

**NCAA HOOPS:** Kennesaw State relishes underdog role **Page 48**

**MUSIC:** Wallen counts his blessings **Page 28**

**TRAVEL:** Maastricht tour goes underground **Page 22**

EUROPE  
& PACIFIC  
**WEEKEND**  
EDITION

**MOVIES**  
Previewing  
Sunday's  
Academy Awards  
**Pages 13-19**



# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 81 Edition 231 ©SS 2023

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023

平成12年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥100

\$1.00



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Former Marine Sgt. Tyler Vargas-Andrews becomes emotional as he recounts his story during a House Foreign Affairs Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing on the United States evacuation from Afghanistan on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday.

## 'A systemic breakdown'

### Marine recalls suicide blast as GOP scrutinizes Afghan withdrawal

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A Marine injured in a suicide attack during the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 choked up as he told House lawmakers on Wednesday that he had spotted the suspected bomber hours before the blast.

Sgt. Tyler Vargas-Andrews, 25, said his unit had warned commanders that they saw two suspects in the chaotic crowd outside Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport on Aug.

26, 2021, that fit a description flagged by U.S. intelligence, but the Marines were denied permission to shoot.

"Plain and simple, we were ignored," Vargas-Andrews said.

The ensuing explosion at the airport's Abbey Gate killed 13 U.S. troops and about 170 civilians and wounded 45 service members. Vargas-Andrews lost an arm, leg and kidney as a result of the attack and has since undergone 44 surgeries.

His emotional testimony before the House

Foreign Affairs Committee on Wednesday was part of a revived effort by Republicans since taking control of the House in January to examine the tumultuous end of the 20-year war in Afghanistan.

"What happened in Afghanistan was a systemic breakdown of the federal government at every level and a stunning failure of leadership by the Biden administration," said Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, the committee chair-

SEE WITHDRAWAL ON PAGE 7

## Joint Chiefs key adviser: Beard issue a 'waste of time'

By ALEXANDER RIEDEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

Airmen and other service members clamoring for the right to grow a beard had their hopes crushed by the military's top enlisted adviser, who called the issue a waste of time during a recent video.

Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Ramon "CZ" Colon-Lopez, the senior enlisted adviser to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, voiced his disapproval of nonuniformity while addressing an airman's question alongside Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass and Chief Master Sgt. of the Space Force Roger Towberman on Wednesday at the Air and Space Forces Association Warfare Symposium.

"The question is do we really need to be discussing fashion when we're preparing, after 20 years of war, to best an opponent that can potentially have the best of us," Colon-Lopez said during the Facebook broadcast. "Is the beard relevant? Is there a need for a beard other than personal comfort to not shave?"

He continued to double down on the notion of beards as nothing more than an expression of personal style.

"If you want to look cute with your skinny jeans and your beard, by all means do it someplace else," Colon-Lopez said. "But quit wasting our time on something that doesn't have anything to do with kicking the enemy's ass."

Colon-Lopez's full-throated



Colon-Lopez

SEE BEARD ON PAGE 3

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel	Azores	..	..	\$4.510	..
Germany	\$3.771	\$4.298	\$4.621	\$4.664	Change in price	..	..	+5.0 cents	..
Netherlands	..	\$4.505	\$4.769	\$4.877	Turkey	..	..	\$4.309	\$4.735*
U.K.	..	\$4.234	\$4.557	\$4.600	Change in price	..	..	+2.7 cents	-34.2 cents

Fuel prices are updated daily. These prices are effective March 10. The change in price is from March 3.

## PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel	South Korea	\$3.459	..	\$4.309	\$4.359
Japan	..	\$4.289	..	\$4.329	Change in price	+4.0 cents	..	+5.0 cents	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.439	..	..	\$4.329	Guam	\$3.449	\$3.979	\$4.299	..
Change in price	+5.0 cents	..	..	-1.0 cents	Change in price	+5.0 cents	+5.0 cents	+5.0 cents	..

\*DieselEFD \*\*Midgrade  
Pacific prices for the week of March 10-16

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Switzerland (Franc)	0.9369
Euro costs (March 10)	\$1.03	Thailand (Baht)	34.94
British pound (March 10)	\$1.16	Turkey (NewLira)	18.9498
Japanese yen (March 10)	134.00	(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.)	
South Korean won (March 10)	1288.00	INTEREST RATES	
Commercial rates		Prime rate	7.75
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	Interest Rates Discount rate	5.25
Britain (Pound)	1.1919	Federal funds market rate	4.55
Canada (Dollar)	1.3764	3-month bill	5.03
China (Yuan)	6.9590	30-year bond	3.90
Denmark (Krone)	7.0364		
Egypt (Pound)	30.8990		
Euro	0.9455		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8500		
Hungary (Forint)	358.42		
Israel (Shekel)	3.5870		
Japan (Yen)	136.17		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3074		
Norway (Krone)	10.6213		
Philippines (Peso)	55.09		
Poland (Zloty)	4.43		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7543		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3507		
South Korea (Won)	1320.13		

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### FRIDAY IN EUROPE



### SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



## TODAY IN STRIPES

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

## STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

### EUROPE

**ADVERTISING**  
CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### MIDDLE EAST

**ADVERTISING**  
CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### PACIFIC

**ADVERTISING**  
PacificAdvertising@stripes.com | +81 (42) 552.2511  
DSN: 315.227.7310

# Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.

Also available on mobile apps for Android and iOS.

## STARS AND STRIPES

Mobile • Online • Print



## MILITARY

# 1st permanent soldier assigned to Poland

## Camp Kosciuszko is also the first permanent base

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Army's first permanent base in Poland just got its first permanently assigned active-duty soldier, a milestone highlighting a broader shift that has made the country a hub of activity for the U.S. military in Europe.

V Corps' forward headquarters at Camp Kosciuszko in Poznan recently welcomed its first soldier on permanent change of station orders, Sgt. Walter Malecki.

He "is the first of many who will experience the culture of Poland and become familiar with the corps' missions," Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Prosser said in a statement Wednesday.

Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Stewart also was recently the first Army reservist to PCS to the base.

Since Russia's initial invasion of Ukraine in 2014, tens of thousands of soldiers have rotated in and out of Poland on missions aimed at deterring Russian aggression in the region. Those soldiers were based elsewhere and generally spent nine months deployed to Poland.

Last summer, President Joe Biden announced that the mission would be made permanent, giving the Army its first garrison in the central European country. For



DEVIN KLECAN/U.S. Army

**V Corps' first active-duty and reservist soldiers to receive permanent change of station orders to Poland, Sgt. Walter Malecki, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Stewart, pose for a picture Wednesday, at Camp Kosciuszko in Poznan, Poland.**

now, the tours are for one year and unaccompanied by family.

"The permanent presence of V Corps Soldiers in Poland plays a vital role by boosting and assuring operational readiness," the command said in the Wednesday statement.

Poland has been vocal about its desire for permanent U.S. basing

in the country.

V Corps, which oversees Army maneuvers up and down NATO's eastern flank, was reestablished in 2021 to help U.S. Army Europe and Africa manage a growing mission on the Continent.

Although V Corps headquarters is at Fort Knox, Ky., a forward location was set up in 2021 with rota-

tional forces in Poznan, a west-central city of about 530,000 people.

Army tank units have been the centerpiece of U.S. reinforcement of the NATO alliance's eastern flank. The number of rotational troops in Poland has continued to increase since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February

2022.

Polish President Andrzej Duda aimed high during the administration of Biden's predecessor, President Donald Trump. Duda sought an entire armored division of U.S. soldiers that could be housed in a base dubbed Fort Trump.

Those plans never came to fruition. In the years since, the Pentagon has given no indication that it is interested in building in Poland the kind of large garrisons that exist in places such as Germany and Japan.

Still, other logistics hubs and training sites in Poland have expanded and become more important to the U.S. forces moving in and out of the country.

And overseeing many of those missions are V Corps soldiers at Camp Kosciuszko.

Malecki, a security cooperation specialist, said in the command statement that adapting to life in Poznan, which has a large college population, has gone smoothly so far. One of his first tasks was finding an off-base apartment to call home for a year.

"The apartments that I have seen offered around the area are clean and modern," Malecki said. "Public transportation is also nearby, so it is easy to travel around."

The dollar goes a long way in Poland, where dining out is cheap, he said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com  
Twitter: @john\_vandiver

## Beard: Many criticize Colon-Lopez's remarks on religious beard waivers

FROM PAGE 1

beard rejection comes as the services have relaxed some rules amid a recruiting slump. For example, the Air Force last week began allowing hand and some neck tattoos up to an inch long.

Colon-Lopez added that he was against religious waivers exempting service members from shaving mandates because of the potential impact on unit discipline. That stance drew criticism from online commenters Wednesday and Thursday.

A self-described Air Force chaplain who took to Reddit on Wednesday called Colon-Lopez's comments "despicable" and expressed concern about the leadership's attitude toward the issue.

"I'm speechless. Utterly speechless ... You have been serving for nearly 30 years and you don't even acknowledge the importance of religious accommodations?" the commenter wrote.

"Just because we are serving in the military, does not mean our rights are gone ... we fight to protect and guard those rights."

Other commenters shared images of Civil War generals such as George Meade, Ulysses S. Grant and William Sherman, all of whom sported full beards while leading.

Colon-Lopez, a pararescueman, acknowledged that he wore a beard in Afghanistan because of a "combat need to blend in" during special operations missions. But he said that the need went away when service members stopped blending in by wearing body armor and U.S. flag patches.

While none of the senior enlisted leaders have the final say on facial hair regulations, their input on standards carries considerable weight in the Pentagon.

Bass and Towberman were more diplomatic in their responses, which focused on the accommodations the Air Force and the Space Force implemented

previously.

Bass said the service has made it easier for airmen to get a shaving exemption based on medical need or religious reasons.

"But you know, we are also balancing that need versus the want," she said. "We have to balance that delicately."

Towberman likened beard waivers to accommodations for eyeglasses.

"If at any point (beards become a) societal norm, then I guess we look at it differently," he said. "But that point hasn't come yet."

Last summer, a leaked Space Force memo showed that Towberman's service was considering a survey of how facial hair affected readiness for male service members in uniform during its own pilot program. The program was not adopted.

The Navy and Marine Corps likewise launched a study into how facial hair affects gas mask functionality after four petty offi-



U.S. AIR FORCE

**Chief Master Sgt. Ramon "CZ" Colon-Lopez, the senior enlisted adviser to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is shown with the beard he wore while serving in Afghanistan. Colon-Lopez opposes allowing service members to have beards in most cases.**

cers sued the Navy over its denial of permanent medical and religious shaving waivers.

In 2020, the Air Force followed the lead of the Army, which in 2017 became the first service to al-

low Muslim and Sikh soldiers to wear head coverings and beards in line with their religious beliefs.

riedel.alexander@stripes.com  
Twitter: @lexRiedel



## MILITARY

# Pentagon wary of using US troops in Mexico

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

A top Pentagon official told lawmakers Wednesday that she was wary of growing calls to deploy American troops into Mexico to battle cartels responsible for at least some of the deadly drugs pouring into the United States across the southern border.

Melissa Dalton, the assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense and hemispheric affairs, told House Armed Services Committee members that the Pentagon has found increasing violence in Mexico and the flow of the synthetic opioid fentanyl into the United States “deeply concerning.”

But Dalton also warned unilateral U.S. military action into Mexico could harm the relationship between the U.S. and its southern neighbor, after lawmakers in both chambers this year have raised the idea of designating some cartels as terrorist groups and sending U.S. troops into Mexico to confront them.

“In terms of weighing the advantages and disadvantages of some of the steps that are under consideration in terms of use of force or certain designations, I think we need to be clear-eyed about what some of the implications might be for the lines of cooperation we do have with Mexico,” Dalton said in response to an inquiry from Rep. Jimmy Panetta, D-Calif. “I do worry, based on signals — very strong signals we’ve gotten from the Mexicans in the past, concerns about their sovereignty, concerns about potential reciprocal steps that they might take to cut off our access, if we were to take some of these steps that are in consideration.”

Recent calls to deploy U.S. forces alongside U.S. law enforcement into Mexico to deal with the drug cartels have largely come from Republicans. In an op-ed published last week by The Wall Street Journal, former Attorney General Bill Barr, who served in that role under former presidents Donald Trump and George H.W. Bush, called for “a far more aggressive American effort inside Mexico than ever before.” He called on President Joe Biden to deploy “select military capabilities” into Mexican regions dominated by the cartels and endorsed a resolution proposed in January by Reps. Dan Crenshaw, R-Texas, and Michael Waltz, R-Fla., to provide presidential authority to battle Mexican cartels with the U.S. military.

“The cartels have Mexico in a python-



SCOTT GRIFFIN/U.S. Army

**Air Force Gen. Glen VanHerck, right, commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, presents a challenge coin to Sgt. David Ewald of the Missouri National Guard's 3175th Chemical Company during his deployment to McAllen, Texas, in February 2022.**

like stranglehold,” Barr wrote March 2. “American leadership is needed to help Mexico break free. We can’t accept a failed narco-state on our border, providing sanctuary to narco-terrorist groups preying on the American people.”

On Monday, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said he would introduce legislation designating Mexican cartels foreign terrorist organizations and granting Biden authorities to use American troops in Mexico. Graham made the announcement after four Americans were kidnapped in the Mexican border city of Matamoros. Two of those individuals were found dead on Tuesday.

Panetta on Wednesday told Dalton that he understood the calls for the United States to do more in Mexico, including using its military, without explicitly endorsing the idea.

Dalton said she was preparing to fly to Mexico after the hearing to meet with officials there to discuss myriad security topics including intelligence and cyber cooperation. She did not rule out discussing U.S. troop presence in Mexico.

In Air Force Gen. Glen VanHerck’s prepared testimony for the hearing, the commander of U.S. Northern Command labeled drug cartels in Mexico one of his top concerns. The cartels are well-armed and have been emboldened recently by using improvised explosive devices and small drones to attack Mexican security forces, he wrote.

While VanHerck committed to continuing to partner with the Mexican military to counter cartels, he told House lawmakers that decisions about the deployment of American forces into that country were not his to make.

“If directed to plan and execute and use military force then I would do that,” VanHerck said.

But the general also told lawmakers that the drug problem, which kills some 100,000 Americans each year, was largely a homeland security and law enforcement issue not easily solved by the U.S. military, which is barred by federal law from conducting law enforcement operations inside the homeland. He told the panel increased information and intelligence sharing between

U.S. institutions and Mexico and other regional partners would be a starting point to better address the cartels and drug smuggling.

“I think everybody can do more than we are right now to look at this problem, [the Mexicans] are doing a significant amount, they have tens of thousands of forces applied to the problem [but] the problem just continues to grow,” he said.

VanHerck and Dalton testified Wednesday alongside Army Gen. Laura Richardson, who leads the U.S. Southern Command. She linked China to cartel and drug activity in her area of responsibility, which encompasses South America, most of Central America and the Caribbean.

Richardson warned the Chinese were making inroads to garner more influence in South America, often using their predatory infrastructure program — known as the belt and road initiative — to exploit struggling countries. While China has not built a military base in South America, as it has in Africa, she warned Beijing could aim to do so within seven to 10 years.

Richardson also warned the Chinese were exploiting and contributing to cartel violence in the region.

Cartels use Chinese banking institutions to launder money, Richardson alleged. She said seven Chinese banks have opened some 275 branches in the SOUTHCOM region, which transnational criminal organizations have used to launder millions of dollars obtained through drug and human trafficking and illegal mining and logging.

She and VanHerck also charged many of the chemicals that the cartels use to make fentanyl flow from Chinese vendors. While China banned fentanyl production in 2019 under international pressure, the U.S. generals testified Wednesday that Beijing does nothing to stop the drugs or ingredients produced in China from flowing into the United States. VanHerck said the U.S. has unsuccessfully raised the issue with the Chinese government.

“It comes from individuals and companies in China, but the [People’s Republic of China] themselves are turning a blind eye,” VanHerck said. “So it’s crucial that we expose it — that we name and shame their activities.”

dickstein.corey@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

## Nine Army units slated to deploy overseas on summer rotations

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

Nine Army units are slated for overseas deployments in the summer as part of “regular troop rotations” to Europe, South Korea and the Middle East, the Pentagon announced Wednesday.

The bulk of the troops deploying to Europe will come from Fort Stewart, Ga., while units from Fort Bliss, Texas, and Fort Bragg, N.C., will join them on the rotations meant to strengthen NATO partnership and deter Russian aggression. Units from Fort Drum, N.Y., Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Sill, Okla., will deploy to the Middle

East. A brigade from Fort Carson, Colo., will head to South Korea.

From Fort Stewart, the 3rd Infantry Division’s headquarters, its sustainment brigade and its 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team will deploy to Europe to train alongside NATO partners in Poland, Latvia and other eastern flank countries for about nine months, Army officials said. The division headquarters and sustainment brigade will replace the 4th Infantry Division’s headquarters and sustainment brigade. The 2nd ABCT will replace the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Also going to Europe will be the 1st Armored Division’s 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team from Fort Bliss, which will replace the 1st Infantry Division’s 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team.

Fort Bragg’s 525th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade will also deploy to Europe, replacing the 504th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade, according to the Army.

The deployments will keep U.S. troops in Europe at about 100,000, which the Pentagon has maintained on the Continent since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon has tapped the 10th Mountain Division’s 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Fort Drum for a deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the mission to ensure the defeat of Islamic State. That brigade will replace the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, an Ohio National Guard brigade that has been serving in Kuwait, Iraq and Syria.

Also deploying to the Middle East is Fort Sill’s 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade headquarters, which will replace the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade headquarters in the region. Fort Hood’s 13th

Expeditionary Sustainment Command will also deploy to the Middle East to replace the 143rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, a Reserve unit from Florida.

The Pentagon will send the 4th Infantry Division’s 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team from Fort Carson to South Korea. It will replace the 2nd Infantry Division’s 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, which was the Army’s first Stryker brigade to serve a rotation to South Korea under a policy shift from rotating tank-heavy brigades to the Korean Peninsula in favor of the more infantry-centric Stryker units.



## PACIFIC

# N. Korea fires missile ahead of US drills

By DAVID CHOI  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — North Korea fired its fifth ballistic missile of the year Thursday, one day after U.S. intelligence officials assessed that the communist regime had “no intention of abandoning” its weapons program.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff in a message to reporters said the military had detected a short-range ballistic missile launched from the coastal city of Nampo toward the Yellow Sea around 6:20 p.m.

The South Korean military “maintains a

full readiness posture” and is working with the United States in surveilling the launch, the Joint Chiefs said.

The regime last launched two short-range ballistic missiles off its eastern coast on Feb. 20 and fired an intercontinental ballistic missile eastward on Feb. 18.

Thursday’s launch came a day after the Office of the Director of National Intelligence made public an unclassified version of its annual threat assessment report. In it, the directorate said North Korean leader Kim Jong Un “almost certainly views nuclear weapons and ICBMs as the ultimate

guarantor of his autocratic rule and has no intention of abandoning those programs ...”

“Kim is continuing to prioritize efforts to build an increasingly capable missile force designed to evade U.S. and regional missile defenses,” the report said. “Kim probably will continue to order missile tests ... to validate technical objectives, reinforce deterrence, and normalize Pyongyang’s missile testing.”

North Korea fired roughly 75 missiles in 2022, an annual record, in 36 separate days of testing. The latest launch comes as the U.S. and South Korean forces prepare to

kick off their largest joint military exercises in recent years. The allies are scheduled to conduct their Freedom Shield exercise Monday through March 23 and will concurrently hold a series of large-scale field exercises dubbed Warrior Shield.

North Korea’s state-run Korean Central News Agency has warned the U.S. and the South over the upcoming exercises and continues to describe them as provocative acts that destabilizes the region.

choi.david@stripes.com  
Twitter: @choiboy



SAMANTHA SANCHEZ/U.S. Marine Corps

A backhoe moves earth at the Pu’uloa Range Training Facility, Ewa Beach, Hawaii, on Feb. 23.

## Marine Corps moving Hawaii firing range threatened by shoreline erosion

By WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Marine Corps has begun the process of moving inland the first of four short-distance firing ranges on Oahu threatened by encroaching beach erosion.

The initial steps to move Foxtrot Range roughly 44 yards inland at Pu’uloa Range Training Facility in Ewa Beach began in late February, 1st Lt. Mark McDonough, a spokesman for Marine Corps Base Hawaii, said by phone Wednesday.

The training facility lies across Pearl Harbor due west of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. It also includes two long-distance firing ranges. Relocating the small-arms ranges at the site is part of a multiyear effort to protect the facility from erosion and to prevent possible beach contamination from bullet lead.

“Pu’uloa Range Training Facility is an essential part of the Marine Corps’ training resources on the island of Oahu,” Maj. Jeffery Hart, director of Marine Corps Base Hawaii’s Environmental Compliance and Protection Division, said in a March 2 news release.

“We have a responsibility to protect the natural resources we are entrusted to manage,” he said. Ranges Charlie, Delta and Echo

are slated to be relocated next to Foxtrot as part of an overall military construction project being pursued by Marine Corps Base Hawaii, McDonough said.

Alpha and Bravo ranges are for long-distance firing, the longest at 1,000 yards and used for sniper training, he said. Soldiers also train on the long ranges.

The firing-range relocation is the second part of a three-phase plan that Marine Corps Base Hawaii unveiled in 2019 to stabilize the shoreline from erosion.

The first and ongoing phase was to enhance natural vegetation on shoreline berms to curtail erosion.

A proposed third phase called for burying metal sheets just off the shoreline from the Alpha and Bravo ranges to curb wave erosion. That plan met strong community opposition.

As a result, the plan was dropped in favor of using some type of natural vegetation as a barrier, McDonough said. That plan is still being developed, he said.

The firing ranges came under greater scrutiny after the Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter in early 2022 reported it had found elevated levels of lead in beach sand collected near the facility.

The samples, tested by Hawaii Analytical Laboratories LLC, found lead concentrations more than 70 times over accepted

health levels for residential areas.

“In response to this report, [Marine Corps Base Hawaii] invited personnel from the Hawaii Department of Health to visit the facility and conduct preliminary tests for munitions constituents (MC) alongside MCBH safety and environmental personnel,” McDonough said in an email Wednesday.

Samples taken at that time came from soil in the range’s impact berm and from beach sand seaward of the range.

“Results from samples taken from the impact berms did show the presence of MC, which includes lead,” he said. “However, results from samples taken from the beach sand did not show concentrations of lead exceeding allowable limits.”

“The presence of MC in firing range impact berms is inherent at any firing range and is not an indication of MC migration from the facility.”

The Foxtrot Range was selected for the first move because it is most vulnerable to erosion and, thus, possible migration of lead to beach sand, McDonough said.

But overall, relocation of all the ranges will “ensure good environmental stewardship,” he said.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @WyattWOlson

## Marine in Japan who refused vaccine faces insubordination charge

By JONATHAN SNYDER  
*Stars and Stripes*

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — A Marine lance corporal who refused the COVID-19 vaccine last year and was jailed in January on separate charges is headed for a court-martial for insubordination and other alleged offenses.

Lance Cpl. Catherine Arnett, 24, of Fort Worth, Texas, is scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday for alleged violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

These include articles 86, failure to go to an appointed place of duty; 87, missing an official flight or ship movement; 87b, offenses against correctional custody and restriction; 90, willfully disobeying a superior commissioned officer; and 91, insubordinate conduct, according to the Navy and Marine Corps court-martial docket website.

Arnett’s charges were referred to a special court-martial on Feb. 8, but her arraignment Monday was delayed until next week, a spokesman for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Maj. Rob Martins, told Stars and Stripes by email Wednesday.

Arnett in July said she was an aviation supply specialist stationed at MCAS Iwakuni since May 2019. Since January, she has been in the brig at the Marines’ Camp Hansen on Okinawa, according to Martins.

Wing commander Maj. Gen. Eric Austin ordered Arnett discharged on Jan. 9 based on allegations that she committed forgery and made false official statements, violations of UCMJ articles 105 and 107, respectively, Martins said Jan. 24.

Martins’ email Wednesday did not detail those allegations against Arnett or why the two articles were dropped.

Military police arrested Arnett after she refused to board a U.S.-



JONATHAN SNYDER/Stars and Stripes

Lance Cpl. Catherine Arnett is shown at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, in 2022.

bound flight on Jan. 21.

In September, the Marine Corps dismissed two counts against Arnett of missing troop movements and one of disobeying a direct order after a federal judge in August temporarily barred the Corps from punishing or discharging Marines who refused the COVID-19 vaccine on religious grounds.

In that case, she twice refused to board flights in May to the U.S. to be discharged after refusing the vaccine.

Arnett has said she regards the August 2021 vaccine mandate, now repealed, as an unlawful order. The Marines never charged Arnett with refusing the COVID-19 vaccine.

Arnett has said she refused the COVID-19 vaccines because they are tested or produced using stem cell lines that descend from fetuses aborted in the 1970s and ’80s. She said the Marines denied her requests as a Catholic for a religious exemption.

“The Marine Corps continues to ensure that accountability is served through a fair and impartial process,” Martins said.

snyder.jonathan@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Jon\_E\_Snyder



## MILITARY

## Air Force tests motor of next-gen ICBMs

BY DOUG G. WARE

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Air Force for the first time has carried out a static fire test for the solid rocket motor that will power the service's next-generation Sentinel ballistic missiles, officials said.

The test evaluated the rocket motor at a northern Utah site late last week, officials at the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center and developer Northrop Grumman said. The solid rocket motor, or SRM, is the first of three stages that will power the future missiles and is the largest of the three.

Development of the Sentinel was first announced during former President Barack Obama's administration as part of modernizing the U.S. nuclear triad — nuclear-capable missiles that can be launched from land, sea and the air.

"This test is just one part of our comprehensive ground and flight test program designed to help us shake down the design as we approach its critical design review," said Maj. Gen. John Newberry, commander of Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center and program executive officer for strategic systems. "By testing early, we reduce risk to the overall weapon system schedule."

The open-air test was per-



R. NIAL BRADSHAW/U.S. Air Force

**The Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center conducted its first full-scale static test fire of the LGM-35A Sentinel stage-one solid rocket motor at the Northrop Grumman test facility in Promontory, Utah, on March 2.**

formed March 2 at Northrop Grumman's facility in Promontory, Utah. Company officials said the motor fired for the expected duration and met performance parameters and objectives within the expected ranges.

Promontory is about 75 miles northwest of Salt Lake City and is the same location where Morton Thiokol tested the solid rocket boosters that powered the Space Shuttle fleet from 1981 to 2011. The SRM test last week resembled the shuttle booster tests carried out in the 1980s.

The SRM test was the first of several that will be conducted to validate whether the motor is safe for use on Sentinel missiles,

Northrop Grumman said. Analyses and qualification testing must also be done before the motor, as well as the other propulsion stages, can become operational.

"Our investments in digital design, test and advanced manufacturing help to ensure we develop this next-generation missile more affordably and with innovation at its core, delivering to the Air Force a safe, secure, reliable and flexible capability," said Sarah Willoughby, Northrop Grumman's vice president of the Sentinel program.

Northrop Grumman and Boeing won contracts to explore building the Sentinel missile system, but Northrop Grumman

gained the right to manufacture the new system when Boeing opted not to bid.

The Sentinel will replace Minuteman III ICBMs that have been in the U.S. nuclear arsenal since 1970. The Air Force said about 400 Minuteman IIIs remain operational at various locations in Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska and North Dakota. Deactivated Minuteman III silos are also still intact in South Dakota and Missouri.

The Sentinel is expected to make its first flight sometime in late 2023, according to a report last month by Aviation Week. The Air Force expects the first Sentinel missiles to be active by the end

of the 2020s and operational until at least the 2070s.

Several other companies will work on the Sentinel as subcontractors, including Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics.

The Trident II submarine-launched missile, which entered service in the 1990s, and the AGM-86 ALCM air-to-ground missile are also part of the U.S. nuclear triad. The Air Force is in the process of replacing the AGM-86 with the Long Range Stand Off Weapon, which is being developed by Raytheon Technologies and expected to enter service in the 2030s.

ware.doug@stripes.com

## \$1.38B sale of advanced US craft to Japan OK'd

BY SETH ROBSON AND HANA KUSUMOTO

*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — The U.S. State Department has approved the possible sale to Japan of more early warning planes and support equipment worth an estimated \$1.38 billion, the Defense Department said this week.

The department's Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress on Tuesday of the plan to provide E-2D Advanced Hawkeye airborne early warning and control aircraft, according to a notice posted on the agency's website Tuesday.

Japan has asked for up to five of the aircraft, according to the statement.

Northrop Grumman, the aircraft's manufacturer, describes the Advanced Hawkeye as a "digital quarterback" designed to "manage the mission and keep our net-centric carrier battle groups out of harm's way."



AARON HENSON/U.S. Marine Corps

**An E-2D Advanced Hawkeye taxis at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, in 2017.**

The aircraft provides "expanded battlespace awareness, especially in the area of information operations delivering battle management, theater air and missile defense, and multiple sensor fusion capabilities in an airborne system," the company states on its website.

Japan already operates three E-2Ds and 10 older E-2C Hawkeyes from Misawa Air Base in northeast Japan and Naha Air Base, Okinawa, a Japan Air Self-Defense spokesman said by phone Thursday. Government spokespeople in Japan customarily speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

Japan began flying Advanced Hawkeyes in 2019.

The goal of acquiring the planes was to "strengthen intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities in airspace around Japan, including vast airspace on the Pacific side," Japan's government said in its budget that year.

The U.S. Navy's Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron

125, part of Carrier Air Wing 5, flies E-2Ds from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

The squadron was the first to deploy with the aircraft, MCAS Iwakuni states on its website.

"The E-2D Advanced Hawkeye ... features a state-of-the-art radar with a two-generation leap in capability and upgraded aircraft systems that will improve supportability and increase readiness," the website states.

The two engine, turboprop aircraft is often referred to as the "Hummer," the website states.

"Its principal mission is command and control of airborne, surface, and battlefield assets," the website states. "This includes long range detection of hostile forces, strike control at sea, coordination and control for power projection ashore and fleet air defense."

robson.seth@stripes.com  
Twitter: @SethRobson1  
kusumoto.haha@stripes.com  
Twitter: @HanaKusumoto

## US Air Force Academy mourns 2nd cadet death

*Stars and Stripes*

The Air Force Academy is mourning the loss of a "cherished member" of its cadet wing, and its second student to die this year.

Cadet 1st Class Cole Kilty died Monday in nearby Park County, Colo., the academy announced Wednesday in a statement posted to social media. The cause is under investigation.

"Cole was known for being a friend to others, for his jokes, and for his unique ability to find humor in any situation — from everyday life to a tough training event," Superintendent Lt. Gen. Richard Clark wrote in the statement. "I extend my personal condolences to his family, his squadron, and his friends."

No further information was provided.

Kilty was set to graduate in June as a second lieutenant with a bachelor's degree in psychology, according to his LinkedIn profile.

The news comes two months after a member of the Falcons' football team, Hunter Brown, 21, of Lake Charles, La., died Jan. 9 after suffering a medical emergency on his way to class.



U.S. AIR FORCE

**Cadet 1st Class Cole Kilty**

Brown, who majored in management and minored in French, was a member of teams that notched back-to-back 10-win seasons. Head coach Troy Calhoun called him "a pure joy" to have on the Falcons.

"He was tough, a great worker, and no one unselfishly pulled harder for others than Hunter," Troy said in a statement.

news@stripes.com  
Twitter: @starsandstripes



## MILITARY

# Withdrawal: Retired Green Beret warns of 'mental health tsunami'

FROM PAGE 1

man. "I will not rest and this committee will not rest until we determine how this happened and hold those responsible for it accountable."

McCaul said "our game plan" was to ultimately bring Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Army Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to Capitol Hill for further scrutiny.

Vargas-Andrews cried several times as he recounted the days and hours before the deadly suicide attack. He described the desperate attempts of exhausted and dehydrated Afghans to reach evacuation planes as the Taliban killed and brutalized them in full view of U.S. service members. Troops were not allowed to engage, he said.

"We were just helpless," Vargas-Andrews said. "We passed over intel, let people know what was going on but [we were] unable to do anything."

Vargas-Andrews, a gunman and radio operator, belonged to a scout sniper team and was tasked with scanning and controlling the crowd and helping the State Department process evacuees.

He said an intelligence bulletin went out at 2 a.m. on the day of the suicide attack describing a potential bomber and his male companion. Vargas-Andrews said he and others saw the individuals, "nervously looking up at our position," between noon and 1 p.m. When Marines relayed their findings to a commander and asked for permission to shoot, the commander said he did not have the authority to approve such an action, he said.

"We asked who did and [the commander] said he didn't know and would find out," Vargas-Andrews said. "In that time, the two individuals disappeared into the crowd."

The Marine and veterans who testified Wednesday expressed frustration with a lack of accountability for the haphazard withdrawal and deep regret for the thousands of Afghan allies who were left behind.

Vargas-Andrews said no one from the military or any other government agency had interviewed him about his experiences at the Kabul airport. He said he feels his service "is not valued to this country by the government."

Aidan Gunderson, a former Army specialist with the 82nd Airborne Division, described the withdrawal as an "organizational failure at multiple levels." He said the two weeks that he spent on the ground in Kabul after the city fell to the Taliban were harrowing. Scenes of mothers carrying dead babies and the smell of feces and urine in the airport's corridors continue to stay with him, he said.

And he remains plagued by the faces of all the people the U.S. military could not save.

"Departing on Aug. 31 on one of the last flights out of the country, I was relieved to be headed home, but I wondered how the horror I just witnessed had just changed me — how it would change us all," Gunderson said. "I can assure that it has. This war is not over for millions of people in Afghanistan and the U.S."

David Scott Mann, a retired Green Beret who served three combat tours in Afghanistan, warned lawmakers of a swelling "mental health tsunami." He said a moral injury had been heaped on veterans and their family members, who are now wondering whether their service had a purpose. More than 800,000 U.S. troops served in Afghanistan and nearly 2,500 were killed.

"The fact of the matter is the only way to move from a moral injury to moral recovery is for leaders to step forward, first and foremost, and take responsibility for



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Images of two men who worked with Rep. Michael Waltz, R-Fla., while he was serving in the Army are visible as he holds up a military bracelet while speaking during a House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing on the U.S. evacuation from Afghanistan on Wednesday.

what happened," Mann said. "I think yes, it starts with the commander in chief, but it needs to go all the way down to our retired admirals and generals and sergeants major, all of them. We're going to have to really lean into this mental health issue. It's going to take all leaders at all levels to acknowledge that this thing was a serious mistake, and it can never happen again."

Mann founded Task Force Pineapple, a volunteer group of U.S. veterans, to help rescue an Afghan commando, his family and more than 1,000 other refugees as the Taliban took over Afghanistan. He said America has been building a reputation of abandonment, leaving "smoldering, human wreckage" from Vietnam to Syria.

Veterans pressed lawmakers on Wednesday to continue efforts to get an estimated 200,000 remaining Afghan allies and partners out of Afghanistan. Camille Mackler, executive director of the legal advocacy group Immigrant Advocates Response Collaborative, urged members of Congress to im-

prove the immigration process and pass the Afghan Adjustment Act. The bill would provide a path to permanent residency to tens of thousands of evacuated Afghans.

Rep. Gregory Meeks of New York, the top Democrat on the foreign affairs panel, placed much of the blame for immigration backlogs and the disordered evacuation on visa program caps, staffing cuts and other policy decisions initiated by former President Donald Trump's administration. Democrats on Wednesday pointed out President Joe Biden had inherited a lousy deal that Trump had made with the Taliban to withdraw U.S. forces from Afghanistan by May 2021.

"Yes, what happened in August was messy and violent and something to be avoided at all costs," said Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va. "But it had a history and there was a context and there were previous decisions made that led to that tragedy and to try to now make this a partisan advantage cheapens the experience of so many who gave so much."

Vargas-Andrews said there was one moment from the evacuation that has defined his service in the Marine Corps.

He fondly recalled how a young Afghan girl squeezed through the crowd at Abbey Gate with her two younger siblings and went up to Vargas-Andrews for help. The girl's dirt-stained face was streaked with tears as she cried for her father, Vargas-Andrews said. She held a baby whose skin had turned blue and the hand of her little brother.

Vargas-Andrews said he got medical aid for the baby and after lifting the girl to survey the throngs of people, reunited her with her father. The family was among the 120,000 people airlifted out of Kabul.

"For me, that was a moment that [made] my personal injury ... worth it," Vargas-Andrews said. "I know those three little kids will have a life of freedom and opportunity now because of that."

shkolnikova.svetlana@stripes.com  
Twitter: @svetashko

## Boeing delays Air Force tanker deliveries over supplier error

The Seattle Times

Boeing is suffering a new rash of airplane problems.

A supplier's manufacturing quality mistake has prompted Boeing to delay deliveries of 767 freighter aircraft and 767-based KC-46 refueling tankers for the U.S. Air Force, the company confirmed Tuesday.

Boeing is investigating the extent of the problem to determine which aircraft will need a lengthy fix.

Separately, inadequate tracking of the software used to customize cockpit displays for each airline is causing delays to lessors who need to switch delivery from the airline that originally ordered the jets to a different one.

These fresh problems follow on the heels of a renewed halt to 787 Dreamliner deliveries last month after discovering an error in the structural analysis of the jet's forward pressure bulkhead conducted by supplier Spirit AeroSystems

during the certification of a 787 model years earlier. Deliveries of the 787 have not resumed.

And so far this year, Boeing has not delivered a single 767 freighter or tanker because of this new problem: the interior of some center fuel tanks had not been properly cleaned nor the primer paint adhesion tested before the tanks were shipped to Boeing.

This leaves open the possibility that the primer could flake off inside the tank and clog fuel filters

that feed the plane's engines.

This news was first reported late Monday by online aviation trade journal The Air Current.

In addition to undelivered jets, the planes affected also include some cargo planes and Air Force tankers already in service, Boeing said.

The supplier of the center fuel tank, Triumph Aerostructures — now a unit of French aerospace conglomerate Daher — disclosed to Boeing that the proper cleaning

and painting process had not been followed for some of the fuel tank interiors.

Despite the potential for flaking primer to obstruct the fuel flow, Boeing said that "our engineering analysis to date is that the issue is not an immediate safety of flight concern."

The Air Force reiterated that view, stating that the "initial assessment" has not identified any immediate safety risk to the KC-46 tanker fleet.



## MILITARY

# Army adding more weight to fitness scores

By ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

Soldiers who earn a high enough score on the Army's fitness test will be exempt from body fat standards under a new policy that will go into effect immediately, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston announced Thursday.

Service officials said they believe those exemptions will help reduce the error rate of the Army's body fat measurement method to almost zero.

Body fat is only measured on soldiers who fail to meet the service's weight standards for their age and gender. The Army did not provide how many of its nearly 1 million active, National Guard and Reserve soldiers are failing the standard each year.

The policy change came from a body composition study that also recommended the service simplify its tape measure method for calculating body fat for those soldiers who exceed weight requirements. A second recommendation would allow for a biometric screening on approved devices to calculate body fat if the soldier fails after a tape test. Those two recommendations are still pending approval from the Army, Grinston said.

"Inside the force, there's a lot of excitement about this," he said during a call Wednesday with reporters.

Under the new policy, soldiers who earn a 540 or higher on the Army Combat Fitness Test, with a minimum of 80 points in each of the six events, will not have to do a body fat test if they fail the weight requirements. The exemption is only valid for up to eight months



DYLAN BAILEY/U.S. Army

**Army Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Rodriguez, who was based at Fort Campbell, Ky., pulls a sled during the Army Combat Fitness Test as part of the U.S. Army Forces Command Best Squad Competition at Fort Hood, Texas, in August.**

for active-duty soldiers and 14 months in the National Guard and Reserve.

A passing score on the fitness test is 360 and a perfect score is 600. The study landed on a 540 because a soldier's body fat, performance and injury-risk aligned for a fit healthy soldier at that score, said Holly McClung, one of lead researchers for the Army Body Composition Study.

Grinston requested the Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine conduct the study after hearing concerns from soldiers about the accuracy of the Army's method for measuring body fat for overweight soldiers. The last Army study on the subject was 23 years ago, he said.

The current tape-test method, which the study found to be right

about 65% of the time, includes taking measurements at a man's abdomen and neck and a woman's waist, hips and neck, and then calculating a specific equation. Soldiers told Grinston that their measurements weren't always taken at the proper points of their body, he said.

However, almost all inaccuracies were in the soldier's favor, according to the study, which collected data on 2,690 soldiers beginning in late 2021. Tape testing was passing about 35% of men who should have failed and about 20% of women. In reverse, about 1% of men and about 5% of women were deemed overweight by the tape test when they should not have been. Failing weight requirements can impact a soldier's career path or lead to discharges.

Women make up about 16% of the Army, the service said.

Grinston, who will retire in August, said he would like to see the other two proposals from the study put into policy before he leaves the Army. The first would equalize the tape-test for men and women with just one measurement taken at the bellybutton. It would also simplify the mathematical equation used to calculate body fat.

"From the outside looking in, [they] can see [they're] going to be treated the same," Grinston said. "From a leadership perspective, it's just going to be a lot easier."

The second proposal allows for soldiers to use an approved biometric screening machine at a government facility to calculate their body fat if they fail a tape test. ROTC members would be allowed to use machines at their college.

The only approved method now for validating a failed tape test is another tape test.

Approved machines include dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry, or DEXA, the In Body 770 bioelectrical impedance analysis machine, and the BOD POD, which is an air displacement plethysmograph.

The study also reviewed the tables for height, weight and age, and found them 90% accurate in screening for overweight soldiers. The Army decided not to make any changes to those tables, Grinston said.

The Army Combat Fitness Test became the service's test of record in October. The new fitness test was first introduced in 2019 but implementation was delayed

for years because of research that found women and members of the Guard and Reserve were unfairly assessed. Meant to simulate the physicality of combat, the six events of the test are a deadlift, standing power throw, hand-release pushups, the sprint-drag-carry, a plank and a two-mile run.

Last year, the Defense Department updated its policy on body composition standards, giving the service branches more freedom to tailor weight and body fat requirements to their own troops and mission. The Air Force has adopted a similar tape test while the Marine Corps has done away with it altogether. Instead, it has purchased bioelectric analysis machines across the service to measure Marines who fail weight standards. It also waives weight requirements for Marines who score high enough on its fitness test.

The Navy announced last month that it would remove past fitness test failures from sailors' records as the service tried to retain personnel. During the coronavirus pandemic, the Navy shifted to a single annual fitness test.

Grinston said it's not feasible for the Army to implement a body-scan policy similar to the Marine Corps because the Army is a much larger force. It would be difficult for the Army to get machines out to all its National Guard and Reserve locations.

"We did our due diligence, and we didn't just rush to it," Grinston said. "We want to get it right, and we want to do the soldiers feedback, too."

thayer.rose@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Rose\_Lori

## Yokota Air Base marks International Women's Day with pilot program

By KELLY AGEE  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Female pilots and aircrew marked International Women's Day on this base in western Tokyo by greeting students for their second annual Fly Girls event.

"I'm trying not to get teary-eyed," Tech. Sgt. Seara Sapp Becker, a C-130J Super Hercules loadmaster, told Stars and Stripes at the event Wednesday. "It was amazing to see the excitement they had and to know that I might have played just a small part in their lives today is just so amazing."

More than 100 students — both girls and boys — from Yokota's middle and high school attended the event. That morning, they rode on a UH-1 Iroquois, or Huey, helicopter; a C-12J Huron, a twin turboprop passenger plane; or a Super Hercules airlifter.

Later, at static displays and information tables inside a hangar for the 459th Airlift Squadron, they learned directly from the women who pilot and maintain the aircraft.

"We have had students come up to us and



JEREMY STILLWAGNER/Stars and Stripes

**Students get a hands-on lesson on a C-130 airlifter during the second annual Fly Girls event at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Wednesday.**

tell us how excited they are to pursue a career in aviation," 1st Lt. Elizabeth Gilliam, a Super Hercules copilot, said at the event.

Yokota High senior Sophia Teodoro said she wasn't sure what role she wanted to serve in the military until she talked to members of the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, at the event.

"I'm a Filipino and it is kind of the norm for us to become nurses (in the military), so I kind of wanted to stay away from that," she said. "But after hearing from the aeromedical evacuation crew and their nursing jobs, the job is more than just taking care of patients. It is also transporting them. I learned that there are nurses that fly and that they help transport a patient from one base to another if there isn't a good hospital for them. I kind of want to do that now."

Women representing their roles in aviation makes a difference, Becker said; it actually inspired her to pursue a career in military aviation.

"As a little girl I never thought I would join the military," she said. "And then I saw my aunt and she was in the military and worked on the C-130E. She showed me the way and that I could do this."

This is the second year the 36th Airlift Wing has hosted the event and the first year the Japan Air Self-Defense Force has been involved.

"Currently we don't have many female pilots, but now younger generation pilots are increasing," said 1st Lt. Avane Takato-

ri, a C-130H pilot with Japan's 401st Tactical Airlift Squadron at Komaki Air Base. "A few years ago, female pilots were not allowed to be fighter jet pilots. But now (Japan) removed that restriction, so we think that the number of female pilots will be increasing."

The event shows young girls and boys how the U.S. and the world has progressed for women in the aviation career field, Gilliam said.

"It's very important for young females to see that these leaps and bounds have already been made and these hurdles that used to stand in front of us have been hurdled already by women like the WASPs, the women and service pilots, and that it's very possible and encouraged for young women to pursue such a career," Gilliam said.

"It's very important for the young men to see this as well, to see that women and men work alongside each other and that we are the same in the eyes of the Air Force," she added.

agee.kelly@stripes.com  
Twitter: @KellyA\_Stripes



## EUROPE

# Russian missile barrage hits Ukrainian cities

BY HANNA ARHIROVA  
AND ELENA BECATOROS  
*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia launched a massive barrage of missiles and drones that hit residential buildings and critical infrastructure across Ukraine on Thursday, killing six people and leaving hundreds of thousands without heat or electricity.

The largest such attack in three weeks also put Europe's largest nuclear plant at risk by knocking it off the power grid for hours before it was reconnected. Nuclear plants need constant power to run cooling systems and avoid a meltdown, and the latest threat to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant once again raised the specter of a nuclear catastrophe.

Air raid sirens wailed through the night, as the attacks targeted a wide swath of the country, including in western Ukraine, which is far from the front lines. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the assault that came while many people slept was an attempt by Moscow "to intimidate Ukrainians again."

The Russian Defense Ministry said the strikes were in retaliation for a recent incursion into the Bryansk region of western Russia by what Moscow claimed were Ukrainian saboteurs. Ukraine denied the claim and warned that Moscow could use the allegations to justify stepping up its own assaults.

The war has largely ground to a stalemate on the battlefield over the winter. The Kremlin's forces started targeting Ukraine's power supply last October in an apparent attempt to demoralize the civilian population and compel Kyiv to negotiate peace on Moscow's terms. The attacks later became less frequent, with analysts speculating Russia may have been running low on ammunition. The last ma-



MYKOLA TYS/AP

Villagers clear the rubble Thursday after Russia's nighttime rocket attack destroyed private houses in a village in Zolochivsky district in the Lviv region of Ukraine.

jor bombardment took place on Feb. 16.

Overall, Russia launched 81 missiles and eight exploding Iranian-made Shahed drones Thursday, according to Ukraine's chief commander of the armed forces, Valerii Zaluzhnyi. Thirty-four missiles were intercepted, as were four drones, he said. The mixture of munitions makes it harder for air defenses to cope with the onslaught, military analysts say.

Among the weapons were six hypersonic Kinzhal cruise missiles, which are among the most sophisticated weapons in the Russian arsenal, Ukrainian air force spokesman Yuriy Ihnat said. Ukraine says it doesn't have air defenses that can intercept them.

The Russian Defense Ministry

said the barrage hit military and industrial targets in Ukraine "as well as the energy facilities that supply them."

The missile strikes won't take any toll on the army's combat capability, but are "playing on the nerves of the civilian population of Ukraine," Ukrainian military analyst Oleh Zhdanov told The Associated Press.

Nearly half of households in Kyiv were without heat, as were many in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, where the water was also cut on a day the low was expected to be around freezing, according to local officials.

Around 150,000 households were left without power in Ukraine's northwestern Zhytomyr region. In the southern port of

Odesa, emergency blackouts occurred due to damaged power lines.

Viktor Bukhta, a 57-year-old resident of Kyiv's Sviatoshynski district, where officials said three people were wounded, said a missile landed nearby in the early morning.

"We went into the yard. People were injured," he said. "Then the cars caught fire. We tried to extinguish them with car fire extinguishers. And I got a little burned."

The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog said he was "astonished by the complacency" of members of the organization he leads, the International Atomic Energy Agency, in relation to the dangers faced by the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear

Power Plant.

"What are we doing to prevent this happening? We are the IAEA, we are meant to care about nuclear safety," Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi told its board of directors in a meeting Thursday, according to a statement from the organization.

"Each time we are rolling a dice," he said. "And if we allow this to continue time after time, then one day our luck will run out."

The agency has placed teams of experts at all four of Ukraine's nuclear power plants to reduce the risk of severe accidents.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba was scathing about the Russian attack, tweeting: "No military objective, just Russian barbarism."

Kyiv's city administration said the capital was attacked with both missiles and exploding drones. Many were intercepted, but its energy infrastructure was hit.

Smoke could be seen rising from a facility in Kyiv's Holiivskyi district and police had cordoned off all roads leading to it.

Three men and two women were killed in the western region of Lviv after a missile struck a residential area, Gov. Maksym Kozlytskyi said. Three buildings were destroyed by fire, and rescue workers were combing through rubble looking for more possible victims, he said.

A sixth person was killed and two others wounded in multiple strikes in the Dnipropetrovsk region that targeted its energy infrastructure and industrial facilities, Gov. Serhii Lysak said.

Aside from the hail of missiles, Russian shelling killed six other civilians from Wednesday to Thursday, Ukrainian officials said, including three people at a bus stop in Kherson.

## NATO chief begins new drive to bring in Finland, Sweden

*Associated Press*

BRUSSELS — NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg is spearheading a new drive this week to see Finland and Sweden become members of the world's biggest military organization by the time U.S. President Joe Biden and his counterparts meet for their next summit in July.

Fearing that they might be targeted next after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year, the Nordic neighbors abandoned their traditional positions of military nonalignment to seek protection under NATO's security umbrella.

All 30 allies signed Finland's and Sweden's accession protocols. Almost all have since ratified those texts, but Turkey and,

more recently, Hungary have sought guarantees and assurances from the two. NATO must agree unanimously for them to join.

Representatives from the Nordic neighbors and Turkey are meeting on Thursday at NATO headquarters in Brussels. Stoltenberg isn't directly involved in the talks, but he organized them after convincing Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan last month to come back to the table.

"This is a process, and I don't expect the process to be concluded" with one round of talks, Stoltenberg told reporters in Stockholm on the eve of the meeting, "but I am confident that Finland and Sweden will become NATO allies. This is a top priority."

Turkey accuses Sweden's government of being too soft on groups it believes are terror organizations or existential threats, including Kurdish groups, and has been angered by protesters burning the Muslim holy book, the Quran. It has fewer problems with Finland joining.

Sweden's government has been acting tough. In a new move on Thursday, it presented a draft law to parliament aimed at making it illegal to support or participate in terrorist organizations. No date for the vote was immediately announced.

Thursday's meeting in Brussels marks the start of a second round of "trilateral" talks. After the first round, Stoltenberg told Turkey that he believed its concerns had

been addressed and that both countries should be allowed to join immediately.

But Erdogan, whose popularity has been hit over the government's handling of the Feb. 6 earthquake, faces an election in two months, and the issue of Swedish membership in NATO — the insistence that it must crack down on extremism — could be a vote winner.

To take the political sting out of events, Stoltenberg has tried to keep the talks low key. NATO doesn't plan any news conference on Thursday.

In a recent about-face, the former Norwegian prime minister also played down the importance of both countries joining NATO at the same time. He underlined

that Finland and Sweden have received assurances from some allies, led by the U.S., that they will be protected should Russia target them.

"It is inconceivable that there will be any military threat against Finland and Sweden without NATO reacting. So, Finland and Sweden are in a much safer, much better position now than before they applied," Stoltenberg said Wednesday.

Hungary's position on their membership is murkier. For months it raised no public objections at all to the two joining, but a date for the Hungarian parliament to ratify their accession protocols was constantly pushed back and it's unclear precisely when a vote will take place.



## NATION

# Biden seeks big deficit cuts in budget proposal

By JOSH BOAK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With the government at risk of defaulting, President Joe Biden on Thursday will make his opening offer in a high-stakes debate over federal finances as he proposes a federal budget that would cut deficits by nearly \$3 trillion over the next decade.

It's part of a broader attempt by the president to call out House Republicans, who are demanding severe cuts to federal spending in return for lifting the government's legal borrowing limit. But the GOP has no counter offer so far, other than a flat "no" to a budget plan that could form the policy spine of Biden's yet-to-be-declared campaign for reelection in 2024.

"We see this as a value statement," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters Wednesday. "This is something that shows the American people that we take this very seriously when we think about the fiscal responsibility, when we think about how do we move forward."

Biden's package of tax and spending priorities is unlikely to pass the House or Senate as proposed. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., predicted in advance that the plan "will not see the light of day," a sign that it might primarily serve as a messaging document going into the 2024 elections.

Biden will unveil his spending plan in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, staking out what he believes is popular terrain that will make it hard for Republicans to criticize without risking blowback. Biden wants to impose tax hikes on the wealthy to limit federal borrowing, including a reversal of the 2017 tax cuts made by then-President Donald Trump on people earning above \$400,000. The added revenues would help to improve Medicare, the government health insurance program for adults over 65.

In the run-up to the plan's release, Biden has floated a new tax on incomes above \$100 million that would target billionaires. He's called for lower prescription drug prices. The tax that companies pay on stock buybacks would be quadrupled, and those earning above \$400,000 would pay an additional Medicare tax that would help to keep the program solvent

beyond the year 2050.

Biden's budget would seek to close the "carried interest" loophole that allows wealthy hedge fund managers and others to pay their taxes at a lower rate, and prevent billionaires from being able to set aside large amounts of their holdings in tax-favored retirement accounts, according to an administration official. The plan also projects saving \$24 billion over 10 years by removing a tax subsidy for cryptocurrency transactions.

The official who provided the budget details spoke on condition of anonymity to preview the plan before its official release.

Biden's budget plan also would:

- Expand the ability of Medicare to negotiate on pharmaceutical drug prices, saving an estimated \$160 billion over a decade.

- Auction off rights to the radio spectrum, generating \$50 billion.

- Take new steps to reduce identity theft and unemployment insurance fraud.

- Target insurance companies that overcharge Medicaid, with anticipated savings of \$20 billion through repayments to the government.

- End subsidies valued at \$31 billion for oil and gas companies.

- Scrap a \$19 billion tax break for real estate investors.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., has called for putting the U.S. government on a path toward a balanced budget. But by refusing to raise taxes or cut Social Security and Medicare spending, GOP lawmakers face some harsh math that makes it hard to slash deficits without risking a voter backlash ahead of a presidential election.

McCarthy told The Associated Press that his plan's release has been pushed back because Biden's proposal is only just being issued.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., expressed skepticism in a Monday speech that McCarthy has any coherent plan that House Republicans can coalesce around.

"Enough with the dodging, enough with the excuses," Schumer said. "Show us your plan. And then show us how it's going to get 218 votes on your side of the aisle."

Biden's deficit reduction goal is significantly higher than the \$2 trillion that he had promised in his State of the Union address last month.



JENNY HARNISH, THE (BECKLEY, W.VA.) REGISTER-HERALD/AP

Smoke fills the sky after an empty CSX coal train hit a rockslide along tracks causing a fiery derailment on Wednesday in a remote area just south of Sandstone, W.Va.

## In W.Va., 3 injured in fiery train derailment caused by rockslide

Associated Press

SANDSTONE, W.Va. — An empty coal train hit a rockslide along tracks in West Virginia on Wednesday morning, causing a fiery derailment that injured three crewmembers, CSX Transportation said in a statement.

Four locomotives and 22 empty cars derailed in Summers County near the New River, CSX said. The lead locomotive, which carried a conductor, an engineer and an en-

gineer trainee, caught fire and the crewmembers were being evaluated and treated for non-life threatening injuries, the company said.

CSX said an unoccupied locomotive was partially in the waterway where an unknown amount of diesel fuel and oil spilled, officials said. Environmental teams were deploying containment measures.

The derailment occurred in a remote area just south of Sand-

stone inside the New River National Park and Preserve, according to a statement from the West Virginia Emergency Management Division. Several state agencies are monitoring the situation and said public water systems downstream have been notified and are monitoring for any potential public health impacts.

No hazardous materials were being transported and there was no danger to the public, CSX said.

## Norfolk Southern CEO apologizes, vows millions in assistance at Senate hearing

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Norfolk Southern's CEO apologized before Congress on Thursday and pledged millions of dollars to help East Palestine, Ohio, recover from last weekend's fiery, hazardous materials train derailment. But he stopped short of fully endorsing a Senate bill to toughen safety regulations.

CEO Alan Shaw said his railroad supports the goal of improving rail safety, but he also defended the railroad's record.

He did back proposals to tighten standards for tank cars that the railroads don't own, expand hazardous materials training for first responders and establish standards for the trackside detectors railroads use to spot problems.

"I'm terribly sorry for the impact this derailment has had on the folks of that community," Shaw said. "We're going to be there for as long as it takes to help East Palestine thrive and recover."

He pointed to a \$20 million commitment so far to help the community recover. Norfolk Southern's final

financial responsibility is expected to run far beyond that.

The company has announced several voluntary safety upgrades. Senators, however, have promised an inquiry into the derailment, the Biden administration's response and the company's safety practices after the toppling of 38 railcars, including 11 carrying hazardous materials. Federal regulators have also said Norfolk Southern itself must do more to improve safety.

No one was injured in the crash, but state and local officials decided to release and burn toxic vinyl chloride from five tanker cars, prompting the evacuation of half of the roughly 5,000 residents of East Palestine. Scenes of billowing smoke above the village, alongside an outcry from residents that they are still suffering from illnesses, have turned high-level attention to railroad safety and how dangerous materials are transported.

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., the chair of the committee opened the hearing by calling it an "an opportunity to put ourselves in the shoes of

those impacted by this disaster, examine the immediate response and ensure long-term accountability for the cleanup efforts."

Carper joined the top Republican on the committee, Sen. Shelley Capito of West Virginia, in a call with reporters on Wednesday to emphasize they would work in bipartisan fashion "to deliver accountability to the communities and folks who have been impacted."

The East Palestine disaster as well as a spate of other recent train derailments have sparked a show of bipartisanship in the Senate. The committee on Thursday also heard from Ohio and Pennsylvania senators — Republican JD Vance and Democrats Sherrod Brown and Bob Casey — who are pushing new safety regulations called the Railway Safety Act of 2023.

Train derailments have been getting less common but there were still more than 1,000 last year, according to data collected by the Federal Railroad Administration. But even a single train derailment involving hazardous materials can be disastrous.



# NATION

## Unemployment aid claims rise by most in 5 months

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits last week jumped by the most in five months, but layoffs remain historically low as the labor market continues to be largely unaffected by the Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes.

Applications for jobless claims in the U.S. for the week ending March 4 rose by 21,000 to 211,000 from 190,000 the previous week, the Labor Department said Thursday. It's the first time in eight weeks that claims came in above 200,000.

The four-week moving average of claims, which flattens out some of the weekly ups and downs, rose by 4,000 to 197,000, remaining below the 200,000 threshold for the seventh straight week.

Applications for unemployment benefits are considered a proxy for layoffs.

Last month, the government reported that employers added a better-than-expected 517,000 jobs in January and that the unemployment rate dipped to 3.4%, the lowest level since 1969. Analysts expect Friday's jobs report to show the U.S. economy added another 208,000 jobs in February.

Fed policymakers have forecast that the unemployment rate would rise to 4.6% by the end of this year.

### 6-year-old who shot teacher won't be charged

RICHMOND, Va. — Authorities in the Virginia city where a 6-year-old shot and wounded his teacher will not seek criminal charges against the child, the local prosecutor told NBC News Wednesday, in a decision that was anticipated by legal experts.

But Newport News Commonwealth's Attorney Howard Gwynn said his office has yet to decide if any adults will be held criminally accountable.

Newport News police have said that the boy used his mother's 9mm handgun in the Jan. 6 shooting at Richneck Elementary School. A lawyer for the child's mother has previously stated that the weapon, which was legally purchased, was secured on a high closet shelf and had a lock on it.

Gwynn did not immediately respond to two phone messages and two emails from The Associated Press seeking comment.

He told NBC that the "prospect that a 6-year-old can stand trial is problematic" because he wouldn't have the competency to understand the legal system and what a charge means.

Gwynn told the news outlet that his office is still focusing on others besides the child.

"Once we analyze all the facts, we will charge any person or persons that we believe we can prove beyond a reasonable doubt committed a crime," he said.

The decision did not come as a surprise. Even though it is possible under Virginia law to criminally charge a 6-year-old child, legal experts said it would be highly unlikely that a prosecutor would even try.

### GOP leader McConnell hospitalized after fall

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell was hospitalized after tripping at a local hotel, a spokesman for the senator said.

The Kentucky senator, who's 81, was attending a private dinner in Washington on Wednesday when he tripped. He was admitted to a hospital for treatment, spokesman Doug Andres said.

McConnell's office did not provide additional detail on his condition or how long he may be absent from the Senate.

In 2019, the GOP leader tripped and fell at his home in Kentucky, suffering a shoulder fracture.

### Guantanamo prisoner released to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon said Wednesday it had repatriated a longtime inmate from the U.S. prison in Guantanamo Bay to his home country of Saudi Arabia, as the Biden administration moves closer toward its stated but complex goal of shuttering the detention facility in Cuba.

The Defense Department said in a statement that Ghassan al-Sharbi, 48, was returned after consulting with Saudi Arabia to ensure it could meet "the requirements for responsible transfer."

Sharbi was charged in 2009 with conspiracy and providing material support for terrorism. The United States alleged that Sharbi had traveled from Saudi Arabia to Afghanistan in August 2001 to receive terrorism training at a camp operated by al-Qaeda.

Sharbi, who is fluent in English and took undergraduate courses for two years in Arizona, according to court records, translated and taught English to al-Qaeda terrorists, the United States alleged. However, the charges were dropped in 2013, and Sharbi was never brought to trial. Still, he remained imprisoned at the facility.

From wire reports

## Save On Your Auto Loan



**.25%<sup>APR</sup> OFF  
AUTO LOANS  
FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY\***

Learn more at [servicecu.org/militaryauto](http://servicecu.org/militaryauto)



Insured by NCUA

\*Offer available on purchases and refinances of new and used auto or motorcycle loans. A qualifying member is a new or existing member who applies for and is approved for an eligible auto or motorcycle loan between January 17, 2023 and April 30, 2023. Member must be active duty military; does not apply to national guard or reserve members. Offer subject to change without notice. Individual must be a member of Service CU or eligible for membership with at least \$5 in a Primary Savings account.

## Tax Season is NOW Here



### Tax Season 2023

**OPERATING HOURS:**

Monday-Friday  
10am-5pm

Saturday  
by appointment only

Give us a call:  
0631-3554711  
0631-30396446

Send us a message:  
[elmer.stokes@hrblock.com](mailto:elmer.stokes@hrblock.com)  
[hrblock.ktown1@yahoo.com](mailto:hrblock.ktown1@yahoo.com)

Visit Us:  
Kaiserstrasse 65 (B40)  
67661 Kaiserslautern-Einsiedlerhof



## WORLD

# China's Xi calls for 'more quickly elevating' military

Associated Press

BEIJING — China's leader Xi Jinping has called for "more quickly elevating the armed forces to world-class standards," in a speech just days after a top diplomat warned of the growing possibility of conflict with the U.S. unless Washington changes course.

China must maximize its "national strategic capabilities" in a bid to "systematically upgrade the country's overall strength to cope with strategic risks, safeguard strategic interests and realize strategic objectives," Xi said Wednesday.

His remarks to delegates in the ceremonial parliament representing the People's Liberation Army, the military wing of the ruling Communist Party, and the paramilitary People's Armed Police, were carried by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Xi issued a series of calls to accelerate the buildup of self-reliance in science and technology, bolster strategic capabilities in emergency fields, make industrial and supply chains more resilient and make national reserves "more capable of safeguarding national security."

The program laid out by Xi dovetails with a number of national strategies already underway, including the "Made in China 2025" campaign to make China dominant in 10 key fields from integrated circuits to aerospace, and a decades-old cam-

aign for civilian-military integration in the economy.

Xi also mentioned the need for "achieving the goals for the centenary of the PLA in 2027," a date by which, according to some U.S. observers, China intends to have the capability of conquering self-governing Taiwan, an American ally, by military means. China has defined the centenary goals in mostly vague terms, such as greater "informatization" and raising the PLA to "world-class standards."

China needs to build "a strong system of strategic deterrent forces, raise the presence of combat forces in new domains and of new qualities, and deeply promote combat-oriented military training," according to a speech Xi gave last year.

Meanwhile on Wednesday, Gen. Laura J. Richardson, commander of the U.S. Southern Command, which is responsible for South America and the Caribbean, testified before the House Armed Services Committee that China and Russia were "malign actors" that are "aggressively exerting influence over our democratic neighbors."

China is "spreading its malign influence, wielding its economic might, and conducting gray zone activities to expand its military and political access and influence," Richardson said.

"This is a strategic risk that we can't accept or ignore," she added.

# Netanyahu's judiciary plans spark widespread protests

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had to be airlifted on Thursday to the country's main international airport for an official overseas trip, after throngs of cars and protesters prevented him from driving there.

The demonstrations were part of nationwide protests underway for more than two months against Netanyahu's contentious plan to overhaul the judiciary.

Demonstrators had made blocking Netanyahu's route to the airport a centerpiece of their intensifying efforts to oppose the legal changes, and the optics of the Israeli leader having to make alternate travel plans were a win for the protest movement. The helicopter ride, far from the snarling traffic triggered by the protest, was also sure to deepen Netanyahu's reputation as being out of touch with Israelis at a time when the country finds itself torn apart over the government plan and the economy is slowing.

Thursday's disruptions also took a toll on visiting U.S. Secretary of

State Lloyd Austin, whose schedule was rearranged to keep his engagements close to the airport.

The protesters, launching a "day of resistance to dictatorship," descended on the country's main international airport waving Israeli flags, blocking the road leading to the departures area with their cars.

Elsewhere, protesters blocked main intersections and scuffled with police in Tel Aviv and other cities. A small flotilla of paddleboards and kayaks tried to close off a maritime shipping lane off the city of Haifa. Some protesters barricaded the Jerusalem offices of a conservative think tank helping to spearhead the judicial changes.

"Israel is on the verge of becoming an autocratic country. The current government is trying to destroy our democracy, and actually destroy the country," said Savion Or, a protester in Tel Aviv.

Netanyahu and his allies say the measures aim to rein in a court that has overstepped its authority. Critics say the overhaul will upset the country's delicate system of checks and balances and slide Israel toward authoritarianism.

OPENING IN THE KAISERSLATERN AREA: JAN 2023!



OPEN HOUSE

A HOUSE FOR ALL NATIONS

Startup Vision Casting Meeting JAN 28, 2023 • 6PM  
Official 1<sup>st</sup> Service Saturday MAR 25, 2023 • 6PM

## ALL ARE WELCOME!

We are a International ministry that loves to see people ENCOUNTER GOD.  
No fluff, no pump. We love ALL NATIONS, and we love to WORSHIP GOD!  
GOD has lead us to OPEN A SERVICE FOR HIM in Kaiserslautern, GERMANY.  
It's time for your ENCOUNTER!

Where are you in your JOURNEY OF LIFE? Have you been wounded  
in MINISTRY? Or just wounded in life? You are welcome!  
Jesus will heal you!

Our heart and business plan will follow this format:

### OHI BUSINESS PLAN 1 • Meeting JESUS

John 3:16 (KJV): For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

### OHI BUSINESS PLAN 2 • Growing in the Grace and the Knowledge of GOD

2 Peter 3:18 (KJV): But grow in grace, and [in] the knowledge of our Lord  
and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him [be] glory both now and forever.

## WE BELIEVE IN GODS BUILDING PLAN BY THE WORD AND BY THE HOLY SPIRIT ITS TIME, GODS TIME!

Pastor James Fleming, let's allow GOD to take you into A NEW SEASON

SERVICES • SATURDAYS 6PM

openhousetown@gmail.com



## Drop Off Tax Service

Getting your refund is more  
important than ever.

### Wherever you are, we can help prepare your taxes.

Send your documents to our office. A tax pro will contact you with any questions and to let you know when your return is ready for approval.  
Review and approve your return online.

#### BAMBERG

+49 (0)951-7000899  
rosie.short@hrblock.com

#### GRAFENWÖHR

+49 (0)173-573-6112  
office62911@hrblock.com  
jorellano@hrblock.com

#### VILSECK

+49(0)9662-701339  
office62911@hrblock.com  
jorellano@hrblock.com



### MILITARY TAX EXPERTS

QUESTIONS? CALL US. OPEN YEAR ROUND.  
ITIN ACCEPTANCE AGENT • EXPAT TAX SERVICE

hrblock.com







## WEEKEND: ACADEMY AWARDS

## Spotlight shift

Though last year's Oscars Slap is still being discussed, this year's ceremony looks to make headlines of its own

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

The Academy Awards are Sunday, but did last year's Oscars ever really end?

When Hollywood reconvenes at the Dolby Theatre for the 95th Academy Awards, the ceremony will signal many things. The probable triumph of "Everything Everywhere All at Once." A potentially historic night for Asians and Asian Americans in the film industry. Possibly a record number of jokes about "Cocaine Bear."

But for many, nothing will register more than returning to the site of The Slap. In a way, we're all still living in that frozen-in-time moment. Chris Rock's face twisted to the side. Will Smith's arm dramatically extended. A deathly hush over the Dolby Theatre.

A new low for the Oscars but a high point of public fascination, The Slap was immediately etched into collective memory, and its shock has kept reverberating. Rock, in a live stand-up special last weekend, only just offered his fiery rebuttal, adding a fresh new volley in the still ongoing discourse around the incident.

For the first time, two sequels ("Top Gun: Maverick," "Avatar: The Way of Water") are nominated this year for best picture. But this year's Oscars — whether they like it or not — will be a sequel, too, just one without the main stars in attendance. Smith has been banned by the motion picture academy for 10 years. Rock has been sticking with stand-up.

Host Jimmy Kimmel — who had been on the Dolby stage in 2017 for The Flub, a moment of Oscar infamy now practically forgotten — has said he will address The Slap. It would be "ridiculous" not to, he told The Hollywood Reporter.

The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, too, is making preparations. After a sluggish response to Smith's actions that academy president Janet Yang has called "inadequate," the Oscars will have their first ever "crisis team" to react to surprises. Kimmel, who has hosted twice before, was brought in partly to have a steady hand on the telecast, which will restore all categories to the live show. Kimmel is the first solo host for the show since the last time he hosted, five years ago.

"We learned from this that the academy must be fully transparent and accountable in our actions," Yang said at the luncheon last month, "and particularly in times of crisis you must act swiftly, compassionately and decisively for ourselves and for our industry."

Kimmel's challenge will be to reference The Slap without allowing another Oscars to become defined by it. Last year, after Smith's blow and his subsequent yelling from his seat, the Academy Awards stumbled hazily through the rest of an airless ceremony, taking the spotlight away from



An Oscar statue outside the Dolby Theatre. The Oscars are on March 12.

the landmark win for the deaf drama "CODA" and documentary winner "Summer of Soul," the award Rock presented to Questlove. Smith also won his first Oscar, for "King Richard." He didn't apologize in that moment but did in a statement the following day. Smith soon thereafter resigned his academy membership.

This year, "Everything Everywhere All at Once" comes in with a commanding 11 nominations. Though an unlikely Oscar front-runner, Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert's multiverse mashup is expected to win best picture after sweeping the top guild awards. The Daniels, as they are known, are favored to best Steven Spielberg for best director. Former child star Ke Huy Quan is seen as a lock for best supporting actor. Michelle Yeoh could become the first Asian best actress winner.

### Can anything stop 'Everything'?

The A24 indie hit has had an enviable run leading up the Oscars, winning with the Screen Actors Guild, the Producers Guild, the Directors Guild and the Writers Guild. History says that nothing can beat it. Yet some doubts persist that the mad-cap action comedy just isn't Oscar material enough to win, and that the WWI film "All Quiet on the Western Front" — which won at the BAFTAs and comes in with nine nominations — could sneak in for the upset. The harrowingly anti-war Netflix film, from Germany, has especially resonated in Europe where Russia's war in Ukraine continues to rage.

### What's the latest with the best actress race?

Easily the fiercest and most controversy-generating category this year is best actress. It's seen as a clash of heavyweight contenders in first-time nominee Yeoh and two-time winner Cate Blanchett, for "Tár." Either could go home with the trophy. But much of the drama came in nominations, where Andrea Riseborough



Will Smith, right, hits presenter Chris Rock on stage while presenting the award for best documentary feature at the Oscars on March 27 at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

scored a nod for the little-seen drama "To Leslie" after a host of celebrities led an A-list grassroots campaign for the British actress. At the same time, two acclaimed Black actresses — Danielle Deadwyler ("Till") and Viola Davis ("The Woman King") — were left out, prompting a debate about the influence of connections, money and race on awards campaigns. Just as the whole affair seemed to be fading, Yeoh on Tuesday, with hours to go in Oscar voting, posted screenshots to Instagram of a Vogue article advocating for Yeoh to win over Blanchett. Academy rules prohibit "any tactic that singles out 'the competition' by name or titles." Yeoh deleted the post. Throughout the race, though, she and Blanchett have each warmly celebrated the other.

### Where are the streamers?

Last year's best-picture winner, "CODA," marked the first time a streamer won Hollywood's top prize. Many of the pandemic-era nominees were released quickly, if not immediately, into homes. This year, it's a very different story. Only one of the 10 films up for best picture came from a streaming service: Netflix's "All Quiet on the Western Front." That film should take a number of awards on Sunday, including best international film and cinematography. Netflix's "Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio" is also heavily favored to win best animated feature. But after years of Oscar advancement, Netflix and company may experience a setback in the top categories. That happens to coincide with a retrenchment throughout the industry in streaming after years of torrid growth.

### Will the blockbuster nominees boost ratings?

It's been years since the best-picture candidates were this rich at the box office. "Top Gun: Maverick" grossed nearly \$1.5 billion worldwide. (Spielberg was overheard telling Tom Cruise he "saved Hollywood" at the Oscar luncheon.) "Avatar: The Way of Water" is the third highest grossing film of all time with nearly \$2.3 billion in ticket sales. "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" (\$858.8 million) could land Angela Bassett the first acting Oscar for a Marvel movie, though the supporting actress category remains one of the hardest to call. But historically, ratings have often risen with the popularity of the nominees. Last year's ceremony, perhaps boosted by those who rushed to follow the aftermath of The Slap, drew 16.6 million viewers. That was up 58% from the pandemic-marred 2021 edition (watched by a record low 10.5 million), but still a ways off the viewership of several years ago. Last year's telecast had been billed as a return to normal for the Oscars — at least before, well, you know what. This year will go a long way to determine what's the new normal for the Academy Awards telecast.

### What's the over/under on slaps?

As Kimmel has noted, you can bet on anything at the Academy Awards, including whether anyone slaps the host. "If you bet \$100 on yes — you win \$1,200," Kimmel said earlier this winter on his late-night show. "Which I have to say, seems like they're encouraging someone with a gambling problem to slap me. Right?"



Kimmel



## WEEKEND: ACADEMY AWARDS

## Beyond anything they could ever imagine

Co-directors 'The Daniels' still shocked by success of 'Everything Everywhere'

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

**T**hey dreamed up universes of hot dog fingers, googly-eyed rocks and "Raccacoonie." But Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, in this world or another, never imagined the kind of runaway success "Everything Everywhere All at Once" would have on the Oscar trail.

For the past year, since "Everything Everywhere All at Once" debuted at SXSW, the filmmaking duo known as the Daniels has been living in what has sometimes felt to them like a parallel dimension. They never expected that their madcap multiverse tale would take them to the Oscars. They still, sometimes, don't believe it.

"It feels like we're in our movie sometimes," Scheinert says. "At some point we're going to get pulled out of this joke and be back to our own lives and be like, 'Oh, wouldn't that be cool? Too bad.'"

Yet "Everything Everywhere All at Once" has emerged as the most improbable of Academy Awards heavyweights. An absurdist indie that pairs existentialism and everything bagels, released way back in March last year, is not just heading for a few possible wins at the Oscars on Sunday. It's poised to steamroll.

It's the favorite to win best picture, best director, best actress for Michelle Yeoh, best supporting actor for Ke Huy Quan and potentially best supporting actress for Jamie Lee Curtis. A movie with fanny-pack-styled kung fu about a middle-aged woman filing her taxes is on course to best blockbusters ("Top Gun: Maverick") and Spielberg ("The Fabelmans") alike.

If "Everything Everywhere All at Once" — nominated for a leading 11 Oscars and already a winner with the predictive producers, actors and directors guilds — wins best picture, it will be one of the most anti-Oscar bait winners ever. Among other historic feats, it will almost certainly be the first best picture winner to prominently feature butt plugs.

"In kink-positive people's defense, you can put almost anything up your butt," Scheinert says, laughing. "So, in a way, every single Oscar movie has a butt plug. You just have to be creative."

Getting creative has been part of the Daniels' method since they first met while studying film at Emerson College in Boston. Kwan, a Massachusetts native, and Scheinert, from Alabama, started off making music videos and shorts. Their feature film debut, 2016's "Swiss Army Man," starred Daniel Radcliffe as a flatulence-



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Daniel Kwan, right, photographed Feb. 13 with co-director Daniel Scheinert, says their madcap multiverse tale "is reflective of what reality feels like, to us, at least."

emitting corpse. "Everything Everywhere All at Once" is just their second feature. The Daniels are each 35.

The unexpected success — the A24 release has grossed more than \$100 million worldwide against a \$14.3 million budget — has thrown off the trajectory the Daniels imagined they might be on. In a

recent, rare lull between awards ceremonies, they spoke by Zoom from Kwan's home office.

However many Oscars "Everything Everywhere All at Once" ultimately wins — it won't be a bagel — it's clear to Kwan that nothing will ever be quite the same after their unexpected lurch onto Hollywood's highest stage.

"I've gone

through so many cycles of euphoria and depression and manic episodes," Kwan, a gentle and introspective soul, says. "I've realized that I'm never going to get to go back to my old life. That struck me at one of my low points and I had to actually mourn the loss of our lives. That can be both incredible and sad at the same time."

When "Everything Everywhere All at Once" landed in theaters, it ignited the specialty film business after two years of the pandemic, driving moviegoers back to art houses and becoming A24's biggest box-office smash. But even then, awards

talk was mostly far-fetched. It wasn't until the fall, when it won best film at the Gotham Awards, that the buzz started to get real. Affection for the film just kept building. Early naysaying that the film was too strange for older academy voters has proved wrong.

Scheinert wryly recalls telling cast and crew on set: "We're not making an Oscar movie here. This movie is about quantity, not quality." And yet, by a twist of fate, a movie made without any thought of the Academy Awards is set to conquer them.

"The industry at large is going through a lot of soul searching," Kwan says. "What happened with theatrical during the pandemic, what's happening now with streaming, the fact that OscarsSoWhite has caused the makeup of the academy to change. We are in such a moment of flux that I do think somehow this strange movie has stuck a chord."

"We feel like this film is reflective of what reality feels like, to us, at least," Kwan adds. "The fact that people are responding to it is really affirming: 'Oh, you see what I see.'"

At a time when Hollywood's main studio product is in franchises, remakes and sequels, "Everything Everywhere All at Once" is also a movie brimming with originality. (This is the first Oscar year two sequels, "Maverick" and "Avatar: The Way of Water," are nominated for best picture.) A vote for "Everything Everywhere All at Once" is a vote for something different.

"There's something really important about stretching your own imagination in your everyday life. We create these narratives about ourselves and then we acciden-

tally get trapped in them often," Kwan says. "I grew up with a lot of self-doubt and self-loathing. The fact that I'm now a director who's been able to find some success is just such a narrative-shattering, imagination-stretching idea that I would have never been able to imagine a few years ago."

To Scheinert, the film's "secret weapon" is its cast. Even if the movie isn't to your taste, he says, "You can't hate Ke and Michelle." Yeoh, long one of the big screen's martial arts powerhouses, has said throughout awards season that "Everything Everywhere All at Once" opened a new door to her as an actor. Quan, a former child star who had given up acting after years of struggle, has said an Oscar wasn't his goal. He just wanted a job.

"If our movie can un-typecast people and un-typecast the community, that's a pretty dope thing," Scheinert says.

Reached by phone the morning of Oscar nominations, Yeoh said she never imagined, when they started making "Everything Everywhere All at Once," that they were destined for the Academy Awards.

"We're a tiny little movie with a big beating heart, without a doubt," Yeoh said. "We had ambitions because we felt that our story just needed to be told. In times of chaos and turbulence, this is a movie about healing. It's about love. It's about a very ordinary person — which we all are — who's given the opportunity to be a superhero with superpowers that are love and compassion."

On stage after stage, the Daniels, Yeoh, Quan and more have brought the house down with moving speeches about Asian representation. At the Screen Actors Guild Awards on Sunday, Quan said: "To all those at home who are watching, who are struggling and waiting to be seen, please keep on going because the spotlight will one day find you." Ninety-four-year-old James Hong, the film's crotchety patriarch, reflected at the SAGs on Hollywood's dismal history of depicting Asian and Asian-American life. Then he declared triumphantly: "Look at us now!"

"Everything Everywhere All at Once," an antic metaphor for the immigrant experience of Asian Americans, has made its own case for a different movie universe, one where heroes look like Yeoh's Evelyn Wang or Quan's Waymond Wang.

"If I was growing up with a film like this or with this conversation happening, I would be a very different kind of person and a very different kind of Asian American," Kwan says. "Most of my life, the Asian part of my experience was something to be erased or something to ignore because it felt more like a liability than a strength."

Rewind exactly a year and a day from the March 12 Oscars and the Daniels and company were standing on the SXSW stage in Austin, Texas, with little idea of what was to come. Asked by an audience member what got left on the cutting room floor, Scheinert with a twinge of regret suggested another universe, entirely: Spaghetti Baby Noodle Boy, with a talking macaroni who doesn't understand why he's not spaghetti, voiced by Jenny Slate.

Another road not taken, yes. But as Scheinert noted, there's always the DVD.



## WEEKEND: ACADEMY AWARDS



A24 photos

Three stars from “Everything Everywhere All at Once” have a reasonable shot at individual awards. From left: Jamie Lee Curtis, Michelle Yeoh and Ke Huy Quan.

# Will ‘Everything’ take everything?

AP Film Writers Bahr and Coyle share their predictions for an Oscars ceremony in which many outcomes seem guaranteed, but a few question marks remain

BY LINDSEY BAHR AND JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

## Best picture

**THE NOMINEES:** “All Quiet on the Western Front”; “Avatar: The Way of Water”; “The Banshees of Inisherin”; “Elvis”; “Everything Everywhere All at Once”; “The Fabelmans”; “Tár”; “Top Gun: Maverick”; “Triangle of Sadness”; “Women Talking”

**COYLE:** I can’t help feeling like this best picture field reflects our strange, jumbled movie world. Big-budget blockbusters, indie hits, acclaimed arthouse contenders mostly watched on video on demand, a German Netflix film and whatever it is, exactly, that you call “Elvis.” Little in this race has gone as expected. Many of the once-presumed favorites — “Bardo,” “Empire of Light,” “White Noise” — fizzled. Steven Spielberg’s “The Fabelmans” had the air of a sure thing, but audiences didn’t show up — a strike against any contender but a fatal blow for a Spielberg movie. Academy members, seemingly, have developed less of a taste for Oscar bait and instead thrown their support behind a movie that never had any designs on the Academy Awards: “Everything Everywhere All at Once.” In an odd, mixed-up year, Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert’s blissfully chaotic film has turned into an improbable Oscar runaway, cleaning up at all the predictive guild awards. This year, the road to best picture is paved with googly eyes.

**BAHR:** I usually wish for chaos when a best picture winner is locked — but “Everything Everywhere” is about as chaotic (and inspired) a best picture winner as you can get. This would also make two years in a row that best picture went to films that premiered outside of the Cannes/Fall Festival stranglehold (“EEAAO” debuted at SXSW, “CODA” at Sundance). If anything is going to shake up the industry and the awards industrial complex, it’s something like this (and Andrea Riseborough).

## Best actress

**THE NOMINEES:** Ana de Armas, “Blonde”; Cate Blanchett, “Tár”; Andrea Riseborough, “To Leslie”; Michelle Williams, “The Fabelmans”; Michelle Yeoh, “Everything Everywhere All at Once”

**BAHR:** So, it’s down to Lydia Tár and Evelyn Wang. This has been a race between Blanchett and Yeoh for most of the season. Both were commanding and dynamic in their roles — Blanchett as the genius conductor whose high-flying status in the classical music world begins to unravel around her, and Yeoh as the Chinese American laundromat owner who has to save the multiverse, inhabiting different possible versions of herself from movie star to rock along the way. And both have been well decorated and celebrated this season. That their full character names are fully part of the cultural consciousness already speaks volumes. After the Screen Actors Guild Awards, it seems Yeoh is the likely victor, which will be a historic win with wide-ranging significance.

**COYLE:** This is indeed between Yeoh and Blanchett. And as much as I thought of Blanchett’s performance and as much as I’m kinda scared of what Lydia Tár might do to me for saying this, this is Yeoh’s year. For both her cosmic but grounded performance and for her butt-kicking career, Yeoh is more than deserved and will triumph.



Cate Blanchett in “Tár”



Michelle Yeoh in “Everything Everywhere All at Once”

## Best actor

**THE NOMINEES:** Brendan Fraser, “The Whale”; Colin Farrell, “The Banshees of Inisherin”; Austin Butler, “Elvis”; Bill Nighy, “Living”; Paul Mescal, “Aftersun”

**COYLE:** The only thing I feel sure of in this category is that I’ve started to feel a little bad for Austin Butler. All the he’s-still-talking-like-Elvis jokes were fun at first, but now I’m worried an appealing young actor is going to get permanently typecast. Butler could very well win, though. And Farrell might even be able to pull off an upset with the much-loved “The Banshees of Inisherin.” But I’m leaning toward Fraser here. He has two powerful Oscar narratives going for him: a comeback story and a massive physical transformation. Wait, didn’t I say Oscar bait was out this year? Oh, well. I’m still glad to see Mescal in the mix for the staggering “Aftersun.”

**BAHR:** Austin Butler will be just fine, and who knows what voice he’ll break out for “Dune 2”? After SAG, it seemed clearer that this year the industry is looking to honor the journeymen over the relative newcomers. And you’re right, Fraser fits the narrative — a perfect comeback story hobbled only by the divisiveness of the movie itself (another reason why it could still be Farrell’s). Then again, Nighy could also be this year’s Anthony Hopkins.



Brendan Fraser in “The Whale”



Colin Farrell in “The Banshees of Inisherin”

SEE PREDICTIONS ON PAGE 17



## WEEKEND: ACADEMY AWARDS

# Predictions: Few surprises this year in acting categories

FROM PAGE 16

## Best supporting actress

**THE NOMINEES:** Angela Bassett, “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever”; Hong Chau, “The Whale”; Kerry Condon, “The Banshees of Inisherin”; Stephanie Hsu, “Everything Everywhere All at Once”; Jamie Lee Curtis, “Everything Everywhere All at Once”

**BAHR:** Angela Bassett seemed set to “do the thing,” with Kerry Condon in the wings as a possible sub, and probably still will. But then Jamie Lee Curtis had to go and make things more interesting when she won at the Screen Actors Guild (and gave a great speech).

**COYLE:** This had been Bassett’s all the way before Curtis, Nepo baby supreme, had her magnificent moment at the SAGs. But I’m going to stick with Bassett. It could be that academy members just can’t bring themselves to vote for a Marvel movie role. But Bassett gave such a powerhouse performance in “Wakanda Forever” and is overdue for her Oscar moment.

## Best supporting actor

**THE NOMINEES:** Brian Tyree Henry, “Causeway”; Judd Hirsch, “The Fabelmans”; Brendan Gleeson, “Banshees of Inisherin”; Barry Keoghan, “Banshees of Inisherin”; Ke Huy Quan, “Everything Everywhere All at Once”

**COYLE:** Finally, an acting lock. Quan is assured of taking this, and it should be one of the most stirring moments of the ceremony. It’s been literally decades since the former child actor of “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom” and “Goonies” had a notable role in a movie. The film industry should probably be asking itself some hard questions about how that could happen for an actor as endearing as Quan. But as far as absolution goes, you could do a lot worse than hand Quan an Academy Award.

**BAHR:** The big question is what Hollywood will do with Quan after the win. The industry has a way of patting itself on the back for feel-good moments like this and Troy Kotsur’s last year and then moving on. Let’s hope Quan’s inbox is already flooded with scripts and offers.

## Best director

**THE NOMINEES:** “Martin McDonagh, “The Banshees of Inisherin”; Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, “Everything Everywhere All at Once”; Steven Spielberg, “The Fabelmans”; Todd Field, “Tár”; Ruben Östlund, “Triangle of Sadness”

**BAHR:** Awards history would suggest that The Daniels, Kwan and Scheinert, have this one locked after the Directors Guild win. At this point they’re the safe bet. But that’s not to deny the fact that their win would also be an exciting choice for the industry to celebrate the two 35-year-olds’ second film with their branch’s highest honor. It would be a win for original storytelling, diverse voices and just a case for taking big, weird swings. Still, there’s a voice in my head saying that Spielberg, who has somehow only won best director twice, could be a wild card.

**COYLE:** This had once seemed a certainty for Spielberg who, after one of the most celebrated careers in movie history, finally phoned home with “The Fabel-



Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment

“The Fabelmans” was an early Oscars favorite for best picture and best director for Steven Spielberg, though it has been overtaken in those races by the aptly named “Everything Everywhere All at Once.” Shown: Gabriel LaBelle.

mans.” And unlike some previous years, he’s worked the campaign trail, too. But I think the Daniels — each of whom are less than half the age of Spielberg — have emerged as the likely winners. They would be only the third directing duo to win, following Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise for “West Side Story” and Joel and Ethan Coen for “No Country for Old Men.”

## Best documentary

**THE NOMINEES:** “All That Breathes”; “All the Beauty and the Bloodshed”; “Fire of Love”; “A House Made of Splinters”; “Navalny”

**COYLE:** I’m still smarting a little that Margaret Brown’s “Descendant,” a living oral history of a documentary, didn’t make it into this field. But it’s a strong group, including the tenderly lyrical “All That Breathes” and the smoldering romance of “Fire of Love.” But I think the most likely to win films are Daniel Roher’s “Navalny,” about the imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, and Laura Poitras’ “All the Beauty and the Bloodshed,” about the groundbreaking photographer Nan Goldin and her crusade against the the Sackler pharma family. I give the slight edge to “Navalny,” a film with obvious political poignance.

**BAHR:** Finally, some minor disagreement! I’m placing my bet on the Poitras. It won the Golden Lion over “Tár” and “The Banshees of Inisherin” at the Venice Film Festival, where the academy had a major presence. Poitras’ film, both intimate and epic in weaving together Goldin’s life, art and activism, is on another level. And she’s won before.

## Best international film

**THE NOMINEES:** “All Quiet on the Western Front” (Germany); “Argentina, 1985” (Argentina); “Close” (Belgium); “EO” (Poland); “The Quiet Girl” (Ireland)”

**BAHR:** There’s not a bad choice in the lot (and so many great ones that didn’t make the cut ... looking at you, “Saint Omer” ), but while there’s a lot of late-game love for Ireland’s small, heart-wrenching “The Quiet Girl,” Germany’s visceral war epic “All Quiet on the Western Front” has probably had this category in the bag for some time. Edward Berger’s film, the first ever German-language adaptation of Erich Maria Remarque’s novel, hit a nerve and transcended the international category.

**COYLE:** “All Quiet on the Western Front” is a lock. With a commanding nine nominations, it’s maybe even a dark horse for best picture. But the international film award will be a bit anticlimactic. Some of the best movies of the year — Park Chan-wook’s “Decision to Leave,” Alice Diop’s “Saint Omer” and, above all, “No Bears” by the recently imprisoned Iranian director Jafar Panahi — ought to have been in this bunch.



REINER BAIJONetflixAP

“All Quiet on the Western Front” seems like a lock for best international film at Sunday’s Academy Awards.



Netflix

The beautifully textured “Guillermo del Toro’s Pinocchio” should easily take the award for best animated feature.

## Best animated feature

**THE NOMINEES:** “Guillermo del Toro’s Pinocchio”; “Marcel the Shell With Shoes On”; “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish”; “The Sea Beast”; “Turning Red”

**COYLE:** This is one of the easiest categories to call. “Guillermo del Toro’s “Pinocchio” — not, repeat *not* Robert Zemeckis’ “Pinocchio” — will take this easily. For me, the film’s fascist allegory was far too forced. But it’s a beautifully textured creation, and affection for del Toro among academy voters couldn’t run deeper. A shame, though, for Marcel. But as the mollusk would say, “You miss a hundred percent of the shots you don’t take.”

**BAHR:** It’s del Toro’s for sure. And it’s OK: However cliché, it really seems like the Marcel team is having a great time just being nominated.



## WEEKEND: ACADEMY AWARDS

## A war film 'can never be a hero's journey'

Why Germany hasn't received the film adaptation of 'All Quiet on the Western Front' as positively as the US, UK

BY MARK OLSEN  
Los Angeles Times

The film with this awards season's most unexpected trajectory could be "All Quiet on the Western Front," an adaptation of Erich Maria Remarque's 1928 German-language novel set during World War I. After premiering at the Toronto International Film Festival in September and launching on Netflix in October, the film went on to become the first German-language film nominated for the Oscar for best picture. In all, the film brought in nine Academy Award nominations, making it the third most-nominated non-English-language film in Oscars history, behind only "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "Roma" (10 each).

The film also came away as the big winner at last month's BAFTA awards, winning seven, including best film, director and adapted screenplay — more than any other non-English-language film in BAFTA history.

Set from spring of 1917 to the end of the war in November 1918, the film — the first time Remarque's anti-war classic has been adapted for the screen in its original German — follows teenager Paul Bäumer (Felix Kammerer, in his screen debut) as he enters the army as an enthusiastic recruit and quickly becomes disillusioned by the horrors of the brutal, futile fighting he encounters. Soldiers such as he are expendable pawns to officers safe from the battlefield and who demand the fighting continue even as armistice is only hours away.

"We don't have your history. It's laden with guilt and shame. We can't make a movie where a German soldier kills, quote-unquote, an enemy and it'd be a good thing," explained director Edward Berger. "In an American movie you can kill a bunch of Nazis and it's a good thing. And in a German movie, you can't do that.

"You can't kill the people that came to liberate Europe and feel good about it," Berger continued. "So I think that people suddenly notice that and go, 'Wow, I've never thought about this.' And I would feel shameful making a movie like that, because there's no honor or pride associated with our history. There is something honorable about your ancestors going to Europe and fighting for freedom. You can look back on that. You can honor your veterans. In Germany, you can't."

Berger's film does not shy away from depicting violence, from sweeping large-scale battle



NETFLIX/TNS

Felix Kammerer stars as German teenager Paul Bäumer in "All Quiet on the Western Front." German audiences have had a different response to Paul's fate than U.S. and U.K. audiences.

scenes to the intimacy of two men fighting to the death in a muddy trench.

"It's not an enjoyable film. It's not easy for people to watch," said producer Malte Grunert. "It's something that an audience needs to decide to do. So I'm very happy to see that it resonates and there is a connection."

All of which leads to the question: Why has this film struck such a chord with awards-voting

different from the book. But what is very similar to the book is the feeling of absolute loss, absolute betrayal, absolute devastation.

"I think the way that Ed has shot it and the emotional roller coaster that you go on, you feel empty inside, which is exactly what you feel like when you've read the book," Paterson said. "Rather than a literal translation of the book, it's an emotional translation."

**"We don't have your history. It's laden with guilt and shame. We can't make a movie where a German soldier kills, quote-unquote, an enemy and it'd be a good thing."**

Director Edward Berger  
"All Quiet on the Western Front"

audiences, particularly in the U.S. and the U.K.?

Multiple members of the creative team behind the film point to the current war in Ukraine as one reason the movie could be resonating so strongly in this specific moment.

"You'd hope it would be less relevant over time, but it's not," said co-screenwriter Ian Stokell.

"When you look at the novel through the lens of today, of course we now know what history came after," said co-screenwriter Lesley Paterson. "So in that regard, that's something we really wanted to reflect on that is

Paterson and Stokell first optioned the book in 2006. Paterson, a world-champion triathlete, used her race winnings to keep the project afloat over the years and mortgaged her house at one point to hold onto the rights. In writing the script, Stokell drew from his three years in the British Army in the 1970s, including a deployment in Northern Ireland.

Though their adaptation was initially in English, once it reached Grunert, the idea was floated to re-adapt the story into German, the original language of Remarque's novel. (The final

script, nominated for an Oscar for adapted screenplay, is credited to Paterson, Stokell and Berger.)

"It pretty quickly felt to me like such an obvious blind spot," Grunert said. "It is the most successful German-language novel of all time internationally. It is the German novel about World War I and it had never been made in Germany in the German language."

Berger, perhaps best known to American audiences for his work on the television series "Deutschland 83," was shooting the Bryan Cranston series "Your Honor" in New Orleans when Grunert called about the "All Quiet" project. Though one obvious influence on the film is Stanley Kubrick's 1957 "Paths of Glory," also a WWI-set tale that examines the tension between soldiers in the trenches and officers in a distant chateau, Berger cited his favorite film, Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now," as a more conscious source of "All Quiet's" atmospheric storytelling and depiction of wartime as a kaleidoscopic landscape of peril.

In contrast to the film's abundant success with U.S. and U.K. awards groups, however, it has generated a much more varied reception in Germany. As Philip Oltermann put it in the Guardian summarizing the German-language reviews, the film "has been at the receiving end of a critical drubbing, with critics complaining that it turns a beloved literary classic into a spec-

tacle 'horny for an Oscar,' and military historians bemoaning its 'black-and-white' historical inaccuracies."

For his part, Berger disputes just how many of the German reviews have been negative, saying, "It's not quite true" that the film has been poorly reviewed in Germany.

"Part of the reviews are sort of mixed and they're definitely also critical reviews, but it's part of the territory," Berger said. "You know, you're going to get critics every time and you can't please everyone."

Berlin-based freelance film critic Patrick Heidmann said, "It's not like the film is generally panned by critics here," but noted that many of the harshest reviews have come from the nation's most prominent media outlets.

"So I understand why people would think this film is really not loved in Germany at all," Heidmann added. "But even the good reviews that I read, they all felt a little bit muted compared to some of the raves that the film has gotten in the U.K. and in the U.S."

Heidmann also pointed out that "All Quiet on the Western Front" wasn't nominated for any of the major categories at the European Film Awards, where "Triangle of Sadness," also an Oscar nominee for best picture, won four top awards. "All Quiet" did receive two EFA prizes, for hair and makeup and special effects.

"The German perspective is something very, very different," Grunert said. "A war film, or an anti-war film, from a German perspective can never be a hero's journey. The death of an enemy is never a good thing in that context. And I think that's a perspective that is very, very unique to us as Germans because of our horrible past and our responsibility stemming from that."

As Berger has traveled around the world with the film, one thing he has noticed is the differing audience response at the end of the film when — spoiler alert — young Paul dies. Audiences tend to gasp at the moment, except in one country.

"Only in Germany, people don't gasp. He dies, and people sort of accept it," Berger said. "First of all, everyone knows the book — that might have something to do with it. But secondly, that expectation that you need someone to survive is not there. It's almost the expectation that you want everyone to die, because of our history."



## WEEKEND: ACADEMY AWARDS



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Angela Bassett, shown Feb. 13 at the Academy Awards Nominees Luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif., has been swept up in award shows and press junkets as the Oscars approach.

# Awaiting her Oscars moment

Longtime friend on Bassett's 'Black Panther' nod: 'She is due for her flowers'

By **LESLIE AMBRIZ**  
Associated Press

**A**ngela Bassett has a presence that feels warm and inviting but also demands your respect. The actor moves like true Hollywood royalty, knowing her worth, dedicated to her craft and remaining confident yet humble throughout a decades-spanning, award-winning career.

On a Tuesday in January, Bassett would wake up just before 3:45 a.m., unable to fall back asleep. In just two hours, she would hear Riz Ahmed announce her name as a best supporting actress Oscar nominee for her performance as Queen Ramonda in "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

Bassett remembers turning to wake up her husband, actor Courtney B. Vance ("I couldn't experience that alone and then tell him about it later," she said), and immediately receiving a text from fellow Oscar nominee and award-winning costume designer Ruth E. Carter.

"It was the first nomination and the first name," she recalled. "I gasped, and that was a shock, that sort of 'Whoa! Already? You know, give a girl a minute.'"

Carter and Bassett have worked together at least five times on various projects and are longtime friends.

"I was glad to be there for her," Bassett said of the "brilliant and undeniable" Carter, who won an Oscar in 2019 for the first "Black Panther" movie.

Carter shared the same sentiment about Bassett, saying how thrilled she is to see her friend celebrated on such a large scale.

"Well, I am beyond happy for her. I remember when I received the Oscar. She came right up, and she was so full of joy and happiness for me," Carter said at the African American Film Critics Association Awards on March 1.

"And I feel the same way for her," Carter continued.

"Having seen her journey for over 25 years and having

had started with her on 'What's Love Got to Do with It' and how committed she is to her craft, I think that she is due for her flowers, and I'm so excited to be here with her to witness it and share in the love."

As Queen Ramonda, Bassett played the mother of Chadwick Boseman's T'Challa. She called working with him the "highlight of her career." She also made history as her Oscar nomination is Marvel's first in an acting category.

"I'm absolutely thrilled about it. I didn't know that — that was something that I learned just a couple of weeks ago," Bassett said at February's Oscar nominees luncheon. "So, you know, firsts are always nice and hopefully it's the first of many more."

Bassett has appeared in cult classic and tentpole films alike, including the late John Singleton's "Boyz n the Hood" and Forest Whitaker's "Waiting to Exhale."

While attending the Santa Barbara Film Festival this year, Bassett said that her time as Katherine Jackson in the 1992 series "The Jacksons: An American Dream" prepared her to portray Tina Turner. Her turn as the singer in "What's Love Got to Do With It" netted the actor her first Oscar nomination, for best actress.

Nearly 30 years later, Bassett has been engulfed in a whirlwind of award shows and press junkets in preparation for the Oscars. Bassett says she's "holding on" amid the quick pace of awards season and has a sound machine that lulls her "off to peaceful dreams" as she crosses the town from one red carpet to the next.

She won the Golden Globe this year for best supporting actress. She's also become a viral meme thanks to Ariana DeBose proclaiming that "Angela Bassett did the thing!" in a BAFTA performance. Bassett also recently took home the NAACP Image Award for Entertainer of the Year.

While Bassett is excited about her Oscar nomination,



Marvel Studios

**Bassett's best supporting actress nomination is for her role as Queen Ramonda, mother of Chadwick Boseman's T'Challa, in "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."**

she acknowledges the Academy's failure to include more artists of color and women in their list of nominees. She advises that Academy members should expand their frame of reference when considering films and performances.

"But I would say first and foremost, see an array of movies. Whether you think you can relate to it or not, or it looks like you or not, or the stories seem intriguing or not, give all a chance because it's — well, it's easy, and it's possible to miss very, very fine performances," Bassett told the AP. "But frame of reference is everything. So, have a wide and open frame of reference."

As March 12 approaches, Bassett's supporters wait to see if this is the year that she becomes forever known as Academy Award-winning actor Angela Bassett. But where would she display her Oscar if that moment does arrive?

"You know, something like that looks good anywhere," Bassett said. "Maybe it'll have to take a little tour, see where it wants to land. Right in my hand, near my heart."



## WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS

# Sixth 'Scream' film takes on Manhattan

Latest entry in franchise takes cues from 2nd but is bigger, shaggier and messier than its predecessor

By KATIE WALSH  
Tribune News Service

The "Scream" movies are like pizza — when they're good, they're great, and even when they're not as good, they're still satisfying. Thankfully, "Scream VI" is a tasty slice. Even though with each new installment, the "Scream" franchise creeps closer and closer to the fictional in-movie "Stab" franchise that these films are ostensibly skewering. Writers James Vanderbilt and Guy Busick keep the blade sharp, while directors Matt Bettinelli-Olpin and Tyler Gillett bring a brawny, bruising and bloody style to this "requel sequel."

This is the second "Scream" movie not directed by Wes Craven ("Ready or Not" directors Bettinelli-Olpin and Gillett took over with the previous iteration), and the first without franchise star Neve Campbell as Sydney Prescott. While it's a shame that Campbell didn't return due to an inadequate salary offer, it was time to let Sydney ride off into the sunset, to release her from Ghostface-chasing duty. There's a new "Scream" queen in town — Melissa Barrera — and she stabs back.

This time, the Woodsboro crew of most recent Ghostface survivors are in New

York City — one could say it's "Ghostface Takes Manhattan." Tara (Jenna Ortega) is attending fictional Blackmore University, trying to live a normal life but with her overprotective big sis Sam (Barrera) in tow. As usual, the film opens with a call from Ghostface, who would like to play a game, this time elevating the horror nerd trivia to the level of the ivory tower, with references to a 20th-century slasher film studies class taught at Blackmore. From the beginning, it's a Ghostface inception, the copycats folding into themselves, unclear who is targeting whom and why.

The closest analog to "Scream VI" is "Scream 2," which is directly stated by the film's resident Randy, his niece Mindy (Jasmin Savoy Brown). Both films leave the high school setting for college, introduce new characters and tangle with the academic side of horror. It's bigger, shaggier and a bit messier than its predecessor, and while it bears other fun similarities to "Scream 2," to mention them all would venture into spoiler territory.

The script of this team's previous "Scream" outing felt a bit more incisive, cutting straight to the heart of the toxic fanboy matter. Here, the message is a bit scattered. Is it film students who are the problem? Letterboxd users? Redditors?



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/AP

Melissa Barrera, left, and Jenna Ortega return as sisters Sam and Tara in "Scream VI."

There's a swirling message about the power of online rumor and misinformation, as Sam has become public enemy No. 1, thanks to nasty trolls and the revelation of her genetic lineage as the daughter of original "Scream" villain Billy Loomis.

What makes Sam the Evolved Final Girl is precisely her killer instinct. While the vulnerable Sydney harnessed her emotions to fight back, Sam's Loomis DNA makes her Ghostface's most dangerous foe: She is physically powerful, and possessed of a near feral energy. Barrera walks that tightrope of fearful and menacing well, and she and Ortega make a winningly blood-spattered sisterly duo.

Bettinelli-Olpin and Gillett take us swaggering through the New York City streets via cinematographer Brett Jutkiewicz's dizzying, disorienting camera. The centerpiece sequence, on a subway

packed with Halloween revelers, is a beautiful piece of suspense filmmaking, utilizing the sights, sounds and geography of the space to create an all-too-real sense of public terror that gestures toward the notion of bystander effect. How can one be safe from Ghostface in a world of copycat murderers, online rumor and an increasingly ironic and apathetic world?

Last year's "Scream" proved that this filmmaking team were worthy heirs to Craven's iconic franchise, and while "Scream VI" underlines that point, it also illustrates that there's still a rich vein to tap in the "Scream" franchise, using established lore to take the preeminent slasher movie franchise of the 20th and 21st centuries in new and fascinating directions.

"Scream VI" is rated R for strong bloody violence and language throughout, and brief drug use. Running time: 123 minutes.

# 'Champions' wins with strong cast and familiar tropes

By KATIE WALSH  
Tribune News Service

The Farrelly brothers — Peter and Bobby — reigned supreme over comedies of questionable taste in the 1990s and 2000s ("Dumb and Dumber," "There's Something About Mary," "Shallow Hal," "Stuck on You"), but while brother Peter has gone on to the industry's highest success, picking up best original screenplay and best picture Oscars for his film "Green Book," Bobby hasn't directed a film in awhile. He makes his comeback with his "Kingpin" star Woody Harrelson in the sports comedy "Champions," an English-language remake of the 2018 Spanish smash hit, the Goya Award-winning "Campeones."

Given the Farrelly track record of dabbling in more outre or offensive comedy, one might be bracing for what "Champions" may potentially deliver, given that it follows a minor league basketball coach, Marcus (Harrelson), who is sentenced to community service after a drunk driving accident, which is how he finds himself coaching a team of intellectually disabled adults at a



FOCUS FEATURES/AP

From left, Kevin Iannucci, Kaitlin Olson, James Day Keith, Madison Tevlin, Cheech Marin and Woody Harrelson in "Champions."

local community center in Des Moines, Iowa. But after an initial fake-out, Farrelly, Harrelson and writer Mark Rizzo deftly thread the needle on "Champions," which is for the most part warmly amusing, without diving too far into the realm of the maudlin or treacly, side-stepping anything insensitive while still enjoying some bawdy humor.

You might also be thinking, "isn't this 'The Mighty Ducks'?"

— the 1992 kids sports comedy about an attorney (Emilio Estevez) who gets sentenced to community service after a drunk driving accident and has to coach a Minneapolis pee-wee hockey team — and yes, it's basically the same story. The grumpy coach who has a hard time connecting with people finds himself opening up with his unlikely charges, and learning to love the game again, because of the players, not

in spite of them. The story does not deviate from the traditional sports movie formula we know so well.

What helps enliven "Champions" is what enlivens Coach Marcus himself — the team, called the Friends, which is cast entirely of actors with similar disabilities to their characters'. Some are experienced actors, some were cast from their experience as Special Olympics athletes and others make their screen debut in the film. One of the standouts, Kevin Iannucci, plays Johnny, whose older sister, Alex ("It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" star Kaitlin Olson), becomes Marcus' love interest. The pair grow from Tinder one-night stand, to reluctant allies, to friends with benefits when Marcus takes over the team, but Alex's spiky, self-protective humor, and Marcus' ambition to flee Iowa for an NBA job, provide the appropriate hurdles to their romance.

The plot also cribs heavily from traditional romance tropes, with Marcus as a stern striver finding himself charmed (and thawed) by the quirky residents

of a small town, a surprisingly steamy attraction and of course, the players he manages to coach to a Special Olympics regional championship. It's not innovative storytelling, but it is effective — there's a reason why these tropes exist.

"Champions" doesn't break any molds, narratively or aesthetically, and it's too long, but what sets it apart is the cast of the Friends, who offer warm and nuanced performances, and excellent representation for the disabled community, which has either been largely ignored on film, or relegated to inappropriate punchlines or condescending stereotypes. Farrelly and Rizzo, working with the original material of "Campeones," and the actors, offer a depiction of these characters and their lives as full with responsibilities, relationships and joy. When Coach Marcus comes along, he's just the icing on the cake. They were champs before he showed up, and the film is his journey to realizing that.

"Champions" is rated PG-13 for strong language and crude/sexual references. Running time: 123 minutes.



## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# Memories, cheap eats at Poland's milk bars

I remember a bleak time in Poland when the economy was so maddeningly out of touch with the needs of its people that anyone lucky enough to own a car would remove their windshield wipers at night and take them inside. In their command economy — oblivious to the laws of supply and demand — some official forgot to order wipers and consequently, they weren't for sale anywhere. Inspired by a hungry black market, thieves would work late into the night snapping them up.

Many Americans remember Poland as bleak and run-down — full of rusting factories and smoggy cities.

Of course, those days are long gone now and many American visitors are stunned when they step into Kraków's vibrant main square, Gdansk's lively streets or Warsaw's colorful Old Town.

While Poland's modern affluence is no longer news, visitors can still see a variety of Polands: Lively and cosmopolitan urban centers, breathtaking medieval cities showing off a dynamic history, grimy industrial zones still cleaning up the mess left by the Soviets and hundreds of traditional farm villages in the countryside.

Sometimes my nostalgia for

the old times confounds my Polish hosts. In Kraków, my friend Kasia wanted to treat me to a fine dinner and asked where I'd like to eat. "A milk bar," I said. Kasia said her mother would never forgive her if I took her American friend to one of these bleak government-subsidized workers' diners. I begged, promising I'd never tell, and Kasia agreed.



Rick Steves

For me, eating at a bar mleczny (milk bar) is an essential Polish sightseeing experience. These no-fuss cafeterias, which you'll see all over the country, are a dirt-cheap way to get a meal ... and, with the right attitude, a cultural adventure.

In the communist era, the government subsidized the food at milk bars — thereby providing lowly workers a chance to afford a meal out. The tradition continues, and today Poland still foots the bill for most of your milk-bar meal. Prices remain astoundingly low — my bill usually comes to about \$5.

Milk bars offer many of Poland's traditional favorites. Common items are delicious soups, a variety of cabbage-based salads,



CAMERON HEWITT/Rick Steves' Europe

**A cheap and cheerful milk-bar meal is just steps away from Kraków's vibrant Main Market Square.**

fried pork chops, pierogi (ravioli with various fillings) and pancakes. At the milk bar, you'll likely see glasses of watery juice and — of course — milk, but most milk bars also stock bottles of water and Coke. Try a Polish pastry, especially the classic paczki, glazed jelly doughnuts typically filled with a wild-rose jam.

At milk bars, the service is aimed at locals. You're unlikely

to find an English menu. If the milk-bar lady asks you any questions, you have three options: nod happily until she just gives you something; repeat one of the things she just said (assuming she's asked you to choose between two options, such as meat or cheese in your pierogi); or hope that a kindly English-speaking person in line will come to your rescue.

Every milk bar is a little differ-

ent, but here's the general procedure: Head to the counter, wait to be acknowledged, and point to what you want.

Chowing down with the locals, you'll marvel at how you can still eat lunch for \$5 as you experience a little bit of nostalgia from Poland's communist days.

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

## Alpine ski resorts prepare to host early spring music festivals

As we slowly but surely ease into spring, ski resorts throughout the Alps are preparing for their final weeks of catering to winter sports enthusiasts. As per tradition, many of these facilities choose to close out the winter with full-on music festivals and concerts to accompany final uses of the slopes for the season.

### Music festivals

Rock the Pistes, the mega music event of the resort of Portes de Soleil, has a unique claim to fame in that it takes place across two countries, France and Switzerland. From March 12-18, the festival will see five live concerts take place on the ski slopes daily at 1:30 p.m. More than 30 apres-ski concerts are also scheduled. Latest editions of Rock the Pistes have attracted around 28,000 festival-goers. Acts on stage this year include Eagle-Eye Cherry, Hot Sister and Martin Solveig. A single-day concert ski pass goes for 58.50 euros; a seven-day concert ski pass goes for 292.50 euros. Online: [en.rockthepistes.com](http://en.rockthepistes.com)

Caprices, a music festival based in the Swiss resort town of Crans-Montana, is organized over two weekends. From April 7-9, and again from April 14-16, the slopes will ring out to the sound of dance music spun by top DJs and today's top artists. Shows take place within two time slots: 2 p.m.-10 p.m., and 9 p.m.-5 a.m. the following day. Tickets can be bought for either time slot or both. Weekend passes are also available. Online: [capricesfestival.com](http://capricesfestival.com)

Snowbombing was one of the earliest large-scale music festivals to be organized at a mountain resort, and 20 years later, it's still going strong. From April 10-15, the Austrian resort of Mayerhofen will welcome thousands of fans of dance music, from techno to club to reggae. The festival is known and loved for its original and atmospheric venues. The mountain stages are open from noon-4



iStock

**The town of Zermatt, Switzerland, will be the scene of the annual Zermatt Unplugged music festival April 11-15.**

p.m., while events set in town kick off at 5 p.m. and run into the wee hours. Artists represent a mix of DJs and live acts. An assortment of packages inclusive of accommodation and festival tickets remained available at the time of this writing. Online: [snowbombing.com](http://snowbombing.com)

Zermatt, Switzerland's take on a winter mountain fest has a less hectic vibe. Zermatt Unplugged, scheduled April 11-15, always offers a solid lineup of contemporary artists; this year's crop includes Passenger, Alice Merton, Peter Maffay, Calum Scott and Of Monsters and Men. Tickets are available for specific performances or in the form of an Unplugged Pass; the latter goes for 65 Swiss Francs, about \$69. Online: [zermatt-unplugged.ch/en](http://zermatt-unplugged.ch/en)

### Jazz and folk

The Seiser Alm, also known as the Alpe di Suisi, is a resort in northern Italy's Dolomites region. Its annual Swing on Snow event, now in its 15th year, offers a mix of

traditional folk music with jazz, soul, pop and classical thrown in. From March 15-19, groups from the entire Alpine region play on the slopes and in mountain huts by day. In the evening, the villages of Castelletto, Siusi, Fiè and Tires host atmospheric after-ski concerts. Entry to all performances is free. Online: [tinyurl.com/4yf9ryuv](http://tinyurl.com/4yf9ryuv)

Since the opening of the Sägewerk event venue more than two decades ago, the Austrian resort town of Gastein has been associated with first-rate jazz events. Jazz on Snow is a long weekend of concerts by Austrian and international acts scheduled March 16-19. A few festival passes remain at a cost of 125 euros; tickets to individual events are also available. Online: [jazz-im-saegewerk.org/festivals/snow-jazz-gastein-2023](http://jazz-im-saegewerk.org/festivals/snow-jazz-gastein-2023)

The Austrian resort town of St. Anton am Arlberg takes on the flair of the U.S. south over the long weekend of March 30-April 2 with its annual event known as New Orleans Meets Snow. From late morning until late evening, the sounds of blues, Dixie, funk and soul will ring out on the slopes, streets and bars of the town. More than 20 concerts from Austrian and international artists are offered as part of its free program. Online: [tinyurl.com/j8szz85x](http://tinyurl.com/j8szz85x)

### Top of the Mountain concerts

The Austrian resort of Ischgl has made a name for itself by booking top-name acts to perform on the Idalp, a stage high up in the mountains that makes up part of the vast Silvretta Arena. The artists chosen to entertain during another series of Top of the Mountain concerts include the English singer and songwriter George Ezra on March 30, the German rapper Sido on April 9 and Italian legend Eros Ramazzotti on April 30. In general, tickets are not sold to the individual concerts but rather for a day on the slopes that includes use of the lifts and the show itself. A ticket to see Ramazzotti and enjoy a day of skiing goes for 140 euros. Online: [tinyurl.com/bjmuc7hm](http://tinyurl.com/bjmuc7hm)



## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS



PHOTOS BY MATT WAGNER/Stars and Stripes

A charcoal painting of the Priestess of Vesta can be seen in the Grotten Noord (North Caves) in Maastricht, Netherlands. On a nearby side wall is a warning about light and fire in the tunnels.

# Storied stones

Underground tour teaches about the history of Maastricht's tunnel system and the roles it played in World War II for storage, smuggling

BY MATT WAGNER  
*Stars and Stripes*

**O**n the wall near the start of the Maastricht Underground tour of the Netherlands' Grotten Noord and De Kluis (North Caves and The Vault) is a painting of a priestess of the ancient Roman goddess Vesta that comes with a warning.

It highlights the importance of light in the human-made tunnels, which have burrowed under this city about 20 miles southwest of Brunssum for hundreds of years.

The tour of the caves makes plain why the entrance painting depicts a person who kept the sacred fire burning in the deity's temple. Without artificial light, the chilly caves are pitch black, and considering the labyrinthine layout of the tunnels, a person easily could become lost to time.

Just as light symbolizes hope, the caves themselves were Maastricht's hope for hundreds of years, as the tour of 1 hour and 40 minutes emphasizes.

The caves originated as stone mines used by residents in the buildings above. The limestone unearthed was found in buildings as far away as the German cities of Aachen and Cologne.

Over hundreds of years, residents went underground, digging out a stone per day to take to the surface. That is, until the early 20th century, when a quarry outside town made the stone mines useless, according to the tour guide.

The owner at that time decided to turn the caves into a tourist attraction.

That transformation included the addition of charcoal paintings

on the walls. Some of the artwork has a connection to the city, but most of it has little to do with stones, mining or anything else related to caves.

Also hidden in the maze was De Kluis, a place of great significance during World War II, when it held more than 750 Dutch masterpieces. Rembrandt's famous "The Night Watch" was among them.

Built to store the artwork away from the war's destruction, De Kluis wasn't hidden from the Nazis, as German soldiers slipped down to check out the work during the occupation.

De Kluis is now empty — and for good reason. The cold, humid conditions are terrible for paintings.

Still, it was impressive to see the small room with racks that held the art.

Also revealed on the tour were other great nuggets, such as the role the tunnels, which stretch into Belgium, played in the smuggling of supplies, refugees and Allied pilots between the two countries.

The tour breezed by so quickly that I didn't realize how much time had elapsed until it was over. Also, our guide, Frank, was a font of knowledge and showed it across numerous languages.

Aside from the tour, which I highly recommend, Maastricht boasts some aboveground attractions as well that will leave an impression. Fort Sint Pieter and Sint Pietersberg give offer great city views and trails if you need to recover from the darkness of the tunnels.

wagner.mathew@stripes.com



People wait outside the entrance of the Grotten Noord for a tour in Maastricht, Netherlands, on Feb. 27. The human-made tunnels have stretched under the city for hundreds of years.

## On the QT

**Location:** Maastricht Underground Ticket shop, North Caves and Fort St. Pieter, Luikerweg 80, Maastricht, Netherlands

**Cost:** 14.80 euros for the tours with "De Kluis." For tours without it, 7.95 euros for children ages 4-11 and 9.50 euros for 12 and older.

**Information:** Online: [exploremaastricht.nl/en/Maastricht-underground](http://exploremaastricht.nl/en/Maastricht-underground) to see times for tours in English and to buy tickets.

Matt Wagner



The racks of De Kluis (The Vault) held more than 750 Dutch masterpieces during World War II including Rembrandt's famous "The Night Watch." The room is now empty — The Vault's cold, humid conditions are terrible for paintings.



The cave system underneath Maastricht, Netherlands, once stretched for 155 miles. Everything to the left of the red line disappeared after the construction of a stone quarry.



Charcoal paintings, like this one in Maastricht, Netherlands, adorn the walls of the Grotten Noord, or North Caves. The owner turned the former stone mines into a tourist attraction in the early 20th century.



## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

# Thai with plenty of spice, options

Landstuhl eatery 9Chan has an extensive menu that requires multiple visits to fully appreciate

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

The last time I ate Thai food in Germany, I wanted to cry from disappointment.

The pad thai was bland and the green curry didn't taste like green curry. I recognized none of spicy, sweet, sour and salty hallmarks of Thai cooking.

On a recent lunch outing to 9Chan, a Thai restaurant in Landstuhl, I really did cry, this time because my mouth was on fire from the pad kapao, or stir-fried holy basil. The red chili peppers immediately made my eyes water.

This was Thai food that brought back memories of the streets of Bangkok.

A friend told me about 9Chan while raving about the restaurant's tilapia. She says the fish is so good, she never orders anything else.

I was intrigued and decided to check it out.

You can opt for either a fried whole tilapia or a fried filet of pangasius, which is a catfish native to south Asia. Sauce choices include sweet and sour, spicy curry, homemade chili and 9Chan's own blend of ginger, garlic, onion, lime and chili paste.

I was tempted, but for the sake of variety I wanted to see if something else on the menu lived up to the level of the fish hype.

That was no easy feat. The menu is 17 pages, complete with color photos of each entrée. It's divided into seven sections: appetizers, soup, curry, rice dishes, noodle dishes, fish and dessert. Many options involve choosing a



**AFTER HOURS**  
**GERMANY**

meat, a sauce and other toppings. That's a lot of decision making, especially for the indecisive-minded people of the world, such as myself.

After thumbing through the menu for nearly 15 minutes and turning my server away three times with the promise that I only needed a few more minutes, I finally asked for a recommendation.

I settled on pad kapao, one of the more popular meals in Thailand. It's considered a street food, the country's equivalent of the hamburger.

The dish traditionally features minced meat and rice with a healthy dose of heat. But at 9Chan, you can choose between vegetables, tofu, chicken, pork, beef, shrimp, crispy duck or seafood. I chose chicken.

The meat was mixed with crispy green beans, onion, red chili pepper and holy basil. Holy basil tends to be more peppery than sweet. I wasn't sure what was in the savory brown sauce that accompanied the meat, but pad kapao typically is made with the trinity of Thai sauces — fish, soy and oyster.

I asked for "medium spice," which set my mouth on fire.

I'm glad I also ordered tom kah, a fragrant, creamy coconut milk-based soup seasoned with ginger and lemongrass, and bursting with tangy flavor. I



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

The pad kapao stir-fry with holy basil at 9Chan, a Thai restaurant in Landstuhl, Germany, has a spicy kick.



9Chan opened in Landstuhl, Germany, about two years ago. It serves a variety of dishes, from fish and soup to curry and noodles.

opted for tofu, which came with mushrooms and thinly sliced pieces of crispy carrot. The coconut milk helped cool my palate.

9Chan has been open for a little over two years, run by a Thai staff. It's relatively popular but not packed for lunch. The restaurant opens at 11 a.m. and I was the first customer 15 minutes later. By noon, about half of the restaurant's 10 tables (by my

count) were occupied.

A few Tripadvisor reviews called it the best Thai food in town. I can't say for sure whether that's true since there are some I haven't tried. But based on my first meal there and the others I've been to, I would be surprised if there were better choices around.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com  
Twitter:@stripesktown



Tom kah is a creamy coconut milk-based soup seasoned with ginger and lemongrass. It's a nice pairing with the spicy offerings on the menu.

## 9Chan

Address: Kaiserstrasse 40, 66849 Landstuhl

Prices: Starters range from 4.50 euros to 19.50 euros (the latter for the papaya salad with pickled fish and crab); soups start at 4.90 euros. Main dishes range from 10.50 euros to 20.50 euros.

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, open all day, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; closed Tuesdays.

Information: +49 (0) 637162594, info@9chan.de

Jennifer H. Svan

# Quick Chinese-style 'omelets' come packed with veggies

BY CHRISTOPHER KIMBALL  
Milk Street/Associated Press

The omelet as most Americans know it is a French import. But cooks the world over have combined whipped eggs with cooked ingredients since at least the ancient Persians.

Take egg foo young, for instance. It may call to mind the deep-fried, heavily sauced egg dish offered in Chinese-American restaurants, but in China, Cantonese cooks use a lot less oil and a lot more crispy vegetables. In this recipe from our book "Cook What You Have," we take the Cantonese path for veggie-packed omelets. It also happens to be a great way to use up leftover vegetables.

## Chinese-Style Vegetable Omelets

### Ingredients

¼ cup mayonnaise  
1 tablespoon Sriracha OR chili-garlic sauce  
6 large eggs  
1 tablespoon soy sauce  
1 tablespoon cornstarch  
Kosher salt and ground white OR black pepper  
3½ tablespoons grapeseed or other neutral oil, divided  
2 cups thinly sliced green cabbage  
1 small yellow onion, halved and thinly sliced  
½ medium red bell pepper, stemmed, seeded and thinly sliced

### Directions

In a small bowl, stir together the mayonnaise and Sriracha; set aside. In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs, soy sauce, cornstarch, ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon pepper; set aside.

In a 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high, heat 1½ tablespoons oil until shimmering. Add the cabbage, onion, bell pepper, ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon pepper; cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are lightly browned, 6 to 8 minutes. Remove from the heat. Whisk the egg mixture to recombine, then add the hot vegetables and, using a silicone spatula, stir until well combined. Wipe skillet.

In the same skillet over medium-high,

heat 1 tablespoon of the remaining oil until shimmering. Drop 2 heaping ½-cup portions of the egg-vegetable mixture into the skillet. Using the spatula, spread each portion into a 4- to 5-inch round; keep them separated. Cook until the edges start to brown and puff and the omelets are nicely browned on the bottoms, about 3 minutes. Using a wide spatula, flip the omelets and cook, reducing the heat as needed if the omelets are cooking too quickly, until golden brown on the second sides, about another 2 minutes. Transfer to a large plate.

Cook the remaining 2 omelets in the same way using the remaining 1 tablespoon oil. Serve with the Sriracha mayo.



## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# Bathhouses in Asia are in hot water

Disruptions from COVID shutdowns, more expensive heating bills endanger longstanding cultural tradition

By JULIA MIO INUMA  
AND MIN JOO KIM  
*The Washington Post*

For almost 75 years, Tokyo's Daikokuyu has been a community establishment where locals strip off, wash away the dirt and grime of everyday life, and then have a long soak together in big overflowing tubs. Generations of Japanese frequented their neighborhood bathhouses, sweating shoulder to shoulder in spirit of a tradition called hadaka no tsukiai, or "naked communion."

After it colonized Korea at the beginning of the 20th century, Japan revived historical bathhouse culture on the peninsula, where the winter climate is harsher.

The cleansing, warming communion quickly became a part of postcolonial Korean life too.

Now, having endured the arrival of modern plumbing, which enabled many people to have baths at home, bathhouses face a new, double existential crisis: Many bathhouses struggled or closed during the COVID-19 pandemic only then to be hit with huge heating bills, thanks to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"The past few months have really been unbelievable," said Daikokuyu's third-generation owner Takuya Shinbo.

With record low temperatures hitting Tokyo this past winter, he had to shoulder more than double last year's cost to keep the water warm through cold nights. Daikokuyu's monthly gas bill has more than doubled — from just over \$5,000 in January last year to more than \$12,000 in January this year.

At the Seyoung bathhouse in southeastern Seoul, which Lee Young-ho has run for 24 years, the heating bill rose 60 percent from a year ago to almost \$4,000 in January. That bill was close to a "death blow," Lee said.

Compared to hard-hit European countries, Japan and Korea have seen relatively small hikes in energy prices resulting from the war in Ukraine, but the increased bills remain a daunting obstacle for already struggling bathhouse businesses in both countries.

Public baths — or sento — constitute the backbone of centuries-long bathing traditions that the Japanese take pride in. While "onsen" natural hot springs are popular holiday destinations, sento are neighborhood joints that historically catered to people without baths in their homes. The number of sento in Japan has fallen over the decades to 1,865, from a peak of 17,999 in 1968.

Bathhouse chimneys that used to stand tall over Japanese towns have disappeared, as new homes came equipped with their own baths. Most young people have not formed the habit of going to sento as the older generation did. These ongoing cultural changes, combined with the pandemic and the energy crisis, raise fears that sento could one day fade into the mists of time.

In South Korea, bathhouses range from neighborhood tubs similar to sento to

elaborate, multistory saunas that offer baths, heated rooms, restaurants and even computer and game facilities.

The number of simple bathhouses like Lee's hit 4,350 this year — half that of their peak — and many of them are barely making ends meet.

The initial blow, Lee says, was coronavirus stirring fears of "mass infection" at communal spaces like his bathhouse. Bathers showed up less and less as they were asked to be masked and refrain from talking to each other — both unusual concepts in a place where nudity and chitchat are intrinsic parts of the ritual.

Such restrictions were a big downer for longtime regulars like Yoon Gwang-sook, for whom socializing with neighbors at Seyoung has been a joy in her daily life. But that did not stop her from what had already become an essential routine.

"It gives me a deep refreshment that I do not feel from showering at home," she said. "Here we soak in this big pool of hot water, then rinse with icy water to cool down, and scrub each other's backs for a deep cleanse. Repeat this and you find yourself rejuvenated," said the 81-year-old, who has been frequenting Seyoung for two decades.

While loyal customers like Yoon kept coming, many others turned away from communal bathing during the pandemic. Even now, client numbers hover around 40 daily, far below pre-pandemic levels of 180.

But bathhouse owners are limited in what they can do to mitigate the high price of heating.

In Tokyo, individual operators do not have the option of raising the bath fee, which is set by the prefectural government at \$3.70.

Given the role his business plays in the community, Shinbo ruled out cutting down opening hours. He keeps the bath open all night long at the request of his regulars, many of whom are night-shift workers seeking much-needed rest.

Shinbo began turning off the power as soon as the business closed at 10 a.m., and slightly lowering the temperature in the changing area. "We are really at a loss as to what more we can do," he said.

Lee is in a similar predicament. "Our communal tubs, no matter how empty, have to maintain their temperature above 40 degrees Celsius [104 Fahrenheit] as long as we stay open," said Lee.

Even after marking up the bath fee to \$7.60 last year, he is now "bleeding money" to warm up the pools amid below-freezing cold this winter, as customers remained scarce.

Seyoung's shrinking clientele also leaves idle its strong-handed scrubbers, who vigorously scour the bodies of clients seeking intense exfoliation, a bathing ritual many Koreans love.

"The pandemic aftereffects and the energy crisis do pose immediate hardships, but what we are really worried about is the long-term decline and, in turn, extinction," said Kim Soo-cheol, a repre-



PHOTOS BY TARO KARIBE/For The Washington Post

Bathers at Koganeyu communal bathhouse in Tokyo. Koganeyu, which reopened in 2020 after a facelift, features craft beer on tap and a DJ booth playing vinyl records.



The Daikokuyu bathhouse in Tokyo has been a place of "naked communion" for nearly 75 years. Public baths, or sento, historically catered to people without baths in their homes. Most young people have not formed the habit of going to sento.

sentative of the Korea Public Bath Industry Association, an umbrella group for bathhouse operators.

To their dismay, many young people who did not grow up going to public baths tend to dismiss them as a dingy retreat for the elderly, he said.

Attracting younger customers has also been on the mind of Shinbo, the operator of Daikokuyu bathhouse in Tokyo. When the 86-year-old Koganeyu bathhouse in his neighborhood was going out of business, Shinbo acquired and renovated the space to "test out a new sento business model."

Koganeyu, which reopened in 2020 after a facelift, features craft beer on tap and a DJ booth playing vinyl records. The music at the bathhouse struck a chord with not only nostalgic oldies but also young music lovers.

After sharing a hot bath, customers young and old came together, sipping cold beer and chatting about music.

"Sento were spaces of communication back in the day, so it was so nice to see people of different generations come together like this," said Shinbo's wife Tomoko, who runs Koganeyu.



# WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING



## Sanrokuen

**Location:** 3370-1 Funatsu, Fujikawaguchiko, Minamitsuru District, Yamanashi 401-0301  
**Hours:** Open daily, 11 a.m. to 7:30 pm. Closed on Japanese holidays.  
**Prices:** Sets that serve two people range from 2,200 to 4,400 yen. Additional skewers range from 220 to 880 yen. Cash only.  
**Dress:** Casual  
**Directions:** A 15-minute walk from Kawaguchiko Station.  
**Information:** 555-73-1000

PHOTOS BY CLAIRE JENQ/Stars and Stripes

Diners grill their own skewers over a hot bed of coals at Sanrokuen in Kawaguchiko, Japan. They can dip the skewers into a jar of tare, or sauce.

Claire Jenq

# Warming up customers inside and out

## Grill your own meat, veggies at Sanrokuen, a robatayaki restaurant in a thatched-roof building near Mount Fuji

BY CLAIRE JENQ  
*Stars and Stripes*

The aroma of charcoal and grilled meat wafts through the open door of a traditional, thatched-roof building on a street in Kawaguchiko near Mount Fuji.

Hungry customers line up for hours to dine at one of the hearths inside the 150-year-old house turned restaurant.

Sanrokuen specializes in robatayaki, in which diners order skewers of meat, fish and vegetables, and cook them over hot coals in a hearth while seated on tatami mats.

The menu consists of five set courses, from 2,200 yen to 4,400 yen (\$16- \$33), that can satiate one to two people.

Each course comes with a whole fresh fish, such as char or rainbow trout, a potato skewer, assorted vegetables and soup. Most of the sets come with a chicken skewer; however, customers who order the higher-end courses can also sample duck, boar and beef.

Skewers are available to order a la carte from 220 to 880 yen, which we did once we had a taste of the roasted corn skewer.

The owner is somewhat of a polyglot. He spoke to my family in Japanese, then Mandarin and finally English as he tried to determine what we understood.

He demonstrated how to cook our skewers over the hearth, dipping some in a large jar of tare, or sauce.

The tare became a caramelized

brown over the heat of the coals and tasted delicious.

Grilling your own food can be intimidating at first, especially if you aren't used to grilling your own meat or fish. You run the risk of getting sick if you don't cook it well enough. It's a minor risk that all of the customers take.

At the end of the meal, we were served hoto, a hearty noodle soup from the Yamanashi area. The owner was friendly, and to the delight of my children, he drew doodles of Mickey Mouse and Doraemon on slips of paper.

We left Sanrokuen, warmed by the heat of the hearth and the kindness of the staff.

jenq.claire@stripes.com  
 Twitter: @Claire\_Jenq



At the end of the meal, Sanrokuen's staff brings out hoto, a hearty noodle soup, and pickles from the Yamanashi area.



STARS AND STRIPES

MONTH OF THE  
**MILITARY CHILD**

Learn more and tell us your story!

[militarychild.stripes.com](http://militarychild.stripes.com)

Sponsored by





## WEEKEND: BOOKS

## Great adaptations

‘But Have You Read the Book?’ debates which page-to-screen conversions did the job better

By MICHAEL PHILLIPS  
Chicago Tribune

Adapting a book to the screen, successfully: If a reliable formula for that creative challenge existed, we wouldn't have “The Bonfire of the Vanities” or “The Lovely Bones” or “The Great Gatsby” (any of 'em) to kick around anymore.

Critic, editor and author Kristen Lopez wrote a book about the subject. It's called “But Have You Read the Book? 52 Literary Gems That Inspired Our Favorite Films.” A Turner Classic Movies project, it came out March 7. Lopez offers a breezy, engaging survey of mostly well-known, occasionally lesser-known titles representing both highly faithful page-to-screen adaptations and looser, more inventive ones. The movies range from “Frankenstein” (1931) to the recent “Dune” and Rebecca Hall's superb “Passing,” both from 2021.

Adaptations have been on my mind ever since the new film version of Erich Maria Remarque's 1928 novel, “All Quiet on the Western Front,” racked up nine Academy Award nominations, including for best picture.

You know how it goes with movies based on books: Sometimes you've read them, sometimes you haven't. Sometimes you appreciate fidelity to the source material; sometimes it turns out like sludge. And sometimes, a wilder, more eccentric adaptation pays off in ways you couldn't have predicted. “You really have two different audiences when you film an adaptation,” Lopez said during a recent interview. “You have to please people who love the source material. but you also have to get people who've never read the book to go see the movie. That's two very different types of audiences.”

Lopez now works as film editor for The Wrap. The following has been edited for length and clarity.

**Chicago Tribune: So, Kristen, the hook for this is what was, for a lot of people, an unforeseen number of Oscar nominations for “All Quiet on the Western Front.” Whether it gets people to read the Remarque novel, who knows. But it certainly is getting an audience on Netflix. First, though, how did you arrive at the 52 titles in your upcoming book?**

**Lopez:** The idea had already been approved at TCM, and they were looking for someone to write it. They told me, “give us all you've got, a list of any and all adaptations you're thinking of, and we'll start from that.” That original list had 80, 90 titles, everything from “The Wizard of Oz” to “Twilight.” Then I got it to 40 titles I knew I wanted. TCM came back with a few suggestions, and they wanted a broad mix of authors including women, LGBTQ authors, people of color. The only one they

(required) was “Dune,” by Frank Herbert, since at that point the movie was coming out, a big Warners film.

**I love this quote you include from director W.S. Van Dyke, who made a classic out of Dashiell Hammett's “The Thin Man” (1934). He told the screenwriters Albert Hackett and Frances Goodrich to “treat the novel as a foundation, not a guide.” Do you think that's a good guideline for contemporary screenwriters?**

Sure do! I think some of the strongest adaptations follow that adage. It's a good idea to use the source material as a guide to hit specific story beats that readers expect to see in an adaptation. People want the characters to remind them of the ones they met in the book. But it doesn't have to be this strictly followed road map.

Look at “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory,” the 1971 version, which is very different from Roald Dahl's book “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.” Far darker than the book. Especially the way Gene Wilder plays Wonka. But the movie stands the test of time, and it doesn't try to adapt the book verbatim. Tim Burton's film, whatever you think of it, it's more faithful to the original novel. I think the best adaptations understand why people liked the book in the first place. I always go back to “Jurassic Park.” The movie's very different from Michael Crichton's book. Spielberg and the screenwriters condense characters, change their fates. But they're just telling the same basic story in different ways.

**Isn't John Hammond, the creator of the park, a much more duplicitous crackpot in the book?**

Right, he's a villain, basically, not cuddly ol' Richard Attenborough. But honestly I like both. They coexist very, very well.

**You told me earlier that you haven't read “All Quiet on the Western Front,” so you saw the new film version cold. How'd it play for you?**

I think it's very well made. And the acting's great. ... “All Quiet on the Western Front” struck me as ridiculously timely, because we're never in a world without war. Remarque's themes — nationalism, man's ability to turn into a monster if exposed to violence for prolonged periods of time — they're all right there in this new film version.

**So much of Hollywood moviemaking, even in the silent era, worked from the sales pitch of tackling a prestige novel for the screen. Or a smash Broadway hit, now a movie. An astonishing percentage of films came either from a publishing house or from Times Square. Or from a stack of unproduced plays.**

Built-in IP! That was the intellectual property of the time. One of the books I use as an example is “The Razor's Edge” by William Somerset Maugham. Incredibly popular book when it came out. The



Columbia Pictures

Saoirse Ronan and Timothée Chalamet star in the 2019 Greta Gerwig-directed “Little Women,” based on the enduringly popular Louisa May Alcott novel from 1868.

1947 movie with Tyrone Power wasn't a huge success, but back then, if a book enjoyed even the bare minimum of popularity or prestige, a studio would buy it. It was built-in money, at least some of the time.

**Let me throw you two examples of books adapted to movies with a pretty careful ear for the sound and style of the book: The Coen brothers' “True Grit” and the Coens' “No Country for Old Men.” With those you're getting a lot of the actual dialogue distilled from the books, a lot of the original prose. Something like Greta Gerwig's “Little Women,” that's different, in some ways faithful, in others structurally very free. And it found a huge audience. I loved it. How about you?**

I love that she came at Louisa May Alcott's book as the story of the creation of that text, making Jo March the author of her own story. In every way. That's a really interesting adaptation. The spirit of the film is: What makes this book so popular? Why has it lasted? So many books don't stand the test of time.

Take Ernest Hemingway's “To Have and Have Not.” It's incredibly racist, so much so that I ended up making it the last thing I wrote about for the book. Right up until the end, I was, like, “Should I get rid of it?” I emailed TCM and told them I wasn't sure I could include it in good conscience. But I ended up using that section to talk about how Hemingway knew it wasn't much good. In fact he made a deal with the film's director, Howard Hawks, that he couldn't make a good movie out of his worst book. But he did!

**I love that film!**

It works! Although the one I really love is “The Breaking Point,” from 1950, directed by Michael Curtiz starring John Garfield. That's also an adaptation of “To Have and Have Not” and when one key character is killed, mercilessly, your heart just breaks. That ending, with the little boy standing on the dock, waiting for his dad to come home —

**Isn't that a stunning ending?**

Heartbreaking. Hemingway didn't write that! That's a great example of how modernizing a text can mean confronting

how your source material might be outdated. Not changing the whole story, but finding a way, at least, to acknowledge how times have changed.

**What's your favorite movie based on a book you really don't like?**

Oh, gosh. For me it's probably “American Psycho.” I love what director Mary Harron and her co-writer, Guinevere Turner, did with that. The book has some merit, but the movie is such a sharp satire of white male privilege, and the decadence of the early '90s, and the horror genre. I know (author) Bret Easton Ellis hates it. But I don't know if there'd be a generation of Bret Easton Ellis readers my age if they hadn't seen “American Psycho.”

**How about a movie where you came in with high hopes, based on the book, but the adaptation didn't quite land for you?**

I love Don Winslow's “Savages,” which became the Oliver Stone film. The movie's almost there, but they changed the ending, based on the studio's “suggestion,” and the happy ending completely undermines the novel.

**For me, one of the best films made from one of the most atrocious books is Clint Eastwood's “Bridges of Madison County.” That's a case of tossing out a lot of the book, and most traces of the original dialogue.**

Another one with significant changes from the original: Patricia Highsmith's “The Talented Mr. Ripley,” adapted and directed by Anthony Minghella. Highsmith's book never states whether Ripley is gay or straight. The book isn't about sexuality; it's more about class and identity. But Minghella felt that Ripley (played in the 1999 film by Matt Damon) was a closeted homosexual and he wanted to tell the story that way. It's fascinating, but I understand the criticisms: The character becomes a homosexual murderer, Highsmith didn't write it that way, and there's the question of a male filmmaker altering a female author's perspective.

But that's why we love adaptations, or at least arguing about them. We have the text; we have the film. We can pick which side of the fence we're on. The book always exists. And so does the movie.



## WEEKEND: BOOKS

# The power behind the glamour

‘Oscar Wars’ pulls back the curtain on Hollywood players’ struggles to stay on top

By CHRIS YOGERST

Special to *The Washington Post*

As the New Yorker’s Michael Schulman writes in his new book, “Oscar Wars: A History of Hollywood in Gold, Sweat, and Tears,” the Academy Awards can be described as a “game,” a “fashion show,” a “horse race” and even “an orgy of self-congratulation by rich and famous people who think too highly of themselves.” But, Schulman contends, the real key to understanding the awards comes down to power: “who has it, who’s straining to keep it, who’s invading the golden citadel to snatch it.” More than a mere journey through Academy Awards history, his book is a trip through Hollywood’s power struggles.

Sometimes those conflicts have less to do with studio executives and gilded stars than with the interface between Hollywood and the wider world. While the legend of how “Citizen Kane” came to be has long been subject to debate, Schulman focuses on what happened when William Randolph Hearst got a whiff of the title character’s similarities to himself. His newspapers ignored the film. Behind the scenes, meanwhile, Hearst and his cronies

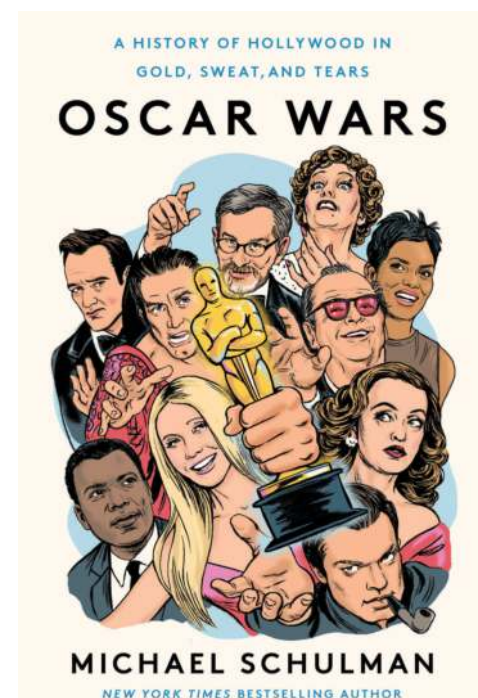
pressured Hollywood and threatened the industry with negative press. MGM’s Louis B. Mayer got together a group of peers to offer RKO \$800,000 to buy every print of “Citizen Kane” to set ablaze. While the plan didn’t succeed, the broader message was received, and the 1942 Oscars, Schulman writes, saw a “near total defeat for ‘Citizen Kane.’”

Other Oscar races were competitions between powerful stars and filmmakers. In 1950, two important films, “Sunset Boulevard” and “All About Eve,” put former silent-film star Gloria Swanson and seasoned pro Bette Davis in a refreshing spotlight. For women in Hollywood, Schulman writes, being a star was to have “power in a vise” that lasted only until you aged out of youthful beauty. Nevertheless, the Swanson-Davis showdown proved that “actresses north of forty didn’t have to pass gently into oblivion.” The timing was perfect, as “Hollywood’s first generation of stars had now reached middle age, holed up in mansions like fossils no one had bothered to excavate, their films disintegrating in studio vaults.”

When it turns to the blacklist era, “Oscar Wars” chronicles the impact of the

decision by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to make sure anyone suspected of being a communist or dodging federal subpoenas was ineligible for an award. As it goes on, the book takes readers through the strange New Hollywood years when Dennis Hopper was a dealmaker, “Midnight Cowboy” (1969) won praise with an X-rating, and the unlikely team of young Candice Bergen and veteran Gregory Peck worked together to “break down resistance to new ideas” in the academy by bringing in new members.

Schulman also addresses Harvey Weinstein, writing that people liked to characterize him as a “bullying mogul who treated art house cinema like a mob boss” even before he was widely recognized as a “sexual predator covering his tracks.” The executive was notorious for nasty awards-season campaigning, and Schulman rightly observes that Weinstein brought Oscar season in line with presidential election cycles — where the best candidate may be defeated by a better campaign. Not everyone got on board with his tactics, though: When Weinstein waged a warlike offensive pushing “Shakespeare in Love” against Steven Spielberg’s “Saving Private



Ryan,” Spielberg refused to “get in the mud with Harvey.”

Schulman reminds us that the academy has often been less progressive than its members would like us to believe, often showing up late for political and cultural change before playing a desperate game of catch-up. These issues were highlighted most prominently, or at least most recently, by the #OscarsSoWhite campaign, but Schulman’s chapter on tokenism reminds us that the struggle is not new.

## ‘Your Driver Is Waiting’ is a wacky take on ‘Taxi Driver’

By JON MICHAUD

Special to *The Washington Post*

Novels have long served as source material for movies, but perhaps more aspiring novelists should start looking to classic films for inspiration. A decade ago, Manuel Muñoz used the making of “Psycho” as the backdrop for his atmospheric “What You See in the Dark.” Last year, Dwyer Murphy cunningly relocated “Chinatown” to mid-aughts Brooklyn in “An Honest Living,” and now, in her rollicking debut, “Your Driver Is Waiting,” Priya Guns turns Martin Scorsese’s “Taxi Driver” upside down and inside out. Readers are advised to buckle their seat belts before opening these pages.

The book’s narrator and protagonist, Damani Krishanthan, is, mercifully, not a traumatized Vietnam vet like Travis Bickle, though an inventory of the trunk of her car — “a bottle of bleach, some rope, a baseball bat” — lets us know she’s ready for just about anything. A bodybuilding bisexual Tamil immigrant in her early 30s, Damani drives for the exploitative RideShare app in an unnamed American city that is disrupted daily by protests and counterprotests. Damani is also broke and facing eviction.

“Nine dollars an hour. I could not do this for much longer,” she says.

When not driving, Damani

pumps iron, tends to her ailing, recently widowed mother and hangs out at a gathering spot called Doo Wop, which is home base for a community of the marginalized: undocumented immigrants, queer people and sex workers — very much the population that Bickle longed to see washed off the streets of New York. Guns vividly captures this metropolitan milieu in the book’s opening chapters.

Unable to afford therapy, Damani relies on her close circle of friends at Doo Wop, a handful of kind regular passengers and a vlogging internet shrink. This makeshift mental safety net feels tenuous at best, and, like most other aspects of Damani’s existence, it proves unsustainable.

While out driving one night, Damani collides with the woman who will upend her life. Like Cybill Shepherd’s Betsy in the movie, Jolene Marie Barnett-Smith is blond, beautiful and white. A social worker by day and a social justice warrior by night, she comes from money but presents herself as an ally. Damani is smitten, but there are red flags. Throughout the book, Guns skewers the obliviousness of the privileged. Microaggressions abound among the RideShare passengers — as well as a few macroaggressions.

Damani is besotted with Jolene, and that attraction leads to



delusion. Jolene suggests that they go to her family’s summer house for a week. Before they can depart, however, everything goes sideways when Damani introduces Jolene to her friends at Doo Wop. Jolene gets into a heated argument with them.

From there, the novel descends into the kind of mayhem that characterizes the final scenes of “Taxi Driver.” I walked away from this book as if I’d survived a car crash, feeling shocked and uncertain. What just happened? Is Damani’s turn at the end an indictment of the dehumanizing pressure of the gig economy, or is it a narrative cop-out? And what are we to make of Jolene, who remains a cipher to the finish?

Regardless, our driver Priya Guns deserves a big tip for taking us on such an enthralling ride.

## Novel ‘Ruthy Ramirez’ takes a different approach to true crime

By DONNA EDWARDS

Associated Press

If true crime is your guilty pleasure, you absolutely must find out what happened to Ruthy Ramirez.

One cold November day in 1996, 13-year-old Ruthy doesn’t come home from track practice after school. Over a decade later, a woman who looks just like Ruthy appears on the reality TV show “Cat Fight,” going by the name Ruby. “What Happened to Ruthy Ramirez,” the compelling true-crime-style debut novel by Claire Jimenez, follows the Ramirez family as they pick up the search for Ruthy.

Missing persons are disproportionately Black or brown and rarely found — something the author and her characters are well aware of — leaving the Ramirez family torn when they see Ruby on TV.

Jess, Ruthy’s older sister, is convinced the moment she sees her. All she has to do is find an excuse to have her mom watch the baby and get a weekend off from work to drive out to where “Cat Fight” films. Ruthy’s younger sister, Nina, is the hardest to convince. But as a fresh college graduate during the 2008 financial crisis — and with a dead-end retail job as the only thing tying her down — she agrees to help track down “TV Ruthy.”

As the sisters sneak around their uber-religious, strict Puerto

Rican mother, family dysfunctions resurface. Work, church and family drama provide subplots that open up conversations on identity, trauma and opportunity.

But it’s also a light, easy read. Jimenez’s style is thoroughly

conversational, complete with an arsenal of curse words that would’ve made my 13-year-old self proud. She sprinkles in jokes and wordplay,

counterbalancing the heavy topics — including sexual abuse and violence — and rounding out her characters as more than the sum of their tragedies.

Jimenez keeps readers anticipating the moment we’re all morbidly curious about: Ruthy’s disappearance. Did she run away as Nina thinks? Or is Jessica right and she was kidnapped? By whom?

We don’t find out until the very last pages what happened to Ruthy Ramirez.

And really, the book isn’t about that anyway. It subverts the often trauma-ridden true crime genre and instead centers on the family losing and regaining hope, living life with a big, mysterious, Ruthy-shaped hole in it.





## WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEW

# Counting blessings

Wallen delivers more — much more — of what made him country's king

By MIKAEL WOOD  
*Los Angeles Times*

The song “Outlook” arrives 35 tracks into Morgan Wallen’s 36-track behemoth of a new album, which means that by the time you finally get to it, you’re pretty well primed for whatever hard-won knowledge he’s got to drop. And for the song’s first few lines about “20/20 hindsight vision,” it seems clear where the country star is going: Two years after he was caught on video drunkenly using the N-word to refer to a friend — an incident that sparked widespread debate about country music’s historical relationship with race — the beginning of “Outlook” suggests that Wallen has done some serious thinking about the way he views the world and his place in it.



Then the chorus hits.

“Now my outlook on life is different than it used to be,” he sings over fingerpicked acoustic guitar, “My outlook is: Someone’s up there looking down and looking out for me.”

Wallen’s realization about white male privilege, in other words, is that it feels like a blessing.

Which of course it has been. “Dangerous,” Wallen’s 2021 double LP, withstood a brief moment of backlash to become that year’s biggest album of any genre, and no fewer than three advance cuts from the new project, “One Thing at a Time,” are currently in the top 10 of Billboard’s country singles chart, including the sensual “Last Night,” which just logged its fourth week at No. 1. Thanks to expected-to-be-ginormous numbers on Spotify and the like, “One Thing at a Time” will almost certainly debut atop the Billboard 200 just as Wallen prepares to launch a U.S. stadium tour sure to be among the year’s most lucrative.

In an era when streaming and TikTok have decentralized the music business, diminishing the power of its old gatekeepers, the only vote that matters is the people’s, and clearly they’ve rallied behind Wallen; indeed, it’s not so much someone

SEE WALLEN ON PAGE 29



Morgan Wallen’s new album, “One Thing at a Time,” features 36 songs.

John Shearer



## WEEKEND: MUSIC

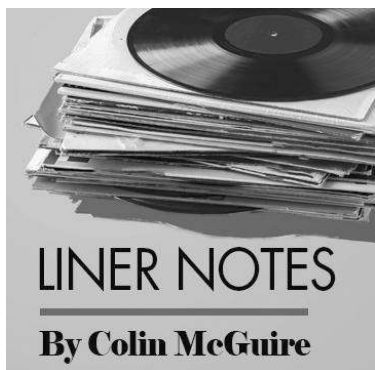
## Billy Joel tops latest tour chart; Styles still strong

“Sing us a song, you’re the piano man / Sing us a song to-night / Well, we’re all in the mood for a melody / And you’ve got us feelin’ alright.”

It’s wild how a monthly look at tour data can change so drastically in such a short amount of time. About one month ago, Elton John topped Pollstar’s Live 75 chart, which ranks tours by average tickets sold for shows taking place over the last 30 days. This month, John isn’t in the top 10 and his most famous touring mate, Billy Joel, sits atop the list with an average of roughly 36,000 tickets sold over the least four weeks and two days. Sing us a song, he will.

The next closest artist to Joel, clocking in at No. 2 on the chart, also happens to be the only artist that has appeared in the top 10 for each of the now-three times these numbers have appeared on these pages: Harry Styles, who is essentially spending 2023 on the road, managed to move 33,000 tickets over the last 30 days.

Meanwhile, a name I’m particularly excited to see pop up on



the list? Paolo Nutini, the soulful Scotsman, who found himself at No. 4, moving nearly 14,000 tickets over the last month or so. While Nutini will be in North America for nearly the rest of this month, he’s slated to perform everywhere from Australia (April), to Germany (June), to Spain (July) as the rest of the first half of the year plays out.

One other new name to the Live 75 list this time around is everyone’s favorite modern-day psych-filled jam band, Phish. Coming in at No. 5, slightly below Nutini’s 14,000 tickets, the group announced its summer tour on

Valentine’s Day and it includes a massive seven-night stay at New York City’s Madison Square Garden. The run finishes up with four straight nights at Dick’s Sporting Goods Park in Commerce City, Colo., from Aug. 30 to Sept. 3. Don’t forget your glow stick, of course.

Elsewhere — and for those looking for a wee bit more structure in their live music experience — Weezer announced last week that it will be hitting the road this summer for what they are calling the “Indie Rock Roadtrip” tour. Joining them on various dates will be Future Islands, Modest Mouse, Spoon and Joyce Manor, among others. The bulk of the dates will go down throughout North America, but it’s worth noting that the band will be heading to Japan for the Fuji Rock Festival at the end of July.

The other Big Deal jaunt announced just last week comes from the world of hip-hop as the Wu-Tang Clan and Nas will team up for the “NY State of Mind” tour, which will spend about half



EVAN AGOSTINI/AP

**Musician Billy Joel performs during his 100th lifetime performance at Madison Square Garden in 2018 in New York.**

of its time outside of the U.S. Kicking off in New Zealand in May, the trek will take the hip-hop mainstays to Sweden, France and Germany in June before hitting America in September, at which point the run will conclude

Oct. 22 in California.

No word on if an ODB hologram will turn up at any of the stops.

But let’s be honest: We’ve all got our fingers crossed.

Either way, happy concerting!

## Wallen: Controversial singer looks inward on latest album

## FROM PAGE 28

above who saved him from ruin but the millions of devoted someones here on Earth.

The question regarding the new album, then, is how Wallen is utilizing his privilege.

You might wonder why (or whether) he has to reckon with it at all. By many accounts — including those of prominent Black artists such as the country singer Darius Rucker and the rapper Lil Durk, with whom Wallen cut the 2021 duet “Broadway Girls” — the 29-year-old singer is no racist. He’s inarguably benefited from a system built on racism, yes, but in that he’s no different from countless other white entertainers, politicians and businesspeople.

Across these three dozen songs, though, Wallen keeps tiptoeing up to the idea that he’s made grave mistakes and learned valuable lessons; he’s clearly aware of the perceived need to atone for what he did — “One Thing at a Time” is not a pugnacious, Kid Rock-style denunciation of the encroachments of cancel culture — yet he continually stops short of demonstrating any real introspection. The result is something of a paradox: an album weighed down by an obligation it refuses to shoulder.

Which would be easier to reconcile if Wallen didn’t occasionally enter the culture-war fray in



JOHN LOCHER/AP

**Morgan Wallen performs with Diplo on the first night of the 2022 iHeartRadio Music Festival in Las Vegas.**

real life, as when he accepted an invitation to perform at a recent inaugural celebration for Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, who last week signed a controversial bill restricting drag performances in Wallen’s home state. Political activism like that chips away at the reasonableness of an artist’s expectation that his music be considered outside politics.

But another sign of Wallen’s privilege is that he’s granted that leeway. So what is there to notice about “One Thing at a Time” beyond the fact that it dodges the tough issues few in his audience likely want him to engage? It’s too long, for starters, though that goes without saying in a stream-

ing economy whose set-it-and-forget-it ethos has also inspired marathon LPs by Zach Bryan and Luke Combs.

Wallen has said the album’s 36 tunes fit into three groups: traditional country songs, hip-hop-inspired songs and songs in a mode he calls “dirt rock” that pull from the ’80s-revivalist heartlandisms of the Killers and the War on Drugs. And for sure there are distinct examples of each, such as “Everything I Love,” which puts lush vocal harmonies over a galloping beat à la classic Alabama; the throbbing “180 (Lifestyle),” which interpolates elements of “Lifestyle” by Rich Gang, Young Thug and Rich

Homie Quan; and “Whiskey Friends,” which all but borrows the central riff from the Killers’ “Mr. Brightside.”

But most of the rest blur together over nearly two hours in a sound neatly triangulated by those styles; the typical Morgan Wallen song blends country, rap and rock in a way similar to the typical Post Malone song (albeit in slightly different proportions). His skill as a singer — and he’s among the most skilled in Nashville — is the flexibility of his voice, which can move from a snarl to a croon in just a few lines; sometimes he does both in the same line, as on “Money on Me,” an account of his propensity to disappoint in which he captures a mix of shame and pride as he tells a potential lover, “Honestly, I wouldn’t put my money on me.”

His flow has gotten sharper than it was on “Dangerous”; he’s capable of handling trickier cadences, as on the slinky “Me + All Your Reasons” and “Good Girl Gone Missin’,” which places quick staccato phrases amid folksy guitars. And his vocal runs in a song like “Keith Whitley,” titled after the late country singer, have an appealing gruffness even at their nimblest.

Because “One Thing at a Time” is so uniform in its sound, what elevates any given tune is the depth and specificity of the songwriting, for which Wallen, a

gifted writer himself, enlisted dozens of Nashville pros for help, including his longtime pals Hardy and Ernest along with Miranda Lambert, Hillary Lindsey and Ryan Hurd. (One way to ensure your re-embrace by the country establishment: Become one of Music Row’s most reliable employers.)

The least interesting songs here are those about self-destruction and the quest for redemption, not just because they sidestep the particulars of Wallen’s notoriety but because they lapse into tear-in-your-beer clichés — a failure of both courage and taste. Far more vivid are numbers about sex like “Last Night” (“I kiss your lips / Make you grip the sheets with your fingertips”) and songs about lost love like “Tennessee Numbers,” in which he recalls the picture of him and an ex that used to serve as the lock screen on her phone.

“98 Braves” and “Tennessee Fan” use clever sports imagery in stories of romance, and “Thought You Should Know” addresses the singer’s mother with touching familiarity. Then again, once he tells her about his new girlfriend and they have a laugh about the “dumb s—” his dad’s been up to, he lets his mom know that “all those prayers you thought you wasted on me must’ve finally made their way on through.” Another problem solved.



## WEEKEND: TELEVISION

# Beyond 'Wednesday' and 'Outer Banks'

## How Netflix is looking to be the new CW for Gen Z

BY WENDY LEE  
AND BRIAN CONTRERAS  
*Los Angeles Times*

**O**n a chilly February afternoon in Huntington Beach, Calif., throngs of young fans of the popular Netflix show "Outer Banks" gathered for a strange beast of an event — equal parts high school beach party, trendy music festival and promotional meet-and-greet with the series stars.

Attendees carried their Diet Cokes and branded coconuts across the venue, passing by a giant inflatable chicken and a performance stage emblazoned with the streaming giant's red logo.

Ella Coleman, 16, was one of the thousands of guests at the "Poguelandia" fest, so named in reference to the Pogues, the show's working-class crew of protagonists. Coleman came down from Thousand Oaks, Calif., for the chance to meet the cast of her favorite show, which follows a group of teens hunting for treasure along the eponymous North Carolina coastline.

"[What] I like about the show is the action, and how it's a mystery, and each time there's something happening," she said before joining a crowd of teens chasing cast members Drew Starkey and Austin North.

In many ways, Coleman is an ideal Netflix customer — though like many teens, she watches on her parents' account.

Netflix is investing in and promoting programming about young adults and teens as it fights to remain dominant in the fiercely competitive streaming business. Bulking up in the so-called YA (young adult) category comes at a time when streamers are under pressure to become more profitable, increase their subscriber base and reduce churn.

With hits like "Wednesday" and "Ginny & Georgia," Netflix is catering to a demographic that in another era might have been glued to the WB network or the CW during their "Dawson's Creek" and "Smallville" heydays — CW for a generation that's never paid for cable.

Netflix's slate includes new youth-oriented programs such as "XO, Kitty," a "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" spinoff; "One Piece," a manga-based pirate adventure; and "My Life With the Walter Boys," based on the Ali Novak book of the same name. New YA films include "True Spirit," about a real-life sailor; and "Damsel," starring Millie Bobby Brown. In a deal not previously announced, Netflix has a project in development inspired by Amber Dermont's book, "The Starboard Sea."

These projects join Netflix's existing teen, tween and 20-something content such as "Shadow and Bone," "Heartstopper," "Never Have I Ever" and "The Kissing Booth" trilogy.

The get-them-while-they're-young strategy is not without risks and challenges. Younger consumers have limited budgets and are tech-savvy enough to drop a service quickly — 74% of them said they plan to quit a streaming service this year and sign up for another one, according to data firm Samba TV.

They're also vocal on social media, a trait that can drive viewership when the chatter is positive — in the case of Jenna Ortega's "Wednesday" dance, which became a TikTok phenomenon — and cause headaches when it isn't.

But gaining customers' loyalty during early adulthood could be invaluable in the long run, said Tom Nunan, a former studio and TV network executive. "The greater goal, of course, is just to keep those eyeballs train[ed] on to Netflix as those people watching Netflix go from being young adults or teenagers into adulthood."

Netflix understands how CW-type programming can be a major draw. CW series such as "All-American" and "Riverdale" drew modest ratings on the broadcast networks, but became full-blown hits once they were made available on Netflix. Five of the top six English-language shows on Netflix by viewing time are either YA or YA-adjacent. Viewers watched "Stranger Things 4" for more than 1.35 billion hours in its first 28 days. "Wednesday" ranked second at roughly 1.2 billion hours.

Executives credit this success to the universal themes of growing up, when everything, including first kisses, high school dances and sports competitions, feels life-and-death.

"It's something that's so relatable, whether you're a young adult looking to be entertained by an experience you may be going through, or it's from an adult point of view that is nostalgic or reflective and can be quite reminiscent of your coming-of-age experience," said Peter Friedlander, Netflix's vice president of scripted series for the U.S. and Canada. "That level of popularity expands beyond just the YA (young adult) demographic; it's really across our membership."

Another benefit: Young adults have long been desirable for advertisers, an important factor as Netflix, which has 231 million subscribers, grows its cheaper tier that includes commercials.

There's also an opening in the market-



GARY CORONADO, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS photos

"Outer Banks" fans attend Poguelandia, a music event Netflix hosted in February in Huntington Beach, Calif. Some of the show's cast also attended.

place. The CW is now majority owned by Nexstar Media Group, a business of local TV stations that wants CW programming to deliver audiences that will stick around for its older-skewing local newscast.

Netflix plans to spend around \$17 billion in content this year, but declined to say how much of it will be spent on young adult programming. Since 2020, the global demand for YA titles has increased more than 100%, while supply has risen about 50%, according to Parrot Analytics, a data firm that tracks interest in content by search traffic, social media mentions and other metrics. That suggests there's still room in the market for more YA shows.

Rival streaming services have also gone after young adult audiences. HBO Max rebooted "Gossip Girl" and aired "The Sex Lives of College Girls," while HBO has won Emmys for the controversial "Euphoria." Other such series include Amazon's "The Summer I Turned Pretty" and Disney's "Love, Victor."

Edgy content focused on teens and kids can easily cause trouble. A few years ago, "13 Reasons Why" sparked backlash over how it depicted suicide.

Jinny Howe, a vice president of drama series at Netflix, said the streamer takes its responsibility seriously when it comes to topics such as self-harm, which comes up in "Ginny & Georgia," about a mixed-race daughter and her mother. After an episode that shows Ginny burning herself with a lighter, a message appears giving viewers a website to visit if they are struggling with thoughts of self-harm. The show also took care in how it handled conversations between Ginny and her therapist.

"We worked very closely with Mental Health America on 'Ginny & Georgia' and we were we took this responsibility incredibly seriously in terms of an authentic portrayal," Howe said.

Some of Netflix's shows have a little edge — like "Sex Education" — but executives said one of their sweet spots is hav-



Huntington Beach was rebranded for the Poguelandia event in February.

ing YA shows that families can watch together. Such shows dodge much of the dark and sexually explicit content that parents find alienating about series like "Euphoria."

"Outer Banks" was a particularly unexpected success. When the series premiered in April 2020, its cast was little-known. The idea for the show came from a photograph published in the Wall Street Journal of a darkened mansion in the Outer Banks during a power outage.

The show has become popular enough to merit its own YA-palooza. At Poguelandia, Netflix previewed the third season of "Outer Banks" and announced that it had ordered a fourth.

The organizers wanted to create an event that would inspire viral social media moments. Attendees snapped selfies with the stars and got their photo taken in the driver's seat of a replica of the show's Volkswagen camper van; many filmed performances from musicians featured in the series.

"The intersection of entertainment and music is one of the tactics we're using around this," said Shelly Gillyard, vice president of marketing for U.S. and Canada. "The artists are fans of the show. They have large followings as well and so we're hoping ... we get new fans showing up for OBX (Outer Banks)."

**"[Young adult content] is something that's so relatable, whether you're a young adult looking to be entertained by an experience you may be going through, or it's from an adult point of view that is nostalgic or reflective and can be quite reminiscent of your coming-of-age experience."**

Peter Friedlander

Netflix's vice president of scripted series for the U.S. and Canada



## WEEKEND: TELEVISION



CBS

Steve Howey and Ginger Gonzaga play a husband and wife spy team in “True Lies,” a series based on the 1994 film. Howey insisted on doing many of his own stunts in the series.

# Married spies bring ‘True Lies’ to TV

Howey, Gonzaga save world in CBS’ new weekly action series produced by James Cameron, based on 1994 film

By RODNEY HO

*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

In 1994, Arnold Schwarzenegger, at the peak of his box-office power, landed the third most popular movie of the year with “True Lies,” an entertaining blend of action, comedy, drama and romance produced by James Cameron.

It seemed ripe to become a franchise, like a twist on James Bond. Yet it never happened. Cameron got wrapped up producing a little film called “Titanic.” Then 9/11 soured Cameron on a “True Lies 2,” and Schwarzenegger became the governor of California. By the 2010s, the original movie was but a distant memory.

Only now, nearly three decades later, CBS has managed to take the “True Lies” conceit and turn it into a weekly spy procedural with Cameron as an executive producer and Schwarzenegger nowhere in sight. (The legendary action star, by the way, is doing his own Netflix series, “FUBAR.”) “True Lies” also streams on Paramount+.

The role of Harry Tasker, a super spy for Omega Sector, has been given to Steve Howey (“Reba,” “Shameless”), who does not remotely resemble or sound like Schwarzenegger. Instead, Howey’s Harry is tall and lithe, possessing a far more down-to-earth, family man persona than Schwarzenegger could muster.

His wife Helen, who was played by Jamie Lee Curtis in the original film, is now portrayed by Ginger Gonzaga (“She-

Hulk”). Helen is raising two teens while working as a linguistics professor and is a bit bored with her marriage.

Harry’s spy cover for 17 years has been a computer equipment salesman for the insurance industry. But in the first episode, she suspects his evasions are a cover for an affair. When confronted, he spontaneously takes her on a surprise trip to Paris that also happens to be a work-related job trying to stop illegal arms dealers.

Unfortunately, said bad guys find him at a fancy restaurant while he’s on a dinner date with Helen. He breaks into fight mode. She uses martial arts skills she picked up from exercise videos and yoga classes to help fend off the terrorists.

Harry’s cover is blown. The betrayal is serious. But he isn’t cheating on his wife, per se. His justification is he’s saving the world and had no choice but to hide it from her. And she buys it.

“I think she finds it kind of sexy that her boring computer salesman husband is an international super spy,” Howey said. “That’s the unspoken dialogue of the show.”

Plus, lucky for Harry, Helen has plenty of spy-friendly skills. She knows multiple languages, like French, Swahili and Russian. She has yoga and martial arts skills. She isn’t fazed by much. So his bosses hire her as well.

Gonzaga, who has an improv background, worked hard “to insert quirks for Helen, anything to make it not generic. I’m glad they allowed me to do it. It keeps

everything fresh.”

“She’s a comedic assassin,” Howey said. “She made me laugh every day. We broke a lot during shooting, which is a lot of fun for us. Everyone else hated us. There was such a time crunch.”

One of the funnier side characters is Mrs. Myers (Deneen Tyler), a seemingly boring cat-loving neighbor who watches their clueless kids while they’re killing trained assassins. The joke? She is a trained assassin herself. But she takes tracking their daughter’s possible boyfriends with the same seriousness as tracking down a terrorist with a bomb.

The show is helmed by Matt Nix, who created USA’s lighthearted action comedy series “Burn Notice.”

Nix loved the over-the-top nature of the 1994 movie and said he knew how challenging it would be to replicate that on a broadcast TV series budget.

“It’s hard for me to get a horse on an elevator,” Nix said. “If you happen to know a hotel in Atlanta that will allow me to put a horse in an elevator, get back to me!”

On top of that, “True Lies” has to be in a different city every episode. In Episode 2, while Harry is in a motorcycle chase, the streets of downtown Atlanta are used as Madrid’s. In Episode 3, the spies are standing on a rooftop supposedly in Zurich, but the Hilton Atlanta is clearly in the background.

He said it helps that a lot of his crew came from a previous CBS show, “Mac-

Gyver,” which shot in Atlanta from 2016 to 2021 and also featured its cast putting out fires all over the world.

“Our location scout knows what places could double for Berlin in Atlanta,” he said. “Before the show started, he took me around showing me Eastern Europe, Spain, Mexico. That’s Morocco. Of course, Morocco in Atlanta is half a block. You have to write to that.”

Nix said the toughest part of doing “True Lies” is balancing the various genre elements.

“You can come up with the greatest spy story, but it also needs to be romantic and fun and relevant to the relationship of Harry and Helen,” he said. “You can create a fun, sweet and engaging romantic story, but it also needs to involve nuclear weapons being stopped in Qatar. You have to hit this trifecta of action, comedy and romance.”

And an acting job like this is not for the faint of heart. Howey said he insisted on doing many of his own stunts, firing his own weapons and jumping in and out of vehicles. As a result, he pulled a quadriceps and hurt his back. But the worst happened during the season finale: He broke his left ring finger, snapping it all the way back to the knuckle.

“If we have a Season 2,” Howey said, “I’ll get three stunt doubles, even if you only need one.”

Gonzaga? “I escaped bone breaks,” she said, adding, “maybe not a mental breakdown.”



## WEEKEND: HEALTH &amp; FITNESS



iStock

# Busting the stigma of depression in men

Sen. Fetterman's admission, treatment for the disorder a step forward in the public conversation around mental health

By HANNA WEBSTER  
*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

**W**hen Sen. John Fetterman (D-Pa.) announced in February that he had entered Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington to be treated for clinical depression, it was seen by many as a sign of progress in fighting mental health stigma, particularly in men.

Even as discussions of mental health increasingly enter the public conversation, aided both by public figures, such as Olympian Michael Phelps talking about his depression, and difficulties brought by the pandemic, men in particular still struggle to be open — and seek treatment.

In addition to Phelps, Fetterman joins a relatively small group of male public figures discussing depression.

“Talk about a stigma buster,” said Christine Michaels, CEO of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Keystone Pennsylvania, in reference to Fetterman’s announcement. “I don’t think he has any idea how much good he did. There are anti-stigma campaigns that get funded that couldn’t do what he did.”

Evidence shows that talking openly about mental health concerns and educating people about mental illness can reduce the stigma. And a 2018 survey of 14- to 22-year-olds, conducted by the Hopelab and Well Being Trust, found that a majority of those experiencing mental health issues scoured online resources, like social media and podcasts, for personal anecdotes about similar struggles.

“People can relate to him and identify with him. A lot of times, that’s all it takes for someone who’s depressed to get help,” Michaels said.

One person dies every 11 minutes by suicide, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And suicide does not affect Americans equally: Men struggle more, as well as LGBTQ people compared to heterosexual individuals, and Native Americans compared to other races and ethnicities. And for every suicide, there are 275 people who consider it.

A CDC data brief in September reported that the number of people seeking mental health treatment since 2019 has increased, but that population was mostly women.

“Although it’s a terrible situation, I love that he is sharing his journey about it,” said Josie Badger, a consultant and disability rights advocate who recently started a

commission to support legislation and change attitudes around men’s mental health.

Fetterman’s communications director, Joe Calvello, said in a statement at the end of February that the senator was doing well as he continued treatment.

“We don’t have a lot to update folks with since there’s no real news to report except that John is doing well, working with the wonderful doctors, and remains on a path to recovery,” Calvello said, noting that “this will be a weeks-long process.”



Fetterman

And many see Fetterman — a presence at 6 feet, 8 inches tall — as a “manly man,” Badger said. “He’s a powerful individual with a beautiful wife and family, and he’s being open in pursuing the help he needs.”

Badger runs J Badger Consulting, which lobbies for legislation to help those with disabilities and provide training on the legislative system. She said she was called to support men’s mental health after her life was turned upside down a couple of years ago.

In 2021, her parents sat her down. “I knew by the look on their faces that something was really wrong,” she said. They told her that her cousin’s husband had died by suicide. Both her cousin and her cousin’s husband were finishing medical residencies and had a 3-month-old baby.

“It was an out-of-body experience,” she said. “They had what looked like a perfect life ... even though I wasn’t there and didn’t see it, I felt it.”

Badger pulled together experts from Highmark/Allegheny Health Network, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and NAMI Keystone and created the MENTAL Health Strategy Commission. Its mission, she said, aligns with funding allocated by then-Gov. Tom Wolf, \$100 million earmarked for various mental health services around Western Pennsylvania. The funding was divvied up by the Behavioral Health Commission, which naturally disbanded after writing a report about how the money should be spent.

Badger wants to further the work of the Behavioral

Health Commission to ensure that the funding is utilized, as well as to keep fighting the stigma against men seeking mental health care. “I want to make sure we see systemic change around men’s mental health,” she said.

She hopes to collaborate with microbreweries, gyms and schools to meet men where they are. Imagine QR codes and phone numbers subtly taped to the back of a beer bottle that men could scan, referring them to mental health services in their area.

She also wants to train staff — like coaches, fitness trainers and bartenders — in these places to recognize a crisis when they hear one. “I want to make sure people are armed with mental health first aid to direct them to services,” she said.

“Mental health and suicide rates are higher in Western Pennsylvania, specifically rural areas,” she went on. “We need to figure out why. There’s a combination of things happening that are putting our men at risk in this part of the state.”

Badger has seen a shift in the stigma but says there’s still more work to be done.

“We’re getting there,” she said. “The \$100 million is an indicator of that, but it’s still not available.” The funding has been trapped in legislative limbo.

Michaels, who has worked with NAMI since 1998, agreed that the nation has progressed in terms of mental health attitudes, but she said the workplace is one area where the stigma persists.

“There’s the idea that if you let anyone know you have a mental health problem or need medication, you might not get a promotion,” she said. “Stigma is still real, still alive.”

But the pandemic did a lot to break it down, Michaels said. In everyday conversations, people have opened up about their mental health, with young people in particular helping to normalize these struggles.

Increased use of person-first language in the zeitgeist has helped, too. A shift from calling someone “a schizophrenic” to “a person with schizophrenia” aids in dismantling the idea that people are attached to their illness, she said, something for which NAMI Keystone has long advocated. “People being informed is the best way to extinguish stigma,” Michaels said.

“The more we share our struggles,” Badger said, “the more likely someone feels like they can, too.”



## WEEKEND: FAMILY



iStock

Many parents are exhausted by bedtime, but it might be just when your teen is most willing to open up.

# Late-night talks with teens

Parents should embrace, and encourage, uncharacteristic bedtime chattiness

By LISA DAMOUR

Special to *The Washington Post*

**A**s a psychologist who cares for teens and their families, and as the mother of teenagers myself, I have watched as my children sit silently through dinner, bristling at every question asked, only to be eager to chat once I've called it a night.

I know this isn't just happening in my home. Perhaps standing in the doorway of a parent's bedroom, or sprawled out on the bedroom floor, or even flopped on top of the bedcovers themselves, otherwise sphinxlike teens often share freely what's on their minds at a time when parents might want to curl up and drift off. But as much as we might be ready to turn the page on the day, there's a good reason to make time for our teens' rapid-onset talkativeness.

Strong relationships between teens and their parents play a major role in the prevention of significant adolescent mental health concerns. But, as almost anyone raising a teenager can attest, it's not always easy to connect. Typically, teens become aloof, if not downright prickly, when the childlike closeness they shared with their parents comes into conflict with their urge to become increasingly independent.

Unfortunately, this expectable — if often temporary — detachment that characterizes the teenage years pairs poorly with the current crisis in adolescent mental health. If being connected to a teen is a kind of emotional fluoride that helps prevent anxiety disorders, depression and other worrisome psychological concerns, how are parents supposed to administer it when our teen keeps us at arm's length?

Here's one suggestion: Let your teen tuck you in.

What is it about parents being ready for sleep that makes teens ready to talk? These late-night visits solve a genuine adolescent dilemma: They can satisfy both their drive for autonomy and their diametrically opposed longing to connect with loving adults.

Teens, by nature, prize self-determination. Adolescent clients in my practice have told me that even if they were, on their own initiative, about to clean their room, they'll refuse if a parent tells them to do it. In the same vein, teens may dismissively brush aside our reasonable daytime questions, such as "How's algebra going?" because to them this can feel like being summoned to a meeting, at a time and on a topic of our choosing. Complying under those terms cuts across the teenage grain. Looking at it this way, we might even come to appreciate how often autonomy-oriented teens bend to our agendas — and maybe to take it less personally

when they don't.

By waiting until we're turning in, teens can open up while also maintaining their independence. They decide whether there will be a "meeting" and roughly when it will begin. Likewise, they determine the agenda, knowing from experience that tired parents are unlikely to introduce fresh topics at the end of the day. Perhaps most important, our teens keep control of when the meeting will end; closing it merely requires acknowledging that their day-weary parents are probably ready to go to sleep.

So how does a tired parent handle this? For starters, as much as we can, we should welcome these evening visits as golden opportunities for connection. Rather than shooing teens out of our rooms or urging them to get to the point, let's allow them to be in charge of the conversation, steering it in the direction and stretching it to the length they'd like. What they put before us in these moments is almost certainly what is most on their minds. And even if what they want to talk about seems truly trivial, understand that the talking itself constitutes our teens' effort to connect with us.

Beyond letting our teens run these late-night shows, we can also maximize the factors that invite these tuck-in visits in the first place. Once in bed, try not to give the impression that you are uninterruptible. It is likely easier for teens to poke in on a parent reading a book or watching television than one ensconced in a phone or computer.

If you're worried exhaustion will have you struggling to keep up your end of the conversation, let me offer some reassurance: Your teen may be counting on that. Adolescents tell me that they often prefer to talk to their parents at night, when their folks tend to question less and just listen more.

To be sure, not all teens turn to stopping by their parents' bedrooms when they want to connect. But I've learned that teens tend to be most inclined to open up when they can set the terms of engagement. In my practice I often hear from adolescents that they aren't ready to talk when their parents' pepper them with questions right after school, but that they will sometimes put a topic on the table later in the evening or over the weekend, hoping their parents will pick it up.

Parents have every reason to be exhausted at the end of the day, and the prospect of a late-night visit from a chatty teen may be a little hard to embrace. But, when we are rightly losing so much sleep over the crisis in adolescent mental health, we might take comfort in knowing that losing some sleep can sometimes be part of the solution.

## THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



## Suffering through a state of social media mediocrity

It's been more than a week since my husband and I returned home from a long weekend in New Hampshire where we took beautiful photographs of the stunning scenery. Horse-drawn sleigh ride, cog train trip up Mt. Washington, forested trail hike, moose head over the stone fireplace, dinner in the historic lodge, selfie at the fire pit — you name it, I took photos of it, fully intending to share the experience with my friends on social media.

Have I posted any of these photos yet? No, I have not, and yes, I feel guilty about it.

Ever since Facebook became a thing around 2008, I've been failing at it. At first, I didn't have time to consider social media. During 2008, my husband was just getting back from a yearlong deployment, and we were preparing for a move overseas. Military spouses understand the mindset of someone under those extreme circumstances.

After a year of managing our three children, their various activities, our dog, our relatives and our house by myself for a year, I was functioning somewhat like an old umbrella stroller that's been ridden hard for months. It's still intact, but there's no telling how soon the wheels will fall off.

Add to that the monumental task of moving a family of five halfway across the world, and the never-ending to-do list that goes along with it, and it's like asking an elephant to take a ride in that old umbrella stroller.

Somehow, I made it through that precarious time without my wheels falling off, and we soon found ourselves living on base in Germany. About a year after settling in, I made the mistake of thinking, "Maybe I should try Facebook?" In 2010, sitting in front of our clunky Dell computer monitor, I posted a blurry photo to my profile that didn't show my double chin, and my social media mediocrity began.

Having been born at the genesis of Generation X when kids watched cartoons only on Saturday mornings, telephones had rotary dials and two-dimensional Atari Pong was a high-tech video game, technology will never be intuitive to me. "What's so difficult about posting on social media?" Millennials and Generation Z might wonder.

Here's the thing: Not only do I have to swipe through all my photos to find the ones in which I do not have a double chin, but then I have to contend with today's high expectations for social media posts. Thirteen years ago, when I posted my first photo-less status update on Facebook, typing a few words sufficed for posting. But today, social media posts must tell a compelling, cool, hilarious, heart-warming, informative or tear-jerking tale, complete with a collage of photographs — or better yet, a well-edited video set to music — and include captioning that drives engagement without rendering you unfollowed, unfriended or, worse yet, muted.

And that's just on Facebook. Today's social media user must also post equally engaging yet different content to other platforms which may include but is not limited to Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Snapchat, WhatsApp, YouTube, Pinterest, TikTok and Finsta. But it doesn't end there. Gone are the days of simply clicking "Like." We are now expected to specifically qualify our feelings about other's posts by registering like, love, anger, care, sad, laugh and "wow!" in addition to clever comments written in the acceptable emoji-decorated shorthand parlance of the Digital Age.

Oh, the agony!

I'm jealous of my husband who, other than his professional static LinkedIn profile, has never wasted a minute using social media. He runs, like the wind, free of social media obligation. I, on the other hand, dipped one piggy toe into the pond back in 2010, and SNAP! I was trapped. The more I tried to wriggle out of social media's ever-increasing demands and expectations, the more I became ensnared.

I may or may not post my photos of New Hampshire, but one thing is certain — there's no need to unpack my bags because thanks to social media, I'm still on a guilt trip.

Read more at [themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com) and in Lisa's book, "The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com." Email: [meatandpotatoesofflife@gmail.com](mailto:meatandpotatoesofflife@gmail.com)



# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

### DOUBLE-DOUBLES

BY WILL NEDIGER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Will Nediger, of London, Ontario, is a professional crossword constructor. This is his 46th puzzle for The Times. A typical Sunday crossword has 140 answers, but this one has only 136, affording some longer "fill" outside the theme. Occasionally, as here, constructors include things personal to them in their grids. Will writes, "As a parent of two young kids, 49-Down next to 50-Down really resonates with me." — W. S.

#### ACROSS

- 1 British dandy
- 5 Dennis the Menace types
- 10 Really grand
- 14 The "A" in STEAM, for educators
- 18 Maker of the Aspire laptop
- 19 Pain-relief brand
- 20 Recordings for oral historians
- 22 Bound
- 23 Slow-driving holiday parade in December?
- 26 "Huh, didn't expect to run into you here!"
- 27 Musical piece like Smetana's "Vltava"
- 28 Club collections
- 29 Movie genre . . . or a shout on a movie set
- 31 Overtime Yves Saint Laurent employer
- 32 Make
- 33 Words at a pity party
- 34 Arrange by category
- 37 Update Wikipedia after the 2012 election?
- 41 Yiddish for "pancake"
- 42 Enthralled
- 43 Like some landscape photography
- 44 Assert confidently
- 45 Banned, in a way

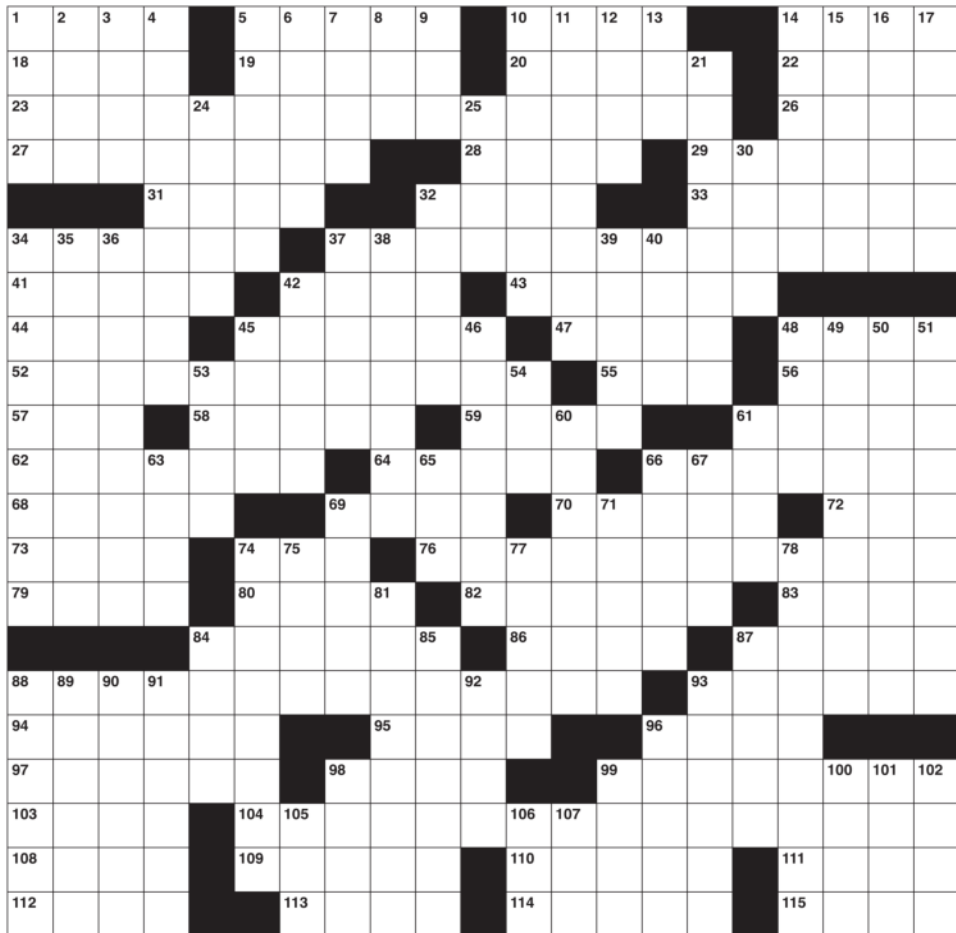
- 47 Brand of "old-fashioned" root beer
- 48 Delicate bit of hair
- 52 Subject of study for an insect psychologist?
- 55 "Don't love it, don't hate it"
- 56 Against
- 57 Communication method that may be written with Stokoe notation, in brief
- 58 Investigative journalist Farrow
- 59 Heroes that don't wear capes
- 61 Trademarked refrigerant
- 62 Kind of gel
- 64 Condiment drizzled on a taco
- 66 Shot followers
- 68 Drumroll followers
- 69 Blacken
- 70 Pale purple
- 72 Holi powder
- 73 Some announcements interrupting in-flight movies, for short
- 74 Intelligence grp. featured on "Quantico"
- 76 Promise from actor Damon's friends regarding his movie premiere?
- 79 "To Sontag, to Sondheim, to anything taboo" musical
- 80 Ceramic stewpot
- 82 Philosophy influenced by the "I Ching"
- 83 Eager assistant's declaration
- 84 "It is what it is," e.g.

- 86 Corn \_\_\_\_
- 87 Art-shop purchase
- 88 Words accompanying an offering to the ruler of the donkeys?
- 93 Partner worth holding on to
- 94 Open acknowledgment
- 95 Uncreatively draws from
- 96 Busy locale in December
- 97 Leah who wrote "Troublemaker: Surviving Hollywood and Scientology"
- 98 Ivan the Great, for one
- 99 Some holiday-tree decorations
- 103 Home of the poet Forugh Farrokhzad
- 104 Arrive too late to see a hotel being built?
- 108 Number of worlds in Norse myth
- 109 Thought spot
- 110 Russian pancakes
- 111 Disney's Queen of Arendelle
- 112 Pontiac muscle cars
- 113 "The Crown \_\_\_\_ Worth Much" (Hanif Abdurraqib collection)
- 114 One who questions people's motives
- 115 Collect from the fields

#### DOWN

- 1 Arbitrator's asset
- 2 Eight, in Spanish
- 3 Plant with no flowers or seeds

- 4 Southern dish often made with buttermilk and cornmeal
- 5 Tuchus
- 6 Film composer Bernstein
- 7 Ore locale
- 8 Electronics-aisle array
- 9 Jiffy
- 10 Ancient Italian region
- 11 Dealt with minor issues?
- 12 Some business-news topics, for short
- 13 What's still in cartoons?
- 14 Many
- 15 Bring back on board
- 16 Mount Rainier's \_\_\_\_ Glacier
- 17 Small piano
- 21 Done hurriedly and carelessly
- 24 Skyscraper feature
- 25 First of all
- 30 Screenwriter/actress Michaela
- 32 Moved cautiously
- 34 Soft white mineral
- 35 Snapshot of a gamer's progress
- 36 Duo inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2001
- 37 Aggravation
- 38 Grab a midday meal with someone
- 39 Trolleys
- 40 Heads or tails
- 42 Getting rid of
- 45 Berkshire school since 1440
- 46 Western settlement area led by Brigham Young



- 48 Major conflicts
- 49 Tired expression?
- 50 When to read aloud to kids
- 51 Bowling-alley device
- 53 Swimming/cycling/running competitions, informally
- 54 Zero-\_\_\_\_ game
- 60 Grow to a huge size
- 61 Part of a clock
- 63 Booby-prize winner's place

- 65 Unflinchingly candid as scores
- 67 Two-time Olympic gold medalist in soccer
- 69 Flagella relatives
- 71 Medium for a birthday message
- 74 Body part that a dog uses to shake, e.g.
- 75 77-Down's color
- 77 75-Down gemstone
- 78 "To be continued . . ."

- 81 Charlotte Corday, to Jean-Paul Marat
- 84 Word after better or worse
- 85 Simple graphics editor, informally
- 87 Guy
- 88 Getting along
- 89 No longer obsessed
- 90 Italian-style cheese
- 91 Strong strings
- 92 Adjust the spacing between, in typography

- 93 Like a deserved comeuppance
- 96 Soprano Nixon
- 98 Director Ming-liang
- 99 Pass the threshold
- 100 Memphis's river
- 101 Pancake served with sambar
- 102 Onesie closure
- 105 Plan for the future, in brief?
- 106 "America's Got Talent" network
- 107 Do the Wright thing?

## GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and online at gunstonstreet.com.

## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



## STARS AND STRIPES 15 YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN



The story of the U.S. military's role in Afghanistan, as seen through the eyes of Stars and Stripes journalists covering America's longest war.

Only **\$14.99** with Free Shipping



**ORDER NOW** at [www.stripesstore.com](http://www.stripesstore.com)



# BE A PART OF THE TEAM THAT BRINGS A TASTE OF HOME TO SERVICE MEMBERS AND FAMILIES OVERSEAS

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service's Germersheim Distribution Center in Germany has immediate openings. Associates enjoy competitive pay and great benefits. Veterans and military spouses receive hiring preference.

Apply today at **APPLYMYEXCHANGE.COM**



**EXCHANGE**

**WHERE HEROES WORK**



# WHERE HEROES WORK

If you're a Veteran or military spouse looking for a rewarding career, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service wants you.

The Exchange offers excellent employment benefits including an associate transfer program, spousal hiring preferences and benefits retention.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT EXCHANGE CAREERS  
APPLYMYEXCHANGE.COM**



**KRIS CUBACUB**  
AIR FORCE SPOUSE  
JBSA-LACKLAND AFB



**RONEICE HINES**  
ARMY VETERAN  
ELLSWORTH AFB



**SERVING THE BEST CUSTOMERS IN THE WORLD SINCE 1895**





# Apply today to serve on the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation's Board of Directors.

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors is a group of talented and driven volunteers who work hard to support veterans, military, and their families.

The board is currently seeking passionate individuals for 3-year elected board positions. The board member's primary

responsibility is to connect with supporters and raise funds to support the programs and services of the American Legion Auxiliary.

  
**AMERICAN  
LEGION**  

---

**AUXILIARY  
FOUNDATION**

Learn more and apply before March 31, 2023, at:  
[ALAFoundation.org/board-application](https://ALAFoundation.org/board-application)



# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Transportation

944

### VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

<b>Phone:</b>	GERMANY +49-(0)6134-2592730	UNITED KINGDOM +44-(0)1638-515714	U.S.A. +1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701
<b>Toll-free:</b>	0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)		+1-800-264-8167 (US only)
<b>E-Mail:</b>	info@transglobal-logistics.de	enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk	info@tgal.us
<b>WEB:</b>	www.transglobal-logistics.de	www.carshipuk.co.uk	www.tgal.us

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations



Are you in the picture?



Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.

*No one covers the bases the way we do.*

STARS AND STRIPES

Transportation

944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA



**OPENING HOURS:** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri  
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)

For a free rate request, please email: [info@worldwide-ship.de](mailto:info@worldwide-ship.de)  
Visit our Website: [www.worldwide-ship.de](http://www.worldwide-ship.de)

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!



Concert, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES

STARS AND STRIPES

# CLASSIFIED

	EUROPE	MIDDLE EAST	PACIFIC
Advertising	Doug Dougherty <a href="mailto:dougherty.doug@stripes.com">dougherty.doug@stripes.com</a> +49(0) 631.3615.9000 DSN 314.583.9000	Doug Dougherty <a href="mailto:dougherty.doug@stripes.com">dougherty.doug@stripes.com</a> +49(0) 631.3615.9000 DSN 314.583.9000	Ichiro Katayanagi <a href="mailto:PacificAdvertising@stripes.com">PacificAdvertising@stripes.com</a> DSN 227-7313, CML +81 (42) 552-2511 ext. 77313.
Circulation	Karen Lewis <a href="mailto:Lewis.Karen@stripes.com">Lewis.Karen@stripes.com</a> +49(0) 631.3615.9090 DSN: 314-583-9090	Karen Lewis <a href="mailto:Lewis.Karen@stripes.com">Lewis.Karen@stripes.com</a> +49(0) 631.3615.9090 DSN: 314-583-9090	Mari Mori <a href="mailto:CustomerHelp@stripes.com">CustomerHelp@stripes.com</a> +81(3) 6385.7333 DSN 315.227.7333
Reader Letters	<a href="mailto:letters@stripes.com">letters@stripes.com</a>	<a href="mailto:letters@stripes.com">letters@stripes.com</a>	<a href="mailto:letters@stripes.com">letters@stripes.com</a>

## Classifieds EUROPE

For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Announcements 040

Automotive 140

Tax Assistance

940

### SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

❑ Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.

❑ People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

### SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

### H&R BLOCK<sup>®</sup>



Germany H&R Block Tax Offices  
Get face-to-face tax help.

<b>Ramstein</b> 06371-8020410	<b>Wiesbaden</b> 0611-89023100	<b>Vilseck</b> 01735-736112
----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------------

Email: [eclemons@hrblock.com](mailto:eclemons@hrblock.com)

### Sell Your Stuff!



Take the fuss out of packing up for your next PCS—sell everything with Stripes *free classifieds!*

STARS AND STRIPES



## STARS AND STRIPES

## OPINION

## Meet the most delicate snowflakes: Fox News viewers

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
 Laura Law, Chief Operating Officer  
 Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander  
 John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff  
 Lt. Col. Michael Kerschbaum, Pacific commander  
 Michael Ryan, Pacific chief of staff

## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
 leonard.terry@stripes.com

Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
 reid.robert@stripes.com

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
 moores.sean@stripes.com

Ann Pinson, Digital Managing Editor  
 pinson.ann@stripes.com

## BUREAU STAFF

## Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
 slavin.erik@stripes.com  
 +49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

## Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
 kidd.aaron@stripes.com  
 +81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

## Washington

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
 cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com  
 (+1)(202)886-0033

Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
 bowers.brian@stripes.com

## CIRCULATION

## Mideast

David Schultz, District Manager  
 schultz.david@stripes.com  
 xsscirculation@stripes.com  
 +49(0)152.5672.5036; DSN (314)583-9111

## Europe

Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager  
 lewis.karen@stripes.com  
 memberservices@stripes.com  
 +49(0)631.3615.9090; DSN (314)583.9090

## Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com  
 +81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

## CONTACT US

## Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003  
 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20001-3050

## Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

## Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

## OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at [ombudsman@stripes.com](mailto:ombudsman@stripes.com), or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published week-days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2023

**stripes.com**

BY JONAH GOLDBERG

Tribune Content Agency

If you search for “safe space” on the Foxnews.com website you’ll get over 46,000 results. All of them aren’t about those woke snowflakes who need trigger warnings and cry rooms. But a whole lot of them are.

For instance, in 2017, shortly after Donald Trump’s inauguration, Tucker Carlson grilled a college professor about a student who came into her classroom crying about the election. “As the adult, shouldn’t you say, ‘You know, it was an election, and it was democratic, and nobody got cancer, nobody died, and maybe you should toughen up a little?’ ”

Would that Carlson and the rest of Fox’s leadership has a similar attitude toward their own audience, the average age of which is 56.

“A little more than a week after television networks called the 2020 presidential election for Joseph R. Biden Jr.,” The New York Times’ Peter Baker reported, “top executives and anchors at Fox News held an after-action meeting to figure out how they had messed up.”

The primary mess-up was the network’s decision to call Arizona for Joe Biden at 11:20 p.m. on election night. The call infuriated the Trump campaign and viewers alike.

Save for Washington managing editor Bill Sammon, who also served on the “Decision Desk” that made the call, attendees at the meeting believed the Arizona announcement hurt Fox’s “brand” — not because they got it wrong, or even because they got it right. It hurt the brand because it hurt peoples’ feelings.

That’s it. Calling Arizona had no real-world effect. Arizona’s polls — and polls eve-

rywhere except for solidly Democratic Hawaii — were closed. It was a bit like telling a fan who recorded the Super Bowl that his team lost before he had a chance to finish watching the game. It hurt feelings, but no one wanted to tell the audience to “toughen up.”

Of course, Trump himself was angry for another reason. He’d encouraged his voters to vote on Election Day so he could claim to be ahead that night and declare victory before mail-in votes were counted the next day. He thought he could then win in the courts or Congress. As Steve Bannon admitted before the election, this was always the plan. But the Arizona call made it harder to claim he was ever beating Biden.

It’s unclear whether some Fox opinion hosts were complicit in this scheme or simply useful idiots. But there’s no evidence the executives were in on any of that.

Their overriding concern was simply not to upset the viewers and thereby lose them to upstart pro-Trump rivals One America News Network and Newsmax, which were all too happy to be safe spaces for election fraud lies.

At the meeting, Martha MacCallum, who co-anchored election coverage with Bret Baier, said of the Arizona call, “There’s just obviously been a tremendous amount of backlash, which is, I think, more than any of us anticipated.” A “loud faction of our viewership,” saw the call as an affront, she said.

“We are still getting bombarded,” Baier said. “It became really hurtful.”

Both MacCallum and Baier argued for a “layer” of decision-making that would prevent such backlashes in the future.

Thanks to revelations from Dominion Vot-

ing System’s defamation lawsuit against Fox (where I was a contributor for over a decade), we know that Fox leadership believed protecting Fox’s “brand” as a Trump enabler was more important than being honest with the audience — specifically about claims that the election was “rigged.” Indeed, even expressing skepticism was frowned upon (Carlson continues to mislead his audience, even after his real positions have been revealed in the Dominion documents).

Sammon resisted retracting the call, to the consternation of Fox CEO Suzanne Scott. In an email to a colleague, she complained that Sammon failed to understand “the impact to the brand and the arrogance in calling AZ” and it was his job “to protect the brand.” Sammon believed his job was to, well, do his job as a journalist. He and Chris Stirewalt, the political editor (and my colleague at the Dispatch), were forced out because they violated the audience’s safe space.

In 2018, Fox revealed a new slogan, “Real News. Real Honest Opinion.” In the promotional ad, Carlson says “Fox is the one place where dissent is allowed.”

But when Jacqui Heinrich, a Fox reporter, fact-checked Trump’s stolen-election lies, Carlson, who privately acknowledged he agreed they were lies, nonetheless texted colleagues: “Please get her fired,” adding, “It needs to stop immediately, like tonight. It’s measurably hurting the company. The stock price is down. Not a joke.”

Humor, of course, is in the eye of the beholder, but it’s hard not to chuckle at all the mockery of “safe spaces” now.

Jonah Goldberg is editor-in-chief of The Dispatch and the host of The Remnant podcast.

## A nightmare scenario looms over the GOP primaries

BY RACHEL MARSDEN

Tribune Content Agency

PARIS With the next U.S. presidential election just over a year and a half away, candidates are already jockeying for pole position. Well, at least on the Republican side. The Democrats are still wrestling over whether to cling to 80-year-old Joe Biden for another four years or try to find someone else who would actually stand a chance against the GOP.

What about banking on current Vice President Kamala Harris, you might be one of the rare few to ask. On average, 7% more voters now disapprove of Harris’ job performance than approve of it — a figure that has been rising since September 2021. Although the incumbent vice president is typically a shoo-in to succeed the boss in the event that they don’t stand for re-election, Harris is an exception. At the rate that her popularity continues to tank, the GOP could run a houseplant against a Harris candidacy and win. And the houseplant at least produces oxygen while Harris tends to suck it out of the room on the rare occasions when she’s even visible.

Perhaps there’s a strategy at play not to overshadow Biden or make it look like she was bidding her time until he was gone. But no one really knows what kind of leader Harris would actually be. Her recent showing at the Munich Security Conference last month was reduced to belting out the greatest hits of the Washington bureaucrats. The talking points were delivered with all the finesse of a Big Mac combo tossed through a car window at the drive-thru.

The Democrats’ shallow bench is the Republican Party’s strength. What they do with the golden opportunity is another matter. Former President Donald Trump has still “got it” in the sense that there’s still an affinity for his ideas. If only he could get out of his own way with the accompanying drama.

No president has ever taken the bureaucracy to task the way that Trump has — and is still doing from the sidelines. “World War III has never been closer than it is right now,” he said in a recent online video vowing to “clean house of all of the warmongers and America’s last globalists.” Then Trump unleashed a truth bomb that’s almost unthinkable coming from a former American president. “For decades, we’ve had the very same people, such as (current Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs) Victoria Nuland and many others just like her obsessed with pushing Ukraine toward NATO, not to mention the State Department support for uprisings in Ukraine,” Trump said. This should have been front-page news everywhere: “Former US president acknowledges deep state role in fomenting foreign regime change in Ukraine.”

Trump isn’t wrong. Even NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg alluded recently to the fact that the Ukraine conflict didn’t start when many think that it did. “And the war in Ukraine did not start last February. It started in 2014. With Russia’s annexation of Crimea and the attacks in Eastern Ukraine,” he said.

Of course, Russia’s intervention in Russo-phone Crimea followed the Western-backed overthrow of the Ukraine government — which is exactly what Trump alluded to in his

remarks. Trump knows where the establishment’s skeletons are buried, and is the only president in recent history not to have started a war while in office. It’s no wonder that they want to stop him from returning at all costs. There would be a serious risk of peace breaking out. Which explains why John “Bomb Iran” Bolton announced that he’s running.

Former South Carolina Gov. and United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley is another neocoon in the same mold as Bolton who has announced a run. It’s impossible to differentiate Haley’s statements from Biden’s or Bolton’s on foreign policy.

Enter Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has almost all of Trump’s attributes without the propensity to swing from the chandeliers — or whatever the social media equivalent would be. DeSantis once criticized Trump on several fronts, including foreign policy, but hasn’t been afraid to evolve. “I don’t think it’s in our interest to be getting into a proxy war with China, getting involved over things like the borderlands or over Crimea,” he said recently.

When it comes to holding back the tsunami of leftist social engineering that risks flooding Western society, both Trump and DeSantis tick the same boxes. But what if they split like-minded primary voters, creating a pathway to victory for a more establishment-friendly neocoon like Bolton or Haley? DeSantis and Trump are on the same team, whether they know it or not. It’s time for them to start acting like it for the sake of the country’s future.

Rachel Marsden is a columnist, political strategist and host of independently produced talk shows in French and English.



Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13			14			
15					16			17			
		18			19			20			
21	22			23			24				
25			26		27		28				
29				30			31		32	33	34
			35				36		37		
38	39	40				41		42		43	
44						45			46		
47				48				49		50	51
52				53				54			
55				56				57			

ACROSS

- 1 Like some private communities
- 6 Peach center
- 9 Dadaist Jean
- 12 Justice Samuel
- 13 Rushmore face
- 14 Actress Salonga
- 15 Slow, in music
- 16 Fiddles (with)
- 18 — wheel (carnival ride)
- 20 Part of Q.E.D.
- 21 Sound of surprise
- 23 Heat source
- 24 Health insurance giant
- 25 Milk, in Montmartre
- 27 Civil rights org.
- 29 Widen
- 31 Fix, in a way
- 35 Brick worker
- 37 Fine cotton
- 38 Egypt's Anwar
- 41 Indian lentil dish
- 43 Little louse
- 44 Lawyer Clooney
- 45 Casual pants
- 47 Singers' liabilities
- 49 Encounters
- 52 Conclusion
- 53 Uno + uno

- 54 Archipelago part
- 55 Tofu source
- 56 Hotel amenity
- 57 "Yum!"

- 21 Vintage
- 22 "Bali —"
- 24 Tennis feat
- 26 Mexican entree
- 28 Former U.N. leader Kofi

DOWN

- 1 Lass
- 2 Ginger —
- 3 Sandwich wrapping
- 4 Diminutive suffix
- 5 Entrances
- 6 Film on metal
- 7 Sacred bird of Egypt
- 8 Hamilton bill
- 9 Warning
- 10 Aired again
- 11 Trattoria plateful
- 17 Maintain
- 19 Ancient letters
- 30 Make lace
- 32 Sparkling decorations
- 33 Brit. record label
- 34 Squealer
- 36 Black Sea port
- 38 Fills up
- 39 Acid in proteins
- 40 Fop
- 42 Maximum
- 45 Let fall
- 46 Arizona city
- 48 Billboards
- 50 Hanoi holiday
- 51 Pigs' digs

Answer to Previous Puzzle

I	M	D	B	P	A	N	C	P	A	S
G	I	R	L	A	M	A	H	A	N	K
O	R	E	O	C	O	P	A	C	T	I
R	E	W	O	R	K	S	U	L	K	E
			M	E	H	S	E	I		
A	L	B	S	E	M	B	A	T	T	L
T	I	A		A	I	R		I	O	N
L	U	C	R	E	T	I	A	S	N	U
			K	O	N		T	O	E	
T	O	P	D	O	G	P	R	A	G	U
E	L	A	N		A	A	A	V	E	R
R	A	C	E		I	N	C	E	R	S
I	N	K	Y		T	S	K	R	E	A

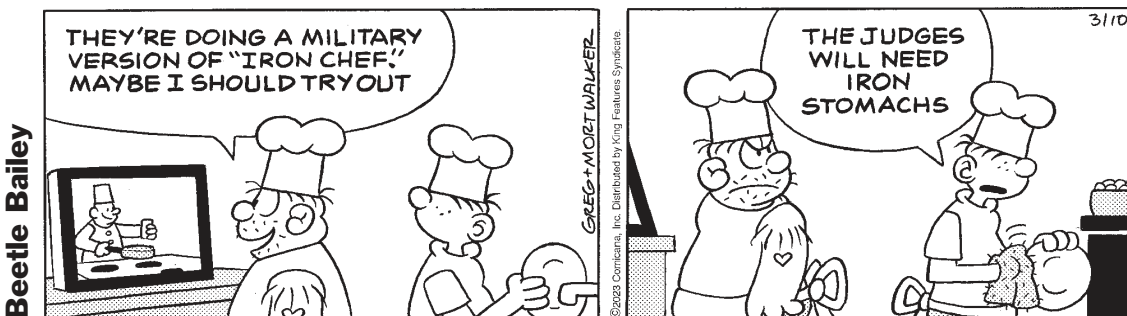
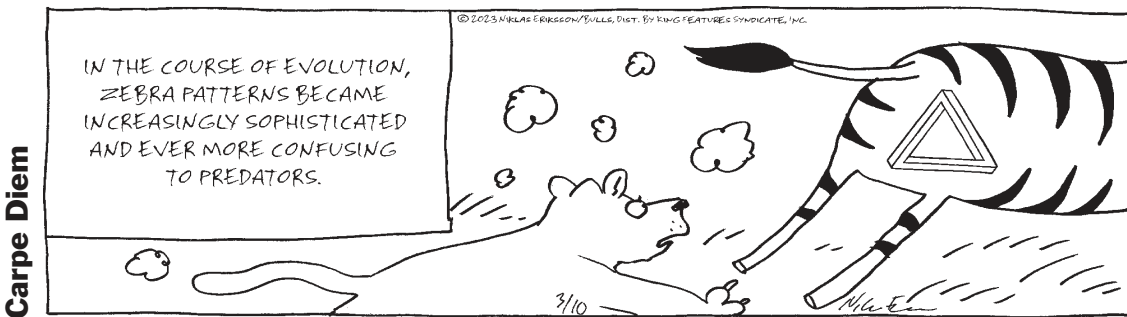
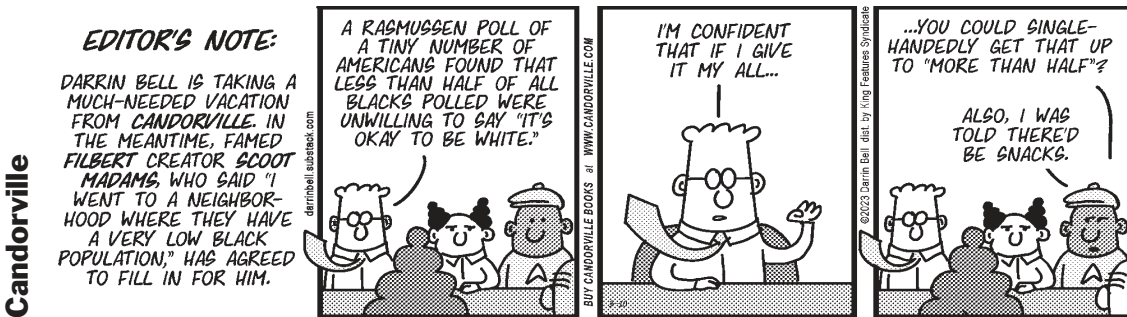
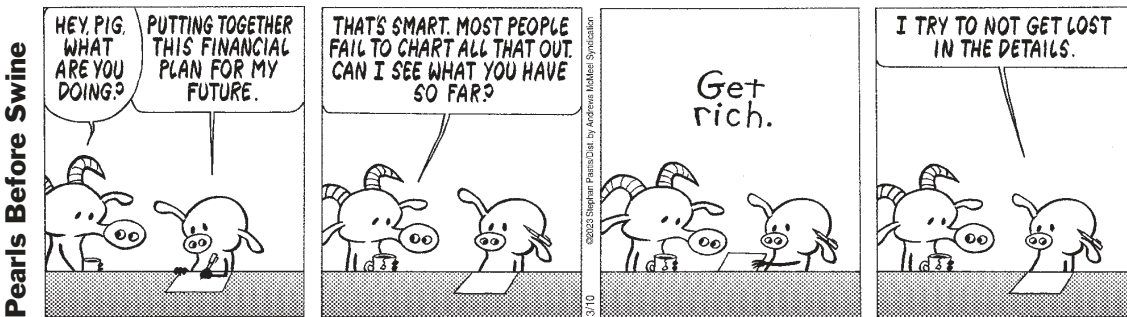
3-10

CRYPTOQUIP

ZIZHKLN MHWX IO GVSKRNAW'E  
 EJINSAE QVI GIHKR ALESKX  
 QSW LWX EWIQMLKK OSUVJ:  
 ZAKJAN NLMMSJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL UNPOSED PHOTOGRAPHS OF PEOPLE SCARFING DOWN SUGARY TREATS? CANDIED SHOTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P





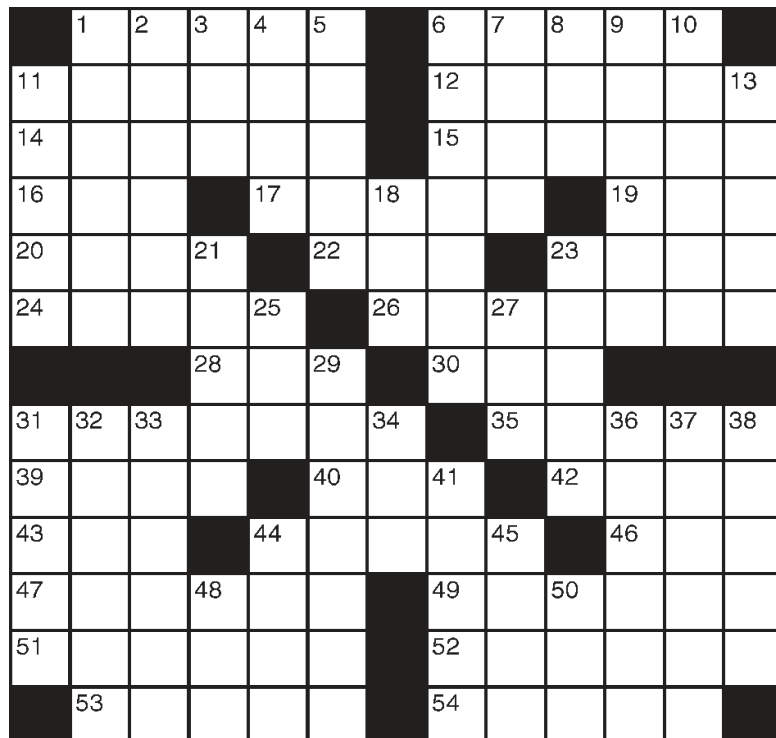
Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

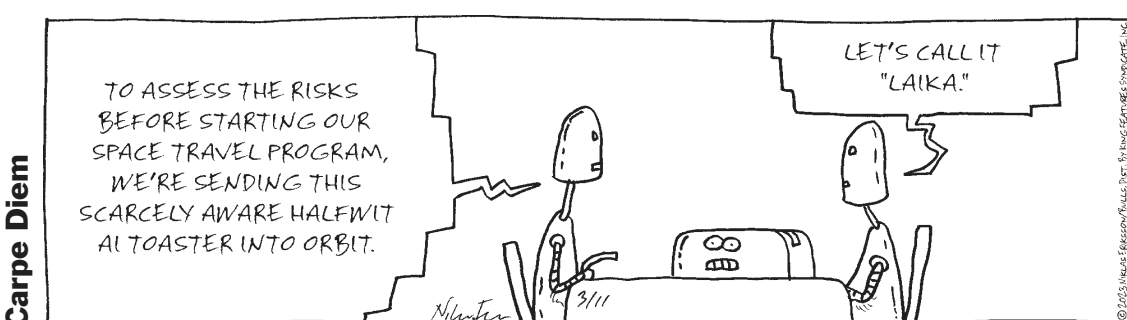
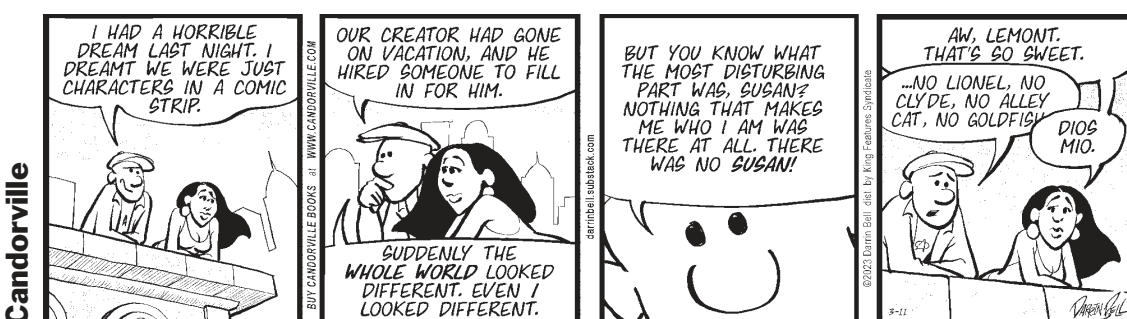
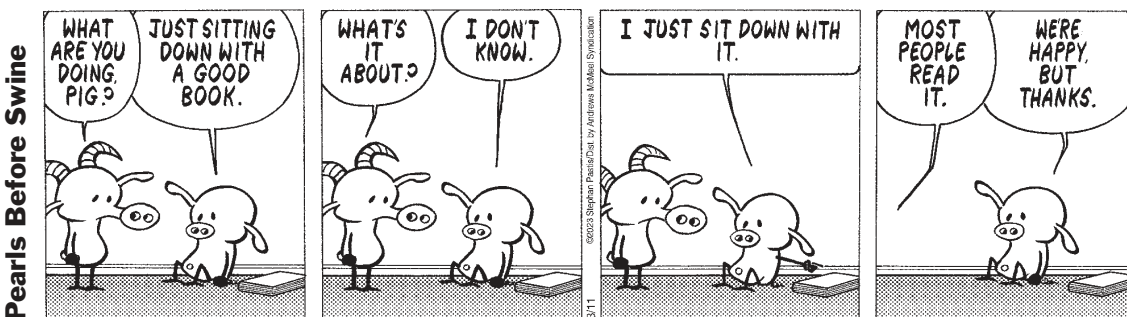
- 1 Television's Arledge
6 Salon jobs
11 Ranch pen
12 "Golden" tunes
14 Boring tools
15 Herbal tea
16 Govt. stipend
17 Stop
19 Roman 1550
20 Abound
22 "Ice Age" sloth
23 Iranian money
24 English county
26 Patterned fabrics
28 H.S. proficiency test
30 Wild bunch
31 Paving material
35 Traces of smoke
39 Carolina college
40 Amp plug-in

DOWN

- 1 Awakens
2 Wild parties
3 Mined matter
4 DEA agent
5 "It's nobody — business"
6 1945 conference site
7 Author Wiesel
8 Hwys.
9 Algonquian tribe
10 Writer-illustrator Maurice
11 Social group
13 Vends

- 18 Help
21 Actress Fox
23 Fanatical
25 Deleted
27 Trim the grass
29 Stifling, as enthusiasm
31 Cat calls?
32 Tennis great Gibson
33 Ski lodge quaffs
34 Soccer's Hamm
36 Fixed charge
37 Kilt patterns
38 Five dozen
41 Nearby
44 Muscat's land
45 Dines
48 "I love," to Livy
50 Asian holiday

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-11

CRYPTOQUIP

EXD PGYC, JDDKPV DCUNFDJ
IUYA NC YIIDCBD QYAAGEDJ
NFNGCBE XGA, KUYQPNGADJ
"EXGB ADNCB UYNU!"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR BUNNY OF CHILDREN'S STORIES WHO COULD EASILY WIN ANY SNOWBALL FIGHT: PELTER RABBIT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T



# SCOREBOARD/SKIING

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

### Men's NCAA automatic bids

Fairleigh Dickinson, Northeast Conference SE Missouri St., Ohio Valley Conference UNC-Asheville, Big South Conference Drake, Missouri Valley Conference Kennesaw St., Atlantic Sun Conference Furman, Southern Conference Louisiana, Sun Belt Conference Charleston, Colonial Athletic Conference N. Kentucky, Horizon League Oral Roberts, Summit League Gonzaga, West Coast Conference Texas A&M-CC, Southland Conference Colgate, Patriot League Conference Montana St., Big Sky Conference

### Wednesday's men's scores

#### CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT Atlantic 10 Second Round

Davidson 65, St. Bonaventure 54 George Mason 62, Richmond 57 Saint Joseph's 87, G. Washington 76 La Salle 81, Duquesne 70

#### Atlantic Coast Second Round

Wake Forest 77, Syracuse 74 Pittsburgh 89, Georgia Tech 81 North Carolina 85, Boston College 61 NC State 97, Virginia Tech 77

#### Big 12 First Round

West Virginia 78, Texas Tech 62 Oklahoma St. 57, Oklahoma 49

#### Big East First Round

St. John's 76, Butler 63 DePaul 66, Seton Hall 65 Villanova 80, Georgetown 48

#### Big Sky Championship

Montana St. 85, N. Arizona 78

#### Big Ten First Round

Ohio St. 65, Wisconsin 57 Minnesota 78, Nebraska 75

#### Conference USA First Round

W. Kentucky 73, UTEP 67 Louisiana Tech 81, FIU 76, OT Rice 72, UTSA 71

#### Metro Atlantic Athletic Quarterfinals

Iona 74, Mount St. Mary's 54

St. Peter's 70, Rider 62

#### Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Quarterfinals

Howard 91, SC State 55 NC Central 89, Delaware St. 59

#### Mountain-West Conference First Round

Colorado St. 67, Fresno St. 65 UNLV 78, Air Force 70, OT New Mexico 87, Wyoming 76

#### Pacific-12 Conference First Round

Colorado 74, Washington 68 Washington St. 69, California 52 Stanford 73, Utah 62 Arizona St. 63, Oregon St. 57

#### Patriot League Championship

Colgate 79, Lafayette 61

#### Southeastern First Round

Mississippi 67, South Carolina 61 LSU 72, Georgia 67

#### Southland Championship

Texas A&M-CC 75, Northwestern St. 71

#### Southwestern Athletic Quarterfinals

Grambling St. 87, Bethune-Cookman 72 Texas Southern 66, Alcorn St. 62

### Women's NCAA automatic bids

Tennessee Tech, Ohio Valley Conference Chattanooga, Southern Conference Saint Louis, Atlantic 10 Conference Virginia Tech, Atlantic Coast Conference S. Carolina, Southeastern Conference Iowa, Big Ten Conference Washington St., Pac-12 Conference Gardner-Webb, Big South Conference James Madison, Sun Belt Conference UConn, Big East Conference Cleveland St., Horizon League S. Dakota St., Summit League Portland, West Coast Conference Sacramento St., Big Sky Conference UNLV, Mountain West Conference

### Women's scores

#### CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT American Athletic Semifinals

Houston 72, Wichita St. 64 East Carolina 69, Memphis 60

#### Atlantic Sun Semifinals

Florida Gulf Coast 51, Austin Peay 34 Liberty 84, Lipscomb 56

#### Big Sky Championship

Sacramento St. 76, N. Arizona 63

#### Big West Quarterfinals

CS Bakersfield 61, UC Irvine 59, 2OT UC Santa Barbara 70, UC Davis 36 Long Beach St. 55, UC Riverside 49 Hawaii 82, Cal St.-Fullerton 75, 2OT

#### Colonial Athletic Association First Round

Hofstra 61, UNC-Wilmington 58

#### Conference USA First Round

Charlotte 72, FIU 59 UAB 75, North Texas 71 UTSA 69, FAU 68

#### Metro Atlantic Athletic Quarterfinals

Iona 39, Mount St. Mary's 37 Niagara 67, Rider 64

#### Mid American Quarterfinals

Toledo 75, Buffalo 74, OT Kent St. 75, N. Illinois 68 Bowling Green 70, E. Michigan 36 Ball St. 92, Akron 68

#### Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Quarterfinals

Norfolk St. 61, SC State 37 Md.-Eastern Shore 49, Morgan St. 46

#### Mountain West Conference Championship

UNLV 71, Wyoming 60

#### Southland Semifinals

SE La 60, Texas A&M Comm. 58, OT Lamar 65, Texas A&M-CC 53

#### Southwestern Athletic Quarterfinals

Ark.-Pine Bluff 62, Alabama A&M 55 Jackson St. 59, Grambling St. 50

#### Western Athletic Quarterfinals

Stephen F. Austin 74, Sam Houston St. 59 Cal Baptist 81, Utah Tech 72 S. Utah 62, New Mexico St. 61 Grand Canyon 85, Seattle 80

## AP SPORTLIGHT

### March 10

**1961** — Wilt Chamberlain of the Philadelphia Warriors becomes the first NBA player to score 3,000 points in a season. Chamberlain scores 32 points in a 120-103 loss to Detroit to bring his season total to 3,016.

**1992** — New York Islanders coach Al Arbour becomes the second coach in NHL history to win 700 games with a 5-2 victory over Philadelphia.

**2001** — With Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark looking on, Hermann Maier wins the giant slalom for his 13th victory this season, equaling one of the mightiest alpine skiing records. Maier, winner of the overall World Cup title three of the last four years, ties the record Stenmark set in 1979.

**2002** — John Stockton, the NBA's career assist leader, has 13 assists in Utah's 95-92 loss at Houston to give him exactly 15,000 for his career.

**2018** — Texas Southern beats Arkansas-Pine Bluff 84-69 in the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship game. Texas Southern (15-19) earns an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament after starting out 0-13 this season. The Tigers didn't win a game until Jan. 1 and never beat a nonconference opponent.

**2018** — The Vegas Golden Knights set a record for road wins by an expansion team with a 2-1 shootout victory at Buffalo. At 20-12-3, the Golden Knights break a tie with the 1993-94 Anaheim Ducks for most road wins by an NHL team in its first season.

Shaquill Griffin.

**NEW YORK GIANTS** — Re-signed LB Jarrod Davis.

### HOCKEY National Hockey League

**NHL** — Suspended Philadelphia D Tony DeAngelo for two games for spearing during a Mar. 7 game against Tampa Bay. Fined Minnesota F Ryan Hartman an undisclosed amount for slashing during a Mar. 7 game against Calgary.

**ARIZONA COYOTES** — Reassigned LW Bokondji Imama to Tucson (AHL).

**BUFFALO SABRES** — Loaned D Lawrence Pilut to Rochester (AHL).

**LOS ANGELES KINGS** — Recalled D Jordan Spence from Ontario (AHL).

**NASHVILLE PREDATORS** — Acquired F Anthony Angello from St. Louis in exchange for future considerations.

**TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS** — Returned C Pontus Holmberg and LW Alex Steeves to Toronto (AHL).

### SOCCER National Women's Soccer League

**WASHINGTON SPIRIT** — Signed G Lyza Bosselmann, Ms Nicole Douglas, Paige Metayer and Riley Tanner, Fs Civana Kuhlmann and Lena Silano.

## PRO SOCCER

### MLS

#### Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami	2	0	0	6	4	0
New England	2	0	0	6	4	0
Nashville	1	0	1	4	2	0
Atlanta	1	0	1	4	3	2
Cincinnati	1	0	1	4	2	1
Orlando City	1	0	1	4	1	0
Philadelphia	1	1	0	3	4	3
Columbus	1	1	0	3	3	4
D.C. United	1	1	0	3	3	4
Chicago	0	0	1	1	1	1
Toronto FC	0	1	1	1	3	4
New York	0	1	1	1	0	1
NYC FC	0	1	1	1	1	3
Charlotte FC	0	2	0	0	1	4
CF Montréal	0	2	0	0	0	3

#### Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	2	0	0	6	6	0
SLC SC	2	0	0	6	6	3
FC Dallas	1	1	0	3	3	2
LA FC	1	0	0	3	3	2
Minn. United	1	0	0	3	1	0
Austin FC	1	1	0	3	3	3
Portland	1	1	0	3	3	3
San Jose	1	1	0	3	3	3
Real Salt Lake	1	1	0	3	2	3
Sporting KC	0	1	1	1	0	1
Colorado	0	1	1	1	0	4
Vancouver	0	2	0	0	2	4
LA Galaxy	0	1	0	0	1	3
Houston	0	2	0	0	1	5

**Note:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.

#### Saturday's games

Atlanta at Charlotte FC  
 FC Dallas at Vancouver  
 Seattle at Cincinnati  
 Orlando City at D.C. United  
 Miami at New York City FC  
 Chicago at Philadelphia  
 Columbus at Toronto FC  
 LA Galaxy at Sporting Kansas City  
 New York at Minnesota  
 CF Montréal at Nashville

#### Sunday's game

New England at Los Angeles FC

#### Saturday, March 18

Los Angeles FC at Seattle  
 Portland at Atlanta  
 Philadelphia at CF Montréal  
 Nashville at New England  
 Columbus at New York  
 D.C. United at New York City FC  
 Charlotte FC at Orlando City  
 Miami at Toronto FC  
 Cincinnati at Chicago  
 Sporting Kansas City at FC Dallas  
 Austin FC at Houston  
 San Jose at Saint Louis City SC  
 Minnesota at Colorado  
 Vancouver at LA Galaxy

## PRO BASEBALL

### MLB spring training

#### Wednesday's games

Baltimore 7, Pittsburgh 4  
 St. Louis 4, N.Y. Yankees 0  
 Detroit 2, Washington 1  
 Minnesota 7, Toronto 0  
 L.A. Angels 4, Colorado 3  
 Arizona 2, Texas 0  
 Cincinnati 10, San Diego 9  
 Seattle 2, L.A. Dodgers 2  
 Kansas City 14, Chicago White Sox 5

#### Thursday's games

Toronto (ss) vs. Tampa Bay at St. Petersburg, Fla.  
 Boston vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.  
 Detroit vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.  
 Baltimore vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla.  
 Atlanta (ss) vs. Toronto (ss) at Dunedin, Fla.  
 Cincinnati vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.  
 L.A. Dodgers vs. Oakland at Mesa, Ariz.  
 Milwaukee vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
 San Diego vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz.

#### Friday's games

Atlanta vs. Tampa Bay at St. Petersburg, Fla.  
 Toronto vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.  
 N.Y. Yankees vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.  
 Pittsburgh vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla.  
 Houston vs. N.Y. Mets (ss) at Port St. Lucie, Fla.  
 L.A. Angels vs. L.A. Dodgers at Phoenix, Ariz.  
 Chicago White Sox vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.  
 San Diego vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.  
 Texas vs. Oakland at Mesa, Ariz.  
 Cincinnati (ss) vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.  
 Cleveland vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, Ariz.  
 San Francisco vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
 Miami vs. Washington at Palm Beach, Fla.  
 Minnesota vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla.  
 N.Y. Mets (ss) vs. St. Louis at Sarasota, Fla.  
 Arizona vs. Cincinnati (ss) at Goodyear, Ariz.



MARCO TROVATI/AP

**Mikaela Shiffrin smiles at the finish area after completing the World Championship slalom, in Meribel, France, on Feb. 18.**

# Shiffrin is still aiming at history

By GRAHAM DUNBAR  
*Associated Press*

History beckons for Mikaela Shiffrin on Friday when the American skier competes in one of her best events.

Shiffrin is seeking a record-tying 86th win on the World Cup circuit, a number that would equal Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark's mark from the 1970s and 80s.

Shiffrin earned win No. 85 six weeks ago. She had three chances to match Stenmark's record last week but those were all speed races — not Shiffrin's specialty.

On Friday, Shiffrin will again try to make history in a giant slalom in Are, Sweden. That will be followed by a slalom on Saturday. Shiffrin has won 19 World Cup giant slaloms and 52 slaloms in her career, along with an Olympic gold medal in each.

The Swedish resort of Are could also provide a boost. That's where a 17-year-old Shiffrin first won a World Cup race, in slalom in December 2012.

It took until her 24th career start to get that first victory, but her win rate has soared since to 35% — 85 wins in 244 races.

If No. 86 eludes Shiffrin in Sweden, she has up to four more chances next week at the season-ending World Cup Finals in Soldeu, Andorra.

She will turn 28 on Monday, two days before racing starts in the tiny principality tucked in the mountains between France and Spain.

"I think she can win more than 100," Stenmark said. "It depends on how many years she continues. But for sure 100."

Shiffrin has not publicly set such a lofty target, but it can be within reach if she pursues a sixth overall title to match Annemarie Moser-Pröll, a 1970s downhill standout from Austria.

This week Shiffrin used her Twitter account to set a more cerebral goal. "Strive to be modest in the face of hubris."

## TENNIS

### BNP Paribas Open

**Wednesday At Indian Wells, Calif.**  
**Purse: \$8,800,000**  
**Surface: Hardcourt outdoor**  
**Men's Singles Round of 128**

Marcos Giron, United States, def. Aleksandar Kovacevic, United States, 6-3, 7-5.  
 Ilya Ivashka, Belarus, def. Roman Safiullin, Russia, 6-4, 6-2.  
 Ugo Humbert, France, def. Bernabe Zapata Miralles, Spain, 6-2, 7-6 (6).  
 Oscar Otte, Germany, def. Laslo Djere, Serbia, 6-3, 7-5.  
 Pedro Cachin, Argentina, def. Nikoloz Basilashvili, Georgia, 7-5, 6-3.  
 Brandon Nakashima, United States, def. John Isner, United States, 7-6 (7), 6-3.  
 Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, def. Constant Lestienne, France, 6-4, 4-1, ret.  
 Jason Kubler, Australia, def. Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, 6-4, 7-6 (4).  
 Taro Daniel, Japan, def. Roberto Carballes Baena, Spain, 6-1, 7-5.  
 Cristian Garin, Chile, def. Daniel Elahi Galan, Colombia, 6-4, 6-2.  
 Jiri Lehecka, Czech Republic, def. Arthur Rinderknech, France, 7-6 (4), 7-5.  
 Yibing Wu, China, def. Jaume Munar, Spain, 6-7 (6), 6-0, 7-6 (3).  
 Diego Schwartzman, Argentina, def. Federico Coria, Argentina, 6-1, 6-2.  
 Jordan Thompson, Australia, def. Gael Monfils, France, 6-3, 6-1.  
 Alejandro Tabilo, Chile, def. Maximilian Marterer, Germany, 6-4, 6-3.

Tung-Lin Wu, Taiwan, def. Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 6-4, 6-4.

### Women's Singles Round of 128

Anna Blinkova, Russia, def. Ann Li, United States, 6-1, 6-2.  
 Linda Noskova, Czech Republic, def. Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, 7-6 (7), 6-1.  
 Evgeniya Rodina, Russia, def. Alize Cornet, France, 6-2, 7-5.  
 Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, def. Kaia Kanepi, Estonia, 6-3, 7-6 (5).  
 Dayana Yastremska, Ukraine, def. Anna Bondar, Hungary, 6-3, 6-4.  
 Wang Xinyu, China, def. Elise Mertens, Belgium, 6-3, 6-1.  
 Linda Fruhvirtova, Czech Republic, def. Mayar Sherif, Egypt, 0-6, 6-2, 6-3.  
 Cristina Bucsa, Spain, def. Katie Swan, Britain, 7-6 (6), 7-5.  
 Wang Xiyu, China, def. Olga Danilovic, Serbia, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.  
 Camila Giorgi, Italy, def. Arantxa Rus, Netherlands, 6-3, 6-3.  
 Shelby Rogers, United States, def. Katie Volynets, United States, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.  
 Lesia Tsurenko, Ukraine, def. Zhu Lin, China, 6-4, 6-3.  
 Rebecca Peterson, Sweden, def. Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, 7-5, 5-7, 7-5.  
 Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, def. Alycia Parks, United States, 6-1, 6-1.  
 Elizabeth Mandlik, United States, def. Alison Riske-Amritraj, United States, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (1).  
 Jil Teichmann, Switzerland, def. Ashlyn Krueger, United States, 6-1, 6-4.

## DEALS

### Wednesday's transactions

#### BASEBALL Major League Baseball National League

**CHICAGO CUBS** — Agreed to terms with RHPs Adbert Alzolay, Javier Assad, Ben Brown, Jeremiah Estrada, Ryan Jensen, Caleb Kilian, Julian Merryweather, Ethan Roberts, Michael Rucker, Keegan Thompson, and Hayden Wesneski, as well as LHPs Brandon Hughes and Justin Steele, INFs Miles Mastrobuoni, Zach McKinstry, Christopher Morel, and Patrick Wisdom, C Miguel Amaya and OFs Kevin Alcántara, Alexander Canario, Brennen Davis and Nelson Velázquez on contracts.  
**COLORADO ROCKIES** — Agreed to terms with RHPs Jake Bird, Blair Calvo, Noah Davis, Ryan Feltner, Gavin Hollowell, Peter Lambert, Justin Lawrence, Nick Mears, Riley Pint and Connor Seabold, LHPs Lucas Gilbreath and Ryan Rolison, C Brian Serven, INFs Warming Bernabel, Julio Carreiras, Elehuris Montero, Ezequiel Tovar and Alan Trejo, OFs Sean Bouchard, Yonathan Daza and Brenton Doyle and INF/OFs Nolan Jones and Michael Togliola on one-year contracts.  
**PITTSBURGH PIRATES** — Acquired INF/

OF Mark Mathias from Texas in exchange for a player to be named later. Placed RHP Max Kranick on the 60-day IL.

#### BASKETBALL National Basketball Association

**NEW YORK KNICKS** — Signed C Moses Brown to a two-way contract.

#### FOOTBALL National Football League

**ARIZONA CARDINALS** — Released WR Chosen Robbie Anderson.  
**BALTIMORE RAVENS** — Named Chuck Smith outside linebacker coach and Greg Lewis wide receivers coach.  
**CAROLINA PANTHERS** — Waived LB Jordan Mack. Released DB Justin Layne from the did not report list and DB Rashaan Melvin from the retired list.  
**DETROIT LIONS** — Tendered an exclusive-rights contract to LB Anthony Pittman. Re-signed OL Ross Pierschbacher.  
**HOUSTON TEXANS** — Signed C Scott Quisenberry to a one-year contract extension. Claimed QB E.J. Perry off waivers from Jacksonville.  
**JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS** — Released CB



# NHL/OLYMPICS

## Caps have new look after bevy of trades

BY STEPHEN WHYNO  
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — When the Washington Capitals departed for a four-game road trip in late February, players knew change was afoot.

Dmitry Orlov and Garnet Hathaway had been traded away to NHL-leading Boston, and there were many more pending free agents still on the roster with a few days remaining until the deadline. One by one, they were gone: Marcus Johansson to Minnesota, Lars Eller to Colorado and Erik Gustafsson to Toronto.

The team at the first home practice Wednesday since all of those moves looked very different. Alex Ovechkin and the Capitals' core remains in place to chase fading playoff hopes, but it's also a rare period of transition in Washington after the organization's first deadline selloff in more than a decade.

"You hate to see guys leave," said defenseman Trevor van Riemsdyk, one of just two players unsigned beyond this season not traded. "It happens quick. Obviously, this time of year when you're not in the position you want to be, it seems to be more changes than you'd like."

Because of a combination of trades and injuries, more than half of the skaters expected to play Thursday night against the New Jersey Devils were not in the opening-night lineup — four of them weren't even with the organization.

Chief among the new faces is Rasmus Sandin, a Swedish defenseman who turned 23 on Tuesday. Acquired from the Maple Leafs for a first-round pick and Gustafsson, Sandin is part of the Capitals' plan to try to quickly reset from a difficult year and win again next season.

"I think we want to be competitive next year," general manager Brian MacLellan said. "I still think we want to be competitive this year. I still think we got a pretty good team."

This banged-up team will attempt the uphill climb of extend-

ing the Capitals' streak of playoff appearances to nine.

Five points back of the second and final wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference is not a small gap with 17 games left. But Washington is close enough, even after the trades, to still feel a part of the postseason race.

"You keep looking up the standings and we're only a few points out, and we play a lot of those teams that are in front of us a bunch, so if you can win those games it can change a lot," van Riemsdyk said.

An important player could be returning to the ice before the end of the month: Top defenseman John Carlson practiced with teammates Wednesday for the first time since taking a slap shot to the head Dec. 23.

Carlson skated in a no-contact jersey and is still at least a couple of weeks from returning, but his presence on the ice alone is a sign of progress.

"This is an off-in-the-distance thing," coach Peter Laviolette said. "But there's a process that goes with where he's at and what he's gone through, and this is the beginning of the process as far as him joining our team."

Washington's slide down the standings coincided with Carlson's absence and the toll it took on the players asked to make up for it. The team has since lost 17 of 30 games.

More injuries on the blue line over the past week, plus the trades of Orlov and Gustafsson, have put the onus on Sandin, the newcomer who's so new he wasn't initially recognized walking into the practice facility for the first time. But with veteran Swede Nicklas Backstrom around — and plenty of other new faces — Sandin is trying to fit in quickly with the Capitals.

"Just getting in here, you see how tight this group is," Sandin said. "Since I just came in to the first breakfast, all the guys on this team have just welcomed me in with open arms. They've been making it very easy for me, and it's just a lot of fun being here."



JAE C. HONG/AP

Recent acquisition Rasmus Sandin is part of the Washington Capitals' plan to reset and be more competitive next season.

## NHL scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Boston	62	49	8	5	103	237 132
Toronto	64	39	17	8	86	216 171
Tampa Bay	64	38	21	5	81	225 198
Florida	65	32	27	6	70	221 218
Ottawa	63	32	27	4	68	199 198
Buffalo	63	32	27	4	68	233 224
Detroit	64	29	26	9	67	192 211
Montreal	64	26	33	5	57	176 229

Metropolitan Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Carolina	62	42	12	8	92	216 158
New Jersey	63	41	16	6	88	226 174
N.Y. Rangers	63	35	19	9	79	209 179
N.Y. Islanders	66	33	25	8	74	191 179
Pittsburgh	63	32	22	9	73	206 203
Washington	65	31	28	6	68	201 196
Philadelphia	64	24	29	11	59	168 211
Columbus	64	20	37	7	47	167 239

### Western Conference

Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Dallas	64	34	17	13	81	215 171
Minnesota	65	37	21	7	81	186 171
Colorado	62	35	21	6	76	201 174
Winnipeg	65	36	26	3	75	202 183
Nashville	61	31	23	7	69	178 180
St. Louis	63	27	31	5	59	193 233
Arizona	64	22	32	10	54	177 229
Chicago	64	22	37	5	49	161 229

Pacific Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Vegas	64	38	20	6	82	204 179
Los Angeles	65	37	20	8	82	222 217
Seattle	64	37	21	6	80	225 202
Edmonton	65	35	22	8	78	251 219
Calgary	65	29	23	13	71	203 201
Vancouver	64	27	32	5	59	217 251
Anaheim	65	21	35	9	51	165 265
San Jose	65	19	34	12	50	189 248

**NOTE:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

#### Tuesday's games

Toronto 4, New Jersey 3  
Florida 2, Vegas 1  
Pittsburgh 5, Columbus 4, OT  
Tampa Bay 5, Philadelphia 2  
Carolina 4, Montreal 3, SO  
N.Y. Islanders 3, Buffalo 2  
Calgary 1, Minnesota 0, SO  
Colorado 6, San Jose 0  
Arizona 6, St. Louis 2  
Seattle 5, Anaheim 2

#### Wednesday's games

Minnesota 4, Winnipeg 2  
Detroit 4, Chicago 3  
Vancouver 3, Anaheim 2, OT

#### Thursday's games

Dallas at Buffalo  
N.Y. Islanders at Pittsburgh  
N.Y. Rangers at Montreal  
New Jersey at Washington  
Philadelphia at Carolina  
Vegas at Tampa Bay  
Edmonton at Boston  
San Jose at St. Louis  
Los Angeles at Colorado  
Nashville at Arizona  
Ottawa at Seattle

#### Friday's games

Chicago at Florida  
Anaheim at Calgary

#### Saturday's games

Detroit at Boston  
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh  
N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo  
Arizona at Colorado  
Chicago at Tampa Bay  
Edmonton at Toronto  
New Jersey at Montreal  
St. Louis at Columbus  
Vegas at Carolina  
Winnipeg at Florida  
Washington at N.Y. Islanders  
Dallas at Seattle  
Ottawa at Vancouver  
Minnesota at San Jose  
Nashville at Los Angeles

#### Sunday's games

Boston at Detroit  
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh  
Carolina at New Jersey  
Las Vegas at St. Louis  
Winnipeg at Tampa Bay  
Ottawa at Calgary  
Nashville at Anaheim  
Minnesota at Arizona

#### Monday's games

Colorado at Montreal  
Buffalo at Toronto  
Dallas at Seattle



ANDY WONG/AP

Alex Bilodeau celebrates after winning gold in men's moguls at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. Bilodeau is one of 42 retired Canadian Olympians who signed a statement opposing Russian participation in the 2024 Games.

# Canadians push for opposition to Russians in Paris

BY EDDIE PELLIS  
Associated Press

A group of 42 retired Canadian Olympians urged the Canadian Olympic Committee to reject the idea of allowing Russians to participate in next year's Paris Games unless Russia withdraws from Ukraine.

"We condemn recent public statements issued by the COC supporting the 'exploration of a pathway' for Russians and Belarusians to compete as 'neutrals' in the 2024 Paris Olympics," the Canadians wrote in a statement released Wednesday.

Opening that door, the athletes said, "sends a message that the COC is no longer concerned with Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine."

Signing the statement was a who's-who of Canadian Olympic greats and gold medalists, including Hayley Wickenheiser (hockey), Jenn Heil and Alex Bilodeau (freestyle skiing), Tessa Virtue (skating) and Beckie Scott (cross-country skiing).

Russian and Belarusian athletes have been largely excluded from international competition since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The International Olympic Committee has sought a pathway back for those athletes to compete without officially representing their countries, citing human-rights experts who have argued the athletes should not be discriminated against solely because of their passports.

"Refusing their participation in international sport is not simply a matter of denying athletes a

choice to compete because of their passport, it is a rejection of an unlawful and inhumane war and a recognition of the role international sports plays in geopolitics," the Canadians wrote.

The COC has walked a fine line in staking out a position. Last month, secretary general David Shoemaker suggested athletes from the banned countries should be made to publicly speak out against the war to gain the neutral status they would need to participate.

Canada's was also among a group of 35 governments that released a statement last month saying that, without clarity on a workable neutrality model, "we do not agree that Russian and Belarusian athletes should be allowed back into competition."

The COC and the governments have stopped short of stating that Russians should not be allowed.

In their statement, the Canadian Olympians said a requirement for Russians to declare opposition to the war is "unfounded and out of touch."

"For example, it is illegal in Russia to publicly denounce military actions abroad, and virtually impossible for high-profile athletes to oppose the war," the statement said.

It also used instances in 2018 and 2021 when Russians could compete not under their country's flag — but instead under the titles of "Olympic Athletes from Russia" and "Russian Olympic Committee" due to doping sanctions — as examples of how "separation of athlete from state is an impossible task."



## NBA

## AROUND THE NBA

# Players weigh in on stat padding talk

By PAT GRAHAM  
Associated Press

DENVER — Sorry, Giannis, the NBA wanted back that rebound. Your fourth triple-double of the season, too.

Some might say nice try, others have an issue with what is known as stat padding.

When Milwaukee MVP candidate Giannis Antetokounmpo tried to orchestrate his 10th rebound Sunday night in the final seconds of the Bucks' win against Washington, it sent the world of social media into overdrive.

It also dredged up conversations about the touchy topic of stat padding, which insinuates that someone, whether it be on the basketball court or even in the world of online video games, compiles results oblivious to what's going on around them.

A rebound shy of the triple-double mark, Antetokounmpo was running out the clock when he stopped near the basket. He hesitated for a moment before lightly tossing the ball at the bottom of the rim and grabbing it for what appeared to be his 10th board.

Even the announcer was like, "Does that count?"

It did — until it didn't. On Monday, and following a review by the league, his official line read: 23 points, 13 assists and nine boards.

While wiping away Antetokounmpo's last rebound was probably an easy call for the league, it can sometimes be a fine line between padding one's stats and just playing the game hard. Russell Westbrook



Nick Wass/AP

**Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo had a triple-double taken away by the NBA in a game against the Washington Wizards amid continued debate over players padding stats.**

no doubt heard the innuendos when he was a triple-double machine. Two-time reigning NBA MVP Nikola Jokic recently heard aspersions, too.

Antetokounmpo's rebound was on the blatant side (his name got added to a Wikipedia entry on "stat padding").

"I just try to play the game smart and kind of stole one," Antetokounmpo said in a postgame interview following a 117-111 win over Washington.

Nuggets coach Michael Malone doesn't believe Jokic would ever try to steal one. Still, Jokic heard the noise directed his way after record-

ing his 100th career triple-double on Feb. 28. The Denver big man sarcastically addressed comments made by ESPN NBA analyst Kendrick Perkins, who intimidated Jokic was guilty of stat padding.

"I mean, when you're stat padding it's easy, you know," Jokic told the Nuggets' TV network Altitude Sports of notching the milestone.

Asked if he heard the chatter, Jokic amusingly responded: "Yes, of course. I mean, it's true."

Concerning the late-game actions of Antetokounmpo, Perkins commented on Twitter: "Every player has padded their stats at some point during their career."

In the case of Jokic, Malone has a theory why a player might chase individual glory in this way.

"Maybe they're just tired of this player, non-athletic player from Sombor, Serbia, continuing to kick everybody's" butt, Malone told reporters after a recent practice. "Maybe people have a hard time with that. I don't know. But for (Jokic) to say that, 'Yeah, you know what, I'm padding my stats.' Yeah, it probably signals that maybe something touched a nerve.

"He's not doing anything to pump his own numbers up," Malone added. "It's just not in his nature. It's silly to think otherwise."

# Morant to miss 4 more games, no charges

By TIM REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant will be away from the team for at least four more games, the team said on Wednesday, shortly after police announced that he will not face charges in Colorado related to the live-streamed video in which he appeared to be displaying a gun in a strip club.

"Ja Morant will continue to remain away from the team for at least the next four games," the team said with no further comment.

That means Morant will miss games against Golden State on Thursday, home against Dallas on Saturday, at Dallas on Monday and at Miami on March 15. The earliest he could play is March 17 at San Antonio, and there's no guarantee of that.

Meanwhile, the Glendale Police Department said it looked into the video, which was a stream that Morant showed on his Instagram channel while he seemed to be



Michael Wyke/AP

**Grizzlies guard Ja Morant reacts after sinking a three-point shot against the Rockets on March 1. Morant remains away from the team.**

holding a firearm, and found no proof that a crime was committed. Glendale is an enclave surrounded by the city of Denver.

"In this case, it should be noted that on the night in question the GPD did not receive any calls for service at the nightclub regarding a weapon of any type," police said.

"Subsequently, no disturbances were reported, and no citizens or patrons of the club came forward to make a complaint.

"The investigation also concluded that no one was threatened or menaced with the firearm and in fact no firearm was ever located."

The NBA has said it is also looking into the matter, and has not announced any sanctions — such as a suspension — against Morant.

Police said the investigation confirmed that "the incident" — Morant was not named in the release, which only made reference to "a prominent NBA player" — occurred at an establishment called Shotgun Willies in Glendale. The two-time All-Star streamed the video in the early hours of Saturday, after the Grizzlies played in Denver on Friday night.

The Grizzlies said Morant would be away from the team for at least two games — those were Sunday and Tuesday — and Morant later said that he decided "to take some time away to get help and work on learning better methods of dealing with stress and my overall well-being."

It is not clear what that means. Morant has not commented further and the Grizzlies have not shared what steps he is taking or why he is seeking help.

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	46	21	.687	—
Philadelphia	43	22	.662	2
New York	39	28	.582	7
Brooklyn	37	28	.569	8
Toronto	32	35	.478	14

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	35	32	.522	—
Atlanta	33	33	.500	1½
Washington	31	35	.470	3½
Orlando	27	39	.409	7½
Charlotte	21	46	.313	14

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	47	18	.723	—
Cleveland	42	26	.618	6½
Chicago	30	36	.455	17½
Indiana	29	37	.439	18½
Detroit	15	51	.227	32½

### Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	38	26	.594	—
Dallas	34	33	.507	5½
New Orleans	32	34	.485	7
San Antonio	16	49	.246	22½
Houston	15	50	.231	23½

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	46	20	.697	—
Minnesota	34	33	.507	12½
Oklahoma City	31	35	.470	15
Portland	31	35	.470	15
Utah	31	35	.470	15

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	38	26	.594	—
Phoenix	37	29	.561	2
Golden State	34	32	.515	5
L.A. Clippers	35	33	.515	5
L.A. Lakers	32	34	.485	7

### Wednesday's games

Atlanta 122, Washington 120  
Boston 115, Portland 93  
New Orleans 113, Dallas 106  
Cleveland 104, Miami 100  
Chicago 117, Denver 96  
Phoenix 132, Oklahoma City 101  
L.A. Clippers 108, Toronto 100

### Thursday's games

Charlotte at Detroit  
Houston at Indiana  
Utah at Orlando  
Golden State at Memphis  
Brooklyn at Milwaukee  
New York at Sacramento

### Friday's games

Atlanta at Washington  
Portland at Philadelphia  
Brooklyn at Minnesota  
Cleveland at Miami  
Denver at San Antonio  
Toronto at L.A. Lakers

### Saturday's games

New York at L.A. Clippers  
Indiana at Detroit  
Miami at Orlando  
Utah at Charlotte  
Boston at Atlanta  
Chicago at Houston  
Dallas at Memphis  
Milwaukee at Golden State  
Oklahoma City at New Orleans  
Sacramento at Phoenix

### Sunday's games

Brooklyn at Denver  
Cleveland at Charlotte  
Washington at Philadelphia  
Oklahoma City at San Antonio  
Portland at New Orleans  
New York at L.A. Lakers

### Monday's games

Indiana at Detroit  
Minnesota at Atlanta  
Utah at Miami  
Memphis at Dallas  
Boston at Houston  
Phoenix at Golden State  
Milwaukee at Sacramento

### Tuesday's games

Cleveland at Charlotte  
Detroit at Washington  
Denver at Toronto  
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans  
Brooklyn at Oklahoma City  
Orlando at San Antonio  
Milwaukee at Phoenix  
New York at Portland



BASEBALL

# Ohtani's impact reaches beyond field

By **STEPHEN WADE**  
Associated Press

TOKYO — He'd paid about \$80 for his ticket. He wore a Japan cap above a blue Los Angeles Angels jersey. And as he enthused about the sensation that is Shohei Ohtani, baseball fan Hotaru Shiromizu was talking about far more than sports.

Shiromizu, 23, was part of the quilt of thousands of colorfully dressed fans outside the Tokyo Dome on Thursday afternoon. They paced, they camped out, and they discussed their hopes of seeing Ohtani pitch — and hit — against China in Japan's opening game in the World Baseball Classic.

"He's a legendary player, but he's more than just a good player," Shiromizu said, using his translator app to help clarify a few thoughts in English. "His aspirations — his achievements — have had a positive influence on all Japanese people."

He added: "All the kids want to be like Ohtani."

These days, Japanese culture and politics feel more tenuous than a few decades ago. The economy is stagnant. The birthrate is among the world's lowest. A former prime minister was assassinated a few months ago on the street. And despite the "Cool Japan" image abroad, the nation faces uncertainty on many fronts, a corruption scandal surrounding the pandemic-delayed 2020 Tokyo Olympics and a giant Asian rival in neighboring China.

For many, Ohtani is the antidote.

## Part of an evolution

He does things modern players don't do. He's a throwback who pitches, bats and can play in the field. Many call him the finest player in the major leagues. If that's the case, then he's better than Americans — Latin Americans, too — at what they consider their own game.

He's the culmination — so far, at least — of an evolution in Japanese baseball that began when the game was introduced to the country in 1872 by an American professor. And his fame has now arguably surpassed that of players like Ichiro Suzuki and Hideo Nomo, who came before him.

One of them could hit really well. One could pitch the same way. But Ohtani? He does both, and with more power — on the pitcher's mound and at bat — than either Ichiro or Nomo.

"I suppose the idolization of Ohtani in Japan reflects its own inferiority complex vis a vis the fatherland of baseball that is the U.S.," said Koichi Nakano, who teaches politics and culture in Tokyo at Sophia University.

"Baseball is so major here, but it has long been said that Japanese baseball, called *yakyu*, is different



EUGENE HOSHIKO/AP

Fans of Japan's Shohei Ohtani cheer prior to Japan's World Baseball Classic game against China at the Tokyo Dome on Thursday. Ohtani is arguably the game's best player. But he's more than just a player.

from 'real' baseball in America. Books have been written and published on the topic," Nakano said. "So each time where there is a Japanese 'export' that was hugely successful in MLB, the Japanese are enthralled."

The wait to see Ohtani play again in Japan is also driving the buzz around him — and the sellouts at the Tokyo Dome.

It had been almost 2,000 days since Ohtani played his last inning in Japan on Oct. 9, 2017, for the Nippon Ham-Fighters before leaving for California. That appearance drought ended in a practice game on Monday when Ohtani hit a pair of three-run homers off the Han-shin Tigers.

Keiichiro Shiotsuka, a businessman waiting outside the stadium, called Ohtani "a treasure of Japan."

"I don't know if such a player like him will ever exist in the future, so I'm happy he's now playing in Japan," he said.

## Talent and character

Atop all the talent, Ohtani has a sterling reputation. No scandals. No tabloid stories about his social life. He's overflowing with \$20 million in endorsements, more than any other major leaguer. And he could sign the largest contract in baseball history — the number \$500 million has been kicked around — when he becomes a free agent after this season.

"He is very authentic," said Masako Yamamoto, standing in a ticket line outside the Tokyo Dome with her 12-year-old son Shutaro and other family members. Facing her was a pulsating billboard with Ohtani's image flashing.

"As a human, he's polite and very charming and good to people," she

said. "He's special. His personality is so even. He seems to make the atmosphere."

Ohtani came out of Japan's regimented baseball system at Hanamaki Higashi High School in largely rural Iwate prefecture in northeastern Japan. Blue Jays pitcher Yusei Kikuchi attended the same high school a few years earlier. The military-like system has its critics, but Ohtani is making it look good.

"Ohtani was raised in this Japanese, martial arts-inspired training system where you join a baseball team and you play year-round," Robert Whiting, who has written several books on Japanese baseball and lived there off and on for 60 years, said in an interview last year with The Associated Press.

"Tchiro, in his first year in high school was probably the best player on the team, but he couldn't play. He had to do the laundry and cook the meals. He'd get up in the middle of night and practice his swing," Whiting said. "The same thing with Ohtani. He was cleaning toilets in high school during his first year."

In explaining how baseball took root in Japan, Whiting and others have pointed to the importance of a game in 1896 in Yokohama between Japanese and Americans. Japan won 29-4, and many of the players were from Samurai families.

The result was front-page news in Japan. The victory is thought to have given Japan confidence as it was modernizing, coming out of centuries of isolation, and showed it could compete against the industrially advanced West.

On Thursday night, so many years later, Japan got itself more front-page baseball news. Ohtani allowed one hit in the four innings

he pitched and struck out five, ending up as the winning pitcher in an 8-1 Japan victory. He also doubled off the left field wall in the fourth to score two. So fans like Shiromizu got what they came for — Ohtani pitching, hitting and not disappointing the 41,616 who showed up.

"Ohtani is the latest of these idols, but he might be even bigger than any before him," said Nakano, the political scientist. He noted that only Ohtani hits and pitches both — just like the old-timers used to, which gives him a unique profile. "He is 'Made in Japan,' but more real now than America players."

## Scoreboard

### World Baseball Classic

GROUP A				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Netherlands	2	0	1.000	—
Panama	1	1	.500	—
Italy	1	0	1.000	—
Taiwan	0	1	.500	—
Cuba	0	2	.000	—
GROUP B				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Japan	1	0	1.000	—
Australia	1	0	1.000	—
Czech Republic	0	0	.000	—
South Korea	0	1	.000	—
China	0	1	.000	—
GROUP C				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Canada	0	0	.000	—
Colombia	0	0	.000	—
Great Britain	0	0	.000	—
Mexico	0	0	.000	—
United States	0	0	.000	—
GROUP D				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Dominican Republic	0	0	.000	—
Israel	0	0	.000	—
Nicaragua	0	0	.000	—
Puerto Rico	0	0	.000	—
Venezuela	0	0	.000	—

### Tuesday, March 7

Netherlands 4, Cuba 2  
Panama 12, Taiwan 5

### Wednesday, March 8

Australia 8, South Korea 7  
Netherlands 3, Panama 1  
Japan 8, China 1  
Italy 6, Cuba 3

### Thursday, March 9

Czech Republic at China  
Cuba at Panama

### Friday, March 10

South Korea at Japan  
Italy at Taiwan  
China at Australia  
Panama at Italy

### Saturday, March 11

Czech Republic at Japan  
Netherlands at Taiwan  
Nicaragua at Puerto Rico  
Colombia at Mexico  
Dominican Republic at Venezuela  
Great Britain at United States  
Czech Republic at South Korea  
Taiwan at Cuba

### Sunday, March 12

Japan at Australia  
Netherlands at Italy  
Nicaragua at Israel  
Great Britain at Canada  
Venezuela at Puerto Rico  
Mexico at United States  
Australia at Czech Republic

**FAST FREE SHIPPING**  
On orders over \$50 • [tirerack.com/freeshipping](http://tirerack.com/freeshipping)

# TOUGH TO DECIDE

## USE OUR TIRE DECISION GUIDE

Tell us your vehicle and answer a few simple questions. We'll narrow it all down to the one tire that's right for you.

[www.tirerack.com/tdg](http://www.tirerack.com/tdg)

©2018 Tire Rack **800-428-8355** M-F 8am-8pm EST SAT 9am-4pm EST



## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Boeheim's career at Syracuse ends; Autry takes over

BY TIM REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

Jim Boeheim enrolled at Syracuse in 1962. Played there until 1966. Started coaching there in 1969. Took over the program as head coach in 1976.

Put simply, he was Syracuse basketball.

Until now.

The Basketball Hall of Famer's 47-year tenure as coach at Syracuse came to an awkward end on Wednesday, with the university saying Orange associate head coach and former Syracuse player Adrian Autry has been promoted to the job. The Orange moved quickly, making the announcement less than three hours after Syracuse lost to Wake Forest in the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament. And if Boeheim knew the announcement was coming, he didn't let on at what was his final postgame news conference.

"It's up to the university," Boeheim said. "They have to make their decision, and it's up to them."

The university didn't wait long before making the decision public, saying in part: "Today, as his 47th season coaching his alma mater comes to an end, so too does his storied career at Syracuse University. Associate Head Coach Adrian Autry '94, one of Boeheim's former players and long-time assistant, has been named the program's next head coach."

Autry has been on Boeheim's staff since 2011, and held the title of associate head coach since March 2017.

"There have been very few stronger influential forces in my life than Syracuse University and

Jim Boeheim," Autry said. "They have both played such important roles and without either of them, I am certain I would not have this incredible opportunity before me."

The 78-year-old Boeheim's record in his 47 seasons, officially, was 1,015-441. That reflects 101 wins taken away by the NCAA for violations between the 2004-07 and 2010-12 seasons.

Whether the count was 1,015 or 1,116, only now-retired Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski had more wins than Boeheim at the Division I level. Boeheim led the Orange to the 2003 national title — Carmelo Anthony's lone season in Syracuse — and saw 46 of his players get taken in NBA drafts. Among them: Anthony, Derrick Coleman, Rony Seikaly, Dion Waiters, Billy Owens, Sherman Douglas and Pearl Washington. Boeheim also was a USA Basketball assistant under Krzyzewski on the teams that won Olympic gold medals in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

"I've been very lucky to be able to coach my college team, to play and then be an assistant coach and then a head coach, never having to leave Syracuse," Boeheim said in that postgame news conference, one in which he hinted at retirement, then hinted at returning. "It's a great university."

He has, in many ways, been the face of that university. Boeheim and his wife Juli, through their family foundation, have raised millions for children's causes across Central New York. He helped champion what became known as the "Coaches vs. Cancer" phenomenon with the Amer-



CHRIS CARLSON / AP

Syracuse head coach Jim Boeheim watches during the second half of their loss on Wednesday against Wake Forest at the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament in Greensboro, N.C.

ican Cancer Society.

The 2-3 zone defense he used almost exclusively caused opponents fits for decades. His dedication was unwavering; the best examples were how he returned to work earlier than doctors wanted after he was treated for prostate cancer in December 2001 — the team was struggling and needed him, Boeheim said at the time — and how he went to work at 12:01 a.m. on the day his nine-game suspension for NCAA violations was lifted during the 2015-16 season.

"He's given his heart and soul to that school," said Washington coach Mike Hopkins, a former Boeheim assistant. "Still surprised they don't have a statue made of him in the middle of campus. When you think of Syracuse University, you think of Jim Boeheim and you think of the Carrier Dome, and now both of those will be gone, which is very sad."

The dome still stands, just with a different name. The program will continue, just with a different coach. For the first time since 1976, someone other than Boe-

heim is now the head coach of the Orange.

"Jim has invested and dedicated the majority of his life to building this program, cultivating generations of student-athletes and representing his alma mater with pride and distinction," Chancellor Kent Syverud said in a statement distributed by the school.

"There will never be another Jim Boeheim," Buddy Boeheim, one of Boeheim's sons who played for him at Syracuse, tweeted Wednesday. "The greatest coach, father and mentor I could ever ask for. A man that gave a city, program and university everything he had his whole life with countless accomplishments. Excited for a lot of golf in our future, love you pops."

The Orange were 17-15 this season and will miss the NCAA Tournament for a second consecutive season. That led to criticism, which led to questions about Boeheim's future, and what the school would ultimately decide.

"It's an honor to play for Coach Boeheim," Syracuse's Benny Wil-

liams said after the loss to Wake Forest.

Syracuse reached the NCAA Tournament 35 times under Boeheim, went to the Final Four in five of those appearances, won 10 Big East regular-season titles and five more titles in that conference's tournament.

"I've been just so lucky to be able to coach at Syracuse, a place I love, I place I love to live," Boeheim said. "People keep wondering about that, but maybe that's a flaw I have. But I've lived in Syracuse my whole life, and I'll live there hopefully a long time into the future. I think it's a great place."

Syracuse clearly has faith in Autry as well.

He played in 121 games in his four seasons for Boeheim, then spent more than a decade on the bench with his former coach.

"I have spent much of my time in the game of basketball learning from Jim and am so grateful to him for preparing me to carry on the winning tradition that is Orange Basketball," Autry said.

## Hoyas blown out of Big East as Ewing's future in question

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Patrick Ewing walked off the court alone Wednesday night at Madison Square Garden, the site of his greatest moments as both an NBA player and Georgetown's coach, after another blowout loss that might have been his final game leading the Hoyas.

Last-place Georgetown (7-25) was eliminated by sixth-seeded Villanova 80-48 in the first round of the Big East Tournament. School officials have given no indication of whether Ewing will be back for a seventh season, but he fell to 75-109 as coach of the program he led to three Final Fours and a national title as player.

"No thoughts about my future,"

Ewing said. "The (last) two seasons have been rough. Disappointed in the outcomes of these last two years. My future's in the hands of our president and our AD and the board of the directors."

Athletic director Lee Reed declined to comment on Ewing's status.

"My thoughts are with those kids right now," Reed said outside of the Georgetown locker room. "It's been a long year."

The Garden will always be a second home to Ewing, with a familiar faces and warm welcomes.

He played 15 seasons for the Knicks after being drafted first overall in 1985, and became one of their all-time greats. His No. 33

hangs from the rafters at MSG.

In the first half against Villanova, Ewing shared fist bumps during a timeout with Big East officials stationed next to Hoyas' bench, including associate commissioner and former Knicks coach Stu Jackson.

He paced the sideline in his all-black sweatsuit, shouting directions to his players and looking incredulous at times when his team failed to smoothly execute its offense or allowed yet another easy Villanova basket.

"It was a rough year. It was not the year we thought we would have had," Ewing said. "We kept fighting. We didn't give up, and we're disappointed the season ended the way that it did."



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Georgetown head coach Patrick Ewing works the bench in the first half against Villanova during the first round of the Big East Conference tournament Wednesday in New York.



COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# AFN app will livestream NCAA Tournament

US personnel overseas can watch on 4 'virtual' channels on AFN Now

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

U.S. troops and other eligible overseas viewers of the American Forces Network can catch live coverage of March Madness wherever they are when the NCAA men's basketball tournament tips off next week.

AFN will air the games starting Tuesday. They will be shown simultaneously on four AFN television channels and four "virtual" channels on the video streaming app AFN Now.

"Every time we have March Madness on television, it is on the app at the exact same time," said

Zoe Stagg, AFN chief of television programming. For viewers "to be able to tune in wherever they are is such a historic moment in AFN's history."

AFN will carry all games in the 68-team men's tournament. NCAA women's tournament coverage will start with the Sweet 16, Stagg said. Most games will be live but some will be tape-delayed.

The four channels on the app will correspond with the channels airing the games on AFN Television: Sports, Sports2, Prime Pacific and Prime Atlantic.

AFN is creating a banner at the top of the AFN Now home tab that will allow users to click into a live channel as an event is streaming, network spokesman John Clearwater said via email.

The tournament schedule is available at <https://myafn.net>.

Games also will be available on AFN Now as video-on-demand content shortly after airing.

Most NCAA games will stay up for seven days; however, due to rights agreements, games provided by CBS Sports will be up for only 24 hours following their live broadcast, Clearwater said.

The men's tournament concludes with the championship game April 3, while the women's tournament runs through April 2.

Sports have been a popular draw for the app since it debuted in November, said Mike Drumheller, AFN broadcast center director. Following the Feb. 12 Super Bowl, one of the first major sporting events livestreamed on the app, the number of registered users rose from about 8,000 to nearly 19,000, he said.

AFN is looking to add more

sports to the app, including professional baseball, basketball, hockey and mixed martial arts, Drumheller said.

An agreement to livestream Major League Baseball games is pending, he said.

"We just met with (Ultimate Fighting Championship) and it's likely we'll be able to get UFC on as well NHL, NBA and the U.S. Football League," he added, whether via livestreaming or on

demand.

The AFN Now app is free to download from app stores and available to overseas U.S. service members, families, military retirees and Defense Department civilians. The app also carries television shows and news programming. Registration is available at <https://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com  
Twitter: @stripesktown

## Dream: Owls embrace role as underdogs

FROM PAGE 48

viewing party at the KSU Convocation Center.

"This is really cool from when we started four years ago and maybe had only one student reporter here," Abdur-Rahim said.

Junior Chris Youngblood was part of Abdur-Rahim's first full recruiting class following the one-win season. Youngblood said Abdur-Rahim "most definitely" talked about the team's potential to reach March Madness as part of his recruiting pitch.

"I probably wouldn't have come here if he didn't believe in that," said Youngblood, who leads the Owls with 14.7 points per game.

Abdur-Rahim said he began to believe the dream could be realized this season by the way his players, especially point guard Terrell Burden, responded to an ugly 88-54 loss at San Diego State on Dec. 12.

"Normally, you get beat like that, it can shake you a little bit, make you question what you're doing," Abdur-Rahim said.

Burden, who had been mostly quiet early in his career, set the pace for the team at the next practice after a teammate failed to dive for a loose ball.

"Terrell jumps him," Abdur-Rahim said. "I was like, 'OK.' That was the moment for me."

The 5-foot-10 Burden, who is second on the team with 13.5 points a game, is one of four guards in the starting lineup. The Owls are likely to face a size disadvantage in their first NCAA Tournament game — no matter the matchup.

That only adds to the underdog



MIGUEL MARTINEZ, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/TNS

Kennesaw State forward Alex Peterson celebrates with fans after the Owls wrapped up the ASUN tournament championship.

outlook that Burden and his teammates are eager to embrace.

"No matter who we play, we're going to give them a fight," Burden said. "I love being the underdog. I've been the underdog my whole life."

Abdur-Rahim is the younger brother of Shareef Abdur-Rahim, who played 13 years in the NBA and now is the NBA G League president. Shareef's son, Jabri, is a guard at Georgia, where Amir was an assistant on Tom Crean's staff before going to Kennesaw State.

At Georgia, Amir Abdur-Rahim landed star recruit Anthony Edwards, the No. 1 overall pick by Minnesota in the 2020 NBA draft.

The Owls' roster doesn't have

top-rated NBA prospects, but Abdur-Rahim believes his team deserves to be respected as more than a 16 seed.

"I'm hoping for a 14. If they love us enough, maybe a 13," Abdur-Rahim said, adding that the Owls are "going to play a great team next week. ... It's all about draw in the tournament. I'm not here to politic for a seed."

He has told his players to "put the headphones on, and put that noise cancellation up to 10" when preparing for the NCAA Tournament.

But, with a compelling story like theirs, Youngblood said: "It's tough to keep the headphones on in times like this."

## SEEKING A CAREER?

HR Block is looking for full or part-time Tax Preparers for Naples and Sigonella military communities.



No previous experience required. We offer a comprehensive training program. For those with previous experience we offer refresher training.



Competitive compensation,  
Call Roy McGilvray at 334-998-5159 or email at  
[Roy.mcgilvray@hrblock.com](mailto:Roy.mcgilvray@hrblock.com) | [mcgilvrayroy@gmail.com](mailto:mcgilvrayroy@gmail.com)



## WE'RE HIRING!

Join our TEAM  We're looking for a Dental Hygienist to join our staff of American Dentists and Hygienists!



Work along side us as we service the active duty personnel's dependents and retired service connected Veterans in the KMC area.

Must be currently licensed to practice in a State or territory of the United States.

Please send your resume and certifications to [manager@american-dentistry.de](mailto:manager@american-dentistry.de)

Kaiserstraße 36 • 66849 Landstuhl  
Phone: 06371 560 8075 OR 06371 594 6275  
[www.american-dentistry.de](http://www.american-dentistry.de)





# SPORTS



**National treasure**  
Japan's love for Ohtani runs deeper than baseball » **Page 45**

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL



PHOTOS BY MIGUEL MARTINEZ, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/TNS

Kennesaw State forward Demond Robinson embraces guard Terrell Burden after the Owls defeated Liberty 67-66 on Sunday to win the ASUN Conference Tournament and the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

# Owl-in on the dream

## Kennesaw State brings rags-to-riches story to 1st NCAA party

BY CHARLES ODUM  
Associated Press

KENNESAW, Ga. — Kennesaw State is officially accepting bandwagon fans as the latest NCAA Tournament Cinderella team.

"I support it," junior guard Brandon Stroud said Wednesday. "Let's go. Jump on now!"

Few teams have landed in March Madness with more compelling rags-to-riches credentials.

The Owls finished 1-28 overall and 0-16 in the ASUN Conference in coach Amir Ab-

dur-Rahim's first season in 2019-20. Having left Division II in 2005, Kennesaw State never had a winning Division I record before this season, when they improved to 26-8 by beating Liberty 67-66 in Sunday's conference tournament championship.

The Owls are suddenly drawing a media crowd — including three Atlanta TV crews before their practice Wednesday — and the spotlight will grow brighter Sunday, when the public will be invited to a selection show

SEE DREAM ON PAGE 47



**INSIDE**  
Syracuse's Boeheim coaches final game of 47-year career  
**Page 46**

AFN Now app will livestream NCAA Tournament **Page 47**



Kennesaw State went 1-28 in 2019-20, Amir Abdur-Rahim's first season. The coach sold recruits on the idea that the Owls could make it to March Madness.

# NBA players talk touchy topic of stat padding » Page 44

