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Austin says Ukraine aid will continue in long term

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — President Joe Biden has approved new military aid to Ukraine worth up to \$675 million, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Thursday at a meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact group comprising senior officials from 50 nations.

The arms package comes on top of \$2.2 billion in new long-term Foreign Military Financing that the White House says will be supplied to Ukraine and other European countries threatened by Russia.

"We're here to renew our commitment and intensify our momentum to support the brave defenders of Ukraine for the long term," Austin said.

It's the group's fifth meeting since it first gathered at Ramstein in late April, about two months af-

SEE AUSTIN ON PAGE 7



ALEXANDER RIEDEL/Stars and Stripes
Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin answers questions at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Thursday.

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Ukraine military chief says 'limited' nuclear war is a possibility
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AP

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, the only monarch most Britons have ever known, died Thursday at her summer residence in Scotland.

Queen Elizabeth II dies

Britain's longest-reigning monarch was 96, will be succeeded by son Charles

BY DANICA KIRKA, JILL LAWLESS
AND SYLVIA HUI
Associated Press

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest-reigning monarch and a symbol of stability across much of a turbulent century, died Thursday. She was 96.

Buckingham Palace said she died at Balmoral Castle, her summer residence in Scotland,

where members of the royal family had rushed to be by her side. The BBC played the national anthem over a portrait of the queen in full regalia.

With the death of the queen, her 73-year-old son Charles automatically becomes monarch, even though the coronation might not take place for months. It is not known whether he will choose to call himself King Charles III or

some other name.

The queen enjoyed robust health well into her 90s, although she was seen using a cane in one appearance after the death of Philip, her husband of 73 years, in April 2021. In October of that year, she was hospitalized for a night in London for tests, and thereafter her public ap-

SEE QUEEN ON PAGE 6

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Bankruptcy stay for Nord pipeline firm extended

Associated Press
BERLIN — A Swiss court has granted the operating company for the never-opened Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which was built to bring Rus-

sian gas to Germany but put on ice shortly before Russia invaded Ukraine, a four-month extension to its “stay of bankruptcy.” The stay for Nord Stream 2 AG was extended from Sept. 10 through Jan. 10 by a regional court in Zug canton (state), according to a notice published Thursday in the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce.

PACIFIC GAS PRICES									
Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel					
Japan	..	\$4.649	..	\$5.149	South Korea	\$3.829	..	\$4.659	\$5.159
Change in price	..	-7.0 cents	..	-3.0 cents	Change in price	-8.0 cents	..	-7.0 cents	-3.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.809	..	..	\$5.149	Guam	\$3.819	\$4.339	\$4.659	..
Change in price	-8.0 cents	..	..	-3.0 cents	Change in price	-8.0 cents	-7.0 cents	-7.0 cents	..

*DieselEFD **Midgrade

For the week of Sept. 9-15

EXCHANGE RATES		
Military rates		
Euro costs (Sept. 9)	\$0.98	
Dollar buys (Sept. 9)	0.9734	
British pound (Sept. 9)	\$1.13	
Japanese yen (Sept. 9)	138.00	
South Korean won (Sept. 9)	1351.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	
Britain (Pound)	1.1488	
Canada (Dollar)	1.3140	
China (Yuan)	6.9558	
Denmark (Krone)	7.4639	
Egypt (Pound)	19.2896	
Euro	1.0037	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8495	
Hungary (Forint)	397.93	
Israel (Shekel)	3.4338	
Japan (Yen)	143.95	
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3088	
Norway (Krone)	10.0811	
Philippines (Peso)	57.06	
Poland (Zloty)	4.73	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7582	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4065	
South Korea (Won)	1386.00	
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9716	
Thailand (Baht)	36.49	
Turkey (NewLira)	18.2269	

(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.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate5.50

Interest Rates Discount rate3.00

Federal funds market rate2.32

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WEATHER OUTLOOK



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MILITARY

Air Force Ospreys resume flights after pause

BY JOSEPH DITZLER
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A CV-22 Osprey from the 21st Special Operations Squadron clattered above western Tokyo again Wednesday night, signaling the tilt-rotor aircraft are back in service after 2½ weeks on the ground.

Air Force Special Operations Command lifted the stay on Osprey flights Friday without identifying a fix for the problem that grounded the fleet for a safety pause.

Lt. Gen. Jim Slife authorized Osprey crews to resume flights “with risk control mitigations in place,” according to a statement Saturday from a spokeswoman for Air Force Special Operations Command, Lt. Col. Rebecca Heyse.

The problem affecting the Osprey — a “hard clutch engagement” — is responsible for six in-flight incidents since 2017, including two in the past nine weeks. None resulted in injuries or fatalities, thanks to aircrews’ airmanship, according to Heyse in August.

The command is still in search of the “root cause” of hard clutch engagement but took steps during the safety stand-down to analyze and address the problem, according to Heyse’s recent email.

During the stand-down ordered by Slife on Aug. 16, Air Force maintenance crews inspected the drivetrains on the fleet of 52 Ospreys and compared the actual components against data in the Air Force information system, Heyse wrote.

“In the mid-term AFSOC is reviewing and analyzing data and considering replacing drivetrain components once they reach specific flight hours,” she wrote.



YASUO OSAKABE/U.S. Air Force

Air Force Special Operations Command returned Osprey flights to service Friday after a 2½-week safety pause.

The clutch inside a gearbox that connects one of the CV-22’s two Rolls-Royce Liberty AE1107C engines to the propeller rotor is slipping for an unknown reason, Heyse said in August. In the event the clutch slips, it causes the aircraft to lurch as it re-engages.

Although the Osprey design allows it to instantaneously compensate for the power disparity if one engine fails, the aircrew was required to land the tilt-rotor immediately.

Heyse’s announcement did not detail the risk-control measures she described but she told Defense News on Saturday that pilots are instructed to pause for two seconds after lifting off to keep the clutch from slipping.

The brief hover is one of many techniques pilots may use to offset

the clutch problem, according to an email Wednesday to Stars and Stripes from 1st Lt. Danny Rangel, spokesman for Yokota Air Base.

“This technique allows for the aircrew to check aircraft performance prior to departure from a safe landing area,” he wrote.

Rangel said other guidelines include modified takeoff techniques, discussing with squadron leaders the appropriate measures for reducing the risk of clutch problems in specific flight profiles and increased training in a flight simulator and on scenarios that involve hard clutch engagement, marginal flight power and aborted takeoffs.

During the stand-down, all CV-22 crews were briefed and met in working groups led by experts on the Osprey and the Joint

Program Office, which manages the procurement, operation, maintenance and other tasks for the three branches flying the tilt-rotor aircraft, Heyse said. The meetings allowed air crews an opportunity to propose possible solutions to the hard clutch engagement problem or ways to manage it in flight, she wrote.

Air Force Ospreys often fly night missions to insert or extricate special operations troops, a different mission from Marine and Navy aviators who fly larger fleets of Ospreys as troop carriers and materiel haulers.

The Marines continued to fly their Ospreys after the Air Force stand-down. Marine pilots are trained “to react with the appropriate emergency control measures should the issue arise dur-

ing flight,” Marine spokesman Maj. Jim Stenger said by email Aug. 19. Marine Ospreys have logged more than 533,000 flight hours without a “single catastrophic event” caused by the clutch, Stenger wrote.

The Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces also flew its Ospreys, based at Camp Kisarazu in Chiba prefecture, on Wednesday for the first time since Aug. 9, a spokesman told Stars and Stripes by phone. He said the Self-Defense Force never ordered its nine Ospreys grounded but refrained from flying them during the stand-down.

Yoshikuni Watanabe, the mayor of nearby Kisarazu city, said on the city website that the Ministry of Defense approved further Osprey flights on Wednesday “and we asked them to fly safely.”

Japan’s Osprey pilots “will receive training and the clutches will be checked, after safeness is confirmed the flying of Ospreys will restart,” Defense Minister Hamada Yasukazu said at a news conference Wednesday. He said the ministry considers it important to explain the situation to Kisarazu city.

A joint venture of Bell Helicopter and Boeing, the V-22 takes off and lands like a helicopter but flies like a fixed-wing plane.

At least 13 Marines have died in Osprey crashes since 2015, according to published accounts.

Four Marines died in March when a Marine Osprey crashed in Norway due to pilot error, according to the Marines. Another five were killed when an Osprey crashed in June in Southern California in an accident still under investigation.

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F-35 deliveries halted over a Chinese alloy, Pentagon says

BY TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg

The Pentagon has halted deliveries of Lockheed Martin Corp.’s F-35 after finding an alloy used in magnets for pumps on the fighter jet were made in China.

The F-35 program office “temporarily paused the acceptance of new F-35 aircraft to ensure the F-35 program’s compliance” with defense regulations “pertaining to specialty metals,” Defense Department spokesman Russell Goemaere said in an email.

He said the pause won’t interfere with operations of F-35s already delivered to the U.S. military and partners abroad because “the magnet does not transmit information or harm the integrity of the aircraft and there



JENSEN STIDHAM/U.S. Air Force

The Pentagon stopped deliveries of Lockheed Martin Corp.’s F-35 after finding an alloy sourced from China was used in a magnet.

are no performance, quality, safety or security risks associated with this issue.”

“Once the issue was discovered,” the F-35 program office “found an alternative source for

the alloy that will be used in future turbomachines,” Goemaere said, and deliveries of F-35s were halted as a precaution.

Lockheed said in a statement that “we are working with our partners and DoD to ensure contractual compliance within the supply chain.”

The contractor said the F-35 remains safe for flight, “and we are working with the DoD to resolve the issue as quickly as possible to resume deliveries.”

The turbomachine integrates the aircraft’s auxiliary power unit and an air cycle machine into a single piece of equipment that provides electrical power for ground maintenance, starting of the main engine and emergency power.

Honeywell International, an F-35 subcontractor, notified Lockheed in late August that “alloy sourced from the People’s Republic of China” and provided by a “fifth-tier” subcontractor was used in a magnet, Laura Siebert, a spokeswoman for Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed, said in a statement.

Honeywell spokesman Adam Kress said in a statement that his company “remains committed to supplying high-quality products that meet or exceed all customer contract requirements” and is “working closely with DoD and Lockheed Martin to ensure that we continue to achieve those commitments on products Honeywell supplies for use on the F-35.”

PACIFIC

S. Korea promises ‘infinite’ benefits if North sheds nukes

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea’s defense minister on Wednesday promised “infinite” benefits for North Korea if it sheds its nuclear weapons, but “overwhelming costs” if it continues to develop them.

Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup, speaking at the Seoul Defense Dialogue 2022, said international efforts to persuade North Korea to ditch its nuclear arms have failed.

“North Korea continues to advance its nuclear and missile capabilities, now directly threatening the security of not only the Korean Peninsula but also the entire world,” Lee said to an audience of military officials and diplomats from over 50 countries. The annual defense expo is sponsored by the ministry.

North Korea has conducted an unprecedented 18 rounds of mis-

sile tests so far this year and has prepared to hold its seventh nuclear test, its first since 2017, according to U.S. and South Korean officials.

Lee in August said South Korea’s response to another test by the North would be “entirely different” compared to previous episodes.

In Tokyo on Wednesday, diplomats from the United States, South Korean and Japan met to discuss the anticipated nuclear test. The three countries will discuss ways to cooperate in the event of a test, and the communist regime is still invited to negotiations without preconditions, State Department spokesman Vedant Patel said at a press briefing in Washington the same day.

In his speech at the defense dialogue, Lee said South Korea’s military is preparing to respond to nuclear and missile threats from the



South Korean Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup meets with military officials in August.

North by improving its missile defense system and staying in close communication with allies like the U.S.

Despite taking further defensive measures, the government remains committed “to provide profound economic and civilian support” to North Korea if it “chooses practical denuclearization,” Lee said.

“I ask for your continued cooperation with the international community so North Korea can realize that the new route of denucleariza-

tion will present infinite benefits, whereas the conventional route of nuclear and missile development will only present overwhelming costs,” Lee told the audience.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol last month unveiled a self-described “audacious initiative” for North Korea. Yoon offered help in modernizing North Korea’s agricultural and medical sectors, as well as providing “international investment and financial support initiatives” in exchange for halting its nuclear pro-

gram and taking earnest steps toward denuclearizing.

North Korea has so far rejected the South’s offer. Kim Yo Jong, a senior party official and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s sister, described Yoon’s proposal as “ridiculous” and criticized him for suggesting the communist regime needed help with its infrastructure problems, according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

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Where does US military presence fit in Okinawa governor’s race?

By MATTHEW M. BURKE AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Okinawans heading to the polls Sunday have three gubernatorial candidates to choose from, each with a different message about the U.S. military presence on the island prefecture.

Incumbent Gov. Denny Tamaki seemed vulnerable due to his handling of the pandemic and Okinawa’s economic stagnation, but recent polling suggests his opposition to the U.S. military presence on the island resonates with many of Okinawa’s approximately 1.2 million registered voters.

Tamaki has spent four years trying to halt the relocation of Marine air operations from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in a densely packed urban area in Ginowan to Camp Schwab in rural Henoko. Tamaki favors shutting down MCAS Futenma altogether.

“I would like to remove the Futenma air station as soon as possible,” he said in an Aug. 23 interview posted to his Twitter account. “It is possible to close (Futenma) without having Henoko.”

Former Ginowan Mayor Atsushi Sakima, who is backed by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida’s Liberal Democratic Party, would hasten the Marine aviators’ move to the airfield under construction at Camp Schwab.

Fringe candidate Mikio Shimoji, a former member of Japan’s House of Representatives, favors moving Marine air power off Okinawa to nearby Mageshima in Kagoshima prefecture.

“The polls suggest that Tamaki looks like he might win, but of course, you know, who knows,” Jeff Kingston, professor of Asian studies at Temple University’s Tokyo campus, said Wednesday. “But I guess his posi-

tion on the bases wins him support across the island.”

A telephone survey Saturday and Sunday by regional media found Tamaki leading Sakima but with 20% of voters still undecided, The Asahi Shimbun reported. The outlets did not report each candidate’s margin of support.

The election may be much closer than reported, according to Shida Junjiro, associate professor of international politics at Meio University in Nago.

He said both Tamaki and Sakima are flawed candidates and that voters will be looking beyond Henoko.

“The election held four years ago was about a single issue, the base relocation, but now there are many issues,” he told Stars and Stripes at his office on Aug. 30. “Okinawans must think about the economy and how to protect Okinawa and Japan from threats like China or North Korea.”

Denny Tamaki

Tamaki, 62, born in Uruma city to an Okinawan mother and a U.S. Marine father he never met, leveraged a career as a popular radio disc jockey into a successful 2002 run for Okinawa City Council. He ran unsuccessfully for Japan’s House of Representatives in 2005 but won a seat four years later.

Tamaki held the post until he was elected governor in 2018. His predecessor, Takeshi Onaga, an opponent of the U.S. military presence, died in August that year of pancreatic cancer.



Tamaki

Tamaki continued Onaga’s opposition of the Henoko project, which former Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima approved in 2013. Since then, Tamaki’s administration has filed six of 11 lawsuits by the prefecture aimed at stopping the relocation.

Under Tamaki, the prefecture cited the ballooning budget, the soft seabed beneath the new airstrip and environmental concerns such as the presence of endangered coral as reasons to jettison the project.

“We must stop it,” he said in his campaign Twitter post.

Atsushi Sakima

Sakima, 58, has accused the incumbent of failing to address day-to-day issues while focusing on the fight against the Marine air station, he said in an Aug. 14 interview posted to his Twitter account.

The conservative vowed “communication over conflict” when it comes to base issues and said protecting the lives of the Okinawan people is his top priority.

Sakima was born in Ginowan and elected to Ginowan City Council in 2001, Okinawa Prefectural Assembly in 2006 and Ginowan mayor in 2012, a post he held until 2018 when he lost the governor’s race to Tamaki, according to his campaign website.

For this campaign, Sakima openly supports relocating the Futenma air station to Henoko. Four years ago, he stayed mostly silent on the subject and focused instead on social issues.

“I want to achieve the reversion of Futenma airbase by 2030,” he said. “To do so, we



Sakima

must use airfields out of Okinawa, relocate training and shorten the construction period of Henoko.”

If elected, Sakima has pledged to invest nearly \$700 million into tourism, connect the southern capital of Naha with the northern city of Nago by rail and provide free day care, school meals and medical care for children.

Mikio Shimoji

Shimoji, 61, was born and raised on the island of Miyako, approximately 186 miles southwest of Naha, his campaign website said.

The former LDP member was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1996, a position he held until 2021 except for terms he lost from 2003-05 and 2012-14.

He ran unsuccessfully for governor against Onaga and Nakaima in 2014. He served as minister for Postal Service Privatization and minister of State for Disaster Management from October to December 2012, according to his website. If elected, Shimoji plans to stop the construction at Henoko and push to relocate MCAS Futenma to another island.

“We have to think how to end the Futenma issue as soon as possible and Mageshima is the solution,” he said in a clip posted to Twitter on Aug. 23. Mageshima is 21 miles south of Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan’s four largest islands.



Shimoji

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MILITARY

Rota-based ship heads back to US after 8 years

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The destroyer USS Ross is coming back to America after an eight-year presence in Europe that included a missile launch following a purported Syrian chemical weapons attack and a Mediterranean Sea mission at the onset of Russia's February invasion of Ukraine.

USS Ross, one of four destroyers based at Naval Station Rota in Spain, left the U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility on Tuesday for its new home in Norfolk, Va., the Navy said Wednesday in a statement.

The homeport shift is part of the service's plan to gradually rotate its four destroyers at Rota, forming a key element of NATO ballistic missile defense in Europe.

Capt. Ed Sundberg, commander of Destroyer Squadron 60 and Task Force 65, said the Ross team played a critical role in building relationships with allies and partners, ultimately helping to bolster NATO capabilities.

In April 2017, Ross and Porter launched 59 Tomahawk missiles while positioned in the Mediterranean into a Syrian airfield thought to be the origin of chemical attacks by President Bashar Assad's regime against a rebel-held village in the country's western region, Stars and Stripes reported at the time.

The series of strikes on Shayrat airfield resulted in the destruction of 20 Syrian fighter planes, fuel facilities and radar, and killed seven Syrian troops.

In February, Ross joined France's Charles de Gaulle carrier strike group during its deployment to the eastern Mediterranean as Russia prepared to launch its attack on Ukraine. At the time, analysts characterized the buildup of NATO naval forces in the region, including the USS Harry S. Truman and Italian Cavour carrier strike groups, as among the largest seen in decades.

In June 2014, Ross arrived in Spain, joining Cook as the first two Rota-based destroyers assigned to Task Force 65, the Navy said.

Later that same year, three Ross sailors on liberty in Istanbul were attacked by members of a Turkish protest group, yelling "Yankee go home." The sailors, one who briefly had a bag put over his head, were able to get away



HEOPLIS STEWART II/U.S. Navy

The destroyer USS Ross is en route to its new homeport, Norfolk, Va., after eight years in Europe.

from the group without injury and return to the Ross, the Navy said at the time.

Ross completed 12 patrols in the 6th Fleet area, sailing the Baltic, Barents, Black and Mediterranean seas, among others.

It also spent time in the Arctic Circle and off the coast of Africa, and participated in multiple trainings and exercises, according to the statement.

Ross' accomplishments also include joining the Charles de Gaulle carrier group in February 2020 to support Operation Inherent Resolve, targeting ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

In March 2020, the crew of the USS Ross saved three people during a search and rescue operation in the Sea of Marmara near Turkey.

Tuesday's departure was bittersweet, noted Cmdr. Scott Jones, Ross commanding officer. The ship's crew would "not soon forget the lessons we have learned, or the friendships we have made," he said.

Ross is named after Donald Kirby Ross, who received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

USS Paul Ignatius, which arrived in theater in June, replaces Ross. USS Arleigh Burke and USS Roosevelt already have relieved USS Donald Cook and USS Carney, respectively, the statement said.

A fourth rotation also is planned but the Navy has not yet announced when USS Porter will leave. USS Bulkeley arrived last month.

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ELKE BOURGERET/Aachener Zeitung

Niko and Franziska Foerster, with their oldest son Karl, and the Stars and Stripes newspaper they found in the wall of their home recently in Rohren, Germany.

German farmhouse renovation turns up rare Stars and Stripes

BY ALEXANDER RIEDEL
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A centuries-old farmhouse nestled along the German border with Belgium turned up several surprises during a major renovation, including a piece of American World War II history.

By August, Franziska and Niko Foerster had nearly gutted another room in their newly purchased 18th century, half-timbered house in the town of Rohren to install modern plumbing and heating. While peering between the old wooden beams, they noticed a crumpled ball of tan newspaper covered in debris.

Shaking off the dust, Niko gently smoothed out the paper's frayed edges and revealed an edition of Stars and Stripes, dated Saturday, February 3, 1945.

"We saw it was an American paper and were absolutely astonished," Franziska Foerster said. "It was so unusual and unexpected."

The bold banner headline tells of Russian infantry assaults on the Oder river, east of Berlin. Other parts of the front page show images of a "Buzz-Bomb" rocket test by the Army Air Forces, updates on Canadian soldiers going AWOL and currency exchange rates in France.

A small language section shared a few phrases, such as "Where are the weapons hidden?" and "I want my hair cut," in French and German to allow GIs rudimentary communication in the occupied areas.

"The notes even include aspects of our local dialect, which I think is quite funny," Franziska Foerster said.

The Foersters said surviving images show the town was nearly leveled by the end of WWII.

The edition found by the Foersters was printed in Liege, Belgium, about an hour's drive from Rohren, which is in Germany's Eifel region.

It's unclear how the military newspaper ended up in the old house, however.

While Rohren was traditionally a sleepy hamlet, the days in the frigid fall and winter of 1944 and 1945 were turbulent.

A final German offensive in December 1944 attempted to recapture the occupied area from the Americans. The heavy fighting left its mark on the Foersters' home.

"We've found grenade fragments during all phases of construction, embedded in all kinds of beams of the house," Franziska Foerster said. "So we knew that this must've been quite scary during the war here."

The few remaining residents ignored an evacuation order and stayed behind in forest camps, seeking shelter in makeshift huts in the hills surrounding the town, according to the Monschauer Country historical society.

Whoever carried the paper into town was likely to have been a member of the 1st Army's 9th Infantry Division, which breached the Monschau region in 1944.

Stars and Stripes journalist Russell Jones, who was attached to the

unit, reported the capture of Rohren on Feb. 1, 1945, just before the edition found by the Foerster family was published.

There are few witnesses left, Foerster said, except a neighbor who was born in the house but remembers little from his early childhood days.

For Franziska Foerster, the newspaper tells a bit more of the story.

"You feel that the house has a history," she said. "The atmosphere is part of why we bought it. But when you learn more about what it looked like here during the war, it takes on a different meaning."

Franziska Foerster said she fixed the fragile pages between two acrylic glass sheets to keep the brittle paper from falling apart. It now hangs near its original location.

"This find is really fascinating," she said. "It makes the town's history almost graspable. It truly belongs to the house."

To search historic Stars and Stripes newspaper editions, visit the online archive: <https://star-sandstripes.newspaperarchive.com/>

Stars and Stripes archivist Kat Giordano contributed to this report.
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WORLD

Queen: Elizabeth spent 70 years leading United Kingdom

FROM PAGE 1

pearances grew scarcer.

In 1947, almost five years before she ascended the throne, the 21-year-old Elizabeth promised the people of Britain and the Commonwealth that “my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service.”

It was a promise she kept across more than seven decades.

The only monarch most Britons have ever known, Elizabeth reigned for 70 years over a country that rebuilt from war and lost its empire; joined the European Union and then left it; transformed from industrial powerhouse to uncertain 21st century society.

She endured through 15 prime ministers, from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss, becoming an institution and an icon — a fixed point and a reassuring presence even for those who ignored or loathed the monarchy.

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was born in London on April 21, 1926, the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York. She was not born to be queen — her father’s elder brother, Prince Edward, was destined to take the crown, to be followed by any children he had.

But in 1936, when she was 10, Edward VIII abdicated to marry twice-divorced American Wallis Simpson, and Elizabeth’s father became King George VI.

Princess Margaret recalled asking her sister whether this meant that Elizabeth would one day be queen. “Yes, I suppose it does,” Margaret quoted Elizabeth as saying. “She didn’t mention it again.”

Elizabeth was barely in her teens when Britain went to war with Germany in 1939. Elizabeth and Margaret spent most of it at Windsor Castle, spending many nights in an underground shelter as bombs fell.

In 1945, eager to do something for the war effort, the heir to the throne joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service, where she enthusiastically learned how to drive and service heavy vehicles.

On the night the war ended in Europe, May 8, 1945, she and Margaret mingled, unrecognized, with celebrating crowds in London. She later described it as “one of the most memorable nights of my life.”

At Westminster Abbey in November 1947 she married Royal Navy officer Philip Mountbatten, a prince of Greece and Denmark whom she had first met in 1939 when she was 13 and he 18.

Their first child, Prince Charles, was born on Nov. 14, 1948. He was followed by Princess Anne on Aug. 15, 1950, Prince Andrew on Feb. 19, 1960, and Prince Edward on March 10, 1964. Besides those four children, she is survived by eight grandchildren and 12 great-



ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

From left, Britain's Prince Charles, Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Louis, Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, and Princess Charlotte stand on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, London, on June 2 on the first of four days of celebrations to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

grandchildren.

In February 1952, George VI died in his sleep after years of ill health at age 56. Elizabeth, visiting Kenya, was told that she was now queen.

“In a way I didn’t have an apprenticeship,” Elizabeth reflected in a BBC documentary in 1992. “My father died much too young, and so it was all a very sudden kind of taking on, and making the best job you can.”

Her coronation took place more than a year later at Westminster Abbey, a spectacle viewed by millions through the still-new medium of television.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill’s first reaction to the king’s death was that the new queen was “only a child,” but he was won over within days and eventually became an ardent admirer.

Churchill was the first of 15 prime ministers in her reign. The monarch held weekly meetings with them, and they generally found her well-informed, inquisitive and up to date.

Her views in those private meetings became a subject of intense speculation and fertile ground for dramatists like Peter Morgan, author of the play “The Audience” and hit TV series “The Crown.” Those semi-fictionalized accounts were the product of an era of declining deference and rising celebrity, when the royal family’s troubles became public property.

There were plenty of troubles. In Elizabeth’s first years on the throne, Princess Margaret provoked a national controversy



RED GRANDY/Stars and Stripes

President Ronald Reagan, Queen Elizabeth II, first lady Nancy Reagan and Prince Philip pose for photographers at Windsor Castle. Reagan was the first American president to be honored by a stay at Windsor as a guest of the monarch since King George V entertained Woodrow Wilson in 1919.

through her romance with a divorced man.

In what the queen called the “annus horribilis” of 1992, her daughter Princess Anne was divorced, Prince Charles and Princess Diana separated, and so did Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah. That was also the year Windsor Castle was seriously damaged by fire.

The public split of Charles and Diana was followed by the shock of her death in a Paris car crash in 1997. For once, the queen appeared out of step amid unprecedented public mourning, failing to make a public show of grief that

was seen by many as unfeeling. After several days, she made a televised address to the nation.

The dent in her popularity was brief. She was by now a sort of national grandmother, with a stern gaze and a kind smile.

She was arguably the most famous person in the world. But her inner life and opinions remained mostly an enigma.

The public saw only glimpses of her personality — her joy watching horse races at Royal Ascot, or her pleasure in the companionship of her beloved Welsh Corgi dogs.

In 2015, she overtook her great-



MARKUS SCHREIBER/AP

Queen Elizabeth II arrives for an official state dinner in Berlin in 2015.

great-grandmother Queen Victoria’s reign of 63 years, seven months and two days to become the longest serving monarch in British history, and she kept working into her 10th decade. The loss of Philip at age 99 in 2021 was a heavy blow.

And the family troubles kept coming. Her son, Prince Andrew, was entangled in the sordid tale of sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, an American businessman who had been a friend. The queen’s grandson Prince Harry walked away from Britain and royal duties after marrying American actress Meghan Markle in 2018.

As the queen entered her mid-90s, she had what the palace called “mobility issues” and she appeared infrequently in public in 2022, the year of her Platinum Jubilee. In May, she asked Charles to stand in for her at the State Opening of Parliament, one of the monarch’s key constitutional duties.

But she remained firmly in control of the monarchy as Britain celebrated her Platinum Jubilee with days of parties and pageants in June 2022. On Sept. 6, 2022, she presided at a ceremony at Balmoral Castle to accept the resignation of Boris Johnson as prime minister and appoint Liz Truss as his successor.

She remained at the center of public life to the end, not least during the coronavirus pandemic. As Britons endured loss, isolation and uncertainty, she made a rare video address in April 2020 that urged people to stick together.

She summoned the spirit of World War II, that vital time in her life, and the nation’s, and echoed Vera Lynn’s wartime anthem, “We’ll Meet Again.”

“We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return. We will be with our friends again. We will be with our families again. We will meet again,” she said.

EUROPE

Ukrainian forces retake territory near Kharkiv

By **HANNA ARHIROVA**
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian forces in the northeastern Kharkiv region have retaken portions of Russian-held territory there as a Ukrainian counteroffensive in the south has drained some of Moscow’s resources in the area, according to a report released Wednesday.

Ukrainian forces in the Kharkiv region are “likely exploiting Russian force reallocation” to areas near the occupied city of Kherson in the south “to conduct an opportunistic yet highly effective counteroffensive” in the province, Washington-based think tank Institute for the Study of War said.

Ukrainian forces likely used “tactical surprise” to advance at least 12 miles into Russian-held territory in the Kharkiv region on Wednesday, recapturing approximately 155 square miles of ground, the report said.

Vitaly Ganchev, the Moscow-backed mayor of the town of Kupiansk in a Russian-occupied area of the Kharkiv region, said Thursday that authorities had begun evacuating women and chil-

dren from the town and nearby areas because of relentless Ukrainian shelling.

In his nightly video address on Wednesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also reported success in the Kharkiv region but didn’t provide details on its scope.

“This week we have good news from the Kharkiv region. You have probably already seen reports about the activity of Ukrainian defenders, and I think every citizen feels proud of our warriors,” Zelenskyy said.

The gains came as Ukraine continued to mount a counteroffensive in the southern Kherson region, where the Ukrainian military is trying to retake territory from the Russians and has claimed the recapture of an unspecified number of towns.

Ukraine’s ongoing operations near Kherson have forced Russian forces to shift their focus to the south, the Institute for the Study of War report said, enabling Ukrainian forces to launch localized but highly effective counterattacks near Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city.

Zelenskyy’s presidential advis-



EMILIO MORENATTI/AP

Ukrainian soldiers sit on an armored military vehicle in Bucha, near in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Thursday.

er, Oleksiy Arestovych, also spoke of Ukrainian gains near Kharkiv late Wednesday, saying they would help disrupt supplies to Russian forces in the area and potentially lead to their encirclement.

Meanwhile, the head of Ukraine’s atomic energy operator accused Russia on Thursday of trying to “steal” Europe’s largest nuclear plant by cutting it off from the Ukrainian electricity grid and leaving it on the brink of a radiation disaster.

The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant has been without an outside source of electricity since Monday and receives power for its own safety systems from the only one of its six reactors that re-

mains operational, Enerhoatom chief Petro Kotin told The Associated Press.

“We are trying to keep this unit running as much as possible, but eventually it will have to be shut down and then the station will switch to diesel generators,” he said, adding that such generators are “the station’s last defense before a radiation accident.”

Ukraine and Russia have traded blame for shelling that has damaged parts of the plant as well as the transmission lines that connect it to Ukraine’s electricity network and provide power for the crucial cooling systems that are needed to prevent a meltdown.

The head of the U.N.’s International Atomic Energy Agency,

Rafael Grossi, warned the U.N. Security Council this week that “something very, very catastrophic could take place” at the plant and urged Russia and Ukraine to establish a “nuclear safety and security protection zone” around it.

Kotin said the Russians “have a crazy idea to switch the ZNPP to the Russian power system; in fact they are trying to steal the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant of Ukraine and steal all the electricity it produces.”

He said the Russians gave the plant management a 10-page plan about three or four weeks ago to connect the plant to the electricity grid in Crimea, which Russia seized from Ukraine in 2014.

Austin: Latest package includes howitzers, Humvees, ambulances

FROM PAGE 1

ter Russia launched its full-fledged invasion of Ukraine. Austin chairs the group, which was established to discuss ways allies and partner nations could help Ukraine defend itself against Russia.

Austin said the latest U.S. aid package includes 105mm howitzers, artillery munitions, Humvees, armored ambulances, anti-tank systems, Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, small arms and more.

The added weaponry brings total U.S. aid to Ukraine to \$15.2 billion since Biden took office.

It’s the 20th time the Biden administration has earmarked equipment from U.S. military stocks to aid Ukraine since August last year, Austin said.

“Now we’re seeing the demonstrable success of our common efforts on the battlefield,” Austin said.

But “the war is at another key moment,” he said, with Ukrainian forces launching a counteroffen-

sive in the south of the country while Russian forces continue to bombard Ukrainian cities and civilians with missiles and artillery fire.

“The face of the war is changing and so is the mission of this contact group,” he said. “We must evolve as the fight evolves” and commit to “renewing and deepening our resolve to stand by Ukraine — with support and strength that doesn’t hinge on any one battle.”

That includes pushing “all of our defense industrial bases to provide Ukraine with the tools that it will need for the hard road ahead,” Austin said, while speaking at the Ramstein Officers’ Club. He was joined by chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Mark Milley and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, among other leaders.

Austin in closing remarks said Ukraine still needs more artillery systems and ammunition, as well as air and coastal defenses, underlining the need for the international community “to continue to dig deep” to help Ukraine.

He singled out a few countries for their contributions, including the United Kingdom, for establishing a basic training program for new Ukrainian recruits.

“Getting more trained, professional soldiers into the fight is especially key as Russia sends more and more untrained soldiers into battle,” he said.

Austin also announced that in the next few weeks, the U.S., in coordination with NATO, will host a meeting of nations’ senior armament directors to discuss ways to best equip Ukraine’s forces.

Milley said Ukrainians have employed the weapons and assistance they’ve been given “incredibly effectively.”

That is playing out in the south of the country, where Ukrainian forces have launched a counteroffensive against Russia. It’s too early to give a full assessment of the battle, he said.

But Ukrainians, “despite being outgunned and outmanned ... have demonstrated superior tactical proficiency ... and a superior will to fight,” Milley said.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken made an unscheduled visit to Kyiv on Thursday, where he told Ukrainian officials that the Biden administration had notified Congress of its intent to provide the \$2 billion in Foreign Military Financing to Ukraine and 18 of its neighbors. They include NATO members and regional security partners, that are “most potentially at risk for future Russian aggression,” according to an Associated Press report.

Foreign Military Financing allows recipients to purchase U.S.-made defense equipment.

Pending expected congressional approval, about \$1 billion of that will go to Ukraine and the rest will be divided among Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, the State Department said.

At the Ramstein meeting, allies pledged some new military support as well.

German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht and her Dutch counterpart Kajsa Ollongren said their forces would train Ukrainian service members in Germany on removing Russian mines and explosive ordnance disposal.

“We will not only offer a train-the-trainer course, but also needed materiel to support Ukraine in this fight against the disgusting deployment of weapons such as mines and explosive devices,” Lambrecht said.

Germany has received criticism over the course of the war for delays in delivering some of the weapons it has promised to Ukraine.

On Thursday, Lambrecht said the first shipment of 16 promised Beaver bridging tanks and a second shipment of Cheetah anti-aircraft gun tanks would be delivered soon.

Stars and Stripes reporter Alexander Riedel contributed to this report.
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EUROPE

Ukraine military chief: Nuclear war is possible

By MIRIAM BERGER
The Washington Post

Ukraine’s top military chief warned Wednesday that a “limited” nuclear war between Russia and the West cannot be discounted, a scenario with grave global implications.

“There is a direct threat of the use, under certain circumstances, of tactical nuclear weapons by the Russian Armed forces,” commander in chief Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyy wrote in an article published by Ukrinform, a state-run media outlet. “It is also impossible to completely rule out the possibility of the direct involvement of the world’s leading countries in a ‘limited’ nuclear conflict, in which the prospect of World War III is already directly visible.”

Zaluzhnyy also acknowledged for the first time that Kyiv was behind strikes deep inside the Russian-occupied Crimea Peninsula in August. The air bases and ammunition depot that were hit were in areas previously thought to be out of range for Ukraine — but were part of its strategy to shift “the Russian Army’s center of gravity,” Zaluzhnyy wrote.

With the fighting all but certain to continue into 2023, Ukraine has to make the war “even sharper and more tangible for the Russians and for other occupied regions, despite the massive distance to the targets,” Zaluzhnyy wrote.

He called the Crimean strikes a “convincing example” of Kyiv’s calls for allies to send longer-range weapons for its outgunned soldiers. Moscow, he said, can hit 20 times farther.

The military chief’s assessment comes as Ukraine’s armed forces claim to be recapturing small areas in counteroffensives in the

country’s south and east — fighting that is taking a steep toll on Ukrainian soldiers, who are facing heavy losses against Russia’s more advanced weapons and technologies.

Zaluzhnyy’s warning follows weeks of international alarm over a potential disaster at Europe’s largest nuclear facility, the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in southeastern Ukraine. Russian authorities control the plant, with more than 1,000 Ukrainian workers trying to keep it running and hooked up to their country’s power grid despite frequent shelling.

The U.N. atomic watchdog agency on Tuesday called for a safe zone there to prevent a nuclear catastrophe. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he supported the idea if it meant Russian troops would leave. Both sides have accused the other of firing rockets and heavy artillery around the plant.

Zaluzhnyy said Russia’s use of the plant as a military base showed its disregard for global nuclear safeguards “even in a conventional war.”

Ukraine’s bid to join the European Union and NATO in part sparked Russia’s invasion on Feb. 24. But Washington and its European allies have categorically rejected providing Ukraine any military support that could draw it into a direct confrontation with Russia.

After failing to seize the capital in the war’s initial weeks, Russia has focused on taking Ukrainian territory connecting east to south — from the Donbas region, where Russian-backed separatists have been fighting since 2014, to the southern Crimean peninsula, which Moscow illegally annexed the same year.



YouTube/

A video screen grab shows Chichi, a chimpanzee that escaped from the Kharkiv zoo in Ukraine, getting help putting on a rain jacket.

Runaway chimpanzee brought back to Ukrainian zoo on a bike

By LYRIC LI
The Washington Post

A chimpanzee who ran away from a Ukrainian zoo was talked into returning after zookeepers offered her a raincoat, a hug and a bike ride.

Chichi the chimpanzee escaped Monday from Kharkiv’s zoo and roamed the streets of the northeastern Ukrainian city for hours. She kept a distance from keepers who were following her, scampering from a university to a nearby city square, local media reported.

At one point, a zookeeper sat down with Chichi near a park in hopes of persuading her to return. The chimp was hesitant — until it started to rain. She then went to a nearby zookeeper, who helped her put on a yellow raincoat and gave her a cuddle.

Chichi was then wheeled back

on a zookeeper’s bicycle. The zoo’s director, Oleksiy Grigoriev, told Ukrainian public broadcaster Suspilne that the chimpanzee was returned safely to its enclosure and is in good health.

Footage of the escape and return was widely shared on social media. It was a heartwarming moment for a city that is just some 50 miles west of the Russian border city of Belgorod and faces regular Kremlin artillery attacks.

Chichi lived at Feldman Ecopark, an outdoor zoo in Kharkiv’s northern suburbs that sits just off the front lines of war. She was evacuated alongside hundreds of animals in the weeks after the Russian invasion. Elsewhere in Ukraine, animals have come under heavy stress from the sound of rocket attacks, air raid sirens and gunfire, The Washington Post has

reported. Earlier in the war, staffers at Kyiv’s zoo moved into their workplace full time with their families to take better care of the animals.

Some 100 animals at Feldman Ecopark were killed in Russian rocket attacks, and others were forced to be euthanized, according to the petting zoo. At least six of the park’s employees and volunteers have also been killed — at least one while evacuating animals, the zoo said.

A rocket attack on Tuesday blasted through three levels of a largely vacant apartment building near the city center, regional governor Oleh Synyehubov wrote on Telegram. Three civilians, including an elderly woman, were also killed by separate rocket attacks in the suburbs and nearby villages, he said.

US: Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians forced to go to Russia

By EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The U.S. said Wednesday it has evidence that “hundreds of thousands” of Ukrainian citizens have been interrogated, detained and forcibly deported to Russia in “a series of horrors” overseen by officials from Russia’s presidency. Russia immediately dismissed the allegation as “fantasy,” calling it the latest invention in a Western disinformation campaign. The charge came during a Security Council meeting called by the United States and Albania to discuss Russia’s “filtration operations.”

That involves Ukrainians voluntarily fleeing the war in their homeland and those forcibly being moved to Russia passing through a series of “filtration points” where treatment allegedly ranges from interrogations, data collection and strip searches to being yanked aside, tortured, sent to a detention center in Russia and never seen again. U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said estimates from a variety of sources, including the Russian government, indicate that Russian authorities have interrogated, detained and forcibly deported between 900,000 and 1.6 million Uk-

rainians. She said they are sent to Russia, often to isolated regions in its far eastern regions.

“These operations aim to identify individuals Russia deems insufficiently compliant or compatible to its control,” Thomas-Greenfield said. “And there is mounting and credible evidence that those considered threatening to Russian control because of perceived pro-Ukrainian leanings are ‘disappeared’ or further detained.”

Russia’s presidency is not only coordinating filtration operations but is providing lists of Ukrainians to be targeted for filtration, she added.



AP

Russian servicemen guard the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station in Enerhodar, Ukraine. Ukraine’s top military chief warned Wednesday of the potential for a “limited” nuclear war between Russia and the West.

NATION



Former President Barack Obama kisses his wife, former first lady Michelle Obama, after they unveiled their official White House portraits at a ceremony in the East Room on Wednesday.

Obamas return to White House for official unveiling of portraits

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, returned to the White House Wednesday, unveiling official portraits with a modern vibe in an event that set humor and nostalgia over his presidency against the current harsh political talk about the survival of democracy.

While her husband cracked a few jokes about his gray hair, big ears and clothes in his portrait, Mrs. Obama said the occasion for her was more about the promise of America for people like herself.

“Barack and Michelle, welcome home,” declared President Joe Biden as the gathering cheered.

Biden, who was Obama’s vice president, praised his former boss’ leadership on health care, the economy and immigration and said nothing could have prepared him any better for being president than serving with Obama for those eight years.

“It was always about doing what was right,” he said.

The portrait of Obama, America’s 44th and first Black president, doesn’t look like any of his predecessors, nor does Michelle Obama’s look like any of the women who filled the role before her.

Obama stands expressionless against a white background, wearing a black suit and gray tie in the portrait by Robert McCurdy that looks more like a large photograph than an oil-on-canvas portrait. The former first lady, her lips pursed, is seated on a sofa in the Red Room in a strapless, light blue dress. She chose artist Sharon Sprung for her portrait.

Obama thanked McCurdy for his work, joking that the artist, who is known for his paintings of public figures from Nelson Mandela to the Dalai Lama, had ignored his pleas for fewer gray hairs and smaller ears. “He also talked me out of wearing a tan suit, by the way,” Obama quipped, referring to a widely panned appearance as president in the unflattering suit.

Obama went on to say his wife was the “best thing about living in the White House,” and he thanked Sprung for “capturing everything I love about Michelle, her grace, her intelligence — and the fact that she’s fine.”

Michelle Obama, when it was her turn, laughingly opened by saying she had to thank her husband for “such spicy remarks.” To which he retorted, by way of explanation, “I’m not running again.”

Then the former first lady turned serious, drawing a connection be-

tween unveiling the portraits and America’s promise for people with backgrounds like her own, a daughter of working-class parents from the South Side of Chicago.

“For me, this day is not just about what has happened,” she said. “It’s also about what could happen, because a girl like me, she was never supposed to be up there next to Jacqueline Kennedy and Dolley Madison. She was never supposed to live in this house, and she definitely wasn’t supposed to serve as first lady.”

Mrs. Obama said the portraits are a “reminder that there’s a place for everyone in this country.”

Tradition holds that the sitting president invites his immediate predecessor back to the White House to unveil his portrait. Donald Trump broke with that custom, however, and did not host Obama, so Biden scheduled a ceremony for his former boss.

Two spokespeople for Trump did not respond to emailed requests for comment on whether artists have begun work on White House portraits for Trump and former first lady Melania Trump. Work, however, is underway on a separate pair of Trump portraits bound for the collection held by the National Portrait Gallery, a Smithsonian museum.

Gunman arrested in livestreamed shootings in Tenn.

BY ADRIAN SAINZ
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A gunman who livestreamed himself driving around Memphis shooting at people, killing four and wounding three others in seemingly random attacks, was finally arrested after crashing a stolen car, police said early Thursday.

The hourslong rampage had police warning people across the city to shelter in place, locking down a baseball stadium and university campuses and suspending public bus services as frightened residents wondered where the man might strike next.

Memphis Police Director Ceryln “CJ” Davis said four people were killed and three others were wounded in seven shootings and at least two carjackings before Ezekiel Kelly was arrested without incident at around 9 p.m.

Kelly, 19, was released early from a prison sentence for aggravated assault, court records show, raising a sore point between the city’s mayor and the county’s top prosecutor that played out before the cameras at an early Thursday news conference.

“This is no way for us to live and it is not acceptable,” said Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland, who later pounded the podium as he demanded accountability. “If Mr. Kelly served his full three-year sentence, he would still be in prison today and four of our fellow citizens would still be alive,” he said.

The first killing was at 12:56 a.m. Wednesday, and officers responded to three more crime scenes before receiving a tip at 6:12 p.m. that the suspect was livestreaming himself threatening to cause harm to citizens, Davis said.

In one clip from the video, the suspect casually speaks to the camera before opening the door to an AutoZone store and shooting someone inside with what appeared to be a pistol. That man was taken to a



Kelly

hospital in critical condition. In another, a man narrates himself driving — “green light, green light” — and sings “no faking.” At one point, he fires two rapid bursts of gunfire out the driver’s window while driving. Referring to police, he says he’s going to “go down to the valley, shoot it out with them in the valley.”

Three more shootings and two carjackings followed after police sent out an alert warning people to be on the lookout for an armed and dangerous man responsible for multiple shootings and reportedly recording his actions on Facebook.

Police said he killed a woman in Memphis as he took her gray Toyota SUV, which he left behind when he stole a man’s Dodge Challenger across the state line in Southaven, Miss.

Kelly was arrested without incident two hours after the initial police alert when he crashed the Challenger during a high speed chase, and two guns were found in the vehicle, Davis said.

Police did not discuss a motive or release the identities of those who were killed or wounded.

In February 2020, Kelly, then 17, was charged as an adult with attempted first-degree murder, aggravated assault, using a firearm to commit a dangerous felony and reckless endangerment with a deadly weapon, court records show.

Records show he pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and was sentenced in April 2021 to three years. Kelly was released from prison in March, 11 months after he was sentenced, the mayor said. Given the time he spent awaiting a resolution of his charges, he likely got credit for time served and spent more than two years behind bars.

EPA leader: Jackson needs ‘fair share’ of money to fix water

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Wednesday that he wants Mississippi’s capital city to receive “its fair share” of federal money to repair a troubled water system that left homes and businesses without running water for several days.

Even with water flowing from taps and people again able to flush

toilets this week, Jackson lacks safe drinking water.

The city of 150,000 is in the sixth week of a boil-water advisory from the state health department because of concerns that low pressure could allow contaminants into the water.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan was in Jackson to meet with residents and state and local elected officials Wednesday. He

touted the \$1 trillion federal infrastructure law President Joe Biden signed in November.

Mississippi is set to receive more than \$4 billion from the law, with most of the money designated for highways and bridges, the White House said. The state’s allocation includes \$429 million over five years to improve water systems.

“It’s our desire that the city of

Jackson gets its fair share,” Regan said during a meeting with community leaders. “It’s our desire that the city of Jackson doesn’t have to live with what you all have lived with for far too long.”

Jackson’s main water-treatment plant malfunctioned in late August after torrential rain caused flooding along the Pearl River. The influx altered the quality of the raw water entering the

plant from a reservoir. That slowed the treatment process, depleted supplies in water tanks and caused a dangerous drop in pressure.

But even before the rainfall, officials said some water pumps had failed and a treatment plant was using backup pumps.

A rental pump was installed last week, and the system’s water pressure is back to normal.

NATION

Fewer Americans apply for jobless aid in last week

By MATT OTT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits last week fell to its lowest level since May despite repeated attempts by the Federal Reserve to cool the economy and bring inflation under control.

Applications for jobless aid for the week ending Sept. 3 fell by 6,000 to 222,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. First-time applications generally reflect layoffs.

The four-week average for claims, which smooths out some of the weekly ups and downs, declined by 7,500 to 233,000.

The number of Americans collecting traditional unemployment benefits rose by 36,000 the week that ended Aug. 27, to 1.47 million.

Hiring in the U.S. in 2022 has been remarkably strong even as the country faces rising interest rates and weak economic growth. The Federal Reserve has aggressively raised interest rates in an effort to bring down inflation, which generally also slows job growth.

On Friday, the Labor Department reported that employers added 315,000 jobs in August, roughly what economists had expected, down from an average of 487,000 a month over the past year. The unemployment rate reached 3.7%, its highest level since February. But it rose for a healthy reason: Hundreds of

thousands of people returned to the job market, and some didn't find work right away, which boosted the government's count of unemployed people.

The U.S. economy has been puzzling so far this year. Economic growth fell in the first half of 2022, which, by some informal definitions, signals a recession.

But businesses remain desperate to find workers, posting more than 11 million job openings in July, meaning there are nearly two job vacancies, on average, for every unemployed American.

Inflation continues to threaten both the global and U.S. economies. The rise in consumer prices slowed modestly from June to July, but remains historically high enough that the Federal Reserve has indicated it will keep raising interest rates until prices retreat.

Analysts and economists are expecting the Fed to raise its benchmark borrowing rate by at least another half-point when it meets in two weeks.

The Fed has already raised its short-term interest rate four times this year and Chairman Jerome Powell has said that the central bank will likely need to keep interest rates high enough to slow the economy "for some time" in order to tame the worst inflation in 40 years. Powell has acknowledged the increases will hurt U.S. households and businesses but also said the pain would be worse if inflation remained at current levels.

Judge quashed 1931 Mich. law criminalizing abortion

Associated Press

DETROIT — A judge on Wednesday struck down Michigan's 1931 anti-abortion law, months after suspending it, the latest development over abortion rights in a state where the issue is being argued in courtrooms and, possibly, at the ballot box.

The law, which was long dormant before the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June, violates the Michigan Constitution, said Judge Elizabeth Gleicher.

"A law denying safe, routine medical care not only denies women of their ability to control their bodies and their lives—it denies them of their dignity,"

Gleicher of the Court of Claims wrote. "Michigan's Constitution forbids this violation of due process."

The decision comes as the Michigan Supreme Court is considering whether to place a proposed amendment on the Nov. 8 ballot that would add abortion rights to the state constitution. A Friday deadline is looming.

In the case handled by Gleicher, the 1931 law makes it a crime to perform an abortion unless the mother's life is in danger.

The judge said the law "compels motherhood" and prevents a woman from determining the "shape of her present and future life."



JEFF CHIU/AP

A person holds new iPhone 14 models at an Apple event on the campus of Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, Calif., on Wednesday.

Apple maintains its prices on new iPhones despite inflation

Associated Press

CUPERTINO, Calif. — Apple's latest lineup of iPhones will boast better cameras, faster processors, and a longer lasting battery — all at the same prices as last year's models, despite inflationary pressure that has driven up the cost of many other everyday items.

That pricing decision, revealed Wednesday during Apple's first in-person product event in three years, came as a mild surprise. Many analysts predicted Apple would ask its devout fans to pay as much as 15% more to help offset rising costs for many components.

The hoopla surrounding Apple's new iPhone 14 models is part of a post-Labor Day ritual the

company has staged annually for more than a decade. Wednesday's event was held on the company's Cupertino, Calif., campus at a theater named after company co-founder Steve Jobs. After Apple CEO Tim Cook strolled out on stage, most of the event consisted of pre-recorded video presentations that the company honed during previous events staged during the pandemic.

For several years, Apple's new iPhones have mostly featured incremental upgrades to cameras and battery life, and this year's models were no exception. Pricing for the standard iPhone 14 will start at \$799; the deluxe iPhone 14 Pro Max will start at \$1099.

Among the latest improve-

ments is a 48-megapixel camera in the Pro and Pro Max models that the company said will produce especially crisp pictures. The iPhone 13 versions of the Pro and Pro Max have 12-megapixel cameras. This year's high-end models will also have always-on displays that stay lit even when the device is locked, a feature that has long been available on many smartphones powered by Google's Android software.

By keeping iPhones prices the same, Apple faces the potential risk of undermining its profits if inflation drives up its own costs. It's a hit that the company could easily afford, given it has reaped \$44 billion in profits through the first half of this year.

Bannon surrenders on charges tied to border wall fundraising

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former President Donald Trump's longtime ally Steve Bannon surrendered Thursday to face fresh charges that he duped donors who gave money to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Bannon's state-level charges in New York are expected to closely resemble an attempted federal prosecution that ended abruptly, before trial, when Trump pardoned Bannon on his last day in office. Presidential pardons apply only to federal crimes, not state offenses. In Bannon's case, any double jeopardy argument would likely fall flat because his federal case didn't involve an acquittal or conviction.

Bannon, 68, arrived at the Manhattan district attorney's office shortly after 9 a.m. Thursday. He had acknowledged in a statement Tuesday that he would be charged soon.

Bannon said earlier that District Attorney Alvin Bragg "has now decided to pursue phony charges against me 60 days before the midterm election," accusing the Democratic prosecutor of targeting him because Bannon and his radio show are popular among Trump's Republican supporters.

Bannon said federal prosecu-

tors "did the exact same thing in August 2020 to try to take me out of the election," referring to his arrest months before Trump's reelection loss. "This is nothing more than a partisan political weaponization of the criminal justice system."

In 2020, federal agents pulled Bannon from a luxury yacht off the Connecticut coast and arrested him on charges he pocketed more than \$1 million in wall donations. Prosecutors alleged thousands of investors were tricked into thinking all of their donations would go toward the border wall project, although Bannon instead paid a salary to one campaign official and personal expenses for himself.



Bannon

WORLD

2nd suspect in Canadian rampage dies after arrest

Associated Press

ROSTHERN, Saskatchewan — The last suspect in a horrific stabbing rampage that killed 10 and wounded 18 in western Canada is dead following his capture, but how he died after being taken into custody has prompted fresh investigations.

One official said Myles Sanderson, 32, died from self-inflicted injuries Wednesday after police forced the stolen car he was driving off a highway in Saskatchewan. Other officials declined to discuss how he died.

“I can’t speak to the specific manner of death. That’s going to be part of the autopsy that will be conducted,” Assistant Commissioner Rhonda Blackmore, commander of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Saskatchewan, said at a news conference Wednesday night.

The other suspect, Sanderson’s 30-year-old brother, Damien Sanderson, was found dead Monday near the scene of the bloody knife attacks inside and around the James Smith Cree First Nation reserve early Sunday. Both men were residents of the Indigenous reserve.

Blackmore said Myles Sanderson was cornered as police units responded to a report of a stolen vehicle driven by a man armed with a knife. She said officers forced Sanderson’s vehicle off the road and into a ditch. He was detained and a knife was found inside the vehicle, she said.

Sanderson went into medical distress while in custody, Blackmore said. She said CPR was attempted on him before an ambulance arrived and he was taken to



HEYWOOD YU/AP

Investigators gather at the scene where stabbing suspect Myles Sanderson was arrested in Rosthern, Saskatchewan on Wednesday.

a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

“All life-saving measures that we are capable of were taken at that time,” she said.

Blackmore gave no details on the cause of death. But an official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, earlier said Sanderson died of self-inflicted injuries, without elaborating.

Video and photos from the scene showed a white SUV alongside the road with police cars all around. Air bags had deployed in the SUV. Some photos and video taken from a distance appeared to show Sanderson being frisked.

Members of Saskatchewan’s Serious Incident Response Team went to the arrest site and will review Sanderson’s death and police conduct.

The federal public safety minister, Marco Mendicino, also stressed that the events will be investigated.

The stabbings raised questions

of why Myles Sanderson — an ex-con with 59 convictions and a long history of shocking violence — was out on the streets in the first place.

He was released by a parole board in February while serving a sentence of over four years on charges that included assault and robbery. But he had been wanted by police since May, apparently for violating the terms of his release, though the details were not immediately clear.

His long and lurid rap sheet also showed that seven years ago, he attacked and stabbed one of the victims killed in Sunday’s stabbings, according to court records.

Mendicino, the public safety minister, has said there will be an investigation into the parole board’s assessment of Sanderson.

“I want to know the reasons behind the decision” to release him, Mendicino said. “I’m extremely concerned with what occurred here. A community has been left reeling.”

Albanian police force open Iran Embassy after eviction

Associated Press

TIRANA, Albania — Albanian special forces police forced the door of the Iranian Embassy in Tirana on Thursday and officers surrounded the compound in which it stands, shortly after the last staff members left the building following the government’s order to expel them.

The officers, in full fighting gear, entered the building first and were followed by other officers carrying equipment and accompanied by a dog.

The Albanian government on Wednesday had given the embassy’s staff 24 hours to leave the country over a major cyberattack that the Albanian government blames on Iran. It is the first known case of a country cutting diplomatic relations over a cyberattack.

A cyberattack on July 15 temporarily shut down numerous Albanian government digital services and websites. Prime Minister Edi Rama said Wednesday that there was “undeniable evidence” that the Iranian government was behind the attack.

The United States supported the move by Albania, a NATO member, and vowed retaliation against

Iran for what it called “a troubling precedent for cyberspace.”

The final two embassy cars with about 10 passengers left the compound Thursday near noon after much movement inside the building overnight.

Government sources declined to say where the Iranian embassy personnel had gone, but local media said some left from the Tirana International Airport and others were likely heading for neighboring North Macedonia.

The compound area, located downtown the capital only a couple of hundred yards from the main government offices, was cordoned off by police.

On Wednesday National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan spoke with Rama “to express the United States’ strong support for our NATO ally.” The U.S. said they committed to continue working together on “Albania’s remediation efforts and cybersecurity measures.”

NATO also expressed its full support to Albania. A statement said it “strongly condemns such malicious cyber activities designed to destabilize and harm the security of an ally, and disrupt the daily lives of citizens.”

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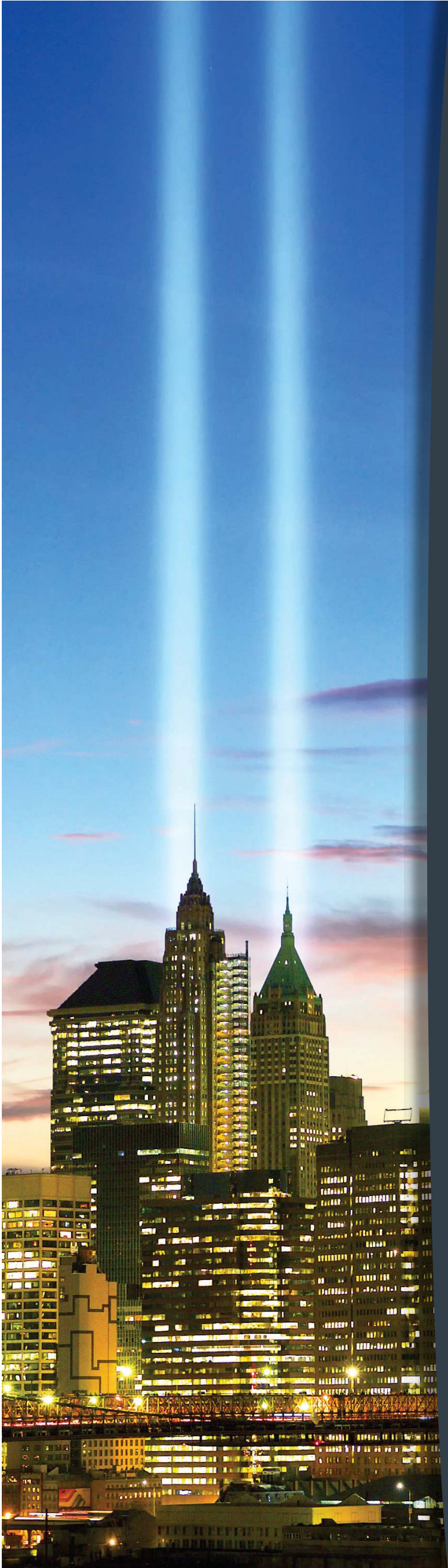
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September 11

**WE REMEMBER
ALL THOSE WHO
LOST THEIR LIVES**





WEEKEND

THE WAY WE WERE

Hollywood is gearing up for the first traditional fall movie season in three years, but can the business return to the boom times it enjoyed before the COVID-19 pandemic?

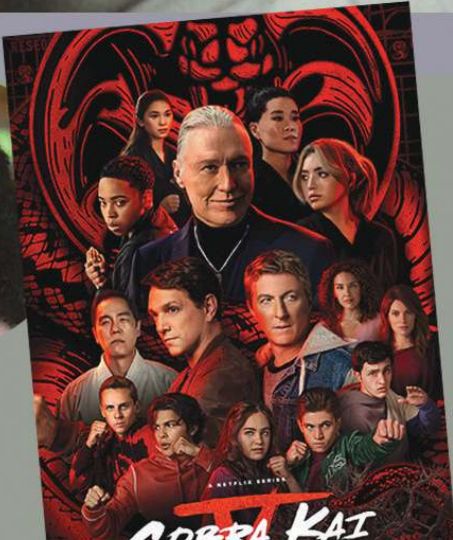
Pages 15-17

Ana de Armas as Marilyn Monroe in "Blonde."
Insets: "Don't Worry Darling," "Halloween Ends" and "Black Adam."

From left: Netflix, Warner Bros. Entertainment, Universal Pictures, Warner Bros. Entertainment

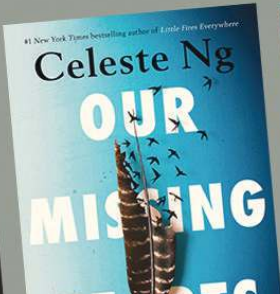
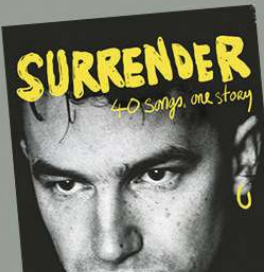
FALL TELEVISION

Streamers offer something for a wide array of tastes, including 'Abbott Elementary,' 'Cobra Kai' and the return of the dragons
Page 31



FALL BOOKS

Lineup includes commercial powerhouses and a selection of strong literary releases
Page 27



WEEKEND: GADGETS & TECHNOLOGY

Bringing drawings to life

FlipaClip app for animation, launched in '12, still growing

BY DANIEL OROPEZA
Miami Herald

Remember the long days in algebra class when drawing on corner pages of textbooks and flipping through the drawings was the best escape from boredom?

There's an app for that.

FlipaClip is a free flipbook-style animation app for phones and tablets. It aims to make drawing and animation approachable to the next generation by meeting them on the devices they already use. The app is known for its user-friendly software and strong community of users, which they call "creators."

These creators across the world have transformed their imagination into reality and shared it via TikTok, YouTube, other social media platforms, professional advertisements and music videos.

The app was created by three brothers who run the Miami company Visual Blasters. The Argentinian-born siblings, Marcos Meson, 43, Jonathan Meson, 38, and Tim Meson, 31, launched FlipaClip in 2012, finally completing a lifelong dream.

"We always talked about how cool it would be to work together, since we were young," middle brother Jonathan said. "We wanted to hang out and just get creative and do something together."

Jonathan, the company's chief executive officer, and youngest brother Tim, lead engineer, are coders handling the more technical aspects of the work. Meanwhile, the oldest brother, Marcos, vice president of marketing, works on creative elements such as visual design.

"Our brains are totally different as far as left brain and right brain, but still very creative in both areas," Marcos said.

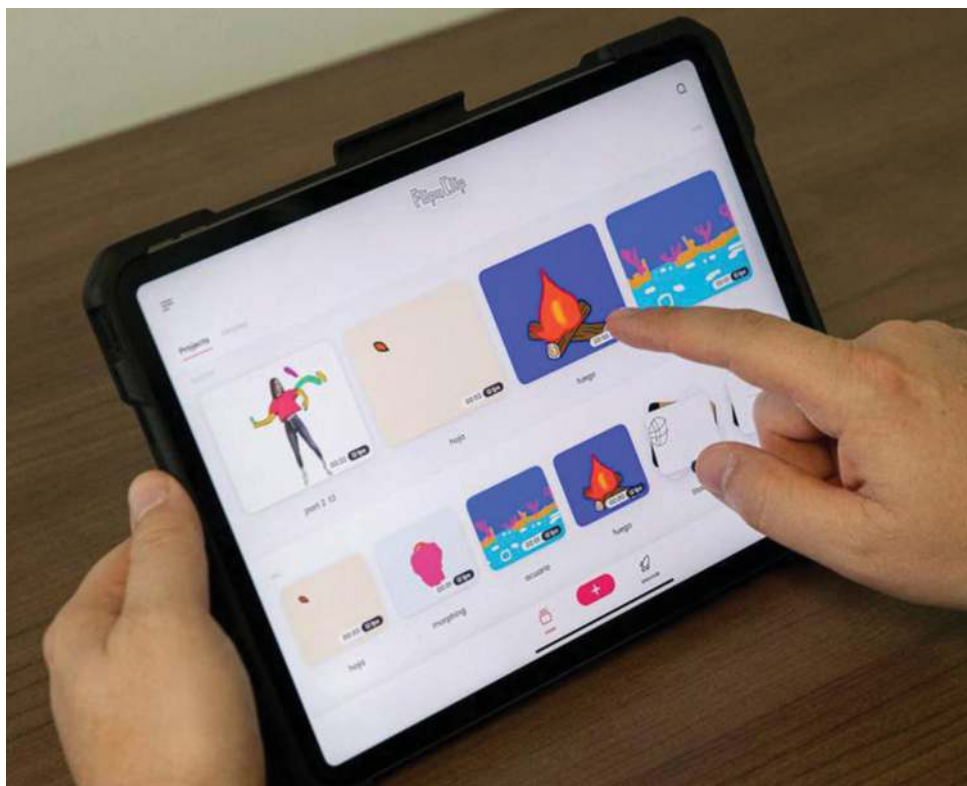
The Meson brothers grew up making movies with VHS cameras and making stop-motion animation with Legos in the remote, small desert city of Salta, Tartagal, close to the Bolivia border.

In 2009, the brothers started making money from a radio streaming app they created for fun called XiiaLive. The next year, they launched Visual Blasters.

"I told Marcos, 'Hey, I can't put this money in my bank account.' So that's when we said, well, let's build an LLC," Jonathan said.

As far as the inspiration for the name of Visual Blasters, the idea was straightforward. "We wanted to deal with stuff that was visually blasting," the CEO said.

FlipaClip now has 6 million monthly active users and was recognized by Apple in 2019 with its App Trend of the Year distinction. The app has close to 60 million downloads and was featured in Apple's



PHOTOS BY SYDNEY WALSH, MIAMI HERALD/TNS

Co-founder of FlipaClip and Vice President of Marketing Marcos Meson demonstrates how to use the app, which is used to create traditional animations, on July 11 in Miami.



FlipaClip Chief Operating Officer Adrian Ofman (left), co-founder and CEO Jonathan Meson (middle) and Marcos Meson pose for a portrait on July 11 in Miami.

iPad launch commercial as part of a collaboration with Miami-based band "Tell Her I Love Her" to inspire users to create a music video.

The company has plans to soon do another big project with FlipaClip. For competitive reasons, the brothers declined to reveal details of it in a recent interview.

Earlier this year, they added a glow feature to the app that allows users to draw fluorescent light over video clips. The glow feature is something creators have been demanding. The update was featured in Apple's iPad commercial.

"For us, this is like a testament," Jonathan said. "A trillion-dollar company using our product for this is validating that the hard work that we're doing is helping people."

However, the brothers aren't going to stop at Apple commercials.

"We want to become the animation platform known in the universe," he said. "And when we become that, I think that's when we know we reached our pinnacle."

FlipaClip's monthly active users doubled during the ongoing pandemic, in part thanks to its strong community engagement, competitions and help from educators in schools around the world throughout the difficult time.

In 2020 when COVID-19 hit, the brothers used the time to keep inspiring their creators by challenging them with a contest.

"We were worried about the kids. How

are they feeling? What can we give to add to the well-being of the younger ones?" Marcos said.

About 300,000 creators signed up for the competition called "Beat COVID-19." Participants created an animated educational video about the virus following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Luis Medrano, 49, is an Emmy award-winning broadcast design animator and teaches free animation classes remotely through a program with public libraries worldwide using FlipaClip. He has taught more than 1,500 children between 8 to 17 years old. He was inspired at 6 to pursue animation, after watching his cousin draw animations on a flipbook.

"I became obsessed with animation. All my school books had animations in the corners," Medrano said. "If learning how to do animation as a kid changed my life and created a whole career path for me, what if I give that to kids? Kids would love this. They just don't know that they can do it or that tools exist, or that somebody can teach them how to do it."

After scouting for animation apps to teach students remotely, he settled on using FlipaClip because it was free, accessible and user-friendly.

"The goal is to reach every kid in the world," he said. "For kids, to watch cartoons is one thing. But for them to learn how to make them, it's a whole other universe expanding."

One teenager from Palm Springs, whose life changed after being exposed to FlipaClip, is 16-year-old Caroline Engono. She learned about FlipaClip at 11, while browsing YouTube videos about art tutorials.

"I was already into art, and I thought about drawing cartoons in the future," she said. "When I downloaded the app, I realized it was for animation and was really easy to use."

Engono decided to make her own YouTube channel, Cocoas Art, dedicated to sharing her animations shortly after downloading FlipaClip. She has amassed more than 120,000 subscribers and 16 million views through more than 300 videos. Her experience has given her the confidence to want to be an animator.

Sennheiser TV earbuds solve volume issues

BY GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

TV will never be the same. At least according to Sennheiser with the release of its TV Clear, a true wireless kit of earbuds and a transmitter to broadcast and deliver clear TV sound.

I usually have to nag my wife to get her help reviewing tech products, but she jumped at the chance to try this one. There is a significant discrepancy between her TV-watching volume and mine, and her choice often blasts me out of the room. Even in separate rooms, her TV's volume often overpowers mine.

Loss of hearing is part of life, and systems like TV Clear make it easy to hear a TV. With its five-speed clarity levels, Sennheiser's TV Clear stands out. According to Sennheiser, this system provides up to 20 dB of high-frequency amplification. Each speed brings a different level of clarity, depending on the user's need.

TV Clear was set up quickly and solved TV volume issues we have dealt with for years. A small USB-powered transmitter connects to the TV's digital or analog connection. The included proprietary Sennheiser earbuds connect via Bluetooth. The newer your TV, the more options you have. This includes using the TV Clear for one person while others listen to the TV through its built-in speakers or a connected sound system. Sennheiser stressed that the correct setup is important, and often an optical output is the best connection choice, fully independent of the speaker.

If your TV has an open-powered USB port (my choice during testing), it works great for powering the transmitter. Otherwise, a USB connection to any standard AC outlet will work.

A single charge of the earbuds with 6 mm drivers lasts 15 hours with the transmitter and another 22 hours with the portable charging case. Multiple ear tips and fins are included to ensure a proper fit.

You can customize the earbud's touch controls through the companion app. The app also offers a feature for finding lost earbuds. Ambient Awareness mode allows you to hear the TV but also lets in noises from the outside.

Another excellent use for the TV Clear is for late-night TV watchers (like me). Use the TV Clear with the earbuds so others sleeping won't be bothered.

The transmitter of TV Clear does not have Bluetooth, hence is not compatible with other products. However, TV Clear is fully optimized for ultra low latency (around 20 ms), and you can connect an unlimited number of TV Clear earbuds to one transmitter.

Online: sennheiser-hearing.com; \$399



SENNHEISER/TNS

TV Clear earbuds, charging case and transmitter.

WEEKEND: FALL PREVIEW — MOVIES



AP

Desperately seeking normal

Moviemakers hope audiences show up to first somewhat traditional fall film season in 3 years

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

For the first time in three years, the fall movie industrial complex is lurching back into high gear. Festival red carpets are rolled out. Oscar campaigns are primed. Long-awaited blockbusters, like “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” and “Avatar: The Way of Water,” are poised for big box office.

But after the tumult of the pandemic, can the fall movie season just go back to way it was? Many are hoping it can. After two springtime editions, the Academy Awards have returned to a more traditional early March date. The Golden Globes, after near-cancellation, are plotting a comeback. Some movies, too, are trying to recapture a before-times spirit. At the Toronto Film Festival in September, Rian Johnson’s “Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery,” has booked the same theater “Knives Out” premiered to a packed house almost exactly three years ago.

“Seems like yesterday,” Johnson says, laughing. “OK, a few things have happened.”

After an all-but-wiped-out 2020 autumn and a 2021 season hobbled by the delta and omicron COVID-19 variants, this fall could, maybe, just maybe be something more like the normal annual cultural revival that happens every fall, when most of the year’s best movies arrive.

“We’re all, I think, just trying to will it into existence as at least some version of what we knew before,” says Johnson. “As with everything, you kind of just have to dive into the pool and see what the water’s like. I’m really hoping that at least the illusion of normalcy holds. I guess that’s all normalcy is.”

But “Glass Onion,” with Daniel Craig’s Benoit Blanc in a new mystery, is also a reminder of how

much has changed. After “Knives Out” was a box-office hit, grossing \$311 million worldwide for Lionsgate, Netflix shelled out \$450 million to snap up the rights to two sequels. And while exhibitors and the streaming company discussed a larger theatrical release for “Glass Onion” — a surefire hit if it did — a more modest rollout in theaters is expected before the films lands Dec. 23 on Netflix.

“We’re all, I think, just trying to will it into existence as at least some version of what we knew before.”

Rian Johnson
“Knives Out” director

The balance between theatrical and streaming remains unsettled. But after a summer box-office revival and an evolving outlook for streaming by Wall Street, theatrical moviegoing — with its billions in annual ticket sales and cultural footprint — is looking pretty good. For the first time in years, moviegoing has a strong wind at its back. Or at least it did until an especially slow August sapped momentum due largely to a dearth of new wide releases.

“If you look at how many movies we had compared to what business we did, we were operating at 2019 levels,” says John Fithian, president of the National Association of Theater Owners. “We had 70% of the

supply of wide-release movies in the first seven months and we did 71% of the business we did in the same period in 2019. Moviegoers are back in pre-pandemic numbers, it’s just we still need more movies.”

That will be less of an issue as the fall season ramps up. “Wakanda Forever” (Nov. 11) and “The Way of the Water” (Dec. 16) may each vie with the summer smash “Top Gun: Maverick” (\$1.36 billion worldwide and still counting) for the year’s top film. Less clear, though, is if the fall’s robust slate of adult-driven films and Oscar contenders can once again drive moviegoing. Last year’s best-picture winner, “CODA,” from Apple TV+, ran the awards gantlet without a cent of box office.

Among the most anticipated films hitting the fall festival circuit and theaters are Steven Spielberg’s semi-autobiographical “The Fabelmans” (Nov. 23); “Blonde” (Sept. 16), starring Ana de Armas as Marilyn Monroe; Todd Fields’ “TÁR” (Oct. 7), with Cate Blanchett; Sam Mendes’ “Empire of Light” (Dec. 9); “The Son” (Nov. 11), Florian Zeller’s follow-up to “The Father”; Chinonye Chukwu’s Emmett Till saga “Till” (Oct. 14); Martin McDonagh’s “The Banshees of Inisherin” (Oct. 21); James Gray’s “Armageddon Time” (Oct. 28); and the Cannes Palme d’Or winner “The Triangle of Sadness” (Oct. 7).

Superhero films (“Black Adam,” Oct. 21, starring Dwayne Johnson), kids movies (“Lyle Lyle Crocodile,” Oct. 7), horror flicks (“Halloween Ends,” Oct. 14) rom-coms (“Ticket to Paradise,” Oct. 21, with Julia Roberts and George Clooney) and more high-flying adventures (“Devotion,” Nov. 23) will also mix in, as will prominent titles from streamers. Those include Amazon’s “My Policeman” (Oct. 21), with

SEE NORMAL ON PAGE 16

WEEKEND: FALL PREVIEW — MOVIES

Normal: Injustice a common theme

FROM PAGE 15

Harry Styles; and Netflix releases “Bardo” (in theaters Nov. 4), by Alejandro González Iñárritu; “White Noise” (in theaters Nov. 25) by Noah Baumbach; and Guillermo del Toro’s “Pinocchio” (streaming Dec. 9).

But if much of the fall movie season is about restoring what was lost the last few years, for some upcoming movies, change is the point. “The Woman King” (Sept. 16), directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood and starring Viola Davis, is a muscular fact-based epic about a West African army of female warriors. To Prince-Bythewood, the filmmaker of “Love & Basketball” and “The Old Guard,” “The Woman King” represents “the chance to reframe what it means to be female and feminine.”

“I don’t think we have ever seen a movie like this before. So much of our history has been hidden or ignored or erased,” says Bythewood. “‘Braveheart,’ ‘Gladiator,’ ‘Last of the Mohicans.’ I love those movies. Now, here was our chance to tell our story in this genre.”

“Bros” (Sept. 30), too, is something different. The film, starring and co-written by “Billy on the Street” comedian Billy Eichner, is the first gay rom-com by a major studio (Universal). All of its principal cast members are LGBTQ. Comedies have struggled in theaters in recent years but “Bros,” produced by Judd Apatow, hopes a new perspective will enliven a familiar genre.

“It’s a historic movie in many ways,” says Eichner. “That’s not something we thought about when we were first developing it. Nobody sits down and says, ‘Let’s write a historic movie.’ We said, ‘Let’s make a hilarious movie.’ It will make people laugh, but it’s unlike anything the vast majority of people have seen.”

“Bros” and “The Woman King” are productions meant to challenge the status quo of Hollywood. That’s also part of the nature of “She Said” (Nov. 18), a dramatization of New York Times journalists Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey’s investigation into movie mogul Harvey Weinstein. Sarah Polley’s “Women Talking” (Dec. 2) likewise chronicles a real-life female uprising. It’s based on events from 2009, when Bolivian Mennonite women gathered together after having been drugged and raped by the men in their colony.

Olivia Wilde’s buzzed-about “Don’t Worry Darling,” starring Florence Pugh and Harry Styles as a married couple living in a 1950s-style suburban nightmare-slash-male fantasy, approaches some similar themes through a science-fiction lens.

“I want to make something that is just really entertaining and fun and interesting, but actually is my way of provoking conversations about real issues like body autonomy,” says Wilde. “I didn’t know it would be as timely as it is right now.”

Other movie production timelines seem to exist almost apart from our earthly reality. James Cameron’s “Avatar: The Way of the Water” will debut 13 years after 2009’s “Avatar” (still the highest grossing film ever), a follow-up originally scheduled for release in 2014. Since then, so many dates have come and gone that the sequels — four films are now slated to launch in the next five years — have sometimes seemed like blockbuster Godots that might forever wait in the wings.

Speaking from the New Zealand studio where “The Way of the Water” was being mixed and scored, producer Jon Landau promised the wait is, in fact, nearly over.

“This is finally happening,” said Landau. “Those delays, as you would call them, were really about us creating a foundation for a saga of movies. It wasn’t about going: ‘Let’s get one script right.’ It was about: ‘Let’s get four scripts right.’”

The movie industry has changed dramatically since the first “Avatar” was in theaters. Back then, 3D was being billed (again) as the future. Barack Obama was in the first year of his first term. Netflix was renting DVDs by mail.

“A lot has changed, but a lot hasn’t,” says Landau. “One of the things that has not changed is: Why do people turn to entertainment today? Just like they did when the first ‘Avatar’ was released, they do it to escape, to escape the world in which we live.”



Netflix

From left, Edward Norton, Madelyn Cline, Kathryn Hahn, Dave Bautista, Leslie Odom Jr., Jessica Henwick, Kate Hudson, Janelle Monae and Daniel Craig are assembled for “Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery.”



20TH CENTURY STUDIOS/AP

Ronal, voiced by Kate Winslet, left, and Tonowari, voiced by Cliff Curtis, are characters in “Avatar: The Way of Water,” the first of four long-awaited “Avatar” sequels.



AMAZON/AP

From left, David Dawson, Emma Corrin and Harry Styles play the central figures in “My Policeman.”



Sony Pictures

Viola Davis stars in “The Woman King.” Director Gina Prince-Bythewood says the film represents “the chance to reframe what it means to be female and feminine.”



NETFLIX/AP

Ana de Armas plays Marilyn Monroe in “Blonde.”



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

Jamie Lee Curtis returns for another — and perhaps last — Halloween sequel in “Halloween Ends.”



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

Billy Eichner, left, and Luke Macfarlane star in “Bros,” billed as the first gay romantic comedy by a major studio.

WEEKEND: FALL PREVIEW — MOVIE CALENDAR

Sept. 9

“**Barbarian**” (20th Century Studios): A young woman (Georgina Campbell) arrives at her Detroit Airbnb only to find the house double booked.

“**Pinocchio**” (Disney+): The first of two upcoming “Pinocchio” films is by Robert Zemeckis and features Tom Hanks voicing Geppetto.

Sept. 16

“**The Woman King**” (Sony Pictures): In Gina Prince-Bythewood’s historical epic, Viola Davis stars as the general of the Agojie, an all-female warrior army who protected the West African kingdom of Dahomey in the 19th century.

“**Blonde**” (Netflix): Andrew Dominik’s adaptation of Joyce Carol Oates’ 2000 novel stars Ana de Armas as Marilyn Monroe.

“**Moonage Daydream**” (Neon): Documentary filmmaker Brett Morgen explores the life and music of David Bowie.

“**God’s Country**” (IFC Films): Thandiwe Newton stars in a thriller about a grieving college professor’s escalating feud with two hunters in rural, mountainous terrain.

“**Pearl**” (A24): Ti West’s sequel to “X,” a slasher standout, picks up the backstory of that film’s aged antagonist (Mia Goth).

“**See How They Run**” (Searchlight): A whodunit set in 1950s London, with Sam Rockwell, Saoirse Ronan, Adrien Brody and David Oyelowo.

“**The Silent Twins**” (Focus): Letitia Wright and Tamara Lawrance star as twins from the only Black family in a small town in Wales who are sent to a psychiatric hospital.

“**A Jazzman’s Blues**” (Netflix): A decades-long love story is set against a backdrop of racism and music in the South, written and directed by Tyler Perry.

Sept. 23

“**Don’t Worry Darling**” (Warner Bros.): Olivia Wilde directs and co-stars in this psychological thriller about a couple (Florence Pugh, Harry Styles) living in a closed-off Palm Springs community.

“**Catherine Called Birdy**” (Amazon): Lena Dunham directs this medieval comedy, an adaptation of Karen Cushman’s 1994 novel, about a teen girl (Bella Ramsey) whose lord father (Andrew Scott) is preparing to marry her off for money.

“**Sidney**” (Apple TV+, in theaters and streaming): A documentary about the late Sidney Poitier, produced by Oprah Winfrey.

Sept. 30

“**Bros**” (Universal): Billy Eichner stars and co-writes the first gay rom-com from a major studio, directed by Nicholas Stoller and produced by Judd Apatow.

“**Hocus Pocus 2**” (Disney+): Twenty-nine years after the original, the Sanderson Sisters (Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kathy Najimy) are inadvertently resurrected.

“**Smile**” (Paramount): In Parker Finn’s directorial debut, a doctor’s mind begins to turn on her after a patient’s death.

“**God’s Creatures**” (A24): Emily Watson stars as a mother torn between covering for her son (Paul Mescal) and turning him in after an allegation of sexual abuse is made against him.

Oct. 7

“**TAR**” (Focus Features): Writer-director Todd Field directs Cate Blanchett as a renowned composer named Lydia Tár.



NEON/AP

Charlbi Dean, left, and Harris Dickinson star in “Triangle of Sadness,” out Oct. 7.



Warner Bros.

Dwayne Johnson is a superhero in “Black Adam,” in theaters Oct. 21.

“**Lyle, Lyle Crocodile**” (Sony Pictures): A live-action adaptation of the children’s book first published in 1965.

“**Amsterdam**” (20th Century Studios): David O. Russell’s latest centers on a 1930s murder mystery with an ensemble including Christian Bale, Margot Robbie and John David Washington.

“**Triangle of Sadness**” (Neon): Ruben Östlund’s Palme d’Or winner gathers a variety of characters together on a luxury cruise ship that ends in a disaster that erases class distinctions.

“**The Redeem Team**” (Netflix): A documentary following the U.S. men’s basketball team at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Oct. 14

“**Halloween Ends**” (Universal, in theaters and streaming on Peacock): The 13th installment in the “Halloween” franchise, directed by David Gordon Green and starring Jamie Lee Curtis.

“**Till**” (MGM): Chinonye Chukwu’s drama follows Mamie Till-Mobley’s pursuit of justice after the 1955 lynching of her 14-year-old son, Emmett Louis Till.

“**White Bird: A Wonder Story**” (Lionsgate): A spinoff of 2017’s “Wonder.” A woman tells her grandson about being a Jewish girl in Nazi-occupied France.

“**Decision to Leave**” (Mubi): South Korean director Park Chan-wook’s latest is a knotty noir thriller juggling a love story and a murder investigation.

“**Piggy**” (Magnet Releasing; in theaters and on VOD) A Spanish thriller about a bullied young girl who discovers that a kidnapper is abducting her tormentors.

Oct. 21

“**Black Adam**” (Warner Bros.): Dwayne Johnson stars as the DC Comics superhero.

“**Ticket to Paradise**” (Universal Pictures): Julia Roberts and George Clooney play divorced parents who travel to Bali to sabotage their daughter’s wedding plans.

“**The Banshees of Inisherin**” (Sear-



Netflix

Millie Bobby Brown, left, reprises her role as Enola Holmes, and Helena Bonham Carter is Eudoria Holmes in “Enola Holmes 2,” available Nov. 4 on Netflix.

chlight Pictures): Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson play two longtime friends in rural Ireland who fall out.

“**My Policeman**” (Amazon): Harry Styles stars as a gay policeman in 1950s Brighton, England, who falls in love with a museum curator (David Dawson) after marrying a schoolteacher (Emma Corrin).

“**Wendell & Wild**” (Netflix): Henry Selick, the maker of “Coraline” and “The Nightmare Before Christmas,” returns with a spooky stop-motion animated film co-written with Jordan Peele.

“**Descendant**” (Netflix): Margaret Brown’s documentary chronicles the discovery of the last-known slave ship to arrive on American shores, the Clotilda, and its ripple effect in Mobile, Ala.

“**Raymond and Ray**” (Apple TV+, streaming): Ethan Hawke and Ewan McGregor play half-brothers reunited by their father’s funeral.

“**Aftersun**” (A24): Scottish filmmaker Charlotte Wells’ directorial debut stars newcomer Frankie Corio and Paul Mescal on a father-daughter vacation in Turkey.

“**The School for Good and Evil**” (Netflix, streaming Oct. 19): Paul Feig directs this fantasy based on Soman Chainani’s 2013 novel.

“**The Good Nurse**” (Netflix, Oct. 19): Eddie Redmayne and Jessica Chastain star in this based-on-a-true-story thriller about a serial-killer nurse.

Oct. 28

“**Prey for the Devil**” (Lionsgate): A supernatural thriller with exorcisms, nuns and a battle for the soul of a young girl.

“**Armageddon Time**” (Focus): Filmmaker James Gray draws from his upbringing in 1980s Queens. With Anthony Hopkins, Anne Hathaway and Jeremy Strong.

“**Call Jane**” (Roadside Attractions): Phyllis Nagy, screenwriter of “Carol,” directs this drama about a 1960s housewife (Elizabeth Banks) who joins the Jane Collective, an underground women’s rights movement that helped women obtain abortions when they were illegal.

“**Holy Spider**” (Utopia): In Ali Abbasi’s based-on-a-true-story Iranian serial-killer thriller, a journalist (Zar Amir-Ebrahimi) trails a man targeting sex workers.

Nov. 4

“**Enola Holmes 2**” (Netflix): Millie Bobby Brown returns as the teenage sister to Sherlock Holmes in this sequel.

“**Bardo, False Chronicle of a Handful of Truths**” (Netflix): Alejandro González Iñárritu’s first feature since “The Revenant” stars Daniel Giménez Cacho as a Mexican journalist.

“**Weird: The Al Yankovic Story**” (Roku): Daniel Radcliffe stars as “Weird Al” Yankovic in this comic biopic, co-written by Yankovic himself.

“**Good Night Oppy**” (Amazon): A documentary about the Mars rovers.

Nov. 11

“**Black Panther: Wakanda Forever**” (Disney): A sequel to the 2018 Marvel movie that carries on the tale of Wakanda after the death of star Chadwick Boseman.

“**The Fabelmans**” (Universal): Said to be one of Steven Spielberg’s most personal films, this coming-of-age drama is a semi-autobiographical tale about growing in Arizona and discovering cinema.

“**The Son**” (Sony Pictures Classics): Florian Zeller’s follow-up to 2020’s “The Father” is about a teen (Zen McGrath) who moves in with his divorced dad (Hugh Jackman).

Nov. 18

“**She Said**” (Universal): Carey Mulligan and Zoe Kazan star as Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, The New York Times journalists whose reporting helped expose Harvey Weinstein.

“**The Inspection**” (A24): A young gay Marine (Jeremy Pope) endures violent hazing during boot camp in Elegance Bratton’s drama, inspired by the director’s own experience.

“**Slumberland**” (Netflix): Jason Momoa leads Francis Lawrence’s sci-fi action adventure, adapted from the comic strip “Little Nemo in Slumberland.”

“**The Menu**” (Searchlight Pictures): Anya Taylor-Joy and Nicholas Hoult play a couple who travel to a remote island to eat at an exclusive restaurant presided over by a chef (Ralph Fiennes) where more than food is on the menu.

“**In Her Hands**” (Netflix, in theaters and streaming Nov. 16): A documentary about Zarifa Ghafari, who at 26 became one of Afghanistan’s first female mayors.

Nov. 23

“**Bones and All**” (MGM): Director Luca Guadagnino reunites with “Call Me By Your Name” star Timothée Chalamet in this romantic horror film about two cannibal lovers (Taylor Russell, Chalamet) on a 1980s road trip.

“**Devotion**” (Sony Pictures): Jonathan Majors and Glen Powell star as celebrated wingmen flying for the U.S. Navy during the Korean War.

“**White Noise**” (Netflix, Nov. 25): Noah Baumbach adapts Don DeLillo’s classic 1985 novel, with Adam Driver and Greta Gerwig.

“**Strange World**” (Disney): An animated ode to science fiction about a family of space explorers.

“**Nanny**” (Amazon): Anna Diop stars a recently emigrated Senegalese woman who, while caring for the daughter of wealthy New York couple, is haunted by the son she left behind in Africa.

WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS

Roller-coaster ride of shifting expectations

‘Barbarian’ an ‘Airbnb horror’ film that succeeds by combining fresh scares with throwback appeal

BY KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

Back in 2007, Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez tapped an up-and-coming genre filmmaker, Edgar Wright, to make a parody trailer for a fake movie to play between their “Grindhouse” double feature. Wright came up with “Don’t,” in which a gravelly voice intones, “If you are thinking of going into this house — don’t! If you are thinking of opening this door — don’t! If you are thinking of checking out the basement — don’t!” It was funny because it was deeply recognizable, and it tapped into the audience’s urge to yell at the screen, “don’t go in there!”

This is also essentially the plot of Zach Cregger’s “Barbarian,” about which the less one knows, the better. In fact, consider this permission to stop reading this review right now and just buy tickets. Do not watch trailers, do not read reviews and proceed directly to the theater for one of the most brilliantly executed, sharply incisive and wildly scary horror films of the year.

How can one describe “Barbarian” without giving away all the best twists and turns? Well, it’s a triumph of what could be a new subgenre: “Airbnb horror.” It starts on a dark and rainy night, as a young woman named Tess (Georgina Campbell) attempts to access a lockbox at the Detroit rental home she’s booked for a job in-



20th Century Studios

in “Barbarian,” Georgina Campbell plays a character who books an Airbnb in Detroit only to find that it’s been double-booked and someone else is already staying there.

terview the next day. A light inside flicks on. Someone else is home.

In a plot twist that demonstrates the perils of farming out property management to anonymous tech companies, it turns out that the house has been double-booked, and Keith (Bill Skarsgard) has already taken up residence. Despite her best instincts — like most modern, independent women, Tess is highly vigilant — she’s out of options, and she decides to crash with him in the same house while things get sorted.

This is the first horror film for Cregger, who is one of the founding members of the sketch comedy troupe “The Whitest Kids U’Know,” but it’s clear he is a fan, and a student of the genre, and in his masterful control of tone and terror, an exciting new

horror filmmaker on the rise. He demonstrates a knack for flipping expectations, so he gives us a horror heroine who is smarter than the average scream queen, and he gives us a mysterious loner (who previously played a famed horror monster in “It”), who just might actually be a nice guy.

The process of establishing and upending expectations happens again and again throughout the film. Cregger slowly builds bone-chilling and suspenseful sequences up to screechingly operatic moments of face-melting horror and then swiftly cuts to a different chapter, making a hard left into a completely different mode, taking us all on the roller-coaster ride.

His facility with comedy also aids in these jarring tone switches, and “Barbar-

ian” is as funny as it is terrifying.

Tess and Keith fumble through the awkwardness of their Airbnb mix-up, but the film widens its scope to encompass the house’s other occupants and owners over decades. Cregger traces the suburban home’s journey through time, the middle-class neighborhood succumbing to white flight and later abandonment, finally snapped up as a cheap flip for the short-term rental market.

The rumors about what happens in this home are known by locals only, underlining the perils of an eroded community, ravaged by exploitative capitalism and creating the perfect anonymous environment to lure clueless, tech-savvy millennials to their doom.

Cregger also uses “Barbarian” to explore women as victims, villains and victors within the horror genre, and the ways in which they’re both endangered and empowered by empathy. The deeply caring Tess is a perfect victim, but she’s also street smart, and her soft skills and ability to read others are the most effective powers for fighting the evil she encounters. Campbell’s performance is perfectly calibrated, and Cregger effectively illustrates that it’s Tess’ emotional intelligence that gives her a fighting chance.

Cregger wraps this multilayered contemporary social commentary in a rip-roaring, utterly horrifying flick that’s inspired by classic horror filmmaking and tropes. It’s the throwback appeal coupled with fresh ideas — and plenty of skull-rattling scares — that makes this such an exciting new film and one of the must-see horror movies of the year.

“Barbarian” is rated R for some strong violence and gore, disturbing material, language throughout and nudity. Running time: 103 minutes. Now playing in select AAFES theaters.

Hanks as Geppetto best reason to stream live-action ‘Pinocchio’

BY JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

After a string of live-action remakes, from “Beauty and the Beast” to “The Lion King,” the Walt Disney Co. has finally gotten around to “Pinocchio.” Along the way, there have been some nice performances, enormous heaps of computer-generated imagery and, lest anyone forget, one very blue Will Smith.

Whether any of these movies have done much to improve the originals is very much up for debate, and undertaking “Pinocchio” poses even more particular challenges. Most pressing: What you do with Pinocchio? Nice kid and all. A little wooden. But if we’re being honest here, he’s always been a bit of a dud.

Do you cast a young actor to play the puppet once brought to life? Alongside some live performers (Tom Hanks, Cynthia Erivo) and some CGI characters, director Robert Zemeckis has used computer imagery to ren-

der Pinocchio (voiced by Benjamin Evan Ainsworth) much in the style and vocal pitch of the 1940 cartoon. The effect is an awkward fusion of fake and real that strains to find any magic in between. This “Pinocchio,” unfortunately, is no real boy, at all.

It’s also one of two adaptations of the fairy tale coming this fall. Zemeckis’ “Pinocchio” premiered Thursday on Disney+. Later comes a stop-motion version by Guillermo del Toro. The directors are both magicians, and they will surely have radically different takes on the old Italian tale. In a few months, we’ll be able to compare them, nose to nose.

Zemeckis’ film opens with a reminder of how foundational “Pinocchio” has been to the Disney myth-making machine. As the familiar castle logo plays with “When You Wish Upon a Star,” Jiminy Cricket (voiced by Joseph Gordon-Levitt) floats down under an umbrella to stake

claim to the studio theme song. “Isn’t that a catchy little tune?” he asks.

But aside from any poignant corporate lineage, the original “Pinocchio” remains about as pure an example of Disney at its archetypal best as anything. Maurice Sendak once aptly described it as possessing “the golden glamour of a lost era; it is a monument to an age of craft and quality in America.”

Zemeckis’ film, in its ways just as representative of its cinematic era, keeps much of the 1940 film’s narrative shape but maintains little of its tension as a morality tale.

This time, the story — penned by Zemeckis and Chris Weitz — feels like it’s lurching from one set piece or song-and-dance number to another, with cameos from Erivo (in the flesh, as the Blue Fairy and “Wish Upon a Star” singer) and Keegan-Michael Key, as the voice of the deceptive red fox Honest John.



DISNEY/AP photos

Left: Pinocchio, voiced by Benjamin Evan Ainsworth. Right: Tom Hanks as Geppetto, in Disney’s live-action film “Pinocchio.”

Certainly, “Hi-Diddle-Dee-Dee (An Actor’s Life For Me)” has a different resonance in a movie where actors compete with CGI creations for oxygen.

The best reason to see “Pinocchio” is, unsurprisingly, Hanks, who brings a soulful melancholy to Geppetto. It’s a corollary to Hanks’ performance as Presley manager Tom Parker in “Elvis.” Only in that film, Hanks was the one pulling the strings on a big-tent star.

There are moments, still, that remind you of Zemeckis’ considerable powers. But if I’m picking

a modern marionette to dance with, it’s “Annette,” Leos Carax’s 2021 wild and wonderful (and not so family friendly) musical opus with a simple, hand-crafted puppet at the center of an opera about art and parenthood. In that film, what was incongruous between the actors and the puppet was part of the film’s drama. It was a bit ridiculous and emotionally devastating, and a reminder that, real boy or not, it makes no difference who you are.

“Pinocchio” is rated PG for peril/scary moments, rude material and some language. Running time: 111 minutes. Now streaming on Disney+.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Relax and unwind in the Black Forest

Germans may be notoriously well-organized and efficient, but they are also experts at relaxing. Explore Germany's Black Forest — with its plentiful trails and world-class mineral spas — and you'll know what I mean.

The Black Forest is popular with German holiday-goers and overseas tourists looking for serious R&R, clean air, cuckoo clocks, countless hiking possibilities and chocolate cakes layered with cherries and drenched in schnapps. The forest stretches in a hilly 100-mile range along Germany's southwestern border with France.

The area is steeped in tradition, much of it explained at the Black Forest Open-Air Museum (aka the Vogtsbauernhof) in Gutach. Built around a grand old farmhouse, the museum makes local folk life vivid. Here you'll learn why and how the farmers with little to do during the long winters were cuckoo for clock-making.

With its timely heritage, it's no wonder this region has what I consider Europe's best clock museum. The German Clock Museum in Furtwangen is more than a chorus of cuckoo clocks; it traces the development of clocks from the Dark Ages to the space age.

The capital of this rural area is Freiburg, an untouristy college town with a

distinctive sandstone cathedral and old center that manages to maintain a bit of its medieval character, despite suffering heavy bombing in World War II.

Much of Freiburg's charm comes from its Bächle: tiny "stream-lets" that have been running down nearly every Freiburg street since the 13th century. They were originally designed to keep fires from spreading, as they could be quickly dammed to flood a street. Careful observers may notice how Freiburg's streets were built at a slight incline, so as to keep the water trickling throughout the town.

These days, Freiburg's trademark canals are just fun, lending a castle-moat feel to the pedestrian cobblestone streets, which are connected to the sidewalk by tiny footbridges. Toddlers like to sail little boats and splash in the water to cool off when it's hot. (Don't worry: Freiburg still employs two Bächleputzer to scrub the canals clean with steel brooms.) These canals are particularly dense in what used to be Freiburg's industrial quarter — once full of smelly tanners' shops and millers' busy waterwheels, it's now a delightful district of shops and cafés.



Rick Steves



DOMINIC BONUCCELLI/Rick Steves' Europe

Playing craps feels downright elegant in the casino in Baden-Baden, Germany.

Be warned: Local lore promises that if you fall into a Bächle, you are destined to marry a Freiburger.

The Black Forest's top attraction is the spa town of Baden-Baden. A hundred and fifty years ago this was the playground of Europe's high-rolling elite. Royalty and aristocracy came from all corners to take the Kur — a soak in the (supposedly) curative mineral waters — and to enjoy the world's top casino. Today this lush town of 55,000 attracts a more middle-class crowd.

Built in the 1850s and inspired by the Palace of Versailles, the casino is filled with chandeliered rooms. Even if you're not a gambler, it's fun to witness this casino in action. Sipping a glass of sprightly white German wine, you can lean against

a gilded statue and listen to the graceful reshuffling of personal fortunes.

The southern end of the region, called the Black Forest Highlands, is more gentle than the densely wooded area to the north. With onion-domed churches, idyllic lakes, and hikes through peaceful meadows, the countryside offers soothing tranquility.

My favorite way to commune with nature here is to take a five-mile, two-hour hike between the charming towns of St. Märgen and St. Peter. This fresh-air walk along a delightful path through the bucolic Black Forest countryside is the quintessential Black Forest experience.

Rick Steves (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 and follow his blog on Facebook.

New harvests take center stage in upcoming festivals

The glory of Europe in autumn is reflected in its crisp, cool days, gold-tone palette and the bounty of field and forest. From France to Finland, this is the time of year to enjoy the newly harvested crops and regional fare at its finest. A number of festivals and special events showcase and celebrate the fruits, fungi, nuts and vegetables associated with this time of the year.

Germany

Pumpkins: Blühendes Barock is the name given to the vast gardens surrounding the Ludwigsburg Residential Palace about 10 miles north of Stuttgart. Each year in autumn, the grounds made up of ancient trees, green-



Karen Bradbury

houses, flowerbeds and fairy tale-inspired buildings host what's billed as the world's largest pumpkin exhibition. To keep visitors returning year after year, each year's show is designed around a different theme; in 2022, creatures from the jungle and rainforest serve as the inspiration.

Pumpkin fans can enjoy the beloved gourd in pasta dishes, stir-fries, bread, waffles and even sparkling wine cocktails.

Those who indulge in a savory bowl of soup on the weekend of Sept. 24-25 will be eating from Germany's largest pot of the stuff, cooked up to benefit a worthy cause. A number of autumn weekends offer activities including a boat race between watercraft carved out of pumpkins (Sept. 17-18) and individual pumpkin-carving (Oct. 22-23 and Oct. 29-31). Online: tinyurl.com/yckfxrcn

Plums: The city of Bühl in Baden-Württemberg is famous for a sweet blue plum known as a Zwetschgen. Through Sept. 12, the fruit lends its name to a traditional folk festival offering rides, on-stage entertainment, wine village, a beer tent and plenty of stands selling plum-based treats. A parade gets underway from 2 p.m. Sunday. Online: tinyurl.com/4x4ykzef



Leinfelden-echterdingen.de

The German city of Leinfelden-Echterdingen holds its Filderkrautfest each year to celebrate the glories of the pointy and mild-tasting cabbage variety.

Cabbage: The town of Leinfelden-Echterdingen, located six miles south of Stuttgart, cultivates a variety of cabbage that's easily recognizable due to its pointed shape. Filderkraut is said to have fewer and finer veins than its round cousin and to be milder in taste.

The Filderkrautfest, a fest known for its rustic, rural atmosphere, pays the cruciferous veggie its just dues. Festivities include competitions for the heaviest specimen and various athletic challenges, many of which will be watched over by the young pair elected King and Queen Cabbage. Visitors can enjoy sampling tasty cabbage dishes and listening to live music. Festivities take place Oct. 14-15. Online: tinyurl.com/2puadnyn

Those residing closer to Wiesbaden can celebrate cabbage, along with the grape harvest, at nearby Eltville's Kappeskerb slated for Oct. 28-31.

Onions: A highlight of Weimar's annual events calendar is its Zwiebelmarkt, or Onion Market. Several hundred thousand visitors flock to the city to enjoy the

volksfest's on-stage entertainment, attractions and market stalls. Of the some 600 booths scattered throughout the Old Town, 100 or so sell onions or products made from them. Specialties include the savory pastry known as onion cake, beef and onions, or Mutzbraten, pork shoulder smoked in birch wood. Weimar celebrates Oct. 7-9. Online: zwiebelmarkt.org

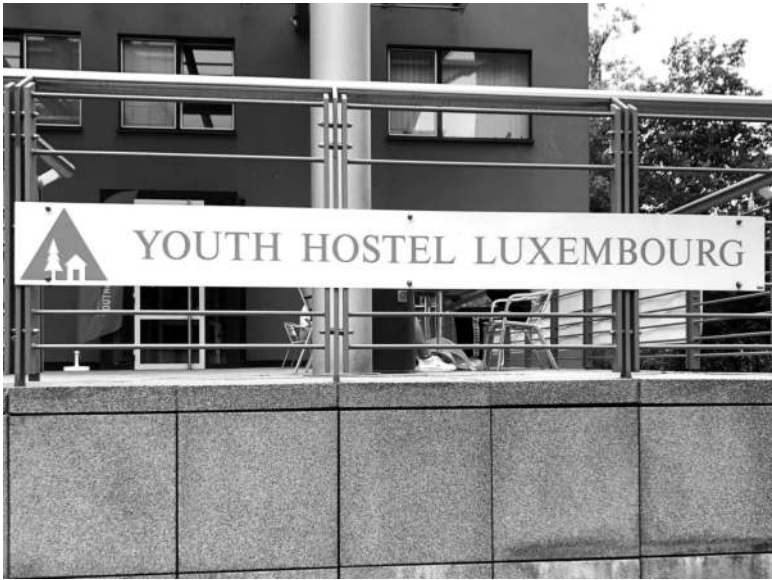
Italy

Fruits and more: For five Sundays in October, a town just north of Catania in Sicily hosts a culinary event titled Ottobrata Zafferanese, a showcase of the many crops that thrive in the volcanic soils of Mount Etna. The sprawling site offers several zones, including an area devoted to locally cultivated grapes, apples, chestnuts, mushrooms and honey. Cooking demonstrations and family-friendly entertainment are followed by live music and a party atmosphere. The municipality of Zafferana Etnea is encircled by five large car parks from which shuttle bus service is offered. Online: ottobratazafferanese.it

Chestnuts: The town of Marradi lies some 30 miles northeast of Florence and is surrounded by extensive chestnut groves, which yield the star crop of the Sagra delle Castagne e del Marron Buono. Indulging in freshly roasted chestnuts, cakes, jams and other tasty wares is made all the sweeter by performances by street artists, magicians and wandering musicians. The fair takes place Oct. 9, 16, 23 and 30. Online: tinyurl.com/mtendrx

Truffles: The city of Alba in Piedmont and its surrounding area produces two noteworthy products: wine and white truffles. On weekends from Oct. 8 to Dec. 4, the pungent, musky fungus is the object of reverence at the Fiera Internazionale Tartufo Bianco d'Alba. Live music, auctions and tours round out the offerings, as well as local wine tastings. On Oct. 15 and 16, locals dressed in lavish costumes evoke the look and feel of the Middle Ages. Online: fieradeltartufo.org

WEEKEND: TRAVEL



PHOTOS BY ERIN HENK/For The Washington Post

The entrance to the hostel, located on the edge of the old city.

Hostels not just for youth

Communal lodgings appeal to travelers of all ages because of their cost and convenience

BY ERIN HENK
The Washington Post

I wanted revenge any way I could get it. Not traditional retribution per se, but pandemic-style travel vengeance. With my travel dreams ground to dust over the past two years, I wanted to see a little bit more of the world, as if I could make up for lost time.

My husband and I agreed that I would take a solo trip while he took our 5-year-old to his grandparents' house in southwest France. With all the expenses involved in flying from our home in Beirut to visit my husband's family in France, I needed to find somewhere hassle-free and inexpensive to explore.

I decided on Luxembourg, a tiny slice of Europe with three official languages and a reputation as a tax haven. It wasn't the cheapest destination I researched, but I'd never been there, and the train was a reasonably priced, straight-shot ride from Paris.

But my search for hotels left me crestfallen. It could easily cost 500 euros (about \$498) for a three-night stay. When a youth hostel came up in my search on Booking.com, I dismissed it. Days later, my frustration mounting, I clicked: 82.50 euros (about \$82) for three nights in a shared, all-female dorm room, breakfast included.

I hadn't actually slept in hostels since I traveled around Guatemala in my early 20s. Now I was a 42-year-old mother. Yet

the pandemic has forced us to rethink life as we knew it. If I would have to rough it a little to make this trip possible, so be it. I clicked again, reserving my bed.

The morning of my train, I strolled along sun-dappled streets to Gare de l'Est with my backpack, ebullient with a sense of freedom I hadn't felt in a long time. Then, as the train pulled away from Paris, I felt a pang of concern. Should I have packed a sleeping bag? Or my own sheets?

In the hostel lobby, everyone looked younger than I was. I was uncomfortable, but also slightly relieved when I saw a trolley stacked with bedding wrapped in plastic. I hoped not to be judged by Guy, the receptionist, as I handed over my ID. He couldn't have been nicer.

I entered my room, and the door slammed behind me like a gavel summoning my self-consciousness. It was intimate, smaller than my college dorm. I was expecting something that would allow me to easily retreat into anonymity. Instead, there were two sets of bunk beds, a toilet and a shower, which would at least save me from walking the hallway in a towel.

Luxembourg City's youth hostel, which is just one of more than 3,000 locations within the Hostelling International network,

"It's just where you sleep, right?"

Mariana
staying in Luxembourg City's youth hostel with her family



An all-female dorm room at the Luxembourg youth hostel. It also has its own toilet and shower.

was extensive. Its restaurant, Melting Pot, resembled a cheerful school cafeteria. A three-course prix fixe dinner menu was available for 11 euros (about \$11), and it included locally sourced dishes such as leek soup and spaghetti Bolognese. Three local beers were on tap. Outside, a patio offered a charming view of the old city's corniche. A game room held a pool table, and a ping-pong table sat by the main entrance. I was surprised to see a children's playground, too.

My first morning, I noticed two men wearing bike shorts filling their CamelBaks in the cafeteria sink. Reinhold, 69, and Peter, 64, were on an 11-day cycling trip from Amsterdam to Koblenz, Germany, and were staying in shared hostel rooms the entire trip, because it was more affordable. But Peter had an issue with the breakfast. Compared with that of other hostels, he said, it "lacked love."

Having expected nothing more than bread, I had been pleasantly surprised by the spread of ham, cheese, yogurt, fruit and cornflakes, as well as the espresso machine.

I began to notice older solo travelers and those traveling in groups. And families like Juan and Mariana from Canada on a three-week tour of Europe with their teenage sons. They would be staying in private rooms in hostels for cost and convenience, they said.

"It's just where you sleep, right?" Mariana said.

She had a point. Since having my son, I had dismissed hostels as viable lodging options. I as-



The restaurant at the hostel offers a breakfast spread, an espresso machine, a three-course prix fixe dinner menu for about \$11 and locally sourced dishes.

sumed they were relegated to my past, because no one would ever stay in a hostel with a preschooler. However, Guy told me that, although the majority of the hostel's guests are backpackers, older adults are frequent guests, and families are common, even pre-pandemic.

"We have a family staying every day," he said.

Nete and Nils from Bruges, Belgium, were traveling with their three children, ages 2, 4 and 6, to Switzerland. This was their first hostel stay as a family. "We already said that we'd do it again," Nete said. The kids loved exploring, and they even found communal toilets to be a fun adventure.

Perhaps I'd been too narrow in my thinking. In Rolf Potts' "The Vagabond's Way: 366 Meditations on Wanderlust, Discovery, and the Art of Travel," to be published in October, he writes about bringing his newly retired parents to youth hostels with him in China and the Czech Republic.

"Indeed, hostels are no longer

just for youth," he writes.

"They're an enjoyable, inexpensive lodging option for anyone willing to forgo a few comforts and embrace their communal energy."

During my final dinner, self-consciousness evaporated. I watched children chase each other around the patio as dusk settled in. A group of gregarious middle-aged men enjoyed a bottle of chilled rosé. Kids played on the swings while their parents looked on from a nearby bench. A couple played cards; another ate next to a stroller. Some loners sat with a pint, their books open on the table.

I actually felt inspired. My quest pushed me to reexamine my preconceptions. In doing so, I had found a way that could make more travel possible for my family. Plans to go to cost-prohibitive places such as Scandinavia and Japan suddenly seemed more within reach. After all, a hostel was affordable, potentially multi-generational — and not a bad way to exact revenge.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

A compelling case for Indian food

Kaiserslautern’s Curry House could change minds of the cuisine’s critics

By DAVID EDWARDS
Stars and Stripes

When Naval War College professor and columnist Tom Nichols lit a culinary powder keg with his “Indian food is terrible and we pretend it isn’t” tweet in 2019, I watched the ensuing brouhaha with no small amount of curiosity.

My experience with Indian cuisine was almost nil, so unlike Nichols, I hadn’t formed an opinion about it. The uproar served as a catalyst, although my forays into the food scene of the subcontinent were sporadic for a time.

Fast-forward about three years to Kaiserslautern, Germany, where an unplanned encounter with Curry House became the first of three visits and counting. Consider this my belated rebuttal to Mr. Nichols’ initial thought.

The location of the restaurant beside the landmark downtown fountain, the Kaiserbrunnen, and its menu laden with gluten-free dishes sealed the deal with Curry House for me.

I ordered a sweet lassi, which was served at the same time as papad, a thin, crispy bread made from lentil flour that is reminiscent of an angular tostada without toppings.

The papad was accompanied by three sauces: tamarind, yogurt with mint and one that looked like chutney. After trying all three, I stuck with the first two. The tamarind sauce was delicious, but the lime-green dip next to it was divine.

It’s no exaggeration to say that papad and the two delectable sauces have become my favorite part of a meal at Curry House. I never would have guessed that so much enjoyment could come from the lowly lentil.

After trying the aforementioned sweet lassi for my initial dinner, I went with the mango variety on the subsequent two occasions. Both were quite tasty, although I think my preference would be for lassi No. 1.

There is also a third option, the salty lassi, which so far I haven’t been able to bring myself to try. The standard assortment of soft drinks, juices and tea is available as well.

As for the entrees, my Curry House experience has been somewhat variable. But that’s not



The mango lassi is one of three types of the drink on the menu.



PHOTOS BY DAVID EDWARDS/Stars and Stripes

It’s not a cappuccino. It’s chicken korma, a curry dish made with cream, almonds, coconut and spices at Curry House in Kaiserslautern, Germany.



Curry House

Address: Mainzer Tor 3, Kaiserslautern, Germany
Hours: Monday, closed; Tuesday through Sunday, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-10 p.m.
Prices: Appetizers, 3 to 6 euros; main dishes, mostly in the range of 15 euros to 20 euros; lassis, 4.50 euros; desserts, 3.50 euros to 6 euros
Contact info: Phone: 0631 36784267, Online: curryhousek-town.de

David Edwards

to say I disliked anything I was served. Perhaps the best way to put it is that a spiciness level of medium for one dish can be different for another.

For example, the chicken korma’s sauce is made from a blend of cream, almonds, coconut, cashews and spices. It surrounds the bite-size hunks of chicken with a robust flavor that I found pleasantly bold.

The medium-spiced chicken jalfrezi’s sauce had much more kick. The combo of paprika, ginger, garlic, turmeric, lemon and tomato sauce was a little overpowering to my palate and made me grateful for the mango lassi.

Colleagues who have frequented Curry House since its opening in 2016 say spice levels — and overall quality — have varied over the years and may depend on the chef working that day.

That said, they still recom-



Vanilla ice cream topped with sweet mango sauce is one of three cold desserts served at Curry House.

mend it above other local Indian restaurants. Favorites include the tandoori lamb; the palak paneer, which is a farmer’s cheese in a spinach-based sauce; and the lamb dhansak, which features chunks of meat in a lentil curry with cumin and ginger accents.

A quick word about the basmati rice served with the entrees is in order. It’s a ginormous helping, and I have yet to find room for all of it in the same sitting.

Curry House’s dessert menu provides no shortage of temptation, to which I gave in all three times. On my first visit, I ordered kulfi, which is Indian-style ice cream made from milk, almonds, pistachios and cardamom.

But instead of scoops, it’s a mound of block shapes. I was figuring it would be sweeter, but there was no taste letdown. It

was so filling that I had to leave some behind. Such shame I felt at not being able to finish dessert.

The next time, I chose kheer, a piping hot rice pudding with pistachios, almonds and cardamom. It was very rich and very sweet.

Not wanting to repeat the experience of a hot dessert in the summertime, I went with vanilla ice cream topped with a sweet mango sauce after my most recent meal. I savored each bite as the soothing sound of the fountain’s gushing water, the strains of Indian music and a pleasant breeze wafted toward my table.

The waitstaff on my third visit told me that all the desserts except kulfi and the two ice cream selections are served hot. So take that as a word to the wise during this scorching spell for drought-stricken Europe.



Papad, a crispy, gluten-free Indian bread made from lentils, is accompanied by a three-sauce assortment.

Tom Nichols eventually received his comeuppance when he took up a friend’s invitation to have his mind changed over plates of Indian food. And in doing so, he helped raise about \$90,000 to provide pandemic relief to India. Nichols still didn’t care for the spiciest dishes but fell in love with lamb biryani.

If, by chance, he ever happens to be in Kaiserslautern and has a hankering for a repeat repast to confirm that Indian food isn’t terrible, I will gladly steer him to Curry House.

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS



Fans dressed in FC Kaiserslautern apparel cheer on the team during a game at Fritz Walter Stadium on Aug. 28. The stadium's capacity of just under 50,000 is about half the city's population.

Seeing K-town's shared obsession

Taking in a game at Kaiserslautern's soccer stadium is a communal adrenaline rush

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

Rowdy sports fans exist the world over, but the soccer devotees in Kaiserslautern always seemed particularly intense to me.

So when I decided to go to a recent 1. FC Kaiserslautern home game alone, I was prepared for the worst.

It was a Sunday afternoon match against Magdeburg. As usual, doors opened two hours before kickoff, and around that time, I was on the corner of Bahnhofstrasse and Eisenbahnstrasse in front of Betzebud, the food stand a stone's throw away from the train station, where many ticketholders enjoy snacks and drinks before the 10-minute, uphill walk to the stadium.

The road up was teeming with supporters, and it was difficult to spot anyone not wearing an FC Kaiserslautern shirt, hat or scarf. Those without apparel could buy some at one of several stands along the route. The scarves — the most popular item, according to the vendors — cost between 10 and 13 euros.

As I approached the stadium, it looked like the unruly atmosphere I had expected would become a reality when a man clenching a bottle of beer began yelling incoherently. But after walking past him and onto the stadium grounds, I found a much different ambiance.

I had to make my way around most of the stadium to reach my seat, and at nearly every turn, I saw families with children, couples who appeared to be on dates and even a handful of Americans talking loudly in English. The atmosphere brought back fond childhood memories of going to Detroit Tigers baseball games with my grandpa.



A young fan shows support for the FC Kaiserslautern soccer team during a game at Fritz Walter Stadium on Aug. 28.

On the QT

Address: Fritz-Walter-Strasse 1, Kaiserslautern, Germany
Hours: The dates and times for FC Kaiserslautern home and away games during the 2022-23 season can be found here. A stadium museum is open to the public on the first Wednesday of each month between 2 and 6 p.m. Admission is 4 euros.
Cost: Prices vary depending on seat location. Tickets can be purchased directly on FC Kaiserslautern's website and require an account.
Information: Online: fck.de/de

Phillip Walter Wellman

Moving past the exterior hallways and into the seating area of the stadium was astonishing, as I'm sure most people who experience it for the first time after living in Kaiserslautern for a while would agree. "How have I never been here before?" I asked myself. It's massive.

The stadium's capacity of just



A young girl looks at her ticket ahead of FC Kaiserslautern's game on Aug. 28.

under 50,000 is about half the city's population. It's so big that it was used to host five World Cup games in 2006, including a meeting between the United States and Italy.

When I bought my ticket a couple of days before the league game, most had already sold out, a testament to the community's passion for the sport.



FC Kaiserslautern supporters convene at the Betzebud food stand ahead of a Sunday afternoon soccer game on Aug. 28. The stand is near the Football Without Borders statue project, which was erected in 2006 to correspond with the World Cup.

PHOTOS BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

Indeed, the only thing I ever hear people who are unfamiliar with Kaiserslautern say they know about the city — besides its large American military community — is its storied soccer history.

FC Kaiserslautern historically has been one of the most successful German soccer clubs and was an inaugural Bundesliga member. The team also formed much of West Germany's 1954 World Cup-winning squad.

The unlikely victory against Hungary became known as the Miracle of Bern, which helped to heal a nation rising from the horror of World War II and in need of inspiration. Fritz Walter, who spent his entire career with Kaiserslautern, was the team's captain.

FC Kaiserslautern's performance has waned in recent years, but it managed to advance from the third to the second divi-

sion this season, and supporters at the recent league game spent the entire 90-plus minutes cheering for further success.

The synchronized support from the crowd in the form of songs, chants and rhythmic clapping was way more than the occasional wave I remember at the Tigers' games. It was quite a spectacle.

While the fanatic behavior would be disruptive, even threatening, in town, in the stadium it had a different effect. It evoked a feeling of solidarity that was palpable even though I didn't know the words to the songs or the chants.

The game itself was entertaining, ending in a 4-4 draw. But the overall experience of being a spectator, and seeing a new aspect of Kaiserslautern, is what I'll remember most.

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CELESTYAL CRUISES

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Regional treats, river-view seats

Eat, drink and unwind at the scenic Archive Café near Camp Humphreys

By JAZZMIN SPAIN
Stars and Stripes

Nestled at the end of a quiet street not far from Camp Humphreys is a café where you can enjoy spectacular river views with a fresh pastry and a cup of coffee.

Once inside the Archive Café, you're met with beautiful chandeliers and industrial modern decor. With floor-to-ceiling windows and an unmatched view of the Ansong River from nearly every seat, this café is the perfect place to unwind.

Archive opened in early December 2019 and stands three stories tall. The third floor and rooftop are off-limits to children due to safety concerns.

You can enjoy a cup of coffee on the rooftop, which is also perfect for a photo op, or try the river-view seating on the first floor.

The selection of pastries seems endless, and includes cakes, cinnamon buns, Korean cheese danishes, chocolate brownies, sandwiches and much more.

I tried the ultimate chocolate brownie and chamomile tea for



AFTER HOURS
S. KOREA

6,000 won, or about \$4.35. I was semi-satisfied with the flavor, a mix of dark and milk chocolate, but the dryness of the pastry left me less than happy with it.

The chamomile tea, however, spoke to my soul. There were subtle, yet vibrant, sweet notes of chamomile and ginger. It was the right amount of sweetness where I felt no need to add more and could just enjoy the tea.

The baristas spoke basic English and accepted credit cards or Korean won. Once you order you can enjoy seating indoors, or if you want fresh air with your selections you can enjoy the outdoor options as well.

A well-kept amenity to Archive Café are the goats kept behind the café where they can be enjoyed by the patrons.

You would almost miss them if it weren't for the faint bleating heard from the outside seating.

spain.jazzmin@stripes.com



AARON KIDD/Stars and Stripes

Archive Café offers lovely views from several floors, including a view of the river from the first floor.



JAZZMIN SPAIN/Stars and Stripes

Archive Café's ultimate chocolate brownie and chamomile tea.



AARON KIDD/Stars and Stripes

Delectable trays of sweet and savory snacks await customers.

Archive Café

Location: Gyeonggi-do, Pyeongtaek-si, Oseong-myeon, Danggeo-ri, 468

Hours: Open daily, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Prices: Most beverages and pastries start at about \$5.

Dress: Casual

Directions: About a 12-minute drive from Camp Humphreys' Yoon Gate.

Information: 031-8029-0100

Jazzmin Spain



AARON KIDD/Stars and Stripes

The treats selection at Archive Café near Camp Humphreys, South Korea, includes small cakes, cinnamon buns, Korean cheese danishes, chocolate brownies, sandwiches and more.



AARON KIDD/Stars and Stripes

Archive Café opened near Camp Humphreys in December 2019. The three-stories-tall eatery includes rooftop seating.

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STARS AND STRIPES

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WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

‘Good to See You,’ Tokyo

Henry Rollins’ spoken word tour is coming to Japan in October

By KELLY AGEE
Stars and Stripes

Punk, poet or prophet, Henry Rollins’ career stretches from ice cream store manager to world-renowned recording artist and worldwide champion of avant-garde music.

The former frontman for Black Flag, then leader of Rollins Band, added the sweaty, shirtless body-builder image to punk iconography over decades on stage. The author, raconteur and actor will be in Tokyo on Oct. 19 for a spoken-word event, part of his “Good to See You” tour, at Club eX in the Shinagawa Prince Hotel.

The Asian leg of his world tour will also take Rollins through Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Hawaii, according to his official website.

Rollins provided answers via email to questions from Stars and Stripes about “Good to See You,” vinyl hunting and his USO connection.

Stars and Stripes: What is the theme of your current tour?

Rollins: It’s just the new batch of stories since I last toured. It’s mostly stories from being in the USA as my travel has been very limited because of COVID. Things happening in the USA currently are quite noteworthy.
You said in a 2001 interview

Henry Rollins, ‘Good to See You’

Location: Club eX, Shinagawa Prince Hotel Annex Tower 3F, 4-10-30 Takanawa, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8611
Directions: A 5-minute walk from Shinagawa Station. Use the Takanawa Exit.
Hours: Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; Show starts at 7 p.m.
Costs: Reserved seats are 8,000 and 10,000 yen, including tax, and can be purchased online at livenaton.co.jp.
Information: Online: henryrollins.com

that non-Western environments fascinate you. What have you learned or what do you think the West can learn about life in Japan?

Efficiency. How do you get a lot of people in and out of cities safely and quickly? How do you allow them movement even when there’s great human density in many of the cities? I think these are challenges Japan has done a great job with and cities in other countries could probably benefit from doing some of the same things.

You crawl record shops worldwide. How do you rate the vinyl shops in Tokyo? Do you

have a favorite you care to disclose?

The last time I was in Tokyo was the end of 2019. I was in Shinjuku, where I’ve hunted for records before. I found there wasn’t as many stores as I’d seen before. I still found some great records at Strangelove, Nat, Vinyl Japan, Record City and Blind Faith. My favorite is Vinyl Japan. Tetsu and Izumi run a great shop.

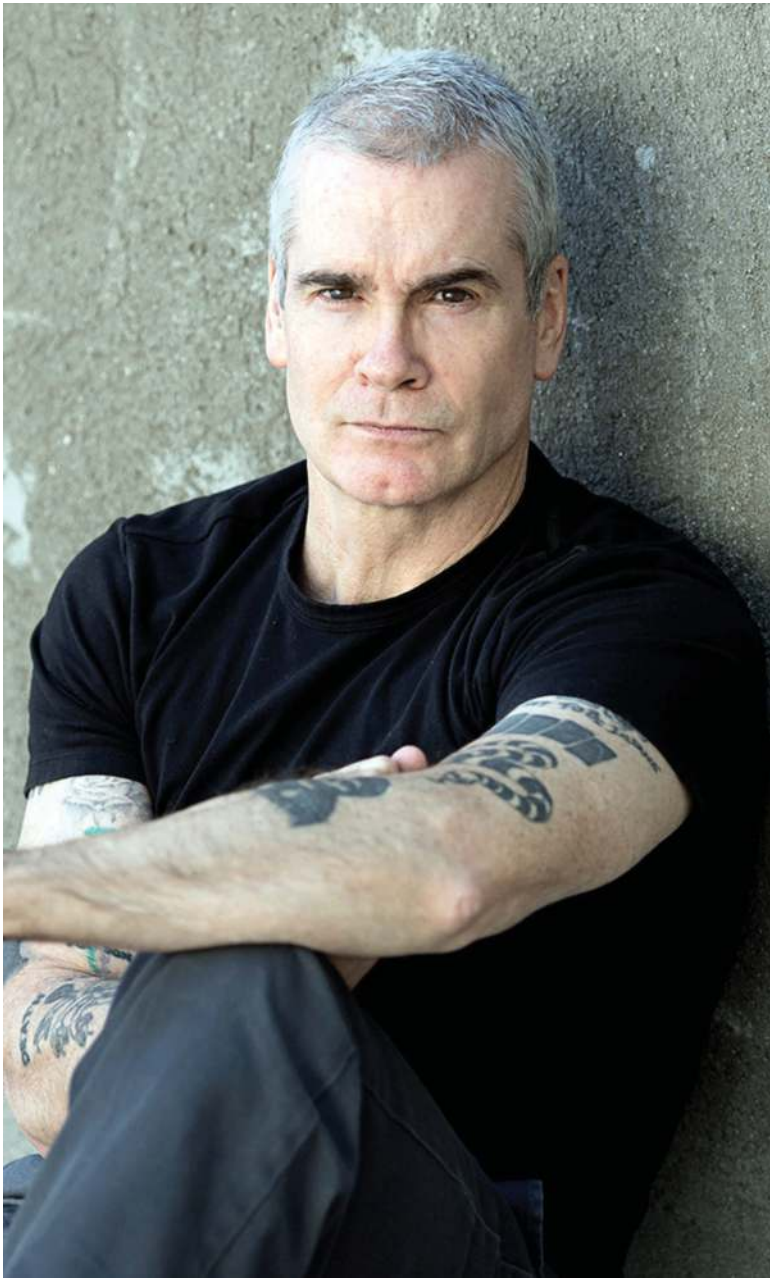
How many USO tours have you made? Do you have many ‘fanatics’ in the military or military veterans?

I think I did five or six USO tours and many visits to Walter Reed and Bethesda Naval. Service members were always great to me. I met quite a few who knew who I was, had things I had made they wanted signed, etc. I don’t know what exactly I’ve done that had an appeal, but I’m glad to have been able to work on behalf of the USO.

You’ve also been to bases in Japan on past USO tours. Do you have any standout memories from those visits specifically?

Nothing really stands out. I remember they were well run. The bases that stood out were in Iraq and Afghanistan as the tension was cranked way up.

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Ross Halfin

Author, storyteller, musician and actor Henry Rollins will bring his “Good to See You” spoken word tour to Club eX in Tokyo on Oct. 19.

Beauty products? Special foods? The best souvenirs are ones we use

By HELEN CAREFOOT
The Washington Post

I’m reminded of Turkey early every day — when I shower, spray on perfume and brew my morning coffee. That’s because some of the staples of my daily life (olive oil shampoo, cotton socks, exfoliating kess mitts, Eyup Sabri Tuncer body sprays) traveled approximately 5,200 miles from Turkey to Washington, D.C. But instead of a cargo plane, they came in my suitcase.

It’s easier than ever to order digestive biscuits from Britain or skin-care products from South Korea online, but shipping costs and customs make it easier to tote objects home while traveling than to have them shipped across the world. And with the pandemic severely restricting travel the past couple of years — I’m still using

products from 2019 — some travelers are nearing the end of their stashes and gearing up to get more.

For people who grew up elsewhere, using products from home evokes feelings of comfort. Yuki Sugiyama, 32, moved to D.C. from Kyoto in 2019 to work at the Japanese Embassy as a public affairs officer and hasn’t been able to go home since. Each morning, he sips dried green tea (ryokucha) out of tea cups with a cherry blossom pattern made in the Kyo-yaki pottery style, something Kyoto is famous for. He also uses a set of wooden chopsticks finished with lacquer (urushi).

“There’s a beautiful crafting culture in my city, and it’s a common gift in Japan,” he said. “They make me feel at home and make the food taste better.”

For others, using products from abroad is a way to feel closer to relatives far away. Nithya Pathalam, a 25-year-old law student in Philadelphia, spent summers in India as a child visiting her grandparents in the city of Tirunelveli. Every time she and her mother visit there now, they stock up on 25 bottles of richly pigmented Lakmé eyeliner. Pathalam has recommended the brand to friends and loves that it works well with her skin tone. But it holds even more significance, because “it’s something from India that brings back all these memories of seeing people I care so deeply about.”

Marlena Spieler, a 73-year-old food writer and consultant based in Hampshire, England, has a pantry chock-full of culinary delights collected from around

Europe. An American who has lived in England since the 1980s, Spieler has a pantry that’s a wonderland of culinary specialties. Some of her favorite food finds are breads and pastries from France and Greece (she freezes them), porcini cubes from Italy and Hungarian pickles.

Useful products don’t sit on a shelf collecting dust like random trinkets. When Mike Wilkins, a 46-year-old marketing executive who lived in England for five years, traveled back there from his home in Ridgewood, N.J., in February, he went with a list: Cadbury Dairy Milks and Aero bars; Match Attax trading cards for him and his son to play with; and Berocca, “which is like a mix between Alka-Seltzer and Emergen-C, and the best hangover cure ever invented.”

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WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



NINTENDO/TNS

Live A Live features a chapter that takes place in the Wild West, featuring an outlaw who reluctantly protects a town from bandits. The narratives are pulled together in a final saga.

Revival of a lost Japanese classic

Square Enix’s Live A Live covers 8 different historical eras, and each has its own distinct playstyle and story

BY GIESON CACHO
Bay Area News Group

Newer isn’t necessarily better when it comes to video games. A survey by Solitaired.com found that 87% of Americans would play their childhood classics if they had the cart or console. Despite the primitive visuals, the pixels of the 8- and 16-bit era brim with a distinct mix of magic and nostalgia.

It’s an iconic style that’s birthed several modern takes on the retro look. Few publishers have mastered this aesthetic like Square Enix. The company behind Final Fantasy has found success touching that nerve with the likes of Octopath Traveler and Triangle Strategy. Its latest release, Live A Live, is a bit different because it’s a revamped version of a game that was never released outside of Japan.

For the first time, American players can experience a missing chapter from director Takashi Tokita’s oeuvre. He’s one of the minds behind groundbreaking role-playing games such as Chrono Trigger and Final Fantasy IV, and Live a Live sits amid that pantheon.

A treat from the past

But to appreciate the project, players must put their frame of mind on the limitations of the time. If they look at Live A Live from that lens, the project is astounding. It takes place over eight historical eras, and each era has its own distinct playstyle and story. Players can choose to tackle the eras in any order.

Prehistory is told without words as a caveman named Pogo tries to rescue his love from being part of a human sacrifice. Imperial China focuses on a martial arts master

searching for a successor. The Middle Ages takes the curious on Oersted’s journey to defeat the Lord of the Dark while Edo Japan puts players in the shoes of Oboro-maru, a ninja on a rescue mission.

The Wild West chapter features an outlaw named Sundown who reluctantly protects a town from bandits. The one taking place in Present Day follows Masaru Takahara, a street fighter who wants to test his skills while the Near Future segment goes wild with giant robots and Akira, a protagonist who has psychic powers. The Distant Future stars a plucky robot named Cube who must save its spaceship crew from a saboteur.

Distinct gameplay

The gameplay accompanying each of the eight stories is tailored to its plotline. Present Day is modeled after a fighting game as Masaru battles foes and has the ability to copy and learn their attacks. The beautifully done Western unfolds in two phases as Sundown has to gather resources and delegate jobs to the townspeople while battling the Crazy Gang. The Near Future doesn’t have much combat but it has a tense “Alien”-inspired storyline as the robot must investigate what’s happening on the ship while avoiding a creature that busted out of the cargo hold.

If my teenage self ran into Live A Live in the 1990s, the eclectic range of styles and ideas would have been mind-blowing. It’s not nearly as impressive in the modern era, but the core ideas still hold up thanks to the clever mix of polygons and other camera techniques that blend seamlessly with the charming 16-bit sprites.

Where it stands out

Live A Live chapters with more conventional Japanese role-playing game tropes are still good. The battle system takes positioning into account as players try to outmaneuver foes on a grid with different attack types. If they move too much, it gives their opponents an opportunity to counterattack, so there’s plenty of depth, risk and reward to

the turn-based combat. Nevertheless, the JRPG truly shines when it offers more unconventional gameplay twists.

The Edo Japan section lets players approach the mission via stealth or through combat-heavy means, with appropriate rewards on each end. This chapter has the most elaborate set pieces as the shinobi ventures through a castle filled with samurai and monsters.

In the Imperial China era, the master of the Earthen Heart style has to choose among three successors, and players must train the star pupil for the conflicts ahead. Being a master, he doesn’t gain levels but his students, who are novices, will.

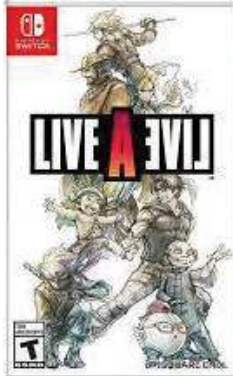
Although these narratives seem separate, the director, Tokita, tries to bring them together in the Dominion of Hate. That’s the ninth episode of the saga, and it lets heroes from the past era come together. This is when all the hard work players put into leveling up and gathering rare gear pays dividends.

Each protagonist has different strengths and weaknesses, and the fun part about this section is that players get to build their own four-unit team to take on the big bad at the center of Live A Live.

Narratively, it’s not as cohesive or coherent as other chapters, but it works well enough for two reasons. The first is that it gives players more time to spend with characters who piqued their interest, and players can empower characters with treasures unique to them. The second is that the mixing and matching of teammates offers more depth as players form the right squad to take on a universal evil.

Although some aspects may not be as impressive in 2022 compared to 1994, Live A Live has storytelling and gameplay that translate over time and confirm the game’s status as a lost classic. It’s a project that’s both retro and fresh to a new generation of fans.

Platform: Nintendo Switch
Online: gematsu.com/games/live-a-live



WEEKEND: FALL PREVIEW — BOOKS

Season's readings

Hot titles include a broad mix of literary, commercial favorites

BY HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

Anticipation for one of the fall's likeliest bestsellers has been growing all year. For months, Colleen Hoover's millions of fans on TikTok, Instagram and elsewhere have been talking up and posting early excerpts from her novel "It Starts With Us." By summer, the author's sequel to her bestselling "It Ends With Us" had already reached the top 10 at Amazon.com. It might have climbed higher but for competition from other Hoover novels, including "Ugly Love," "Verity" and, of course, "It Ends With Us," the dramatic tale of a love triangle and a woman's endurance of domestic abuse that young TikTok users have embraced, helping to make Hoover the country's most popular fiction writer.

Hoover's extraordinary run on bestseller lists, from Amazon.com to The New York Times, has been Beatles-esque for much of 2022, with four or more books likely to appear in the top 10 at a given moment.

Hoover's new book should help extend what has been another solid year for the industry. Booksellers are looking forward to a mix of commercial favorites such as Hoover, Anthony Horowitz, Beverly Jenkins and Veronica Roth alongside what Barnes & Noble CEO James Daunt calls a "really strong" lineup of literary releases, including novels by Ian McEwan and Kate Atkinson.

The fall also will feature new fiction from Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk and Pulitzer Prize-winners Elizabeth Strout and Andrew Sean Greer. Celeste Ng's "Our Missing Hearts" is her first novel since "Little Fires Everywhere." Story collections are expected from George Saunders, Andrea Barrett and Ling Ma, along with novels by Percival Everett, Barbara Kingsolver, Kevin Wilson, N.K. Jemisin, Lydia Millet and Yiyun Li.

Cormac McCarthy, 89, has new fiction coming for the first time in more than a decade with "The Passenger," and its companion "Stella Maris." John Irving, who turned 80 this year, is calling the 900-page "The Last Chairlift" his last "long novel."

Russell Banks, 82, has completed the elegiac novel "The Magic Kingdom," and former U.S. poet laureate Robert Pinsky, 81, has written the autobiography "Jersey Breaks," in which he addresses what he calls the "tribalism" and "nationalism" of the current moment by reflecting on his childhood in Long Branch, N.J.

"I realized that I am not a great sociologist or political sage, but I thought I could



AP

deal with this by going back to growing up in a town that was segregated, biracial and lower middle class," Pinsky says. "I felt that whatever answers I might have would be found there."

Joe Concha's "Come On, Man!: The Truth About Joe Biden's Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad Presidency" is the most colorfully named of the latest round of books attacking an incumbent president — a long and profitable publishing tradition. But the most high-profile works of political reporting dwell on Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, among them "Confidence Man," by The New York Times' Maggie Haberman, and "The Divider: Trump in the White House, 2017-2021," by Peter Baker of the Times and Susan Glasser of The New Yorker.

Michelle Obama's "The Light We Carry" is her first entirely new book since her worldwide bestseller from 2018, "Becoming." Benjamin Netanyahu's "Bibi" is the first memoir by the former Israeli Prime Minister, while American politicians with new books include Rep. Cori Bush of Missouri, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and Texas gubernatorial candidate Beto O'Rourke.

Numerous posthumous releases are expected, from the letters of John le Carré and the diaries of Alan Rickman to fiction by Leonard Cohen and memoirs by Michael K. Williams and Paul Newman, whose "The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man" restores a project the actor abandoned years before his death in 2008.

"Victory Is Assured" compiles essays by the late critic and novelist Stanley Crouch, and "Ain't But a Few of Us: Black Music Writers Tell Their Story" includes the influential Greg Tate, who died last year. Assorted works by Randall Kenan, the award-winning fiction writer who died in 2020, are collected in "Black Folk Could Fly." His friend Tayari Jones, author of the acclaimed novel "An American Marriage," wrote the introduction.

Celebrity books include Bono's "Surrender," Matthew Perry's "Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing" and Geena Davis' "Dying of Politeness." Bob Dylan reflects upon an art form he helped reinvent in "The Philosophy of Modern Song," while the title of Jan Wenner's memoir invokes the Dylan classic that helped inspire the name of the magazine he founded, "Like a Rolling Stone."

Memoirs also are scheduled from Steve Martin, Linda Ronstadt, Constance Wu and Brian Johnson.

New poetry includes works by Pulitzer-winners Jorie Graham and Sharon Olds, Saeed Jones, Jenny Xie, former U.S. poet laureates Billy Collins and Joy Harjo, Linda Pastan and Wang Yin, the Chinese poet whose "A Summer Day in the Company of Ghosts" is his first work to come out in English.

History books will cover the famous and the overlooked. Among the former are Pulitzer-winner Jon Meacham's "And There Was Light," the latest entry into the

canon of Abraham Lincoln scholarship, and Pulitzer-winner Stacy Schiff's biography of Samuel Adams, "The Revolutionary." Fred Kaplan, who focused on Lincoln's prose in "Lincoln: The Biography of a Writer," now assesses Thomas Jefferson in "His Masterly Pen: A Biography of Jefferson the Writer."

Releases highlighting those less remembered include Kevin Hazzard's "American Sirens: The Incredible Story of the Black Men Who Became America's First Paramedics," and Katie Hickman's "Brave Hearted: The Women of the American West." With the overturning last summer of Roe v. Wade, Laura Kaplan's "The Story of Jane" is a timely reissue of her 1995 book about the underground abortion counseling service founded in Chicago in 1969.

Bruce Henderson's "Bridge to the Sun" centers on the recruitment of Japanese-Americans, some of whom had been in internment camps, to assist in U.S. intelligence gathering during World War II.

"It was really hard to research because many of them had been working on top secret projects, and, even after they had been discharged, were reminded that they were under the National Security Act and that military secrets had to be kept," Henderson says. "We had to do a lot of digging and contact families and see what the veterans had left behind. Of the six guys that I follow in my book, only one was still alive."

WEEKEND: MUSIC



‘I felt that we could do no wrong. Obviously, we could.’

Muse, from left: Chris Wolstenholme, Matt Bellamy and Dominic Howard. The band recently released its ninth studio album, “Will of the People.”

Nick Fancher

Q&A: Matt Bellamy on getting back ‘to what made us Muse in the first place’

By MIKAEL WOOD
Los Angeles Times

Matt Bellamy wrote Muse’s new album in a Santa Monica, Calif., recording studio painstakingly decorated to resemble the so-called red room from “Twin Peaks.”

Crimson curtains, leather armchairs, black-and-white zigzag flooring: The 44-year-old frontman of one of England’s biggest rock bands reproduced every detail of the otherworldly chamber from the cult-fave TV show he remembers devouring during Muse’s first tour on a bus back in the early 2000s.

“It just sets a certain tone, you know?”

he says, looking around the space with obvious pride on a recent afternoon.

Yet as Bellamy sat composing amid a thicket of electric guitars and vintage synths — including an old Roland model he says was the same used for the “Stranger Things” theme — what really inspired him was the tumult unfolding outside the studio, which he observed through an enormous one-way mirror in the building’s front wall.

This was mid-to-late 2020: Bellamy, who’s written for years about the menacing encroachments of technology and government, watched (without those on the street being able to see inside) as shops went out of business during the pandemic, as Black Lives Matter protesters marched through the city, as

riot-gear-clad police and National Guard moved in to shut down demonstrations, as a man took up residence in a car parked right in front of the studio. Helicopters seemed to be circling constantly; a drone hovered over Bellamy one day as he loaded gear in through a back door.

“It was like being inside a scene from ‘RoboCop,’” he says now. “All the anxieties and the dystopian strangeness that had always been kind of speculative in our music — suddenly it felt like it was all coming true. It was actually happening.”

The result of his observations is Muse’s ninth studio album, “Will of the People,” on which Bellamy rhymes “a life in crisis” with “a deadly virus” and “tsuna-

mis of hate are gonna drown us.” (Sample song titles include “Kill or Be Killed” and “We Are F—ing F—ed.”) But if the LP confronts a brave new world, it also knowingly looks back: Musically, the band — rounded out by bassist Chris Wolstenholme and drummer Dominic Howard — dials down the fluorescent electro-pop vibe of 2018’s “Simulation Theory” in favor of the harder, more guitar-oriented sound that made Muse a prog-metal sensation more than two decades ago.

“We wanted to get back to what made us Muse in the first place — what the best and the worst parts of us are,” Bellamy says, then laughs. “I mean, ideally we

SEE MUSE ON PAGE 29

WEEKEND: MUSIC



REVIEW

Guitar slinger gives an emotive performance

Fiery fretboard master Marcus King is out with his new album “Young Blood,” with his guitar skills on full display — but diverging some from his blues-heavy themes of the past.

King goes into high gear immediately on this, scorching his way through the opening tracks including “Lie, Lie, Lie,” on which he bends and shreds his strings into submission.

“Pain” is another standout effort. “I used to be a diamond / Now I’m just a rolled-up dollar bill,” King sings in his trademark throaty voice. The guitar solo is a bit more blues-infused, with a massive amount of over-drive effect and speed.

King has been public about his bouts of depression and says this work is what has been going on inside of him. The lyrics here are deeply personal to King and his emotions.

If there’s a weak spot on “Young Blood,” it’s that the vocals are tracked much cleaner and quieter than the raucous instrumentals. With King’s abilities on all fronts, this feels like a bit of a disservice to the energy of the artist.

Still, Marcus King on “Young Blood” serves notice that high-powered blues rock is in good hands.

— Ron Harris
Associated Press

Muse: Despite state of the world, band shows signs of optimism

FROM PAGE 28

focused on the best.”

Los Angeles Times: What are those so-called worst parts of Muse?

Bellamy: Probably a tendency to veer off and experiment in areas that we’re not very experienced in. Most of [2012’s] “The 2nd Law,” for instance — classical dubstep, weird clarinet solos, whatever else is on that album. I think we felt we’d achieved so much with [the 2009 hit] “Uprising” that we could do no wrong. Obviously, we could.

You produced “Will of the People” yourself after collaborating with the producer Shellback on “Simulation Theory” and with Mutt Lange on 2015’s “Drones.”

With people like that who are so successful, I think sometimes we’ve gone in the studio and been a little bit like, “OK, we’ll do just whatever you say.” In hindsight, I wish I’d been more involved and put more of our stamp on it. So we’ve kind of gone back to our safe space on this album. If we’re in complete control, it may not be the most cutting-edge or the most modern-sounding thing, but it’s the only way to guarantee that we’re gonna love it.

Did recording during COVID speed up the process or slow it down?

It made us move quicker. We’d finished our last tour at the end of 2019, then I had a baby [with wife Elle Evans] in June 2020. So the plan was to take all of 2020 off, enjoy our families, then come back together in 2021 for some festivals and use that to get back into shape to make an album in 2022. But the pandemic — espe-

cially for me and Dom, because we were here in L.A. — it made us want to just get on and do something.

June 2020 was a heck of a time to bring a baby into the world.

I came to America in 2010 as a single person looking to experience L.A. for a bit — and, boy, have I had an experience. Ended up with a Hollywood actress [Kate Hudson], had a baby together and the whole cliché scenario of the ups and downs of celebrity life. Then married a Texan [model Elle Evans] and had another baby. Been evacuated from my house during wildfires. Then the pandemic and the full Jan. 6 Trump meltdown. It’s just been an unbelievable period to be here.

“Will of the People” suggests it hasn’t left you terribly optimistic about the future.

It depends what your definition of optimism is. To me there’s a fighting spirit in the music, which is a form of optimism. It’s like the moment in “Rocky” when Adrian tells Rocky to win.

Do you think it’s clear to listeners who you’re fighting? In the new song “Compliance,” you’re singing sarcastically about people falling into line and doing as they’re told. It could be interpreted as an anti-woke anthem.

I never thought about it that way. I thought about it in terms of the rising authoritarianism that we’re now seeing is a real thing — Trump in this country, but also Putin and the China situation. These ideologies, I feel like we kind of tested the waters in the 20th century and realized

that fascism and communism are both just absolute disasters and that we don’t need to go near that stuff ever again. And yet it’s emerging.

What’s your reaction to that?

I have an anti-authoritarian nature. My parents say that when I was a young child I was never very good at being told what to do. I don’t like the idea of vast centralized power that’s very far away from where I live. I come from Devon in England, which is a couple hundred miles from London. But when I went to see where my wife’s from in Paris, Texas, it’s like, Holy s—! It’s thousands of miles from the places of power in America. So the resistance to someone deciding how I should live who has no idea what my day-to-day life is — I can understand it, even though there’s a risk of it being hijacked by more extremist factions that have gone down roads I don’t agree with.

Have you considered becoming a U.S. citizen?

I have. Overall, I actually think the United States’ structure is really amazing, with all the different ways to make laws at the local level. It seems like every month my wife is voting on some sort of proposition. I’m looking at that going, Wow, England is so behind on that front. We don’t ever get to vote on policy.

The oddest thing about that late-2020 period where things in America and California seemed so chaotic and crazy was that I felt my connection deepening. There’s something going on here that is critical to what’s happening in the entire world. America has become a kind of center point



AP

Muse frontman Matt Bellamy performs with the band April 7, 2019, at The Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia.

for this idea that there’s an empire on the verge of collapse, and how do we save it? Or how do we know which parts to save and which parts to let fall away?

For some people — Dom, to some extent — it made them want to get out. But for me it had the opposite effect. It’s everything I’m interested in, and it’s massively creatively inspiring.

Has becoming wealthy shaped your political views?

I don’t think so. I remember all my feelings of what it was to be from a poor rural background with no opportunities and all the disadvantages. And I still have some views that would be considered pretty socialist by some. Universal health care is an obvious one; I can’t even believe there’s not universal health care here. I’ve also come to the view that maybe land shouldn’t be privately owned.

Can you relate to music that’s unambiguously joyful? Coldplay, let’s say.

Absolutely. Chris [Martin] is a friend of mine. I love what they do. I wish I could write more songs that enter the love sphere. But I think it might be against the nature of the sounds our band makes. When the three of us are jamming, it’s like Rage Against the Machine riffs are coming out all the time. I can’t imagine hearing those riffs with Chris Martin singing about peace and love on top.

What’s the happiest Muse song?

“Starlight” is pretty positive. I think “Verona” on the new album is pretty nice — little bit of “Romeo and Juliet” in there.

Do you think rock music is in good hands with the generation behind yours?

My 11-year-old son likes Slipknot and Metallica. My stepson Ryder from a previous situation [with Hudson], he’s 18 and he’s really into rock. He turned me on to Willow Smith.

Can you envision touring in your 60s and 70s like Paul McCartney and the Rolling Stones?

Yeah, but Metallica is the one that’s really made me think we could do it. The Stones and McCartney, they have universally uplifting music. But Metallica — I’m not sure how old they are, but they’re up there — that’s really heavy music and they’re still out there. The great thing about rock is that, even though the genre is largely irrelevant in the mainstream, you can actually grow old with it. You can make a real life career.

WEEKEND: TELEVISION

Monday blues? Not for Emmys

TV's awards show jumps to new night, plans usual mix of elegance, high jinks helmed by Kenan Thompson of 'SNL'

BY LYNN ELBER
Associated Press

Are you ready for some football? Fine, but the return of the NFL is why the 2022 Emmy Awards have been drop-kicked from their usual Sunday berth to Monday. Television's top awards rotate among the top four networks, and this year's broadcast home, NBC, has reserved the second Sunday night in September for Tampa Bay vs. Dallas.

After the Emmys slogged through two years of pandemic-restricted ceremonies, a day's delay seems a minor annoyance.

The industry is expected to put on its Monday best, swan down the red carpet and celebrate itself and the wealth of shows across streaming services, cable and, to a degree that pales compared to that of years' past, old-school network fare.

Here's a road map to everything you need to know about the 2022 Emmys:

When and where are the 2022 Emmys?

The 74th Primetime Emmy Awards are set for Monday at the Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles. The roughly three-hour ceremony will begin at 8 p.m. EDT and air live on NBC and, for free, on the streaming service Peacock.

But the Emmys, with 118 total awards, aren't a one-day affair. Winners in 25 key categories, including best drama and comedy series, will be announced during the broadcast ceremony, but the rest were divvied up between the Sept. 3 and 4 creative arts awards. An edited version of the weekend ceremonies, with categories including sound editing and cinematography, will air stateside at 8 p.m. EDT Sept. 10 on FXX.

Who is hosting the Emmys ceremony?

The honor usually goes to a comedian with a link to the network airing the event, and NBC stayed the course: It chose "Saturday Night Live" veteran Kenan Thompson, a first-time Emmy host who's been preceded in the emcee job by a number of "SNL" stars. The ceremony has tried going without a host, most recently in 2019, but the results weren't always pretty.

Shows nominated for top awards?

Some previous winners are vying again for best series honors, including "Ted Lasso," a freshman when it won 2021's best comedy series, and "Succession," which claimed the 2020 best drama award. (The series didn't air during the eligibility window for 2021, when "The Crown" won.)

There are also formidable newcomers, including the dystopian drama "Squid Game" and comedy crime romp "Only Murders in the Building."

Among the nominated actors, those hoping to be repeat victors include Jason Sudeikis of "Ted Lasso," Jean Smart of "Hacks" and Zendaya of "Euphoria." Check out the full list of Emmy nominees at emmys.com.

What were the most surprising nominations?

So many, where to begin? The farewell season of "This Is Us" got a single nomination, for original music and lyrics, after reaping Emmys for several cast members in years past. It was a similar case for the last year of "black-ish," which ended its groundbreaking run with just two creative arts nominations. On the flip side, it was far from a slam dunk that Dave Chappelle's



Netflix

The dystopian drama "Squid Game" is a first-time Emmy nominee for best drama series.



HBO/TNS

Brian Cox stars in "Succession," which won an Emmy for best drama in 2020 and has been nominated for another award this year.



HBO/TNS

Zendaya, of "Euphoria," hopes to snag another Emmy this year.



AP

Kenan Thompson will host this year's Emmy Awards.



Hulu/TNS

From left, Martin Short, Selena Gomez and Steve Martin in Season 2 of "Only Murders in the Building," which was nominated for an Emmy.

"The Closer," with its controversial anti-transgender comments, would earn a best variety special nomination. It did.

Who decides the Emmy winners?

The more than 17,000 voting

members of the TV academy are eligible to decide nominees and winners in 14 categories, including drama, comedy and limited series. The acting awards, including lead, supporting and guest actors, are determined by peer groups, as are

directing, writing and other individual areas of achievement. The number of nominees in most categories generally is tied to the number of submissions, with exceptions including best comedy and dramas series: They get eight nominees each.

WEEKEND: FALL PREVIEW — TELEVISION

BY AMANDA KONDOLOJY
Orlando Sentinel

The fall TV season is officially here with a little something for everyone, from big-budget fantasy shows like “Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power” and Game of Thrones spinoff “House of the Dragon” to returning comedies like “Ghosts” and “Abbot Elementary” and even animated shows like “Central Park” and “Star Trek: Lower Decks.” There has never been more to see on TV. Here are some highlights, all of which are available streaming, with some also airing on broadcast (where noted).

Amazon

‘The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power’
New episodes Fridays

One of the most expensive television series ever produced, this “Lord of the Rings” prequel takes place during the Second Age of Middle-earth, thousands of years before events in the popular book and film trilogy and will follow the forging of the Rings of Power and Sauron’s rise to power.

Apple TV+

‘See’
New episodes Fridays

The final season of Apple’s sci-fi dystopian drama starring Jason Momoa kicked off a few weeks ago, and follows the continuing saga of a tribe of blind people that believes two of its children have the mythical power to see.

‘Central Park’

Season premiere Sept. 9 with new episodes Fridays

From the minds behind “Bob’s Burgers” comes a new season of this charming, musical, animated-comedy series. Featuring the voice talents of Leslie Odom Jr., Josh Gad, Emmy Raver-Lampman, Kathryn Hahn, Daveed Diggs and a returning Kristen Bell, the third season of “Central Park” looks to be its most star-studded yet.

‘Mythic Quest’

New episodes this fall

The third season of comedy “Mythic Quest” finds the video game development team potentially expanding into the metaverse and characters Ian and Poppy developing a new game based on the failed Hera expansion, setting up a bitter rivalry with the original Mythic Quest crew. No release date for the new season has been given yet, with Apple simply slating the episodes for “fall 2022.”



Quinta Brunson, left, stars in “Abbott Elementary,” one of the best comedies of 2021 and back for 2022.

Season for streaming

‘Lord of the Rings,’ ‘Los Espookys’ among fall shows to watch

Disney+

‘She-Hulk: Attorney at Law’
New episodes Thursdays

Marvel’s latest Disney+ TV show kicked off a few weeks ago by introducing us to Jen Walters, cousin to Bruce Banner. After a fateful car accident, Walters finds herself with powers similar to her cousin’s, and while she is able to keep them under wraps most of the time, an explosive courtroom incident has made her the face of a new law division focusing on superheroes.

‘Dancing with the Stars’

Season premiere Sept. 19 with new episodes Mondays

The reality mainstay is hitting Disney+ this fall with returning host Tyra Banks teaming up with new co-host (and season 19 winner) Alfonso Ribeiro for the first livestreaming competition show in history. Episodes will be streamed live at 8 p.m. Mondays.

‘Andor’

Series premiere Sept. 21 with new episodes Wednesdays

This “Rogue One” prequel takes place five years before the film and will feature Diego Luna once again returning as Cassian Andor, a thief-turned-Rebel spy who becomes an instrumental figure in the opposition to the Galactic Empire.

HBO

‘House of the Dragon’
New episodes Sundays

This “Game of Thrones” spin-off is set 200 years before the events of the flagship series and

portrays the beginning of the end of House Targaryen. The premiere of this series amassed 9.99 million views, the largest single-day viewership for a series debut in HBO history.

‘Los Espookys’

Season premiere Sept. 16 with new episodes Fridays

HBO’s genre-bending horror-comedy series is back after three years and finds Renaldo, Ursula, Tati, Andres and Uncle Tico (a hilarious Fred Armisen) once again getting into plenty of horrifying (and hilarious) high jinks that include the mystery of a dead beauty queen haunting a supermarket, the return of demon Sombra del Agua (who has



Julio Torres in horror-comedy series “Los Espookys,” which returns after a three-year hiatus.

been stuck in traffic) and gazpacho made with ketchup.

Hulu

‘Abbott Elementary’

Season premiere Sept. 21 (ABC) and 22 (Hulu) with new episodes weekly

One of 2021’s best comedies returns this fall with a new season. Written, created and starring Quinta Brunson, this series follows the hilarious and heartfelt misadventures of the staff of an underfunded Philadelphia elementary school.

‘The Handmaid’s Tale’

Season premiere Sept. 14 with new episodes Wednesdays

Hulu’s Emmy-winning dystopian drama is back for Season 5 this fall, which will see main character June reckoning with the bloody aftermath of the Season 4 finale.

‘Reboot’

Series premiere Sept. 20 with new episodes Tuesdays

This new comedy from the creator of “Modern Family” chronicles the revival of an early 2000s family sitcom, forcing its dysfunctional cast back together.

Netflix

‘Cobra Kai’

All episodes of Season 5 streaming Sept. 9

The newest season of the martial-arts drama will see plenty of fighting, unlikely team-ups and potentially a big character death, according to a cryptic tease from series co-creator Hayden Schlossberg on Twitter.

‘Nailed It!’

All episodes of Season 7 streaming Oct. 5

Netflix’s long-running amateur baking show is back with hosts Nicole Byer and pastry chef Jacques Torres for an all-new season of epic failures and exciting culinary guests.

‘Guillermo del Toro’s Cabinet of Curiosities’

All episodes streaming Oct. 25

In the mood for something scary? This new anthology series will feature eight unique horror stories, all introduced by del Toro himself.

Paramount+

‘Star Trek: Lower Decks’
New episodes Thursdays

This animated “Star Trek” spinoff follows the various missions and misadventures of the “lower deckers” on the USS Cerritos as they try their best to support their commanding officers while forging their own path.

‘The Good Fight’

New episodes Thursdays

The sixth and final season of this long-running legal drama finds Christine Baranski’s Diane Lockhart dealing with a number of real-world issues, including the overturning of Roe v. Wade, voting rights, Cold War aggressions and more.

‘Ghosts’

Season premiere Sept. 28 (CBS) and 29 (Paramount+) with new episodes weekly

This supernatural comedy returns for its second season, which will find husband and wife duo, Samantha and Jay, continuing to try and open their dream bed-and-breakfast, while still grappling with the unfinished business of their home’s otherworldly occupants.

Peacock

‘Last Light’

All episodes available to stream

This five-episode event series stars Matthew Fox and tells the story of a family fighting to survive in a world that has been suddenly thrown into chaos thanks to an energy crisis.

‘Quantum Leap’

Series premiere Sept. 19 (NBC) and 20 (Peacock) with new episodes weekly

A reboot of the original ’80s mainstay, this new series looks to solve the mystery of Dr. Sam Beckett who stepped into the Quantum Leap accelerator and vanished 30 years ago.

‘Law and Order: Organized Crime’

Season 3 premiere Sept. 22 (NBC) and 23 (Peacock) with new episodes weekly

The hugely successful “Law and Order: SVU” spinoff’s third season premiere finds Elliot Stabler teaming up with characters from three different “Law and Order” franchises, all coming together for the first time.

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS



Richard Soller, 95, runs in the 200-meter race for men over 85 years old at the National Senior Games on May 16 in Miramar, Fla.

MARTA LAVANDIER/AP

Scientists believe slowing the buildup of senescent cells, which linger like zombies, key to staying healthy in old age

BY LAURA UNGAR
Associated Press

In an unfinished part of his basement, 95-year-old Richard Soller zips around a makeshift track encircling boxes full of medals he’s won for track and field and long-distance running. Without a hint of breathlessness, he says: “I can put in miles down here.”

Steps away is an expensive leather recliner he bought when he retired from Procter & Gamble with visions of relaxing into old age. He proudly proclaims he’s never used it; he’s been too busy training for competitions such as the National Senior Games.

Soller, who lives near Cincinnati, has achieved an enviable goal chased by humans since ancient times: Staying healthy and active in late life. It’s a goal that eludes so many: Growing old is often associated with getting frail and sick. But scientists are trying to change that — and tackle one of humanity’s biggest challenges — through a little known but flourishing field of aging research called cellular senescence.

It’s built upon the idea that cells eventually stop dividing and enter a “senescent” state in response to various forms of damage. The body removes most of them. But others linger like zombies. They aren’t dead. But as the Mayo Clinic’s Nathan LeBrasseur puts it, they can harm nearby cells like moldy fruit corrupting a fruit bowl. They accumulate in older bodies, which mounting evidence links to age-related conditions such as dementia, cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis.

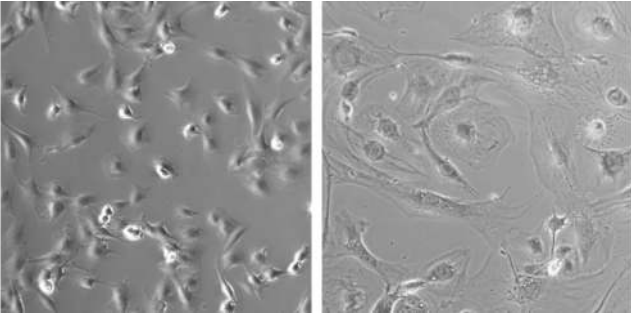
But scientists wonder: Can the zombie cell buildup be stopped?

“The ability to understand aging — and the potential to intervene in the fundamental biology of aging — is truly the greatest opportunity we have had, maybe in history, to transform human health,” LeBrasseur says.

With the number of people 65 or older expected to double globally by 2050, cellular senescence is “a very hot topic,” says Viviana Perez Montes of the National Institutes of Health.

About 100 companies, plus academic teams, are exploring drugs to target senescent cells. And research offers tantalizing clues that people may be able to help tame senescence themselves using the strategy favored by Soller: exercise.

Although no one thinks senescence holds the key to a super long life, Tufts University researcher Christopher Wiley hopes for a day when fewer people suffer with age-related diseases.



Dr. Xu Zhang, Mayo Clinic/AP

This combination of microscope photos from August shows healthy myoblast cells, left, and senescent ones.

“I’m not looking for the fountain of youth,” Wiley says. “I’m looking for the fountain of not being sick when I’m older.”

Mortal cells

Leonard Hayflick, the scientist who discovered cellular senescence in 1960, is himself vital at 94. He’s a professor of anatomy at the University of California, San Francisco, and continues to write, present and speak on the topic.

His scientific renown didn’t come easily. He discovered cellular senescence by accident, cultivating human fetal cells for a project on cancer biology and noticing they stopped dividing after about 50 population doublings. This wasn’t a big surprise; cell cultures often failed because of things like contamination. What was surprising was that others stopped dividing at the same point. The phenomenon was later called “the Hayflick limit.”

The finding, Hayflick says, challenged “60-year-old dogma” that normal human cells could replicate forever. A paper he authored with colleague Paul Moorhead was rejected by a prominent scientific journal, and Hayflick faced a decade of ridicule after it was published in Experimental Cell Research in 1961.

“It followed the usual pattern of major discoveries in science, where the discoverer is first ridiculed and then somebody says, ‘Well, maybe it works’ ... then it becomes accepted to some extent, then becomes more widely accepted,” Hayflick says.

Zombie buildup

Scientists say cell senescence can be useful. It likely evolved at least in part to suppress the development of cancer by limiting the capacity of cells to keep dividing. It happens throughout our lives, triggered by things like

DNA damage and the shortening of telomeres, structures that cap and protect the ends of chromosomes. Senescent cells play a role in wound healing, embryonic development and childbirth.

Problems can arise when they build up. “When you’re young, your immune system is able to recognize these senescent cells and eliminate them,” Perez says. “But when we start getting old ... the activity of our immune system also gets diminished, so we’re losing the capacity to eliminate them.”

Experimental drugs designed to selectively clear senescent cells have been dubbed “senolytics,” and Mayo holds patents on some. In mice, they’ve been shown to be effective at delaying, preventing or easing several age-related disorders.

Possible benefits for people are just emerging, and at least a dozen clinical trials with senolytics are now testing things like whether they can help control Alzheimer’s progression and improve skeletal health.

Amid the buzz, some companies market dietary supplements as senolytics. But researchers warn they haven’t been shown to work or proven safe.

‘Most promising tool’

Today, LeBrasseur, who directs a center on aging at Mayo, says exercise is “the most promising tool that we have” for good functioning in late life.

Research suggests it counters the buildup of senescent cells. For example, a study LeBrasseur led last year provided the first evidence in humans that exercise can significantly reduce indicators, found in the bloodstream, of the burden of senescent cells in the body.

Many older adults, like Soller, intuitively equate exercise with youthfulness.

After a torn hamstring stopped him from running track in high school, Soller fell into an unhealthy lifestyle in early adulthood, smoking two packs of cigarettes daily. But he and his wife Jean quit when their daughter Mary came along.

He started running again just before turning 50, and since then has run in races across the U.S. and participated in decades of Senior Games competitions. In May, Soller joined 12,000 like-minded athletes in Florida for the latest national games in the Fort Lauderdale area — winning five medals to add to his collection of 1,500 prizes.

Soller says exercise keeps him fit enough to handle whatever comes his way.

“Do as much as you can,” he says. “That should be the goal for anyone to stay healthy.”

WEEKEND: FAMILY



GARY M. BARANEC/AP

Braylon Price, 13, pauses on his way home from Bellefonte Middle School Aug. 31 in Bellefonte, Pa. His parents took advantage of a new state COVID-era option of holding their child back a year. He repeated the sixth grade.

An academic do-over

Amid the pandemic, more parents choosing to hold back kids in school

BY BROOKE SCHULTZ
AND HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH
AP/Report for America

As Braylon Price remembers it, he struggled with pretty much everything the first full school year of the pandemic. With minimal guidance and frequent disruptions, he had trouble staying on top of assignments and finishing homework on time.

It was so rocky his parents asked for him to repeat sixth grade — a decision they credit with getting him on a better track.

“At first I didn’t really want to do it,” said Braylon, now 13. “But then later in the year I thought it would probably be better for me if I did.”

The number of students held back for a year of school has surged around the country. Traditionally, experts have said repeating a grade can hurt kids’ social lives and academic futures. But many parents, empowered by new pandemic-era laws, have asked for do-overs to help their children recover from the tumult of remote learning, quarantines and school staff shortages.

Twenty-two of the 26 states that provided data for the recent academic year, as well as Washington, D.C., saw an increase in the number of students who were held back, according to an Associated Press analysis. Three states — South Carolina, West Virginia and Delaware — saw retention more than double.

Pennsylvania, where the Price family lives, passed a pandemic-era law allowing parents to elect to have a redo for their kids. The following year, the number of retained students in the state jumped by about 20,000, to more than 45,000 students.

Braylon’s mother has no regrets about taking advantage of the new law.

“Best decision we could have made for him,” said Kristi Price, who lives in Bellefonte, in central Pennsylvania.

On his repeat of sixth grade, Braylon had an individualized education program that helped him build more focus. Having more one-on-one attention from teachers helped too. Socially, he said the transition was easy, since most of his friends had been in lower grades or attended different schools already.

Research in the education world has been critical of making students repeat grades.

The risk is students who’ve been retained have a twofold increased risk of dropping out, said Arthur Reynolds, a professor at the University of Minnesota’s

Human Capital Research Collaborative, citing studies of students in Chicago and Baltimore.

“Kids see it as punishment,” Reynolds said. “It reduces their academic motivation, and it doesn’t increase their instructional advancement.”

But backers of retention say none of the research was conducted in a pandemic, when many children wrestled with Zoom lessons and some stopped logging in entirely.

“So many children have struggled and have had a lot of problems,” said Florida state Sen. Lori Berman, a Delray Beach Democrat. Berman authored a law aimed at making it easier for parents to ask for kindergarten to fifth graders to repeat a grade in the 2021-22 school year. “I don’t think there is any stigma to holding your child back at this point.”

Generally, parents can ask for children to be held back, but the final decision is up to principals, who make decisions based on factors including academic progress. California and New Jersey also passed laws that made it easier for parents to demand their children repeat a grade, although the option was only available last year.

In suburban Kansas City, Celeste Roberts decided last year for another round of second grade for her son, who she said was struggling even before the pandemic. When virtual learning was a bust, he spent the year learning at a slower pace with his grandmother, a retired teacher who bought goats to keep things fun.

Roberts said repeating the year helped her son academically and his friends hardly noticed.

“Even with peers, some of them were like, ‘Wait, shouldn’t you be in third grade?’ And he’s just like, ‘Well, I didn’t go to school because of COVID,’” she said. “And they’re kind of like, ‘OK, cool.’ You know, they move on. It’s not a thing. So it’s been really great socially. Even with the parent circles. Everybody’s just like, ‘Great. Do what your kid needs to do.’”

Ultimately, there shouldn’t be just two options of repeating a grade or going on to the next, said Alex Lamb, who has been looking at research on grade retention as part of her work with the Center for Education, Policy Analysis, Research and Evaluation at the University of Connecticut to help advise school districts.

“Neither of those options are good,” she said. “A great option is letting students move on, and then introducing some of these supports that are research-backed, that are effective and that allow for academic and social-emotional growth of students and then communities.”

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Dissecting your teen when side-hugs begin

SCENE OPENS: [Mom cheerfully sweeps kitchen floor. Front door opens. Brooding teen enters, shuffles down hall toward bedroom.]

MOM: “Hi honey! How was school today?”

TEEN: [Without looking.] “Nghu.”

MOM: “What was that?”

TEEN: “Nghoo.”

MOM: “I’m sorry, sweetie, but I don’t understand. One more time.”

TEEN: “Ngood.” [Teen slams bedroom door, leaving mom dumbfounded in hall.]

END SCENE.

If this after school vignette sounds familiar to you, then you likely have teenagers. Our own son, Hayden, reenacted this scene day after day, week after week, month after month, for about four years until he left for college.

Hayden’s father and I used to rock his world. He’d burst out of elementary school each day and find me waiting there to walk him home. His eyes would light up, and he’d plow into me with open arms. He’d linger a few seconds so I could run my hand through his hair and kiss him on the head.

But soon, Hayden grew into a teenager, and all affection, conversation and attention became forced. A reluctant side-hug was as good as it was gonna get.

When Hayden first started withdrawing, I panicked and thought, “Why did I let him watch that PG-13 movie when he was 12?! He’s always resented me for those bowl hair cuts I used to give him. I should have never yelled at him when he put that waffle in the VCR! What have I done!?!”

We worried and watched, fearing that Hayden’s withdrawal from us was clear evidence that he was on the brink of a teenage breakdown, all caused by our overbearing demands and inadequate parenting.

Eventually, we did receive reports of Hayden’s behavior, but not from law enforcement or school authorities. Other parents told us what Hayden had done.

“My daughter told us the funniest story about Hayden at supper last night — apparently he had the whole literature class laughing yesterday at school.”

“That skit Hayden did for our Cub Scout den was priceless. We videotaped it!”

“Hayden was so chatty and polite when I gave him a ride after football practice yesterday.”

“You must be so proud that the biology teacher played Hayden’s cell project video to all the classes. It was so well done.”

Initially, we thought, “Are you sure you have the right kid? Hayden is the one that wears a hooded sweatshirt, doesn’t make eye contact and grunts. What skit? What cell project?”

Slowly, we began dissecting this brooding man-child living in our house. When we stopped blaming ourselves and began discretely examining Hayden’s separate parts and distinct personalities, we started to understand the creature our son was becoming.

We discovered that Hayden wasn’t an ax murderer, he was just a teenager.

Outside our home, he was a smart, funny, outgoing football player, scout leader, band geek and math tutor. When he arrived home, Hayden hid his burgeoning identity from us, afraid that we’d interfere or attempt to change him. His “split personality” gave him the freedom to grow and, as much as we hated it, become independent of us.

Eventually, we gave Hayden space to mature without interference. We began interpreting his grunts and grumbles as versions of teenage love, however grudgingly shown.

One thing I learned: Asking one’s teen for a kiss on the cheek definitely requires bribery. Chocolate chip cookies always worked for me.

Read more at themeatandpotatoesoflife.com and in Lisa’s book, “The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com.” Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@gmail.com

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

ANIMAL HYBRIDS

BY ORI BRIAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Ori Brian is a product manager at Amazon, currently in Los Angeles but relocating soon to London. He became interested in crosswords while a student at the University of Chicago, where he solved puzzles in the dining hall with friends. He quickly started constructing. In 2016 The Times published the first crossword he ever made. This is Ori’s ninth puzzle (and first Sunday) for the paper. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 Gaelic garment

7 Creatures described as catarrhine, from the Latin for “downward-nosed”

11 Like Antarctica

15 Spare part?

18 Granada grandpa

19 Cut deeply

20 “Ugh, ____ people!”

21 Go down, in a way

22 Get a party started? [bee, hare, tick]

24 Morning TV host Kotb

25 “Potent Potables for \$1,000, ____” (onetime TV request)

26 Crestfallen

27 Actress Seyfried of “The Dropout”

28 Buzzkill [bat, elk, newt]

30 Bias

31 Subjects of some promotions

33 Natural source of glitter

34 A little of a lot? [carp, pig, snake]

38 TV, newspapers, streaming services, etc.

42 How a video game might be played by beginners

43 Ending with orange

44 Best-selling author Hoag

45 Strong connection

46 Pennsylvania school, for short

47 Locale of many vines [cat, elephant, worm]

51 Opposite of une adversaire

52 Fancy flower holders

53 Life preserver?

54 Al-____, family of Syrian leaders

55 Goes wild

57 Glitzy, informally

59 Prankster’s offerings

61 Nonmedical org. that uses X-rays

62 Something you might step on by the shower [cobra, moth, seal]

65 Inits. in biotech

68 Legal-contract phrase

69 “My bad!”

70 Make dry, as salmon

72 Pain-relief pill

75 Placeholder inits.

76 3 ft. x 5 ft., e.g.

77 “So it goes”

78 Long-running soap opera that debuted in 1963 [ant, gorilla, sheep]

83 One might be accessed by a QR code, nowadays

84 Warrant

85 Guard seen around a castle

86 401(k) alternative, in brief

87 Lean toward

89 Certain sports tiebreaker

91 London landmark [beetle, hog, rat]

94 Place

95 ____ song

97 Overnight perch

98 Bridge that’s painted International Orange [dog, eel, gnat]

101 Devilish look?

103 Boardroom V.I.P.

106 Drink with a spoon-straw

107 Floor square

108 Mixes animal species ... as eight answers in this puzzle do?

110 Actress Perlman

111 In good condition

112 Wave to one’s math professor?

113 Gets around

114 Part of U.C.L.A.

115 Poetic tributes

116 Fire-tablet competitor

117 One of the Williamses

9 Bit of tomfoolery

10 With 47-Down, “That’s all” follower

11 Like a vampire’s face, stereotypically

12 Rhizome, to a botanist

13 Site to flick through flicks

14 Request for a hand

15 Fashionable spots

16 “Oh, gotcha”

17 Immediately following

21 ‘N Sync member who later became a gay rights activist

23 Spend time together, in slang

28 “SmackDown” org.

29 Goal

30 Pair in the Winter Olympics

32 Maker of Chromebooks

34 Warhol’s “Marilyn Diptych,” e.g.

35 Antagonism

36 Target of a modern scan

37 Light touches

39 Medical-plan inits.

40 Sapa ____ (ancient emperor’s title)

41 Common cause of some impulsive behavior, in brief

44 Details to be negotiated

47 See 10-Down

48 Sacred hieroglyph

49 Sirs’ counterparts

50 “Beep!” source

52 Second caliph of Sunni Islam

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- 56 Doubleday who is miscredited with inventing baseball
57 Merchant’s stock
58 Cut (off)
59 Auctioneer’s aid
60 Name that’s a letter off from 25-Across
63 One might develop consciousness in a sci-fi story
64 Nightspot in a Manilow hit, in brief
65 What you can rarely do at a red light

66 Kvetch
67 “Yeah, whatever you say”
68 “Beats me”
71 Tried to fight
72 A long, long time
73 Genesis matriarch
74 Matriculation group
75 “No! Not true!”
76 Wild guess
79 End up being
80 ____ Malnati’s, Chicago-style pizza chain

81 Rug thickness
82 Strong hold
87 Gray-brown flycatchers
88 Book
90 Summer top
91 Test for future Ph.D.s
92 Wiped out
93 Sippy-cup users
96 Agenda topics
98 Word with power, talk or band

99 Number of planetas en el sistema solar
100 Fasten with a belt
102 Chaplin of “Game of Thrones”
103 Surrender
104 Summit of Mount Purgatory, in Dante’s “Divine Comedy”
105 Mount in Greek myth
108 Show with a Miami spinoff
109 Symbol for an audio device

GUNSTON STREET



“Gunston Street” is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and online at gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE

LOS	LOS	ODES	IPAD	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
RHEA	RHEA	TRIM	SIN	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
ICEE	ICEE	TILE	CROSS	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
GOLDEN	GOLDEN	GATE	GATE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
SHOOT	SHOOT	OUT	GLOBE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
EARN	EARN	MOT	IRA	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
GENERAL	GENERAL	HO	PITAL	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
ALIVE	ALIVE	TBD	SP	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
INRE	INRE	OO	OPS	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
TSA	TSA	BATH	ROOMS	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
RUNS	RUNS	AMOK	GLAM	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
AMIE	AMIE	URNS	ARK	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
PIT	PIT	WATER	ERMEL	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
ONEAS	ONEAS	Y	ADE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
PARKING	PARKING	SP	ACE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
SLANT	SLANT	PA	WNS	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
SAD	SAD	AMANDA	WET	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
BREAK	BREAK	THE	ICE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
ABU	ABU	LO	GASH	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
TARTAN	TARTAN	APES	ARID	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE

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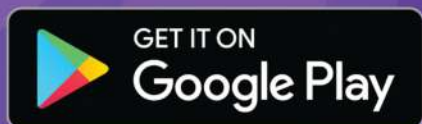
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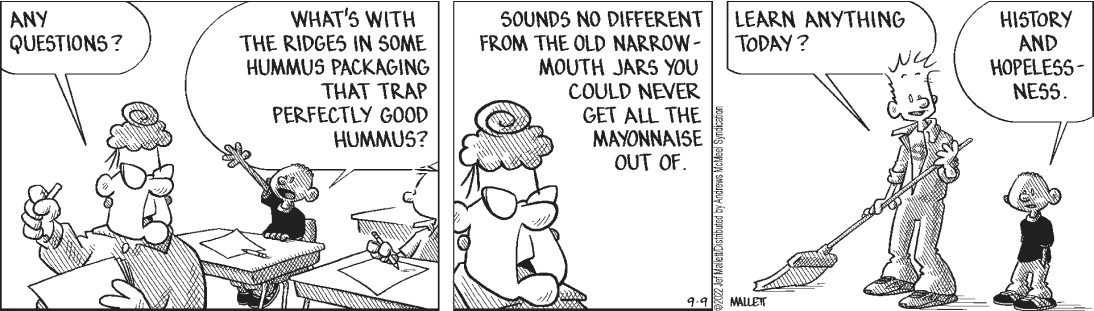
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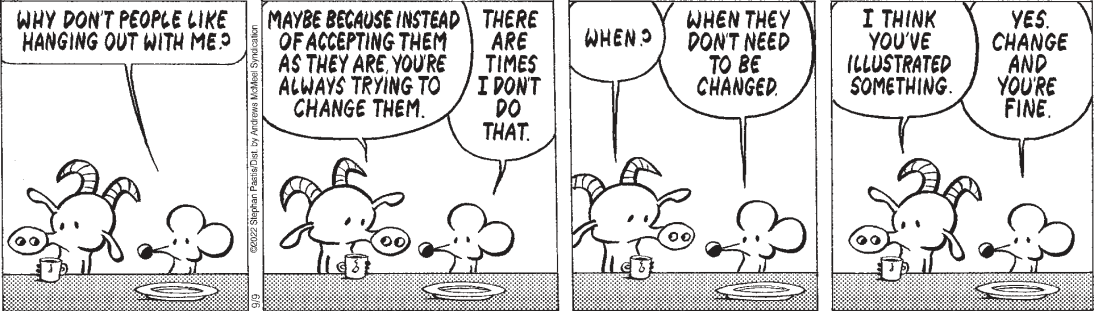
Frazz



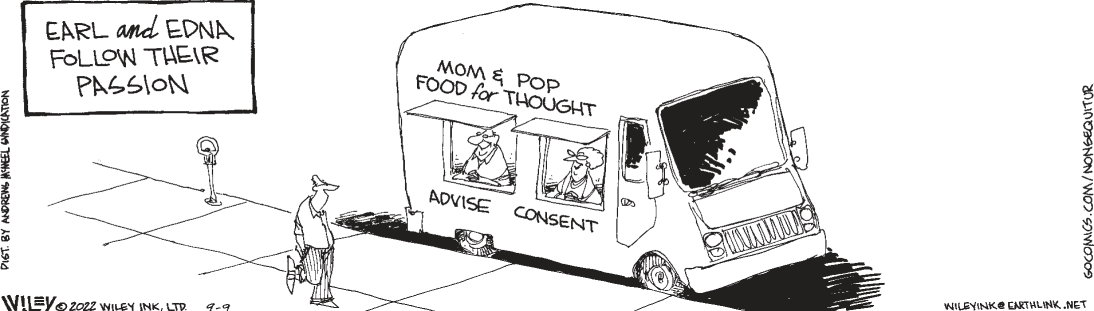
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



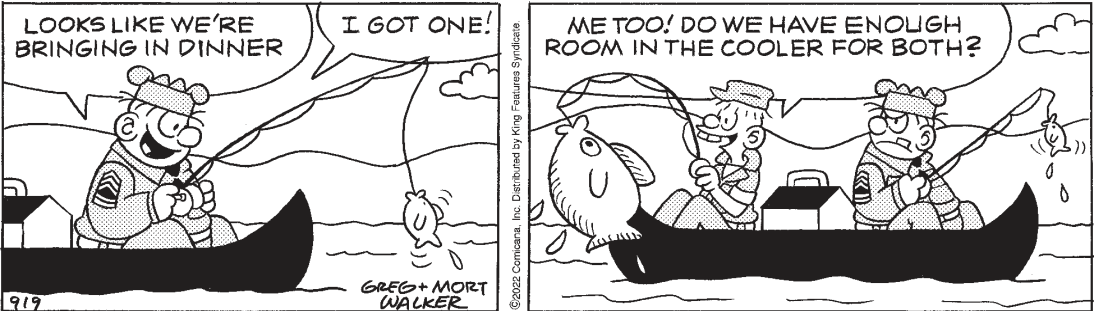
Candorville



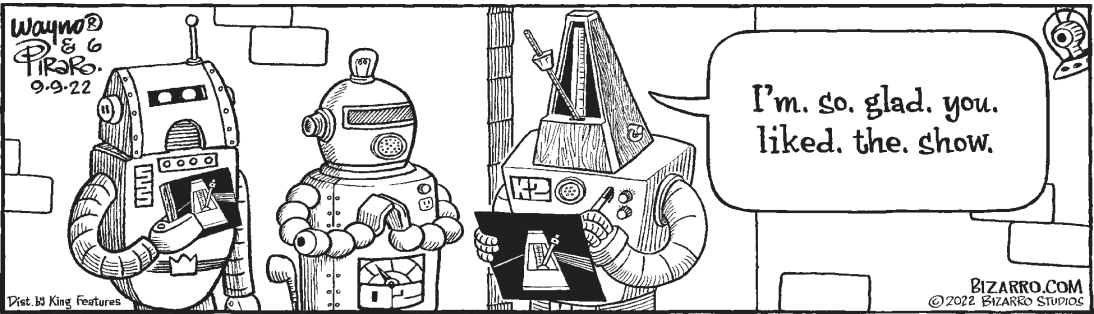
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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46				47					48			
49				50					51			

- ACROSS
- 50 Consider
- 51 Science room
- 22 Fizzy drinks
- 23 Deuce topper
- 25 Fedora fabric
- 26 Extra virgin product
- 27 Make over
- 28 Crucial time
- 30 Bookkeepers (Abbr.)
- 33 Country star West
- 34 From the top
- 36 English racetrack site
- 37 Quick kiss
- 38 Tennis score
- 39 Refer to
- 40 Town near Padua
- 42 Scoundrel
- 43 Work with
- 44 TV pioneer
- 45 Name
- DOWN
- 1 Evergreen tree
- 2 Moody rock genre
- 3 French farewell
- 4 Pottery ovens
- 5 Clark's love
- 6 UFO crew
- 7 Have brunch
- 8 Critic's critique
- 9 "Night" author Wiesel
- 10 Mine, in Marseille
- 11 Casual shirt
- 16 Accomplishes
- 19 Peepers
- 20 "Candida" playwright
- 21 Bullets

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	E	E	T		A	A	S		S	P	E	W
A	L	A	I		L	B	O		H	A	T	E
Y	A	R	N		T	E	N		I	G	E	T
I	M	P	A	L	A		A	A	R	E		
				F	I	R	S	T	G	R	A	D
R	E	B	E	L		T	A	T		N	E	A
O	P	R	Y		M	R	S		S	T	E	T
C	E	O		M	E	A		G	I	S	T	S
S	E	C	O	N	D	W	I	N	D			
			C	H	O	I		O	P	E	R	A
P	L	O	Y		U	R	N		B	A	M	A
R	I	L	E		M	O	I		A	G	E	D
O	B	I	S		S	E	A		R	A	R	E

9-9 CRYPTOQUIP

DINH NUQ WQPWAQ DIP NUQ

ILTQ SQCPHQQR PE RXNAA

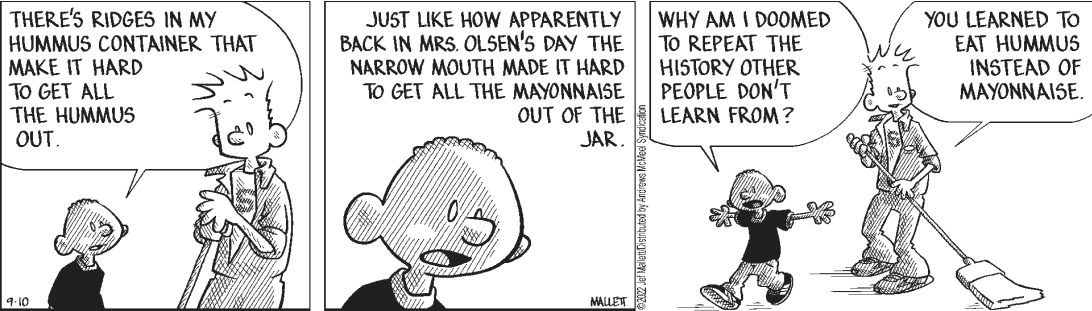
TUQQB PU WLUWAQ EULKHR

EUPX CKBQR? TUNWQ BLHR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SOMEBODY RECENTLY ASKED ME WHETHER I LIKED SWEET YEAST CAKE WITH RAISINS. YES SIRREE, BABKA!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals P

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



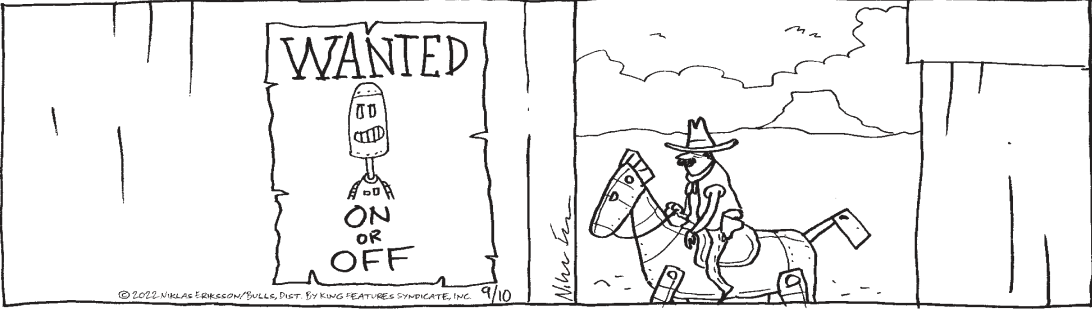
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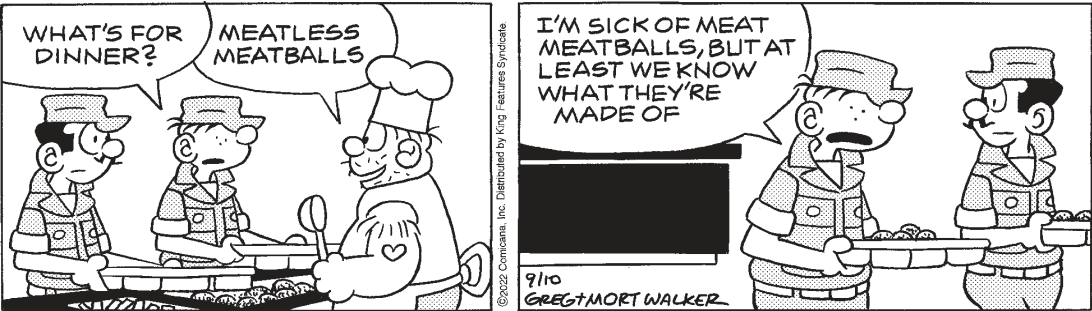
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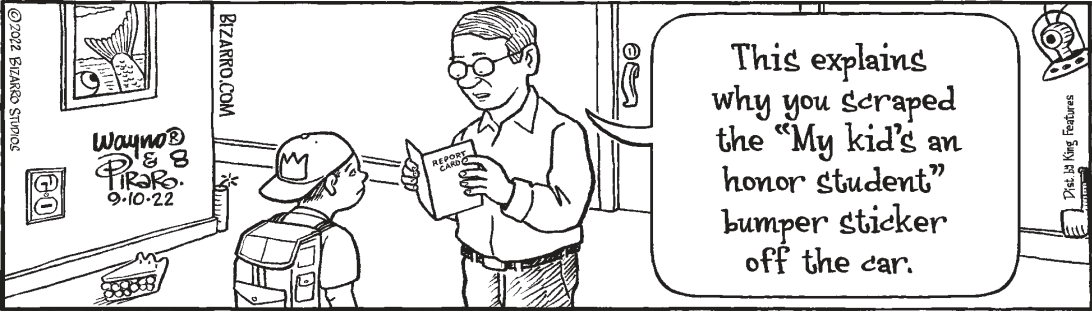
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48					49				50			
51					52				53			
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- ACROSS
- 54 24 hours
- 55 Black birds
- 56 Chest muscles, briefly
- 1 "Hold on ..."
- 5 Low voice
- 9 Pouch
- 12 Dog's bowlful
- 13 Fascinated by
- 14 FDR project
- 15 Leeway
- 16 Toe woe
- 17 Have the flu
- 18 Butte's kin
- 19 Econ. measure
- 20 Baby carriage
- 21 Water-testing digit
- 23 Equal (Pref.)
- 25 Hue and cry
- 28 Obligations
- 32 "Give it —!"
- 33 Report card data
- 34 Overhauls
- 36 Second childhood
- 37 Italian article
- 38 GI-entertaining gp.
- 39 Witticism
- 42 Arced tennis shot
- 44 Lab sci.
- 48 Coffee vessel
- 49 Bullets
- 50 Hawaiian city
- 51 Request
- 52 Gershwin's "The — Love"
- 53 Mid-month date
- DOWN
- 1 Friendly
- 2 Lotion additive
- 3 Wall St. debuts
- 4 Grilled cheese go-with
- 5 More imposing
- 6 Soon, poetically
- 7 Inane
- 8 Drunkard
- 9 Rating unit
- 10 Athletic shoe brand
- 11 Tranquil
- 20 Addictive snack
- 22 Like Cheerios
- 24 Japanese
- 25 Former Mideast org.
- 26 Opposite of "post-"
- 27 Flushed
- 29 Roth svgs. plan (Abbr.)
- 30 Heart chart
- 31 Away from NNW
- 35 Author Rushdie
- 36 NAACP co-founder W.E.B.
- 39 Campus area
- 40 Celestial bear
- 41 Jet-black
- 43 Hotel chain
- 45 Conceal
- 46 Power co. supply
- 47 Spanish —
- 49 Docs' org.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Y	E	A		K	L	E	E		R	E	A	P		
E	M	U			I	O	T	A		E	L	M	O	
W	O	R	D	L	I	S	T			V	I	O	L	
		E	O	N	S				E	I	E	I	O	
S	A	V	E	S			S	T	Y	E				
H	M	O	S			F	O	R	E	W	O	R	D	
A	M	I			C	E	D	E	S			L	E	D
W	O	R	D	P	L	A	Y			A	I	D	A	
			O	A	T	S				E	N	V	O	Y
P	A	C	T	S					E	P	E	E		
E	D	I	T			C	U	S	S	W	O	R	D	
C	I	T	I			A	S	T	O			I	C	U
K	N	E	E			D	E	E	M			L	A	B

9-10 CRYPTOQUIP

GPX ZP WPS YGCKH XCKN OPTH
EKZ XNEKCKF LETNKYI OPSMZ
VN EMCHN? YGNW'TN VPYG
VPYYMN IYPLLNTI.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE HUGE DEVOTEES OF SMALL GREEN OR PURPLE FRUITS FROM VINES? GRAPE NUTS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals G



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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

We’re drowning in a ‘tsunami’ of government secrets

By MATTHEW CONNELLY
Special to the Los Angeles Times

While the eyes of journalists, Congress and the public are on the Department of Justice investigation of the classified documents that former President Donald Trump removed from the White House, a recent report about a different critical issue of government secrecy has gone unnoticed. This report was given to the Biden administration on July 26 and was written by Mark Bradley, director of the National Archives’ Information Security Oversight Office, which is responsible for overseeing the safeguarding of critical classified information. The report warns of a “dire need” to reform the current system of classification and declassification — cautioning that secrecy itself is out of control. Government officials are classifying so much that it is becoming impossible to prioritize and protect truly sensitive information, much less review classified records so they can eventually be released to the public. “We can no longer keep our heads above the tsunami,” wrote Bradley in his letter introducing the ISOO’s annual report. The security classification system is designed to control information according to its level of sensitivity, ranging from confidential to top secret. Anyone seeking a security clearance to handle these materials must undergo rigorous background checks and training. But being approved for a level of clearance does not automatically give one access to classified information. Only those who already have access to a specific program’s information can grant others with clearance permission to see it, and only if the requester has an explicit reason for their “need to know.” The system creates the impression that only a select few are permitted to handle carefully defined categories of truly dangerous information. But these rules do not describe what is ac-

tually happening. In 2017 alone, officials told the ISOO that they had stamped something with “confidential,” “secret” or “top secret” more than 49 million times. At the time, this seemed like an improvement. In 2012, similar self-reported data added up to more than 95 million classifications, or three new state secrets per second. Bradley now says that a lot of the data in these earlier reports “was neither accurate nor reliable,” but cannot offer better estimates. And so many Special Access Programs — which may require additional security measures and bear the designation “Sensitive Compartmented Information” — have proliferated across the government that Bradley could not create a complete list. The ISOO report warns that excessive secrecy and underinvestment in declassification is contributing to a lack of trust in government, which recent polls show is nearing historic lows. The number of people who currently have some level of government security clearance to access classified information totals nearly 3 million. Trump has claimed that he had a standing order to declassify the records that ended up in Mar-a-Lago — but there is no evidence of such an order and numerous officials have called this claim ludicrous. The fact is, the declassification of even one document involves a page-by-page inspection, and often requires sign-off by multiple departments and agencies. Yet the government employs fewer than 2,000 people to review, redact and determine which of these records can eventually be released. Since World War II, in the earliest days of the current security classification system, some information has been kept secret simply to cover up incompetence. For instance, in 1948 the first chair of the Atomic Energy Commission, David Lilienthal, was appalled by the “lack of integrity” in how officials pretended the “meager” intelligence they had on the Soviet nuclear program was too deep and

too delicate to share with Congress. Yet nearly 75 years later, this intelligence is still top secret. Some officials admit overclassification is endemic but insist that what they give presidents is always sensitive. But even former presidents have said this isn’t the case. George W. Bush started receiving briefings from the CIA at his Texas ranch while the outcome of the 2000 election was still in doubt. After almost a month, Bush suspected the CIA was holding out on him. “I’m sure that when I become president, you’ll start giving me the good stuff,” he said. But the briefer knew the president-elect would be disappointed — “We’ve already been giving him the good stuff,” the briefer thought. Harry Truman estimated that 95% of American military secrets were actually revealed in the media. Richard Nixon complained, “The CIA tells me nothing I don’t read three days earlier in The New York Times.” Howard Baker, the long-serving senator and Ronald Reagan’s chief of staff, said that, during his entire career, he only learned one secret that remained so. But many with security clearances tend to only pay attention to classified information related to their specific duties and are unaware of how much of it is already public knowledge. Some classified information is truly sensitive. But if so much is treated as secret, the public cannot know what government officials are doing in our name. When historians look back at this time, they should read the ISOO report to comprehend the scale of classified information that they likely won’t be able to see. Bradley predicts that so much has been hidden “most of it will never be reviewed for declassification.” It is our history that is being shrouded in secrecy.

Matthew Connelly is a professor of history at Columbia University and author of “The Declassification Engine: What History Reveals about America’s Top Secrets.”

Replenishing the all-volunteer force is no longer a given

By BROOKS D. TUCKER
InsideSources.com

British coal miners used to carry small metal cages containing a canary into the tunnels to help detect carbon monoxide and other deadly gases before they incapacitated or killed the miners. The practice fell out of use in the 1980s, but the term “canary in a coal mine” became a euphemism for an early warning of a threat. The concerning shortfalls in military recruitment may be a canary we should watch closely. It may mean replenishing the all-volunteer force is no longer a given. From 2004 to 2006, I was a Marine Corps major assigned to the recruiting station in Baltimore, where we covered Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia and visited high schools in the worst and best quarters of both cities and suburbs. The destruction from 9/11 was not yet assigned to history books, the violence in Iraq was at its apex, and we found many high school administrators — public and private — were significantly limiting our access to speak with students. We also saw many teenagers in elite private schools just as interested in military service as their public school counterparts. But regardless of circumstance, enlisting for all of them was an honorable way to break free from conventional expectations and

prove themselves on rigorous terms. Almost all of the young men and women we recruited deployed at some point in the coming years, with some losing their lives in service. It has been almost 20 years and a generation removed from that challenging recruiting period, but for years to follow the Marine Corps always “made mission” and replenished annual attrition with an equivalent number of new recruits. Today, the challenges seem different. Some of those differences were sown in 2004-06 with a war many questioned in suburban America and in the halls of Congress. In 2008, following a deployment to Iraq, I was a lieutenant colonel assigned as a Congressional Fellow to the Senate. The war in Iraq had changed, and the debates I witnessed were becoming more about taking care of the troops when they returned home. What I heard disturbed me. The rhetoric from many in Congress depicted our troops as either unheralded heroes or broken victims, many purportedly “ticking time bombs” with post-traumatic stress disorder. Employers were reluctant to hire veterans in this environment, and the stigma from the media and politicians remained. After we withdrew from Iraq, Afghanistan became the “good war” for some pundits and armchair generals. But Afghanistan also soured with time, and both major political parties eventually agreed we needed to scale

back. When we finally left Afghanistan, the evacuation was a debacle. In the last two decades, a new American generation has come of age, with the internet and iPhones as their windows to the world. There were other societal changes emerging as they grew up: the lack of routine physical activity for young children, the legalization of recreational marijuana use, along with a focus on gender equity and then transgender equity, viewpoints that are meritorious, but don’t always mesh well with the Spartan intrusiveness of military life on one’s privacy. With wall-to-wall media coverage of the failings of our government institutions and elected leaders, our democratic process has seen an erosion of public trust and confidence, spurring questions about ethics and competence. It should come as no surprise then that impressionable young people often look with skeptical or jaundiced eyes at the noble value of military service or question the rightness of that service. We must examine the root causes of their ambivalence or distrust and discuss how communities can instill a sense of civic and national pride in our youth because this canary in the coal mine could be more fragile than we comprehend.

Brooks D. Tucker served as the chief of staff and assistant secretary of congressional and legislative affairs in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Schedule						
Friday's games						
EAST						
Assumption (0-0) at Merrimack (0-1)						
SOUTH						
Louisville (0-1) at UCF (1-0)						
FAR WEST						
Boise St. (0-1) at New Mexico (1-0)						
Saturday's games						
EAST						
Ohio (1-0) at Penn St. (1-0)						
UTSA (0-1) at Army (0-1)						
Thomas More (0-0) at Duquesne (0-2)						
Fordham (1-0) at Monmouth (NJ) (0-1)						
Villanova (1-0) at LIU Brooklyn (0-1)						
Colgate (0-1) at Maine (0-1)						
Post (0-0) at Stonehill (1-0)						
Lafayette (1-0) at Temple (0-1)						
Memphis (0-1) at Navy (0-1)						
Tennessee (1-0) at Pittsburgh (1-0)						
Wagner (0-1) at Rutgers (1-0)						
Lehigh (0-1) at Georgetown (1-0)						
Holy Cross (1-0) at Buffalo (0-1)						
Rhode Island (1-0) at Bryant (1-0)						
Delaware St. (1-0) at Delaware (1-0)						
Kansas (1-0) at West Virginia (0-1)						
Sacred Heart (0-1) at CCSU (0-1)						
Morgan St. (0-1) at Towson (1-0)						
New Hampshire (1-0) at Albany (NY) (0-1)						
Syracuse (1-0) at Uconn (1-1)						
SOUTH						
Wake Forest (1-0) at Vanderbilt (2-0)						
Southern Miss. (0-1) at Miami (1-0)						
North Carolina (2-0) at Georgia St. (0-1)						
Charleston Southern (0-1) at NC State (1-0)						
Va. Lynchburg (0-0) at Presbyterian (0-1)						
Bucknell (0-1) at VMI (0-1)						
Maryland (1-0) at Charlotte (0-2)						
Furman (1-0) at Clemson (1-0)						
MSU (0-1) at Austin Peay (1-1)						
Norfolk St. (0-1) at James Madison (1-0)						
SC State (0-1) at Bethune-Cookman (0-1)						
Samford (1-0) at Georgia (1-0)						
ETSU (1-0) at The Citadel (0-1)						
St. Francis (Pa.) (0-1) at Richmond (0-1)						
Albany St. (Ga.) (0-0) at Florida A&M (0-2)						
Winston-Salem (0-0) at NC Central (1-0)						
Elon (0-1) at Wofford (0-1)						
SE Louisiana (0-1) at FAU (1-1)						
Gardner-Webb (1-0) at Coastal Carolina (1-0)						
UAB (1-0) at Liberty (1-0)						
Louisiana College (0-0) at Stetson (1-0)						
Old Dominion (1-0) at East Carolina (0-1)						
Tuskegee (0-0) at Hampton (1-0)						
Campbell (1-0) at William & Mary (1-0)						
Cent. Arkansas (0-1) at Mississippi (1-0)						
Tennessee St. (0-1) vs. Jackson St. (1-0) at Memphis, Tenn.						
Jacksonville St. (2-0) at Murray St. (0-1)						
Barton (0-0) at Davidson (0-1)						
W. Carolina (1-0) at Georgia Tech (0-1)						
E. Michigan (1-0) at Louisiana-Lafayette (1-0)						
Grambling St. (0-1) vs. Northwestern St. (0-1) at Shreveport, La.						
Stephen F. Austin (1-1) at Louisiana Tech (0-1)						
Alabama A&M (0-1) at Troy (0-1)						
Kentucky (1-0) at Florida (1-0)						
Alcorn St. (0-1) at Tulane (1-0)						
Howard (0-2) at South Florida (0-1)						
Virginia-Wise (0-0) at North Alabama (0-1)						
Texas A&M Commerce (1-0) at Tennes-						

see Tech (0-1)						
Southern U. (1-0) at LSU (0-1)						
San Jose St. (1-0) at Auburn (1-0)						
Nicholls (0-1) at Louisiana-Monroe (0-1)						
Boston College (0-1) at Virginia Tech (0-1)						
MIDWEST						
Arkansas St. (1-0) at Ohio St. (1-0)						
Duke (1-0) at Northwestern (1-0)						
W. Illinois (0-1) at Minnesota (1-0)						
Missouri (1-0) at Kansas St. (1-0)						
South Alabama (1-0) at Cent. Michigan (0-1)						
Missouri S&T (0-0) at Drake (0-1)						
Dayton (1-0) at Youngstown St. (1-0)						
Michigan Tech (0-0) at St. Thomas (Minn.) (0-1)						
W. Michigan (0-1) at Ball St. (0-1)						
Marshall (1-0) at Notre Dame (0-1)						
NC A&T (0-1) at N. Dakota St. (1-0)						
Kennesaw St. (0-1) at Cincinnati (0-1)						
Washington St. (1-0) at Wisconsin (1-0)						
Akron (1-0) at Michigan St. (1-0)						
E. Kentucky (0-1) at Bowling Green (0-1)						
Iowa St. (1-0) at Iowa (1-0)						
N. Iowa (0-1) at North Dakota (0-1)						
Indiana St. (1-0) at Purdue (0-1)						
Virginia (1-0) at Illinois (1-1)						
Robert Morris (0-1) at Miami (Ohio) (0-1)						
Taylor (0-0) at Butler (1-0)						
UC Davis (0-1) at S. Dakota St. (0-1)						
Chattanooga (1-0) at E. Illinois (0-1)						
SE Missouri (0-1) at S. Illinois (0-1)						
Umass (0-1) at Toledo (1-0)						
Valparaiso (1-0) at Illinois St. (0-1)						
Georgia Southern (1-0) at Nebraska (1-1)						
Idaho (0-1) at Indiana (1-0)						
Hawaii (0-2) at Michigan (1-0)						
SOUTHWEST						
Alabama (1-0) at Texas (1-0)						
South Carolina (1-0) at Arkansas (1-0)						
Appalachian St. (0-1) at Texas A&M (1-0)						
Houston (1-0) at Texas Tech (1-0)						
N. Illinois (1-0) at Tulsa (0-1)						
North American University (0-0) at Ark.-Pine Bluff (1-0)						
Lindenwood (Mo.) (0-0) at Houston Bap-tist (1-0)						
N. Arizona (0-1) at Sam Houston St. (0-1)						
Kent St. (0-1) at Oklahoma (1-0)						
Lamar (0-1) at SMU (1-0)						
FIU (1-0) at Texas State (0-1)						
Texas Southern (0-1) at North Texas (1-1)						
Arizona St. (1-0) at Oklahoma St. (1-0)						
McNeese St. (0-1) at Rice (0-1)						
Tarleton St. (1-0) at TCU (1-0)						
Prairie View (1-0) at Abilene Christian (1-0)						
New Mexico St. (0-2) at UTEP (0-2)						
FAR WEST						
S. Utah (1-0) at Utah (0-1)						
Morehead St. (0-1) at Montana St. (1-0)						
Colorado (0-1) at Air Force (1-0)						
South Dakota (0-1) at Montana (1-0)						
Portland St. (0-1) at Washington (1-0)						
UNLV (1-0) at California (1-0)						
Middle Tennessee (0-1) at Colorado St. (0-1)						
N. Colorado (0-1) at Wyoming (1-1)						
San Diego (1-0) at Cal Poly (0-1)						
Alabama St. (2-0) at UCLA (1-0)						
Incarnate Word (1-0) at Nevada (2-0)						
Weber St. (1-0) at Utah St. (1-1)						
Southern Cal (1-0) at Stanford (1-0)						
Idaho St. (0-1) at San Diego St. (0-1)						
E. Washington (1-0) at Oregon (0-1)						
Chadron St. (0-0) at Utah Tech (0-1)						
Baylor (1-0) at BYU (1-0)						
Oregon St. (1-0) at Fresno St. (1-0)						
Mississippi St. (1-0) at Arizona (1-0)						

PRO SOCCER

MLS						
EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	17	4	9	60	63	21
CF Montréal	16	9	4	52	53	45
New York	13	9	8	47	45	36
NYCFC	13	10	7	46	51	38
Orlando City	12	10	6	42	35	40
Columbus	9	6	13	40	37	31
Cincinnati	9	8	12	39	48	49
New England	9	9	11	38	42	42
Inter Miami CF	10	12	6	36	35	46
Toronto FC	9	14	7	34	47	53
Atlanta	8	12	9	33	41	48
Charlotte FC	10	17	2	32	34	46
Chicago	8	13	8	32	28	38
D.C. United	7	17	5	26	32	59
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LAFC	19	7	3	60	59	32
Austin FC	15	8	6	51	60	42
FC Dallas	12	8	10	46	43	33
Nashville	12	9	9	45	48	37
Minnesota	13	11	5	44	44	43
Real Salt Lake	11	9	9	42	38	38
Portland	10	8	12	42	49	47
LA Galaxy	11	11	6	39	46	42
Seattle	11	15	3	36	40	40
Vancouver	9	13	7	34	32	51
Colorado	8	12	9	33	38	50
Sporting KC	8	15	6	30	33	51
San Jose	7	12	9	30	44	55
Houston	8	16	5	29	36	48
Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.						
Wednesday's game						
Cincinnati 1, New York City FC 1, tie						
Friday's game						

MLB/NFL

Phillies on wild ride to end drought

BY NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

Nothing has come easy this year for the Philadelphia Phillies, who are trying to reach the postseason for the first time in more than a decade.

They started poorly, going 22-29 before manager Joe Girardi was fired. New skipper Rob Thompson won his first eight games, but not long after that, Bryce Harper went down with a broken thumb. While he was out, the Phillies played well enough that they were in the National League's second wild-card spot when he returned late last month, but then they dropped six of seven.

Philadelphia hasn't made the playoffs since 2011, the second-longest drought in the majors. The Phillies are overshadowed somewhat by Seattle, which is in good shape to make the postseason for the first time since 2001, but a playoff appearance would also be a key step for Philadelphia, now in its fourth season since signing Harper.

After losing 5-3 to San Francisco on Sunday on a ninth-inning homer by Wilmer Flores, the Phillies were 2½ games ahead of Milwaukee for the final NL wild card. They lost three straight to the Giants after dropping two of three at Arizona.

The schedule got easier since. Philadelphia earned one-run victories in the first two games against Miami, before hosting Washington. Both teams are well below .500.

Edmundo Sosa homered in both wins over Miami. Jean Segura also homered on Wednesday for the Phillies (75-61), who are in a virtual tie with San Diego (76-62) in the race for the second and third NL wild-card spots. Milwaukee, meanwhile, has lost twice this week to fall four games back. The Phillies hold a tiebreaker over the Brewers based on a 4-3 season series record, a factor in this first year without a regular-season tiebreaker game to determine playoff spots.

Another team going through a roller coaster of a season is the Chicago White Sox, who despite being just one game above .500 are just two games out of first place in the AL Central.

In the past month, the White Sox have had a five-game winning streak, lost 10 of 12, then won four in a row. It's been a disappointing season for Chicago, but the rest of the division has let the White Sox hang around, and there's enough talent there — both on the mound and at the plate — to be a threat if the team makes the playoffs.

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	83	54	.606	—
Tampa Bay	77	58	.570	5
Toronto	76	60	.559	6½
Baltimore	72	65	.526	11
Boston	67	71	.486	16½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	70	65	.519	—
Chicago	69	68	.504	2
Minnesota	68	67	.504	2
Kansas City	56	82	.406	15½
Detroit	52	85	.380	19
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	88	49	.642	—
Seattle	77	60	.562	11
Los Angeles	60	77	.438	28
Texas	59	77	.434	28½
Oakland	50	87	.365	38
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	87	51	.630	—
Atlanta	86	51	.628	½
Philadelphia	75	61	.551	11
Miami	55	80	.407	30½
Washington	48	89	.350	38½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	81	56	.591	—
Milwaukee	71	65	.522	9½
Chicago	57	79	.419	23½
Cincinnati	54	80	.403	25½
Pittsburgh	50	86	.368	30½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	94	42	.691	—
San Diego	76	62	.551	19
San Francisco	65	70	.481	28½
Arizona	65	71	.478	29
Colorado	59	79	.428	36
Wednesday's games				
Atlanta 7, Oakland 3				
N.Y. Yankees 5-7, Minnesota 4-1, 1st game 12 innings				
Chicago White Sox 9, Seattle 6				
Detroit 5, L.A. Angels 4				
Tampa Bay 1, Boston 0				
Toronto 4, Baltimore 1				
Kansas City 2, Cleveland 1				
Houston 4, Texas 3, 10 innings				
N.Y. Mets 5-10, Pittsburgh 1-0				
Colorado 8, Milwaukee 4				
L.A. Dodgers 7, San Francisco 3				
Philadelphia 4, Miami 3				
Cincinnati 7, Chicago Cubs 1				
St. Louis 6, Washington 5				
San Diego 6, Arizona 3				
Thursday's games				
Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees				
Chicago White Sox at Oakland				
Washington at St. Louis				
Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs				
San Francisco at Milwaukee (2)				
Miami at Philadelphia				
Friday's games				
Boston (Bello 1-4) at Baltimore (Voth 4-2)				
Tampa Bay (Kluber 10-7) at N.Y. Yankees (Montas 5-11)				
Toronto (Stripling 7-4) at Texas (Dunning 3-8)				
Cleveland (Quantrill 11-5) at Minnesota (Bundy 8-6)				
Detroit (Wentz 0-1) at Kansas City (Heasley 3-7)				
L.A. Angels (Lorenzen 6-6) at Houston (McCullers Jr. 2-1)				
Atlanta (Morton 7-5) at Seattle (Ray 12-8)				
Chicago White Sox (Giolito 10-9) at Oakland (Kapelrian 3-9)				
San Francisco (Rodón 12-7) at Chicago Cubs (Smyly 5-8)				
St. Louis (Mikolas 11-10) at Pittsburgh (Contreras 4-4)				
N.Y. Mets (Peterson 7-3) at Miami (Cabrera 4-2)				
Washington (Corbin 6-17) at Philadelphia (Syndergaard 8-9)				
Cincinnati (Lodolo 3-5) at Milwaukee (Alexander 2-2)				
Arizona (Davies 2-4) at Colorado (Márquez 8-10)				
L.A. Dodgers (May 1-2) at San Diego (Mánaa 7-8)				
Saturday's games				
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees				
Chicago White Sox at Oakland				
Boston at Baltimore				
Toronto at Texas				
Detroit at Kansas City				
Cleveland at Minnesota				
L.A. Angels at Houston				
Atlanta at Seattle				
San Francisco at Chicago Cubs				
Washington at Philadelphia				
N.Y. Mets at Miami				
Cincinnati at Milwaukee				
St. Louis at Pittsburgh				
Arizona at Colorado				
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego				



DAVID SANTIAGO/AP

Quarterbacks Tua Tagovailoa, above, and Mac Jones will be forever linked by their time as Alabama teammates. Now, for the second consecutive year, they'll meet in Week 1 of the NFL season.

Tua, Jones together again as Patriots visit Dolphins

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Tua Tagovailoa didn't seem to celebrate this stat. Bill Belichick certainly isn't, either.

Tagovailoa hears all the time about the things he supposedly can't do — can't throw the deep ball, can't stay healthy, can't get to the playoffs, things of that nature.

So far, when playing the New England Patriots, he also can't lose.

Tagovailoa is 3-0 in his first three starts against the Patriots, and he and the Miami Dolphins will look to make that 4-0 when they play host to Mac Jones — Tagovailoa's former Alabama teammate — and New England in Week 1 of the NFL regular season on Sunday.

"I wouldn't attest that I'm 3-0," Tagovailoa said. "I would attest that we're 3-0 as a team. It takes all of us. I'm just the distributor. I've just got to get it to our playmakers. They make the plays. Our defense gets us the ball back and the defense makes stops. Special teams, they do their part. And that's how you win games."

According to SportRadar, the only other quarterbacks to win their first three starts against the Patriots in the Belichick coaching era there, which goes back to 2000, were Jake Plummer, Vinny Testaverde, Jay Fiedler and Drew Brees.

Nobody has won his first four starts against New England since Belichick took over there; Testaverde, Fiedler and Brees all lost in No. 4, and Plummer made just the three starts.

Tagovailoa has that 4-0 opportunity, though insists his lone priority is getting the Dolphins to 1-0.

"Productive player, knows how to use his weapons, receivers, backs," Belichick said Wednesday before the Patriots started their game-week practices in West Palm Beach, Fla., trying to acclimate to the heat and humidity that awaits them on Sunday. "Makes a lot of good critical plays, goal line, third-and-1, fourth-and-1. Couple plays that formatted against us last year. Smart football player."

The Dolphins were the only AFC East team that Jones didn't lead New England to victory against last season, his rookie campaign.

Tagovailoa and Jones are going to be linked forever, for a lot of reasons. Both were Alabama quarterbacks. Both won national championships there. Jones was the player who came into the game when Tagovailoa hurt his hip at Mississippi State in 2019, on what became his final collegiate play.

And for the second straight year, in Week 1, it's Tua vs. Mac. Last year's opener was at New England; this year, it's at Miami.

"I think sometimes, Game 1, there's a lot of emotional stuff," Jones said. "You want to focus more on the details of the plays and everything like that and let the emotions come and go. That's how emotions are, they come and go. Energy and all that will be there. At the end of the day, it's just the start of something. You have to learn from it and grow regardless of the results. So, we're going to go out there and compete and see how it goes."

Dolphins coach Mike McDaniell, who'll be making his debut as a head coach Sunday, got to know Jones during the draft process when he was with the San Francisco 49ers and evaluating quarter-

backs such as Jones. He raved about him then, and still does.

"I really like his play and I think the best is right in front of him for his career," McDaniel said. "And I look forward to watching it 15 out of the 17 games of the NFL season."

NFL on AFN

Cleveland Browns
 at Carolina Panthers

7 p.m. Sunday CET
 2 a.m. Monday JKT
 AFN Sports2

New Orleans Saints
 at Atlanta Falcons

7 p.m. Sunday CET
 2 a.m. Monday JKT
 AFN Atlantic

Pittsburgh Steelers
 at Cincinnati Bengals

7 p.m. Sunday CET
 2 a.m. Monday JKT
 AFN Sports

Las Vegas Raiders
 at Los Angeles Chargers

10 p.m. Sunday CET
 5 a.m. Monday JKT
 AFN Sports

Kansas City Chiefs
 at Arizona Cardinals

10 p.m. Sunday CET
 5 a.m. Monday JKT
 AFN Sports2

Green Bay Packers
 at Minnesota Vikings

10:25 p.m. Sunday CET
 5:25 a.m. Monday JKT
 AFN Atlantic

NFL

Reunion: Adams ready to see hard work pay off

FROM PAGE 48

Adams, who led the NFL with 432 catches, 5,310 yards and 47 TDs the past four seasons, is the No. 1 wideout Carr has been missing.

“We’ve been working for a while, we’ve been working longer than anybody at this point, started almost the beginning of April, so it’s definitely going to be fun to see all the work we put in kind of get put together as a masterpiece,” Adams said. “Obviously we’ve got a lot of great personnel but nothing’s promised. We haven’t been together, all the ones out there together yet, so it’ll be fun. We’ve been doing a lot of good in practice now so it’s just time to put it all together.”

Adams has impressed his new teammates.

“Tae definitely sets the standard as far as playmaking,” Waller said. “I’ve never seen anything like him. He raises our level of play. And if they want to do absurd things to take him out of the game, then a lot of us are gonna do our job as we always do.”

For Adams, nothing has changed about his college quarterback, who finished fifth in the NFL last season with 4,804 yards passing and a 64.8% completion rate.

“Derek is one of the most consistent, disciplined people that I’ve been around,” Adams said. “A lot of what I see now, or basically all of what I see now, is what I saw just at a lower level at Fresno, obviously. He’s been the same way with the same things — if we don’t hit on a route in practice, as soon as we have a down period or during special teams, he wants to try to re-hit the same thing.”

Adams added that transitioning from Aaron Rodgers in Green Bay to Carr in Las Vegas has been smooth because they both have the same ability to make him play to their standards.

“I’ve obviously had some opportunities to show the coaches and the rest of my teammates what I can do. I’m just a piece of this offense. I’m definitely excited to see the way I’ll be used,” Adams said.

Carr stressed the importance of his role in bringing the offensive scheme together and giving ample targets to his talented pass-catchers.

“I’m just excited to start the season,” Carr said. “Whatever we do in the first game, we’re gonna go watch film, make corrections, and try and get better as the year goes. There’s no certain expectation. We just expect to play good football, sound football.”

“Derek is one of the most consistent, disciplined people that I’ve been around.”

Davante Adams
Raiders WR, on quarterback Derek Carr



GARY KAZANJIAN/AP

Fresno State’s Davante Adams kisses the Mountain West trophy beside Derek Carr on Dec. 7, 2013. Now the former college teammates are on the same NFL team.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Trey Lance rolls out of the pocket during a preseason game against the Texans on Aug. 25 in Houston. Going into his second season, Lance has been named the starter.

Shanahan expects 49ers to have QB Lance’s back

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Kyle Shanahan knows what the talk will be around the San Francisco 49ers if quarterback Trey Lance struggles in his first season as the starter with Jimmy Garoppolo waiting on the bench.

There will be calls from some fans for a change back to the QB who helped the Niners reach the NFC title game and Super Bowl in his two healthy seasons as a starter, and questions from the media about whether Lance is ready for the job.

“We all know how it’ll go,” Shanahan said Wednesday. “I also know if Jimmy wasn’t here and Trey did bad, how it would go. So we understand that. The fact that he has this successful quarterback behind him, that’s obvious how that narrative will be and understandably so.”

That outside pressure had no impact on the Niners’ decision last week to bring Garoppolo back on a reduced contract as the backup.

But the coach still felt it was important enough before the news became public to gather a group of about 15 team leaders to explain the club’s thinking in making the move. His message to the players was to make sure they support Lance through any rough patches.

“I think our players also know



Shanahan

DID YOU KNOW?

This is the first time since 2019 that quarterback Trey Lance will begin a season as a starter; his 2020 season at North Dakota State was wiped out by the pandemic and then his rookie year in the NFL was spent backing up Jimmy Garoppolo.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Jimmy went through some tough times, too, and they had his back,” Shanahan said. “Regardless of if they thought there was a better option, they had his back and people have to realize that. Players, I think, need to realize that just like their position, it happens at the quarterback position, too. You’re not going to be perfect. ... You have to realize when you do struggle, those guys know it’s a lot harder to play well when no one has your back. You have to help guys through that. I think we got the guys who can do that.”

The Niners are going full speed ahead with Lance as the starter beginning with Sunday’s opener at Chicago. This is the first time since 2019 that Lance will begin a season as a starter; his 2020 season at North Dakota State was wiped out by the pandemic and then his rookie year in the NFL was spent backing up Garoppolo.

Lance started two games last season when Garoppolo was hurt but has spent the entire lead-up to this season as the starter and is looking forward to a real game instead of practices and exhibitions.

“Kind of a breath of fresh air, for sure,” he said. “I’m excited to

game plan for somebody, not just kind of running our training camp scripts and going against our defense. Get to kind of put plays in for certain situations and different things like that. So, it’s been an awesome experience.”

Lance was not picked as one of the 49ers’ six captains for the season, with the players voting for Trent Williams, George Kittle, Nick Bosa, Arik Armstead, Fred Warner and Jimmie Ward.

Shanahan said Lance was seventh and Deebo Samuel was eighth in the voting but he wanted to limit the number of captains to six and said it wasn’t unusual for a first-year starter not to get the honor.

Lance hopes to get to that point soon in his career but said it won’t change how he approaches his job as a leader.

“That’s a goal of mine but I don’t think you can look at any six of those guys and be like, ‘That guy is a bozo,’” Lance said. “Those guys have all played football at a very, very high level. ... I voted for every single one of those guys, so I think each and every one of them deserves it. It’s definitely a goal of mine moving forward, but those guys have all proved it and that’s what this league is all about.”

Notes: Kittle missed practice after injuring his groin in practice Monday and his status for this week is uncertain. ... OL Daniel Brunskill (hamstring) also sat out. ... LB Dre Greenlaw (elbow) was limited.

NFL

Rams, 49ers lead the way in NFC West

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The margin between the Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Rams and rival San Francisco 49ers couldn't have been much smaller last season.

A dropped interception, a failed short-yardage attempt and a well-executed game-winning drive was the difference in sending the Rams to the title game and the Niners home to wallow all offseason at their missed opportunity.

The 49ers are seeking to reverse that result this season, starting with beating the Rams out in the NFC West.

The division that has provided the NFC champion in three of the past four seasons figures to have a couple more contenders in 2022 with the Rams hungry for a repeat and the Niners hoping the switch at quarterback from Jimmy Garoppolo to Trey Lance can get one of the league's strongest rosters over the top.

"When you come that close to actually being in the big dance, it's hard to taper down your expectations for the next year, especially when you think the team is just as good, if not better," All-Pro left tackle Trent Williams said.

The Rams feel as if they are in good shape as well, even if they have stressed that last year's success will have no bearing on this year's results.

But with coach Sean McVay back with an extension and a roster with stars such as Matthew Stafford and Cooper Kupp on offense, and Aaron Donald and Jalen Ramsey on defense, Los Angeles figures to have as good a chance as anyone in the NFC.

"Just because we did something last year doesn't mean anything's going to happen this year," Stafford said.

The prospects for the other two teams in the division aren't as bright. Arizona spent much of last season in the NFC West lead before a late-season collapse followed by a playoff meltdown against the Rams.

Seattle appears to be in rebuild mode after a decade run with the top record in the conference, having traded away star quarterback Russell Wilson.

Replacement Rams

While the biggest stars returned to the Rams, the roster did take a few key hits this offseason with star pass rusher Von Miller leaving for Buffalo in free agency, receiver Odell Beckham Jr. remaining unsigned as he rehabilitates a knee injury and the retirement of left tackle Andrew Whitworth.

The Rams did make a couple of key additions with the signing of linebacker Bobby Wagner and receiver Allen Robinson.

They also realize they have to deal with the burden of being defending champions as they seek to become the first team since New England in 2004 to repeat. The 17 consecutive seasons without a repeat champion are more than double the second-longest stretch without a back-to-back Super Bowl winner.

QB change

The Niners have almost all the pieces in place with Williams, Deebo Samuel and George Kittle leading the offense and Nick Bosa and Fred Warner anchoring one of the



JEFF CHIU/AP

The 49ers hope they can open up more of the offense this season with Trey Lance as the starting quarterback.

league's top defenses.

That should make life easier on Lance, who has started only three games in college and the pros the past two seasons.

The Niners are counting on Lance's running ability and big arm to open up aspects of the offense that were missing the past few seasons under Garoppolo, but the main thing is he doesn't try to do too much.

"I think he's in the best position he could be in as a first-year quarterback with a defense like us, a good O-line and a bunch of weapons," Bosa said.

Avoid the collapse

Kyler Murray got his big contract extension in Arizona, but now it's up to him and the Cardinals to avoid a pattern of second-half of season collapses.

The Cardinals started the season 7-0 in 2021, but wilted down the stretch and lost a chance to win the division with a home defeat to Seattle in the finale. That was followed by a lopsided loss in the wild-card round to the Rams.

That comes a year after Arizona started 6-3 only to finish 8-8 and miss the playoffs.

QB quandary

Ever since Wilson won the starting QB job as a rookie in Seattle in 2012, the Seahawks have been the division's most stable franchise led by Wilson and coach Pete Carroll. That started to change this offseason when Seattle sent Wilson to Denver and began a rebuild process that also included the release of six-time All-Pro linebacker Wagner.

Geno Smith won a camp competition with Drew Lock to begin the season as starter. He has a talented receiving duo of DK Metcalf and Tyler Lockett and will try at least to make Seattle competitive.

"Geno, he knows our stuff and he does really well and he understands it and he commands everything that we're doing," Carroll said. "He'll give us the best chance to play great football right off the bat."



ZACH BOLINGER/AP

In two seasons with the Bucs, quarterback Tom Brady, center, has won a Super Bowl and a division title. The rest of the NFC South is searching for stability at the position.

NFC South foes add QBs as Brady keeps rolling

By CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

ATLANTA — In only two seasons in the NFC South, Tom Brady has cast a shadow that stretches from Charlotte to Atlanta to New Orleans.

In those two years, Brady's dramatic impact with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers has forced other teams in the division to scramble. It's no easy task trying to keep up with the quarterback regarded by many as the best in NFL history.

Brady won his record seventh Super Bowl in his 2020 debut season with the Buccaneers. He added a division title — Tampa Bay's first since 2007 — last season.

Brady is 45, but teammates expect another big year from the future Hall of Famer. "He hasn't lost a step," running back Leonard Fournette said. "He is who he is."

Make no mistake, Brady was the difference-maker last season. He led the NFL in completions, attempts, passing yards and touchdowns. The Bucs set a franchise record with 13 regular-season wins.

The NFC South once was the place to find stability at quarterback with Drew Brees in New Orleans, Matt Ryan in Atlanta and Cam Newton in Carolina.

Now, the division's quarterback depth charts are packed with castoffs looking for fresh starts. It is no coincidence the NFC South had two teams — Atlanta and Carolina — risk negative publicity by demonstrating interest in trades for Deshaun Watson before Watson finally landed in Cleveland.

Instead, the Falcons signed veteran Marcus Mariota, who last started a regular-season game in 2019, to a two-year deal after trading Ryan to Indianapolis. Atlanta also drafted Desmond Ridder from Cincinnati in the third round.

Meanwhile, Carolina acquired Baker Mayfield from Cleveland, and Mayfield beat out incumbent Sam Darnold to be the starter.

The Saints are hoping for good health from Jameis Winston, who is returning from a knee injury for his second season as the starter.

Reason for concern

The Bucs likely will open the season with at least two inexperienced starters on the

offensive line. There is reason to worry about how well the revamped unit will be able to protect Brady, who threw the ball more than any other quarterback in the league last season.

Veteran right guard Shaq Mason was acquired from New England to fill an opening created by losing Alex Cappa in free agency. Young players must step in at center and left guard, where Ryan Jensen and Aaron Stinnie were lost to knee injuries.

Avoiding turnovers

Winston showed an improved ability to protect the ball in 2021.

In Winston's seven starts before a season-ending left knee injury against Tampa Bay, the Saints went 5-2. Winston passed for 14 touchdowns with just three interceptions. In his final season as a starter in Tampa Bay in 2019, he passed for 33 TDs with a league-high 30 interceptions.

"I want my touchdown-to-interception ratio where it needs to be, but I want my winning ratio to be where it needs to be," Winston said. "I'm just grateful to have that chance to go out there, throw some touchdowns, win some football games and keep y'all smiling."

Forced to use four quarterbacks, the Saints finished 9-8 and missed the playoffs.

Ridder to the rescue

Mariota is expected to open the season as the starter, but don't be surprised if Ridder is given an opportunity to play off the bench and eventually start. The rookie impressed early with his poise and maturity. He also has demonstrated good arm strength and has been pushed hard by second-year coach Arthur Smith — a sure sign of high expectations.

The Falcons need to find out if Ridder can be their future starter or if they must consider investing a first-round pick on a new leader next year.

New year, new starting QB

Mayfield is Carolina's fourth different opening-day starter in as many years. His challenge is to give the Panthers their first playoff season since 2017. The Panthers are coming off back-to-back five-win seasons, including a last-place finish in 2021.

NFL

Packers' defense relies on, well, defense

NFC North champs focus more on stopping teams

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

The transition for the Green Bay Packers has been ongoing for a few years, starting with their first-round draft picks in the spring and extending to the field in the fall.

Despite the transcendent presence of four-time NFL MVP Aaron Rodgers at quarterback, the Packers have quietly evolved into a defense-driven team.

"You've got to do the work and see it," outside linebacker Rashan Gary said, "but you see the type of guys we've got and the type of ball we're playing, and you also see the standard we're holding each other to."

The Packers defense has not finished in the top quarter of the league in either fewest points or yards allowed since the 2010 championship season, when they ranked second and fifth in those categories during Rodgers' third year as the starter.

They were close in each of the past three seasons, landing ninth in yards in both 2021 and 2020 and ninth in points in 2019, and they've frankly amassed enough talent now that failing to do so this year would be an underachievement.

The requested offseason departure of wide receiver Davante Adams, via trade to Las Vegas, could well serve as the seminal moment in the shift. Not only did the deal remove a five-time Pro Bowl pick and elite pass-catcher from the offense, it netted the Packers the 22nd overall pick in the draft that became Georgia linebacker Quay Walker.

The Packers, who went 39-10 over the past three years but stretched their absence from the Super Bowl to 11 straight seasons, have

found themselves in a transitional phase on offense.

The strength of the line will hinge largely on the health of David Bakhtiari and Elgton Jenkins in their recovery from torn ACLs. A.J. Dillon has been taking some of the workload from Aaron Jones at running back. Rookies Christian Watson and Romeo Doubs offer plenty of promise as pass-catchers, though the amount of time they'll overlap with Rodgers is not guaranteed.

New direction, same cast

The Vikings started over off the field with a new general manager (Kwesi Adofo-Mensah) and a new head coach (Kevin O'Connell) after going 15-18 over the past two seasons and missing the playoffs both times. They did no such thing with their offense, though, with almost their entire starting lineup staying intact on that side of the ball.

For all the problems the Packers could pose for Kirk Cousins in the opener, the 11th-year veteran will again have a tantalizing core of wide receivers to throw to with Justin Jefferson, Adam Thielen and K.J. Osborn. Running back Dalvin Cook has returned to lead a deep backfield, and tight end Irv Smith Jr. has recovered from the knee injury that kept him out in 2021.

Not Lion down

The Detroit Lions have been emitting better vibes than most three-win teams, feeding off the energy from second-year head coach Dan Campbell. With a healthy offensive line, the addition of wide receiver D.J. Chark, the emergence of wide receiver Amon Ra St.



MATT LUDTKE/AP

Green Bay Packers linebacker Quay Walker (7) tackles New Orleans Saints running back Tony Jones Jr. The Packers were ninth in the league in fewest yards allowed.

Brown and the ascendance of running back D'Andre Swift and tight end T.J. Hockenson, the Lions have the potential to put up points.

Bear-ly there?

The Chicago Bears also cleaned house in the front office and on the coaching staff by bringing in general manager Ryan Poles and head coach Matt Eberflus. Unlike the Vik-

ings, though, they've taken a longer-term approach toward the roster headlined by second-year quarterback Justin Fields.

Outside linebacker Khalil Mack, defensive lineman Akiem Hicks and wide receiver Allen Robinson are gone, and inside linebacker Roquan Smith requested a trade after not getting the contract extension he sought and only recently began to participate in practice.

Eagles try to overtake Cowboys in NFC East

Associated Press

The Philadelphia Eagles made a big move to help quarterback Jalen Hurts. The Dallas Cowboys didn't do the same for Dak Prescott, and might have backtracked with his supporting cast.

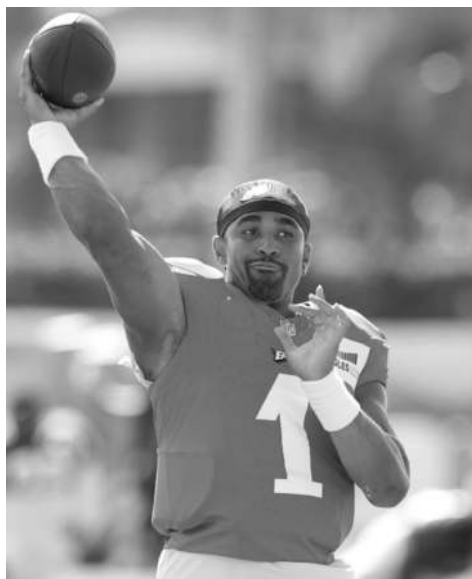
Now it's time to see how each approach in the offseason will translate for last season's pair of playoff qualifiers — and wild-card losers — from the NFC East.

The defending division champion Cowboys have more questions on offense than defense for the first time since Prescott took over for an injured Tony Romo as a rookie to start 2016 and led them to the top seed in the NFC.

No. 1 receiver Amari Cooper is gone, traded to Cleveland in a cost-cutting move that cleared the way for CeeDee Lamb to take over that role.

The bigger questions are on the offensive line, which was already in transition before perennial Pro Bowl left tackle Tyron Smith tore a hamstring, probably sidelining him into December. Dallas moved on from two starters, cutting right tackle La'el Collins while left guard Connor Williams signed with Miami in free agency.

The Eagles? Oh, they just have a combined 351 starts — all with Philadelphia — on their offensive line, anchored by five-time Pro Bowl center Jason Kelce and three-time Pro Bowl right tackle Lane



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

The Philadelphia Eagles are hoping an experienced offensive line can help the production of quarterback Jalen Hurts.

Johnson.

The Eagles traded the 18th pick and a third-rounder in the 2022 draft to get receiver A.J. Brown from Tennessee. The 2020 Pro Bowler had 2,995 yards and 24 touchdowns in three seasons with the Titans, and now is paired with DeVonta Smith. The 2020 Heisman Trophy winner

from Alabama set a club rookie record last season with 916 yards receiving.

Philadelphia started 2-5 under first-year coach Nick Sirianni before winning seven of nine to secure a playoff berth. However, all but one victory came against teams with losing records, and the Eagles were 0-7 against playoff teams.

Familiar face

Carson Wentz is back in the NFC East as quarterback of the Washington Commanders. Philadelphia's No. 2 overall pick in 2016 spent last season in Indianapolis, and the Colts decided to move on after losing to last-place Jacksonville in Week 18 when a victory would have sent them to the playoffs.

Wentz hasn't been able to find the form of his MVP-caliber season of 2017, which ended with a knee injury before the Eagles went on to beat New England in the Super Bowl without him. He was traded each of the past two offseasons, and has no money guaranteed in his contract beyond this season.

Barkley all the way back?

Saquon Barkley was the most impressive offensive player in training camp for the New York Giants, who are 19-46 since drafting the former Penn State running back second overall in 2018.

Barkley had 2,028 scrimmage yards while winning NFL Offensive Rookie of the

Year honors four years ago. His second-year production dropped before an ACL injury ended his 2020 season in Week 2.

A year after nobody knew if Barkley would be ready for the opener, the 25-year-old believes he can score on every play. Barring another injury, Barkley can be a 1,000-yard back again.

Don't forget the defenses

The Eagles did more than boost the help for Hurts. They added free agent linebacker Haason Reddick, who had 11 sacks for Carolina last season. Philadelphia also made a late preseason move with a trade for New Orleans defensive back C.J. Gardner-Johnson.

The Cowboys might have their best defense in years, led by NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year Micah Parsons. The former Penn State linebacker had 13 sacks, and second-year cornerback Trevon Diggs intercepted 11 passes.

Recovering rookie

Washington rookie running back Brian Robinson Jr. will miss at least the first four games after being shot twice in the right leg last week during an attempted robbery. He had surgery and was placed on the non-football injury list. The Commanders haven't said whether Robinson will play this season.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ACC using September to boost its reputation

By AARON BEARD
Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Duke coach Mike Elko has been around college football long enough to know how the season's opening month can shape the perception of a league's strength.

That's important in the weeks ahead for the Atlantic Coast Conference.



Narduzzi

The league won — or survived, in some cases — its highest-profile nonconference matchups in Week 1, including Florida State's wild win against LSU. That gives the ACC a shot in the month of September to strengthen its reputation, in hopes of returning to this year's College Football Playoff while facing uncertainty about its long-term future in a football-driven landscape.

"We have to win football games," said Elko, who left Texas A&M's staff to take over at Duke this fall. "I mean, nobody's shying away from that. It's a competitive market, it's a competitive landscape in college football."

"But we also are very quick to pull the panic button on things like this and overreact. We weren't gone coming into the season. We certainly haven't re-arrived after Week 1."

This week's schedule includes No. 17 Pittsburgh hosting No. 24 Tennessee and No. 23 Wake Forest visiting Vanderbilt — now with star quarterback Sam Hartman back in the fold — in games against the Southeastern Conference, while Virginia visits Illinois and Duke visits Northwestern in Big Ten matchups.

Next week, first-year Miami coach Mario Cristobal takes his 15th-ranked Hurricanes to No. 6 Texas A&M in another ACC-SEC pairing.

The ACC had a solid start last week. Reigning league champion Pitt beat West Virginia in a renewal of the "Backyard Brawl." No. 18 North Carolina State and North Carolina posted road wins against in-state teams that were bowl eligible last season from Group of Five leagues.

And then there was FSU, which blocked LSU's tying extra point on the final play.

Pitt coach Pat Narduzzi said he generally focuses on his own team but texted Seminole coach Mike Norvell after watching the FSU-LSU finish.

"Any time coaches have good wins, it's good to see," Narduzzi said. "It's great for the conference, and I'm sure the commissioner is happy."

"This has always been a good league," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said. "This league has been in the playoffs as much as anybody, or more. And we've competed and won."

AP sports writers Will Graves in Pittsburgh and Pete Iacobelli in Columbia, S.C., contributed to this report.



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Kansas State quarterback Adrian Martinez was a four-year starter at Nebraska before taking advantage of the transfer portal.

The quarterback shuffle

About half of FBS starters began their careers at other schools

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

Spencer Rattler, Chandler Morris and Tanner Mordecai were all once in the same quarterbacks room at Oklahoma.

A couple of years ago, JT Daniels and Kedon Slovis were studying the Southern California playbook together.

All are now starting for different programs. And they are only a few examples of the increased mobility of quarterbacks because of the transfer portal and the extra season of eligibility for players who were part of the pandemic-altered 2020 season.

There are more opportunities, and more time, for quarterbacks to seek different situations. Sometimes that means being QB1 elsewhere for coaches looking to fill gaps, make changes — or both.

"You guys are smart enough to know we changed a lot of things offensively," Kansas State coach Chris Klieman said after four-year Nebraska starter Adrian Martinez made his debut with the Wildcats. "I mean, we were not what you saw last year or even some in the bowl, and we were tempo most of the time."

About half of the starting quarterbacks for the 131 Football Bowl Subdivision teams in this season's openers didn't initially attend their current schools. That includes 32 of the 65 Power Five teams — with 19 of those first-year transfers like Martinez and Emory Jones at Arizona State.

"My mindset when I came here was, 'I'm going to be the starter.' That's how I conducted myself every day," said Jones, a 12-game starter for Florida last season who



ARTIE WALKER JR./AP

South Carolina quarterback Spencer Rattler was the starter at Oklahoma before losing his job midway through last season.

didn't get to Tempe until the summer.

Jones went through only two spring practices with new Gators coach Billy Napier before going into the transfer portal. Arizona State coach Herm Edwards needed a new quarterback after three-year Sun Devils starter Jayden Daniels suddenly left for LSU, where he now starts.

Now circle back to Oklahoma, which has seen four quarterbacks leave and start for other schools.

That exodus left room for Dillon Gabriel to transfer from UCF in time for spring practice with the Sooners and new coach Brent Venables.

Gabriel made the move up from a Group of Five school, though UCF joins the Big 12 next season. But most of the 68 FBS transfer quarterbacks who started 2022 openers were from Power Five programs — with 27 from other P5 schools, and 19 others now

with G5 teams. Nine of those transfers switched G5 schools.

Caleb Williams, who as a true freshman replaced Rattler as the Oklahoma starter midway through last season, followed coach Lincoln Riley to Southern Cal. Rattler went to South Carolina. Those departures from Norman came about a year after Mordecai (now the second-year starter at SMU) and Morris, who started TCU's opener last weekend.

The revolving door has been just as fast at Southern Cal and Georgia.

Three former Trojans quarterbacks now start for other teams. The same goes for the reigning national champion Bulldogs — though Daniels, now at West Virginia, counts on both of those lists. Daniels, who started 11 games for the Trojans as a true freshman in 2018, was the season-opening starter for Georgia last year before injuries sidelined him in the title season.

Slovis is now QB1 at Pittsburgh after 26 starts for USC the past three seasons. Jaxson Dart, who started three games as a freshman for the Trojans last year, transferred to Ole Miss.

D'Wan Mathis has started Temple's last two season openers after taking Georgia's first snap in 2020. Matthew Downing appeared in four games as a Bulldogs freshman in 2018 and transferred to TCU, where he started the 2020 opener, before going to Louisiana Tech with new coach Sonny Cumbie, his QB coach with the Horned Frogs.

AP sports writers Tim Booth, Cliff Brunt, John Marshall, Dave Skretta and Jim Vertuno contributed to this report.

US OPEN

Tiafoe 1st US man in semis since '06

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

NEW YORK — About 20 minutes after Frances Tiafoe earned the first trip to the U.S. Open semi-finals by an American man since 2006, he met up in an Arthur Ashe Stadium foyer with a host of friends, Washington Wizards All-Star guard Bradley Beal among them.

Everyone traded hearty hugs and huge smiles. Tiafoe shouted, “Let’s pose for a dope photo!” and they obliged. As the nine-person line stood together, someone yelled, “Throw up a ‘Dub!’” so Tiafoe and others formed a “W” — as in “Win” — by joining thumbs and index fingers on both hands. Tiafoe’s girlfriend ran through the nearby double doors, jumped into his arms, gave him a kiss, then wiped away lipstick from his mouth.

Most assuredly a showman, and someone striving for years for this sort of success on big stages, Tiafoe sure is enjoying the ride, as are his pals, his parents and the partisan fans, who last celebrated a Grand Slam trophy for a man from the United States two decades ago.

Tiafoe managed the tricky task of following up the biggest win of his career, against 22-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal in the fourth round, with another milestone victory, beating No. 9 seed Andrey Rublev 7-6 (3), 7-6 (0), 6-4 behind the backing of a boisterous crowd on Wednesday.

“I love to show the world what I can do,” said the 24-year-old Tiafoe, who is seeded 22nd at Flushing Meadows. “I just want to go out there and try to give the crowd what they want — and that’s me getting the win.”

Andy Roddick, who was in the Ashe stands Wednesday, was the last U.S. man to get to the semifinals in New York, losing to Roger Federer in the title match 16 years ago. Roddick also was the last man from the country to win any Grand Slam singles championship, taking the 2003 U.S. Open.

None of the men left in the bracket this time has ever won a major trophy. Tiafoe’s first career Slam semifinal will come Friday against another first-timer, No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz, who saved a match point and came through to edge No. 11 Jannik Sinner 6-3, 6-7 (7), 6-7 (0), 7-5, 6-3 at 2:50 a.m. on Thursday, the latest finish in tournament history. They played for 5 hours, 15 minutes, and it was terrific tennis.

“I always say you have to believe in yourself all the time,” Alcaraz said. “Hope is the last thing that you lose.”

Tiafoe’s step forward has come with the help of his coach, former pro player Wayne Ferreira, who said the player used to not be “really professional enough,” and pointed to important changes to his hab-

its when it comes to eating — there had been too much chocolate and cookies and not enough breakfasts — practice and work in the gym.

“It’s taken time for us to get gradually to where we are today,” Ferreira said. “I kind of imagined he would be at his best by the end of next year.”

Tiafoe played aggressive, offensive tennis on Wednesday, never got broken and used 18 aces along with strong volleying to oust Rublev, a Russian who dropped to 0-6 in major quarterfinals. Tiafoe won 31 of 41 points when he went to the net; Rublev only ventured forward 11 times.

In the women’s quarterfinals Wednesday, No. 1 Iga Swiatek won her eighth consecutive match against an opponent ranked in the top 10, all in straight sets, by defeating No. 8 Jessica Pegula of the United States 6-3, 7-6 (4) at night. Swiatek next meets No. 6 Aryna Sabalenka, who collected a 6-1, 7-6 (4) victory over Karolina Pliskova.

Swiatek is a two-time champion on clay at the French Open but never had been past the fourth round on New York’s hard courts until this year’s run to the semifinals.

“I wasn’t expecting that at the beginning of the tournament,” Swiatek said.

The other women’s semifinal Thursday will be No. 5 Ons Jabeur vs. No. 17 Caroline Garcia, who beat 18-year-old American Coco Gauff on Tuesday.

Rain drops began falling just before the start of Tiafoe vs. Rublev, so they stood around waiting for the retractable roof to be shut. That resulted in a cool, wind-free environ-



SETH WENIG/AP

Frances Tiafoe, of the United States, reacts after defeating Andrey Rublev, of Russia, during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open on Wednesday. He'll play in the semifinals on Friday.

ment and a louder setting, with applause and yells from fans reverberating in what became an indoor arena — circumstances that favored Tiafoe.

The only break of serve came more than two hours in, when Tiafoe went ahead 4-3 in the third set, then stood mostly motionless on court, enjoying the crescendo of support. The other key moments came at the conclusions of the first two sets; Tiafoe is 6-0 in tiebreakers at this U.S. Open.

Rublev actually had the first

chance to nose ahead, with a set point at 6-5 in the first, but Tiafoe erased it with a risky forehand to a corner that drew a netted reply.

Several minutes later, it was Tiafoe who took the set, sealing it with a 130 mph ace, then strutting to the changeover, nodding and motioning with his racket for more noise.

A similar scene played out in the second tiebreaker after a drop volley by Tiafoe forced a mistake by Rublev to make it 6-0.

When Tiafoe produced a backhand return winner to seal a two-set lead, he sprinted to the sideline, sat down near his messy collection of towels, shirts and socks spread out around the ground — call it “college dorm room chic” or, to use his word, “diabolical” — and shook his fist amid the delirium of a standing ovation.

“Best tiebreaker I will ever play,” Tiafoe said. “Honestly a laughable tiebreaker. You can’t make that up.”

Rublev never tried to hide his anger at the way things were going. He hit himself in the leg with his racket or punched his strings. Over and over, he gesticulated and yelled toward his guest box, where only four of the 15 seats were occupied, quite a contrast to Tiafoe’s completely full section.

Ferreira was there. So was Tiafoe’s agent, Jill Smoller, whose clients include Serena Williams. Tiafoe’s twin brother, Franklin, too, and their parents, who emigrated to the U.S. from Sierra Leone in the 1990s during a civil war there. They lived in Maryland, where Dad helped build a junior tennis center then worked as a maintenance man there, leading Frances and Franklin to pick up a racket.



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Iga Swiatek, of Poland, celebrates after beating Jessica Pegula, of the United States, during the U.S. Open quarterfinals on Wednesday.

“Yeah, it’s a great story. Hopefully there will be a movie about it one day,” Ferreira said. “But he has to win the Grand Slam first. You only get movies if you do well.”

Picking up on that theme, the guy known to everyone in the sport as “Big Foe” said: “Everyone loves a Cinderella story. Just trying to make one.”

So far, so good.

Scoreboard

Wednesday

At USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center
New York
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
(seedings in parentheses)
Men's Singles
Quarterfinals

Frances Tiafoe (22), United States, def. Andrey Rublev (9), Russia, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (0), 6-4.

Carlos Alcaraz (3), Spain, def. Jannik Sinner (11), Italy, 6-3, 6-7 (7), 6-7 (0), 7-5, 6-3.

Women's Singles
Quarterfinals

Aryna Sabalenka (6), Belarus, def. Karolina Pliskova (22), Czech Republic, 6-1, 7-6 (4).

Iga Swiatek (1), Poland, def. Jessica Pegula (8), United States, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Women's Doubles
Quarterfinals

Barbora Krejickova and Katerina Sinikova (3), Czech Republic, def. Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, and Giuliana Olmos (5), Mexico, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3.

Storm Sanders, Australia, and Caroline Dolehide (12), United States, def. Kristina Mladenovic and Caroline Garcia (14), France, 6-3, 6-3.

Taylor Townsend and Caty McNally, United States, def. Demi Schuurs, Netherlands, and Desirae Krawczyk (6), United States, 6-3, 6-1.

Mixed Doubles
Quarterfinals

Storm Sanders and John Peers (4), Australia, def. Jack Sock, United States, and Leylah Annie Fernandez, Canada, 7-5, 7-6 (3).

William Blumberg and Caty McNally, United States, def. Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, and David Vega Hernandez, Spain, 7-6 (8), 6-2.

Semifinals

Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, and Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium, def. Zhang Shuai, China, and Mate Pavic (2), Croatia, 6-4, 5-7, 10-6.

SPORTS



Surprising run continues

Tiafoe becomes first American man in semifinals since '06 » **US Open, Page 47**

NFL



Las Vegas Raiders quarterback Derek Carr finished fifth in the NFL last season with 4,804 yards passing and a 64.8% completion rate.

PHOTOS BY JOHN LOCHER/AP

Reunion in Vegas

Former college teammates Carr, Adams reunited

BY W.G. RAMIREZ
Associated Press

The offseason trade heard 'round the league is ready to come full circle. Las Vegas Raiders quarterback Derek Carr and wide receiver Davante Adams were reunited in March and will be the centerpiece of the team's offense in Sunday's season opener at the Los Angeles Chargers.

For the former college teammates at Fresno State, this is nothing new. "It's gonna be the first time people see us do it together in the NFL," Carr said Wednesday. "But for us, we've been doing this for the last 13 years. Whether it was in college, or (training) together in the Bay Area, (and) doing it for months here at the facility. To us, it's back to

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Breakdowns of each NFC division
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normal. But I think for everyone else, the excitement. ... I'm sure I'll throw him the ball and he'll get a catch or whatever and everyone will be like, 'Oh my gosh, here we go.'

"To us, it'll just be the next play."

To the Raiders, it's more like the next era.

While Carr still has his top targets from the past three seasons — slot receiver Hunter Renfrow and tight end Darren Waller — the offense could be completely different with the addition of arguably the best receiver in the game.

SEE REUNION ON PAGE 43

Wide receiver Davante Adams led the NFL with 432 catches, 5,310 yards and 47 TDs the past four seasons.

Many starting FBS QBs began elsewhere » College football, Page 46

