesting singer-songwriters out there. It's less tentative or dreamy than her debut, more brash, confident, compelling and occasionally profane.

From the bubblegum pop of "Want Want" to the soaring ballad "Begging For Rain," the album consistently sparkles and, in a sign of Rogers' increasing clout, includes contributions from Florence Welch, Jon Batiste and Mumford & Sons' Ben Lovett. Rogers' voice is unfettered, cascading — running wild like the animals in her single "Horses" — and soars deliriously sometimes to the point of almost cracking.

"Surrender" is a fraught album of love, with many songs seeming to concern the push-pull of reconnecting with a former crush and finally submitting to love. "All I've ever wanted is to make something last," she sings in one song, adding an expletive as a modifier. That sentiment could easily apply to the album, too.

"Surrender" is co-produced by Rogers and Kid Harpoon — who has worked with such singer-songwriting stars as Harry Styles and Shawn Mendes and helped create her last album's standout song "Light On."

Standouts include "That's Where I Am," which has an anthemic timelessness yet is tethered to today's sound, the driving and emotional "Overdrive" and "Shatter," which has a sped-up Taylor Swift vibe. "Horses" is a seemingly simple song that turns out to be anything but due to what Rogers does to it with her voice.

On the last track, "Different Kind of World," Rogers is restrained at first, almost drowsy, then flowers into a rocking crescendo. "I'm a different kind of girl," she sings. Thank goodness.

— Mark Kennedy  
Associated Press



AMY HARRIS, INVISION/AP

Maggie Rogers builds on her acclaimed debut album with its more ambitious follow-up, "Surrender."

## King Princess

Hold on Baby (Zelig Records/Columbia)

On "Hold on Baby," King Princess' second album, there's something emotionally relatable for all her listeners. Mikaela Straus, the 23-year-old behind King Princess, had a viral breakout hit with "1950," which has over 20 million views on YouTube. She released her debut album, "Cheap Queen," which proved the artist wasn't afraid to be experimental with her sound.

Unlike her debut, this new album is not just about heartbreak. "Hold on Baby" is about trying to find that next epic love story. In "Winter Is Hopeful," Straus highlights soft and sultry lyrics to highlight the seasons of her relationship. In "Crowbar," Straus brings in soulful lyrics and sings, "Only since you've been by my side / Like a crowbar / Prying at the chip on my shoulder."

The album isn't just about love, it's about self-acceptance. The range of sounds that "Hold on Baby" offers, proves Straus isn't just one sound and isn't just one viral hit with one idea. As she said on social media when announcing "Hold on Baby," she's an "infinite dichotomy of things that make me up. I'm not a girl, not quite a boy, a lesbian, but also gay as the day is long."

— Karena Phan  
Associated Press



# Unpacking: ODESZA takes time to reflect

FROM PAGE 28

loved around us. Slowly, we started putting home footage into our music. It became this journey of self, in a way.

**Knight:** I think a lot of artists went through the same process during COVID. You get a lot of time to unpack stuff. Because you're out there touring so much, you don't really take a beat to reflect. And this was forced reflection in some way. We had planned on a little time off, but not three years.

**You mentioned that home recordings are on the album. Can you tell me more about that?**

**Mills:** There's a lot of our parents talking throughout it. And even the intro of the record has a therapy session. The therapist recorded herself on my phone, almost like a guided meditation. I found that like four years later and it started to touch on the themes we were talking about. It felt kind of serendipitous and we ended up putting it in the beginning of the record.

**What was behind your decision to pair some of these heavier themes with a more lighthearted sound?**

**Knight:** I don't know if it's ever really a decision. It just kind of happens in the process. You know, again, going through COVID, unpacking all that stuff, there was a sense of this collective trauma that we've all endured. So, definitely that seeped into it a little bit. But on the other end, we wanted this record to be something that brings people together in a celebratory fashion. So, all these different energies are intertwined in this record.

**Mills:** I feel like the heaviness of thinking about your loved ones and how much they mean to you and how tough it would be to lose one of them, we think the best way to embrace that feeling and honor those people is also to have a good time with them while they're here and to enjoy their company and to celebrate together. And I think that's a big part of it, is we wanted to make sure that this record still felt celebratory, even though there's heavier things talked about.

**Are there other samples or techniques people would be surprised to learn you used on the album?**

**Knight:** Well, we like to keep the record continuous. So, the record itself is a loop. If you listen to it from start to end and let it repeat, it will play in a way that makes it seamless. So that's one aspect. But yeah, a bunch of little found sounds are in there, various recordings, party atmospheric stuff is going on in the back. There are all these little tidbits we love to insert behind the music, just to give that kind of energy, the ambiance to it that I think really adds some character.

**Mills:** We went back to a more sample-based direction. That's what we grew up in coming from a hip hop, electronic background. We love to take stuff, chop it up and

kind of reinterpret it. And this (album) I think is an ode to that.

**How do you decide which artists to bring onto the album?**

**Mills:** That's tough. I mean, we send a lot of messages that never even get a response, so you never know. Usually we try to connect with people that don't really live in our space. It's exciting for us to kind of cross genres. For instance, Bettye LaVette, even though ("The Last Goodbye") is a sample-based song, you may never think that we would do a track with that type of vocal. And that's what is exciting for us, is to make these things that feel unexpected or shouldn't work together, feel cohesive and right.

**Knight:** You're looking to have this kind of conversation where you're taking them outside their comfort zone. They're taking us outside of our comfort zone. And that usually ends up being the best stuff, when you're both pushing and pulling in a way that maybe at first feels a little weird, but then you end up landing on something really unique.

**After the success and two Grammy nominations for your last album, "A Moment Apart," was there more pressure writing this record?**

**Mills:** I think there's always pressure. It is our career, so you want it to be successful, you want people to like it. But at the end of the day, I think the bands we look up to and the people whose music we really love, they've always just done what they really love. And we tried to rely on that and listen to our guts and make the music we wanted to make and not think too hard about it.

**Your music really lends itself to live shows. What is performing like for you and what do you get from the audience?**

**Knight:** Well, it's been a bit now, so we're a little rusty, but we're doing rehearsals right now. But yeah, there's no better feeling than getting out there and playing the music that you've been working on and seeing the actual fan reaction in a physical way. You know, getting that feedback is something you kind of get addicted to and we absolutely love.

**The title of the album is from the Bettye LaVette track, but there aren't any hidden messages, right? This isn't your last goodbye?**

**Knight:** No, we'll be doing more. But, it definitely plays into the themes of where we come from, who made us who we are today and the people that we're surrounded with. "The Last Goodbye" hopefully sparks that we're saying maybe there isn't really a last goodbye. They are always with you and you carry them forward in various ways.

## Beyoncé

Renaissance (Columbia Records)

Beyoncé has been reborn again; this time it's on a shimmering dance floor.

On her seventh studio album, "Renaissance," she has subverted the public's perception of her hit-making history. Six years since her Grammy award-winning "Lemonade," people expect Beyoncé to consistently deliver. But she does not allow herself to be pigeonholed in her consistency, perfectionism and pop/R&B genre. She croons confidently in "Cozy," that she is "comfortable in my skin. Cozy with who I am," and it shows in this hourlong, 16-track album.

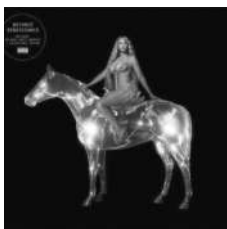
Her voice glides with comfort and ease in this cohesive dance-music album influenced by Black artists like disco queens Diana Ross and Donna Summer ("Summer Renaissance,") sampling Summer's "I Feel Love," Afrobeats ("Move") and most surprisingly twinges of Generation Z's favorite fast-paced hyperpop ("All Up In Your Mind").

Each song is an adventurous, experimental journey into Beyoncé's pandemic psyche. In the album announcement posted on her Instagram, she said that creating this album has allowed her "to dream and to find escape during a scary time for the world."

The album's high points are significantly due to the seamless transitions into each song like "Cuff It" and "Energy." "Cuff It" begins as a summer disco/R&B fusion anthem to fall in love with as Beyoncé proclaims she feels like falling in love with a drink in her hand. "Cuff It" transitions to "Energy," which starts with Jamaican American rapper BEAM.

The singer's long-awaited album is a successful reclaiming of dance music. She emphasizes a need to look outward and create a circle of love where people can venture out to the dance floor with no hesitation, no judgment — just dance.

— Nardos Haile  
Associated Press



## WEEKEND: TELEVISION

# Underneath the 'Surface'

Apple TV+ series features a woman who loses her memory, questions if her life is as it seems

BY KATE FELDMAN  
New York Daily News

A botched suicide in the San Francisco Bay leaves a woman with no memories. Where do you go from there?

In "Surface," which premiered last week on Apple TV+, there are more questions than answers.

"She's having to look to everyone else around her to create her reality," said Gugu Mbatha-Raw, who stars as Sophie. "If you're being told one thing and you don't know who to trust, yeah, that's going to make you question your sanity, question your reality."

Fresh off her almost drowning, Sophie is gifted — or cursed — with a new start. But instead, she goes back into her old life: a gorgeous apartment, a gorgeous husband (Oliver Jackson-Cohen). She relies on everyone else to fill in the blanks, to tell her who she is, where she came from, where she wants to go.

"The life that Sophie wakes up into seems pretty perfect," said showrunner Veronica West. "She has this doting husband who loves her, she has friends who care about her, she lives in this aspirational house in this perfect city with this perfect walk-in closet ... and she immediately is not fulfilled by that."

But as Sophie digs, the world she's been told is hers begins unraveling, aided by a mysterious detective (Stephan James).

For Mbatha-Raw, the 39-year-old British actress who recently appeared in "The Morning Show" and "Loki," playing a woman on the edge is nothing new. Last year, she starred in HBO Max's "The Girl Before" as a traumatized woman chasing the ghosts of her new landlord. Even in "The Morning Show," Apple's drama starring Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon, her character, head booker Hannah Shoenfeld, is made at times to feel like she's the crazy one.

"Surface" doubles down on

that and plays into the stereotypes: You assume the husband is sketchy, then the best friend (Ari Graynor), then the stranger lurking in the shadows who says he has answers. You assume the burner phone hidden in the purse in that gorgeous walk-in closet calls a secret boyfriend or a drug dealer. You assume everyone is lying to Sophie, either because they're hiding something or simply because they can.

"How much of this is for him? How much of this is for her?" said Jackson-Cohen, the 35-year-old London-born actor who plays the charming husband James.

"That's quite the fine line ... that delicate balance in relationships of the secrets you do keep from one another. Is it to not hurt

them or is it because of something else going on?"

The questions drive Sophie bonkers, but so do the answers. She follows dead ends and trails that go in circles until she's losing

her mind, all while everyone around her is telling her to just accept this life she's fallen back into. She begins to doubt everything, including whether her suicide attempt was actually suicide at all.

"She is the investigator but she's also the investigation," West said. "She is discovering these things from her own past, her own relationships, her own mistakes."

But Sophie's past is not as far out of reach as she thinks. There's no outrunning your history, she finds out. But even without knowing where she's been before, she keeps drifting closer to where she was going all along.

"Ultimately, she's left with a lot of choices and, like in life, when you have more information, do you make better choices?" Mbatha-Raw said. "If you're given a completely blank slate, is it a fresh start? Are you able to make good choices? Or are you inherently destined to make the same choices if everything was wiped away? Is it the core of who you are, or can you change?"

**"She is the investigator but she's also the investigation."**

Veronica West  
"Surface" showrunner



Apple TV+

Gugu Mbatha-Raw stars as Sophie, a woman who wakes up after nearly drowning — a botched suicide attempt — and can't remember who she is, in "Surface." She wants to find out the truth about her past.

## 'Homecoming' alum's character in 'Surface' on other side of fog

BY KATE FELDMAN  
New York Daily News

In "Homecoming," Stephan James played a soldier losing his memories as a treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder. In "Surface," he's on the other side of the brain fog.

The Apple TV+ psychological thriller that premiered last week stars Gugu Mbatha-Raw as Sophie, a woman who wakes up from an attempted suicide to find that she has no memories of who she is. As her husband and best friend fill in the blanks for her, James' Baden, a detective who claims he's working on Sophie's case, only causes more confusion with his whispers about the truth no one will tell her.

Walter, James' "Homecoming" character, faced a similar dilemma. Drugs intended to target specific trauma in soldiers so they would return to the battlefield without fear ended up wiping out names and places, the memories that make a person who they are. "Walter was the victim to memory loss," said the 28-year-old Canadian actor. "I



Apple TV+

Stephan James in a scene from "Surface" as Detective Baden.

found it really interesting being on the other side of it in 'Surface,' where he's more in the know. He's not the subject, but he's helping to be the conduit to finding answers."

Both Walter and Sophie lose their minds chasing their lost memories.

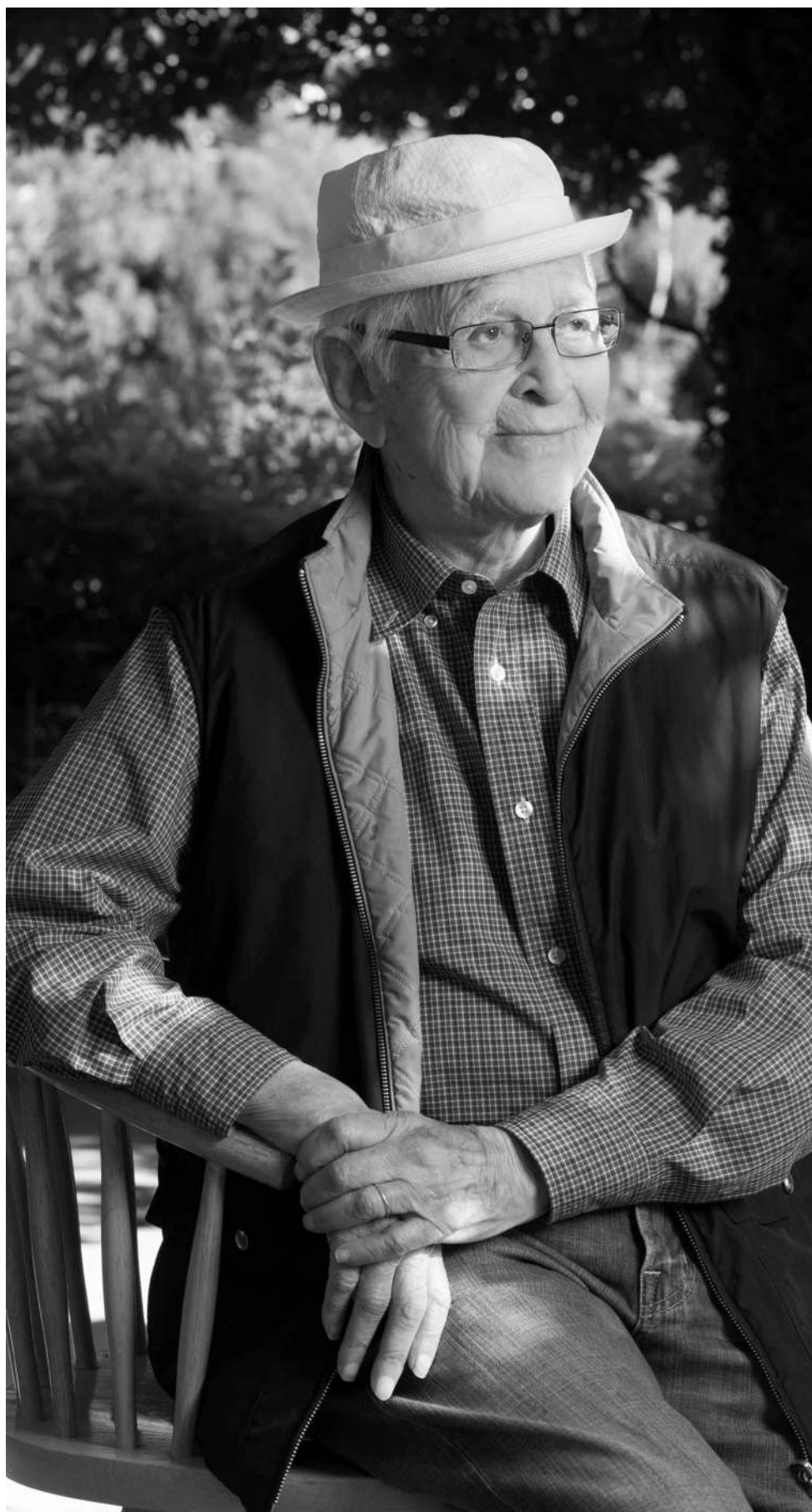
"It's almost a study in un-

derstanding one's self," James said. "It doesn't have to take a traumatic experience like what Sophie has gone through to do some kind of digging, some of that research about our identities and figuring out who we are, because ultimately that will help us decide where we're going."

## WEEKEND: TELEVISION

# The 'electronic therapist' is in

Lear, a political activist whose '70s TV sitcoms addressed hot-button issues with humor, celebrates his 100th birthday



The Washington Post

**Norman Lear in Los Angeles in 2017, the year he became a Kennedy Center Honoree. Lear celebrated his 100th birthday on July 27. He planned to spend it in Vermont "at what I call our Yiddish Hyannis Port with all my kids and grandkids."**

By TRAVIS M. ANDREWS

The Washington Post

**W**hat is left to ask Norman Lear? The living legend of television has spent his life doling out lessons, so when granted the opportunity to converse with him via email ahead of his 100th birthday, what was there to ask?

Does he know the meaning of life? "Yes, the meaning of life can be expressed in one word: tomorrow." What advice does he have that stands out above the rest? "There are two little words we don't pay enough attention to: over and next. When something is over, it is over and we are on to next. Between those words, we live in the moment; make the most of them." Does he consider a hot dog to be a sandwich? "I consider a hot dog to be a personal delight."

Lear turned 100 on July 27. He planned to spend it in Vermont "at what I call our Yiddish Hyannis Port with all my kids and grandkids. At the moment, I feel like I could do a second 100."

A second hundred would certainly be welcome. At the very least, as actress Rita Moreno suggests, when asked to talk about Lear's milestone birthday, "I wish there was a way that they could make copies of him. Wouldn't that be marvelous? ... What a super, super addition to the human race he is."

Or, as his long-time friend Mel Brooks put it, via email: "Norman has so much to give us, I don't think 100 is nearly enough."

By all accounts, he is one of the most important figures in modern pop culture — so much so that by now, you probably already know everything you should about Norman Lear.

You probably know of his tremendously prolific spell creating and producing some of the most vital TV sitcoms in the 1970s such as "All in the Family," "Maude," "Good Times," "The Jeffersons," "One Day at a Time" and "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman." And you're probably familiar with the fact that he and his colleagues received praise for addressing hot-button issues in those shows, from racism to abortion, using humor and the humanity of his characters to expose and explore what he considered the "the foolishness of the human condition." Not to mention the fact, as Moreno points out, that he would often have the very targets of his criticism "laughing their asses off."

"I have no idea how he did it," she adds.

You've no doubt heard of his political activism, which spread far beyond the humanistic messages baked into his shows. In 1981, he founded People for the American Way, a nonprofit that challenged the Moral Majority's agenda and eventually became a political action committee. In 2004, he founded Declare Yourself, a campaign to urge young people to vote. He remains a true believer that the best of the country's citizens will save it, should it need saving.

"America has never been in more need of its solid, caring citizens," Lear says. "At 100, we are a long way from the America I

believe I was born into. I don't want to wake up in the morning without hope, so I have the faith that enough caring, sensible Americans are fully dedicated to the rights the Constitution guarantees us all and will find their way."

To summarize Lear's 100 years is a nearly impossible task, but Rich West, a professor of family communication at Emerson College who has taught a course on Lear's career, offers a thoughtful framing, calling Lear "an electronic therapist."

His shows "forced people to confront their own values, their own prejudices, their own beliefs. And really, therapists are the ones that facilitate that."

"He was committed, unabashedly, to putting these provocative topics on television," West says, citing "Maude's Dilemma," a two-part episode of "Maude" finding Bea Arthur's Maude Findlay contemplating — and ultimately getting — an abortion. The highly controversial episode aired two months before the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision. And that's just one of the many, many times Lear's sitcoms grappled with difficult topics.

"You think of rape and you think of mental health and you think of inflation, you think of alcoholism, you think of domestic violence and poverty. And guess what? All of those are resonating today in 2022," West says. "That's why I believe he's an icon. It's not because of what he wrote, but because his themes are sustained today. And we have conversations today about the same things that he was writing about in the 1970s."

His shows "made you feel uncomfortable. They made you feel confused. They made you feel happy and sad. But they always prompted some reflection long past the credits of the show, if you were willing to go there," West adds. "And I think that's where the critical part of his influence is."

Justina Machado, who starred as Penelope Alvarez in the 2017 Netflix reboot of "One Day at a Time," which Lear executive-produced, calls him "an American hero," "a true friend" and a "genius." "Getting to know Norman and working with him is a highlight of my life and my career," Machado says via email. Brent Miller, the president of production for Lear's Act III Productions, calls him a "mentor in life and career," "a friend," "a partner" and a "daily inspiration."

Moreno, who turned 90 last year, co-starred in the updated "One Day at a Time." She and Lear have become close friends; they like to cut up in public appearances, pretending like they are lovers having a spat. It makes her laugh.

"It's incredible because to some extent, he's never changed in the most important ways," she says. "You know, his politics have not changed. If anything, they might have gotten maybe just a touch more radical. But, you know, they were already radical in the first place."

Is he a genius? "The only reason I haven't used the word is that I'm sure everybody is using it. It would be nice to be a little bit original," Moreno says. "His sense of humor is divine."

**"That's why I believe he's an icon. It's not because of what he wrote, but because his themes are sustained today."**

Rich West

professor at Emerson College

# WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

BY CAROLINE CATHERMAN  
Orlando Sentinel

**O**n the rare occasions when Vero Beach, Fla., resident Neil Passmore goes out in public, he's often the only one in a mask.

When Passmore caught COVID-19 in June 2020, the virus hit him hard: He shook with chills, struggled to breathe, his heart raced and he had trouble regulating his body temperature. He also experienced disassociation and memory loss, among other symptoms.

In the weeks and months after his infection, he noticed some symptoms weren't going away, and some were getting worse. After five weeks, he was often confused, stuttering and calling things by the wrong name: Mailboxes became post offices, coconuts became pine cones, palm trees became pine trees.

Doctors eventually discovered optic nerve and brain stem damage.

His second round of COVID-19 in August 2021 made all his symptoms worse, particularly his cardiac symptoms.

More than two years later, he still struggles with regulating his body temperature, a rapid heartbeat, tinnitus, dizziness and neurological symptoms. His ongoing cognitive issues make it impossible to return to his job as a Walgreens pharmacist. He's terrified of getting COVID-19 again.

"I went from having a very good job, living like you're supposed to, working hard ... for months and months, helping sick people every day," he said. "Then I get sick, and blam! That's it. You don't know ... if you're going to be able to keep your house and your vehicles. Your way of life has definitely changed."

Passmore has long COVID-19, known also as long-haul COVID-19, or Post COVID-19 condition.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates as many as one in five adults who catch COVID-19 may go on to develop long COVID-19, defined by the World Health Organization as symptoms in people previously infected that last for at least two months and cannot be attributed to anything else. Common symptoms include fatigue, shortness of breath and cognitive dysfunction, but the range is broad.

Now, as new, ultra-infectious subvariants of the COVID-19 omicron variant drive up COVID-19 cases, advocates say it is more important than ever to speed up awareness and research the origins and treatment for the condition.

"If in the future a significant portion of the population is suffering from COVID and long-haul COVID simultaneously, this will be an extraordinary burden financially for everyone," said Elena Cyrus, an infectious disease epidemiologist and assistant professor at the University of Central Florida.

## More questions than answers

An estimated 1.5 million adults in Florida are currently experiencing symptoms of long COVID-19, based on a summer 2022 household pulse survey and 2020



**Danielle Jordan, 21, first caught COVID-19 in August 2020 and suffered with long COVID-19 for months after. The university student is terrified she may get COVID again.**

## 'A very lonely place'

Individuals with long COVID-19 want doctors, the general public to take the condition, its diverse symptoms seriously

population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Other viruses can also cause symptoms that stick around after people recover, varying in severity or duration, Cyrus said.

"The only difference is that because of the scale of COVID, we are looking closer at it, because of the massive impact it can have," she wrote in an email.

Two years in, there are still more questions than answers as to the disease's origins: Could tiny blood clots be cutting off blood flow to some parts of the body? Does the coronavirus sometimes stick around in certain areas? Could COVID-19 make some people's immune systems go haywire, causing chronic inflammation? Those are three leading theories, researchers told Science Magazine in a June article. In all likelihood, there is no single cause, but rather multiple factors working together.

There are no go-to proven treatments either, said Dr. Irene Estores, who opened the University of Florida Health COVID RESTORE (rehabilitation, support, training, outreach and research) Treatment Program in Gainesville in July 2021. This is one of just five post-COVID-19 care centers listed by the Survivors Corp, a grassroots patient advocacy effort.

Estores tries treatments that are meant for conditions with similar symptoms.

She points out that long COVID-19 research is moving forward, albeit slowly.

"We know more about long COVID — both mechanisms and treatments — now than we did two years ago. So, we just keep on working," Estores said.

She has a long waitlist. Seeing patients is time-consuming, as is helping them apply for disability insurance benefits.

"Patients need to recognize that we do want to help, but physicians need resources to be able to help," Estores said. "It will take more than just commitment from physicians ... This requires a concerted effort from health systems and from the government."

The National Institutes of Health in February 2021 announced a \$1.15 billion initiative, RECOVER, to fund investigations into the condition, though since then the initiative has faced criticism for its slow speed and lack of transparency, a June Science Magazine article reports.

Many of Estores' patients have made progress, and she emphasizes this. But she acknowledges that it can be easy to give up.

"I can understand why ... they feel this way. My patients tell me how hard it is. And I can see it," Estores said. "... I can

tell you that my patients who continue to work with me on this, we go somewhere."

## Terrified of reinfection

Faced with chronic, often unexplainable symptoms and no proven treatments, having long COVID-19 can feel hopeless, said Danielle Jordan, 21, from Coral Gables, Fla.

Jordan caught COVID-19 as a healthy 19-year-old. She couldn't walk without pain, accurately taste or smell, or regulate her rapid heartbeat in the three months that followed. Though many symptoms faded, she still suffers from parosmia and dysgeusia: distorted smell and taste.

Jordan's mental state is in recovery, too.

"What I wish people knew about long COVID was the effects it can have on one's mental health. It is a very lonely place to be in if no one around you is going through what you are going through," Jordan wrote in an email. "... It's been horrible."

When the University of Miami student was exposed to the virus again in September 2021, she had multiple panic attacks a day out of fear she'd test positive again.

Brian Hartin, who spoke to the Orlando Sentinel in October about his lack of energy, brain fog and depression, is about 80% recovered from long COVID-19 after about two years. He's working again, though in a lower position than he was before because his health is still unpredictable.

The 37-year-old Lakeland, Fla., resident, like Jordan, is desperate to get better and scared of catching COVID-19 again.

Their fears aren't unfounded.

Saint Louis Health Care System researchers found that each time a person catches COVID-19, their risk of new health problems may increase, a draft study of more than 5.6 million people said. It is currently awaiting peer review.

## Others have moved on

Hartin doesn't sense the same concern he has about COVID-19 in others, however.

A couple of weeks ago, he heard his coworkers joking that they were so burnt out, they wanted to catch COVID-19 just as an excuse to take time off.

"I was like, really? You don't want to have what happened to me happen to you, and you're talking about it just so casually," Hartin said.

Doctors, too, have dismissed Hartin because there's no clear cause for his symptoms.

"There's only so many times that you can go to the doctor or go to the ER and they tell you that everything's all right, you know, and that there's nothing wrong with you, and obviously that's not true, because I wouldn't feel the way that I feel if there wasn't something wrong," he said.

Passmore says for their sakes and his, he hopes the general public takes long COVID-19 and the current wave seriously.

"Maybe the new variants aren't killing as many people, but there's still a lot of risks with them," he said.

**"There's only so many times that you can go to the doctor or go to the ER and they tell you that everything's all right, you know, and that there's nothing wrong with you, and obviously that's not true, because I wouldn't feel the way that I feel if there wasn't something wrong."**

Brian Hartin

37-year-old Lakeland, Fla., resident

## WEEKEND: FAMILY

# 'I see myself in him'

## As children's ADHD diagnoses rise, parents discover they have it too

By NATACHI ONWUAMAEGBU  
*The Washington Post*

When her son Jake was diagnosed with ADHD at age 11, it didn't occur to Cary Colleran that she may have the condition as well. It didn't occur to her that the appointments she forgot, the permission slips left on the kitchen table, the misremembered dates of field trips might be anything other than a symptom of her personality — she's disorganized. That's all.

It still didn't occur to her when Jake began taking medication to manage his ADHD, and she noticed he wasn't getting stuck in the ways he used to. It didn't click when Colleran remembered how stuck and incapable she felt when she was young. She was simply relieved her son was succeeding in ways she hadn't.

It only occurred to her eight years after Jake was diagnosed.

Colleran, then 45, was on the phone with her son's doctor. Jake wasn't doing well in college — he stopped taking his medication, forgot to attend mandatory events and sat in the wrong class for six weeks. Colleran began to joke that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. The doctor didn't miss a beat: "He was like 'well, you know, sometimes when the parent has ADHD, the kid does too,'" Colleran said. "That's when the aha moment hit."

With an increase in children being diagnosed with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in recent years, parents who grew up in a time when such a diagnosis was rare are starting to understand that perhaps they, too, have it. That years of struggles focusing on schoolwork, being told they weren't living up to their potential, getting bored at jobs or losing track of things, might be more than just a personality trait.

They were feeling inadequate because despite their best efforts, they didn't get the results that they wanted.

"When you start to talk about this and symptoms of ADHD with parents, you can see it in their faces sometimes: 'You're talking about me. I didn't know what that was. I didn't know what to call it,'" said William Stixrud, creator of The Stixrud Group, which specializes in the evaluation of learning, attention, social and emotional difficulties. "They think about ADHD like we did 50 years ago: that it's being hyperactive impulsive all the time. And some people think it's over-diagnosed."

For many parents, their own ADHD diagnosis jour-

ney begins when they bring their child to the pediatrician because things aren't adding up: My child is smart, but he can't complete his work. She keeps getting in trouble for daydreaming instead of working. He speaks out in the middle of class and says he doesn't know why. She studies for hours and hours and still fails.

And a thought takes root: Could this be me too?

"That's how it typically happens," Stixrud said. "ADHD is really very strongly genetic so it's extremely common for parents to say 'I was just like this as a kid' or 'I see him, I see myself in him.'"

Not long after Jake's pediatrician provided Colleran with clarity, she forgot to drop her middle son off at the airport on time for a school field trip. She laughed about it to her friends, cried about it alone and finally booked an appointment to get tested.

"That's when I realized, I can't be this person anymore. I'm failing my kids," Colleran said. "And so that's when I started coming to terms with my own ADHD. That's when I came to terms with the fact that [ADHD] is what's actually holding me back."

The American Psychiatric Association first recognized ADHD as a mental disorder in the 1960s. Twenty years later, the diagnosis became "attention-deficit disorder with or without hyperactivity." ADHD diagnoses in children ages 4 to 17 increased from 6.1% in 1997-1998 to 10.2% in 2015-2016. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a 42% jump in ADHD diagnoses between 2003 and 2011. ADHD is typically diagnosed in children and is twice as prevalent in boys than girls — although experts point to a lack of proper diagnoses rather than fewer girls actually having the disorder.

ADHD diagnoses are harder to come by as an adult, Stixrud said. Undiagnosed adults have spent their lives adapting. When parents are diagnosed, some choose to go to therapy, some take medication and some do nothing. Colleran never took medication due to her high blood pressure, though she's "sure it would have helped when I was younger."

"They just figure out how to live with it," Stixrud said.

The knowledge of the diagnosis was enough to change everything for Colleran, who went to an ADHD training academy so she could become a coach to help other parents navigate the school system and the organizational needs for their children. The training also helped her learn skills herself.

## THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



## Inflation poses threat to families' financial goals

I have vague memories of my parents scrimping and saving during my economically challenged childhood, a common experience that defined my generation. Born between 1965 and 1980, Gen Xers sought higher levels of education and used caution and pragmatism in an attempt to avoid the divorces, latchkey parenting and poor financial outcomes they'd experienced as children.

My baby boomer parents married hastily as teenagers, and thereafter struggled to manage a young family while earning their bachelor's degrees and starting their careers, my mother eventually becoming a grade-school teacher and my father a small-business owner. My first memories are of Brady's Trailer Court, where we lived until I was 3, then the small house on Seventh Street, and finally the modest brick ranch just outside of town that marked the pinnacle of my parents' financial success after so many years of hard work.

Like the rest of Gen X, my childhood experiences subconsciously spawned in me the drive to attain a more comfortable economic level than my parents had. I went to college, then law school, determined to avoid the economic stresses of my childhood.

However, I never understood that a major factor in my parents' financial struggles was "The Great Inflation," a 17-year period when the annual rate of price increases in the U.S. went from 1% in 1965 to 14.4% in 1980, and interest rates rose to nearly 20%. I didn't know that inflation had created a no-win situation for my parents, and that no matter how hard they worked, they got slammed with ever-rising prices, gas shortages and sky-high interest rates. All I knew was that my parents worked extremely hard to achieve mediocre financial success.

And now, more than 40 years later, our country is being gripped by inflation, gas shortages and rising interest rates once again. How will it affect young families, specifically military families? Will young millennials (Gen Yers) and Gen Zers find, like my parents did, that no matter how hard they work to achieve, they can't attain their financial goals?

The answer to the question of whether we are currently experiencing a second Great Inflation seems to be, "Not quite." Although economists are calling current inflation rates "disturbing" and "reminiscent of the Great Inflation," they stop short of saying that history is repeating itself.

What concerns me is that, whether or not COVID-era inflation is the same or different than the Great Inflation, experts are warning that current inflation rates effectively defund the military and cause a pay cut for military families, many of which are already experiencing food insecurities, affordable housing shortages and devastating gas prices. Although the Pentagon reported to Congress that it didn't plan to change the defense budget to account for inflation because it didn't track such data, some military commands are openly acknowledging the "mental toll" inflation is taking on its families by offering free financial counseling, resources and programs and monthly bonuses.

The White House and Congress have proposed a 4.6% pay raise in 2023, the highest in two decades; however, with inflation at 9.1% in July, military families may still be left struggling. Lower-income military families who may still feel the pinch of inflation even after the pay raise takes effect are encouraged to contact the Military Family Advocacy Network for food insecurity assistance, or their branch military relief societies such as Army Emergency Relief Society, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Air Force Aid Society and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance. Find links to these resources online at [militaryonesource.mil](http://militaryonesource.mil).

The current circumstances are too complex to know whether the Great Inflation is repeating itself, but one thing is for certain: Inflation, no matter if it happened 40 years ago or is happening today, is most definitely not great.

Read more at [themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com) and in Lisa's book, "The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com." Email: [meatandpotatoesoflife@gmail.com](mailto:meatandpotatoesoflife@gmail.com)



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# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

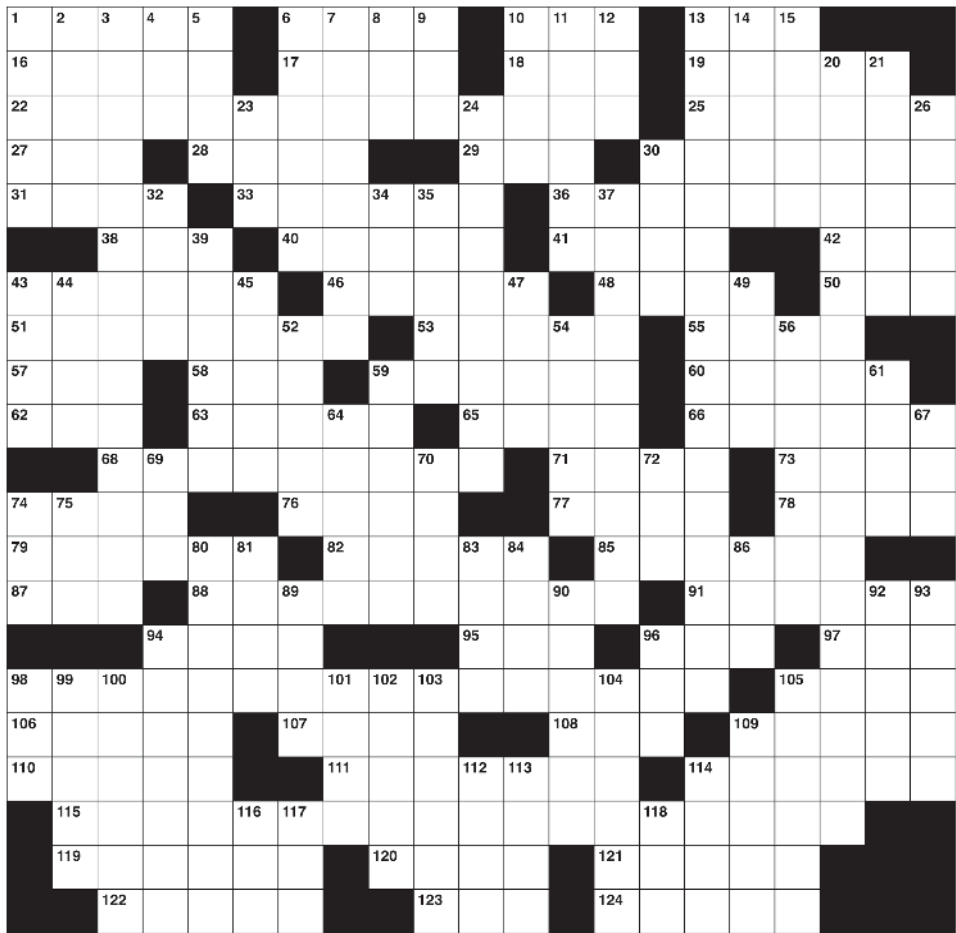
## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

### GOING SOMEWHERE?

BY JESSIE AND ROSS TRUDEAU / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Jessie Trudeau, née Bullock, recently received her Ph.D. from the government department at Harvard. Her husband, Ross, is a writer and puzzlemaker in Cambridge, Mass. They met three years ago. Ross, who has been creating crosswords for The Times since 2017, introduced Jessie to the puzzle world. This is their fourth collaboration for the paper. The couple are scheduled to marry this weekend. — W. S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Yankee Stadium has 24 of these
  - 6 In the thick of
  - 10 Org. with X-rays
  - 13 Shape of a heron's neck
  - 16 Bit of publicity
  - 17 Bag for a diamond
  - 18 Yellowfin tuna
  - 19 Cheney and Harris, informally
  - 22 One prone to idol thoughts
  - 25 Marsh birds
  - 27 Clubs often require them, for short
  - 28 Pool locales
  - 29 That: Sp.
  - 30 "Never you worry"
  - 31 Moor
  - 33 Call into question
  - 36 Bouquet
  - 38 Break up clouds
  - 40 Bolívar who was known as the Liberator
  - 41 Evening, to Yves
  - 42 Reggae-like genre
  - 43 One looking for missing persons
  - 46 Singer White with the 1991 No. 1 hit "Romantic"
  - 48 Actress de Matteo
  - 50 Inits. on some handbags
  - 51 Two-colored
  - 53 Model world
  - 55 End-of-semester form: Abbr.
  - 57 Flick, as a cigarette, informally
  - 58 Disappearing sculpture medium
  - 59 Big name in Jet Skis
  - 60 Gumption
  - 62 \_\_\_ hall
  - 63 Stylish flair
  - 65 Square type
  - 66 Necessities for drug approvals
  - 68 English landing spot
  - 71 Seat for the Queen?
  - 73 Egyptian symbol of life
  - 74 Stick with it!
  - 76 John Cho's role in "Star Trek" films
  - 77 Level
  - 78 Spill the tea
  - 79 Hits high notes in high places
  - 82 Suit
  - 85 Setting of two Shakespeare plays
  - 87 Some coding statements
  - 88 Edith Wharton's "ruin of a man"
  - 91 Nautical agreement
  - 94 Bearer of roses, maybe
  - 95 Word with American or amber
  - 96 Whiz
  - 97 Aunt \_\_\_ (role on "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air")
  - 98 Habitual fear of being exposed as a fraud
  - 105 N.F.L. star Elliott, to fans
  - 106 Edify
  - 107 Rikishi's sport
  - 108 "Don't be that \_\_\_"
  - 109 Part of a skin-care routine
  - 110 First pope to be called "the Great"
  - 111 Dillydallies
  - 114 "In Search of Lost Time" novelist
  - 115 Aphorism that's visually depicted five times in this puzzle's grid
  - 119 Pros with floors
  - 120 Unit of cauliflower
  - 121 Split, then come together?
  - 122 Ultimate needs
  - 123 Parched
  - 124 Apply (to)
  - 13 Home of the Simpson and Flanders households
  - 14 Rocker Bob with 10 Top 10 albums
  - 15 Casper competitor
  - 20 One side of D.C.'s Federal Triangle
  - 21 iPhone app with a graph in its icon
  - 23 Nail-polish brand
  - 24 Where all the people that come and go stop and say "hello," in a 1967 hit
  - 26 It's a huge deal
  - 30 State \_\_\_
  - 32 Former N.Y.C. mayor Ed
  - 34 Actress Thurman
  - 35 Locale for a rock climber
  - 37 Noted shopping mecca
  - 39 More like an empty old mansion at night, say
  - 43 Transport on the slopes
  - 44 Stop lying
  - 45 Celebrity chef DiSpirito
  - 47 Point in a network
  - 49 Profess
  - 52 Combines, in a way
  - 54 Fictional documentarian from Kazakhstan
  - 56 Provider of a ball of thread, in myth
  - 59 Like some cars and kisses
  - 61 \_\_\_ Club
  - 64 Neighbor of Curaçao
  - 67 Theater rebuke
  - 69 Scratch (out)
  - 70 Botch
  - 72 You might be advised to do this for yourself
  - 74 Memo opener, often
  - 75 "That's rough"
  - 80 Downwind locales for ships
  - 81 "Now!"
  - 83 Home of Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi
  - 84 Spilled the tea
  - 86 "Listen!" in León
  - 89 Cherry and peach
  - 90 Combined
  - 92 "Uh-oh!"
  - 93 Turn inside out
  - 94 Of whom Celine Dion said, "If God would have a singing voice, he must sound a lot like..."
  - 96 \_\_\_ Schneider, winningest woman in "Jeopardy!" history
  - 98 "\_\_\_ the economy, stupid!"
  - 99 Got together in
  - 100 White as a sheet
  - 101 Paul who was People magazine's 2021 Sexiest Man Alive
  - 102 Tremendous success
  - 103 Squawked in pain
  - 104 Coup result
  - 105 Member of Gen Z, jocularly
  - 109 Busy businesswoman in a rom-com, e.g.
  - 112 Loved
  - 113 Title on Netflix's "Bridgerton"
  - 114 Univ. V.I.P.
  - 116 Any of the Uruk-hai in "The Lord of the Rings"
  - 117 Word with half or hard
  - 118 Fútbol cry

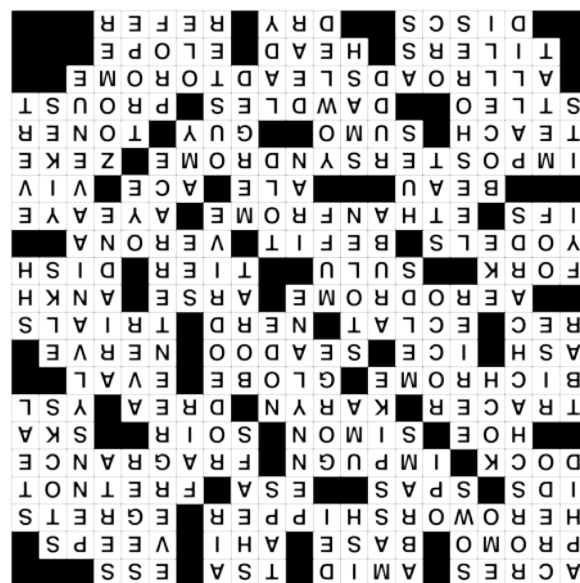


## GUNSTON STREET

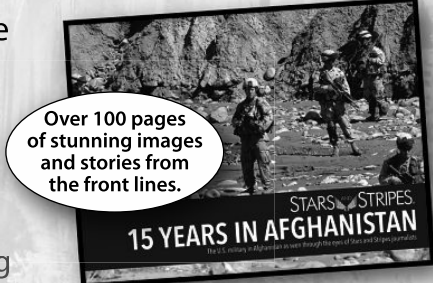


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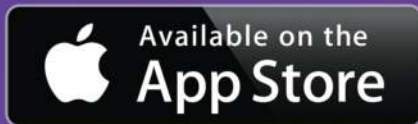
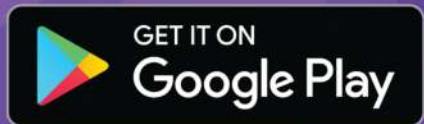
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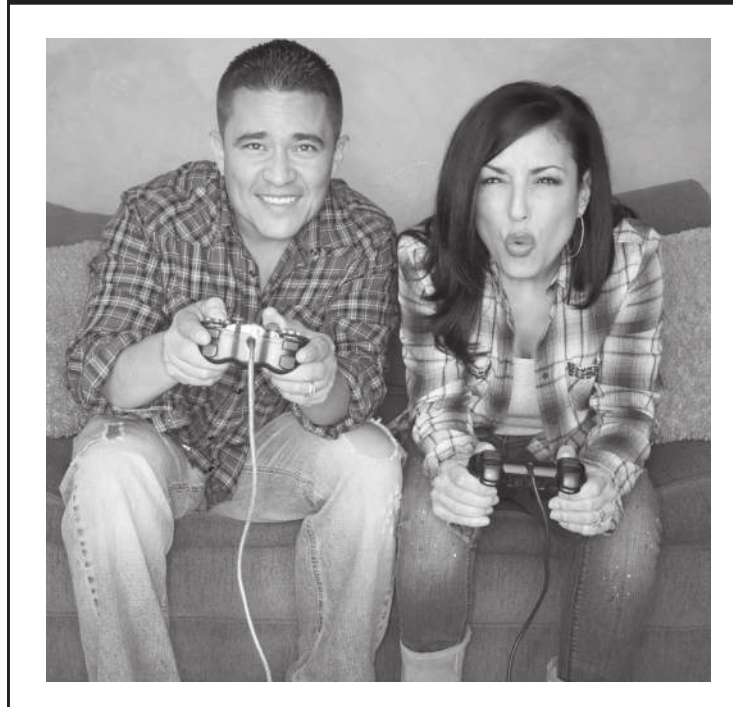
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## The democratic lessons of Kansas' vote on abortion

By JASON WILLOCK

*The Washington Post*

In the 1850s, political violence in the Kansas territory — “Bleeding Kansas” — was a warning that America’s democratic process was losing its ability to resolve the country’s foremost disagreement. On slavery, a patchwork of state-level settlements would not be viable for long. Either abolitionists or pro-slavery forces would need their vision codified unconditionally — and walled off from political movements in the states.

Kansas might again be a bellwether in a polarized country, but this time the lesson is less ominous. Its Tuesday abortion referendum suggests that the most divisive moral question of the 20th and 21st centuries — in which both sides seek to claim the mantle of 19th-century abolitionism — can be fought out democratically in the states.

For decades, American liberals — and the Supreme Court — held that the right to abortion was too fundamental to rest on the approval of popular majorities. On the other side, since the court’s June decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, conservative interest has grown in national legislation that would ban abortion even in pro-abortion-rights states.

The Kansas plebiscite, which delivered a 59% to 41% pro-choice victory, calls both positions into question. The first post-*Roe* abortion referendum shows that the absolutist anti-abortion movement is a political minority, and that its prospects for codifying strict anti-abortion laws in federal legislation are remote.

But it also undermines the pro-choice ideological premise that was the foundation of *Roe*: that states can’t be trusted to give abortion policy a fair hearing through a process of political give-and-take. America’s traditional model of democratic federalism has plenty of running room left.

To be sure, this referendum had some unusual characteristics. In 2015, Kansas’ Republican legislature passed, and the governor signed, a bill severely restricting second-trimester abortions. In 2019, the state’s Supreme Court, in an unwieldy 115-page decision, invalidated the law as a violation of the Kansas state constitution’s general liberty guarantee.

With *Roe* overturned, anti-abortion Kansans sought to set aside their state court’s decision, as well. They proposed a constitutional amendment that would, according to the explanatory statement on the ballot, “affirm there is no Kansas constitutional right to abortion” under any circumstances.

This tangled backdrop to the referendum forced voters to navigate double negatives, and the campaign may offer lessons for how each side can frame the issue to its advantage in future elections. Yet Kansans turned out in droves to decisively reject the amendment, with several Republican counties falling well short of majority support for the anti-abortion position. Only 16 states have a stronger Republican lean than Kansas, according to the Cook Political Report index. No matter the peculiarities of this referendum, it’s hard to square the nearly 18-point pro-choice margin in Kansas with the prospect that 51 Republican senators — representing more than 25 states — would vote to ban abortion in all 50 states and stay in office for long.

If the GOP wins both houses of Congress and the presidency in 2024, strict anti-abortion bills will surely be introduced. But even if they passed the House, a handful of anti-abortion GOP senators could allow them to be blocked by a Democratic filibuster (that supposedly “anti-democratic” Senate rule can sometimes steer policy in a more popular direction).

Kansas is now an outlier among solidly red states, many of which either ban or will soon

ban most abortions, including under “trigger laws” crafted while *Roe* was in effect. How to explain those laws in light of the registered popular sentiment in Kansas? Part of the answer might have to do with gerrymandering or the incentives created by partisan legislative primaries, as opposed to popular referendums. But many state legislatures passed their anti-abortion statutes when the issue was purely notional, because abortion remained a federal constitutional right. Legislatures will be forced to hew more closely to the opinions of their voters if the laws they pass are immediately binding. That doesn’t mean strongly anti-abortion legislation won’t continue to go into effect: Indiana’s GOP legislature is moving ahead with such a bill, though voters have not yet had a chance to intervene in a legislative election.

It’s a military maxim that the important aim of a conflict is not so much to defeat the adversary but to convince him he is defeated. Bleeding Kansas was the prelude to a terrible war because neither side of the conflict over slavery could ever be convinced politically of its defeat. Since the 1973 decision in *Roe*, liberals have “won” the abortion debate. But far from convincing conservatives they had lost, the judicial mandate made the fight appear all the more important.

In most states, the political process is unlikely to produce an abortion regime as expansive as the one maintained by the Supreme Court for 49 years. But abortion rights that do exist will rest on a more legitimate foundation. It’s popular to warn of political fracture or civil war, but today’s conflicts come with more room for compromise than in the 1850s — and America’s raucous democracy might just be able to sustain an imperfect balance.

Jason Willock writes a regular Washington Post column on legal issues, political ideas and foreign affairs.

## Pelosi’s trip continues careful engagement with Taiwan

By ARTHUR I. CYR

*Special to Stars and Stripes*

The tension between China and Taiwan is in the news again as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi leads a U.S. congressional delegation through Asia. The itinerary includes Taiwan along with Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea.

The brief Taiwan stop involved meetings with President Tsai Ing-wen and other top leaders. Beijing, which regards Taiwan as part of China, angrily denounced the visit. China’s military is conducting live-fire exercises near Taiwan.

Last week, President Joe Biden had a lengthy phone conversation with President Xi Jinping of China. Biden also noted publicly the U.S. military regards the congressional trip as unwise. These were low-key, sensible efforts to mitigate tensions.

The Democratic Progressive Party, which has controlled Taiwan government for the past six years, is formally committed to independence from China.

China has become increasingly assertive in the region, including reconfirming commitment to absorbing Taiwan. Aggressiveness of China in maritime and military terms adds teeth to the continuing expansionist rhetoric.

In February 2014, Taiwan and the mainland agreed to exchange representative offices. Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun of China and Taiwan Mainland Affairs Minister

Wang Yu-chi led face-to-face negotiations. In hindsight, that was a high point of possible reconciliation. Since then, however, relations have deteriorated.

The two sides share a bitter legacy of battle and blood. Following the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95, Japan occupied Taiwan for five decades, until the end of World War II. In 1949, nationalist forces of Gen. Chiang Kai-shek evacuated to Taiwan. Mao Zedong’s armies consolidated control of the mainland. Except for the island territory, communist revolution was complete.

The outbreak of the Korean War in late June 1950 resulted in the U.S. 7th Fleet moving to patrol the Taiwan Strait. China and the United States became direct combatants in that war; the Cold War became global.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, in command of the United Nations forces defending the Korean Peninsula, became increasingly public and strident in criticizing the restraints placed on him by the U.S. government. Finally, President Harry Truman, out of patience, fired him. Truman reaffirmed civilian control of the military. This was the greatest test of that principle since Gen. George McClellan directly challenged President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War.

U.S. commitment to Taiwan security became explicit during the Korean War. The island became a controversial flashpoint in American domestic politics. Before North Korea invaded South Korea, bringing strategic

shift, the Truman administration was resigned to victorious communist forces taking Taiwan along with the rest of China.

Nonetheless, de facto economic cooperation between mainland China and Taiwan, built steadily if slowly over time, continues. Pragmatism characterizes Taiwan’s approach to mainland China. Following formal U.S. diplomatic recognition of Beijing in 1978, a consequence of President Richard Nixon’s 1972 visit, Taipei immediately launched a comprehensive essentially nonconfrontational strategic response.

In 2010, the bilateral Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement was concluded. This has remained a major triumph for then-President Ma Ying-jeou. His election as Taiwan chief executive in 2008 and 2012 greatly furthered cooperation with Beijing.

Taiwan is an essential investor for the economic revolution on the mainland. Successful overseas Chinese provide vital capital for the mainland. Expatriate Chinese vote in Taiwan elections.

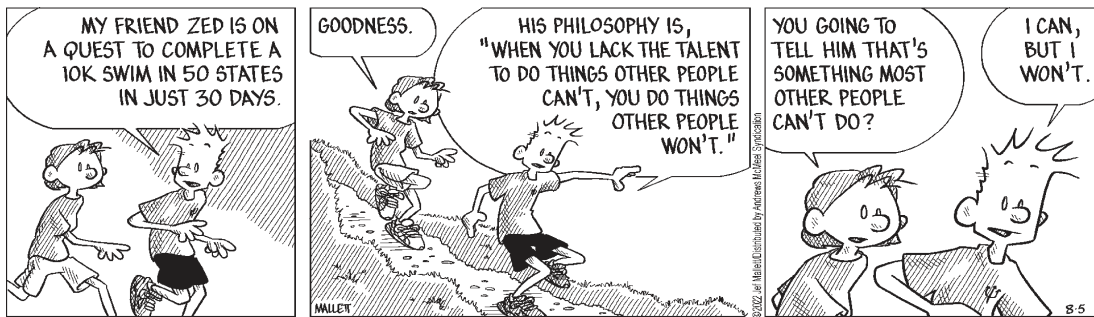
Japan and the United States recently reconfirmed commitment to Taiwan.

In March 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower visited Taiwan, the first and so far only sitting U.S. chief executive to do so. Earlier, he skillfully managed two serious Taiwan crises, in 1954-55 and 1958.

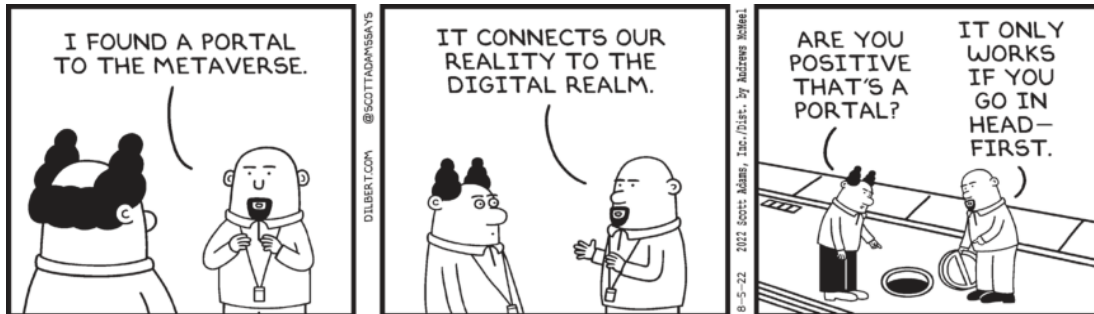
Ike was always fully in charge.

Arthur I. Cyr is author of “After the Cold War.”

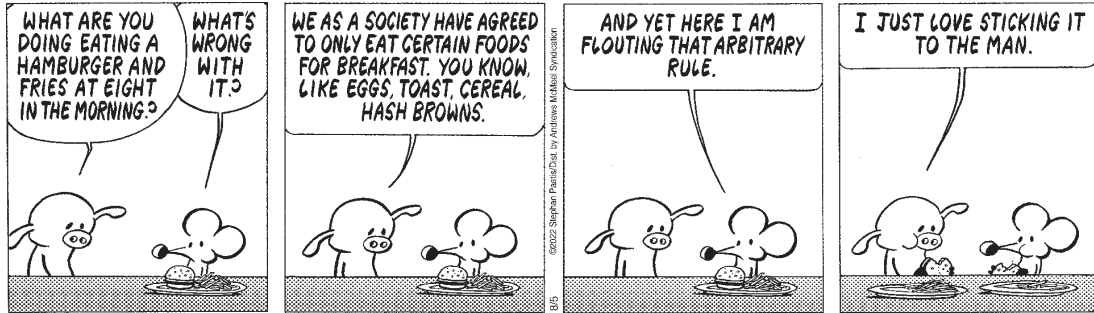
Frazz



Dilbert



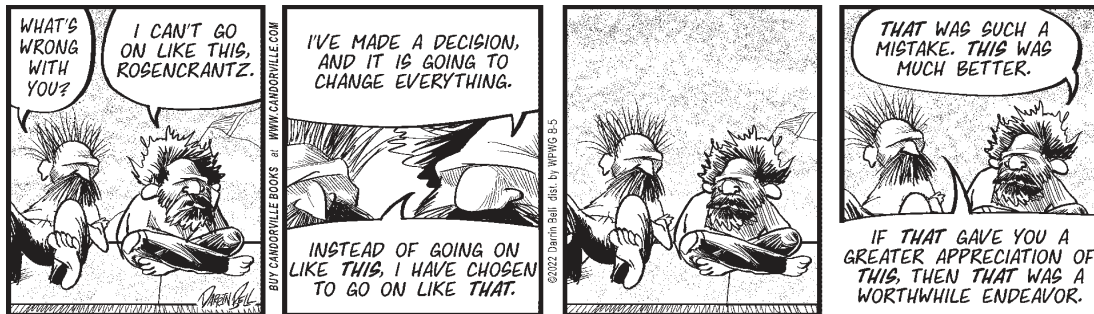
Pearls Before Swine



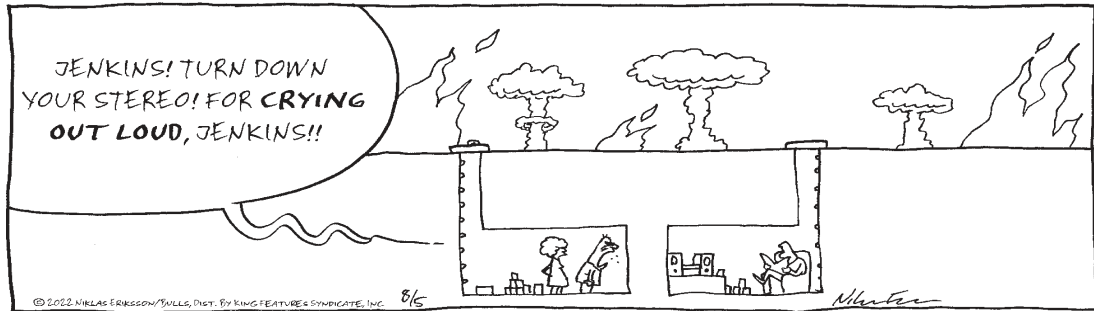
Non Sequitur



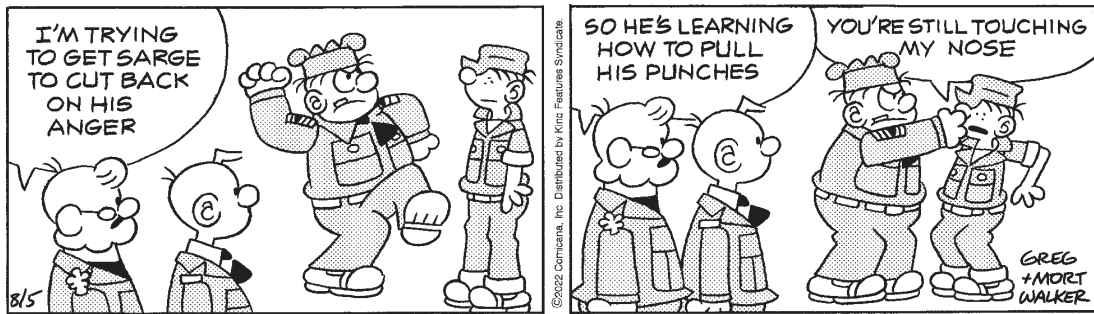
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



### Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
18							19	20				
			21				22			23	24	25
26	27	28				29				30		
31					32				33			
34				35					36			
37			38				39					
			40				41			42	43	44
45	46	47				48	49					
50						51				52		
53						54				55		

#### ACROSS

- 1 Airport screening org.
- 4 Out of control
- 8 Appear ominously
- 12 Pioneering ISP
- 13 Kid's plea
- 14 "The Music Man" setting
- 15 Oafs
- 17 Daniel Craig role
- 18 "Homeland" star Danes
- 19 Devious
- 21 ER workers
- 22 Persuades
- 26 Track races
- 29 Wee dollop
- 30 Goat's plaint
- 31 Symphonic gp.
- 32 Sleep acronym
- 33 Dick Tracy's love
- 34 Consumed
- 35 Chignon
- 36 Walking sticks
- 37 Persian king
- 39 Mined-over matter
- 40 Ordinal suffix
- 41 Blue hue
- 45 Hoodlum
- 48 Defeats cleverly
- 50 Mexican money
- 51 Worry
- 52 TV's Longoria
- 53 Mideast gulf
- 54 Belongs
- 55 Knight's address

#### DOWN

- 1 Body powder
- 2 Satan's purchase
- 3 — mater
- 4 Squirrel's stash
- 5 High points
- 6 Low digit
- 7 Big-screen ainer of stadium smooches
- 8 Tripoli's land
- 9 Tic-tac-toe win
- 10 Possess
- 11 Irate
- 16 Wharton's "House of —"
- 20 Arcing tennis shot
- 23 Marvel superheroes
- 24 Lighten
- 25 Get lippy
- 26 Deception
- 27 Deco artist
- 28 Computer brand
- 29 Lion's home
- 32 Exit in haste
- 33 Cardio-boxing routine
- 35 Wager
- 36 Seals and — (soft rock duo)
- 38 Noble gas
- 39 Group of eight
- 42 Chopping tools
- 43 Jeans maker Strauss
- 44 Romanov ruler
- 45 Transcript no.
- 46 British ref. work
- 47 Sugary suffix
- 49 Swiss canton

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	E	S	T	A	L	D	A	A	S	H
O	M	A	R	N	E	E	R	D	O	E
D	I	G	E	S	T	I	V	E	O	D
S	T	E	A	L	S	N	E	P	A	L
			T	Y	S	C	A	N	T	
R	E	F	S	H	I	E	D	I	N	O
T	R	U	E	O	N	V	I	A		
S	A	G	A	R	U	T	K	E	N	T
			I	N	D	E	X	M	E	
E	S	T	E	E	M	O	P	P	E	T
R	O	I	C	O	G	N	I	T	I	V
N	O	V	O	R	E	O	U	S	E	S
E	N	E	Y	E	L	P	P	A	R	T

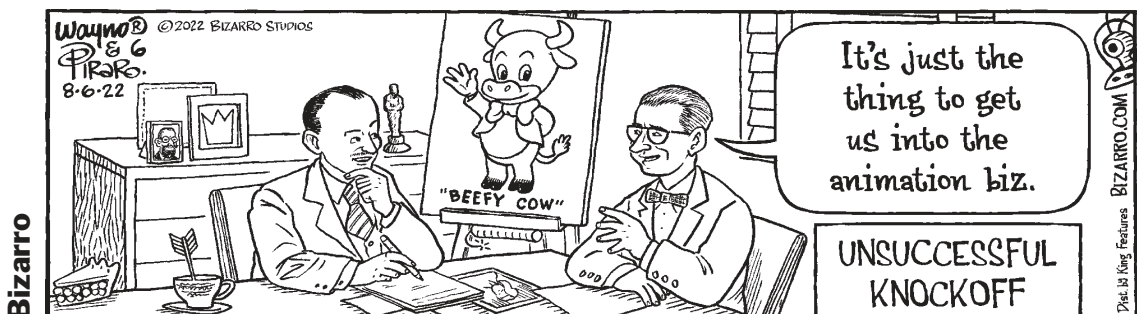
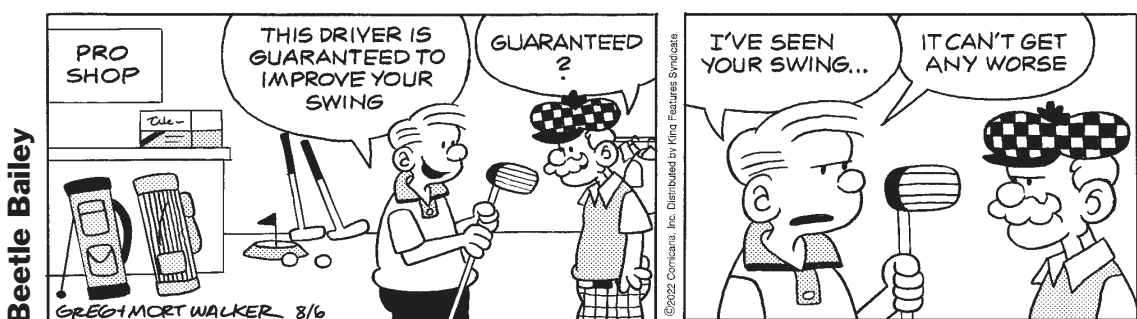
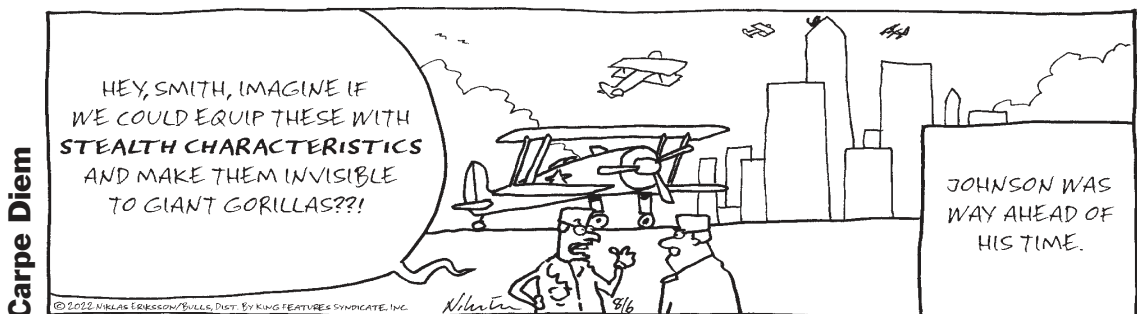
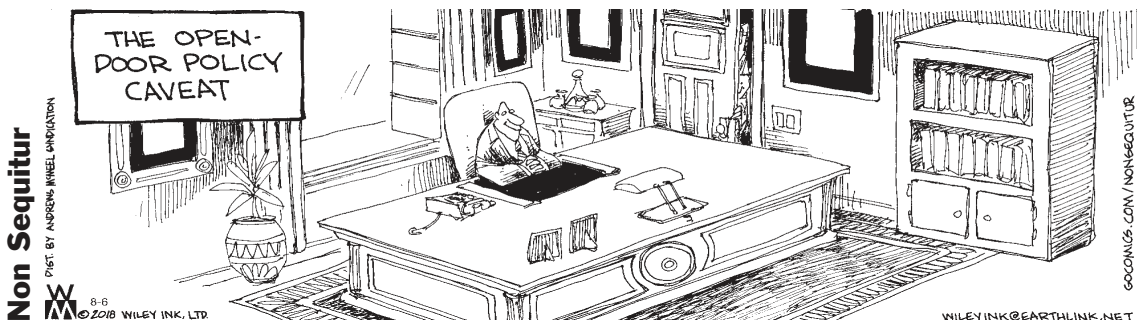
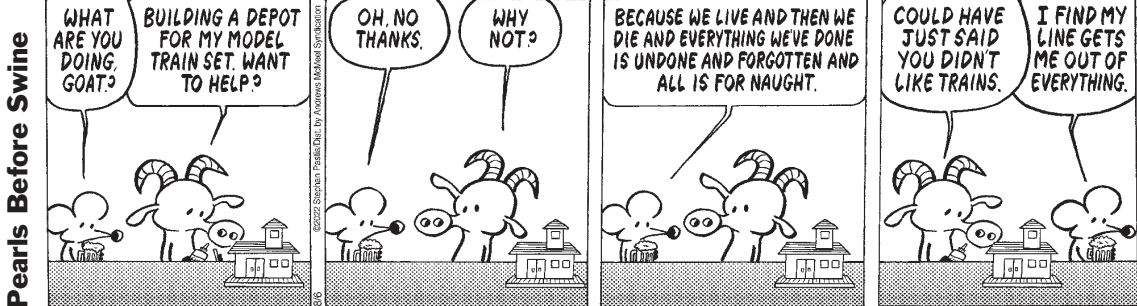
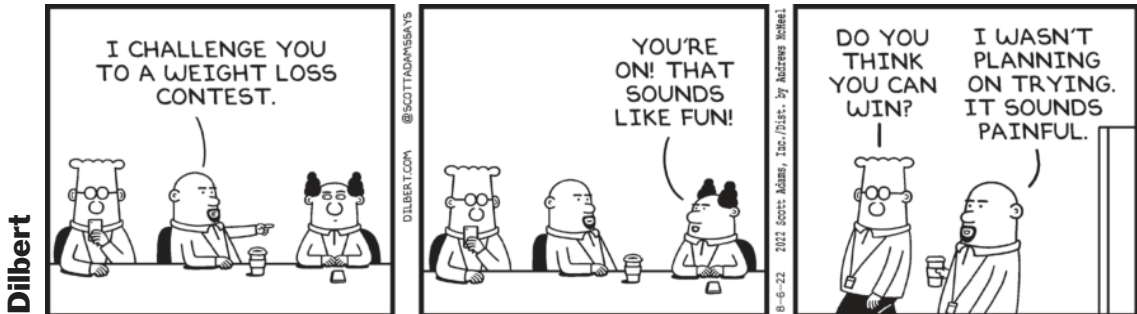
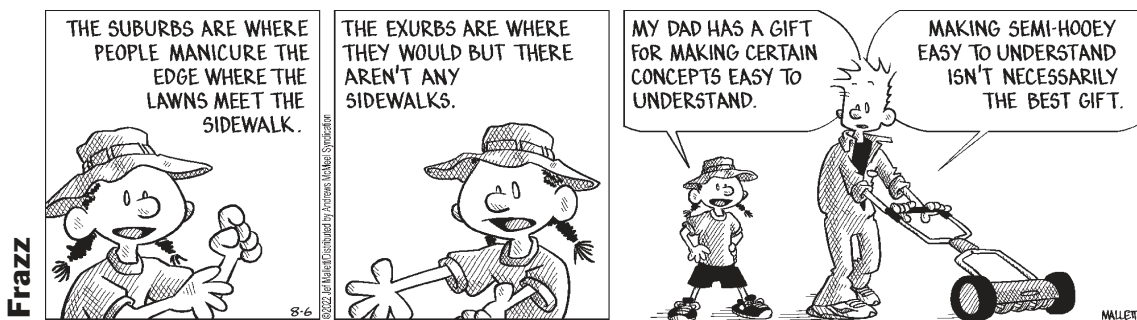
8-5

#### CRYPTOQUIP

XRYW JPVSYFYWKEH VEOSJ LEO  
 CYNP YMWPF IECPAEJL XYNPI  
 OT MFEC Y HYT? "WRP FPIW  
 KI RKIWEFL."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN PEOPLE COME TOGETHER TO SHRED A HAND-PLAYED DRUM TO BITS, WOULD THEY BE CONGA-GRATING?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals Y



**Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
12							13					
14							15					
16					17	18				19		
			20	21			22	23				
24	25	26		27			28		29		30	31
32			33				34					
35					36					37		
		38		39		40			41			
42	43			44	45				46	47	48	49
50			51				52	53				
54							55					
56							57					

- ACROSS**
- 1 Wash thoroughly
  - 6 Black Sea port
  - 12 Saudi neighbor
  - 13 Reacts to a pun
  - 14 Baseball's Roberto
  - 15 Attack verbally
  - 16 — -pedi
  - 17 Barrel bottom bit
  - 19 — tree
  - 20 Use a stun gun
  - 22 California's Big —
  - 24 Director Brooks
  - 27 Campbell of "Scream"
  - 29 Eve's guy
  - 32 Citrusy flavoring used in baking
  - 35 Pedestal part
  - 36 Actress de Matteo
  - 37 Pro vote
  - 38 Decade parts (Abbr.)
  - 40 "No seats" signs
  - 42 Food additive
  - 44 Help a crook
  - 46 Like custard
  - 50 Venetian marketplace
  - 52 Security desk request
  - 54 "Nothing for me, thanks"
  - 55 Protruding navels
- DOWN**
- 1 Ward of "Once and Again"
  - 2 "Let's go!"
  - 3 Pay
  - 4 Italian article
  - 5 Tweety's meal
  - 6 Monster
  - 7 Pulls
  - 8 Very long time
  - 9 The "S" of SNL
  - 10 Crisp cookie
  - 11 Hammett pooch
  - 12 Candied veggie
  - 18 Undo
  - 21 Director Lee
  - 23 Former Mideast gp.
  - 24 '60s chic
  - 25 Mound stat
  - 26 "Bad Romance" singer
  - 28 Physical effort
  - 30 Super serve
  - 31 NYC subway overseer
  - 33 Fish-fowl link
  - 34 Eastern "way"
  - 39 Squelched
  - 41 Factions
  - 42 Hosp. scans
  - 43 Ninny
  - 45 Physiques
  - 47 Pace
  - 48 Neutral color
  - 49 QB's gains
  - 51 Blue
  - 53 "Levitating" singer Lipa

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

T	S	A		A	M	O	K		L	O	O	M
A	O	L		C	A	N	I		I	O	W	A
L	U	M	M	O	X	E	S		B	O	N	D
C	L	A	I	R	E		S	L	Y			
			R	N	S		C	O	A	X	E	S
H	E	A	T	S		D	A	B		M	A	A
O	R	C	H		R	E	M		T	E	S	S
A	T	E		B	U	N		C	A	N	E	S
X	E	R	X	E	S		O	R	E			
			E	T	H		C	O	B	A	L	T
G	O	O	N		O	U	T	F	O	X	E	S
P	E	S	O		F	R	E	T		E	V	A
A	D	E	N		F	I	T	S		S	I	R

**8-6 CRYPTOQUIP**

E KIJFDJIG MRTZFI BEG GRKI  
 PR NTMB VHPHKO RK QBIHS  
 BRKIDNRRK QBEQ QBID JISI  
 EFF ZTMVISIG RTQ.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHAT DECLARATION COULD YOU MAKE AFTER SOMEBODY WAKES UP FROM A NAP? "THE REST IS HISTORY."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals I

# SCOREBOARD/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## PRO SOCCER

### MLS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	12	2	9	45	40	15
NYCFC	12	4	6	42	41	21
CF Montréal	12	8	3	39	38	37
New York	10	7	6	36	38	30
Orlando City	8	9	6	30	27	33
Columbus	7	6	9	30	28	24
Charlotte FC	9	12	2	29	28	31
Inter Miami CF	8	10	5	29	27	37
Cincinnati	7	8	8	29	37	42
Chicago	7	10	6	27	24	28
New England	6	7	9	27	32	34
Atlanta	6	9	7	25	29	33
Toronto FC	6	12	5	23	30	39
D.C. United	6	13	3	21	28	47

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LAFC	15	4	3	48	44	23
Austin FC	13	5	5	44	47	28
Minnesota	10	8	5	35	35	30
FC Dallas	9	7	8	35	33	26
Real Salt Lake	9	7	7	34	30	29
Nashville	8	7	9	33	30	30
Seattle	10	11	2	32	30	27
Portland	7	6	11	32	40	36
LA Galaxy	9	10	3	30	30	28
Colorado	7	9	6	27	30	33
Vancouver	7	10	6	27	25	38
Houston	7	12	4	25	28	37
San Jose	5	10	8	23	36	46
Sporting KC	5	14	5	20	19	42

**Note:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.

#### Wednesday's games

Charlotte FC 3, D.C. United 0  
 CF Montréal 2, Columbus 1  
 Nashville 1, Portland 1, tie  
 Miami 1, San Jose 0

#### Friday's game

Houston at Vancouver

#### NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego	7	3	4	25	20	11
Portland	6	1	6	24	31	11
Houston	6	4	3	21	24	16
OL Reign	5	3	6	21	15	12
Chicago	5	3	5	20	20	17
Kansas City	5	4	4	19	14	16
Angel City	5	5	2	17	12	14
Orlando	3	5	5	14	14	28
Louisville	2	6	6	12	15	21
Gotham FC	4	7	0	12	9	22
Washington	1	5	8	11	14	18
North Carolina	2	5	3	9	17	19

**Note:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.

#### Friday, July 29

Washington 3, North Carolina 3, tie  
 Portland 2, Louisville 1

#### Saturday, July 30

San Diego 1, Chicago 0  
 OL Reign 3, Angel City 2

#### Sunday, July 31

Houston 4, Gotham FC 2  
 Orlando 2, Kansas City 2, tie

#### Tuesday, Aug. 2

OL Reign 1, Louisville 1, tie

#### Friday's games

Washington at Louisville  
 North Carolina at Portland

## PRO BASKETBALL

### WNBA

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	23	8	.742	—
x-Connecticut	21	10	.677	2
x-Washington	20	12	.625	3½
Atlanta	13	18	.419	10
New York	13	18	.419	10
Indiana	5	28	.152	19

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Las Vegas	22	9	.710	—
x-Seattle	20	12	.625	2½
Dallas	14	16	.467	7½
Phoenix	13	18	.419	9
Los Angeles	12	19	.387	10
Minnesota	12	20	.375	10½

x-clinched playoff spot

#### Wednesday's games

Atlanta 91, Indiana 81  
 New York 64, Los Angeles 61  
 Seattle 89, Minnesota 77

#### Thursday's games

Phoenix at Connecticut  
 Las Vegas at Dallas

#### Friday's games

Los Angeles at Atlanta  
 Washington at Chicago

## Los Cabos Open

**Wednesday**  
**At Solaz Resort & Spa Los Cabos**  
**Los Cabos, Mexico**  
**Purse: \$822,110**

**Surface: Hardcourt outdoor**  
**Men's Singles**  
**Round of 16**

Miomir Kecmanovic (4), Serbia, def. Jordan Thompson, Australia, 6-4, 6-2.  
 Brandon Nakashima (6), United States, def. Max Purcell, Australia, 6-3, 6-3.  
 Felix Auger-Aliassime (2), Canada, def. Alex Hernandez, Mexico, 6-3, 7-5.  
 Radu Albot, Moldova, def. Jason Kubler, Australia, 6-4, 6-2.  
 Ricardas Berankis, Lithuania, def. Facundo Bagnis, Argentina, 7-6 (4), 6-3.  
 Daniil Medvedev (1), Russia, def. Rinky Hijikata, Australia, 6-4, 6-3.  
 Steve Johnson, United States, def. Thanasi Kokkinakis (7), Australia, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-4.  
 Cameron Norrie (3), Britain, def. Chun Hsin Tseng, Taiwan, 6-3, 6-0.

#### Men's Doubles

#### Round of 16

Andre Goransson, Sweden, and Ben McLachlan, Japan, def. Gonzalo Escobar, Ecuador, and Ariel Behar (3), Uruguay, 6-3, 3-6, 10-7.

Matthew Ebdon and Max Purcell (2), Australia, def. Hans Hach Verdugo, Mexico, and Hunter Reese, United States, 6-3, 6-4.

#### Quarterfinals

Santiago Gonzalez, Mexico, and Andres Molteni (1), Argentina, def. Nicolas Barrientos, Colombia, and Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela, Mexico, 6-3, 6-4.  
 Marcelo Melo, Brazil, and Raven Klaasen (4), South Africa, def. Treat Conrad Huey, Philippines, and Steve Johnson, United States, 6-4, 7-6 (6).

#### Iasi Open

#### Wednesday

**At Baza Sportiva Ciric Iasi, Romania**  
**Purse: \$115,000**  
**Surface: Red clay**  
**Women's Singles**  
**Round of 32**

Ana Bogdan (3), Romania, def. Oana Georgeta Simion, Romania, 6-0, 6-2.

#### Round of 16

Darya Astakhova, Russia, def. Cristina Dinu, Romania, 6-2, 6-2.  
 Rebeka Masarova, Spain, def. Nastasja Schunk, Germany, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4.  
 Maja Chwalinska, Poland, def. Olga Danilovic (4), Serbia, 7-6 (4), 6-4.  
 Panna Udvardy (2), Hungary, def. Reka

## Wednesday's transactions

### BASEBALL

**Major League Baseball**  
**American League**

**BALTIMORE ORIOLES** — Reinstated OF Brett Phillips from the 10-day IL. Optioned OF Yussniel Diaz to Norfolk (IL).

**CLEVELAND GUARDIANS** — Recalled SS Tyler Freeman from Columbus (IL). Optioned 2B Ernie Clement to Columbus.

**DETROIT TIGERS** — Reinstated RHP Willy Peralta from the 15-day IL. Placed LHP Tarik Skubal on the 15-day IL, retroactive to August 2. Optioned INF Zack Short to Toledo (IL). Recalled OF Daz Cameron from Toledo.

**KANSAS CITY ROYALS** — Transferred LHP Angel Zerpa from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Recalled C Sebastian Rivero from NW Arkansas (TL). Selected the contract of Michael Massey from Omaha (IL).

**LOS ANGELES ANGELS** — Activated RHP Jesse Chavez, LHP Tucker Davidson and OF Mickey Moniak. Optioned OF Dillon Thomas to Salt Lake (PCL).

**MINNESOTA TWINS** — Selected the contract of C Sandy Leon from St. Paul (IL). Reinstated LHP Caleb Thielbar from rehab assignment and the 15-day IL and optioned him to St. Paul. Designated RHP Joe Smith for release or assignment.

**NEW YORK YANKEES** — Placed RHP Frankie Montas on the bereavement list.

**TEXAS RANGERS** — Sent RHP Joe Barlow to Frisco (TL) on a rehab assignment.

**TORONTO BLUE JAYS** — Recalled RHP Matt Peacock from Buffalo (IL). Placed RHP Ross Stripling on the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Mitch White to Buffalo.

### National League

**ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS** — Selected the contract of LHP Tommy Henry from Reno (PCL). Transferred LHP Tyler Gilbert from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Optioned RHP Taylor Widener to Reno.

**ATLANTA BRAVES** — Reinstated RHP Jake Odorizzi from the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Jay Jackson from Gwinnett (IL).

**CHICAGO CUBS** — Recalled RHP Kervin Castro from Iowa (IL).

**CINCINNATI REDS** — Recalled SS Jose Barrero from Louisville (IL).

**COLORADO ROCKIES** — Recalled RHP Chad Smith from Albuquerque (PCL). Optioned LHP Ty Blach to Albuquerque.

**LOS ANGELES DODGERS** — Activated INF/OF Joey Gallo.

**MIAMI MARLINS** — Reinstated INF Garrett Cooper from rehab assignment and the 10-day IL. Placed OF Avisail Garcia on

## LPGA money leaders

### Through Aug. 1

	Trn	Money
1. Minjee Lee	13	\$3,426,980
2. Brooke M. Henderson	14	\$2,049,923

## TENNIS

Luca Jani, Hungary, 6-0, 7-6 (6).

### Women's Doubles

#### Round of 16

Miriam Bianca Bulgaru and Ilona Georgiana Ghioroiaie, Romania, def. Gabriela Lee and Oana Georgeta Simion, Romania, walkover.

Despina Papamichail, Greece, and Andreea Lazaro Garcia, Spain, def. Mihaela Buzarnescu and Irina Bara, Romania, walkover.

Olivia Tjandramulia, Australia, and Beatrice Gumulya (3), Indonesia, def. Paula Ormaechea, Argentina, and Prarthana Thombare, India, 6-1, 7-5.

Angelina Gabueva and Anastasia Zakharova (2), Russia, def. Camelia-Elena Hristea and Stefana Lazar, Romania, 6-0, 6-3.

Elixane Lechemia, France, and Anastasia Detiuc (1), Czech Republic, def. Briana Szabo and Lavinia Tanasie, Romania, 6-3, 6-2.

Andreea Amalia Rosca, Romania, and Darya Astakhova, Russia, def. Cristina Dinu and Ilinca Dalina Amariei, Romania, 6-0, 7-6 (2).

### Citi Open

#### Wednesday

**At William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Center**  
**Washington**  
**Purse: \$1,953,285**  
**Surface: Hardcourt outdoor**  
**Men's Singles**  
**Round of 32**

Holger Rune (9), Denmark, def. Benoit Paire, France, 6-3, 6-2.

Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, def. Hubert Hurkacz (2), Poland, 6-4, 7-6 (3).

Mikael Ymer, Sweden, def. Aslan Karatsev (15), Russia, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

Sebastian Korda, United States, def. Sebastian Baez (12), Argentina, 6-1, 6-4.

Yoshihito Nishioka, Japan, def. Alex de Minaur (11), Australia, 3-6, 7-6 (6), 6-2.

Taylor Fritz (3), United States, def. Alexei Popyrin, Australia, 6-4, 6-3.

Jeffrey John Wolf, United States, def. Denis Shapovalov (6), Canada, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-3.

Grigor Dimitrov (5), Bulgaria, def. Adrian Mannarino, France, 6-1, 3-6, 7-5.

Maxime Cressy (13), United States, def. Jack Sock, United States, 4-6, 6-4, 6-0.

Frances Tiafoe (10), United States, def. Christopher Eubanks, United States, 6-3, 7-6 (2).

Reilly Opelka (4), United States, def. Denis Kudla, United States, 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-4.

Nick Kyrgios, Australia, def. Tommy Paul (14), United States, 6-3, 6-4.

### Women's Singles

#### Round of 16

Rebecca Marino, Canada, def. Andrea

## DEALS

the 10-day IL.

**MILWAUKEE BREWERS** — Reinstated RHP Freddy Peralta from the 60-day IL. Activated RHP Matt Bush. Recalled INF Keston Hiura from Nashville (IL). Designated RHP Dinelson Lamet and C Pedro Severino for assignment. Optioned RHP Peter Strzelecki to Nashville.

**NEW YORK METS** — Reinstated RHP Trevor May from rehab assignment and 60-day IL. Activated INF/OF Darin Ruf and RHP Mychal Givens. Designated INF Kramer Robertson for assignment. Optioned RHPs Stephen Nogosek and Yoan Lopez to Syracuse (IL).

**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES** — Reinstated RHP David Robertson from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Francisco Morales to Lehigh Valley (IL). Recalled OF Simon Muzziotti from Reading (EL).

**PITTSBURGH PIRATES** — Recalled INF Tucupita Marcano and RHP Yohan Rodriguez from Indianapolis (IL). Placed RHP David Bednar on the 15-day IL. Designated INF Yoshi Tsutsugo for assignment.

**SAN DIEGO PADRES** — Reinstated RHP Nick Martinez from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Michel Baez to El Paso (PCL). Reassigned C Luis Campusano to the minor leagues. Activated OF Juan Soto, 1B Josh Bell and INF/OF Brandon Drury.

**SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS** — Activated INF/OF J.D. Davis. Selected the contract of OF Bryce Johnson from Sacramento (PCL). Optioned LHP Sam Long and INF Jason Vosler to Sacramento.

### BASKETBALL

#### National Basketball Association

**PHOENIX SUNS** — Signed G Duane Washington Jr.

### FOOTBALL

#### National Football League

**BALTIMORE RAVENS** — Signed DE David Ojabo. Waived WR Trevon Clark.

**CAROLINA PANTHERS** — Cleared WR Andrew Parchment off waivers and placed him on injured reserve.

**CLEVELAND BROWNS** — Signed WR Daylen Baldwin. Waived S Nate Meadors.

**DALLAS COWBOYS** — Waived LB Aaron Hansford. Signed LB Anthony Barr.

**DENVER BRONCOS** — Placed WR Tim Patrick and RB Damarea Crockett on injured reserve. Signed RB Max Borghi.

**DETROIT LIONS** — Waived RB Greg Bell. Signed WR Maurice Alexander.

**HOUSTON TEXANS** — Waived WR Davion Davis. Signed LS Harrison Elliott and WR Chester Rogers. Activated DB Tristin McCollum from the physically unable to perform (PUP) list.

## GOLF

3. In Gee Chun	15	\$1,913,312	9. Jin Young Ko	11	\$1,210,346
4. Jennifer Kupcho	17	\$1,805,046	10. Mina Harigae	15	\$1,173,989
5. Lexi Thompson	10	\$1,613,622	11. Hyo Joo Kim	11	\$1,170,115
6. Lydia Ko	14	\$1,568,961	12. Nasa Hataoka	16	\$1,038,784
7. Hye-Jin Choi	16	\$1,554,823	13. Celine Boutier	16	\$865,412
8. Atthaya Thitikul	16	\$1,317,719	14. Jessica Korda	9	\$832,189

# Bueckers lost for season

By PAT EATON-ROBB  
 Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — UConn women's basketball star Paige Bueckers tore the ACL in her left knee during a pickup game and will miss the entire 2022-23 season, the school announced Wednesday.

UConn said in a statement that Bueckers suffered the injury Monday and underwent an MRI that evening. It did not say where the junior guard from Hopkins, Minn., was playing when the injury occurred. It was the same knee she injured last year, causing her to miss significant time.



Bueckers</

MLB

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	70	36	.660	—
Toronto	58	46	.558	11
Tampa Bay	55	49	.529	14
Baltimore	54	51	.514	15½
Boston	53	53	.500	17
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	55	49	.529	—
Cleveland	54	50	.519	1
Chicago	53	51	.510	2
Detroit	42	64	.396	14
Kansas City	41	64	.390	14½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	68	38	.642	—
Seattle	57	49	.538	11
Texas	46	58	.442	21
Los Angeles	44	60	.423	23
Oakland	40	66	.377	28
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	66	38	.635	—
Atlanta	63	42	.600	3½
Philadelphia	56	48	.538	10
Miami	48	57	.457	18½
Washington	36	70	.340	31
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	57	47	.548	—
St. Louis	55	48	.534	1½
Cincinnati	42	62	.404	15
Pittsburgh	42	62	.404	15
Chicago	41	61	.402	15
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	71	33	.683	—
San Diego	61	46	.570	11½
San Francisco	51	54	.486	20½
Arizona	46	58	.442	25
Colorado	46	61	.430	26½

**Wednesday's games**  
 Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 2  
 Minnesota 4, Detroit 1  
 Seattle 7, N.Y. Yankees 3  
 Chicago White Sox 4, Kansas City 1  
 Houston 6, Boston 1  
 Baltimore 6, Texas 3  
 Oakland 3, L.A. Angels 1  
 Philadelphia 3, Atlanta 1  
 Cleveland 7, Arizona 4  
 N.Y. Mets 9, Washington 5  
 Miami 3, Cincinnati 0  
 Pittsburgh 8, Milwaukee 7  
 San Diego 9, Colorado 1  
 L.A. Dodgers 3, San Francisco 0  
 Chicago Cubs at St. Louis, ppd.

**Thursday's games**  
 Oakland at L.A. Angels  
 Houston at Cleveland  
 Tampa Bay at Detroit  
 Toronto at Minnesota  
 Chicago White Sox at Texas  
 Boston at Kansas City  
 Milwaukee at Pittsburgh  
 Chicago Cubs at St. Louis, 1:15 p.m.  
 L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco  
 Colorado at San Diego  
 Washington at Philadelphia  
 Atlanta at N.Y. Mets  
 Chicago Cubs at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m.

**Friday's games**  
 Houston (Valdez 9-4) at Cleveland (TBD)  
 Tampa Bay (Kluber 7-6) at Detroit (TBD)  
 Chicago White Sox (Cease 11-4) at Texas (Otto 4-7)  
 Boston (Winckowski 4-5) at Kansas City (Greinke 3-6)  
 Toronto (Berríos 8-4) at Minnesota (TBD)  
 L.A. Angels (Sandoval 3-7) at Seattle (Ray 8-8)  
 Miami (TBD) at Chicago Cubs (Steele 4-7)  
 Pittsburgh (Keller 3-7) at Baltimore (Kremer 3-3)  
 Washington (Gray 7-7) at Philadelphia (Gibson 6-4)  
 Atlanta (Anderson 9-6) at N.Y. Mets (Walker 9-2)  
 Cincinnati (TBD) at Milwaukee (Lauer 7-3)  
 N.Y. Yankees (Cortes 9-3) at St. Louis (Hudson 6-6)  
 Colorado (Márquez 6-9) at Arizona (Bumgarner 6-10)  
 San Diego (Manaea 6-5) at L.A. Dodgers (Gonsolin 12-1)  
 Atlanta at N.Y. Mets

**Calendar**  
**Aug. 11** — Chicago Cubs vs. Cincinnati at Dyersville, Iowa.  
**Aug. 21** — Boston vs. Baltimore at Williamsport, Pa.  
**Aug. 31** — Last day to be contracted to an organization and be eligible for postseason roster.  
**Sept. 1** — Active rosters expand to 28 players.

# Soto brings 'good vibes' to Padres

By **BERNIE WILSON**  
*Associated Press*

SAN DIEGO — Juan Soto arrived at Petco Park promising to bring “good vibes” to the San Diego Padres and issuing a warning to opposing teams.

The acquisition of the 23-year-old generational talent in perhaps the biggest deadline deal ever energized the Padres and their long-suffering fans, and there’s more to come.

Soto and Josh Bell on Wednesday joined a lineup currently anchored by All-Star slugger Manny Machado. Star shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. is expected to return from a broken left wrist within a few weeks.

When that lineup hits the field, “It’s going to be really exciting. It’s going to be really tough to go through and I wish good luck to the other pitchers,” Soto said with a laugh at an introductory news conference.

The Colorado Rockies needed it in their first look at the new Padres on Wednesday night.

Soto, acquired from Washington in a massive trade along with switch-hitting first baseman Josh Bell, walked on four pitches in his first at-bat. Machado doubled behind him, Bell also walked and then lesser-known deadline pickup Brandon Drury — acquired from Cincinnati amid a breakout season — crushed a grand slam. The Padres went on to win 9-1.

The group posed together for a Polaroid photo in the dugout after rounding the bases — the signature celebration for the club known as Slam Diego.

The price for Soto and Bell was significant: rookie left-hander MacKenzie Gore, first baseman/DH Luke Voit and prospects James Wood, C.J. Abrams, Robert Hassell III and Jarlin Susana.

Washington general manager Mike Rizzo set a lofty asking price last month after reports emerged that Soto rejected the team’s latest contract offer of \$440 million over 15 years.

The uncertainty over his future began weighing on Soto, who said after Sunday’s game against St. Louis: “I just want to get it over with and see what’s going to happen. Start over here or wherever I’m at.”

That place is San Diego, where the Padres entered Wednesday holding the NL’s second wild-card spot while trailing the Los Angeles Dodgers by 11½ games in the NL West.

Soto, one of the game’s best young hitters, said he was happy Bell was included in the trade. The two were flown to San Diego on a private jet Tuesday night.

“For me, I never realized I was going to be traded together. I was thinking probably by myself,” Soto said. “When I realized I was



PHOTOS BY GREGORY BULL/AP

Padres right fielder Juan Soto, center, jokes with teammates during the fourth inning of Wednesday’s game against the Colorado Rockies in San Diego. Soto was acquired in trade Tuesday with Washington.



Soto reacts after hitting a single Wednesday during the eighth inning.

coming with Josh, we have a great relationship and I was more excited and more pumped because he’s coming and I know what kind of guy he is and what he brings to the table. I’m more than excited to share another clubhouse with him.”

Soto contributed to the Nationals’ first World Series title in 2019 and then hit .351 in 2020 to win the NL batting title. He’s in his second straight All-Star season, and now he and Bell have joined a team whose playoff chances vaulted big-time.

Soto said all the conversations

with Padres general manager A.J. Preller and his new teammates have been, “Let’s win, let’s bring the good energy to the clubhouse and the stadium, just come here and try to win. Try to bring my experience from 2019 as a World Series champ to here in San Diego.”

“That’s what I’m going to do, that’s what I have in my mind since I saw the trade yesterday. That’s what we’re going to try to do, try to make it all the way to the last team standing.”

Soto thinks he’s joining a World Series contender.

“Yeah, definitely,” he said.

“This team has everything that it needs to win a World Series.”

San Diego last played in the World Series in 1998, when it was swept by the New York Yankees.

Soto is under contract for two seasons beyond this year and said he’s not thinking about anything after that.

“I’m just thinking about winning,” he said. “I’m just coming to this clubhouse to bring the energy that I have, all the good vibes that I have to bring here, to win.”

Soto and Bell are coming from the team with baseball’s worst record to one that has vaulted its postseason chances.

“It feels really nice,” Soto said. “It feels really pumped to be here. Just go from a team that has no chance to come all the way here, it’s a great feeling, a new vibe, it’s a new start for me. It’s a new start, a new feeling to go out there and give more than I have.”

Said Bell: “Obviously we pour our hearts and souls into this game no matter where we are. ... But it’s a little bit extra fuel in the fire to be here and to be in the hunt and to have a reason to show up a little bit earlier every day to get the work done that we need to get done. I’m definitely pumped to have a new opportunity here.”

Soto and Tatis, who’s also 23, have known each other since playing together in the Dominican Prospect League.

“That’s my boy, my hometown boy,” Tatis said on Tuesday. “I mean, we played together since we were 15, 16. And now we’re on the same team. It’s crazy.”

## MLB/GOLF

## ANALYSIS

# The biggest buyers, sellers from a busy trade deadline

By NOAH TRISTER  
Associated Press

This is quite a time to be a season ticket holder for the San Diego Padres.

Great weather, a jewel of a ballpark — and perhaps the most exciting lineup in baseball for the near future.

The Padres landed the biggest prize of this year's trade deadline — and maybe at any year's deadline — when they acquired outfielder Juan Soto, a 23-year-old superstar who isn't due to become a free agent until after the 2024 season. To get him, they had to send six players to Washington, including several of their top recent prospects.

It's a massive move for an organization that has never won a World Series — but it now adds Soto to a team that has Fernando Tatis Jr., Manny Machado and Yu Darvish. San Diego also traded for closer Josh Hader this week.

Here's a look at the biggest buyers and sellers at this year's deadline, and how they've reshaped their futures.

## Buyers

### (Team records at the deadline) San Diego Padres (60-46, second NL wild card)

**Acquired:** OF Juan Soto, 1B Josh Bell, LHP Josh Hader, 2B Brandon Drury, C Cam Gallagher, LHP Jay Groome.

**Traded:** LHP MacKenzie Gore, SS C.J. Abrams, OF Robert Hassell III, OF James Wood, RHP Jarlin Susana, 1B Luke Voit, LHP Taylor Rogers, RHP Dinelson Lamet, 2B Esteury Ruiz, LHP Robert Gasser, SS Victor Acosta, OF Brent Rooker, 1B Eric Hosmer, 2B Max Ferguson, OF Corey Rosier.

**Analysis:** It was going to take a big offer to pry Soto loose from the Nationals, and the Padres always made some sense as a destination. They had enough attractive prospects to make the deal happen — and because they were already postseason contenders, adding Soto can benefit them even if he only stays through 2024. Bell brings power to the lineup as well.

### Philadelphia Phillies (55-48, third NL wild card)

**Acquired:** RHP Noah Synder-

gaard, RHP David Robertson, OF Brandon Marsh, 2B Edmundo Sosa.

**Traded:** C Logan O'Hoppe, LHP JoJo Romero, OF Mickey Moniak, OF Jadel Sanchez, RHP Ben Brown.

**Analysis:** Chasing their first postseason berth since 2011, the Phillies added help in the rotation, the bullpen, the infield and the outfield. Philadelphia moved on from Moniak, the top pick in the 2016 draft.

**Seattle Mariners  
(56-49, second AL wild card)**  
**Acquired:** RHP Luis Castillo, LHP Matthew Boyd, C Curt Casali.

**Traded:** SS Noelvi Marte, SS Edwin Arroyo, RHP Levi Stoudt, RHP Andrew Moore, LHP Anthony Misiewicz, RHP Michael Stryfeler, C Andy Thomas.

**Analysis:** Speaking of postseason droughts, the Mariners haven't qualified since 2001, and they approached this deadline with a sense of urgency, sending three of their top prospects to Cincinnati for Castillo (who earned a win against the Yankees on Wednesday in his Mariners debut). Boyd had some good moments in Detroit but didn't pitch at all this year for San

Francisco because of elbow problems.

### New York Yankees (70-35, first place in AL East)

**Acquired:** RHP Frankie Montas, RHP Lou Trivino, OF Andrew Benintendi, OF Harrison Bader, RHP Scott Effross, RHP Clayton Beeter.

**Traded:** OF Joey Gallo, LHP Jordan Montgomery, LHP Ken Waldichuk, LHP JP Sears, RHP Luis Medina, 2B Cooper Bowman, RHP Chandler Champlain, LHP T.J. Sikkema, RHP Beck Way, RHP Hayden Wesneski.

**Analysis:** Considering what Seattle gave up for Castillo, the Yankees probably feel pretty good about landing Montas, who had a 3.18 ERA in 19 starts this year for Oakland. Benintendi and Bader give New York more outfield options, although the latter has been dealing with foot problems.

### Minnesota Twins (54-49, first in AL Central)

**Acquired:** RHP Jorge Lopez, RHP Tyler Mahle, RHP Michael Fulmer, C Sandy Leon.

**Traded:** RHP Yennier Cano, LHP Cade Povich, LHP Juan Rojas, RHP Juan Nunez, RHP Ian Hamilton, SS Spencer Steer, 3B Christian Encarnacion-Strand, LHP Steve Hajjar, RHP Sawyer Gipson-Long.

**Analysis:** Lopez and Fulmer can help Minnesota's bullpen, and Mahle has been solid over the past couple months for the Reds. And none of the Twins' top AL Central rivals did anything all that special at the deadline.

## Sellers

### Washington Nationals (36-69, last place in NL East)

**Traded:** OF Juan Soto, 1B Josh Bell, SS Ehire Adrianza.

**Acquired:** SS C.J. Abrams, OF Robert Hassell III, LHP MacKenzie Gore, OF James Wood, 1B Luke Voit,



RON SCHWANE/AP

The Yankees added another front-line pitcher in Frankie Montas, who had a 3.18 ERA in 19 starts this year for the Athletics.

RHP Jarlin Susana, 2B Trey Harris.

**Analysis:** It's one thing to trade a star for prospects. It's another to give up a generational talent who was under team control for another couple years. If Soto's career proceeds as expected, there may always be questions about whether the Nationals tried hard enough to keep him. That said, Washington received plenty in return. Hassell immediately becomes the team's top prospect, according to MLB Pipeline. Abrams and Gore are both top-six draft picks who made their big league debuts this year.

### Cincinnati Reds (42-61, third in NL Central)

**Traded:** RHP Luis Castillo, RHP Tyler Mahle, OF Tommy Pham, 2B Brandon Drury, OF Tyler Naquin, LHP Phillip Diehl.

**Acquired:** SS Noelvi Marte, SS Edwin Arroyo, RHP Levi Stoudt, RHP Andrew Moore, 2B Hector Rodriguez, RHP Jose Acuna, SS Spencer Steer, 3B Christian Encarnacion-Strand, LHP Steve Hajjar, SS Victor Acosta, C Austin Romine.

**Analysis:** The Reds cashed out with Castillo, acquiring Marte and Arroyo, who are ranked as the No. 17 and No. 92 prospects by MLB Pipeline. Cincinnati now has six of the top 100.

### Oakland Athletics (39-66, last place in AL West)

**Traded:** RHP Frankie Montas, RHP Lou Trivino, C Austin Allen.

**Acquired:** LHP Ken Waldichuk, LHP JP Sears, RHP Luis Medina, 2B Cooper Bowman, RHP Carlos Guarate.

**Analysis:** The 24-year-old Waldichuk was the top prospect the A's received. He was excellent at Double-A this year and has posted a 3.59 ERA in 11 starts at Triple-A.

### Baltimore Orioles (53-51, 1½ games behind third AL wild card)

**Traded:** 1B Trey Mancini, RHP Jorge Lopez.

**Acquired:** RHP Seth Johnson, RHP Chayce McDermott, RHP Yennier Cano, LHP Cade Povich, LHP Juan Rojas, RHP Juan Nunez, OF Brett Phillips.

**Analysis:** The Orioles were in a tricky spot, because although rebuilding they're also surprisingly in contention for a wild card. Trading Mancini wasn't the sentimental move, but he can become a free agent after this season, so a breakup might have come soon anyway. Lopez was Baltimore's closer, but its bullpen has been very good this year and may be able to withstand his departure.

# Mickelson, others sue PGA Tour over LIV Golf suspensions

By DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press

Phil Mickelson, Bryson DeChambeau and nine other players who defected to Saudi-funded LIV Golf filed an antitrust lawsuit Wednesday against the PGA Tour, the first step in a legal fight that could define the boundaries of where players can compete.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, claims the PGA Tour has used monopoly power to try to squash competition and has unfairly suspended players.

A separate motion was filed asking for a temporary restraining order to allow Talor Gooch, Matt

Jones and Hudson Swafford to play in the FedEx Cup playoffs, the PGA Tour's postseason, which begins next week.

The suit revealed that PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan suspended Mickelson for two months in March for his role in recruiting players to LIV Golf. It said Mickelson's request in June to be reinstated was denied because he played in an LIV event and that he was banned until March 2024 for playing in another.

Monahan responded to the lawsuit with a terse memo to his players in which he referred to "11 of your former colleagues" suing the tour and continued to refer to

LIV Golf as the "Saudi Golf League."

Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund is the primary source of the money paying exorbitant signing bonuses and providing \$25 million purses for 48-man fields. Several players are in their 40s and no longer ranked among the top 50 in the world.

Monahan said players knew the consequences of signing up for the rival league.

"We have been preparing to protect our membership and contest this latest attempt to disrupt our tour, and you should be confident in the legal merits of our position," Monahan wrote.

"Fundamentally, these suspended players — who are now Saudi Golf League employees — have walked away from the tour and now want back in," he wrote. "It's an attempt to use the tour platform to promote themselves and to freeride on your benefits and efforts."

LIV Golf said in a statement: "The players are right to have brought this action to challenge the PGA's anti-competitive rules and to vindicate their rights as independent contractors to play where and when they choose. Despite the PGA Tour's effort to stifle competition, we think golfers should be allowed to play golf."



SETH WENIG/AP

Phil Mickelson is one of the 11 players accusing the PGA Tour of using monopoly powers in an attempt to crush competition from Saudi-funded LIV Golf.

## NFL

# Plan B: Brissett isn't new to the starter's role

FROM PAGE 48  
der injury.

Three years later, Brissett unexpectedly took over for the Colts following Andrew Luck's stunning retirement in training camp. With Miami last season, Brissett was called upon after Tua Tagovailoa got hurt in Week 2 and started five games.

Brissett is headed down a path he knows well.

"Since I've been in this league it's been the next man up," he said before Tuesday's practice. "That was the case my rookie year, so that experience helps with not only the playing but with the mindset of understanding that you've got to be ready whenever your number is called."

The Browns signed Brissett as a free agent one day after Watson waived his no-trade clause and agreed to join Cleveland. The team needed to add a QB with experience and one capable of leading a talented roster, especially if Watson was going to be out for an extended period.

Brissett was ideal.

"He's been in some different positions already in his young career," coach Kevin Stefanski said. "He has a very good way about him. Very, very intelligent. Very good leader. Has the ability to make plays on the practice field, help in the meeting room. Be accountable throughout the weight room. He just does all the right things."

Although he's among the team's new players, Brissett said it's comforting to know the Browns believe he can fill in for Watson.

"It feels good that you have that trust amongst the organization," he said. "I'm excited for the opportunity."

Browns linebacker Anthony Walker Jr. knows Brissett as well as anyone. He was teammates with Brissett in Indianapolis when he took over for Luck.

The Colts didn't miss a beat.

"He stepped in and he was a pro," Walker said. "He handled it the right way. People forget we were a really good football team with him as our starting quarterback before we had a lot of guys go down."

"We were rolling at that point but happened to take a couple of bad bumps. Jacoby's a pro. He's prepared, is going to prepare every day whether he's the starter or the backup. He's always ready so he doesn't have to get ready."

As Brissett answered questions for the first time since Watson's suspension, Walker lurked just outside the semicircle of reporters.

At one point, he caught Brissett's eye and the QB took a playful swipe at his teammate.

"He's annoying as hell," Brissett joked.

It was a playful moment in this tense period for the Browns, who remain unsure of what's coming next for Watson.

In the meantime, the plan is to prepare Brissett for the Sept. 11 opener against Carolina, and perhaps five more games until Watson is eligible again.

Brissett smiled when he was asked how tough it will be to hand over the reins at 6-0.

"We'll cross that bridge when we cross that bridge," he said.

**Notes:** Top WR Amari Cooper sat out with an ankle injury suffered Monday. Stefanski expects Cooper to be back soon and still doesn't feel any need to add receivers despite a rash of injuries at the position. ... RT Jack Conklin (knee) and DE Jadeveon Clowney (rest) were among a group of players who worked on the side. ... The Browns practiced in pads for the first time and the initial scuffle of camp featured some shoves and words between WR Donovan Peoples-Jones and rookie CB Martin Emerson.



DAVID DERMER/AP

Cleveland Browns backup quarterback Jacoby Brissett signs an autograph after practice Saturday in Berea, Ohio.



NICK CAMMETT/AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson stretches during training camp in Berea, Ohio. Watson, who was suspended for six games on Monday, may be out longer after the NFL appealed the suspension.

# NFL appeals six-game suspension for Watson

By ROB MAADDI  
Associated Press

The NFL is seeking an indefinite suspension of at least one year plus a fine in appealing a disciplinary officer's decision to suspend Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson for six games for violating the league's personal conduct policy, a person familiar with the filing told The Associated Press.

The person, speaking on condition of anonymity because the matter isn't public knowledge, also said Watson would be required to undergo treatment before he could be reinstated. The league initially recommended an \$8 million fine and asked during settlement negotiations for at least a \$5 million fine plus a 12-game suspension that never materialized, another person involved in the talks told the AP.

The NFL's appeal gives Commissioner Roger Goodell or someone he designates authority to impose a stiffer penalty. League spokesman Brian McCarthy said it's still to be determined whether Goodell or someone else will hear the appeal.

Former federal judge Sue L. Robinson issued her ruling Monday after Watson was accused by two dozen women in Texas of sexual misconduct during massage treatments while he played for the Houston Texans.

In her 16-page report, Robinson

## DID YOU KNOW?

By appealing the six-game suspension handed down to Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson by former federal judge Sue L. Robinson, the NFL is putting the punishment back in the hands of Commissioner Roger Goodell. If he chooses, Goodell can appoint someone else to levy a heavier punishment.

SOURCE: Associated Press

described Watson's behavior as "more egregious than any before reviewed by the NFL."

But her punishment fell far short of the NFL's request. So, the league on Wednesday exercised its right to appeal, per the collective bargaining agreement.

The players' union has until the end of business Friday to respond in writing. The union could challenge the appeal ruling in federal court, setting the stage for a prolonged fight. Both sides could still reach a settlement to avoid a lengthy battle. The NFLPA didn't immediately comment on the appeal.

McCarthy said there's no timeline for Goodell or his designee to make a ruling.

According to the league's personal conduct policy, the appeal will be processed on an expedited basis. Also, it will be "limited to consideration of the terms of discipline imposed" and "based upon a review of the existing record without reference to evidence or testi-

mony not previously considered."

The policy also states the "decision of the Commissioner or his designee, which may overturn, reduce, modify or increase the discipline previously issued, will be final and binding on all parties."

This is the first time since the new CBA was signed in 2020 that the league and the NFLPA turned to a jointly appointed disciplinary officer to determine violations of the personal conduct policy. In the past, Goodell has served as judge and jury to impose penalties on players.

By appealing, the NFL is giving that power back to Goodell, who can choose another person to levy any punishment.

A league official told the AP before Watson's three-day disciplinary hearing concluded in June that the NFL wanted to avoid an appeal.

But the league proceeded with one amid a backlash from some fans and intense public pressure in the media. Beyond that, there were other factors.

A person familiar with the league's thinking cited Watson's lack of expressed remorse, which Robinson noted in her report, the fact he didn't report the first incident when it happened and he wasn't truthful with the league's investigators.

AP sports writer Tom Withers in Cleveland contributed to this report.



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## NFL

# Ferocious 49ers DL Young heads to Hall

By GREG BEACHAM  
Associated Press

**B**ryant Young straddled the classic football divide between discipline and ferocity more adeptly than just about any player of his generation.

For every minute of a 14-year NFL career spent entirely with the San Francisco 49ers, Young was a model teammate and a soft-spoken leader who selflessly made everybody around him better.

And for 60 minutes on most autumn Sundays, Young was one of the most intimidating, vicious defensive linemen his teammates and opponents had ever seen.

Young doesn't see that dichotomy as a contradiction. In fact, he loved the chance to get a little crazy while being a measured, mature man in every other area of his rich life.

"Football is a very chaotic, violent, physical sport," Young said with a smile. "It's controlled chaos. You don't get better and you don't excel in the game by being this passive, nice individual."

Yet that's exactly what Young did as one of the most inspirational players and one of the genuinely nice guys of his NFL era.

In addition to his production and resilience at one of the sport's most brutal positions, Young's ability to inspire — both through his play and through his response to unimaginable setbacks on and off the field — finally earned him admission to the



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

**San Francisco 49ers defensive end Bryant Young is carried off the field by teammates after his team's win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in a game in San Francisco on Dec. 23, 2007.**

Pro Football Hall of Fame this summer, nearly 15 years after his last game.

Typically, Young felt a responsibility when he learned he'll finally get a gold jacket.

"I want to make sure that I do that well and handle it with care," Young said. "I want to do a great job representing all the members of the brotherhood."

Young was a model of leadership, production and punishing play, but he wasn't a flashy attention-grabber on the field or a flamboyant personality away from it.

That's probably why he waited so long for his enshrinement — and why it might not have happened at all if a group of six offensive linemen hadn't been rallied together by the 49ers' former PR director last December to film a video testimonial nudging voters to choose Young.

One of the best three-technique defensive tackles of his era, Young had 89½ sacks and earned four Pro Bowl selections in an era rich with talent at the position. He earned an All-Pro nod in 1996, his most exceptional statistical season with 84

tackles, 11½ sacks and two safeties.

Safety Lance Schulters played his first four NFL seasons alongside Young in San Francisco from 1998 to 2001. Schulters acknowledges he was a trash-talking defensive back who absorbed several lessons about professionalism and accountability from the taciturn Young.

"He didn't speak a lot, but when he spoke, you'd better shut the hell up and pay attention," Schulters said. "I learned from his toughness and mental fortitude, from his study habits — he would be the first guy in there, last guy to leave. Always on

top of his game, taking care of his body. And then in the game, how he controlled and rag-dolled those guards, you couldn't believe it. He's an awesome teammate. I love BY."

The 50-year-old Young has seemingly been a throwback for his whole life.

Young grew up in blue-collar Chicago Heights with two older brothers and a father who worked for the Ford Motor Company. Although he didn't play football until his freshman year at Bloom High School — initially thinking he would be a fullback — his talent eventually got him to Notre Dame.

He was a three-year starter for Lou Holtz's Fighting Irish, becoming a team captain, a determined leader — and eventually, the second defensive lineman chosen in the 1994 draft.

Young went seventh overall to the 49ers, who traded up to add young talent to an already outstanding team coming off two straight NFC championship game appearances. Young was the bridge to the future for a defense stocked with veteran talent including Dana Stubblefield, Rickey Jackson, Ken Norton Jr., Tim McDonald, Merton Hanks and Deion Sanders.

San Francisco won it all in his rookie season, with Young starting the Super Bowl victory over San Diego. Although the Niners never got back to the Super Bowl during Young's career, they remained a consistent winning team until his final seasons.

# Branch's speed led to induction after long wait

By JOSH DUBOW  
Associated Press

Cliff Branch was the epitome of what Al Davis coveted in a receiver during his decades running the Raiders.

Branch arrived in Oakland with the game-breaking speed needed to fuel the Raiders' vertical offense. As soon as he learned to harness that speed and develop reliable hands, there was no stopping him.

Branch became one of the best deep threats of his era with some of his biggest performances coming on the game's biggest stages to earn a spot in the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday.

"He was a game-changer," said Hall of Fame coach Tom Flores, who was a receivers coach for the Raiders when Branch arrived and was his head coach for seven seasons.

"He had one-of-a-kind speed and several gears with his speed. I had to coach him on how to slow down. That sounds ridiculous, but he was trying to run the routes I was teaching in mock speed and couldn't do it. He was tripping and



AP

**Los Angeles Raiders wide receiver Cliff Branch catches a pass for a 64-yard gain during the first quarter of a playoff game against the Cleveland Browns in Los Angeles on Jan. 8, 1983.**

clumsy, so I taught him to glide. He could glide faster than most people could run. Then when you have the need, turn it on."

Branch arrived in Oakland as a fourth-round pick in 1972 after catching just 36 passes his final two years in college at Colorado. But Branch was also a star sprinter who set the NCAA champion-

ship meet record in the 100 meters shortly before joining the Raiders.

That speed is what Davis wanted to team with future Hall of Famers Fred Biletnikoff and Dave Casper as the pass catchers for Ken Stabler. But it took until his third season for Branch to break out.

Flores said he was immediately

impressed by Branch's toughness over the middle and ability to learn the offense, but the only issue that kept him off the field early on was his hands as the frequent drops led to boos from the home fans.

"His first year he was impressive, and when he was open he was wide open because he was so fast, but then he would drop the ball," Flores said. "But then in his third year, that's when he really started to shine. That was the whole thing with Al, speed and fear and big-play guys. And he was a big-play guy."

Branch made the first of his three straight All-Pro teams in his first season as a starter in 1974 and never looked back. He scored 67 touchdowns through the air, leading the NFL in TD receptions in 1974 with 13 and in 1976 with 12. Branch also had a league-high 1,092 yards receiving in 1974.

He was a force in the post-season, with 1,289 yards receiving. The Raiders won Super Bowls after the 1976, 1980 and 1983 seasons — the last one in Los Angeles, where the franchise moved in 1982

after protracted court fights before returning to the Bay Area in 1995. Branch was one of six players to play in all three of those victories, a list that includes fellow Hall of Famers Ray Guy and Ted Hendricks.

In 1983, Branch tied the NFL record with a 99-yard touchdown catch in a regular-season game. He stands third among Raiders pass catchers in yards receiving with 8,685, trailing Tim Brown and Biletnikoff — both Hall of Famers.

"I had him from his first day ever with the Raiders," Flores said. "I watched him grow up. I'm so proud of what he became. He was a game-changer."

The honor for Branch comes just over three years after he died at age 71 of natural causes, marking the second time in recent years that a Raiders great got inducted into the Hall of Fame posthumously. Stabler got inducted in 2016, a year after his death.

The long wait denied Branch the chance to enjoy the honor he had waited so long to receive after being a semifinalist in 2004 and 2010.

## SPORTS



**Out for the season**  
UConn standout Bueckers  
tears ACL » College basketball, Page 42



NFL

# Resorting to Plan B

Browns backup QB Brissett ready to step in for Watson

BY TOM WITHERS  
Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Deshaun Watson's suspension has forced the Browns to launch their backup plan — with the consummate backup quarterback.

Jacoby Brissett, though, has never thought of himself as a second option.

"I'm just another quarterback on the roster," he said.

With Watson being suspended six games — pending an appeal by the NFL — for violating the league's personal conduct policy due to allegations of sexual misconduct, Brissett, now with his fourth team, is Cleveland's short-term starter.

He's back atop a depth chart, a place Brissett has been before after making 37 starts during a seven-year pro career in which the 29-year-old has bounced from New England to Indianapolis to Miami to Cleveland.

Watson has been getting the bulk of snaps with Cleveland's first-team offense in camp, but that's likely to change soon now that the Browns know they'll be without Watson for at least six games and potentially more depending on what the league decides.

None of this is new to Brissett.

After being drafted by New England in 2016, he was thrust into the starting lineup as a rookie when Tom Brady was suspended for "Deflategate" and while Jimmy Garoppolo was sidelined with a should-

SEE PLAN B ON PAGE 45

## INSIDE

NFL appeals Watson's 7-game suspension  
Page 45

Browns quarterback Jacoby Brissett has made 37 starts during a seven-year NFL career in which the 29-year-old has bounced from New England to Indianapolis to Miami to Cleveland.

RON SCHWANE/AP

LIV golfers sue PGA Tour over suspensions » Golf, Page 44

