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& PACIFIC
WEEKEND
EDITION



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Trump swiftly sidelined

Trial could begin on Inauguration Day

By LISA MASCARO
AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's impeachment trial could begin on Inauguration Day, just as Democrat Joe Biden takes the oath of office in an extraordinary end to the defeated president's tenure in the White House.

The trial timeline and schedule are largely set by Senate procedures and will start as soon as the House delivers the article of impeachment. That could mean starting the trial at 1 p.m. on Inauguration Day. The ceremony at the Capitol starts at noon.

Trump was impeached Wednesday by the House over the deadly Capitol siege, the only president in U.S. history twice impeached, after a pro-Trump mob stormed the building. The attack has left the nation's capital, and

SEE TRIAL ON PAGE 10

Enduring his 2nd impeachment, president largely silent and alone

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — His place in the history books rewritten, President Donald Trump endured his second impeachment largely alone and silent.

For more than four years, Trump has dominated the national discourse like no one before him. Yet when his legacy was set in stone on Wednesday, he was stunningly left on the sidelines.

Trump now stands with no

equal, the only president to be charged twice with a high crime or misdemeanor, a new coda for a term defined by a deepening of the nation's divides, his failures during the worst pandemic in a century and his refusal to accept defeat at the ballot box.

Trump kept out of sight in a nearly empty White House as impeachment proceedings played

SEE ALONE ON PAGE 9



President Donald Trump walks down the steps before a speech near a section of the U.S.-Mexico border wall Tuesday in Alamo, Texas.

DELICIA LOPEZ, THE MONITOR/AP

BUSINESS/WEATHER

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel					
Germany	\$2.592	\$2.977	\$3.234	\$2.945	Azores	..	..	\$3.134	..
Change in price	+6.8cents	+6.3cents	+6.4cents	+3.0cents	Change in price	..	..	+6.4cents	..
Netherlands	..	\$3.485	\$3.794	\$3.573	Belgium	..	\$2.060	\$2.249	\$2.249
Change in price	..	+2.8cents	+9.1cents	+5.6cents	Change in price	..	No change	No change	No change
U.K.	..	\$2.876	\$3.133	\$2.844	Turkey	..	..	\$3.041	\$3.507*
Change in price	..	+6.3cents	+6.4cents	+3.0cents	Change in price	..	..	No change	No change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel					
Japan	..	\$3.029	..	\$2.739	South Korea	\$2.399	..	\$3.039	\$2.749
Change in price	..	+7.0cents	..	+3.0cents	Change in price	+7.0cents	..	+7.0cents	+3.0cents
Okinawa	\$2.379	..	..	\$2.739	Guam	\$2.389	\$2.779	\$3.039	..
Change in price	+6.0cents	..	..	+3.0cents	Change in price	+6.0cents	+6.0cents	+7.0cents	..

*DieselEFD **Midgrade
For the week of Jan. 15-21

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (Jan. 15)	\$1.18	Bahrain(Dinar)	.3770
Dollar buys (Jan. 15)	0.8083	Britain (Pound)	.7325
British pound (Jan. 15)	\$1.33	Canada (Dollar)	1.2680
Japanese yen (Jan. 15)	101.00	China(Yuan)	6.4737
South Korean won (Jan. 15)	1072.00	Denmark (Krone)	6.1392
		Egypt (Pound)	15.6705
		Euro	.8253
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7536
		Hungary (Forint)	296.69
		Israel (Shekel)	3.1835
		Japan (Yen)	104.09
		Kuwait(Dinar)	.3033
		Norway (Krone)	8.5074
		Philippines (Peso)	48.06
		Poland (Zloty)	3.75
		Saudi Arab (Riyal)	3.7516
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3280

So. Korea (Won) 1098.90
Switzerland (Franc) .8898
Thailand (Baht) 30.05
Turkey (NewLira) 7.3711

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

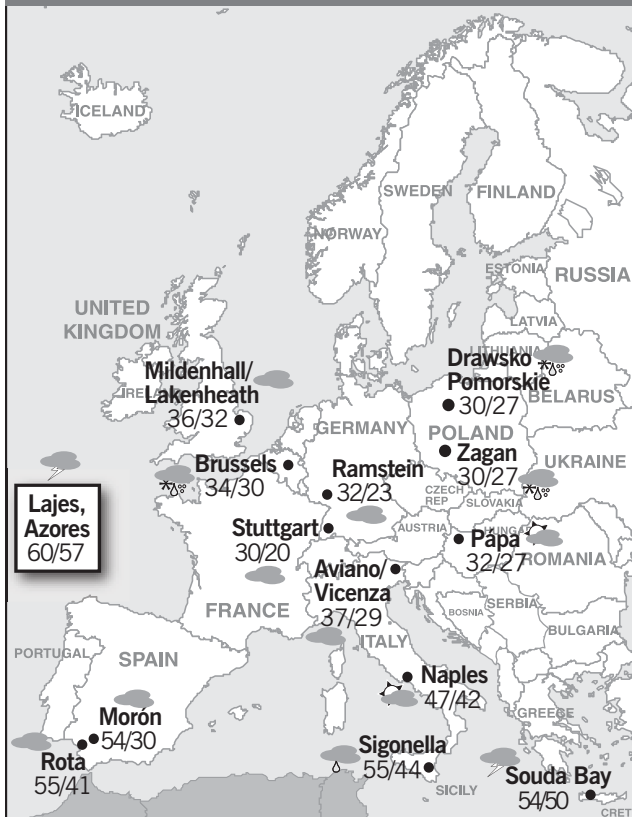
Prime rate	3.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.09
30-year bond	1.82

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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STARS AND STRIPES

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PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at www.stripes.com/relo

MILITARY



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

President Donald Trump watches with Vice President Mike Pence and then-Defense Secretary Mark Esper as the flag for U.S. Space Command is unfurled as Trump announces the establishment of the U.S. Space Command in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington.

Alabama's Redstone Arsenal to house Space Command HQ

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force has chosen Alabama's Redstone Arsenal to house the 1,400-member U.S. Space Command Headquarters, service and state officials said Wednesday.

Outgoing Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett selected Redstone this month "as the preferred location" for SPACECOM, Air Force officials said. Service officials told Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey of their decision in a phone call Wednesday morning, Ivey's office said in a statement.

"I couldn't be more pleased to learn that Alabama will be the new home to the United States Space Command!" Ivey said in the statement. "The bottom line is simple, the Redstone region is the most natural choice to become home to such an important mission for our country."

Redstone, an Army installation just outside Huntsville, was named one of six finalists for the headquarters in November after the Air Force conducted two searches for a permanent home for the Pentagon's newest combatant command, which is charged with overseeing and controlling the U.S. military's myriad space-based infrastructure and operations. The command has been housed temporarily at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo., since it was established in August 2019.

The Air Force confirmed Redstone's selection Wednesday. The decision is contingent on a required environmental impact study and could be finalized by 2023, the Air Force said in a statement.

Ivey said the Huntsville region's reputation for supporting the military and its vast history of involvement in space operations was a key factor in the final pitch last month to Air Force officials to choose Redstone, according to her office.

"This combination only enhances the outstanding relationships we have with the 65 diverse federal agencies on Redstone Arsenal, not to mention the growing presence of the FBI and other federal installations," she said in the statement. Redstone beat out Peterson AFB, one of the other announced finalists, which has long hosted the military's top space operations and was seen as the front-runner to be named the permanent home for SPACECOM.

But Peterson is expected to retain Space Command headquarters for several years "until the permanent location is ready to support the mission."

Air Force officials have previously said that the service estimated it could take some six years to build the facilities necessary to house U.S. Space Command. The process was estimated to cost about \$1 billion.

Huntsville is known as Rocket City, largely because Wernher von Braun and other rocketeers settled in the city in the 1950s to help develop the U.S. space and rockets program, according to a 2018 report by The Associated Press.

The city is still home to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center on Redstone Arsenal, responsible for civilian rocketry and spacecraft propulsion research. Huntsville is also home to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, a space exploration museum, perhaps best known as the home of Space Camp.

Air Force officials said Wednesday that Barrett, who is set to leave her position Jan. 19, considered several factors in reaching her decision, including installations' infrastructure capacity, support from the community and costs to the Defense Department.

"Huntsville compared favorably across more of these factors than any other community, providing a large, qualified workforce, quality schools, superior infrastructure capacity, and low initial and recurring costs," according to the Air Force statement.

Space Command's establishment in 2019 was actually a re-establishment of the combatant command, after the Pentagon shuttered it in 2002 as part of the post-9/11 government restructuring. It was established just months before the newest military branch, U.S. Space Force, was founded.

Under Defense Department structure, the military services — in this case, the Space Force — are responsible for training and equipping troops who then operate under the leadership and control of a combatant command — in this case, the Space Command. Space Force, as it grows, is expected to provide the bulk of the troops assigned to Space Command, but the other military services will also provide some troops to the command, officials have said.

Space Command is led by four-star Army Gen. James Dickinson.

Space Force, like all military services, is headquartered at the Pentagon, where it will remain. It is led by Gen. Jay Raymond, the chief of space operations.

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Some in Guillen's chain of command suspended, not fired

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston told a group of soldiers last week at Fort Hood that all the military leaders in Spc. Vanessa Guillen's chain of command had been fired in the aftermath of her disappearance and death at the base.

On Wednesday, Grinston said some of those soldiers — the seven leaders from her battalion to her squad — have only been suspended until an investigation into what happened is completed. Under a suspension, some of them could return to the unit, according to an Army spokesman.

"They're gone," Grinston said Thursday about the leaders when asked by a junior enlisted soldier at the Texas base why soldiers and leaders who commit crimes or allow misconduct to persist are shuffled into new units where they can continue to harm others.

From the squad to battalion, those leaders responsible for Guillen were not there anymore, Grinston said during a discussion with about two dozen soldiers that Stars and Stripes was permitted to attend under the condition that none of the soldiers participating were identified.

But Grinston clarified Wednesday that by saying "gone," he meant they were suspended. While those leaders have been removed from the unit, they could return to their previous job or other leadership roles in the Army pending the results of an ongoing Army Forces Command investigation. Three leaders from the brigade to corps level were previously announced as fired.

Gen. John Murray, commander of Army Futures Command, was tasked in September with leading that investigation, known in the Army as a 15-6. A public release of its findings hasn't been scheduled.

The findings of a separate investigation led by civilians were released Dec. 8 and led Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy to take disciplinary action against 14 leaders at Fort Hood, including those Grinston referenced last week. The Fort Hood Independent Review Committee outlined in their report that the command climate and culture problems at the base were a result of poor leadership. Those problems at the base were evident as far back as 2014, according to the report.

Only five of the 14 leaders serving at the brigade-level and above were named in December's announcement of the disciplinary

action, in accordance with Army policy. Maj. Gen. Scott Efflandt, the deputy commander of III Corps, who was the acting base commander at the time of Guillen's disappearance and death, Col. Ralph Overland and Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley Knapp, the commander and top enlisted soldier of Guillen's unit, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, were fired.

Efflandt can retire, if he chooses, or be reassigned at the discretion of the Army chief of staff, and Overland and Knapp will go before separate boards to determine if they can remain on active duty, Under Secretary of the Army James McPherson told the news outlet Task and Purpose.

Maj. Gen. Jeff Broadwater and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Kenney of the 1st Cavalry Division, which was not part of Guillen's chain of command, were suspended, pending the results of a new investigation into the unit's command climate and implementation of a sexual assault prevention program.

Grinston's visit to Fort Hood last week was meant to check on the base's initiatives to repair those problems, which began in October and increased following the report's release.

Each investigation aims to better understand the conditions that led to the killing of Guillen in April, as well as a number of other deaths at Fort Hood that have raised questions about the base's handling of sexual harassment and assault, missing persons and soldiers' trust in their leadership.

Guillen, who served as a small arms repairer in the 3rd Cavalry Regiment's engineer squadron, went missing from the base April 22. Investigators found her body June 30 and determined that a fellow soldier, Spc. Aaron Robinson, killed Guillen with a hammer in an arms room, then buried her body about 20 miles from the base.

The deaths of four other Fort Hood soldiers were ruled homicides in 2020. They are among the nearly 30 soldiers who died while assigned to the base, which has a population of about 37,500 active-duty soldiers.

Aside from these two investigations, the Army has at least two more ongoing reviews to understand the base's conditions, and Congress has an ongoing investigation looking more closely at the base deaths that some of its members have deemed suspicious.

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PACIFIC

DOD to analyze WWII remains in Philippines

By **WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

The Defense Department on Wednesday agreed to analyze remains in a Philippines grave long believed by family members to be those of Alexander "Sandy" Nininger Jr., the first service member awarded the Medal of Honor during World War II.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and its precursors had denied repeated requests by the family to exhume the remains for DNA testing, maintaining that the agency's documentation could not validate taking that step.

"I have directed DPAA to immediately generate the necessary exception to policy in order to expeditiously execute scientific analysis of the remains to con-

firm or deny identification," Anthony Tata, currently performing the duties of undersecretary of defense for policy, said in an email Wednesday sent to Defense Department officials and John Patterson, who is Nininger's nephew and closest next of kin.

The exception to policy comes a day after Patterson sent a letter to Defense Department officials on behalf of the family requesting that the soldier's name be removed from all federal installations, plaques and other sites. Patterson expressed frustration over what he described as a "bureaucratic logjam" on his uncle's case.

"Sandy's country has failed him and because of that we ask that the U.S. Government promptly begin the process of re-

moving the name of Lt. Alexander R. Nininger Jr from all Federal facilities and cease trading on his good name and reputation," Patterson concluded in the letter, which was detailed in a Stars and Stripes article Tuesday.



Nininger

Patterson was stunned about the speed of the policy reversal after the release of the letter, he said during an interview with Stars and Stripes on Wednesday from his Rhode Island home.

"This is obviously the furthest we've ever gotten," he said. "The bottom line is, I'm pleased and now I want to wait and see what

their action is — and when."

Tata told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday he had learned of Patterson's letter in an email he read during a flight back to the United States on Tuesday after a week of official international travel. He reviewed the case Wednesday morning.

"This is the first time I've really had an opportunity to review the case," he said. "If there's a chance, even if it's remote, to discover the identity of these remains, then I think that is something we should do.

"I believe we have no more solemn duty than to take care of our fallen and their families."

Nininger, a 1941 West Point graduate, was serving with the 57th Infantry Regiment, Philippine Scouts, as he defended

against the Japanese invasion of the Philippines. He died on Jan. 12, 1942, near Abucay on the Bataan peninsula of Luzon Island and was hastily buried.

He became the first service member to receive the Medal of Honor during World War II. Medals of Honor were subsequently awarded to service members involved in the earlier Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

"Though exposed to heavy enemy fire, he continued to attack with rifle and hand grenades and succeeded in destroying several enemy groups in foxholes and enemy snipers," Nininger's Medal of Honor citation said.

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Army investigating death of soldier's spouse at post housing in Hawaii

By **WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The spouse of a soldier living in post housing at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, was discovered dead Wednesday morning by military police, the Army said in a news release.

The police were conducting a welfare check that had been requested by a family member, the Army said.

The Army is withholding the identity of the person until 24 hours after the next of kin are notified, the Army said.

Hawaii News Now, citing unnamed sources, reported that the person's body was found in a trash receptacle and that a "person of

interest" had been identified.

Special agents from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, or CID, are leading the ongoing investigation, according to the Army new release.

"According to CID agents, at this point in the investigation they have reason to believe this is an isolated death and there is no cause for public alarm," the release said.

Schofield Barracks, in the central part of Oahu island, is the largest Army installation by population in Hawaii. It is home to the 25th Infantry Division and headquarters for U.S. Army Hawaii.

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Military housing units at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, are pictured in 2014.

CHRISTOPHER HUBENTHAL/U.S. Air Force

Reservist finds missing girl atop roof after 5-hour search on Guam

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**
Stars and Stripes

An Army Reservist on Guam earned his unit's recognition for finding a child who went missing for several hours in Yigo late last month.

Sgt. Cody Robinett, of the 3303rd Mobilization Support Battalion, first heard about the missing girl through a WhatsApp group chat on Dec. 28, according to a 9th Mission Support Command statement Tuesday.

He immediately joined the search and, more than five hours later, found the girl atop the roof of her family's home.

"I could tell she was scared

when we found her," Robinett said in the statement. "She appeared to be in good health, and I was only able to conduct an initial assessment before we got her off the roof."

The girl was handed over to the local fire department in Yigo for a full evaluation, he said.

Robinett, who holds a civilian position at Guam's Andersen Air Force Base as a supply technician for the 734th Air Mobility Squadron, also serves as a transportation management coordinator in the Army Reserves, the statement said. He is licensed as a National Registry Emergency Medical Technician and an amateur radio

operator.

Robinett was in Yigo when the message went out about the missing girl, the statement said. Her last known location was nearby.



Robinett

the statement said. He and a neighbor met up with first responders and volunteered to assist.

He was asked to re-scan the area around the child's home, which had been previously searched

that afternoon, the statement said.

"We were near the back side of the house and just happened to shine a light on the roof at the same time she had poked her head up," Robinett said. "We were unclear if it was her; however, there was a kid on the roof, so we investigated and verified it was her."

Robinett could not be reached for comment Thursday. Joint Region Marianas spokesman Navy Lt. Cmdr. Rick Moore referred Stars and Stripes to 9th Mission Support Command officials in Hawaii and Guam who did not immediately return phone messages and emails seeking comment.

"Sgt. Robinett is responsible, dedicated, and loyal," Robinett's boss, Maj. Howard Santiago Jr., said in the statement. "Selfless service is not something that just stops when you take off the military uniform, and Sgt. Robinett is a true testament to that."

For their role in the rescue, Robinett thanked the Guam fire and police departments, the statement said.

"In a time of need, many came together and offered their support, and that is what makes this island so great," he said.

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MILITARY

German lawmakers urge control of US troop crime cases

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Two German lawmakers are calling for changes in an international treaty that leaves most criminal cases involving U.S. troops in the hands of the military justice system, saying that local authorities should have more say in such matters.

Federal parliamentarian Angelika Gloeckner and Rheinland-Pfalz state representative Daniel Schaeffner, both members of Germany's Social Democratic Party, cited a German teenager's death following a car crash with an airman from Ramstein Air Base as the reason why more oversight of criminal cases is needed.

In July, Airman 1st Class Tolman D. Roman Bahena, 21, was found guilty by a court-martial jury of negligent homicide for the teenager's 2019 death.

Bahena was demoted two ranks and ordered to perform three months of hard labor without confinement. The offense allowed a maximum prison sentence of three years and a bad conduct discharge.

Some in the German community were angered by what they considered to be too light a sentence.

"This has prompted us as the responsible parliamentarians to take up this information and strive for a dialogue on this issue," the two lawmakers said in a joint statement.

At the federal level, the lawmakers said plans are in the works for addressing the issue within the SPD, which is the junior partner in Germany's coalition government. Bilateral talks will soon be held at the state level, they added.

Gloeckner and Schaeffner didn't spell out in detail how much more jurisdiction over criminal cases German authorities should have in cases involv-

ing U.S. troops.

But the idea is already being met with resistance.

Federal parliamentarian Anita Schaefer, of the Christian Democratic Union party, heavily criticized the idea as political grandstanding and an attempt to capitalize on a tragic car accident by stirring up anti-American sentiment.

"Since it is very obvious that the initiative has no prospect of success or political substance, from my point of view, that means it is nothing more than populism," Schaefer said in a statement.

Making such adjustments to the NATO Status of Forces Agreement would also require broader support within the 30-nation security pact, and there is no sign that NATO's other 29 members have any interest, Schaefer said.

Gloeckner and Schaeffner, who said they would also like allies to review SOFA rules for local nationals employed on bases and military property transfers, denied that they were trying to rouse anti-American sentiment.

"As a member of the Bundestag for the SPD, I can assure you that I stand by German-American friendship without any ifs or buts," Gloeckner said. "That is precisely why we do not have to fear a mutual dialogue among friends."

While jurisdiction over criminal cases involving U.S. forces is intensely debated in countries like Japan and South Korea, it rarely emerges as a point of contention in European nations. Still, the recent calls for changes to the SOFA in the Ramstein area underscore how actions by U.S. forces at the local level can reverberate at higher levels of government.

Stars and Stripes reporter Marcus Kloeckner contributed to this story.
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BARRY LOO/U.S. Air Force

Gen. Richard D. Clarke, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, presents Lt. Col. Larry Wyatt, SOCOM clinic director, with a Soldier's Medal at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., last month.

Green Beret earns Soldier's Medal for aiding a retired Army Ranger

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

An Army physician assistant earned the Soldier's Medal for his bravery and decisiveness when he strapped a makeshift tourniquet on his own mangled arm and treated his badly wounded mentor after motorcyclists slammed into them at high speed.

Lt. Col. Larry Wyatt, a clinic director with U.S. Special Operations Command, was on a bicycle ride with retired Ranger Col. Thomas Wells, a Princeton-trained trauma surgeon and avid cyclist, when a pair of motorcycles sped toward them on a narrow bike trail bridge near Tampa on April 7, 2019.

"I could see a motorcycle front end coming up and the trail motorcycle pulled around to pass," Wyatt recalled in an Army statement this week. "There was nowhere for us to go because of the chain link fence around the bridge."

The motorcycles hit them at about 50 mph, knocking them unconscious. Wyatt was dragged some 30 yards, waking up moments later with a broken nose, cracked teeth, a split eyebrow and

a gash in his left forearm down to the bone, which was gushing blood.

"All I could hear was my dad's voice in my head, 'You will face rough times in your life. You always get up on your own two feet by yourself. So get up,'" Wyatt said in the Army statement.

After borrowing a motorcyclist's belt and tying it as a tourniquet for his own arm, Wyatt tended to the bikers. He then went to check on Wells, who was on the ground entangled with one of the motorcycles.

Wyatt got one of the bikers to help him move Wells away from the motorcycle, where he began trying to stabilize him. A former Green Beret medical sergeant, Wyatt did a hands-on check of the man he considered something like an older brother, feeling for the grinding of any broken bones.

"He was in a lot of pain," said Wyatt, whose wound was still dripping blood. "I kept apologizing, 'I'm sorry for bleeding on you, Doc.' ... His response was, 'Just do what you got to do.'"

After Wyatt called 911 and relayed the list of injuries, the emergency responders had to walk to

the scene because the wounded men were still on the narrow bridge. They were rushed to a nearby hospital.

"Doc kept saying, 'Don't go anywhere,'" Wyatt recalled. "And I said, 'I'm not going anywhere, brother, I'm right here with you.'"

Wyatt, who has spent more than 1 1/2 years in recovery and underwent several surgeries, promised himself he'd always carry a tourniquet after the incident. He and Wells both still need more surgeries, the Army said in a statement.

For working through his own injuries to help his friend, Wyatt received the Soldier's Medal, the Army's highest award for bravery outside combat, from SOCOM commander Gen. Richard D. Clarke in a Dec. 22 ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

"Wyatt's personal example of selfless service, superb medical knowledge and unhesitating decisive action are consistent with the greatest traditions of our uniformed services and played a pivotal role in saving the lives of two individuals," the citation reads.

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MIDEAST

'Hard to believe it's been 30 years'

Gulf War vet reflects on anniversary of conflict through his photography

Stars and Stripes

Three decades ago, Kirby Lee Vaughn prepared to cross into Iraq as part of Operation Desert Storm.

The Army sergeant had brought his Canon T-70 camera into the desert to capture the experiences of his unit, which would spend a week in Iraq during the U.S.-led invasion that destroyed the army of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"We always saw him with the camera," recalled his commander, William E. Rapp, now a retired major general. The photos Vaughn took sat untouched for years, but recently he developed photo books to remember Operation Desert Storm, which started 30 years ago in Iraq's early hours of Jan. 17, 1991.

The following is an email from Vaughn to Stars and Stripes:

"Hard to believe it's been 30 years. No better way to celebrate such an anniversary than with a photo essay featuring the best shots I took during my six-month deployment.

I first picked up a camera in the summer of 1985 shortly after reporting to my first duty station. Germany was paradise after winter basic training at Fort Leonard Wood. Now a driver of a 5-ton dump truck with tool-trailer and 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, and we would see the country.

I saw other guys taking pictures, and I was hooked on photography from day one. The idea to photograph my military service came to me like a close-up shot of a flash bulb in an (Oliver) Stone flick. I had the perfect view up high behind the wheel. I was surrounded by scenery, and a cool group of guys, and the newness of it all made it that more photogenic. I've been shooting ever since. After Germany, Fort Dix. Then Korea just in time for the '88 Summer Olympics. Followed by Airborne School then (Fort) Bragg where I made 20 jumps.

The day after the invasion into Kuwait I approached my chain of command with the idea of me photographing the unit for posterity. With one camera, one lens and foot locker film I would take some of most epic photographs from the war as a sergeant in Bravo Company, 27th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade."



Photos courtesy of Kirby Lee Vaughn

An allied helicopter flies past U.S. troops moving to the Iraqi border to begin the Operation Desert Storm ground assault in February 1991.



Looking at the photographer, 1st Sgt. Fred Ferryerra stands in formation during a ceremony on Christmas Day 1990.



Soldiers with Bravo Company, 27th Engineer Battalion, march on Christmas Day 1990 during Operation Desert Shield in Saudi Arabia.



Soldiers open care packages while deployed to the Middle East as part of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.



A soldier takes down laundry during Operation Desert Storm in January 1991.

VIRUS OUTBREAK



DAVID EDGE/Stars and Stripes

Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli, commander of U.S. Army Europe and Africa, gets vaccinated with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at the Wiesbaden Army Health Clinic, Germany, on Thursday.

Army command team in Europe receives vaccine

By DAVID EDGE
Stars and Stripes

Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert V. Abernethy, the command team of U.S. Army Europe and Africa, received the Moderna coronavirus vaccine Thursday at the Wiesbaden Army Health Clinic in Germany.

While getting the shots is voluntary for now, the vaccine will play a critical readiness role for the force, Cavoli said.

"If you are a soldier or an (Army) civilian in USAREUR, you are on the front lines," Cavoli said. "We are here to reassure our allies

(and) the only way we can do that is if we are ready.

"You can't be ready if you are sick, so this is our responsibility to get this vaccination, so that we are ready," Cavoli said.

Last year, the coronavirus upended big plans for the Army in Europe, which was forced to curtail its largest exercise in decades, Defender Europe-20. Other services in Europe also were forced to scale back or cancel major drills because of health concerns.

The U.S. military in Europe started receiving the vaccines about three weeks ago. But some service members and civilian em-

ployees have expressed concern about the vaccine's effects.

"I think that it's a natural thing for people to be a little apprehensive about getting any kind of shot, but at the same time, it's our duty to get the shots and be comfortable with the science behind the vaccine," Abernethy said. "I take comfort watching my medical leaders lead by example getting the shot."

The vaccines have gone through rigorous safety procedures, added Brig. Gen. Mark Thompson, USA-REUR-AF command surgeon.

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US unemployment claims up to 965K

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of people seeking unemployment aid soared last week to 965,000, the most since late August and evidence that the resurgent coronavirus has caused a spike in layoffs.

The latest figures for jobless claims, issued Thursday by the Labor Department, remain at levels never seen until the virus struck. Before the pandemic, weekly applications typically numbered around 225,000. Last spring, after nationwide shutdowns took effect, applications for jobless benefits spiked to nearly 7 million — 10 times the previous record high. After declining over the summer, weekly claims have been stuck above 700,000 since September.

The high pace of layoffs coincides with an economy that has faltered as consumers avoid traveling, shopping and eating out in the face of soaring viral caseloads. Over 4,300 deaths were reported Tuesday, another record high. Shutdowns of restaurants, bars and other venues where people gather in California, New York and other states have likely forced up layoffs.

Some states and cities are resisting shutdowns, partly out of fear of the economic consequences but raising the risk of further infections. Minnesota allowed in-person dining to resume this week, and Michigan is poised to do the same. Some bars and restaurants in Kansas City are extending their hours.

In addition to the first-time applications for unemployment aid last week, the government said 5.3 million Americans are still receiving state jobless benefits, up from 5.1 million in the previous week.

Many more Americans are receiving jobless aid from two federal programs — one that provides

extended benefits to people who exhausted their state aid and another that supplies benefits to self-employed and contract workers.

Those two programs had expired near the end of December. They were belatedly renewed, through mid-March, in a \$900 billion rescue aid package that Congress approved and President Donald Trump signed into law. That package also includes \$600 relief checks for most adults and a supplemental unemployment benefit payment of \$300 a week. Congressional Democrats favor boosting the checks to \$2,000 and extending federal aid beyond March, as does President-elect Joe Biden.

The U.S. job market's weakness was made painfully clear in the December employment report that the government issued last week. Employers shed jobs for the first time since April as the pandemic tightened its grip on consumers and businesses.

The figures also depicted a sharply uneven job market: The losses last month were concentrated among restaurants, bars, hotels and entertainment venues — places that provide in-person services that some governments have restricted or that consumers are avoiding. Educational services, mostly colleges and universities, also cut workers in December. So did film and music studios.

Most other large industries, though, reported job gains. Many economists had expected last spring that job losses would spread to more industries. Though all sectors of the economy initially laid off workers, most of them have avoided deep layoffs. Manufacturing, construction, and professional services like engineering and architecture, for example, all added jobs in December.

New cases above 1.5K in Tokyo; US military in Japan reports 13 cases

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Japan's capital city counted more than 1,400 new coronavirus cases for a second consecutive day, while the U.S. military listed 13 across the country as of 6 p.m. Thursday.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government reported 1,502 new infections Thursday, according to public broadcaster NHK. One week prior, the city marked its highest one-day total of 2,447. With the new cases Thursday, the city passed 80,000 pandemic infections.

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, 26 miles southwest of Hiroshima, on Thursday reported

via Facebook that five people had tested positive over the previous day. None of the newly infected were in quarantine when they contracted the virus.

At the Marine Corps' Camp MCTureous on Okinawa, Bechtel Elementary School had one person test positive, according to a message Wednesday from Principal Gordon LynCook to school staff and families. The school remained open Thursday and no classes are scheduled Friday due to a teacher workday.

Classes resume there Tuesday. An unspecified number of teachers will remain home and provide virtual instruction after having contact with the infected per-

son, LynCook wrote in a Facebook post Thursday. Substitutes will be present in those classrooms, he wrote.

The Marines reported seven new patients Thursday at four bases on Okinawa: three at Camp Kinser, two at Camp Schwab and one each at Camps Hansen and Courtney.

At Yokota Air Base, the headquarters in western Tokyo of U.S. Forces Japan, the base commander on Thursday banned dining inside off-base restaurants in Chiba, Kanagawa, Tokyo, Saitama, Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo, Aichi, Gifu, Tochigi and Fukuoka prefectures from 8 p.m.-5 a.m. until Feb. 7. Takeout and delivery of

food is still permitted.

Those prefectures are under a state of emergency declared by the government of Japan.

Commanders elsewhere, including Misawa Air Base and the Army's Camp Zama, have imposed the same prohibition in their areas.

U.S. Forces Korea on Thursday provided more information about seven people who tested positive the previous day at Yongsan Garrison, the Army post in Seoul.

One Defense Department civilian employee and four contractors at Yongsan have quarantined at their homes off-base since Jan. 8 after they had contact with

another infected person, according to a USFK news release. The sixth person is the spouse of an affected contractor and quarantined Saturday.

The seventh is a Defense Department employee with no direct connection to the other six. He last visited Yongsan on Jan. 7. He fell ill with symptoms of COVID-19, the coronavirus respiratory disease, and sought treatment, according to USFK.

USFK reported that another seven civilians at Yongsan had tested positive for the virus between Jan. 7 and Tuesday.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

Defiance of virus dining bans grows as restaurants flounder

Associated Press

BORING, Ore. — A line formed out the door during the lunch rush at the Carver Hangar, a family-owned restaurant and sports bar, and waitresses zipped in and out of the kitchen trying to keep up with orders as customers backed up in the lobby.

Indoor dining has been banned in much of Oregon for nearly two months, but the eatery 20 miles southeast of Portland was doing a booming business — and an illegal one. The restaurant's owners, Bryan and Liz Mitchell, fully reopened Jan. 1 in defiance of Democratic Gov. Kate Brown's COVID-19 indoor dining ban in their county despite the risk of heavy fines and surging coronavirus cases.

"We're not going to back down because our employees still need to eat, they still need that income," said Bryan Mitchell, as customers ate at tables spaced 6 feet apart. "The statement that we're making is, 'Every life is essential. You have the right to survive. Nobody should tell you what you can and cannot do to provide for your family.'"

Health officials in Oregon and other states with bans say they are necessary because people can't wear masks when they eat, are in close proximity in smaller and often poorly ventilated spaces, and are prone to talk more loudly in a crowded dining room — all known contributors to viral spread. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lists indoor dining as a "particularly high-risk" activity.

But even as coronavirus deaths soar, a growing number of restaurants in states across the country are reopening in defiance of strict COVID-19 rules that have shut them down for indoor dining for weeks, or even months. Restaurants can serve people outside or offer carry-out, but winter weather has crippled revenues from patio dining.

Illinois

CHICAGO — Chicago teachers punished for refusing to show up for the start of in-person classes over COVID-19 concerns, demonstrated Wednesday outside the school board president's home.

Roughly 150 employees were docked pay and locked out of Chicago Public Schools systems earlier this week, meaning they can't teach remotely either as classes began this week for thousands of pre-kindergarten and special education students. District officials said late Wednesday that the num-

ber had dropped to 100 as staff members either returned to work or presented a valid excuse, such as a quarantine.

Dozens bundled up in winter gear for a "teach in" outside Chicago Board of Education President Miguel del Valle's home. Those who've lost access to school email and teaching platforms recorded videos or Facebook Live streams for their students. Others protested in solidarity and continued remote lessons from the lawn.

With strong objections from the Chicago Teachers Union, the nation's third-largest district has experienced a bumpy start to its gradual return to in-person instruction after going remote last March.

Pre-kindergarten and some special education students were given the option to come back to class this week or continue online. About 6,000 students expressed interest in returning, but district officials haven't released updated attendance data.

Maine

PORTLAND — The number of COVID-19 infections continues to soar in Maine, reaching a new daily record on Wednesday, as the state made plans to update its vaccine plan to prioritize older residents.

The daily number of confirmed infections reported by the Maine Center for Disease Control grew to more than 820 on Wednesday, surpassing the previous high of at least 780 on Friday. There also were four more deaths.

Maine's seven-day average for new infections was at more than 580, an increase from at least 510 a week ago and from nearly 365 a month ago.

Democratic Gov. Janet Mills announced that Maine's coronavirus vaccination plan has been updated to follow new federal guidelines recommending that states prioritize older residents. She said the state will start by dedicating a considerable amount of the state's vaccine supply to residents 70 years of age and older.

Maine has the nation's oldest population, and the virus is especially dangerous to older people and people with underlying health conditions. The vaccination plan also focuses on immunizing emergency service personnel, critical infrastructure workers and residents with high-risk medical conditions.

New York

NEW YORK — The federal government must speed the delivery



TED S. WARREN / AP

A person walks through an entrance to the Farm Boy Drive-In restaurant during a Jan. 4 protest rally near Olympia, Wash. The restaurant has been facing fines and penalties for continuing to offer inside dining despite current restrictions on the practice in Washington state due to the coronavirus pandemic.

of COVID-19 vaccine doses to New York as appointments are snapped up as quickly as they go online, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said Wednesday.

"At the end of the day, this is a supply issue and we need the federal government to provide us with more vaccine as quickly as possible because there is simply not enough and this is the weapon that will win the war," Cuomo said.

The Democratic governor said more than 7 million people statewide are now eligible to be vaccinated but the state is receiving just 300,000 vaccine doses a week from the federal government. "We are making the vaccine available based on federal guidance and are continuing to push it out the door quickly and efficiently, but due to the federal government's limited allocation, appointments are filling up fast," Cuomo said in a statement.

De Blasio said at his daily coronavirus briefing that the city will run out of vaccine next week "unless we get a major resupply."

With new 24-hour mass vaccination sites opening daily, de Blasio said the city is on track to meet its goal of administering 175,000 vaccine doses this week.

North Carolina

CHAPEL HILL — The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill reported a COVID-19 cluster on Wednesday that it said involved students who stayed on the campus during winter break.

The school said the cases were found through surveillance testing of students who lived at Carmichael Residence Hall.

A "cluster" is defined by the

N.C. Department of Health and Human Services as five or more cases in close proximity. The people identified in the cluster have been identified and are isolating and receiving medical monitoring at a different residence hall set aside for quarantine and isolation, and their close contacts have also been tested and moved into quarantine, the school said.

Oregon

SALEM — Oregon has fined a Salem gym nearly \$127,000 for remaining open in defiance of COVID-19 restrictions.

Oregon Occupational Safety and Health announced Tuesday it had issued the fine to Capitol Racquet Sports for willfully refusing to comply with state health orders at one of its Courthouse Club Fitness locations in Salem, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

The gym will have 30 days to decide whether to appeal. It appealed prior sanctions.

Gyms in counties deemed "extreme risk" for COVID-19 spread have not been allowed to conduct indoor operations since late November under Gov. Kate Brown's framework for COVID-19 restrictions. The regulations came after Brown mandated that gyms close entirely for two weeks in early November.

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo on Wednesday promised a smooth transition in the state's response to the coronavirus when Lt. Gov. Daniel McKee takes over if she is confirmed as President-elect Joe Biden's commerce secretary.

"We will not miss a beat," the Democratic governor said in her

first news conference since before Christmas and her first since her nomination last week.

"I have every confidence in him and I know he is ready to step up on day one," she said.

McKee in his own brief statement praised Raimondo for her response to the pandemic and congratulated her on her nomination, something he said the whole state could be proud of.

He said he is confident because her office has communicated with him to keep him abreast of developments in the state's pandemic response all along.

Vermont

BURLINGTON — The University of Vermont is hoping to give students more room to study when they return to campus for the spring session.

The Burlington school has erected two large tents at different locations that can be used, as UVM spokesperson Enrique Corredera puts it, for "appropriately distanced auxiliary space, including for studying."

The Burlington Free Press reports both of the steel-framed structures have solid floors, are fully lit and will be fully wired for studying. They also will be warmed with industrial-sized propane heaters.

The tents will be ready for the spring semester, which begins Feb. 1.

Corredera says the tents will be taken down when the weather warms in the spring.

On Wednesday, the Vermont Health Department reported 118 new cases of the virus that causes COVID-19, bringing the statewide total since the pandemic began to just under 9,370.

NATION

Alone: More Republican lawmakers turn against Trump

FROM PAGE 1

out at the heavily fortified U.S. Capitol. There, the damage from last week's riots provided a visible reminder of the insurrection that the president was accused of inciting.

Abandoned by some in his own party, Trump could do nothing but watch history unfold on television. The suspension of his Twitter account deprived Trump of his most potent means to keep Republicans in line, giving a sense that Trump had been defanged and, for the first time, his hold on his adopted party was in question.

He was finally heard from hours after the vote, in a subdued video that condemned the insurrection at the Capitol and warned his supporters from engaging in any further violence. It was a message that was largely missing one week earlier, when rioters marching in Trump's name descended on the Capitol to try to prevent Congress from certifying President-elect Joe Biden's victory.

"I want to be very clear: I unequivocally condemn the violence that we saw last week," said Trump. He added that "no true supporter" of his "could ever endorse political violence."

But that message, partially motivated to warn off legal exposure for sparking the riot, ran contrary to what Trump has said throughout his term, including when he urged his supporters to "fight" for him last week.

Trump said not a word about his impeachment in the video, though he complained about the ban on his social media. And later Wednesday, he asked allies if he had gone too far with the video, wondering if it might upset some of his supporters. Four White House officials and Republicans close to the West Wing discussed Trump's private conversations on



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., gaveling in the final vote of the impeachment of President Donald Trump on Wednesday. Trump is said to have incited the angry mob that stormed the Capitol last week.

condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to do so publicly.

With only a week left in Trump's term, there were no bellicose messages from the White House fighting the proceedings on the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue and no organized legal response. Some congressional Republicans did defend the president during House debate in impeachment, their words carrying across the same space violated by rioters one week earlier during a siege of the citadel of democracy that left five dead.

In the end, 10 Republicans voted to impeach.

It was a marked change from Trump's first impeachment. That December 2019 vote in the House, which made Trump only the third president ever impeached, played out along partisan lines. The charges then were

that he had used the powers of the office to pressure Ukraine to investigate a political foe, Biden, now the president-elect.

At that time, the White House was criticized for failing to create the kind of robust "war room" that President Bill Clinton mobilized during his own impeachment fight. Nonetheless, Trump allies did mount their own pushback campaign. There were lawyers, White House messaging meetings, and a media blitz run by allies on conservative television, radio and websites.

Trump was acquitted in 2020 by the GOP-controlled Senate and his approval ratings were undamaged. But this time, as some members of his own party recoiled and accused him of committing impeachable offenses, Trump was isolated and quiet. A presidency centered on the bombastic declaration "I alone can fix

it" seemed to be ending with a whimper.

The third-ranking Republican in the House, Rep. Liz Cheney, of Wyoming, said there had "never been a greater betrayal" by a president. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., told colleagues in a letter that he had not decided how he would vote in an impeachment trial.

For the first time, Trump's future seemed in doubt, and what was once unthinkable — that enough Republican senators would defy him and vote to remove him from office — seemed at least possible, if unlikely.

But there was no effort from the White House to line up votes in the president's defense.

The team around Trump is hollowed out, with the White House counsel's office not drawing up a legal defense plan and the legislative affairs team largely aban-

doned. Trump leaned on Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., to push Republican senators to oppose removal. Graham's spokesman said the senator was making the calls of his own volition.

Trump and his allies believed that the president's sturdy popularity with the lawmakers' GOP constituents would deter them from voting against him. The president was livid with perceived disloyalty from McConnell and Cheney and has been deeply frustrated that he could not hit back with his Twitter account, which has kept Republicans in line for years.

His paramount concern, beyond his legacy, was what a second impeachment could do to his immediate political and financial future.

The loss of his Twitter account and fundraising lists could complicate Trump's efforts to remain a GOP kingmaker and potentially run again in 2024. Moreover, Trump seethed at the blows being dealt to his business, including the withdrawal of a PGA tournament from one of his golf courses and the decision by New York City to cease dealings with his company.

There's the possibility that if the Senate were to convict him, he also could be barred from seeking election again, dashing any hopes of another presidential campaign.

The reminders of the Capitol siege were everywhere as the House moved toward the impeachment roll call.

Some of the Capitol's doors were broken and windows were shattered. A barricade had gone up around outside the building and there were new checkpoints. Hundreds of members of the National Guard patrolled the hallways, even sleeping on the marble floors of the same rotunda that once housed Abraham Lincoln's casket.

Ex-Navy SEAL questioned by FBI on Capitol riot involvement

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A retired Navy SEAL who described "breaching the Capitol" in a Facebook video is now being questioned by the FBI about his involvement in last week's violent riot, according to a news report.

Adam Newbold, 45, from Lisbon, Ohio, recorded a now-deleted video when he was returning from Washington, saying he was "proud" of the riot that happened at the Capitol building, ABC News reported. The news organization was able to obtain a copy of the video before it was deleted.

From the 30 seconds of video that ABC News posted, Newbold appears to reference lawmakers who returned to the Capitol after the riot ended to conclude the certification of the election.

"What did get destroyed — and they're obviously trying to overcome now — again

maybe they're just — they just didn't get the message, unfortunately. I'm hoping the message was strong enough. Unfortunately, maybe it wasn't. I hate to see this escalate more," he said.

The Navy confirmed Wednesday that Newbold is a retired senior chief petty officer, or E-8, who served more than 23 years. Most of his career, he was either training or based at an "East Coast naval special warfare unit" until he retired from the Navy Reserve in 2017, according to details of his service record provided by the Navy.

Newbold has deployed to Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, according to his military awards. Newbold has also received the Joint Service Commendation Medal, two Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medals with Combat "V" for valor, the Army Commendation Medal, and four Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals, according

to his service record.

In a Facebook video by Newbold posted the night before the riot, he said there are "good people on all sides of this thing" but they "can no longer be quiet."

"It's time to stand up and take our country back, and make sure that we are being respectful and doing things in the right way. We are not going down looking for a fight, keep that in mind ... we are just very prepared, very capable, and very skilled patriots ready for a fight. And we will react without hesitation when called upon to do so," he said.

Newbold told ABC News that he had been questioned by the FBI about his activities at the Capitol building and a second interview had been requested. An FBI spokeswoman from the Washington, D.C. Field Office would not confirm Wednesday that he is being questioned, saying the bureau does not

comment on specific investigations.

Newbold said he now regrets being in the crowd and he had gotten caught up in the moment to try to stop the election certification and that the riot on the Capitol "was all taken too far," according to ABC News.

In the deleted video after the riot, he defended the people who broke into the Capitol, saying they had to destroy doors and windows to get in to "our building, our house," according to ABC News.

He denied harming any police officers at the Capitol or entering the building. However, in the video, he described details of the damage caused by rioters. Now his life "has absolutely turned upside-down."

"I am not a terrorist. I am not a traitor," Newbold told ABC News.

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NATION

Expecting unrest, DC locks down for inauguration

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — All through downtown Washington, the primary sound for several blocks was the beeping of forklifts unloading more fencing.

There were no cars or scooters and seemingly no tourists Wednesday, just the occasional jogger and multiple construction crews at work. The U.S. Capitol that proved such a soft target last week was visible only through lines of tall, black fence.

Two blocks from the White House, a group of uniformed National Guard troops emerged from a tour bus and headed into a hotel as a state of lockdown descended on Washington that will last through the Jan. 20 inauguration.

“Clearly we are in uncharted waters,” said Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser.

Last week’s “violent insurrection” at the Capitol by supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump has “impacted the way we are approaching working with our federal partners in planning for

the 59th inauguration,” Bowser said Wednesday.

The FBI has warned that armed protests by violent Trump supporters were being planned in all 50 state capitals as well as in Washington for the days leading up to the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden.

Between the pandemic and the security threat, Bowser is flat-out asking people not to come to the District of Columbia for the inauguration. And at Bowser’s request, a National Special Security Event declaration was moved up to Jan. 13, a distinction which she said “puts in place an entirely different command and control structure” for security.

The NSSE status is normal for a presidential inauguration and other major events like an international summit or the Super Bowl. But it’s rare to start the lockdown so far in advance of the event.

Police vehicles sealed off a huge swath of downtown D.C. Wednesday, causing immediate traffic



MANUEL BALCE CENETA / AP

Members of the National Guard gather inside the Capitol Visitor Center, on Wednesday, in Washington.

snarls. Starting Wednesday, Bowser said, anyone inside the inauguration perimeter might be stopped and questioned. Starting Friday, all parking garages in the downtown restricted zone will be sealed through the inauguration.

Bowser is also being pushed to deny lodging options to potentially violent protesters. The local Black Lives Matter affiliate and Shutdown DC issued a joint statement Wednesday urging all downtown hotels to voluntarily close and pay their staffs. In addition to the threat of violence, the activist groups say Trump supporters are a threat to the health of hotel staff

for their general refusal to wear facemasks amid the pandemic. Several downtown hotels, including one which had become a favorite hangout of the militant Proud Boy faction, chose to avoid trouble by closing last week.

“Closing hotels completely for these six nights is the only way to guarantee the safety of hotel workers, neighbors, vulnerable and unhoused residents, incoming administration officials, members of Congress, and our democracy,” the statement said. “If hotels do not willingly close, we ask Mayor Bowser to extend today’s emergency order and close all hotels in

the city.”

On Wednesday, Airbnb announced it was canceling all reservations in the Washington metro area. Bowser said she had been in regular contact with Airbnb officials since last week, but did not specifically request this step.

“We are aware of reports emerging yesterday afternoon regarding armed militias and known hate groups that are attempting to travel and disrupt the Inauguration,” a company statement said. “We are continuing our work to ensure hate group members are not part of the Airbnb community.”

Trial: Trump to be first president tried while out of office

FROM PAGE 1

other capital cities, under high security amid threats of more violence around the inauguration.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has not said when she will take the next step to transmit the impeachment article, a sole charge of incitement of insurrection. Some senior Democrats have proposed holding back the article to give Biden and Congress time to focus on his new administration’s priorities.

Biden has said the Senate should be able to split its time and do both.

The impeachment trial will be the first for a president no longer in office. And, politically, it will force a reckoning among some Republicans who have stood by Trump throughout his presidency and largely allowed him to spread false attacks against the integrity of the 2020 election.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell is open to considering impeachment, having told associates he is done with Trump, but has not signaled how he would vote.

Convening the trial will be among his last acts as majority

leader, as two new senators from Georgia, both Democrats, are to be sworn into office leaving the chamber divided 50-50. That tips the majority to the Democrats once Kamala Harris takes office, as the vice president is a tie-breaker.

In a note to colleagues Wednesday, McConnell said he had “not made a final decision on how I will vote” in a Senate impeachment trial.

With the Capitol secured by armed National Guard troops inside and out, the House voted 232-197 on Wednesday to impeach Trump. The proceedings moved at lightning speed, with lawmakers voting just one week after violent pro-Trump loyalists stormed the Capitol, egged on by the president’s calls for them to “fight like hell” against the election results.

Ten Republicans fled Trump, joining Democrats who said he needed to be held accountable and warned ominously of a “clear and present danger” if Congress should leave him unchecked before Democrat Joe Biden’s inauguration Jan. 20. It was the most bipartisan presidential impeachment in modern times, more so

than against Bill Clinton in 1998.

The Capitol insurrection stunned and angered lawmakers, who were sent scrambling for safety as the mob descended, and it revealed the fragility of the nation’s history of peaceful transfers of power.

Pelosi invoked Abraham Lincoln and the Bible, imploring lawmakers to uphold their oath to defend the Constitution from all enemies, foreign “and domestic.”

She said of Trump: “He must go, he is a clear and present danger to the nation that we all love.”

Holed up at the White House, watching the proceedings on TV, Trump later released a video statement in which he made no mention at all of the impeachment but appealed to his supporters to refrain from any further violence or disruption of Biden’s inauguration.

“Like all of you, I was shocked and deeply saddened by the calamity at the Capitol last week,” he said, his first condemnation of the attack. He appealed for unity “to move forward” and said, “Mob violence goes against everything I believe in and everything our movement stands for. ... No true

supporter of mine could ever disrespect law enforcement.”

Trump was first impeached by the House in 2019 over his dealings with Ukraine, but the Senate voted in 2020 acquit.

No president has been convicted by the Senate, but Republicans have said that could change in the rapidly shifting political environment as officeholders, donors, big business and others peel away from the defeated president.

Conviction and removal of Trump would require a two-thirds vote in the Senate.

Biden said in a statement after the vote that it was his hope the Senate leadership “will find a way to deal with their Constitutional responsibilities on impeachment while also working on the other urgent business of this nation.”

Unlike his first time, Trump faces this impeachment as a weakened leader, having lost his own reelection as well as the Senate Republican majority.

In making a case for the “high crimes and misdemeanors” demanded in the Constitution, the four-page impeachment resolution relies on Trump’s own incendiary rhetoric and the falsehoods

he spread about Biden’s election victory, including at a rally near the White House on the day of the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

The impeachment resolution is also intended to prevent Trump from ever running again.

A Capitol Police officer died from injuries suffered in the riot, and police shot and killed a woman during the siege. Three other people died in what authorities said were medical emergencies. The riot delayed the tally of Electoral College votes which was the last step in finalizing Biden’s victory.

Ten Republican lawmakers, including third-ranking House GOP leader Liz Cheney of Wyoming, voted to impeach Trump, cleaving the Republican leadership, and the party itself.

Cheney, whose father is the former Republican vice president, said of Trump’s actions summoning the mob that “there has never been a greater betrayal by a President” of his office.

The president’s sturdy popularity with the GOP lawmakers’ constituents still had some sway, and most House Republicans voted not to impeach.

NATION

FAA order aimed at cracking down on unruly flyers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal officials said they are taking aggressive aim at security concerns that have surfaced in the wake of violence at the U.S. Capitol last week, including cracking down on unruly airplane passengers and potentially placing those who participated in the riot on the no-fly list.

Federal Aviation Administration chief Steve Dickson signed an order Wednesday that creates an “enforcement program” targeted at passengers who “assault, threaten, intimidate or interfere” with crew members while flying.

“The FAA has recently observed a proliferation of such conduct, including conduct stemming from the failure to wear masks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic-related health measures in place on board aircraft or conduct following the January 6, 2021 violence at the U.S. Capitol,” the agency said. “This bulletin announces an FAA special emphasis enforcement program to more effectively address and deter such conduct by passengers.”

The order comes one day after Steven D’Antuono, head of the FBI’s Washington Field Office, said the agency was “actively looking at” placing the rioters on the federal no-fly list. It was the first time FBI officials acknowledged publicly they were considering that step.

In recent days, lawmakers have questioned whether enough is being done to prevent a repeat of the violence that shook the Capitol.

Among the measures being considered is using the no-fly list to block people from returning to Washington in the days leading to the inauguration.

That issue will likely be raised by law enforcement officials during a Thursday briefing for members of the House Homeland Security Committee.

Committee Chairman Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., was among the first lawmakers to demand that rioters be placed on the no-fly list — a call echoed Tuesday by Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, also called for rioters to be banned from flying.

Others disagreed that the list should be expanded to include those involved in the insurrection.

“The No Fly List has been used since its inception to unjustly target Black and Brown people, particularly Muslims, and is a due process nightmare,” Manar Waheed, senior legislative and advocacy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, which has sued the government over the list, said in a statement. “Doubling down on it now will simply further entrench an error-prone and unconstitutional system that will continue to be used unfairly against people of color.”

Rather than expand the list, Waheed called on President-elect Joe Biden to review it and along with lawmakers, “work toward overhauling or ending this watch list once and for all.”



DREW PERINE, THE NEWS TRIBUNE/AP

A windstorm toppled a large tree onto a house in Tacoma, Wash., early Wednesday, trapping a woman in bed. Firefighters were able to extricate the woman and take her to a hospital.

Northwest storm kills 1, causes a landslide and power outages

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — A powerful wind storm rolled through the Pacific Northwest, killing one person and leaving a trail of damage — including a highway shut down after a landslide and a tractor-trailer that was nearly blown off a bridge. More than 500,000 people lost power.

The death happened in Spokane, when a woman in her 40s died after a tree fell on her car and trapped her inside, city Fire Chief Brian Schaeffer said. In Oregon, authorities said Jennifer Camus Moore, 50, was driving a vehicle believed to be swept away after a landslide hit Interstate 84, authorities said.

Winds reached gusts 50 to 70 mph in parts of the Puget Sound region as the storm blew through on the tail end of several inches of rain that left the ground saturated and conditions ripe for trees to

fall, KOMO-TV reported.

As of early Wednesday, Seattle had received 20% of its normal annual rainfall, according to the National Weather Service.

High winds blew down trees across the greater Spokane region. Avista, a Spokane-based utility, reported that more than 70,000 customers were without power Wednesday morning. About 430,000 customers elsewhere in Washington state and in Oregon also lost electrical service, officials said.

The city’s public schools were closed for in-person and virtual learning Wednesday morning, and Eastern Washington University also canceled both in-person and online classes.

In Oregon, residents of the small community of Dodson were told to evacuate after the National Weather Service issued a flash flood warning Wednesday morn-

ing, KOIN-TV reported.

The weather service told residents to call friends in the area to wake them up and tweeted that the situation has been “deemed too dangerous to send in rescue crews.”

Near Dodson, part of Interstate 84 was closed after the landslide spilled onto the freeway before dawn.

The landslide was estimated to be 10 feet deep in some areas and too dangerous for search and rescue crews. Heavy machinery was being brought in to clear the debris, officials said. Several rivers began overflowing their banks in Oregon, and a tractor-trailer in Washington state blew over amid heavy wind gusts as it attempted to travel over the Deception Pass Bridge north of Seattle, officials said. Part of the truck was left dangling over the edge of the bridge, but the driver escaped unharmed.

Trump administration slashes land for imperiled spotted owls’ habitat

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Trump administration said Wednesday that it would slash millions of acres of protected habitat designated for the imperiled northern spotted owl in Oregon, Washington state and Northern California, much of it in prime timber locations in Oregon’s coastal ranges.

Environmentalists immediately decried the move and accused the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under President Donald Trump of taking a parting shot at protections designed to help restore the species in favor of the timber industry. The tiny owl is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and was rejected for

an upgrade to endangered status last year by the federal agency despite losing nearly 4% of its population annually.

“This revision guts protected habitat for the northern spotted owl by more than a third. It’s Trump’s latest parting gift to the timber industry and another blow to a species that needs all the protections it can get to fully recover,” said Noah Greenwald, endangered species director for the Center for Biological Diversity.

Timber groups applauded the decision, which won’t take effect for 60 days. More thinning and management of protected forests is necessary to prevent wildfires, which devastated about 300 acres of spotted owl habitat last fall, said

Travis Joseph, president of the American Forest Resources Council.

Loss of the ability to log in areas protected for the spotted owl has devastated rural communities, he said. The 3.4 million acres removed from federal protections Wednesday includes all of Oregon’s so-called O&C lands, which are big timber territory. The more than 2 million acres are spread in a checkerboard pattern over 18 counties in western Oregon.

“This rule rights a wrong imposed on rural communities and businesses, and gives us a chance to restore balance to federal forest management and species conservation in the Pacific Northwest,” Joseph said.



DON RYAN/AP

A Northern Spotted Owl flies after a mouse jumping off the end of a stick in the Deschutes National Forest near Camp Sherman, Ore.

SCIENCE

Columbia struggles with invasive hippos

By SARAH KAPLAN
The Washington Post

It was hard enough to find the hippo, a massive, ornery male with a reputation for harassing local ranchers. For three long months, the scientists tracked it through the Colombian countryside, staking out lakes, traipsing through brush and camping on nearby farms.

But castrating it — that was an almost herculean task. They had to inject it with a potent elephant tranquilizer before it was safe to approach. Even with the hippo immobilized, it was surprisingly difficult to locate his, ahem, parts.

“It was horrible,” recalled David Echeverri Lopez, a researcher at the regional environmental agency Cornare who led the 2013 sterilization effort. “You cannot just go on the Internet and Google, ‘what to do with a hippopotamus?’ ”

After all, the creature belonged on the other side of the ocean, in the savannas and forests of sub-Saharan Africa. But in the 1980s, drug kingpin Pablo Escobar smuggled four hippos onto his private country estate. Now dozens of its wild spawn roam the wetlands north of Bogota, the largest invasive species on the planet.

Locals see the hippos as an unofficial mascot. But to scientists, they are an ecological menace, competing with native wildlife and polluting local waterways. Occasionally, they have even attacked humans.

Now a study forecasts that the invasive hippo population will swell to almost 1,500 individuals by 2040. At that point, their environmental impacts will be irreversible and their numbers impossible to control. Something needs to be done — and soon.

In the beginning, there were only four hippos. How much trouble could they cause? So reasoned Colombian officials charged with dismantling Escobar’s sprawling country estate after his death in 1993. They were reluctant to approach the animals, each highly aggressive and roughly the size and weight of a four-door sedan. While most of the drug lord’s exotic animals were sent to zoos, the hippos — three females and one male — were allowed to roam.

That was the first mistake.

In their natural habitat, hippos spend the long dry season crowded into waterways that have shrunk to puddles. There, they are vulnerable to disease and predation — not to mention one another’s bad tempers.

But tropical Colombia is “hippo paradise,” Echeverri said. Rain is abundant, food is plentiful and there are no carnivores large enough to pose a threat. The animals spend five hours a day grazing on grasses and the rest of their



USO/Getty Images/iStockphoto

A hippopotamus yawns among companions in their native Africa, where predators and disease moderate their population.

time basking in the cool waters of the Magdalena River and surrounding lakes.

Whereas most African communities are justifiably leery of hippos — the creatures kill more people annually than any other large mammal — their Colombian neighbors are captivated by them. Gift shops in nearby Puerto Triunfo sell hippo keychains and T-shirts. At the amusement park that was built on the site of Escobar’s former pleasure palace, visitors can tour the lake where several dozen hippos now live. Occasionally, one will plod into a nearby community, looking as blasé as a shopper on his way to the grocery store.

“The hippopotamus is the town pet,” resident Claudia Patricia Camacho told the news program Noticias Caracol in 2018. “You could say that he now takes to the street as if they were his own.”

Yet human-hippo interactions aren’t usually friendly. In 2009, after a trio of escapees from Hacienda Napoles were reported terrorizing local farms, Colombia’s environmental agency sent a team of hunters after the animals with an order to shoot on sight.

But then a photo emerged showing the soldiers posing with the carcass of one of the adults, named Pepe. Animal rights activists denounced the killing; “They could have been captured and kept in a safe place until a permanent refuge was found for them,” Marcela Ramirez, a member of the local Animal Protection Network, told Reuters at the time.

A judge issued a ruling suspending the hunt for Pepe’s mate and offspring, and it became illegal to kill hippos in the country. That’s when Echeverri launched

“You cannot just go on the Internet and Google, ‘what to do with a hippopotamus?’ ”

David Echeverri Lopez

researcher at the regional environmental agency Cornare

his sterilization campaign.

After their early, exhausting effort to track an animal in the wild, the team decided to try corralling one. They piled carrots and fruit in the center of a wooden pen and waited for a hungry hippo to stroll through.

“But the corral didn’t work,” Echeverri said, speaking in Spanish over Zoom. “When he felt like he was enclosed, he jumped,” crushing the wooden barrier and escaping into the trees.

He added, “I didn’t know they could jump.”

Though male hippos have what scientists politely term “spatially dynamic testes” (their genitalia is retractable, and can hide in an opening called the inguinal canal), females’ reproductive organs proved even harder to find. “We didn’t understand the female anatomy,” Echeverri said. “We tried to do it on several occasions and were always unsuccessful.”

Eventually he found the answer: Trap the hippo in a pen. Make sure the walls are high. Don’t bother with the females. But the process remains dangerous, time consuming and costly, especially for his low-budget agency. Echeverri is able to castrate roughly one hippo per year, whereas scientists estimate that the population grows by 10% annually.

A 2020 study of hippo-inhabited

lakes found that nutrients in the animals’ feces were fueling huge blooms of bacteria and algae. These in turn reduced the oxygen content of the water, making it toxic to fish.

“We saw oxygen levels that were getting to levels where you would expect to see fish start to go belly up,” said Jonathan Shurin, an ecologist at the University of California at San Diego who has worked with Echeverri to evaluate the hippos’ environmental impacts. There is concern that this will affect the region’s fishing industry.

In Africa, hippos act as ecosystem engineers, transferring nutrients from land to lakes and sculpting new channels for water as they tread across dry earth. Some researchers have suggested they could provide a similar service in their new home.

But Nataly Castelblanco-Martínez, a Colombian ecologist working at the University of Quintana Roo in Mexico, was skeptical of this hypothesis. Colombia’s lakes and rivers are already home to large native mammals. Giant, guinea-pig-like capybaras feed on the grasses and fruits now consumed by hippos. Threatened Amazonian manatees may be crowded out of their habitat by the aggressive newcomers.

Management of the hippo problem takes resources away from

Colombia’s hundreds of endangered animals, Castelblanco-Martínez said.

Animal rights activists “are concerned only for the hippo,” she continued. “They are missing the whole picture: the social picture, the economic picture, and the ecological picture, too.”

“The only efficient strategy to deal with the invasion,” Castelblanco-Martínez and her colleagues wrote in a population study published this month in the journal *Biological Conservation*, was “extraction” of 30 hippos per year, starting right now.

There’s no obvious place to put them. Puerto Triunfo has for years sought zoos willing to take the hippos, to no avail. No African nation would risk their own hippo population by reintroducing dozens of animals with mysterious origins and unknown behaviors.

The scientists say Colombia must consider a cull.

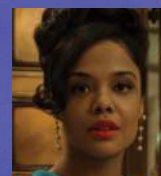
“Nobody likes the idea of shooting a hippo. I do not like it,” Castelblanco-Martínez said. “But no other strategy is going to work.”

This is what happens, she said, when a society fails to act on a problem until it becomes too dire to ignore. Relocation might have been feasible 30 years ago, when there were only four hippos. Castration could have been effective if officials had provided sufficient resources for the program early on. Now the sole remaining option is the most painful one.

Echeverri is less certain that killing the hippos is the only way to go.

He suggested it might be possible to sterilize or relocate the 50 or so hippos in the lake near Hacienda Napoles, and only cull those that have wandered farther afield.

WEEKEND



'Sylvie's Love' is a timely throwback

Movies, Page 15



Toast of the town

Morgan Wallen pours a double on new 30-track album that positions him as Nashville's next superstar

Page 28

Morgan Wallen performs at All for the Hall: Under the Influence benefiting the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville on Feb. 10, 2020.

JASON KEMPIN, COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM/TNS

WEEKEND: GADGETS & TECHNOLOGY

Live music free of distractions

Wooden speakers bring concerts to you without ads, lights or screens

BY GEOFF EDGERS
The Washington Post

In September, Norman Whiteside, a cult hero whose funk creations have been sampled by everyone from Frank Ocean to Kanye, sat down at a keyboard in his living room and played a gig.

This was no normal performance. In 30 minutes, Whiteside masterfully walked through his decades-old musical history. He talked about his influences, from Sly Stone to Al Green, and delivered snippets of song in their voices. But even as he offered this intimate performance, Whiteside admitted he found performing on Oda, a new, audio-only music service, took some getting used to.

The 67-year-old singer was in Columbus, Ohio. His audience could have been anywhere. They were listening on Oda's hand-built, square cedar speakers. There was no screen and no way for Whiteside to get feedback from those in the audience.

"While I was performing, I was saying, 'are two people listening to me, or are 100 people listening?'" he remembers. "Is anybody listening, or is this a prank?"

That will be part of the test for Oda (pronounced like Yoda), a concept developed long before the pandemic but coming online officially now, as if in response. The service launched Dec. 31 with a performance by multi-instrumentalist Laraaji, after a series of previews and tests throughout the fall. Oda was conceived by music technologist Nick Dangerfield, is being funded by Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian and is set to feature an eclectic group of musicians, including jazz singer Andy Bey, folkie Jessica Pratt, soul singers Don Bryant and Ann Peebles, the Microphones, minimalist pioneer Terry Riley and Whiteside.

Oda's creators never meant for the speakers to replace live music, even if the timing seems prescient. They say the service is an alternative to the Instagram Live and Facebook gigs that have been popping up during the pandemic as well as the seemingly endless scroll of virtual meetings. You cannot listen to an Oda concert on your phone, laptop or your Sonos speakers. The shows are transmitted through an illuminated box, or "lighthouse," that connects to the specially designed speakers, which cost \$299 a pair. Oda's business model is to earn most of its income off subscriptions. The first season, which runs through March, will be free as a kind of dress rehearsal. After that, subscribers will pay \$79 per season.

"We have so many ways to get distracted, and we're already seeing people looking for more minimalist experiences," Ohanian says. "What Oda does is it forces you to be present and just paying attention with your ears."

Music tech is a hard market to forecast. For every iPod and Spotify, there's Neil Young's Pono, the Toblerone-shaped player that fizzled quickly. Oda's developers stress that their concept stands out because it's both gear and an experience. Though nothing like Oda currently exists, there are several video concert services — Nugs.TV, Live from Here —



MELISSA BUNNI ELIAN/For The Washington Post

Multi-instrumentalist Edward Larry Gordon, known by his stage name Laraaji, plays Peruvian cacho seed pods Dec. 10 during a performance to test the Oda wooden speakers.



RACHEL TANG/Oda

Oda speakers are built by hand.

that have been thriving, particularly during the pandemic.

Dangerfield began work on what became Oda four years ago. He was a fan of Phil Elverum, the songwriter behind the Microphones and Mount Eerie. In 2015, Elverum's then-wife, Genevieve Castree, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Elverum let fans know he would have to stop performing to take care of his wife and their baby daughter. (Castree, just 35, died in 2016.)

Dangerfield, a fan whose work focuses on finding ways to connect music to people, plotted a way for Elverum to reach his audience without going on the road. He created a portable speaker that he could stream sound over.

"It was essentially like a baby monitor for an artist," Dangerfield says.

The trouble with the box is that it did not provide good sound.

"I went through an embarrassing demo with an artist manager," Dangerfield says. "Now that I listen to it, it sounds terrible."

Dangerfield worked on the sonics by connecting with Perry Brandston, a sound artist who had worked at New York's Fillmore East and CBGB's rock club, and acoustician Benjamin Zenker. Together, they developed the current speakers, which are meant to provide a clear, warm sound. Ohanian heard a performance by Laraaji on those speakers, while he bubbled on Long Island during the U.S. Open with his wife, tennis star Serena Williams.

"I was sitting in a rented house and set it up

on a pool table and just closed my eyes and listened," Ohanian says. "It felt like I was somewhere else. I'm not saying this as a passionate music lover. I'm saying it as a human being."

A lot of what drives Oda is Dangerfield's frustration with how music is distributed and consumed across digital platforms. Streaming services offer unlimited listening options, playing devices are packed with apps to allow multitasking and speakers are so mobile they can be slipped onto a bookshelf until they're almost forgotten. Music becomes the background to ever-looping activities of daily life.

To that end, Dangerfield initially didn't even want Oda subscribers to have the ability to play their own music through their phones on the speakers. He was overruled.

"I hate to sound like a grumpy old man, but I don't like where things are going," Dangerfield says.

Many of the artists Oda has signed find the focus appealing.

"I don't like being in front of my computer, and I don't want to make other people be in front of their computers," Elverum says. "I want to create reasons to be in the real world. If that means pausing live performance for some years, that's fine. This Oda thing has no screen and no buttons and it requires slowing down and simplicity and deeper attention in some way. In a way that a Zoom concert or steaming video doesn't."

"It's also free of interference," says Kristen McElwain, Oda's artistic director. "No brands, no advertisements. There's an audience that's present and really tuning in. Like you did pre-television."

For his Oda test show in September, Elverum, who lives in Orcas Island, Wash., set up in his bedroom. His daughter, Agathe, now 5, watched a video in another room. Elverum played some tapes — one with an organ, another with background fuzz — to create textures for the 90-minute performance.

"It felt a little scary because it was totally new for me," he says. "It made me realize how much I rely on the two-way communication between the audience and performer to give me constant validation. It's intense. It requires a lot of self-assurance."

GADGETS



Yeedi

The Yeedi K650 is compatible with Alexa and Google Home.

Clean up with this robot vac

BY GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

There's not a whole lot to like about house cleaning and especially vacuuming — unless it's automated with the new Yeedi K650, a pet- and kid-friendly home robot vacuum.

Yeedi states that it doesn't make consumers choose between affordability, deep-cleaning technology or design aesthetics — Yeedi delivers it all. And the company is true to its word.

The pet-friendly Yeedi K650 is app- and voice-controlled, has a quiet mode, 2000pa of suction power, two silicone tangle-free brushes, a main brush to sweep dirt into the suction area, and an 800ml XXL-sized dustbin for less emptying. A pair of big wheels help navigate different heights, which is handy going from floors to carpeting.

Setting up the Yeedi app is straightforward. Download it, create a free private account and pair the vacuum. The app works with multiple Yeedis.

There are three modes on the home screen: Edge cleaning handles all the corners and edges, where pet hair and dirt seem to gather. The auto mode cleans the whole house for up to 130 minutes. With the spot mode, if a small area requires cleaning, just put it in that area and start it up.

The front of the Yeedi K650 has anti-drop and anti-collision sensors to help keep it from knocking into walls, furniture, small children and even falling down the stairs.

When the battery is low, it returns to the home base charger, or you can end the vacuuming or send it to the charger with the app.

If the robot vacuum does come in contact with an obstacle, causing it to get tangled and stopped, the app alerts you. But where is it? Just tap the Find My Robot, and the Yeedi K650 will broadcast "I'm right here" from the vacuum.

The Yeedi K650 is compatible with Alexa and Google Home.

Online: www.yeedi.com;
\$149.99

WEEKEND: MOVIES



Amazon Prime photos

Tessa Thompson and Nnamdi Asomugha star in "Sylvie's Love," now streaming on Amazon Prime.

A timely period piece

'Sylvie's Love' puts Black couple at center of romantic drama set in 1950s and '60s

BY MARK OLSEN
Los Angeles Times

A blue gown, a chance encounter, a flame that won't ever truly dim — these are some of the building blocks of "Sylvie's Love," a romantic drama set in the late 1950s to early 1960s about a young couple who fall in love, though it is never the right time for them to truly be together.

Tessa Thompson stars as Sylvie, a young woman who works in her father's record store but dreams of being a television producer. Into the shop one day comes Robert (Nnamdi Asomugha), a rising jazz saxophone player who feels an immediate connection to Sylvie. Shot with the jewel tones reminiscent of classic Technicolor and staged in part on Hollywood studio backlots, "Sylvie's Love" looks like a throwback to an earlier era. But by placing a Black couple at its center, it depicts the romantic passions and interior lives of characters that would typically have been pushed to the edges of the story back in the day.

The project was always rooted in the romantic travails of two young Black lives. But in the time since its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2020 — it is now streaming on Amazon Prime Video — not only has the world been changed by a pandemic, but it has also seen an increased consciousness around racial justice in America. Both of those events strengthen what the movie was already trying to accomplish.

"The thing with period pieces for me is the ones that are most effective are the ones that do speak to the moment that we're in. And you can't really prepare for that," said writer-director Eugene Ashe. "We just made the movie we wanted to

make, and then it just kind of turned into this whole other thing because of the time we're in. People are fatigued by trauma. So seeing more Black bodies being killed or hosed down, as we see in so many period pieces about the civil rights movement or slavery, people aren't really here for that right now.

"All I have to do is open up my family photo albums to see a very different depiction of Black life in the '60s," Ashe added. "We still live life just like right now. We are still having babies and falling in love even in the midst of a pandemic. I've said kind of only half-jokingly that even Malcolm X and Martin Luther King still got married and had kids."

For Asomugha, who spent 11 seasons as a cornerback in the NFL, the storyline of how his character had to transition from leading a jazz group to playing as a session musician for Motown, rolling with the times and career changes, was personally resonant.

Since retiring from football, Asomugha has been involved as a producer on films such as "Beasts of No Nation" and "Harriet" and acted in and produced projects including "Crown Heights." Having come to "Sylvie's Love" as an actor, Asomugha eventually got involved as a producer also.

"The goal was to bring the type of film that our parents never got to see," he said, "in terms of the characters looking like them and being in a glorious period and just being able to laugh and dance without worrying about all of the societal issues that were going on."

"We couldn't have imagined the timing," said Thompson. "I had always been attracted to this idea of making a story that was set in the past, but centered on the interpersonal, as opposed to the politi-

cal. That was always something that Eugene pitched me and that I thought was really compelling. And I think it has new resonance now when we are talking around Black life and how it matters and how it should be valued and centered and protected."

Thompson has become a very in-demand actress, including roles in television's "Westworld" and two of the "Thor" movies. "Sylvie's Love" was originally set to be shot in late spring 2019 in New York City and upstate, but things had to be moved up because of her schedule. The decision was made to shoot in Los Angeles, finding locations and using studio backlots to stand in for New York.

To create the film's look, Ashe collaborated with cinematographer Declan Quinn, shooting on Super-16 mm, along with production designer Mayne Berke and costume designer Phoenix Mellow.

According to Mellow, the costumes in the film ended up being about 80% vintage, 10% modern standing in for vintage and 10% custom.

Thompson had more than 50 costume changes. A few of the gowns she wore in the film were lent to the production from the archives of Chanel, thanks to the actress' relationship with the fashion house.

Thompson recalled the moment the Chanel gowns — designed by Karl Lagerfeld — arrived, in particular a blue gown for a key scene that the production had been struggling to find or make.

"And it was just incredible, just so perfect. It was definitely one of those moments," said Thompson. "Making films, particularly these small films, feel like tiny, little miracles that they even get made. So that was definitely a moment that felt miraculous inside of it."



A few of the dresses in Thompson's wardrobe were borrowed from the fashion house Chanel. Thompson had more than 50 costume changes.



The backlots of Hollywood stood in for New York City in "Sylvie's Love."

WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS

Drama under the mounds

‘The Dig’ races against the clock to unearth the find of the century

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Just before the outbreak of the World War II, a small-time archaeologist was hired by a local woman to excavate her land. The thought was that it possibly contained some Viking remnants. But what was unearthed in the mounds out in the fields was far more significant than they could have imagined: Buried in the grounds of Sutton Hoo was actually a ship that would end up providing a deeper understanding of the sophistication of the early Anglo-Saxon period.

It's this true story that John Preston used as the stage for his novel "The Dig," which has been adapted into a very lovely film by screenwriter Moira Buffini and director Simon Stone. Carey Mulligan stars as the Sutton Hoo landowner, Edith Pretty, a wealthy widow, mother to a pre-teen son and a bit of an amateur archaeologist who has a hunch about one of the mounds on her property. There's also a ticking clock behind her expedition — the story is set in the summer of 1939 and by September, Britain would be declaring war.

The man she chooses for the job is Basil Brown (Ralph Fiennes), a local excavator for a provincial museum. He is no doubt a brilliant archaeologist and an expert in his region, taught by two generations of his own family, but his formal education and external demeanor denote a lower class and thus he's not taken seriously by many. Even his colleagues call him "unorthodox and untrained."

Basil establishes a connection with Edith, however, who had purchased the lands with her husband to explore the mounds together. The project was derailed by his untimely



NETFLIX/AP

Carey Mulligan plays Edith Pretty, a wealthy widow and amateur archaeologist, in a scene from "The Dig."

ly death and she and her son, Robert (Archie Barnes, excellent), are determined to finish even with the impending war and much of the country distracted elsewhere.

When they do realize what lies beneath the mounds is in fact more important than Viking graves, suddenly the big museums and important archaeologists find the time and resources to contribute to the dig. This adds a whole host of subplots and characters, including Edith's cousin, Rory (Johnny Flynn), who has enlisted with the air force, and newlywed archaeologists Stuart (Ben Chaplin) and Peggy Piggott (Lily James), all of whom roll their sleeves up to join in the project.

It's here where the film's novel origins become a bit of liability as they rush through various side stories with the Piggotts and Rory. These threads were likely more rewarding in the book, yet they do still add scope and context to this very insulated story. And it's very easy to get swept away by it all.

Mulligan is also too young for this part (Nicole Kidman was originally slated for the role), although she excels nonetheless with a subtle and heartbreaking performance.

The director, Stone, is an acclaimed theater director in his native Australia without many film credits to his name. His 2015 debut, "The Daughter," an Ibsen adaptation, was not widely released in the United States.

But in "The Dig," he and his talented filmmaking team have made a truly beautiful piece, contemplative and melancholy, with a lovely score by Stefan Gregory and enveloping scenery shot by Mike Eley. In some ways, "The Dig" feels like its own artifact too, like a lost Anthony Minghella film made 30 years ago and buried until now.

"The Dig" is rated PG-13 for brief sensuality and partial nudity. Running time: 112 minutes. Now playing in select theaters, and available to stream on Netflix on Jan. 29.

‘The Marksman’ is blandest among Neeson’s thrillers

By KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

Since 2008's "Taken," the "Liam Neeson thriller" has become a subgenre unto itself. Aggrieved fatherly types, Neeson's characters must turn to violence against assorted bad guys in various locales. At this point, one could list them in a Dr. Seuss-inspired format: Liam Neeson on a plane, Liam Neeson on a train, Liam Neeson in the snow, oh, the places he'll go (to shoot bad guys).

"The Marksman," co-written and directed by Robert Lorenz, is Liam Neeson on a ranch. The widowed Jim Hanson (Neeson) spends his days minding a few cattle and calling in reports to the border patrol from his Arizona property, which is about to be auctioned off by the bank.

When a Mexican woman and her son cross the border fence in front of his truck, it sets off a chain of events that changes Jim's life, as he attempts to protect the boy from a vengeful Mexican drug cartel.

For a film titled "The Marksman," the actual marksmanship is not necessarily the focal point of the story. Jim is a whiskey-swilling Silver Star Marine Corps Vietnam vet who only pulls out his rifle when absolutely necessary. It does, in fact, become necessary when he takes young Miguel (Jacob Perez) on the road



OPEN ROAD FILMS AND BRIARCLIFF ENTERTAINMENT/TNS

Jim Hanson, played by Liam Neeson, and Miguel, played by Jacob Perez, travel from Arizona to Illinois to escape a drug cartel in "The Marksman."

to Chicago, in hopes of delivering him to family, per the dying wish of Miguel's mother, who perishes in a firefight with the cartel. Jim's also intrigued by a satchel of stolen cash, which he thinks could save his ranch. But he's going to need his shooting skills if he and Miguel are going to outrun the cartel leaders in hot pursuit.

The plot is a standard-issue chase mo-

vie, as Jim and Miguel make their way north from Arizona with the vengeful Mauricio (Juan Pablo Raba) on their tail, as well as Jim's stepdaughter, Sarah (Katheryn Winnick), a border patrol officer, begging him to return the boy and seek protection from the authorities. Along the way, man and child bond, forging a relationship beyond the task at hand.

Shot with a shiny sheen that's almost too crystalline, there isn't much to set "The Marksman" apart from Neeson's other thrillers. In fact, it's one of the blandest of the bunch. It lacks the lean, zippy action and twisty plots of his collaborations with Jaume Collet-Serra ("Non-Stop," "Run All Night," "The Commuter"), the darkly comic tone of Hans Petter Molland's "Cold Pursuit," and the brutality of the "Taken" trilogy. This is a minor entry in the Neeson canon.

Its politics are muddled at best, relying on a tired stereotype of Mexican drug cartels to serve as an uncomplicated boogeyman, while a patriotic Vietnam vet traffics an asylum-seeking Mexican child across state lines. The film wants to speak to some kind of old-school, lone-ranger American hero type (as portrayed by a man from Northern Ireland), but it's too vague, shying away from any controversy, to say much at all.

Neeson remains eminently watchable, and as this tragic figure, a man who finds himself alone on the range after all these years, he conveys the sorrow Jim carries with a palpable immediacy. Although "The Marksman" never finds its target (if it has one), Neeson's still got it.

"The Marksman" is rated PG-13 for violence, some bloody images and brief strong language. Running time: 107 minutes.

WEEKEND: MOVIES

Hoover's obsession

‘MLK/FBI’ explores how FBI tracked MLK for years

By RODNEY HO

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., for a period of 13 years, was one of the most scrutinized and filmed figures in American history, from the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955 to his assassination in Memphis in 1968.

But it wasn't just the press watching him. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, which J. Edgar Hoover led, took a keen interest in King as he became the de facto leader of the civil rights movement. As King became ever bigger, Hoover's obsession grew as well.

As documented in a new film, “MLK/FBI,” now in theaters and available on demand, Hoover expended untold amounts of money and manpower tapping King's phones, using long-term spies to track his whereabouts and creating a monstrous dossier of King's philandering exploits and strategy sessions.

The film, based in part on a book written by David Garrow, uses newly declassified FBI files to illustrate the depths of the government's surveillance and harassment of King in the 1960s. The documentarians even revealed a letter the FBI wrote King telling him to kill himself, accompanied by incriminating evidence of his interactions with mistresses.

“The FBI surveilled everybody at the time,” said Ben Hedin, producer of “MLK/FBI” who previously released a Grammy-nominated documentary in 2016 called “Long Train Runnin’” about the hunt for two blues singers in Mississippi during the height of the civil rights movement. “But what they did to King was more than that. It was active blackmail and character

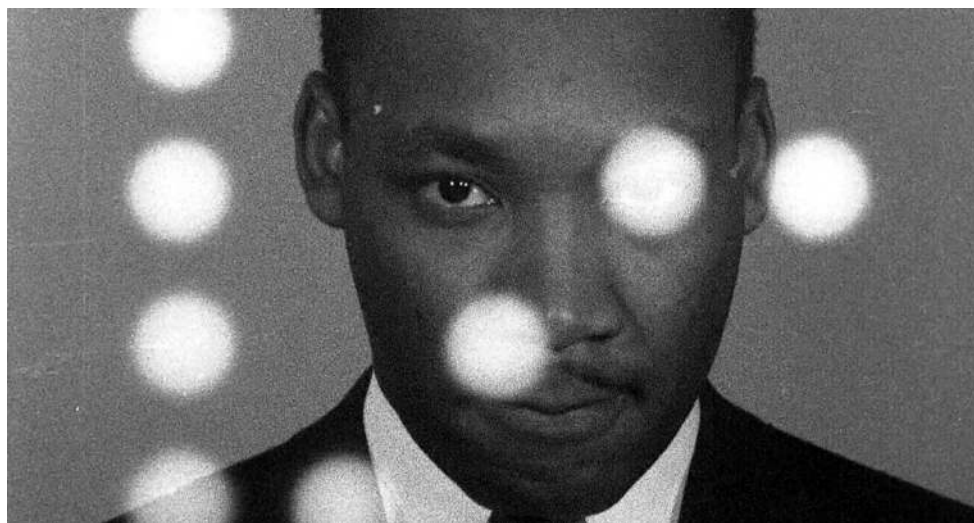
assassination they didn't do with Malcolm X and other civil rights leaders.”

When people at the Toronto Film Festival saw the film in the fall, Hedin said many didn't realize how reviled King was in the 1960s, that he was not the man people universally laud today on both sides of the political aisle. Hoover, the film noted, was more popular than King at the time, his unease matching those of many white Americans at the time about King and the changes he wrought.

King, despite his nonviolent stance, became a symbol of white people's insecurities at the time. “We also wanted to tell the larger story of white America's fear of Black protest,” Hedin said. “And what we've seen with recent events, sadly, that hasn't necessarily changed.”

Hedin said words like “democracy” and “patriot” are dog whistles for figures like Hoover and President Donald Trump. “To them, it means white power,” Hedin said. “There's this tremendously rich and tragic subtext to the film we wanted to convey as much as what the FBI did specifically to King.”

Director Sam Pollard, in an interview with Vanity Fair editor Radhika Jones Sunday, watched the Capitol riots last week and felt anger, frustration and shame about America: “More than 50 years later, we are seeing the same political tropes, the same notion that some Americans feel that if they can't have it their way, they'll burn the house down. It's part of the DNA of America quite honestly going back to the founding of this country... I try to be optimistic, but there's a part of me that thinks this country never seems to learn.”



IFC FILMS

The documentary “MLK/FBI” explores FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's unease with on-the-rise civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., above.

The documentary is unusual in one respect: The expert voices are not seen until the very end of the film, using them virtually exclusively as audio narrators.

Pollard said they were inspired by a 2011 documentary about the Black Power movement called “The Black Power Mixtape” that used the technique. “We wanted to make this a truly immersive experience,” Pollard said. For most of the film, they used archival photos and video, with few graphic elements and re-enactments.

They chose to feature just eight people to tell the story, a mix of authors and contemporaneous players from the era. The most prominent name they talked to was Andrew Young, former Atlanta mayor and civil rights legend who is one of the few prominent colleagues of King still alive.

“Young was in the room when that FBI package was opened” featuring the black-mail letter, Hedin said. “I didn't know if he'd talk about it. But he was very candid. That was a pleasant surprise.”

Among the eight, the documentarians used two former FBI agents: Charles Knox and James Comey. Comey, when he

headed the FBI from 2013 to 2017, kept Hoover's request to wiretap King on his desk under glass and made a point to send agents in training to the King monument and write papers about him. “To have a director publicly attempt to come to terms with this shameful part of the bureau's history is notable,” Hedin said.

While the FBI has declassified its written files and a few surveillance photos are available, the FBI audio tapes of King remain sealed until at least 2027.

Hedin said the FBI files also reveal King's generous spirit. “He didn't feel like he deserved the Nobel Peace Prize,” he said. “He accepted it on behalf of everybody who worked to advance civil rights.”

Putting together the film only raised Hedin's esteem for King: “I gained a much more intimate sense and respect of what he had to endure while looking the worst elements of the country in the eye.”

As for Hoover, his impressions didn't change much: “I went into the movie with this picture of him as a racist tyrant. And we did not discover anything new that would dispel that.”

‘MLK/FBI’ leaves behind talking heads in favor of more footage

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

There's an iconic photograph of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. that was taken as he triumphantly boarded one of the first integrated buses in Montgomery, Ala.

It was 1956 and King looks out a window, firmly at the front of the bus, almost gazing toward his movement's next big social hurdle. The image was taken by Ernest Withers, a key chronicler of the civil rights movement — and an FBI informant.

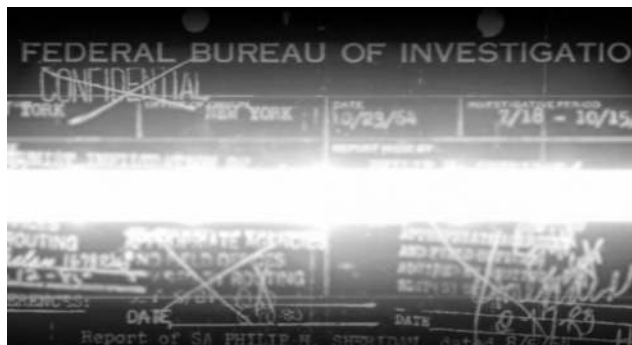
That the FBI wanted someone close and watching King is at the heart of director Sam Pollard's engrossing documentary “MLK/FBI,” a film that artfully explains how the two sides of that slash came to be enemies.

Pollard is a veteran producer and filmmaker who co-directed two episodes of “Eyes on the Prize” and earned an Oscar nomination for editing Spike Lee's blistering 1997 film “4 Little Girls.”

In “MLK/FBI,” Pollard explains how J. Edgar Hoover used the full force of his federal law enforcement agency to attack a progressive, nonviolent cause. That included wiretaps, blackmail and informers, trying to find dirt on King. “I think this entire episode represents the darkest part of the Bureau's history,” notes former FBI Director James Comey.

There are no revelations or bombshells. Most of the details — including King's infidelity and the use of Withers as an FBI informant — have been known for years.

But that's not Pollard's interest. His canvas is large, stretching back to post-Civil War Jim Crow, exploring how notions of Black sexuality were turned into social



IFC FILMS/AP

“MLK/FBI” shows how FBI director J. Edgar Hoover used federal law enforcement to attack Martin Luther King Jr. and his progressive, nonviolent cause.

weapons and into the way FBI agents were made mythical in popular culture.

Pollard is patient and thoughtful, leaning his film on David J. Garrow's book “The FBI and Martin Luther King Jr.: From ‘Solo’ to Memphis.” The most salacious stuff must wait until three-quarters through, until the filmmaker has pulled all the historical threads together. Then the picture is clear — and frightening.

King's famous March on Washington took place on Aug. 28, 1963, and two days later, in a memo, William C. Sullivan, the head of FBI domestic intelligence, wrote, “We must mark him now as the most dangerous Negro in the future of this Nation,” adding, “and we must use every resource as our disposal to destroy him.”

“MLK/FBI” has a different feel than traditional documentaries, eschewing the usual pattern of old footage punctuated by talking heads, in favor of just footage and soaring songs, like “Lord Don't Move the Mountain” by Mahalia Jackson and “Oh Freedom” by Harry Belafonte.

Pollard has interviewed historians, journalists and participants, but we mostly only hear them. That means the commentary of someone like Andrew Young — a civil rights hero himself, a King confidant and longtime politician — gets mixed in and on par with a historian who has no first-hand knowledge. Something about that is off.

The director also weaves in scenes from old pulpy movies like “Walk a Crooked Mile,” “Big Jim McLean” and “I Was a Communist for the FBI,” as well as newsreels with booming voices and soaring music. Somehow they strike an odd note juxtaposed with intimate King home movies and news footage of bloodied Black men and women being hauled away by cops.

The film is ultimately crippled by something out of the makers' control. We are told that after the FBI makes a salacious tape and sends it to King's wife, King “undergoes a real emotional crisis. And it's an emotional crisis that the FBI is listening in on.” But we can't listen to any of it. All surveillance tapes are under seal and the earliest they can be released is 2027.

For now, watch “MLK/FBI” and marvel at how a man could inspire so much and keep his cool while a vise was closing all around him.

“MLK/FBI” is not rated but has footage of bloodied protesters and descriptions of sex, including rape. Running time: 102 minutes.

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



Kinetic Games photos

Phasmophobia, a four-person ghost-hunting game, offers mystery and thrills. More serious players might need to apply a bit of creativity to keep the game engaging, though.

Leave these Phasmophobia rules to the professionals

Creative solutions keep addictive ghost-hunting indie game from getting stale

BY ELISE FAVIS

The Washington Post

Phasmophobia, an indie game that casts players as ghost hunters, became an instant sensation shortly after its early access launch last September. Months later, it still draws 20,000 concurrent players daily.

The gameplay loop is addictive — so addictive, in fact, that I've played nearly 100 hours in the past month, along with three friends. As fun as Phasmophobia is, though, it can get repetitive. You go into a building, find the invisible threat and determine what kind of ghost it is. Rinse and repeat. Each match offers a fair amount of unpredictability, especially since developer Kinetic Games only doles out breadcrumbs of information on ghost behaviors, but the sense of mystery, and even thrill, can fade after hours of play. However, that doesn't mean you should shelve Phasmophobia.

My friends and I would have stopped playing long ago if not for some creative solutions. To keep the game fresh, here are some spooky (and, at times, ridiculous) alternative rules for playing. Some of these were found on the game's official subreddit; others we learned from Phasmophobia streamers like Nuzzgard or we created them ourselves. But be warned: This list is aimed at veteran players, not newcomers.

Gameplay constraints

In Phasmophobia, you have three difficulty modes: amateur, intermediate and professional. Amateur is the easiest, giving you ample time to discover the ghost's favorite room and set up your equipment before the start of a deadly hunt, when the ghost attempts to kill players. If you're looking to ramp up the difficulty, we recommend playing on professional (unlocked at level 15), which rewards three times the cash for a successful run and offers no setup time at all, meaning things get dicey quick.

Playing on professional is spooky, but the difficulty wanes the better you become at ghost hunting. So, throw in some alternative restraints: No sprinting (which you normally activate by pressing shift), including during hunts. No flashlights, meaning you need to use candles, glowsticks, UV lights and the electrical lighting inside the building (these can shut off or flicker at any time). For the ultimate challenge and hilarity, try walking backward or crouching for the entirety for the match, even when a ghost is hunting you. Better yet, make it a rule that no one is allowed to leave the house upon entering. This means you can't look for ghost orbs via camera feeds in the van, so deducing which ghost it is will also be trickier.

Using only starter items is another option. These include the EMF reader, flash-

light (not the strong flashlight), ghost writing book, photo camera, spirit box, UV light and video camera. Since finding the ghost room is much easier with a thermometer to detect low temperatures, remove that from your roster. Instead, pay attention to your surroundings (listen for loud footsteps, and check to see if a ghost is moving items around nearby) or use an EMF reader, a less reliable tool because it depends on a ghost's fluctuating activity level.

For those who want to get extra wild, ditch the journal (which can be accessed by pressing J). Don't log the evidence you find and don't use any items that can help you procure said evidence. These no-evidence runs are incredibly challenging; you can use other tools, like motion sensors and salt, but anything that can wield immediate results (EMF readers and ghost writing books, for example) are banned from use. Instead, take note of a ghost's activity level and behavior patterns (i.e. shades are shy, meaning they're less likely to show up outside of a hunt).

Alternative game modes

It can be fun mixing and matching different elements of the above constraints for different matches, but if that's still not enough for you, well, buckle up. Here are some made-up game modes that make ghost hunting both more perilous and more ridiculous.



There are various tricks you can use to make Phasmophobia more difficult, such as ditching the flashlights and relying on a building's so-so electrical lighting.

Ring Around the Rosie

Hunts are terrifying. Your flashlight begins to flicker and the ghost appears somewhere on the map, attempting to find, stalk and kill you. Now, imagine being in the same room as the ghostly foe and needing to lead them around in a circle, hoping they don't catch up with you. We call this Ring Around the Rosie.

Every time a hunt begins, run to either the kitchen or the garage. In the kitchen, lead the ghost around the kitchen island, or if you're in the garage, around the car. Continue to do this until the hunt is complete. During long hunts, this can be exhilarating; it's a horrifying chase with a deadly stalker who may kill at any moment.

This mode is only possible in certain situations. Large maps aren't ideal, because of their sheer size, and the asylum, high school and prison don't have a garage or kitchen. In Edgefield, there's no kitchen island, so you'd have to use the garage. Furthermore, if your ghost is a revenant, which has increased speed, Ring Around the Rosie is near impossible to complete without dying.

SEE FRESH ON PAGE 19

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

Fresh: New rules keep game from getting stale

FROM PAGE 18

Follow the Leader

How well do your friends work together under pressure? Follow the Leader puts that to the test. Only one player gets a flashlight, and the others must follow them everywhere. Once you enter the house, you're not allowed to leave unless you have to look for ghost orbs in the van (for this mode, this can only be done once you've found the two other pieces of evidence). Players are forbidden from taking sanity pills, too, and only starter items are allowed.

Like Ring around the Rosie, this may only be possible in certain scenarios. Ghosts that only respond to people who are alone, for example, won't work well for this group effort.

Cultists vs Ghost Hunter

Phasmophobia can be just as funny as it is scary. The mode Cultists vs Ghost Hunter is a great example of a very silly set of rules that often leaves us in stitches for the entirety of a match. Adapted from a post we found on Reddit, here's how it works: One player is designated as the ghost hunter, working solo to find all the evidence and succeed as quickly as possible. The rest of the players are role-playing as cultists, who have devoted their entire lives to this moment, where they wish to sacrifice themselves to the ghost.

Cultists must run around and anger the ghost as much as possible to try to initiate a hunt (Phasmophobia uses voice recognition, so this often involves shouting the ghost's name over and over, or yelling "give me a sign," to which the ghost can respond). Sometimes it's just fun to say absolutely ridiculous things, such as begging the ghost to feast on your organs.

The ghost hunter wins if they can decipher what ghost it is before the cultists die, and the cultists win if they all sacrifice themselves before the ghost hunter finds all the evidence.

Spooky Roulette

One of my favorite modes, also initially found on Reddit, is called Spooky Roulette. After discovering the ghost room, players must each wield a photo camera (note: you can only bring three cameras per run, so one player can just come along for the experience) and situate themselves in different corners of the room. Everyone takes turns antagonizing the ghost until it shows up, so that you can snag a photo. No one is allowed to leave the room, unless a hunt is initiated. Keep taking photos

until everyone runs out of film or until everyone is dead.

You can also play Spooky Roulette in a different way: Whoever takes the photo first wins, though this can be difficult to judge in execution. There are no time stamps on photos, and the only indicator of a photo being taken is a flash and a "click."

Ghost Modeling Agency

The ghost-hunting life isn't for everyone. It's tough. It's scary. But hey, you've been doing this for a long time now. Ghosts like you! So why not put your skills to a different, creative use?

In this mode, you and your friends are part of a fictional modeling agency that is looking for its next undead superstar for the cover of Ghost Magazine. Each match, you meet a new client (the ghost) — just make sure to bring in photo cameras for the shoot. Once you find the ghost's favorite room, you may need to coerce them to come out since some are camera shy. Help get them out of their shell by saying their name over and over, or something like, "Work it, Mary Thompson!" when they do appear.

Though Ghost Modeling Agency is similar to Spooky Roulette, the difference is that it isn't just about survival, and relies more on creativity. Whoever gets the best photo, whether it's a profile shot or an artsy silhouette of your client, wins. Crooked teeth, cut-open faces and bloodied attire is no match for you and your camera skills. That ghost will be a star in no time.

Race to the Ghost Room

Who can find the ghost room quickest? Race to the Ghost Room is a thrill-seeking mode for those looking for an adrenaline rush. To assure a level playing field during the search, give everyone the same tools (especially thermometers) — but if you're playing as more than three, you'll have to have different items. Whoever finds the ghost's favorite room first must stay there (excluding when hunts occur) for the whole match.

Ouija Board

Search for the Ouija board, which occasionally and randomly spawns somewhere on the map. Use it to determine where the ghost is, or to just ask questions that don't actually have any significance to the gameplay, like "How old are you?" The fun is in the ghost's responses to the questions and the havoc that results, such as lowering your sanity to dangerous levels, making a hunt more likely.



Maple Whispering Limited

In Cloudpunk, players deliver illicit goods via flying car to customers in a sky city.

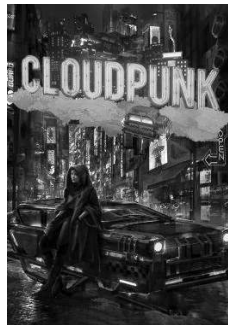
A flyover experience

Cloudpunk combines too many stereotypes, too little innovation

BY CHRISTOPHER BYRD

The Washington Post

After spending several weeks preoccupied with cyberpunk fiction and playing through the recently released Cyberpunk 2077, I decided to check out Cloudpunk, a game about a young woman working to establish a foothold in an economically cutthroat metropolis. Like Rania, the gig worker at the center of the story, I found myself initially disoriented by the multi-tiered sprawl of Nivalis — a city in the sky based around a flying car transit system. However, as the game wore on, I found myself increasingly looking forward to the end of Rania's shift.



Unfolding over the course of one night, Cloudpunk follows Rania as she pilots her HOVA — a four-seater air vehicle — around the city, making the rounds for an illicit delivery service. Her life in the city is precarious. She moved to Nivalis after losing the home in which she grew up to debt collectors. Her new-found employer, Cloudpunk, is riddled with a high turnover rate and, in recent times, drivers were involved in numerous accidents all over the city due to wild fluctuations in its A.I.-controlled infrastructure.

As someone who harbors a fondness for the chunky graphics of the 16-bit era, I was charmed by Cloudpunk's voxel graphics — think "Blade Runner" meets Lego. The core gameplay loop consists of picking up packages and delivering them, and occasionally ferrying passengers to and fro. Such basic activities might leave something to be desired for those looking for a bit of pizzazz in terms of gameplay, but I had no issue with such a setup since I was looking for something restive during my holiday downtime.

Rather, what propels Cloudpunk are the interactions Rania has with her fellow citizens.

Although I quickly formed an attachment to Rania, whose subdued observations of the world are delivered with aplomb by the voice actor Andrea Petrille, a number of the other voice actors ham it up too much for my taste. I never, for instance, felt any affinity for Rania's A.I. companion, Camus (pronounced "came us" as opposed to "cam-mu" — a winking distortion of the Algerian philosopher's name) who longs to be placed in the body of a dog rather than serve as her co-pilot. And Rania's encounters with the wealthy citizens of Nivalis, such as Mrs. Octavius Butler, hew so much to a look at this conceited, out-of-touch, one-percenter template that they feel like futile exercises in orthodox posturing.

Still, there are splashes of good writing to be found. I chuckled the first time I heard a public broadcast warning that said: "Unauthorized jazz is punishable by death. Those who wish to experience or perform jazz must apply for a yearly permit." I also appreciated some of the game's morally ambiguous decisions that force Rania to choose between acting in her own best interest or helping someone who cannot return the favor.

Cloudpunk can be completed in under 15 hours depending on how many side missions one engages in. Honestly, though, it could have clocked in at half that time and been better served by a more concentrated approach. As it stands, the game is too much of a flyover experience — beholden to the cyberpunk genre's conceits and, as such, mired in an aesthetic rut.

Note: I played Cloudpunk on an Alienware PC with an Xbox controller. Initially, I noticed that Rania's vehicle drifted to the side even when idle. Going into the Steam settings and selecting Xbox configuration support eliminated the issue.

Platforms: Nintendo Switch, PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One

Online: mergeworks.com/cloudpunk

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Cafe chat, cake and the Vienna Opera

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

Munching Europe's most famous chocolate cake — the Sacher torte — in Cafe Sacher, across from Europe's finest opera house, I feel underdressed in my travel wear. Thankfully, a coffee party of older ladies, who fit right in with the smoked mirrors and chandeliers, make me feel welcome at their table. They're buzzing with excitement about the opera they are about to see.

Loni, the elegant white-haired ringleader, answers my questions about Austria. "A true Viennese is not Austrian, but a cocktail," she says. "We are a mix of the old Habsburg Empire. My grandparents are Hungarian." Gesturing to each of her friends, she adds, "And Gosha's are Polish, Gabi's are Romanian, and I don't even know what hers are."

"It's a melting pot," I say.

They respond, "Yes, like America."

For 600 years, Vienna was the head of the once-grand Habsburg Empire. In 1900, Vienna's nearly two million inhabitants made it the world's sixth-largest city (after London, New York, Paris, Berlin and Chicago). Then Austria started and lost World War I — and its far-flung holdings. Today's Vienna is a "head without a body," an elegant capital ruling tiny Austria. The

average Viennese mother has one child and the population is now 1.8 million.

I ask Loni about Austria's low birthrate.

"Dogs are the preferred child," she says, inspiring pearl-rattling peals of laughter from her friends.



Rick Steves

Vienna may have lost its political clout, but culturally and historically, this city of Freud, Brahms, a gaggle of Strausses, Empress Maria Theresa's many children and a dynasty of Holy Roman Emperors remains up there with Paris, London and Rome.

As far back as the 12th century, Vienna was a mecca for musicians, both secular and sacred. The Habsburg emperors of the 17th and 18th centuries were not only generous supporters of music but also fine musicians themselves. Composers such as Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms and Mahler gravitated to this music-friendly environment. They taught each other, jammed together and spent a lot of time in Habsburg palaces.

After the defeat of Napoleon in 1815, the Congress of Vienna shaped 19th-century Europe. Vienna enjoyed its violin-filled belle epoque, which shaped our romantic image of the city: fine wine, cafes, waltzes and these great chocolate cakes. The waltz was the rage and "Waltz King" Johann Strauss and his brothers kept Vienna's 300 ballrooms spinning. This musical tradition created the prestigious Viennese institu-



DOMINIC ARIZONA BONUCCELLI/Ricksteves.com

Vienna's beloved Sacher torte, the perfect pre- or post-opera treat.

tions that tourists enjoy today: the opera, Boys' Choir and great Baroque halls and churches, all busy with classical concerts.

As we split the bill and finish our coffee, the women take opera tickets out of their purses in anticipation. "Where will you be sitting?" Loni asks.

"Actually, I'll be standing," I say. "I've got a Stehplatz, a standing-room-only ticket." (Vienna opera makes sure those with limited budgets can still see performances — if they don't mind climbing to the top of the theater and standing.)

The women look at me kindly, perhaps wondering if they should have paid for my cake and coffee.

"A Stehplatz is just 4 euros. So I have money left over for more Sacher torte," I tell them with a smile. What I don't say is that, for me, three hours is a lot of opera. A Stehplatz allows me the cheap and easy option of leaving early.

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

Europe's fermented foods aren't for the faint of heart

Some travel experiences are worthwhile not necessarily because of their enjoyment factor, but rather the stark differences they present from our own everyday reality.

Take, for example, the Icelandic dining tradition known as Thorablott. This celebration, which takes place during the old Norse month of Thorri is a mid-winter homage to traditional dishes reminiscent of a time before the import of fresh produce year round meant you had to make do with foods that would keep.

Typical treats on the Thorablott table include smoked lamb, dried fish, blood pudding, whale blubber, singed sheep's head, rams' testicles and hákarl, the notorious fermented shark that smells and tastes of ammonia. The Icelandic schnapps known as Brennivín helps to wash it down.



Karen Bradbury

While it's perhaps more typical to indulge in this feast in the company of friends at home or at a club, travelers curious enough to wish to partake in the treats of a Thorablott table will find, at least in non-pandemic years, a handful of restaurants in Reykjavik serving up the staples, including the Cafe Loki. Thorablott is celebrated Jan. 24-Feb. 20 in 2021.

Iceland isn't the only European country that offers the chance to indulge in fermented or what might appear to those outside the culture as downright rotten foods.

In Greenland, a dish by the name of Kiviak uses an abundant local sea bird. A dead seal serves as the vessel into which the carcasses of hundreds of auks are firmly packed. The seal and its contents are sewn up tight and buried under a heap of rocks, where they are left to ferment for up to a year and a half. By that time, the birds' innards have thoroughly liquefied, so removing their heads and sucking out the juices is one way to enjoy. Kiviak is considered a festive dish, and often served at



iStock

Fermented herring, often served with items such as potato and tomato, is a delicacy in Sweden. Its smell is so strong that it's often consumed outdoors.

weddings, birthdays and other special occasions.

Sweden's entrant to the list of dubious edibles would have to be Surströmming. A specific type of herring is caught in the Baltic Sea just before it spawns in the spring, lightly salted and left to ferment for several months. First-timers may wish to stand far, far back when a can of this is opened, as its putrid smell is considered one of the worst food smells ever. Small wonder, then, that it's always consumed outdoors. Although a decree that forbade the sale of the current year's production prior to the third Thursday in August is no longer on the books, sellers traditionally stick to that date as the first time it's put on sale. A dish not sold in most restaurants, cans of the stuff are available in many food shops. Bring some home and organize your very own surströmmingskiva, or surströmming eating party, with brave friends;

better yet, make way to the town of Alfta, in northern Sweden, for the annual festival held on its release date in August. Online: surstrommingskivan.se

The Italian island of Sardinia also claims ownership of an unusual delicacy. Casu Marzu's name in translation describes exactly what it is: putrid cheese. This traditional sheep's milk cheese is made by removing part of its rind, which allows it to be invaded by cheese flies. The eggs they lay soon become larvae; in other words, maggots. Their digestive action works to break down the cheese's fats, giving it a soft, almost melted texture. Eating the wiggly, translucent maggots is all part of the experience. The liquid seeping from the cheese is known as làgrima, or teardrops, which might well fall from your own eyes as you sample. Luckily, European Union regulations have given you a convenient out. The product violates so many food hygiene regulations that its sale has been banned. Online: tinyurl.com/yx9vyqq7

Not all rot produces a product the majority of us would surely consider unpalatable. A fungus is responsible for the creation of some of the world's sweetest and most highly prized wines. The fungus, Botrytis cinerea, nicknamed "noble rot," pierces the skin of a ripe, healthy grape that's been left on the vine long after the usual harvest time. Under favorable conditions, including misty mornings and dry, sunny days, the sugars, flavors and acids grow ever more concentrated as the water in the grape evaporates. The resulting juice is golden and sweet, and capable of producing complex wines that get better with age. In Germany, look for wines labeled Beerenauslese or Trockenbeerenauslese; in France, Sauternes; or in Hungary, the Tokaj aszú. Hungary's famous wine is feted each year in the town of Erdénye, where legend holds it was first created. A harvest procession, craft fair and showcase of local specialties is typically held in August or September. Online: tokajwineregion.com

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING



NORMAN LLAMAS/Stars and Stripes

Caldo de res or Latino beef soup, ready to be enjoyed with crusty dinner rolls and some wedges of fresh lime. The entire process of making this delicious soup takes a little over an hour.



To make caldo de res, or Latino beef soup, Italian-style, use ossobuco instead of beef shanks.



Caldo de res, or Latino beef soup, is ready to eat.

A pot of home cooking

Warm up with a bowl, or 2, of caldo de res, a Latino family recipe, made Italian-style

By NORMAN LLAMAS
Stars and Stripes

In Italy, where most restaurants have been closed for in-house dining for what feels like months — probably because it is — families have dusted off cookbooks and relearned how to make old favorites.

One of them for my family is caldo de res.

This is a dish where comfort food meets flavor and history. Usually eaten during the winter months in Latin America, it's referred to by some in the U.S. as Latino beef soup.

But it's much more than that.

Some caldo de res recipes go back generations. But in my house, we make it my wife's way, which is somewhat different than my mom's or my abuela's recipes.

They used ingredients commonly found in Guatemalan

markets but which are hard, if not impossible, to find in the U.S. or the commissary at Aviano.

We use spices and ingredients that everyone in the household likes and that we can find: cabbage, potatoes, onions, carrots, corn on the cob, garlic, beef stock, "Sason Goya," salt, pepper, bay leaves, and the main ingredient, beef.

We have been using ossobuco, which is widely available in Italy. The soup ends up just as delicious as it would have been if we'd used the traditional beef shanks.

To make enough soup to serve eight to 10 people — or four people who have two servings each — we use two to three medium to large ossobuco cuts, four sliced carrots, one chopped onion, five or six medium potatoes cut into quarters, one medium-sized cabbage cut into quarters, and two or three cobs of corn, cut in half.

Put the beef in a large pot over medium heat and sear it until it begins to brown. Add four to six cups of water, and the potatoes, onions, and carrots, salt and pepper to taste, two or three bay leaves, and corn on the cob.

Let it come to a rolling boil, and add two 32-ounce containers of beef broth, the cabbage, one packet of Sason Goya or whatever type of seasoning you like, and cover

the pot. Let it cook for about 45 minutes or until the potatoes are soft.

We garnish the soup with chopped cilantro and serve it with white rice and crusty dinner rolls. My mom served her version of the soup with corn tortillas and sliced avocado.

For an added kick of flavor, we add lime juice when the soup is ready to eat, and serve it with wedges of lime.

It takes about an hour to prepare and cook — plenty of time to make and enjoy a couple of homemade margaritas.

Caldo de res

What you'll need to make caldo de res, Italian-style (serves 8-10):

Ingredients

2-3 medium to large ossobuco cuts
4 carrots
1 onion
5-6 potatoes
1 medium-sized cabbage
2-3 cobs of corn

Seasonings

64-oz. of beef broth
Cilantro for garnish
Optional lime juice and wedges of lime

Norman Llamas

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KARIN ZEITVOGEL/Stars and Stripes

The perfect margarita adorned with a wedge of lime in a salt-rimmed glass.

The Goldilocks formula for the perfect 'rita

By KARIN ZEITVOGEL
Stars and Stripes

This formula was developed by an engineering major of drinking age at the Air Force Academy during the spring lockdown when the coronavirus forced most cadets to leave campus. It was tested on his mother, who found the first margarita he made too sweet, the second lacking an adequate tang of lime and the after-burner effect of tequila — and the third one, just right.

What you'll need:

Tequila reposado
Cointreau or triple sec
Lime juice (bottled is fine)

Agave syrup
Ice
Lime wedge
Salt

The formula:

Put two parts of tequila and one part of Cointreau or triple sec in a shaker. A Mason jar or clean protein drink shaker works fine. For example, for 80 ml of tequila, use 40 ml of Cointreau.

Multiply the amount of tequila used by 5/8 to get the amount of lime juice you'll need. If you used 80 ml of tequila, you want 50 ml of lime juice. 80 ml of tequila makes a pretty big margarita.

The lime juice to agave ratio is also 2:1.

So for 50 ml of lime juice, use 25 ml of agave syrup.

Put all of the above in a shaker, add ice to increase the level by around 2-3 fluid ounces. Shake and pour into a glass with a salted rim. You can do that by moistening the rim of the glass with a lime wedge and then dipping it into salt sprinkled generously onto a saucer or the top of a ricotta cheese container (washed and with no cheese in it).

Drink.

Another suggested 'rita ratio:

60 ml of tequila, 30 ml Cointreau, 38 ml lime juice (rounded up from 37.5), around 18 ml agave syrup.

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS



PHOTOS BY NORMAN LLAMAS/Stars and Stripes

Families and individuals enjoy a cold day of sledding at Piancavallo ski resort in December. The slide down the mountain at Piancavallo is exhilarating, and the walk back up to the top makes for a good workout.

Breath of cold, fresh air

Piancavallo near Aviano provides a fun winter respite from indoor doldrums during the coronavirus pandemic

BY NORMAN LLAMAS
Stars and Stripes

With the coronavirus making travel difficult, if not impossible, but public health professionals urging people to get outside and get exercise, many Americans based at Aviano are heading for the hills — specifically the Alps, or the Dolomites as they're called in Italy.

Just before Christmas, when the Italian authorities slightly eased coronavirus restrictions, we took a trip to Piancavallo, a ski resort a 30-minute drive from Aviano, in the Alps.

Italian coronavirus restrictions bar travel outside the region of a person's residence, but, because Piancavallo is situated in the same region, and even the same province, as Aviano, the resort is still authorized for Aviano airmen and their families, provided they follow all the other rules. Those aren't always coronavirus-related — not having winter or all-season tires also carries a hefty fine.

Once in the resort, you'll find crazy-fun runs for sledding.

We did at least five runs, hiking back up to the top of the hill after each one to do it again. Sliding down was fun; hiking back up was a good workout.

Sleds and other winter sports equipment can be rented at the resort, but it's advisable to book what you need ahead of time. Spur-of-the-moment travelers might want to bring their own gear. Buy it ahead of time in the lowlands, where it's often cheaper.

The resort also has an area for freestyle snowboarding, an illuminated loop for cross-country skiing at night, and a 6-acre area called Nevelandia, where kids can try skiing, sledding, bobsledding, tubing and other outdoor activities, among other facilities.

Even though Italian government recommendations don't require people to wear masks while in the mountains, most people put theirs on when they were close to others.

When the resort gets too crowded, local police have been known to turn back people heading up the mountain. Don't feel defeated: even on the way up to the resort, the views of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region are breathtaking.



Noah Llamas, 5, enjoys the snow in Piancavallo, Italy, during a brief period last month when Italy slightly relaxed coronavirus restrictions.



The view of Piancavallo in the northern Italian Alps from Aviano Air Base. Under current coronavirus restrictions, the resort is still available to Aviano airmen and their families, provided they follow other rules.

On the QT

Directions: Piancavallo is northwest of Aviano. Most map apps have good directions to the resort. When you get to the top of the mountain, follow the signs for "Centro," where there's free parking.
Food: There are plenty of places in the town that sell food, but bring your own snacks if you don't want to pay resort prices.
Information: Online: www.turismofvg.it/mountain365/piancavallo

Norman Llamas



Lucy Llamas, 14, enjoys the snow at Piancavallo resort.



A snowman stands watch in December in the area reserved for children at Piancavallo ski resort in Italy. The resort is half an hour away by car from Aviano Air Base.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

A day among Roman ruins

The pandemic offers a rare opportunity to visit the Colosseum without the bustle of tourists

By **CHICO HARLAN**
AND **STEFANO PITRELLI**
The Washington Post

Only a few living souls are inside the Colosseum in Rome these days: a team of security guards, some maintenance workers and a family of hedgehogs, who live in the bowels and have grown bolder without so many people around.

In normal times, the Colosseum would be teeming with visitors — 3,000 at any minute, 7.5 million in a year. But in 2020, only 1.5 million came through the gates. And since Italy re-tightened restrictions in November, the site has been closed off to the public entirely.

Depending on the moment, the amphitheater built two millennia ago for mass spectacles is for now a strange mix of nature reserve and construction site. The only occasional noise comes from a walkie-talkie or bird.

The lockdown has a convenient element, as it provides a window of opportunity for repair work. In recent weeks, workers have renovated the bathrooms, strengthened several arches and sealed leaky areas in the bricks.

The people who manage the Colosseum, though, say the current situation is unsustainable. The site, along with an abutting archaeological area that includes the Roman Forum, is normally so profitable that it pumps a share of its revenue back into the government. Last year, the Colosseum and the Forum lost 51 million euros (about \$63 million).

“There is a great sense of emptiness,” said Alfonsina Russo, the Colosseum and archaeological park’s director, during a recent visit.

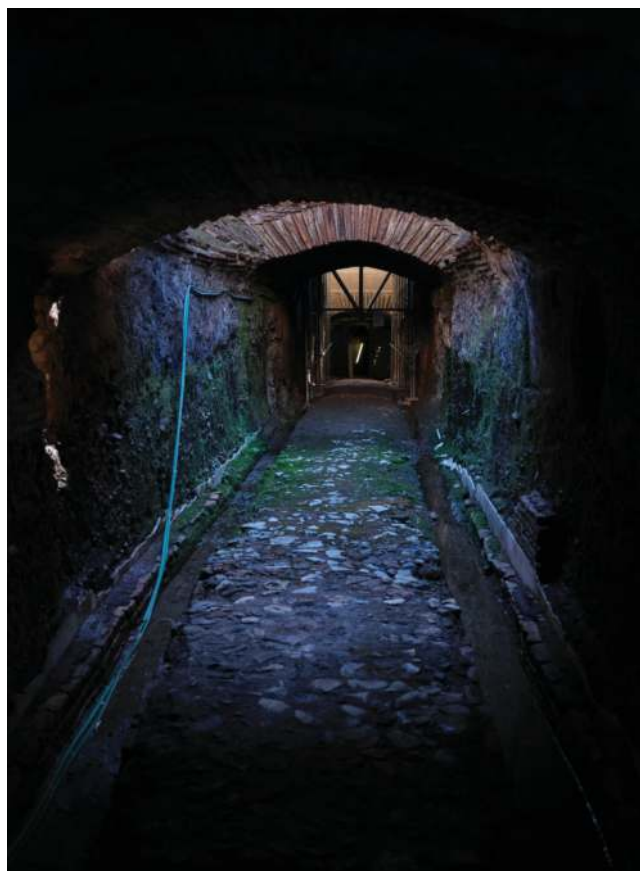
She guided us back down to the ground level. Paces away from the central oval where gladiators did battle, a chute leads to a tunnel once used by emperors who wanted to make a grand, secret entrance into the arena.

The tunnel was starting to look more befitting of an emperor. The dark passage still had some hoses and other equipment lying around, as well as a yard-sale-style pile of stone ruins. But Russo said there were plans — over the next year or so — to open the tunnel to tourists.



PHOTOS BY FEDERICA VALABREGA/The Washington Post

The third level of the inside of the Colosseum in Rome. In pre-pandemic times, the ruins saw 7.5 million visitors.



Commodus’ tunnel, recently renovated, is said to connect the Palatine Hill to the Colosseum.



Celio Hill offers an outside view of the Colosseum in Rome, currently closed to visitors.



Reflected light hits one of the brick walls inside the Arena of the Colosseum in Rome.

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Fine weather for a day of hiking

Daisekirinzan in northernmost Okinawa has plenty of trails, great views, food nearby

By AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

The wind is shifting to the north, Okinawa is less humid and it's looking like autumn-wintery weather has come to the subtropical island.

While it sounds crazy to hike or do any physical activities during the blazing hot summer, now is the best season to hit the outdoor spots where you've always wanted to go.

My companion and I visited Yanbaru National Park Daisekirinzan recently and we were very pleased. Daisekirinzan is near Cape Hedo, the northernmost point of Okinawa, and offers a few trekking trails ranging from family friendly/barrier-free to a 30-minute jaunt.

A pair of tennis shoes is highly recommended, and long sleeves and pants are a must unless you cover yourself with mosquito repellent. I forgot the repellent spray and in short sleeves accumulated too many bites to count.

The Yanbaru Forest trail is my favorite course as I get to see several 100-year-old banyan trees that are just gorgeous and magnificent. It is hard to find old trees in Okinawa due to the war, but when I see them, I appreciate their history and everything they have witnessed. They are also a nice photo opportunity.

The sun comes in from between the banyan tree branches and the soft light makes the tree glow. It's quite peaceful and secret.

Churaumi Ocean View trail offers a great view from the higher point of the mountain, which affords a panoramic view of Cape Hedo. If it's sunny, I can spot

Yoron Island of Kagoshima prefecture on the horizon.

There are many funny-looking rocks along the trails, like Ghost Face, Godzilla and such, and it's fun for small children to find them while walking.

After taking on a few trails, my companion and I felt very hungry, so we went to one of my favorite restaurants in Okinawa. I've been here for almost 13 years, so that means a lot.

Kunigami Minato Shokudo, or Fisherman's Dining, is conveniently located on Route 58 near Kunigami Road Station. It offers terrace seats, so it's military friendly under current coronavirus restrictions. It also offers takeout.

Regardless of restrictions, I have always chosen the terrace seats because of the view. The diner is by the seaport and has a beautiful oceanfront view.

Its specialty is freshly caught fish from the next-door port, and the deep-fried mahi-mahi is absolutely delicious. It's the best fried fish I've ever had, and I am not exaggerating. The crust is super crunchy, and the flesh is super moist and has a fantastic texture. It also comes with delicious tartar sauce.

I usually order the fried fish served with the catch-of-the-day sashimi set for 1,200 yen or \$12. The plate presentation is almost a work of art and super impressive, and the sashimi is fresh and delicious.

And don't forget to grab a bag of "tankan" tangerines, sold at roadside stands on the way. Sweet granny or grandpa will greet you, and you will get enough delicious, healthy snacks to last a week.

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PHOTOS BY AYA ICHIHASHI/Stars and Stripes

While hiking through Yanbaru National Park Daisekirinzan, stop and soak in amazing views from the top of the Churaumi Ocean trail in northern Okinawa.



Kunigami Minato Shokudo, or Fisherman's Dining, is conveniently located on Route 58 near Kunigami Road Station.

On the QT

Directions: Yanbaru National Park Daisekirinzan is about 62 miles from Camp Foster. Driving time is an hour and 45 minutes on the expressway or 1½ hours on Route 58.

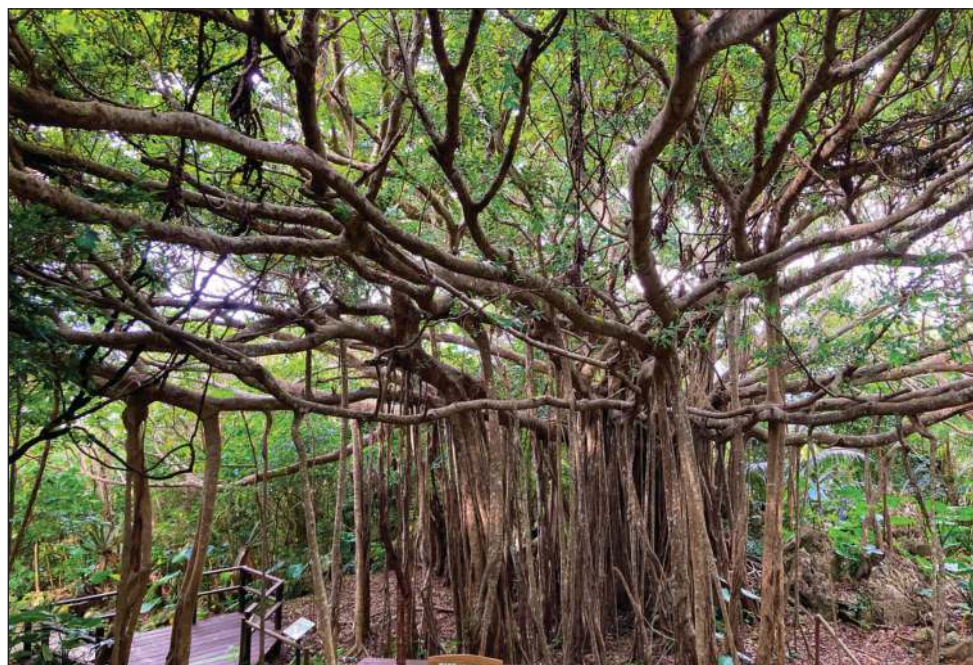
Times: Open daily 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; last entry is 4:30 p.m.

Costs: Admission is 1,200 yen, about or \$12, for adults; 550 yen for children age 4-14 years; 900 yen for visitors 65 and older.

Food: Kunigami Minato Shokudo, or Fisherman's Dining, offers set meals ranging from 1,000 yen to 1,600 yen. Kids meals are also available.

Information: Online: sekirinzan.com/en

Aya Ichihashi



It's peaceful and serene on the forest trail at Yanbaru National Park Daisekirinzan, where several 100-year-old banyan trees that survived the war can be found.



A typical meal from Kunigami Minato Shokudo can be enjoyed on the terrace, which offers spectacular views.



Winter months are the best time to tackle the hiking trails of Yanbaru National Park Daisekirinzan in northern Okinawa.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING



Cafe Makana Lei, along the beautiful Awase seawall on Okinawa's east coast, isn't far from Camp Foster and Kadena.

CAFE MAKANA LEI

Location: 3 Chome-47-15 Awase, Okinawa, 904-2172, or GPS 26.31527, 127.83667

Directions: Head north on Route 329 toward Awase, turn right before a McDonald's, toward the Takahara Post Office. Continue to the Awase seawall. Turn left and find Cafe Makana Lei up against the seawall on the right side.

Hours: Noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday for lunch; 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. for tea.

Prices: Lunch dishes start at 700 yen. For an additional 300 yen, you can get unlimited salad bar and drinks like coffee, tea or detoxifying grapefruit water. Desserts cost an additional 200 yen.

Dress: Casual

Information: 090-9789-1000; [instagram.com/cafe_makanalei](https://www.instagram.com/cafe_makanalei)

Matthew M. Burke



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

The panko-fried fish fillet from Cafe Makana Lei on Okinawa is served with jasmine rice and salad.

Inviting like a warm hug

A visit to Cafe Makana Lei on Okinawa feels like going home

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

Home is where the heart is, the saying goes, and while Okinawa's quaint Cafe Makana Lei is set up in the tradition of a small, island-themed tea shop, it packs in enough heart to feel like home.

Makana Lei, along the picturesque Awase seawall on the island's east coast, is a short drive from both Camp Foster and Kadena Air Base. It

features delicious homecooked fare, some of which is self-serve, at an affordable price in what feels like the living room of a beloved relative.

Makana Lei's menu is always changing depending on the day and what's fresh. The presentation looks like something out of a magazine: colorful and remarkably displayed.

Many Americans driving along the seawall have surely seen Makana Lei many times. Its bright yellow sign protruding almost into the street demands one's gaze.

The restaurant and bar are bathed in natural light, accented by soft-colored drapes, comfortable couches,

grandma's dining room table, a bar with views of the kitchen and a play area for small children. The staff is warm and ever-smiling.

On a cold midweek day in January, the menu was simple: a fried fish fillet or a sweet chicken stir fry. Each came with rice and salad for 700 yen, about \$7. The fish, encased in panko-style breading and topped with a spoonful of tartar sauce, crunched with each bite.

The fish — probably fresh from the Awase fish market — was light and fluffy, a highlight of the meal. It crumbled to the touch yet retained its oils and natural flavors, a delicate thing of beauty. It went perfectly with the generous scoop of jasmine rice and fluffy, fresh greens on the side.

The sweet chicken in the stir-fry was succulent and juicy. It tasted uniquely Hawaiian, even though staff said it was not a Hawaiian recipe. The cauliflower and broccoli florets and the sliced red peppers were cooked to perfection, snapping with crunch in each bite.

For an additional 300 yen, patrons are invited to help themselves to a drink bar that features coffee, iced or hot tea and detoxifying water filled with refreshing slices of grapefruit.

There was also a salad bar with more fresh vegetables and even a purple leaf that is a staple of Okinawan cooking, lightly tempura fried as a chip.

A piece of homemade cheesecake infused with lime for



Few head to the exit without trying a slice of cheesecake, or other desserts, from Cafe Makana Lei on Okinawa.

200 yen marked the perfect way to end a meal, and very few customers left without sampling the homemade desserts.

The do-it-yourself culture coupled with the comfortable atmosphere make Makana Lei feel like grandma's house. The dishes available were fairly basic, yet they were flavorful, tasty and made with love.

Staff at Makana Lei said some of the other dishes that are routinely available include curry and a Hawaiian dish called loco moco, which is typically rice topped with a hamburger, a fried egg and gravy. According to its Instagram page, the eatery also regularly offers French toast, muffins and waffles.

The staff speaks English, so ordering a takeout lunch box is no problem. They have limited outdoor seating for the warmer months.

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WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE



PHOTOS BY TERRY CHEA/AP

A heritage hen sits on a wire enclosure at Mill Valley Chickens in Mill Valley, Calif., Dec. 15. Owner Leslie Citroen says that demand for backyard chickens has increased sharply since the pandemic began.



Members of the Abta family — from left, Allison, Violet, Eli and Ariella — hold hens in front of their backyard chicken run in Ross, Calif., on Dec. 15.

COVID cluckers

Pandemic feeds demand for raising backyard chickens for companionship, meat and eggs

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press

The coronavirus pandemic is coming home to roost in America's backyards.

Forced to hunker down at home, more people are setting up coops and raising their own chickens, which provide an earthy hobby, animal companionship and a steady supply of fresh eggs.

Amateur chicken-keeping has been growing in popularity in recent years as people seek environmental sustainability in the food they eat. The pandemic is accelerating those trends, some breeders and poultry groups say, prompting more people to make the leap into poultry parenthood.

Businesses that sell chicks, coops and other supplies say they have seen a surge in demand since the pandemic took hold in March and health officials ordered residents to stay home.

Allison and Ron Abta of Northern California's Marin County had for years talked about setting up a backyard coop. They took the plunge in August.

The couple's three kids were thrilled when their parents finally agreed to buy chicks.

"These chickens are like my favorite thing, honestly," said 12-year-old Violet, holding a dark feathered hen in her woody backyard. "They actually have personalities once you get to know them."

The baby birds lived inside the family's home for six weeks before moving into the chicken run in the yard. A wire-mesh enclosure now houses the five heritage hens — each a different breed — and protects them from bobcats, foxes and other predators.

Mark Podgwaite, a Vermont chicken breeder who heads the American Poultry Association, said he and other breeders have

noticed an uptick in demand for chicks since the pandemic began. His organization, which represents breeders and poultry-show exhibitors, has seen a jump in new members.

"Without question, the resurgence in raising backyard poultry has been unbelievable over the past year," said Podgwaite, who keeps a flock of roughly 100 birds. "It just exploded. Whether folks wanted birds just for eggs or eggs and meat, it seemed to really, really take off."

The Abta family bought the chicks from Mill Valley Chickens, which sells chickens, feed and supplies and builds coops and runs. Owner Leslie Citroen also offers classes for first-time chicken keepers. She estimates her sales have grown 400% this year.

"Once COVID hit, my phone just started ringing off the hook, and it just has not slowed down," Citroen said. "I don't think it's going to slow down. I think this new interest and passion in chickens is permanent."

Citroen said most of her customers this year are first-time chicken keepers. They range from parents looking for something to keep homebound children busy to "preppers" who want their own protein supply in case the world falls apart.

"Demand is just through the roof right now," Citroen said. "I've sold all my baby chicks. I've sold all my juveniles. And I'm starting to sell some of my family flock."

One of her newest customers is Ben Duddleston, who lives in nearby San Anselmo. He stopped by her home to buy three hens.

The self-described "first-time chicken dad" wanted to surprise his kids, ages 5 and 10, on Christmas.

"I think it's totally pandemic related. I don't think that I'd be doing this if in normal times," Duddleston said.

"I think it's totally pandemic related. I don't think that I'd be doing this if in normal times."

Ben Duddleston

First-time "chicken dad" in San Anselmo, Calif.

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Drawing a 'red line in the sand'

Primer on conflict zones around globe hindered by imprecise use of term

By DAVID BOSCO

Special to The Washington Post

On Aug. 20, 2012, at the end of a news conference that focused mostly on domestic politics, President Barack Obama fielded a question about the expanding civil war in Syria. The president condemned the violence by the regime of Bashar al-Assad and detailed his administration's efforts to provide humanitarian aid. He noted pointedly that he had not ordered military involvement, but he did add a caveat. Chemical weapons were a "red line," and their use "would change my calculations significantly." Almost exactly a year later, Syrian government forces bombarded a Damascus neighborhood with a nerve agent.

The Obama administration's deliberations in the wake of that attack have since been thoroughly analyzed by many. The basic story is familiar: A president who came into office criticizing military deployments in the Middle East drew back from the brink of military action, surprising many of his advisers. In "A Red Line in the Sand: Diplomacy, Strategy, and the History of Wars That Might Still Happen," David Andelman, a CNN columnist and

veteran correspondent for the New York Times and CBS News, proffers his own version of that episode.

Andelman, who divides his time between the United States and France, pairs the Obama administration's debates with those playing out in Paris. He describes a French government ready, even eager, to punish the Assad regime for its brutality. When Obama abruptly turned against the military option, French leaders were "hung out to dry." For Andelman, the episode was Obama's "single greatest failure," one that dealt a blow "to the effective establishment and utility of virtually any red line in modern diplomacy and warfare."

The Syria imbroglio is just one part of a book with much broader ambitions. Andelman wants to explore the phenomenon of red lines, track their past and present use, and distill some understanding of when they work and when they fail. He sketches a mostly dystopic world where dangerous lines are proliferating as the existing international order collapses: "There have never been more red lines at any one point in history than today." It is an arresting claim, but the author does not explain how he reaches it. He employs the

term "red line" frequently, but imprecisely. It refers to physical borders in some contexts. At other times, he uses it to mean strong national interests or zones of influence. In still other situations, it seems to refer to international rules and norms.

At its best, the book serves as a competent and thorough primer on conflict or potential conflict zones around the globe, from North Korea to Iran to the eastern provinces of Congo. After historical chapters on the appeasement of Hitler (where a succession of red lines collapsed ignominiously) and the Korean War (which the author describes as a costly but effective defense of a red line) come treatments of the South China Sea, North Korea, several African conflict zones and Iran. He considers Vladimir Putin's mischief in the "near abroad," including the absorption of Crimea and cyber-meddling in Estonia. In all these areas, Andelman condenses history and current events into digestible form.

However, the author's use of the term "red line" is so imprecise that his analytical project founders. We are left with aphorisms. Red lines must be firm; they must be clearly delineated and supported; there must be detailed consequences for

*Andelman is one of our most experienced national security journalists. Timely and insightful. A very welcome book.—Tom Brokaw

David A. Andelman

A RED LINE IN THE SAND

Diplomacy, Strategy, and the History of Wars that Might Still Happen

crossing them. Even these unsurprising conclusions do not really jibe with many of the situations he describes. Andelman makes no effort to demonstrate that Syria would be better off today had Obama loosed the cruise missiles that were on standby.

By the book's last chapter, which centers on the pandemic's geopolitical impact, Andelman seems to have wearied of the effort to analyze the efficacy of red lines. The virus, after all, "will transcend all red lines." What is required are healthy doses of "multilateralism, internationalism, and liberalism." Lines are everywhere in this book, but the bottom line is hard to find.

Fictional take on Salinger linked with history, not his novels

By MARK ATHITAKIS

Special to The Washington Post

In an alternate-universe version of 2020 — and who wouldn't want one of those? — we were talking a lot more about J.D. Salinger. By the end of the year we were supposed to have had new books featuring Holden Caulfield, the Glass clan and more, according to a 2013 oral history of the reclusive author. But no new books materialized. Perhaps we should have listened more closely to Salinger's son, Matthew, who in 2019 said that it could take at least a decade to publish what his father left behind after his death in 2010. So I guess we'll have to wait until 2029, if not longer, to hear more from one of America's best-loved — or most-assigned-in-class — authors.

"Sergeant Salinger," Jerome Charyn's novel about the author's adventures during World War II, is our consolation prize.

Here, Charyn isn't trying to sort out Salinger's decision to go into hiding after the meteoric success of "The Catcher in the Rye." The pressing question is what sparked his literary career in the first place.

Short answer: Phonies. Drawn from Salinger's actual experiences in love and war, the novel opens in 1942, as Salinger is just launching his career. He has a girlfriend — Eugene O'Neill's daughter, Oona — but she's a

popular debutante slipping out of his grasp. (She would later marry Charlie Chaplin.) He's the scion of a well-off Manhattan family, but tired of its strictures. At the Stork Club, columnist Walter Winchell is impressed enough with him to offer a writing job, but Salinger wants none of his braggadocio or his jibes against his idol, Ernest Hemingway, who's sitting right beside him.

Once Salinger, aka Sonny, is drafted into the Army, all that petty social-set striving gets shunted aside. Salinger served in the Counterintelligence Corps and saw some of the European theater's fiercest fighting at Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge.

But for all the physical carnage Sonny witnesses, Charyn suggests the author is equally affected by the duplicity and fakeness of those around him. Charged with interrogating prisoners of war, he grows used to deceit. The phoniness extends up through the chain of command, the stragglers of Vichy France, and — worst of all — his literary hero.

In Paris, he's charged with confronting Hemingway, who has assembled a band of resistance fighters but mainly seems to be a Falstaffian self-parody, play-acting at past glories. In a sen-

tence, Charyn passes the literary torch: "War had become a kind of romance to Papa, a quixotic quest, with bandoliers and invented fables and flags, while it was nothing but pillage to Sonny, the soiling of a landscape, all the unheroic horror and static silences that Hem himself had once written about."

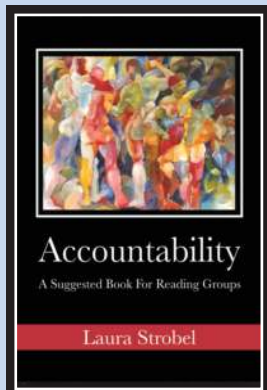
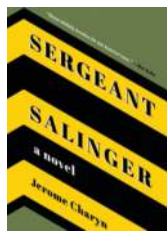
Salinger's disillusionment reaches its climax in 1945, as he helps liberate one of the camps at Dachau, in a masterful and stomach-churning set piece. He checks himself into an asylum, where he meets Sylvia, who would be his first wife, and braces for a lifetime of consumption with injustice, starting with denazification.

In outline, "Sergeant Salinger"

is true to history. But it also strains to connect the author with his literary creations. Charyn steers Sonny to be an echo of the men in two of Salinger's classic stories about soldiers, "For Esme — With Love and Squalor" and "A Perfect Day for Bananafish." (Salinger's sister feels that "Sonny's homecoming ... was a subtle form of suicide," echoing the death at the end of the latter story.) In an essay on Salinger published in 2019 by Forward, Charyn described Salinger as "the author of frozen adolescence, one more lost bar mitzvah boy in search of a manhood that will never come." In the novel, Charyn leaves his melancholy Salinger unfinished in a similar way. By the novel's end, Sonny is weath-

ered by war but remains unprepared to write the fiction that would make his career: "Sonny wanted to write sentences that would scorch the reader's soul like shards of burning ice. But he was impotent, even in his Eisenhower."

How he'll surpass that impotence isn't clear, and the blankness grates a little — shouldn't a historical fiction provide a fuller picture of a person, one that the historical record can't provide? Charyn's Salinger is an empty vessel, collecting ennui and experiences, despairing for some way to clarify it all in fiction. He would get there, somehow. But in this novel, as with much of Salinger's life, we have to accept a certain amount of mystery.



Four out of Four Stars for this True Story!
Read or Listen to the **First Chapter** and her
Blog at www.LauraStrobelAuthor.com

Available on Amazon
PRINTED AUDIO eBOOK

Laura Strobel was born in New York City and grew up in Connecticut. Married for over three decades to the love of her life, she is most proud of her two dashing young men who **love to tease (and taunt) their mama.**



WEEKEND: MUSIC

BY MIKAEL WOOD

Los Angeles Times

Given all the trouble Morgan Wallen got himself into while drinking last year, you might be surprised to discover how many of the songs on his new double album, “Dangerous,” are set in dimly lit bars.

In May, the 27-year-old country star was arrested for public intoxication and disorderly conduct after an incident of what he called “horseplay” at a honky-tonk in downtown Nashville. Then, in October, “Saturday Night Live” rescinded a coveted invite to perform after clips surfaced on social media showing Wallen partying without a mask in a tightly packed crowd.

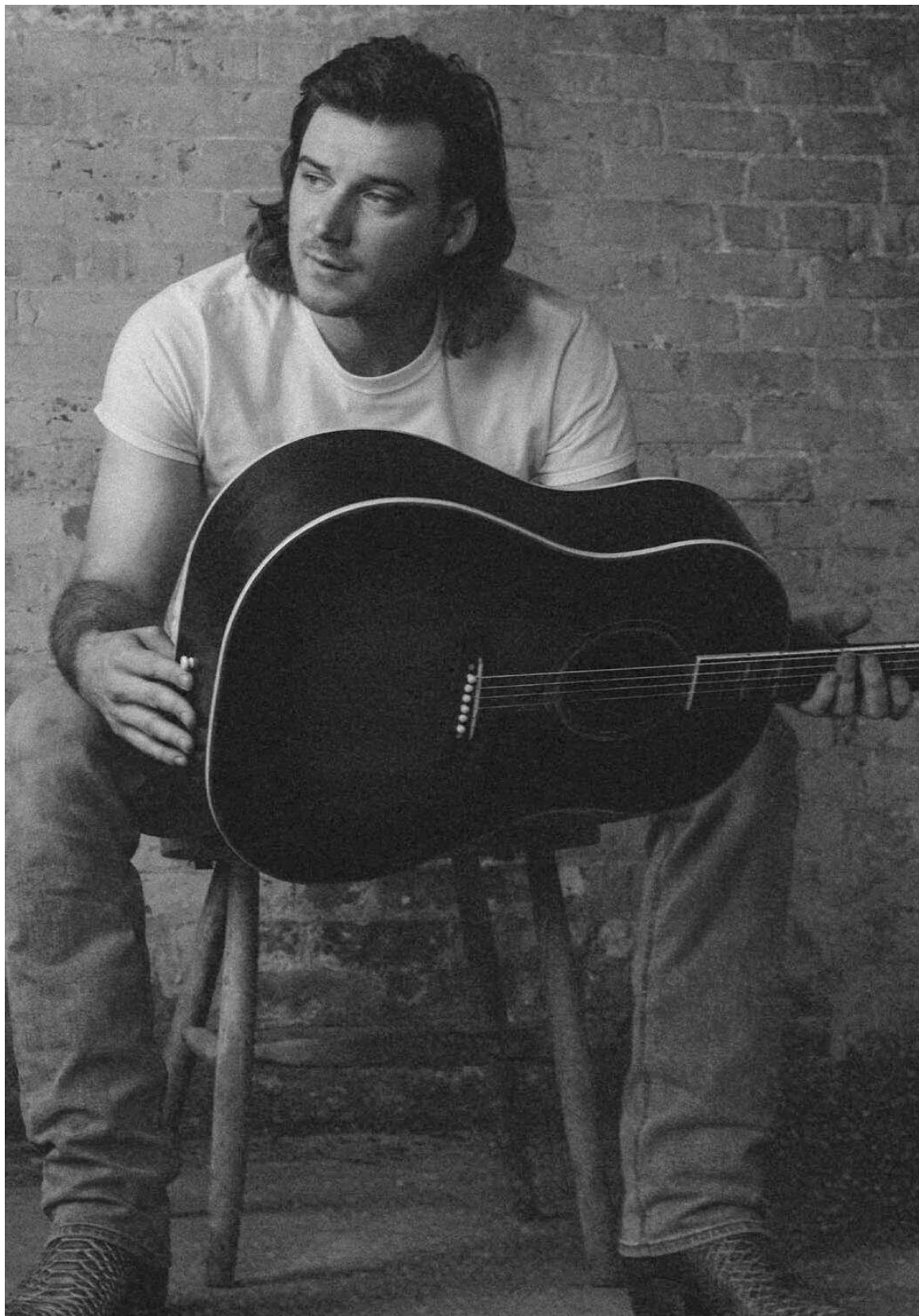
Yet here he is again and again on “Dangerous,” bathed in the glow of some neon sign or another as he gets “Tennessee tipsy” with a lady friend or loses count of the number of beers he and his boys have downed. In “This Bar,” one of several advance singles from the album that have already racked up tens of millions of streams, Wallen deploys a bit of expert wordplay to describe all the life he’s lived under the roof of his favorite watering hole: “I found myself in this bar,” he sings, not exactly encouraging anyone to forget the sight of his mug shot.

Then again, how damaging has any of this trouble been for him?

The famous owner of the establishment in Nashville — Kid Rock’s Big Ass Honky Tonk and Rock ’n’ Roll Steakhouse — publicly forgave Wallen for smashing a shot glass. (The two later posed for a chummy photo on Instagram.) And last month, shortly after the 27-year-old singer was named new artist of the year at the CMA Awards, “SNL” rebooked Wallen, who in addition to doing two songs took part in a sketch gently lampooning his COVID-courting ways.

Minus serious consequences, the result was a light burnishing of the bad-boy image that’s helping to distinguish Wallen as country music enters its post-bro era. With once-dominant artists like Luke Bryan, Jason Aldean and Blake Shelton having reached middle age, the genre needs fresh male superstars, and Wallen isn’t the only aspirant who understands that success these days relies upon the internet presence that Nashville’s older stars have only fitfully pursued.

Whether by incorporating hip-hop into their music (a la Sam Hunt) or reissuing their albums in overstuffed deluxe editions (like Luke Combs), country’s young dudes are no less oriented toward streaming than their peers in pop and rap are. But unlike the arty-sensitive Hunt or the friendly-regular Combs, Wallen — whose TikTok hit “7 Summers” recently set a record, later broken by Combs,



BIG LOUD RECORDS, REPUBLIC RECORDS/AP

Morgan Wallen is often bathed in neon barlight on his new release, “Dangerous: The Double Album,” but the 27-year-old singer also has a firm handle on the ballads and tight song structures prized in Nashville.

The dude imbibes

On 30-song new album, Morgan Wallen burnishes his barfly image while staking his claim as country’s new superstar

for the most first-week streams by a male country solo act — brandishes something of an edge; there’s a knowingly scuzzy quality to his mullet haircut and his sleeveless flannel shirts that feels genuine even if his entrance to

show business came as a baby-faced contestant on “The Voice.”

How does that manifest on “Dangerous,” which follows Wallen’s chart-topping 2018 debut, “If I Know Me”? Among the album’s 30 tunes — seven

more than Combs’ “What You See Ain’t Always What You Get” from last year — are a half-dozen with the words “whiskey,” “beer” or “country” in their titles.

In “Country Ass S—,” he sings about happily letting his neck

redden on a fishing trip; in “Blame It on Me,” he takes the blame (which is to say the credit) for a woman’s switching from wine to whiskey. The title track, which Wallen has said he wrote after that night at Kid Rock’s joint, opens with the narrator “sitting in the back of a cop car, banging my head on a window.”

Even the slower, prettier stuff — and nothing here (or elsewhere on country radio) is prettier than “7 Summers” — puts across a kind of knucklehead intransigence: Over dreamy electric guitars that recall Fleetwood Mac, Wallen thinks wistfully in “7 Summers” about the one that got away, even as he acknowledges that her dad must be relieved she “dodged a bullet of a good ol’ boy like me.”

“I still go drinking, same friends on Friday,” he adds with more than a hint of pride, “Guess you never saw things my way anyway.”

As rowdy or unvarnished as Wallen might want to appear on “Dangerous,” his songs — most of which he co-wrote with experienced Music Row pros such as Shane McAnally, Rodney Clawson and Hillary Lindsey — invariably flaunt the tight structures that Nashville prizes; that’s true even when he and his producer, Joey Moi (who’s also worked with Florida Georgia Line), bring in outside textures like the bleary trap beat that powers the Post Malone-ish “Warning.”

What makes the music breathe, especially as the collection stretches into its second hour, is Wallen’s singing, which has a soulful flexibility similar to that of Chris Stapleton, who turns up to match raspy runs with Wallen in “Only Thing That’s Gone,” a muscular duet addressed to — who else? — a bartender. As a vocalist, Wallen is best on “Dangerous” when he softens the tough-guy act with a pang of physical desire, as in “Somebody’s Problem,” where he’s “thinking ‘bout them tan lines,” and “Me on Whiskey,” where he’s actually eager to leave a bar for once: “I know you got your red dress on,” he sings, one eye on the door. “But it was always gonna come back off.”

The craving in these intimate bedroom jams is perhaps a sign that, even if it was good for business, Wallen’s bumpy 2020 left him unsure about a life spent in the spotlight. “Dangerous” closes with a vivid hard-at-the-top song called “Livin’ the Dream” and “Quittin’ Time,” a yearning acoustic number (co-written by Eric Church) about how the singer can tell a lover is finished with him by “the tears not in your eyes.”

That’s a great line, one Wallen sells with real empathy. But you’re kidding yourself if you don’t also hear the wink of a rascal ready to get back out there.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

REVIEW



Joshua Black Wilkins

Steve Earle's "J.T." features 10 covers of songs written by his son Justin Townes Earle (inset), who died at 38 in August.

Shervin Lainez

Steve Earle pays moving tribute to late son's talent

By SCOTT STROUD
Associated Press

Steve Earle has recorded tribute albums before, to songwriting mentors Townes Van Zandt and Guy Clark. But this one is different.

Maybe that's because he started recording it just months after his son, Justin Townes Earle, died alone in his Nashville apartment of an overdose at the age of 38. It feels like something he had to do, a father's way of grieving.

"J.T." consists of 10 of his son's songs and one original composition, "Last Words." Oddly, the one new song feels impersonal



Steve Earle
J.T. (New West)

even as it recounts their last phone call. The details are intimate but somehow generic, and Steve Earle reveals more about their relationship in liner notes and interviews.

But how can you blame a father for not being vulnerable enough in his grief? The hurt could be too raw to be so far out there, the way Steve Earle has been throughout his career.

Still, the more moving homage comes in the careful curation and performance of the son's songs. The passion Steve Earle and his band, which once included Justin in their ranks, poured into them is palpable. One can imagine the heartbroken father, working his way through his son's impressive but

suddenly finite catalog, making careful, loving choices.

Some songs, including "Far Away in Another Town" and "Champagne Corolla," shed new light on what well-crafted compositions they are. Steve Earle's singing is more gruff and hard-edged than his son's, but his treatment of his son's work only highlights how good it is. He fully inhabits every last song.

Ultimately, "J.T." does what tribute albums are supposed to do. It elevates the work of the artist, reminds us of what great songs he created, and somehow begins the painful process of sorting through an unfathomable loss.

WEEKEND: TELEVISION



LIAM DANIEL/Netflix

Golda Rosheuvel is Queen Charlotte in “Bridgerton.” The show is among more recent offerings to be more intentional about its color-conscious approach to casting. Behind the character played by Rosheuvel is a real-life monarch believed to be descended from a Portuguese branch of nobility with African ancestry.

Fantasy TV shows are finally making an effort to be more racially inclusive

BY TRACY BROWN

Los Angeles Times

During this season’s penultimate episode of “His Dark Materials,” Carlo Boreal met his demise.

The character’s fate wasn’t a surprise to those familiar with Philip Pullman’s fantasy novels, as the HBO series, which concluded its second season last month, did not stray too far from the source material for this part of Boreal’s story.

But the Boreal of the TV show, portrayed by actor Ariyon Bakare, was distinct from the Boreal of the book: He played a much larger role onscreen, for one. And he’s also generally been perceived as white.

Lord Boreal “is written in the book as a character who’s older with silver gray hair,” Bakare told The Times. But “[Pullman] never actually says what color he is ... People assume, because of his status and his class, that he would be an older white man.”

For Bakare, who read the books to prepare for the role, Boreal’s race wasn’t an aspect of the character that stood out to him.

“I didn’t see color about the part,” he said. “I actually just saw what he was driven by — his motivations and how he moves within the world. And I was like, ‘Well, how could I interpret that to make a three-dimensional character?’”

It has frequently been noted that mainstream fantasy fiction, especially titles set in worlds inspired by Western Europe, have historically fallen short when it comes to diverse representation. And in films and TV series from “The Lord of the Rings” to “Game of Thrones,” the onscreen inhabitants of these worlds have been predominantly white, a creative decision often justified by claims of historical or cultural “realism” — despite such worlds being populated with a cornucopia of magical beings.

Fantasy isn’t alone among popular storytelling genres: Sci-fi, horror and superhero shows also have a history of telling stories involving predominantly white protagonists in predominantly white worlds. Lately, though, projects such as “Watchmen” and “Lovecraft Country” have directly confronted racism through a genre lens in a way that has yet to be seen in fantasy television. Similarly, space-set projects like “Star Trek: Discovery” — drawing on the franchise’s rich tradition of diversity — and “The Mandalorian” have recently featured inclusive casting in their adventures, though without explicit reference to real-life historical moments or cultures.

“Color and race are a part of the show and as much of a part of the conversation as things like class and gender and sexuality are.”

Chris Van Dusen

“Bridgerton” creator and executive producer

Based on a series of books set in a world where all people are accompanied by animal partners, called daemons, that represent a part of their soul, “His Dark Materials” is the notable fantasy series that features a more racially inclusive cast than its source material indicates. And along with shows such as Netflix’s new period romance “Bridgerton,” it’s showing how even Eurocentric fantasy can be more intentional in its approach to diverse representation.

According to “His Dark Materials” showrunner Jack Thorne, some of the earliest conversations he had with executive producer Jane Tranter about casting focused on ensuring that the show reflected the diversity of the real world.

“I think the idea of colorblind casting

is really problematic, and I don’t think we did that,” Thorne said. “We always thought about, ‘What are the possibilities of diversity here?’ And because we were casting quite a way before filming, we were able to then accommodate any gems that came out of the casting process and write to them.”

One of these gems was Bakare, whose casting led to further expansion of Boreal’s role.

For Tranter, the most important factor in casting a book adaptation is capturing the spirit of the character “rather than the shape of the character.” She doesn’t try to exactly match the character’s written description from a novel, she said.

“I think ‘colorblind’ implies that color and race aren’t considered, and I don’t think that’s true for ‘Bridgerton,’” Van Dusen said. “Color and race are a part of the show and as much of a part of the conversation as things like class and gender and sexuality are.”

Set in a fantasy version of Regency England, the world of “Bridgerton” is not only more inclusive in its casting — race is something that is addressed directly within the story.

“We wanted to go beyond mere representation — we wanted race to be a part of our text,” Van Dusen said. “The world of ‘Bridgerton’ is a world where we’re very clear about how the color of your skin doesn’t determine whether you’re high- or low-born.”

Indeed, Queen Charlotte, the real-life monarch at the series’ center, is believed to be descended from a Portuguese branch of nobility with African ancestry.

“There’s one possible fact, which is this idea that Queen Charlotte was England’s first queen of mixed race,” Van Dusen said. “It’s something that a lot of historians firmly believe there’s evidence for today. That idea really struck me and resonated with me because it made me wonder, ‘What could that [world] have looked like? Could this queen of England have used her power to elevate other people of color in society and given them things like titles and lands and dukedoms?’ That’s really how our particular Duke of Hastings came to be.”

While series such as “His Dark Materials” and “Bridgerton” represent strides toward more inclusive fantasy TV of all sorts, Thorne acknowledges that there is still much work to do.

“Disability has no representation in any of these shows,” he said. “And not much in ‘His Dark Materials’ yet, but we are working on that.”

“As soon as we knew we were writing for Ariyon, we then had to think very carefully about what that would mean [for Boreal to be Black],” Thorne said. “We constructed a history for Boreal about where he came from and what he’d done to get where he had and what it was like for him in a Magisterial world, which is otherwise all white, and how that ended up being a key factor in his relationship with Mrs. Coulter” — Ruth Wilson’s character, who is one of the few prominent women in the series’ world.

As with Thorne and “His Dark Materials,” “Bridgerton” creator and executive producer Chris Van Dusen explained that his Netflix series took a color-conscious approach to casting.

WEEKEND: TELEVISION

NEW ON DVD

Winner of the Louis Black “Lone Star” Award at the 2020 SXSW Film Festival, “**Miss Juneteenth**” follows a financially struggling single mom, Turquoise Jones (Nicole Beharie), who enters her teenage daughter, Kai (Alexis Chikaeze), into the local Miss Juneteenth pageant. It’s a title Turquoise won herself, but was unable to take full advantage of its college scholarship prize due to having Kai. And 15-year-old Kai is less than enthused with the idea.

“[Director Channing Godfrey] Peoples and Beharie have established [Turquoise] as such a compelling character that you always root for her. It’s not that we want to see Kai and Turquoise necessarily win the pageant, but to see them find stability and understanding in their relationships, to learn to compromise and happily coexist as individuals, and to express themselves with dignity and grace,” Tribune News Service critic Katie Walsh wrote in her review of the film. “That right there is real Miss Juneteenth material.”

Also available on DVD:

“**The Kid Detective**”: A former child detective (Adam Brody) keeps taking trivial cases into his 30s.

“**The Cleansing Hour**”: A pair of sham exorcists (Ryan Guzman and Kyle Gallner) face dire consequences when one of their girlfriends (Alix Angelis) is actually possessed by a demon.

“**The Climb**”: Real-life best friends (Michael Angelo Covino and Kyle Marvin) grapple with how one slept with the other’s fiancée.

“**Always and Forever**”: A woman (Cynthia Addai-Robinson) believes her friends’ mysterious deaths are linked to her traumatic past.

“**Dead Reckoning**”: A woman in Nantucket (India Eisley) must stop the terrorist who murdered her parents.

“**Dreamland**”: A Great Depression-era farm boy (Finn Cole) struggles to decide whether to turn in or help a fugitive (Margot Robbie).

“**Hearts and Bones**”: A Sudanese refugee (Andrew Luri) pleads with a war photojournalist (Hugo Weaving) not to display photos of a massacre in his village.

“**Max Cloud**”: A teenage girl (Isabelle Allen) gets trapped inside her favorite video game.

“**Spiral**”: A detective (Chris Rock) is targeted by a sadistic killer.

“**The Village in the Woods**”: A couple attempting fraud in a small village become marks themselves.

“**Wander**”: A grieving private investigator (Aaron Eckhart) becomes convinced a small-town case is connected to his daughter’s death.

— Tribune News Service



NETFLIX/AP photos

From left to right, Jonathan Kim, Alexandra Jones and Melissa Schwimmer compete in Netflix’s new food-based reality game show “**Best Leftovers Ever!**” On the show, contestants don’t just reheat food but “create new and better things with it later,” says judge David So.

Repurposed, not reheated

Aim of latest food-game show: inspire viewers to rework leftovers, not throw them away

BY MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

Just in time for anyone with recent memories of a near-bursting post-holiday refrigerator comes a TV show about what to do with all those dubious dishes — leftovers.

Each episode of the food game show “**Best Leftovers Ever!**” on Netflix sees three skilled cooks make new dishes out of already made dishes, hoping to walk away with \$10,000.

“People think leftovers is just reheating your food. It’s not just reheating your food. Get creative with it. You could always create new and better things with it later,” says comedian David So, one of the judges.

In the first episode, contestants are given healthy leftovers — veggie salad, cauliflower rice, pork tenderloin with beets, and avocado with cottage cheese — and are asked to turn them into comfort food in 30 minutes. They have access to a pantry and kitchen staples.

One contestant turned to Indian flavors, making a pork curry with fritters. Another went for Greek, making a beet- and pork-stuffed pastry called a tiropita. The third made a tostada with glazed pepper jelly pork.

In the second round, called the Takeout Takedown, contestants must make new dishes from restaurant leftovers in only an hour. One took chicken fingers and fries and made a potato gnocchi. Another turned old



An example of the types of leftovers that contestants on “**Best Leftovers Ever!**” were given to work with is seen above, and the reworked dish is seen below.



burgers and fries into pierogies.

Later episodes see contestants turn football-watching party food — bean dip, sliders and raw veggies — into beef stroganoff or tacos, and leftover barbecue into lasagna or dumplings.

“If the audience can walk away and go back to their fridge and say, ‘Hey, I’m not going to throw this away; I’m actually going to make something amazing out of it,’ then we did our job,” So says.

The show arrives just as viewers have had to adjust to ordering takeout during the pandemic and at the end of holiday feasts.

“The timing couldn’t be more perfect,” says the show’s host, actress-musician Jackie Tohn, who starred in TV’s “**GLOW**” and says she’s a “leftover queen.”

“We can’t go to restaurants, and all we can do is order in. And then if you get that Chinese food and you don’t want it to be Chi-

nese food on night two, we’re giving you a bunch of tips and tricks to make that possible.”

Tohn and So are joined by the second judge, British chef and TV personality Rosemary Shrager. The three have a slightly absurdist vibe, tossing cheeseballs into each others’ mouths while contestants cook, or imitating Julia Child’s high-pitched modulations.

“Being on set wasn’t like work. It was just like talking to your friends and eating really good food around talented people,” So says. “I mean, everybody would love a job like that, right?”

The show appealed to both So and Tohn since they grew up in households where there was little food wasted. Tohn’s grandmother used to keep bones for marrow: “Nothing ever got thrown away. I mean, we ate leftovers until the very end.”

And So had leftovers all week.

“Everybody thinks that you have to eat new food every day. And that’s just not what I grew up with,” he says. “My mom would always make a big meal on the weekend and then I would have to be creative and then make good food on the weekdays with it.”

He laughs that chefs always stress fresh ingredients, but a lot of what restaurants send out is leftovers, like arancini, which are usually just yesterday’s risotto, now rolled into balls and deep fried. “I don’t think we understand a lot of our favorite foods are honestly repurposed foods.”

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Survival of the prepared

Rehab psychologist discusses her COVID-19 guide, which she wrote to help patients navigate a positive diagnosis

BY DARCEL ROCKETT
Chicago Tribune

While the pandemic was turning the world upside down, front-line worker Abigail Hardin was writing a survival guide.

A Rush University Medical Group rehabilitation psychologist who counsels patients from intensive care to rehab, Hardin drew on her professional experiences to write “The COVID-19 Survival Guide: How to Prepare for, Manage, and Overcome a Coronavirus Infection.” The book offers readers advice on how to navigate the virus from diagnosis to recovery.

“Early on in the pandemic, there was a lot of discussion about survival rates ... And then, what I was seeing in rehab, people were surviving COVID-19, but then they had to contend with these very serious ongoing issues that you don’t necessarily think about,” Hardin said. “You just think, ‘Oh well, I’ll survive, and everything will be fine.’ That’s not always true. So, I thought it was important for survivors of COVID-19 to have some sort of idea what they might be facing after that moment where they feel like, ‘OK, I’ve survived, but what’s next?’”

According to Hardin, preparing in advance of becoming sick puts you in the best position for survival, and also helps manage and mitigate everything that might come afterward. The guide helps readers create a COVID-19 prep kit; decide on legal documents, like living wills and powers of attorney; and understand do not resuscitate orders (DNR) and physician orders for life-sustaining treatment (POLST).

The book also walks readers through what to expect if they are hospitalized, including medical professionals who may be on your medical team and professionals you might want to consult. Also, Hardin outlines the things you can do to optimize your recovery and enable your family and friends to help you. Resources in the book and on Hardin’s website include COVID-19 kit packing lists, rehab goal worksheets, daily routine planner pages and journal/diary prompts.



“As a psychologist, I focus on making sure that the people who you really care about ... are aware of what’s going on in your life, so that they can support you,” Hardin said. “Whether you’re in the hospital or not, just contracting COVID-19 is a super scary thing to have happen. Keep the book by your bedside, read a couple chapters a night, and once you’re done, you should feel much more ready to tackle COVID-19, if it should happen to you or even to a family member.”

Vaccination information isn’t addressed in the book, which was released in October, but Hardin said preparing for being sick remains important.

“I understand that people don’t want to be defeatist, and they don’t want to think, ‘I’m going to get sick,’ but you keep a survival kit in your car, right?” she said. “So why not prepare for these potential major life events, and then if it doesn’t happen, great. But if it does, you’re ready.”

Hardin elaborates on the guide in the following interview, which has been condensed and edited for clarity.

“I understand that people don’t want to be defeatist, and they don’t want to think, ‘I’m going to get sick,’ but you keep a survival kit in your car, right? So why not prepare for these potential major life events, and then if it doesn’t happen, great. But if it does, you’re ready.”

Abigail Hardin

Rush University Medical Group rehabilitation psychologist



ANTONIO PEREZ, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

Rush University Medical Group rehabilitation psychologist Abigail Hardin, shown Jan. 6, has written a guide on COVID-19 that offers advice and preparation tips to help prior, during and after a positive diagnosis.

Chicago Tribune: What does a COVID-19 kit entail?

Hardin: The kit includes basic things that you might not think about. For example, when you’re in the hospital, if you use hearing aids or glasses, and you don’t have access to those in the hospital, it can impact what’s called “hospital delirium.” So, by packing those and having an extra set of glasses and hearing aids in your kit, you’re ready to go, so that you can minimize that problem in the hospital. So that’s kind of what the kit is — everything you would need to get the most out of your hospitalization while minimizing any of the potential problems that can come along with being that sick.

What’s been the hardest thing for COVID-19 patients and survivors to wrap their heads around during their illness?

One (thing) I see a lot is people feel that their ability to function normally — moving, walking, going to work — that is their identity. After you’ve been critically sick, it might be a while before you’re able to go back to literally walking, and certainly before you’re able to go back to work. And so, what I see a lot of is people really feeling very down and almost a loss of identity because while they’re trying to get back on their feet, quite literally, they don’t have a clear sense of who they are.

I’ve heard people say, ‘How can I support my family? How can I be a good husband when I’m not able to go to work?’ As a rehab psychologist, that really hits me because it’s important that people, while they’re recovering, feel a sense of identity and a sense of value in the world. So that’s been really hard.

Lingering pain post-COVID-19, does your book address that?

Yes. After you get sick, whether or not you were hospitalized with COVID-19, we’re seeing both people who are critically ill and who really were not critically ill, both showing very long-term symptoms like pain — and brain fog is a big one — all sorts of different physical symptoms, as well as mental health changes.

Returning to life after testing positive for COVID-19 is a huge emphasis of the book, and that is psychological as it is physical. So having a plan for how to reenter your life safely and in a way where you’re pacing yourself, that’s so important.

Your book offers steps to chart one’s rehabilitation progress to make sure pacing is happening, instead of pushing.

There’s a way you can set up a strategy for pacing yourself. I give people strategies for how to return to their activities, how to identify which activities to return to immediately versus the ones to wait on, and then how to apply the idea of pacing yourself.

If you’re involved with a formal rehabilitation program, you’ll have access to experts who will help you walk through what kinds of physical exercises and brain exercises to do. For people who do not have those resources, there are some ideas about how to get started and how to self-assess.

And there are some ideas for how to process what you’ve been through from a psychological/emotional perspective, so that potential trauma or the experience of having been sick and having these ongoing symptoms doesn’t derail your progress.

WEEKEND: FAMILY



MEGGAN HALLER/For The Washington Post

Aaron Walker and his wife, Katy Dobson, welcomed their son, Atlas, on Dec. 8.

‘Weird time’ for newborns

First quarantine babies, conceived and born in the pandemic, are here

By ASHLEY FETTERS
The Washington Post

Katy Dobson and her family have taken to calling her 2-week-old boy, Atlas, a “coronial.” Atlas’ time in his mother’s womb coincided almost perfectly with the nine months that the United States has spent battling the coronavirus pandemic. He was born Dec. 8 in Pensacola, Fla., 38 weeks into his mother’s pregnancy and almost 39 weeks after the surreal Wednesday in March when Tom Hanks announced he had tested positive, the NBA suspended its season because of transmission concerns, and the World Health Organization officially declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic.

When shutdowns began in the United States back in March, almost immediately there were titters and murmurs of the baby boom that would materialize nine months later. All that free time for cohabitating couples to stay home alone together, surely would result in overflowing maternity wards come December, the speculation went. At the same time, others wondered whether worries about the devastating effects of the pandemic would cause some couples to put their plans to conceive on hold, leading to a “baby bust” in December and January.

In some cases, like Dobson’s, the former is precisely what happened: Her husband, tattoo artist Aaron Walker, 31, went into self-quarantine several days before Florida’s stay-at-home orders went into effect March 30. He was suddenly home with Dobson all day every day, “and it happened, like, that week,” Dobson, 27, said with a laugh.

It’s still unclear what’s happening on a national scale. Some hospitals and midwife groups, such as Brigham and Women’s in Boston and Brooklyn Homebirth Midwifery in New York, have reported no notable change in numbers of patients expecting in December and January, while Michigan Medicine in Ann Arbor has seen about a 10% decrease. The Birthing Gently doula collective, which has locations in New York City, Boston and Charlotte, N.C., has noticed a 30% increase over last year in clients due in December and January.

The National Center for Health Statistics, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, doesn’t expect to release the nationwide birth rate data for late 2020 (and settle once and for all the whole “boom or bust” question) for another six months. But what’s clear now is that the first wave of pandemic babies — COVID babies, coronials, pandemi-kids, whatever you want to call the micro-generation of children conceived, carried and born during the COVID-19 crisis — is making its way into the world, and their parents have experienced

pregnancy in a way that few others in modern history have.

Dobson’s prior miscarriages, she said, meant her prenatal doctor visits were more frequent than most patients’; she saw her obstetrician every two weeks for her entire pregnancy. New COVID-19-related policies meant her temperature was taken at three different checkpoints at each visit. Social distancing requirements and new occupancy limits meant Walker was able to attend almost none of her appointments.

Dobson was unable to attend any birthing classes before she delivered Atlas; they weren’t offered nearby during the pandemic, she said. She had no baby shower, no shopping trips for nursery supplies or baby clothes, no gender-reveal party. Her mother, she said, sent her friends and relatives a note requesting that in lieu of a shower, they send gifts and cards with a few words of parenting advice through the mail instead. (A Zoom shower, she said, was out of the question: “Our internet’s not the greatest.”)

Like every new parent who has given birth in the past nine months, Dobson had to adjust her expectations for the day of delivery — and manage those of her family. Walker was allowed in the hospital delivery room the day Atlas was born, but no other visitors were permitted. Dobson’s mother was disappointed, Dobson said, but she herself was slightly relieved: At the time, multiple relatives were sick with COVID-19.

As Dobson and her nationwide cohort of new moms transition from pandemic pregnancy into pandemic parenthood, some of their unique struggles will fade away and be replaced by the more ordinary challenges of raising kids. But the loneliness, the lack of emotional and practical support that characterized their pregnancies, will probably linger, at least until the vaccines become available to the public.

One day, Dobson imagines, she’ll explain to Atlas why for the first few months of his life, only two people — his parents — ever held him or fed him or rocked him to sleep. She will explain to him that he met his great-grandmother via FaceTime while she was in the hospital recovering from COVID-19. She’ll tell him the story of Dobson’s parents driving for four hours to meet her in the parking lot of her brother’s apartment and spending an hour gazing at their new grandson through a car window before heading back home.

Throughout her pregnancy, Dobson has kept a journal; in the future, she wants to be able remember in vivid, specific detail the conditions that will shape little Atlas’ early life. Because while it’s a strange, challenging time to be a parent, she said, it’s also “a weird time to be a baby.”

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Are we on the cusp of another UFO craze?

I dug my heels into our shag carpet and bore deeper into my vinyl bean bag chair, thoroughly terrified but unable to avert my widened eyes from our console television. The riveting hypnosis scene from the 1975 television movie “The UFO Incident” starring James Earl Jones was imprinting itself permanently into my impressionable 11-year-old brain.

The memory still gives me the willies, 43 years later.

The movie depicted the real-life story of Betty and Barney Hill, an average New Hampshire couple who, while driving home from a holiday in Niagara Falls on a dark, lonely road, claimed to have been briefly abducted, then medically examined, by aliens. In the hypnosis scene, Barney (played by Jones) cries out as he recalls horrifying details buried by traumatic amnesia.

Some researchers hypothesize that stories of alien abductions like Betty and Barney Hill’s gained traction in the 1980s due to media coverage of new reproductive technologies and controversial human experimentation. Others believe that reports of UFO sightings and alien encounters, which began in the 1950s, were simply “cultural mass hysteria” brought on by fear of Cold War nuclear destruction.

Like others of my generation, I remember conspiracy theories about UFOs crashing in Roswell, N.M., and alien autopsies at Area 51. At the movie theater, I saw “Star Wars,” “Close Encounters of the Third Kind,” “Alien” and “E.T. the Extraterrestrial.” I said “Nanu-nanu” like Robin Williams’ alien character in “Mork and Mindy.” I watched “The Jetsons” after school, and giggled when little green Gazoo appeared on “The Flintstones.” I nibbled Pillsbury Space Food Sticks and slurped Tang because that’s what astronauts did.

When you consider our cultural influences, it’s no wonder we were alien-obsessed back then. But will recent developments in science and technology reconstitute media attention and public suspicions about intelligent life beyond Earth? Are we on the cusp of another UFO craze?

This month, Harvard’s longtime Astronomy Department Chair, Avi Loeb, publishes his new book “Extraterrestrial: The First Sign of Intelligent Life Beyond Earth,” in which he hypothesizes that an interstellar object named Oumuamua, which passed through our solar system in 2017, was actually a hunk of alien equipment.

Last month, it was reported that astronomers from the Breakthrough Listen Project, which attempts to detect stray or intentional alien broadcasts, discovered a narrow beam of intriguing radio waves (BLC1) coming from the direction of Proxima Centauri, the nearest star to the sun. The transmission is the first beam NOT believed to have originated from human-made interference or natural sources.

To complicate matters, new technologies will launch more flying objects that could be confused as UFOs. The United States military currently operates more than 11,000 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS, or “drones”) in support of domestic training events and overseas contingency missions.

Also, the commercial drone industry has limited approval from the Federal Aviation Administration to develop drone fleets to expedite deliveries of small packages to consumers. There are currently 1.7 million registered commercial drones, which fly between 200-400 feet overhead.

With so many flying objects in our airspace, how are average citizens supposed to know whether the lights they see in the sky are aliens coming to abduct them, or just a flying package of K-cups from Amazon?

I plan to binge the next alien-themed television series on Netflix, visit the nearest Planetarium and reread Stephen Hawking’s “A Brief History of Time.” Who knows? Maybe Pillsbury will bring back Space Food Sticks.

Dare to dream.

Read more at themeatandpotatoesoflife.com, and in Lisa’s book, “The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com.” Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@gmail.com

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

BUSTING MOVES

BY PAOLO PASCO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

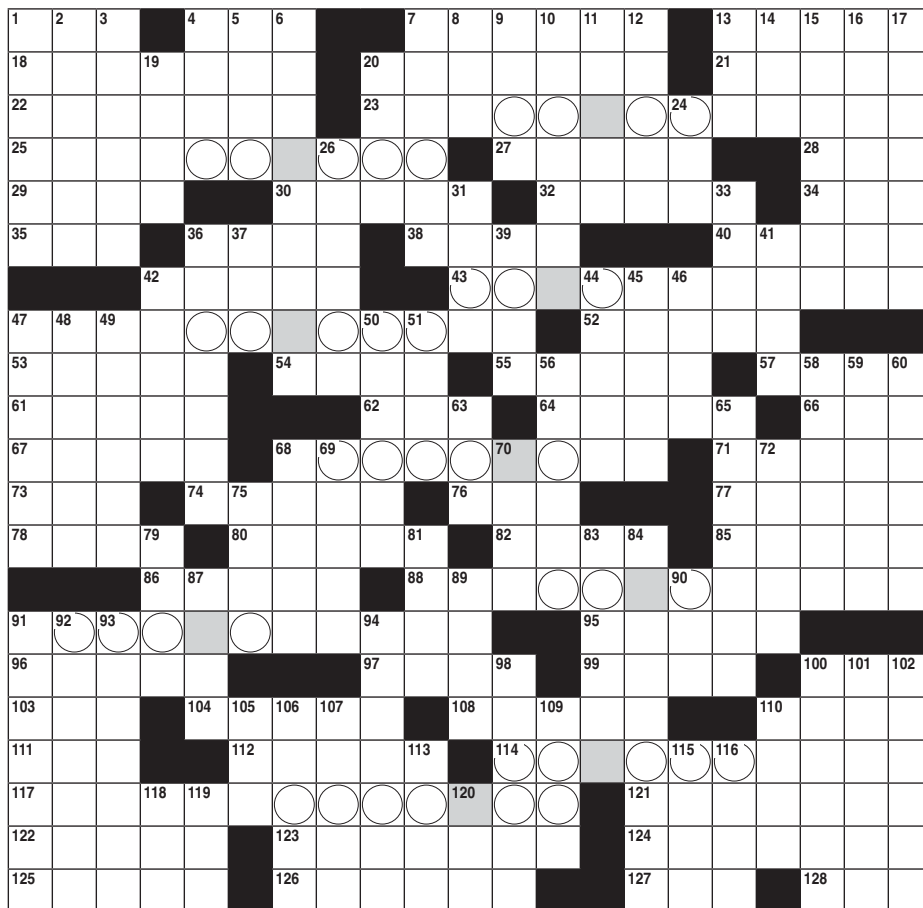
Paolo Pasco, of San Diego, is a junior at Harvard studying computer science. He sold his first crossword to The Times five years ago, when he was 15. With this being his 20th puzzle for the paper, the number of his Times puzzles has already reached his age. Paolo's crosswords have appeared in many places, including The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, the crossword-specific Fireball and his own blog, Grids These Days. — W.S.

ACROSS

- 1 Ocean motion
- 4 [I expected better from you!]
- 7 Tracking systems
- 13 Makes out, in Manchester
- 18 Stuffed and fried cornmeal pocket, in Mexican cuisine
- 20 Lizzo or Lorde
- 21 ____-hole
- 22 Amazon, e.g.
- 23 Title for Iran's Ali Khamenei
- 25 Tailored blouse style
- 27 Pieces of pentathlon equipment
- 28 Piece of biathlon equipment
- 29 Outdoor wedding rental
- 30 Some reusable bags
- 32 Give a refill
- 34 Poet Limón
- 35 Yearbook sect.
- 36 Item lugged up a hill
- 38 Gardener's supply
- 40 Alphabetically first member of the Baseball Hall of Fame
- 42 Dull yellowish brown
- 43 Subject of some teen gossip sessions
- 47 Sure-footed alpine climber
- 52 React to, as an online joke
- 53 "I wish I could ____ that" ("Ick")
- 54 Document that never lacks a title
- 55 Divert
- 57 Solid green ball in un juego de billar
- 61 It's ground-breaking
- 62 Way overcharge, so to speak
- 64 Vape shop inventory
- 66 Sci-fi's Dr. Zaius, for one
- 67 Even a bit
- 68 Bakery item that's often messy
- 71 Lavishes love (on)
- 73 Part of R.S.V.P.
- 74 Business that might hold a blowout sale?
- 76 Common food drive donation
- 77 "Julius Caesar" role
- 78 Lhasa ____
- 80 Necklace components
- 82 Parts of volcanoes
- 85 2007 No. 1 Alicia Keys album
- 86 Not keep
- 88 Caribbean capital
- 91 Kind of test question
- 95 Some video-making devices
- 96 Rod who won four Wimbledon
- 97 "The very ____!"
- 99 Yellow bills in Monopoly
- 100 Lobster-catching aid?
- 103 Holiday preceder

DOWN

- 104 Choose to participate
- 108 Award won twice by Hammerstein, fittingly
- 110 Horror director ____ Saul Guerrero
- 111 Contraction that omits a "v"
- 112 To 60, e.g.
- 114 Proceeds breezily
- 117 What a spike goes over
- 121 Not black and white
- 122 Early computer
- 123 "Encore!"
- 124 "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up" tidying method
- 125 Take care of
- 126 "Well, so's your face!," e.g.
- 127 The antagonist Bellwether from Disney's "Zootopia," e.g.
- 128 Ask for a treat, say
- 1 Discharges
- 2 Hassle
- 3 Genius
- 4 Not be on the level
- 5 Anxiously worry
- 6 Title nickname in a 1984 sports movie
- 7 Courses
- 8 WeChat or KakaoTalk
- 9 Very serious
- 10 With skill
- 11 Shakespeare character who cries "Then I defy you, stars!"
- 12 Power-saving mode
- 13 "____ Used to Be Mine" (song from "Waitress")
- 14 Long of Hollywood
- 15 "My guess is . . ."
- 16 Realm for comic-book fans, say
- 17 Damascenes, e.g.
- 19 Gardener's supply
- 20 "Over here!"
- 24 "Geaux Tigers!" sch.
- 26 Liquid in a first-aid kit
- 31 Noodles sometimes served with tsuyu sauce
- 33 Onetime sunscreen ingredient
- 36 Small Jewish communities of old
- 37 SoCal baseball team, on scoreboards
- 39 Scintilla
- 41 Secondary social media accounts, in brief
- 42 Mournful sound
- 44 Fiddle with a ukulele?
- 45 Woman on W.W. II-era posters
- 46 Cassini who created the so-called "Jackie look"
- 47 Simba's father in "The Lion King"
- 48 How detectives may act
- 49 Orders from regulars
- 50 Breaking or entering, say
- 51 Leslie ____ Jr., member of the original "Hamilton" cast



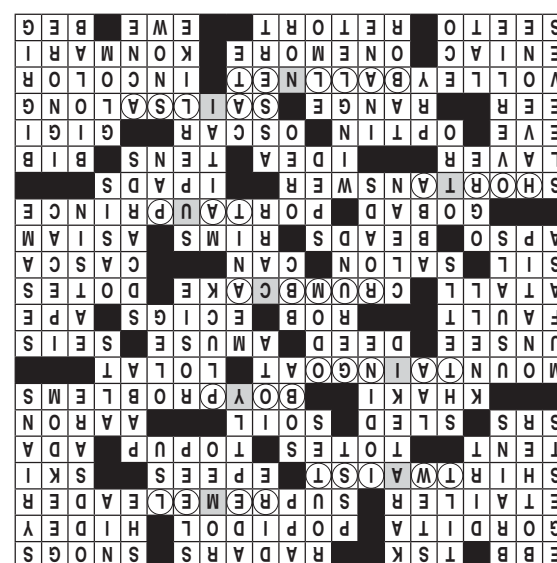
- 56 Not joke around
- 58 Enjoys a home-cooked meal
- 59 Poison-treating plant
- 60 Bagel choice
- 63 ____ World Service
- 65 Digital camera memory holders
- 68 G-rated, say
- 69 You might pass on them
- 70 Apt surname for a mechanic
- 72 Palm Springs, e.g.
- 75 Group with the hits "Honey, Honey" and "Money, Money, Money"
- 79 Big brute
- 81 Went fast
- 83 Cocktail with a rhyming name
- 84 Tinder action that expresses strong interest
- 87 Other: Sp.
- 89 Certain pie crust flavor
- 90 Wok, e.g.
- 91 Covers of vintage music?
- 92 "Try it!"
- 93 Sit on
- 94 Part of an aircraft that helps reduce drag
- 98 Put forward
- 100 H.S. class with dissections
- 101 Tune out
- 102 Semi
- 105 Stick one's nose in
- 106 Small drum
- 107 Cockamamie
- 109 Actress Blanchett
- 110 Latch (onto)
- 113 Muppet who sings in the "Try, Try Again" song
- 115 When it's driving, you might not want to drive
- 116 Unwanted breakout
- 118 Back muscle, in brief
- 119 Prefix with warrior
- 120 Negative conjunction

GUNSTON STREET



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FACES

A milestone long overdue

It took 31 years, but Daniel Dae Kim finally lands his first lead role in television series

By **CHRISTI CARRAS**
Los Angeles Times

A multitude of entertainment luminaries are congratulating veteran TV star and executive producer Daniel Dae Kim on a milestone many believe is “well overdue” and “so deserved.”

On Wednesday, National Geographic announced that Kim and “Scandal” alum Tony Goldwyn have been tapped to star in the second season of its anthology thriller “The Hot Zone.” And on Twitter, “Lost” and “Hawaii Five-0” actor Kim celebrated the casting update with an astonishing fact:

“Hardly the biggest news given what’s going on in the world today,” he tweeted. “But after 31 years of working in TV, this is my first series lead.”

Screenwriters, entertainment journalists and fellow actors alike were quick to applaud Kim, who captivated audiences as Flight 815 survivor Jin-Soo Kwon in the long-running ABC series “Lost,” before he became known as Detective Lieutenant Chin Ho Kelly in the smash CBS crime drama “Hawaii Five-0.”

Kim has since appeared in other TV projects, including “Flack,” “She-Ra and the Princesses of Power” and the hit ABC medical drama “The Good Doctor,” which he also executive produces.

“30 years overdue,” tweeted “Crazy Rich Asians” screenwriter Adele Lim. “Can not WAIT!!!”

“Ahh!” tweeted “Late Night with Seth Meyers” writer Karen Chee, along with some celebratory party-hat emojis. “This is SO deserved!!!!”

“Kim’s Convenience” actress Jean Yoon pointed out that the announcement broke Jan. 13, Korean American Day, “no less,” which Kim called “a beautiful coincidence.”

“Happy #KoreanAmericanDay!” he added.

The next installment of “The Hot Zone,” titled “Anthrax,” will star Kim as Matthew Ryker, an FBI agent who specializes in microbiology. Set in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, the new season will see Kim’s character team up with microbiologist Bruce Ivins (Goldwyn) to track down and unmask the 2001 anthrax killer.

“Tony and Daniel are both wonderfully versatile and dimension-



TNS

Actor Daniel Dae Kim, shown at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2020 in Park City, Utah, will star in the second season of National Geographic’s anthology “The Hot Zone.”

al actors who will bring complexity and depth to these characters,” said Carolyn Bernstein, executive vice president of scripted and documentary films for National Geographic, in a statement. “We can’t wait for their star turns in this startling, authentic and timely scientific thriller.”

“Anthrax” follows the intense first season of the Nat Geo drama, which starred Emmy winner Julianna Margulies as a veterinary pathologist fighting to contain the spread of Ebola. Production on the sophomore season of “The Hot Zone” is set to begin this winter in Toronto.

‘Legally Blonde 3’ will catch up with Elle Woods 19 years later

By **JULIA BARAJAS**
Los Angeles Times

When we last saw Elle Woods, she was driving away from her wedding in a pastel pink cabriolet, following the successful passage of anti-animal testing legislation in Congress.

“OK, now that we’re married, where do you want to live?” asked her ever-supportive husband, Emmett, played by Luke Wilson. “Beverly Hills? Boston? Washington?”

Elle, at the driver’s seat, smiled ambitiously. “I think I know just the place,” she said, before turning her gaze to the White House and winking at the camera.

Did Elle, portrayed by Reese Witherspoon, make it to the Oval Office? Are she and Emmett still together? Did she have children?

Nearly two decades since the franchise’s last film, 2003’s “Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde,” audiences will finally find out.

Announced in May, “Legally Blonde 3,” co-written by Mindy Kaling and “Brooklyn Nine-Nine” co-creator Dan Goor, will show us how the French-manicured Harvard Law School graduate has fared. And one of the things that

most excites Kaling is how audiences will respond to a more mature version of its lead character.

“I can’t wait to see what people think,” Kaling, who also co-created Netflix’s “Never Have I Ever,” said in a recent interview with Access. “How Elle Woods is at 40 versus when she was 21 has been really fun to imagine.”

On social media, fans continue to celebrate that Witherspoon, whose production company, Hello Sunshine, is behind the forthcoming film, will reprise her iconic role.

The franchise, which began in 2001 and has grossed \$266 million worldwide, continues to inspire young people — whether it’s to pursue higher education or simply push through the pandemic in hopes of seeing the new film in theaters.

Fan favorites like the “bend and snap” — a move guaranteed to attract a love interest’s attention — will make a comeback, Kaling promised.

As for a release date, fans will have to be patient. “I don’t know when we’ll be able to shoot movies again,” said Kaling, noting that CO-



GLOBE PHOTOS/TNS

Reese Witherspoon, right, and Linda Cardellini starred in “Legally Blonde” in 2001. Almost two decades after the 2003 sequel, the third installment is set for 2022.

VID-19 has upended production plans across Hollywood. “But, if Reese likes the script, shooting it this year would be awesome.”

It remains unclear whether Bruiser, Elle Woods’ beloved chihuahua, will be in “Legally Blonde 3.” The canine who portrayed him died in 2016.

Netflix plans biggest release schedule yet

From wire reports

Netflix Inc. will release 70 original movies in 2021, the company said in a statement Tuesday, touting the streaming service’s most ambitious slate yet as the theatrical movie business remains stuck in limbo.

Netflix’s lineup of movies includes one of its most expensive to date, “Red Notice,” an action movie starring Dwayne Johnson, Ryan Reynolds and Gal Gadot, as well as sequels to its hit romantic comedies “The Kissing Booth” and “To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before.” The streaming service has also commissioned more than a dozen dramas, including the directorial debut of Halle Berry and a feature starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence.

Once a naughty word among filmmakers loyal to movie theaters, Netflix is now one of the few reliable studios in town. Netflix is increasing its output as theaters remain closed in much of the world. The pandemic has made it hard for rival studios to release their projects, and many of them have delayed most of their top titles until more theaters are open.

Lady Gaga to sing anthem at inauguration

Lady Gaga will sing the national anthem at Joe Biden’s inauguration and Jennifer Lopez will give a musical performance on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol when Biden is sworn in as the nation’s 46th president next Wednesday.

The announcement of their participation comes one day after word that Tom Hanks will host a 90-minute primetime TV special celebrating Biden’s inauguration. Other performers include Justin Timberlake, Jon Bon Jovi, Demi Lovato and Ant Clemons.

Boseman will not be seen in ‘Black Panther’ sequel

The “Black Panther” franchise will go on without Chadwick Boseman, who played the title role in the 2018 comic book adaptation.

Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige told Deadline that neither Boseman nor the character he played would be back in “Black Panther 2” in any form.

“We’re not going to have a CG Chadwick, and we’re not recasting T’Challa,” Feige said.

Other news

German news agency dpa is reporting that illusionist **Siegfried Fischbacher**, the surviving member of the duo Siegfried & Roy, has died in Las Vegas at age 81.

The news agency said Thursday that Fischbacher’s sister, a nun who lives in Munich, confirmed his death from cancer.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Profile in magazine brings probe, criminal conviction

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota man whose profile in Popular Science magazine about making homemade explosives for the NFL and others initiated a federal investigation was sentenced Tuesday to nearly two years in prison for possessing illegal materials.

Agents raided the Brownsville home of Kenneth Miller in March, after the magazine article showed photographs of Miller shooting red flares off the hood of his pickup truck and packing powdered chemicals in a nearby shack he used as a makeshift laboratory.

Miller told the magazine he built special effects for the NFL, air shows and Hollywood movies, including the blockbuster Transformers franchise.

Investigators said Miller had previous felony convictions that precluded him from touching the highly combustible material used to create these devices. Miller admitted to manufacturing and selling smoke-generating devices and a chlorate explosive mixture to customers across the country.

Police officer suspended over social media posts

MD UPPER MARLBORO — A Maryland police officer was suspended on Tuesday over two social media posts, including one showing him wearing what was described as a political T-shirt as he displayed his badge and service weapon.

The Prince George's County Police Department said in a news release that its internal affairs division opened an investigation which discovered a second media post that raised concern and led to the suspension by Interim Chief Hector Velez. The officer wasn't identified and the specific nature of the posts wasn't disclosed.

"I fully support an officer's First Amendment rights, however these posts are in violation of the department's social media policy," Velez said. "When I was shown the post that is circulating online, I was concerned and ordered a thorough review of his social media platforms."

Police: 9-year-old girl shot through window

NC WINSTON-SALEM — A 9-year-old girl was wounded in her North Carolina home when someone fired shots through a bedroom window, police said.

Officers were called to a home on the city's east side around 10 p.m. Monday, the Winston-Salem Journal reported. According to investigators, four people were inside the house when someone fired several rounds at the home. Police said the round that hit the girl in the foot went through a bedroom window.

Authorities said the child was



MARK RIGHTMIRE, THE ORANGE COUNTY (CALIF.) REGISTER/AP

Roll out the barrel

With Catalina Island as a backdrop, a surfer rides into a barrel of a wave just south of the Huntington Beach Pier as another winter swell brought good surfing conditions to the Southern California coastline Tuesday.

taken to a local hospital and is expected to recover. The investigation into the incident is continuing.

Man sentenced for letting more than 200 cattle die

NE GENEVA — A southeast Nebraska man has been sentenced to 15 to 20 years in prison after more than 200 cattle he was supposed to be caring for died.

Aaron E. Ogren, 31, of Exeter, was sentenced Tuesday on seven charges. He initially faced 43 charges after Fillmore County sheriff's deputies found the dead cattle last April on property near Exeter.

Prosecutors said Ogren also sold cattle he didn't own, The York News-Times reported.

A horse also died on the property and more livestock died later because they were in such poor condition when they were removed from the farm, authorities said.

Ex-Crimestoppers board member arrested

MS JACKSON — A former board member of a Mississippi Crimestoppers group has been arrested following her indictment for embezzlement.

State Auditor Shad White, in a news release Tuesday, said Michelle McBride surrendered Monday to special agents from his of-

THE CENSUS

1.5 The amount of damage, in millions of dollars, caused by eight fires over nearly two years in Vermont. A Stowe man is facing eight arson charges in the case, police said Wednesday. Police say Jeffrey Nolan, 62, admitted to setting a fire that damaged the Stowe Public Library, on March 30, 2019. Since then, there have been fires at two commercial buildings, a chiropractor's office and two fires, including the most recent, Jan. 7, that damaged the Stowe Cable Vision office.

rice at the Pearl River County Sheriff's Office. Her bond was set at \$20,000. It was unknown if she has an attorney who could speak on her behalf.

McBride allegedly used her position as Secretary/Treasurer of the Pearl River County Crimestoppers to embezzle over \$52,000 from January 2014 to April 2019. Investigators believe McBride used the group's debit card for personal rodeo expenses and transferred PRCCS funds to fraudulent nonprofit accounts she owned.

Avalanche sweeps skiers down mountain

MT BILLINGS — An avalanche swept three skiers down a Montana mountain, seriously injuring one who was evacuated by helicopter.

Authorities said the avalanche last Friday on Republic Mountain south of Cooke City left a second skier temporarily unconscious and not breathing, The Billings Gazette reported.

Six skiers involved were carrying avalanche beacons and rescue

gear as they climbed up the slope at an elevation of 9,700 feet. The avalanche started about 250 feet above the skiers in an area known as The Fin.

The three skiers were swept downhill as the avalanche expanded to 200 feet wide and snow rumbled 700 feet down the mountain.

"It's super serious avalanche terrain," said Doug Chabot, director of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center.

Man gets 6 months for bringing drugs to jail

MA LAWRENCE — A man released from a Massachusetts jail after testing positive for the coronavirus has been sentenced to an extra six months behind bars after trying to smuggle drugs back inside the facility.

A judge ruled Monday that Eric Jalbert, of Salem, will serve the extra time after completing a two- to three-year sentence on fentanyl distribution charges, The Salem News reported.

Jalbert was awaiting trial when

he tested positive for COVID-19 in April, according to authorities. He was released by a judge in April with the condition that he stay under home confinement at his mother's Beverly home. But prosecutors say Jalbert failed to comply with the conditions of his release, and was ordered back to jail.

When Jalbert reported to the Middleton jail, officers found 15 Suboxone strips, marijuana and tobacco hidden in a body cavity, the district attorney's office said.

He was convicted of the fentanyl charges in July

Murals to honor century of women's suffrage

ME LEWISTON — The twin cities of Lewiston-Auburn represent one of six sites to be selected for murals honoring the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage.

The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts led the effort to produce murals marking the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which secured women's right to vote.

The program provides \$25,000 to each of the nation's six regional arts organizations that together represent all 50 states and U.S. territories. Some murals have already been completed.

From wire reports

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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Classifieds EUROPE

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Announcements 040

Automotive 140

Tax Assistance

940

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

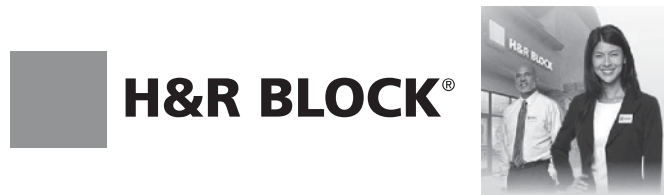
Be aware of the common red flags.

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.



Germany H&R Block Tax Offices
Get face-to-face tax help.

Ramstein 06371-8020410	Wiesbaden 06134-256963	Vilseck 01735-736112
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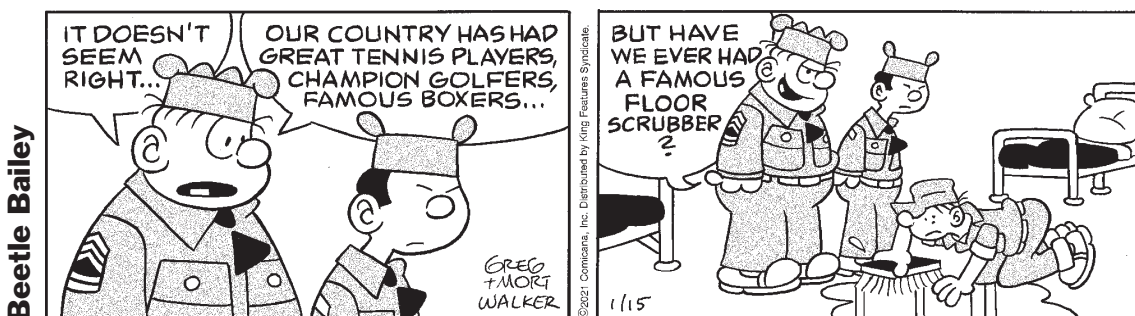
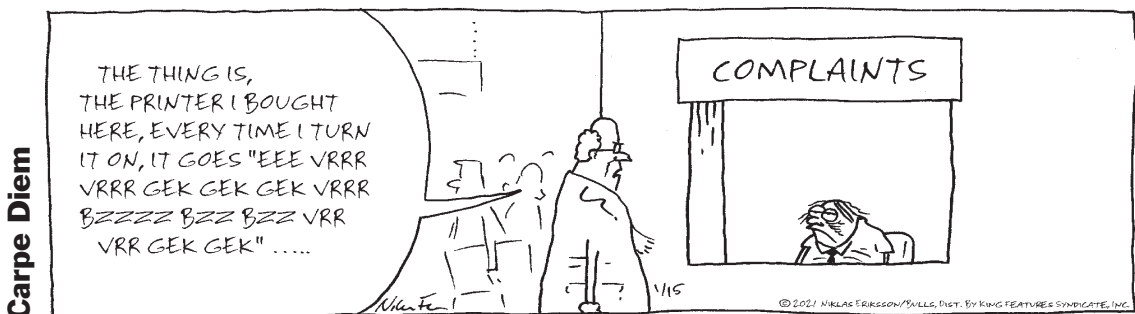
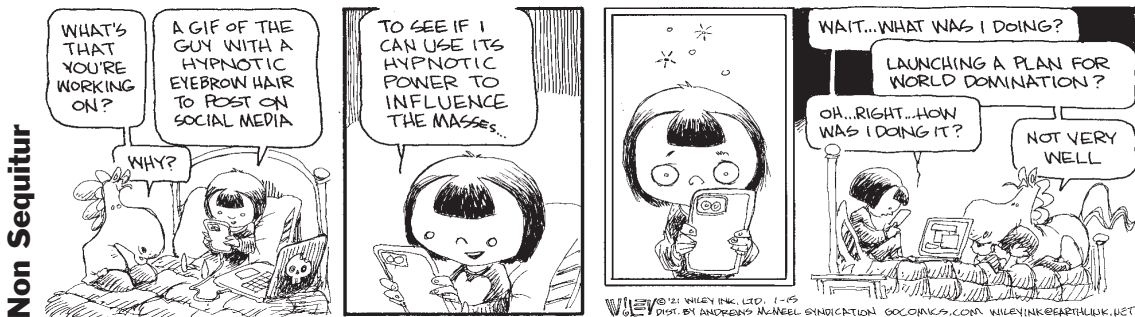
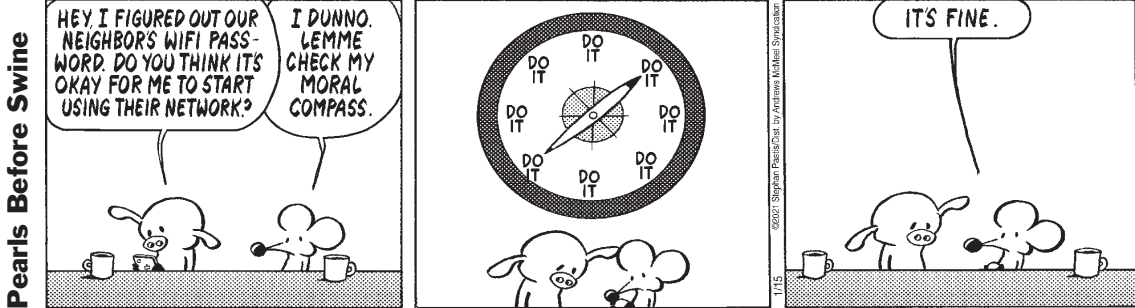
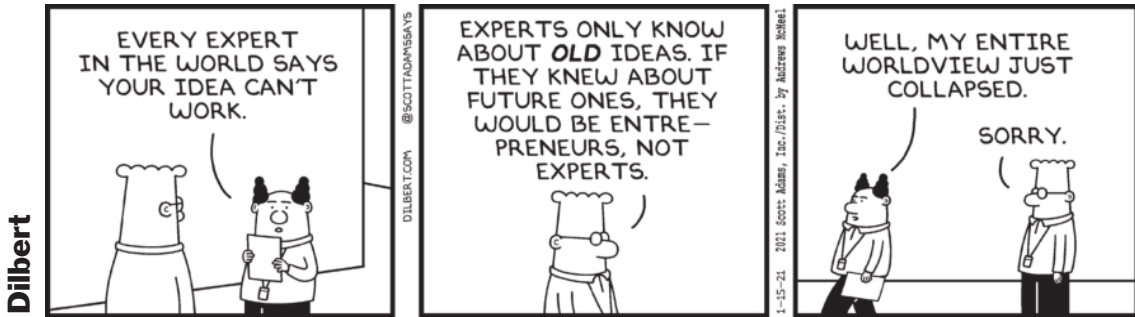
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STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.



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 Former quarterback Tim
 6 Scrap
 9 NBC show
 12 Honda's upscale brand
 13 PBS funder
 14 Luau bowlful
 15 Napper
 16 Cease broadcasting
 18 Sped
 20 Frozen drink brand
 21 Life story
 23 Corpulent
 24 Questioner
 25 Bands on radios
 27 Russian rulers
 29 Least risky
 31 Bounded
 35 Actress Portia de —
 37 Microwave, slangily
 38 Sty chow
 41 Summer in Paris
 43 Salty expanse
 44 River in Tuscany
 45 Show bad posture
 47 Rocket launch
 49 Unfettered
 52 Fr. holy woman
 53 Roof ornament
 54 Spritlike
 55 — Lingus
 56 JFK's predecessor
 57 Flat floaters
- DOWN**
 1 Wee bit
 2 Green prefix
 3 "Go away!"
 4 Popular layered cookie
 5 "The — the Roses" (Kathleen Turner film)
 6 Beginnings
 7 Tara of "Sharknado"
 8 Label
 9 "Star Trek" science officer
 10 Type of checking
 11 Career soldier
 17 Xterra maker
 19 Damon and Dillon
 21 Some coll. degrees
 22 "— Believer"
 24 Exist
- 26 Red wine
 28 Justice Samuel —
 30 Fa follower
 32 Set out
 33 Scratch (out)
 34 Narc's org.
 36 Arm's-length portrait
 38 Music genre of Celia Cruz
 39 Jot down
 40 Draw a conclusion
 42 Swiss mathematician
 45 Bay Area force, briefly
 46 Pop flavor
 48 British ref. work
 50 Command to Rover
 51 USN rank

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	E	A	P	B	O	K	A	B	A	T	
E	L	I	A	I	O	N	G	I	L	A	
A	A	R	P	G	O	O	A	G	A	R	
K	N	E	A	D	S	B	O	S	N	I	A
				Y	A	M	A	S	I		
A	L	D	A	I	N	T	R	I	G	U	E
C	A	R	L	E	A	H	M	O			
E	V	E	N	K	E	E	L	E	T	A	S
		A	A	A	K	E	N				
I	M	M	U	N	E	S	T	I	N	G	Y
B	A	B	S	R	O	B	G	O	N	E	
E	R	I	E	G	H	I	M	E	A	T	
G	A	G	A	O	M	G	A	L	T	I	

1-15

CRYPTOQUIP

MT CQUNU HUNU Z HZCUNMKB
 QFJU HQUNU DZHMKB AJZDY
 AMNOE LUC TFN ONMKYE,
 MC LMBQC AU Z DNFH AZN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD ONE CALL A LAB STUDENT WHO MISPLACES A SAMPLE OF THE FIFTH ELEMENT? A BORON LOSER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals B

Frazz



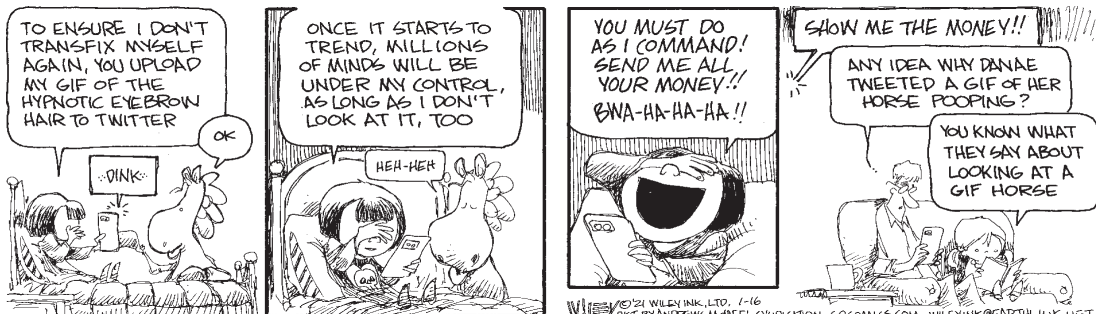
Dilbert



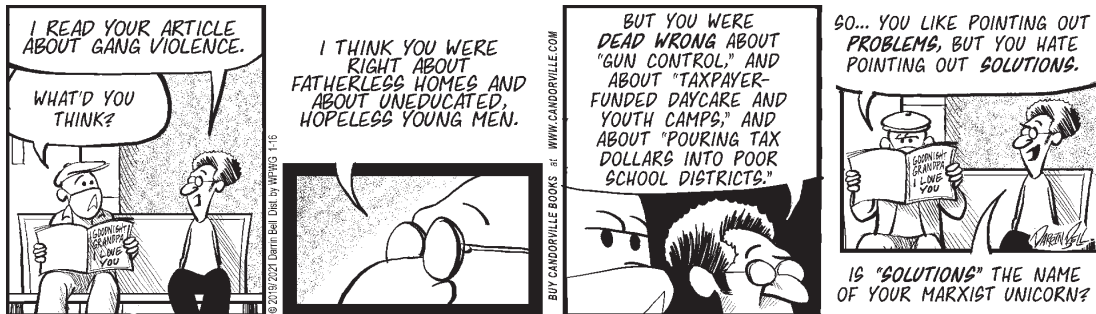
Pearls Before Swine



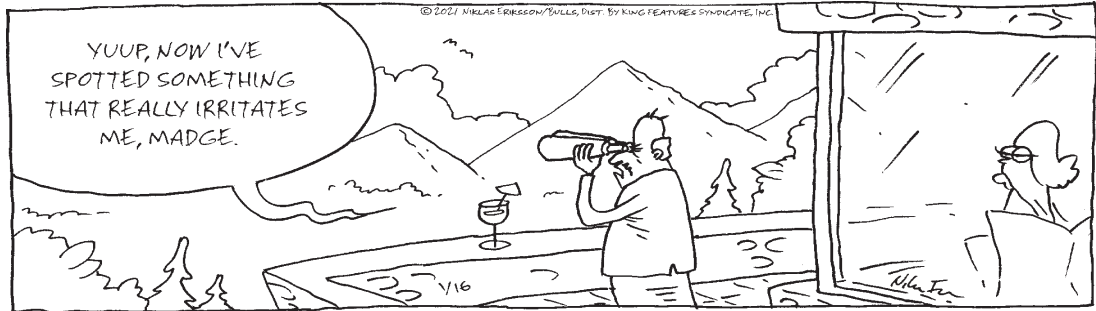
Non Sequitur



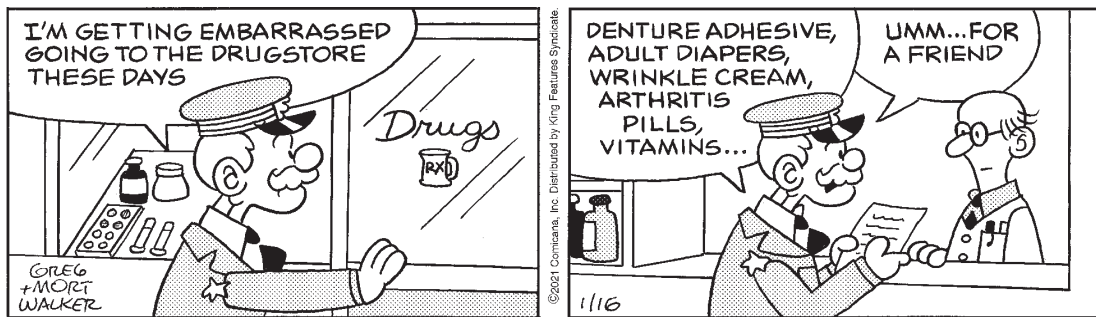
Candorville



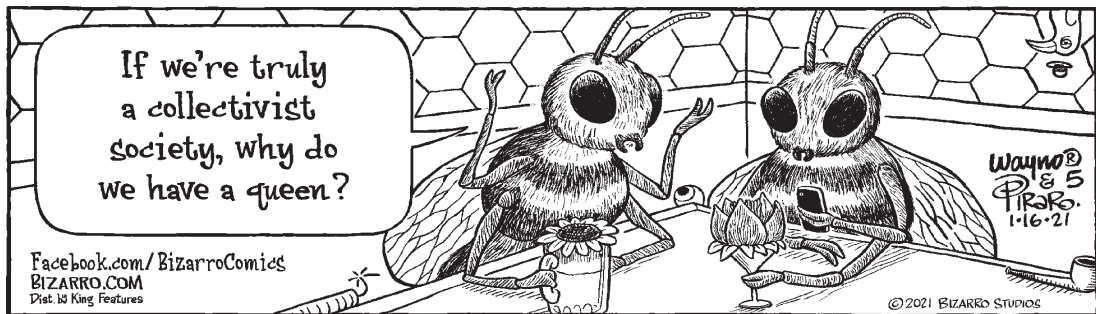
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11							12					13
14							15					
16				17		18				19		
20			21		22				23			
24			25		26		27					
			28		29		30					
31	32	33				34		35		36	37	38
39					40		41		42			
43				44				45		46		
47			48					49		50		
51								52				
	53							54				

ACROSS

- 1 Senate broadcaster
- 6 Shiny lip application
- 11 Lampoon
- 12 A whole lot
- 14 Brain protectors
- 15 Top part of a dress
- 16 Hogwash
- 17 — -ski
- 19 Iowa college
- 20 Grad
- 22 Bando of baseball
- 23 Repair
- 24 Big buttes
- 26 Big name in web hosting
- 28 Gearwheel tooth
- 30 Puke
- 31 Deteriorate
- 35 Hose woes
- 39 Muscat's land
- 40 Train lines (Abbr.)
- 42 Land measure
- 43 Sportscaster Berman
- 44 Paintings by artist Francisco
- 46 Rotating part
- 47 Holiday quaff
- 49 Saudi neighbor

- 51 Ritz beach city
- 52 Stickup jobs
- 53 Feel
- 54 Bridge call

- 18 Tatter
- 21 Georgia city
- 23 — Carta
- 25 Soak (up)
- 27 Insult, slangily
- 29 Totally ignore the rules
- 31 Jewish folklore figure
- 32 Alphas' opposites
- 33 Snarl
- 34 Sample
- 36 Entry
- 37 Research aids
- 38 Big rigs
- 41 Greet
- 44 Sailors
- 45 Leak out slowly
- 48 Diarist Anais
- 50 Actress Farrow

DOWN

- 1 "Tapestry" songwriter King
- 2 Social standing
- 3 Brooch
- 4 Met solo
- 5 Some tides
- 6 Undercut, in terms of price
- 7 Novelist Anita
- 8 Quirky
- 9 Cut up, as a pizza
- 10 Brief time
- 11 "Vamoose!"
- 13 Run-down

Answer to Previous Puzzle

T	E	B	O	W		O	R	T		S	N	L
A	C	U	R	A		N	E	A		P	O	I
D	O	Z	E	R		S	I	G	N	O	F	F
		Z	O	O	M	E	D		I	C	E	E
B	I	O		F	A	T		A	S	K	E	R
A	M	F	M		T	S	A	R	S			
S	A	F	E	S	T		L	E	A	P	E	D
		R	O	S	S	I		N	U	K	E	
S	W	I	L	L		E	T	E		S	E	A
A	R	N	O		S	L	O	U	C	H		
L	I	F	T	O	F	F		L	O	O	S	E
S	T	E		E	P	I		E	L	F	I	N
A	E	R		D	D	E		R	A	F	T	S

1-16

CRYPTOQUIP

V C D S G W U T O U H R Y K E D C

Z K T Z C S T D T B U B D S N ' H

SCNUDEC VFK OPSTH DTOK U

YCSYUDG: "YR ZKPHDT WDTTR."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THERE WERE A WATERING HOLE WHERE CAWING BLACK BIRDS MET FOR DRINKS, IT MIGHT BE A CROW BAR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals Y

STARS AND STRIPES

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Biden poised to move quickly once in office

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF

The Dallas Morning News

When the president changes, the face of the U.S. government changes. Get ready for the most dramatic possible change next week.

The congressional impeachment drive against Donald Trump could complicate the onset of Joe Biden's presidency. But despite the potential distraction of a Senate trial, the entire character and focus of the federal government will change on Jan. 20 — for the better.

Throughout his troubled, sometimes sabotaged transition, the president-elect made clear he will focus on fixing the health and economic problems besetting the country and restoring the serious tone that has been lacking the past four years.

Biden has indicated that soon after he takes the oath from Chief Justice John Roberts, he will ask Congress to supplement the recent inadequate COVID-19 relief measure. His proposal will likely include the rest of the proposed \$2,000 direct relief to individuals, expanded unemployment benefits, help for small business and added financial help for the states, including funds to speed vaccinations.

He also plans an array of administrative moves to start undoing Trump's regulatory rollbacks, notably by restoring numerous environmental protection measures.

Biden appears poised to move quickly to take advantage of the political clout every new president enjoys and show Americans and the rest of the world how things have changed in Washington. These characteristics are likely to exemplify that change:

■ **Presidential leadership.** The new president is expected to send the House and Senate prompt proposals to cope with the coun-

try's two most pressing problems, the coronavirus pandemic that continues to rage, in part due to inadequate national leadership, and the resulting economic fallout.

During the Trump administration, the executive branch usually let lawmakers lead on major issues like tax cuts, COVID relief and repealing the Affordable Care Act. Besides abandoning the normal executive leadership role, Trump's White House was often only tangentially involved as Republicans and Democratic congressional leaders struggled to reach agreements, as in last year's fight over additional COVID relief.

Biden's White House will be much more activist, both making proposals and negotiating their enactment, helped by the fact that fellow Democrats will have majorities in both houses, albeit small ones.

■ **Straight talk.** The days of government by instinct, whim and tweet will end. Biden made clear during the transition, as in the campaign, he intends to use traditional means to make his positions clear and act accordingly.

Until recent days, Biden concentrated on his own proposals and the problems they address. Hopefully, he won't spend much more time criticizing his predecessor and blaming Trump for the problems he was elected to fix.

■ **Bipartisan outreach.** For four years, Trump governed by mobilizing his own partisans, both on Capitol Hill and in the country. One of his political failures was his refusal to reach out beyond his 2016 base.

Biden will draw his main public support from the 81 million Americans who voted for him and gave Democrats control of the House and Senate. But he has vowed to reach out to those more independent GOP lawmakers who might back some of his proposals.

Only time will tell if Biden can attract some GOP support. While he is sincere, reality

may prove difficult, given continuing partisan divisions. And for whatever reason, he failed to include any Republicans in his Cabinet.

■ **Return to normalcy.** Biden has promised a return to such normal procedures as daily White House press briefings. The burden will be on incoming press secretary Jennifer Psaki to restore their role as an intermediary between the administration and the press corps, providing accurate information about Biden's positions and straight answers to questions, however pointed.

That also needs to happen at the State Department and the Pentagon, which long ago abandoned regular information sessions. Top officials should learn of the president's intentions through normal governmental channels, rather than by reading his tweets or offhand comments. The American people ought to learn them through official statements, by the president, his spokespersons or other officials.

■ **Competence.** Biden has known many of his top appointees for years. Based on their résumés, they will bring experience, knowledge and good judgment.

Biden's team has handled the transition in a way that promises a more professional, competent government. Still, some nominees will face treacherous terrains, given continuing partisan acrimony.

The newcomers will, no doubt, make political, some substantive, and verbal missteps. The federal government is big and often inefficient, and proposals don't always work as intended. Still, it should be evident from the moment Biden takes his oath next Wednesday that he will provide more serious, focused leadership than his predecessor.

Carl P. Leubsdorf is a former Washington bureau chief of The Dallas Morning News.

GOP lawmakers finally swayed by corporate America

By KATE COHEN

Special to The Washington Post

Watching President Donald Trump's supporters storm the Capitol last week, I wondered who or what could possibly stop the madness.

And then the answer became clear: corporate America.

The problem seemed insurmountable. The rebels consumed a strict diet of lies, conspiracy theories and us-vs.-them rhetoric. They turned out to vote, to protest, to riot. They were willing to commit crimes and shed blood for their leader, whose name and face they wear on their clothes and tattooed into their skin. Nothing Trump did or did not do — not the 380,000 Americans dead from COVID-19, not saying "I'll be with you" when he meant "I'll be watching you on TV" — seemed to turn them against him. But he could easily turn them against anyone he disliked, to the point that the entire Republican Party feared his retribution.

But then, a week after their leader spurred an insurrection at the Capitol, some congressional Republicans began to see the light. Is that because they suddenly found a conscience? Or were they suddenly concerned that their platforms might disappear and their money dry up? The evidence points mostly to the latter.

The shift began Jan. 6, after the riot, when Twitter temporarily locked Trump out and

warned that, "future violations of the Twitter Rules, including our Civic Integrity or Violent Threats policies, will result in permanent suspension of the @realDonaldTrump account." Two days later, Twitter made good on its threat. Facebook also banned Trump, at least until after the inauguration. On Tuesday, YouTube announced that it, too, would ban him for the next week, "in light of concerns about the ongoing potential for violence."

After the tech companies began to move, other companies began to withhold their funds from Trump's congressional supporters. As The Washington Post reported, major corporations announced that they are cutting off donations to the 147 Republicans who voted against certifying Joe Biden's victory. Among them: American Express, AT&T, Marriott, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Verizon, Comcast, Dow Chemical, General Electric and Mastercard. Hallmark has even gone so far as to say it wants its money back.

It's sort of thrilling to hear corporations draw the line at "those lawmakers who voted to undermine our democracy" (Blue Cross) and attempted to "subvert the presidential election results and disrupt the peaceful transition of power" (Amex). It's a modest salve on the psychic wounds of last week, when hours of "I can't believe this is happening" turned into a sickening sense of "Wait — they can do that and then just walk away?"

Still, I wish our saviors had come in a dif-

ferent form. Corporations have too much power in our politics and over our lives. Cheering them on when they finally use their power for good feels somehow wrong.

And then there is the hypocrisy of it. These corporations haven't exactly been silent bystanders who stepped in heroically at the last minute. Facebook and Twitter share some responsibility for the spread of lies and conspiracy theories and the growth of white supremacist groups and right-wing rhetoric that got us to this point. A recent study confirms that Facebook's algorithm, for one, pushed right-wingers even further to the right. Other firms have long backed the Republicans with generous donations.

Which is to say: These companies are the same folks who helped get us into this mess. But they might also be the only ones with the power to get us out of it. Only when big companies take away the megaphones and the money does it seem like Trumpism could someday sputter to an end.

As congressional Republicans start to distance themselves from Trump, it would be nice to think it was his behavior — from the lies to the lawsuits to urging his rioters to storm the Capitol — that was, finally, too much for these lawmakers to take. But we shouldn't be surprised if what really opened their eyes was that Walmart closed its wallet.

Kate Cohen, a Washington Post contributing columnist, is a writer from Albany, N.Y.

SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 9

Buffalo 27, Indianapolis 24
Los Angeles Rams 30, Seattle 20
Tampa Bay 31, Washington 23

Sunday, Jan. 10

Baltimore 20, Tennessee 13
New Orleans 21, Chicago 9
Cleveland 48 Pittsburgh 37

Divisional Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 16

Los Angeles Rams at Green Bay
Baltimore at Buffalo

Sunday, Jan. 17

Cleveland at Kansas City
Tampa Bay at New Orleans

Conference Championships

Sunday, Jan. 24

AFC

TBD

NFC

TBD

Super Bowl

Sunday, Feb. 7

At Tampa, Fla.

TBD

NFL injury report

NEW YORK — The National Football League injury report, as provided by the league (DNP: did not practice; LIMITED: limited participation; FULL: Full participation):

SATURDAY

BALTIMORE RAVENS at BUFFALO BILLS — RAVENS: DNP: DT Calais Campbell (not injury related), RB Mark Ingram (not injury related), LB Matthew Judon (illness), CB Marcus Peters (back). LIMITED: D.J. Fluker (knee). BILLS: DNP: DE Darryl Johnson (knee). LIMITED: WR Cole Beasley (knee), WR Stefon Diggs (oblique), LB Tremaine Edmunds (hamstring), QB Jake Fromm (not injury related), DT Ed Oliver (ankle), DT Justin Zimmer (groin). FULL: K Tyler Bass (hand).

LOS ANGELES RAMS at GREEN BAY PACKERS — RAMS: No Data Reported. PACKERS: DNP: DE Kingsley Keke (concussion), TE Marcedes Lewis (knee), T Jared Veldheer (not injury related). LIMITED: CB Kevin King (Achilles), WR Allen Lazard (core, wrist), LB Za'Darius Smith (ankle, thumb), WR Equanimeous St. Brown (knee, ankle), T Rick Wagner (knee).

SUNDAY

CLEVELAND BROWNS at KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — BROWNS: DNP: T Jack Conklin (hamstring, knee), LB B.J. Goodson (shoulder), TE David Njoku (hamstring). LIMITED: DE Myles Garrett (shoulder), DT Sheldon Richardson (neck), G Wyatt Teller (ankle), C J.C. Tretter (knee). FULL: RB D'Ernest Johnson (finger), WR Jarvis Landry (hip), LB Malcolm Smith (ankle). CHIEFS: CB Rashad Fenton (foot, ankle), LB Willie Gay (ankle), WR Sammy Watkins (calf). LIMITED: RB Clyde Edwards-Helaire (ankle, hip), TE Deon Yelder (groin). FULL: RB Le'Veon Bell (knee), LB Ben Niemann (hamstring), DT Derrick Nnadi (knee), T Mike Remmers (back), WR Demarcus Robinson (back), CB Armani Watts (concussion).

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS at NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — BUCCANEERS: DNP: G Alex Cappa (ankle), RB Ronald Jones (quadriple, finger), DT Jeremiah Ledbetter (calf), LB Jason Pierre-Paul (knee). LIMITED: CB Carlton Davis (groin), WR Mike Evans (knee), WR Chris Godwin (hip, quadriple). FULL: RB LeSean McCoy (illness). SAINTS: DNP: QB Taysom Hill (knee), RB Latavius Murray (quadriple), CB Patrick Robinson (hamstring). LIMITED: T Terron Armstead (elbow), TE Jared Cook (back), DE Trey Hendrickson (neck).

COLLEGE HOCKEY

Wednesday's scores

EAST

American International 5, Long Island 2
Northeastern 7, New Hampshire 0

GOLF

PGA Tour FedEx Cup leaders

Through Jan. 10			
	Points	Money	
1. Dustin Johnson	1,018	\$3,272,540	
2. Harris English	940	\$2,739,015	
3. Justin Thomas	784	\$2,386,156	
4. Bryson DeChambeau	783	\$2,702,183	
5. Patrick Cantlay	717	\$2,014,085	
6. Viktor Hovland	706	\$1,879,880	
7. Stewart Cink	695	\$1,543,130	
8. Carlos Ortiz	633	\$1,582,567	
9. Xander Schauffele	624	\$2,110,601	
10. Jason Kokrak	617	\$2,051,789	
11. Sergio Garcia	615	\$1,457,121	
12. Matthew Wolff	585	\$2,007,135	
13. Joaquin Niemann	581	\$1,542,784	
14. Martin Laird	580	\$1,406,640	
15. Robert Streb	560	\$1,275,320	
16. Cameron Smith	536	\$1,747,974	
17. Sungjae Im	534	\$1,665,176	
18. Hudson Swafford	530	\$786,834	
19. Brian Gay	529	\$775,000	
20. Jon Rahm	511	\$1,502,582	
21. Peter Malnati	459	\$1,051,174	
22. Hideki Matsuyama	439	\$1,175,150	
23. Aaron Wise	438	\$1,059,300	
24. Adam Long	428	\$1,025,800	
25. Kevin Kisner	400	\$953,418	
26. Wyndham Clark	392	\$631,433	

DEALS

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Signed Mark Shapiro to a five-year contract extension as president/chief executive officer.

TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Justin Anderson on a two-year minor league contract and C Drew Butera on a one-year contract.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Activated CBs Kevin Johnson and Denzel Ward from the reserve/COVID-19 list.

DENVER BRONCOS — Agreed to terms with George Paton to be general manager.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Placed T Jared Veldheer on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed QB Jordan Ta'amu and WR Marcus Kemp to the practice squad. Released DT Tyler Clark. Placed CB Deandre Baker on the practice squad injured reserve.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Designated WR Tre'Quan Smith to return from injured reserve. Signed WRs Austin Carr and Jake Kumerow and DT Anthony Zettel to the practice squad. Released LS John Denney, WR Jake Lampman and K Blair Walsh.

NEW YORK JETS — Signed WR Manasseh Bailey to a reserve/futures contract for the 2021 season.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Signed WR John Ursua to a reserve/futures contract for the 2021 season.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Signed P Arryn Siposs and WR Khalil Tate to reserve/futures contracts for the 2021 season.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Agreed to terms with TE Jared Pinkney to a reserve/futures contract for the 2021 season.

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM — Signed LB Justin Phillips to a reserve/futures contract for the 2021 season.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ANAHEIM DUCKS — Assigned G Olle Eriksson Ek, Cs Sam Carrick, Trevor Ziegas and Andrew Agozzino to San Diego (AHL). Designated Ds Andy Welinski and Kodie Curran, G Anthony Stolarz, RW Vinni Lettieri, C David Backes and LW Max Comtois for assignment taxi squad. Placed LW Max Jones on undisclosed injury.

ARIZONA COYOTES — Released D Jordan Schmaltz and Zane McIntyre. Designated Ds Victor Soderstrom and Jordan Gross, LW Dryden Hunt, Cs Frederik Gauthier and Michael Chaput and RW Hudson Fasching for assignment taxi squad. Assigned LWS Nate Susec, Michael Bunting and Brayden Burke, Cs Blake Speers, Lane Pederson and Ryan McGregor, G Ivan Prosvetov, Ds Aaron Ness, Dysin Mayo, Cam Dineen and Cam Crotty to Tucson (AHL).

BOSTON BRUINS — Waived C Par Lindholm. Designated G Dan Vladar, D Urho Vaakanainen, Cs Jack Studnicka, Greg McKeeg and Trent Fredric for assignment taxi squad. Assigned D Nick Wolff, Stehen Kamper and Jack Ahan, Gs Jeremy Swayman and Callum Booth, Cs Oskar Steen and Cameron Hughes, RWs Zach Senyshyn, Paul Carey and Robert Lantosi, LWS Matt Filipe and Anton Blidh to Providence (AHL).

BUFFALO SABRES — Designated C Casey Mittelstadt, G Jonas Johansson, Ds Brandon Davidson and William Borgen, RW Rasmus Asplund and LW Brandon Biro for assignment taxi squad.

CALGARY FLAMES — Assigned C Connor Zary, G Dustin Wolf and C Mathias Emilio Pettersen to Stockton (AHL). Assigned LW Jakob Pelletier to junior club Moncton (QMJHL).

COLORADO AVALANCHE — Designated G Hunter Miska, D Dennis Gilbert, RWs Martin Kaut, Kiefer Sherwood and Logan O'Connor, C Shane Bowers for assignment taxi squad.

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Designated LWS Stefan Matteau, Nathan Gerbe, Ds Andrew Peeke, Adam Clendening, RW Ryan Macinnis for assignment taxi squad. Assigned RWs Kole Sherwood, Cliff Pu and Trey Fix-Wolansky, G Cam Johnson, C Zac Dalpe, Ds Jake Christiansen and Gavin Bayreuther to Cleveland (AHL).

DALLAS STARS — Designated LW Riley Tuftte, Ds Ryan Shea and Joseph Ceconi, Gs Colton Point and Lando Bow and C Tye Felhaber for assignment taxi squad. Assigned D Dawson Barteaux to Texas (AHL).

EDMONTON OILERS — Signed C Devin Shore to a one-year, two-way contract.

FLORIDA PANTHERS — Waived C Rodrigo Abols. Designated LW Mason Marchment, D Brady Keeper, C Aleks Heponiemi and G Philippe Desrosiers for assignment taxi squad. Assigned LWS Scott Wilson and Grigori Denisenko, RW Cole Schwindt and

D Chase Priskie to Syracuse (AHL). **LOS ANGELES KINGS** — Designated D Austin Strand, G Matt Villalta, Cs Lias Andersson and Jaret Anderson-Dolan for assignment taxi squad. Assigned RW Arthur Kaliyev and C Quinton Byfield to Ontario (AHL).

MINNESOTA WILD — Designated Cs Kyle Rau and Luke Johnson, Ds Dakota Mermis, Louie Belpedio and Matt Bartkowski and G Andrew Hammond for assignment taxi squad.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Designated RWs Eeli Tovanen and Mathieu Olivier, LW Cole Smith, G Connor Ingram and D Alexandre Carrier for assignment taxi squad. Assigned Cs Josh Wilkins and Anthony Richard, Rem Pitlick, Tommy Novak, Sean Malone, Patrick Harper and Michael McCarron, Ds Tyler Lewington, Ben Harpur, Brandon Fortunato and Jeremy Davies, Gs Kasimir Kaskisuo and Connor Ingram and LW Tanner Jeannot to Chicago (AHL). Assigned RW Luke Evangelista to junior club London (OHL).

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Designated G Giles Senn, RW Nicholas Merkley, LWS Mikhail Maltsev and Nolan Foote for assignment taxi squad. Assigned Ds Colton White and Josh Jacobs, LW Ben Street, Michael Carcone and C Brandon Gignac to Binghamton (AHL).

NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Waived LW Dmytro Timashov. Designated G Jakob Skarek, Cs Otto Koivula, Tanner Fritz and Cole Bardreau, RWs Austin Czarnik, Kieffer Bellows and Simon Holmstrom, Ds Parker Wotherspoon, Bode Wilde, Grant Hutton and Samuel Bolduc, LWS Andrew Ladd and A.J. Greer to Bridgeport (AHL). Placed LW Michael Dal Colle and D Sebastian Aho on undisclosed injury.

OTTAWA SENATORS — Designated C Matthew Peca, LW Michael Haley and Filip Chlapik, G Joey Daccord and D Jonathan Aspirt for assignment taxi squad. Assigned Ds Lassi Thomson, Christian Jaros, Erick Brannstrom and Olle Alsing, LWS Egor Sokolov and Alex Formenton, RWs Logan Shaw and Jonathan Davidsson, Gs Kevin Mandolese and Filip Gustavsson, Cs Zachary Magwood, Parker Kelly, Mark Kastelic, Ridly Greig, Logan Brown and J.C. Beaudin to Belleville (AHL).

ST. LOUIS BLUES — Promoted LW Mackenzie MacEachern and RW Jordan Kyrou to the active roster.

SAN JOSE SHARKS — Designated Ds Brinson Pasichuk and Nicolas Meloche, G Alexei Melnichuk, LW John Leonard, C Fredrik Handemark and RW Noah Gregor for assignment taxi squad. Assigned LW Jeffrey Viel and C Sasha Chmelevski to San Jose (AHL). Assigned D Artemi Kniazev to the junior club Chicoutimi (QMJHL).

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Designated RW Tyler Johnson, LW Gemel Smith, D Luke Schenn, G Christopher Gibson for assignment taxi squad. Assigned RW Luke Witkowski, Ds Daniel Walcott and Ben Thomas, G Spencer Martin and C Otto Somppi to Syracuse (AHL).

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Designated Ds Rasmus Sandin and Mikko Lehtonen, LW Nicholas Robertson, C Adam Brooks and RW Travis Boyd for assignment taxi squad. Assigned Ds Calle Rosen and Martin Marinic and LW Kenny Agostino to Toronto (AHL).

VANCOUVER CANNUCKS — Designated Ds Jake Rathbone and Brogan Rafferty, LW Iis Noglender and RW Justin Bailey for assignment taxi squad. Assigned Ds Ashton Sautner and Guillaume Grisebois, LW Marc Michaelis, C Tyler Gravac and G Arturs Silvos to Utica (AHL). Placed RW Jayce Hawryluk on undisclosed injury.

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS — Designated C Gage Quinney, LW Tomas Jurco, Ds Nick Holden, Nicolas Hague and Dylan Coghlan, G Oscar Dansk for assignment taxi squad.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Signed G Craig Anderson to a one-year contract. Assigned C Connor McMichael to Hershey (AHL). Designated C Brian Pinho, Gx Zach Fucale and Pheonix Copley, D Martin Fehervary and LW Daniel Carr for assignment taxi squad.

WINNIPEG JETS — Designated Ds Dylan Sandberg and Logan Stanley, LW Mathieu Perrault, C David Gustafsson and G Mikhail Berdin for assignment taxi squad. Assigned LW C.J. Suess, Ds Nelson Noglender and Ville Heino to Manitoba (AHL). Placed LW Marko Danon on undisclosed injury.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

FC DALLAS — Traded W Michael Barrios to Colorado in exchange for an international roster spot and receiving the No. 15 first round 2021 MLS SuperDraft pick in exchange for the No. 21 pick.

ORLANDO CITY SC — Signed D Robin Jansson to a two-year contract with options.

TENNIS

Abu Dhabi Open

Wednesday

At Zayed Sports City International Tennis Centre

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Purse: \$565,530

Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Women's Singles

Final

Aryna Sabalenka (4), Belarus def. Veronika Kudermetova, Russia 6-2, 6-2

Women's Doubles

Final

Shuko Aoyama and Ena Shibahara (5), Japan def. Hayley Carter, United States and Luisa Stefani(8),7-6 (5), 6-4

Delray Beach Open

Wednesday

At Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center

Delray Beach, Fla.

Purse: \$349,530

Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

Men's Singles

Championship

Hubert Hurkacz (4), Poland, vs. Sebastian Korda, United States, 6-3, 6-3.

Men's Doubles

Championship

Gonzalo Escobar, Ecuador, and Ariel Behar, Uruguay, def. Ryan Harrison and Christian Harrison, United States, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (4), 10-4.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Wednesday's men's scores

EAST

St. Bonaventure 68, Fordham 54
UMass 80, Rhode Island 78, OT
VCU 84, George Washington 77

SOUTH

Auburn 95, Georgia 77
Chattanooga 83, Mercer 80
Florida St. 105, NC State 73
Furman 94, The Citadel 88
George Mason 75, La Salle 42
LSU 92, Arkansas 76
Louisville 77, Wake Forest 65
Nicholls 76, Northwestern St. 66
Norfolk St. 80, NC Wesleyan 58
SE Louisiana 76, Texas A&M-CC 63
Texas A&M 56, Mississippi St. 55
Virginia 80, Notre Dame 68
Wofford 80, VMI 78

MIDWEST

Dayton 72, Duquesne 63
Ohio St. 81, Northwestern 71
Wichita St. 72, Tulsa 53

SOUTHWEST

Incarnate Word 83, McNeese St. 61
Sam Houston St. 96, Lamar 71
Stephen F. Austin 95, Cent. Arkansas 69
Texas Tech 79, Texas 77

FAR WEST

Boise St. 90, Wyoming 70
New Mexico 72, Dixie St. 63

Wednesday's women's scores

EAST

Buffalo 82, Bowling Green 74
Cincinnati 71, Temple 65
La Salle 58, Drexel 55
West Virginia 83, Texas Tech 78

SOUTH

Nicholls 68, Northwestern St. 38
Richmond 47, George Washington 42
South Florida 72, Tulane 53
UCF 58, East Carolina 51
VCU 60, George Mason 41

MIDWEST

Ball St. 88, Ohio 85, OT
Butler 58, Georgetown 40
DePaul 101, St. John's 84
E. Michigan 61, Miami (Ohio) 41
Iowa St. 90, Oklahoma St. 80
N. Illinois 104, Cent. Michigan 73
Ohio St. 84, Iowa 82, OT
Toledo 61, W. Michigan 54

SOUTHWEST

Houston 75, Tulsa 49
Sam Houston St. 83, Lamar 80, OT
Stephen F. Austin 85, Cent. Arkansas 44

FAR WEST

Boise St. 68, Wyoming 62

AP SPOTLIGHT

Jan. 15

1965 — In one of the most notable trades in NBA history, the San Francisco Warriors deal Wilt Chamberlain to the Philadelphia 76ers for Connie Dierking, Lee Shaffer, Paul Neumann and cash.

1967 — The NFL's Green Bay Packers open the Super Bowl series by defeating the Kansas City Chiefs of the AFL, 35-10.

1978 — The Dallas Cowboys take advantage of eight Denver turnovers en route to a 27-10 victory over the Broncos in the Super Bowl. Butch Johnson's diving catch in the end zone completes a 45-yard touchdown pass from Roger Staubach and puts the Cowboys ahead 20-3 in the third quarter.

1994 — Ricky Watters of San Francisco scores an NFL postseason-record five touchdowns as the 49ers beat the New York Giants 44-3.

1995 — San Diego linebacker Dennis Gibson twice knocks down passes in the end zone — the last one on fourth down — to preserve the Chargers' biggest NFL victory, a 17-13 win over the Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC championship.

1997 — Patrick Lalime becomes the first goalie since NHL expansion in 1967 to open his career with a 15-game unbeaten streak as Pittsburgh beats Hartford 3-0.

2000 — The Jacksonville Jaguars steamroll their way into the history books and the AFC championship game. In the second-most overpowering playoff performance ever, the Jaguars rout the Miami Dolphins 62-7. The 55-point margin is the second-largest in playoff history.

2004 — Michelle Wie shoots a respectable round of 2-over 72, leaving her nine strokes behind the leader after one round at the PGA Sony Open in Honolulu. Wie, 14, is believed to be the youngest player ever on the PGA Tour.

2005 — Michelle Kwan wins her ninth title at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, tying Maribel Vinson for the all-time record.

2011 — Kyle Kuric's lay-up with 4 seconds remaining caps a furious rally by No. 18 Louisville and the Cardinals stun Marquette 71-70. Louisville trails by 18 with 5:44 to go but close the game on a 24-5 run fueled by guard Preston Knowles.

2011 — Sixth-seeded Green Bay routs the Falcons 48-21 in Atlanta as Aaron Rodgers throws for three touchdowns and runs for one. The 48 points are the most for the Packers in a postseason game.

2012 — New York's Eli Manning throws three touchdown passes and the Giants shock the Green Bay Packers 37-20 in an NFC divisional playoff game. The Packers, 15-1 in the regular season, become the seventh consecutive Super Bowl champ not to advance to the Super Bowl the next year.

BRIEFLY

Source: Meyer nearing deal to coach Jaguars

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A person familiar with the search says Urban Meyer and the Jacksonville Jaguars are “working toward finalizing” a deal to make him the team’s coach.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity Thursday because an agreement was not yet in place. The person said it could be done soon.

Meyer would be leaving the broadcast booth and returning to the sidelines after a two-year absence that followed another health scare.

The 56-year-old Meyer was team owner Shad Khan’s top target, and Khan waited nearly a week to get to this point. They met last Friday on Khan’s yacht in Miami and again Wednesday. Hiring the longtime college coach with three national championships would signify a new direction for a franchise that has lost 105 of 144 games since Khan took over in 2012.

Meyer went 187-32 — a staggering winning percentage of 85.3 — in stops at Bowling Green (2001-02), Utah (2003-04), Florida (2005-10) and Ohio State (2012-18). He ranks seventh all time in collegiate winning percentage, trailing only Notre Dame legends Knute Rockne and Frank Leahy among coaches at major programs.

But doubts remain about Meyer’s ability to make a smooth transition to the NFL, where motivational tactics tend to be moot and losing multiple games every year is a given. Meyer never lost more than five times in any season as a college head coach; he went

NBA

Nets have pieces, now they must fit

Having big three of Irving, Durant and Harden is no guarantee of success

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

Having a Big Three is great. That is, if those players want it to be great.

And that's the challenge in Brooklyn now, after agreeing to the trade that landed three-time reigning scoring champion James Harden from Houston: Getting Harden, Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving, all individually great, to want to be great together.

A lot of futures and a lot of legacies depend on what happens.

Durant found a way to make it happen in Golden State when he played alongside Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson on the way to a pair of NBA titles. It worked there because Curry and Thompson, more than happily, checked their egos at the door and made it seem like a seamless incorporation.

Harden never made the NBA Finals in Houston with big-time backcourt partners like Chris Paul and Russell Westbrook, plus didn't even give it a chance this



CARMEN MANDATO / AP

James Harden of the Houston Rockets agreed to a trade to the Brooklyn Nets where he will join Kyrie Irving and Kevin Durant.

season alongside John Wall. He wanted a trade, stars who want trades almost always get their way, and after what amounted to a resignation speech on Tuesday night after a loss to the reigning champion Los Angeles Lakers it was clear that he was never wearing a Rockets jersey again.

Irving won a title in Cleveland with LeBron James, but that relationship never was what it could

have been — and nobody knows where Irving's mind is at after now a week and counting of personal leave away from the Nets. He reportedly left for family birthday parties and a Zoom call to help organize a candidate's campaign for district attorney in Manhattan. Oh, and that Zoom happened on a night that the Nets were playing.

At this point, it's unclear when

— or if — Irving will return to the Nets.

But give the Nets credit. They went all-in with this trade. They dealt away a rising standout in Caris LeVert and bet most of their foreseeable draft future — three first-round picks, at minimum — on the hope that Harden is the last piece needed on the way to a championship. He's now reunited with not just Durant, another former teammate in Oklahoma City when they were starting out and still found their way to the 2012 NBA Finals, but also former Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni as well.

That said, turning a Big Three into the big trophy isn't automatic.

And doing it during a pandemic with limited practices and seemingly inevitable breaks, makes it a stiff challenge.

James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh were the trio that led Miami past those Thunder in the 2012 finals, getting a ring in their second year together (and one the next year, too). They lost the finals to Dallas in 2011 and needed to win two elimination games against Boston just to get out of the Eastern Conference on the way to that 2012 title.

ROUNDUP

Lakers, James roll past Thunder, jump to 7-0 road start

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — LeBron James scored 26 points and the Los Angeles Lakers routed the Oklahoma City Thunder 128-99 on Wednesday night for their franchise-record seventh straight road victory to start the season.

Montrezl Harrell added 21 points, and Anthony Davis had 18 points and seven rebounds. The defending champion Lakers have won four straight to improve to an NBA-best 10-3. They surpassed the 1985-86 squad with the 7-0 road start.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 17 points to lead the Thunder. The Lakers led by 24 in the second quarter before the Thunder cut it to 58-46 at halftime. James scored 15 points in the half.

Los Angeles' biggest lead was 31 points in the fourth quarter. Oklahoma City never led.

"We just have a bunker mentality on the road — just us," James said. "But obviously, it's even more just us because of the restrictions, COVID, everything that's going on. So we've come together even closer."

Mavericks 104, Hornets 93: Luka Dončić had 34 points, 13 rebounds, nine assists and a career-high four blocks, Kristaps Porziņģis scored 16 points in his return from a knee injury and Dallas won

at Charlotte.

Tim Hardaway Jr. added 18 points to help Rick Carlisle become the 16th coach in NBA history to win 800 games. The Mavericks have won four straight after opening 2-4.

Porziņģis played for the first time since having knee surgery in October. The 7-foot-3 Latvian played 21 minutes, finishing 6-for-16 from the floor and 4-for-9 from beyond the three-point arc. He had four rebounds.

Terry Rozier had 18 points for the Hornets.

Trail Blazers 132, Kings 126: Damian Lillard scored eight of his season-high 40 points in the final four minutes and visiting Portland tied a franchise record with 23 three-pointers to win at Sacramento.

Lillard and CJ McCollum each hit six threes to lead the Trail Blazers to their fourth straight victory. Lillard added 13 assists, and McCollum had 28 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds. Jusuf Nurkić had a season-best 18 points and 13 rebounds.

The Blazers trailed by 20 midway through the second quarter and were down 105-100 going into the fourth before rallying to win their second consecutive game against the Kings in five days. Portland won 125-99 on Saturday.

Portland tied the team record for threes set last year in the bubble. The Blazers shot 23-for-48, missing their last four.

Nets 116, Knicks 109: Kevin Durant scored 26 points as the solo superstar before soon centering a Big Three, leading Brooklyn — short-handed after agreeing to a trade for James Harden — past host New York.

Durant was already scheduled to play on both nights of a back-to-back for the first time since surgery to repair his Achilles tendon. He maybe had to do a little more than planned after the Nets shook up their roster earlier in the day with a four-team blockbuster highlighted by the acquisition of Harden.

With point guard Kyrie Irving missing a fifth straight game for personal reasons, Brooklyn had only nine players.

Julius Randle scored 30 points for the Knicks. They have lost five in a row.

Bucks 110, Pistons 101: Giannis Antetokounmpo had 22 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his 20th triple-double and Milwaukee beat host Detroit for the third time this month.

The Bucks built a big early lead with a flurry of three-pointers. Brook Lopez connected three times from beyond the arc in the

first quarter, when Milwaukee was 7-for-11 from long distance. The Pistons were 4-for-20 overall in the period and trailed 27-13 after one.

Jrue Holiday added 21 points for the Bucks. Jerami Grant had 22 for Detroit.

Clippers 111, Pelicans 106: Kawhi Leonard scored 28 points, Paul George added 27 and host Los Angeles beat short-handed New Orleans.

The Pelicans were without starters Zion Williamson, Lonzo Ball and Eric Bledsoe. New Orleans coach Stan Van Gundy said Williamson was ruled out because of inconclusive coronavirus test results.

Nickeil Alexander-Walker led the Pelicans with 37 points and eight rebounds, both career highs in his first start of the season.

Grizzlies 118, Timberwolves 107: Jonas Valanciūnas had 24 points and 16 rebounds, Grayson Allen scored a season-high 20 off the bench and Memphis won at Minnesota.

Brandon Clarke added 19 points for the Grizzlies. Malik Beasley had 28 points for Minnesota. D'Angelo Russell added 25, and Karl-Anthony Towns had 25 points and 14 rebounds.

The teams will meet again Friday night in Minnesota.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	7	3	.700	—
Philadelphia	8	4	.667	—
Brooklyn	7	6	.538	1½
New York	5	7	.417	3
Toronto	2	8	.200	5

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	6	5	.545	—
Charlotte	6	6	.500	½
Atlanta	5	5	.500	½
Miami	4	5	.444	1
Washington	3	8	.273	3

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	8	4	.667	—
Indiana	7	4	.636	½
Cleveland	5	7	.417	3
Chicago	4	7	.364	3½
Detroit	2	9	.182	5½

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	6	4	.600	—
San Antonio	6	5	.545	½
Memphis	5	6	.455	1½
New Orleans	4	6	.400	2
Houston	3	6	.333	2½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	7	4	.636	—
Portland	7	4	.636	—
Denver	5	6	.455	2
Oklahoma City	5	6	.455	2
Minnesota	3	8	.273	4

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	10	3	.769	—
L.A. Clippers	8	4	.667	1½
Phoenix	7	4	.636	2
Golden State	6	5	.545	3
Sacramento	5	7	.417	4½

Wednesday's games

Dallas 104, Charlotte 93
Milwaukee 110, Detroit 101
Brooklyn 116, New York 109
L.A. Lakers 128, Oklahoma City 99
Memphis 118, Minnesota 107
L.A. Clippers 111, New Orleans 106
Portland 132, Sacramento 126
Utah at Washington, ppd
Orlando at Boston, ppd
Atlanta at Phoenix, ppd

Thursday's games

Miami at Philadelphia
Charlotte at Toronto
Houston at San Antonio
Golden State at Denver
Indiana at Portland

Friday's games

Washington at Detroit, ppd
Dallas at Milwaukee
New York at Cleveland
Orlando at Boston
Chicago at Oklahoma City
Memphis at Minnesota
Atlanta at Utah
Golden State at Phoenix, ppd
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers

Saturday's games

Houston at San Antonio
Orlando at Brooklyn
Charlotte at Toronto
Detroit at Miami
Philadelphia at Memphis
Indiana at Phoenix
Atlanta at Portland

NBA leaders

Through Jan. 13

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Beal, WAS	10	121	83	349	34.9
McCollum, POR	11	109	36	309	28.1
Curry, GS	11	96	69	306	27.8
LaVine, CHI	11	107	55	305	27.7
Doncic, DAL	9	87	55	247	27.4
Lillard, POR	11	92	74	301	27.4
Tatum, BOS	10	101	32	269	26.9
Embiid, PHI	10	87	80	266	26.6
Brown, BOS	10	103	33	263	26.3
Antetokounmpo, MIL	11	102	68	288	26.2
George, LAC	11	90	50	277	25.2
Grant, DET	11	93	57	273	24.8
Harden, HOU	8	60	53	198	24.8
Young, ATL	10	72	87	248	24.8

NBA/COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Nick Wass / AP

Phoenix Suns guard Chris Paul, right, dribbles next to Washington Wizards forward Davis Bertans, center, and center Robin Lopez during the first half of their game Monday in Washington.

Virus postpones another 3 games

BY TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

Contact tracing issues involving the Phoenix Suns and Washington Wizards forced the NBA to postpone three more games Wednesday, raising the leaguewide total from this week alone to eight.

The NBA also revealed Wednesday that 16 players — by far the most in a one-week period since training camps started — returned positive COVID-19 tests between Jan. 6 and Tuesday. With 497 players tested, that reflects a positivity rate of 3.2%.

Phoenix's home game Wednesday against Atlanta was called off, as was the Suns' home game with Golden State on Friday. Also called: Friday's game where the Wizards would have gone to Detroit. The reason in all three cases was the same, that the Suns and Wizards wouldn't have enough players cleared to participate.

"Obviously, it's not the typical NBA season that we're all accustomed to," Charlotte coach James Borrego said Wednesday. "But we'll get through it."

That Suns-Hawks game was the third on Wednesday's schedule to be called, joining Utah at Washington and Orlando at Boston. It also marks the second consecutive time that a team ran into issues after playing in Washington; the Miami Heat lost eight players to COVID-related issues following their road game against the Wizards on Saturday.

"Not ideal," Hawks guard Kevin Huerter tweeted, shortly after the postponement of the game in Phoenix was announced.

Also not playing Wednesday: Zion Williamson, ruled out by the New Orleans Pelicans for their game at the Los Angeles Clippers because of the league's health and safety protocols. In his case, Pelicans coach Stan Van Gundy said, the issue was an inconclusive test.

"He's not with us here at the game tonight," Van Gundy said. "He's back in his hotel room and we'll know more as further results come back."

Contact-tracing issues can also be triggered when a player is found to have been, or possibly have been, exposed to someone who is positive for COVID-19. That has been the issue for a number of players in recent days, excluding the 16 new positives.

In the previous five weeks combined, only 15 players tested positive. But even the current week's rate is well below what the league dealt with going into training camps, when 48 players tested positive in the week before practices could formally begin leaguewide.

"I'm not terribly upset about any of the things we have to do. It kind of is what it is at this point and we'll try to make the most of it and get through it," Toronto guard Fred VanVleet said Wednesday. "It does feel like it's getting a bit much ... like trying to plug holes in a sinking boat."

The latest postponements push the total overall this season to nine because of virus issues. The Suns, Hawks, Heat, Wizards and Philadelphia 76ers are among the teams dealing with significant roster depletion in recent days because of either positive tests, tracing — which indicates if someone has been in an unsafe amount of contact with a person who tested positive — or both.

It's all part of a turbulent week that also saw the league and the National Basketball Players Association release updated rules strictly limiting players from venturing away from their homes or hotels for anything other than games, practices, workouts or emergencies. The new rules will be in place for at least two weeks, with hopes the virus issues around the league calm down in the interim.

TOP 25 ROUNDUP

McClung's jumper lifts Texas Tech over Texas

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Mac McClung made a long jumper with 3 seconds left and No. 15 Texas Tech rallied to beat No. 4 Texas 79-77 on Wednesday night, ending the Longhorns' perfect start in the Big 12.

Texas (10-2, 4-1) led almost the entire game and a blistering start against one of the top defensive teams in the country had the Longhorns in control before a sloppy finish and some late Texas Tech three-pointers snatched the win for the Red Raiders (11-3, 4-2).

McClung's shot was originally ruled a three-pointer before a video review. Texas had a final chance, but Matt Coleman's desperation three-pointer never came close to the basket. Coleman also missed a shot in traffic for the lead with 17 seconds left.

"I've got a lot of confidence in Mac," Texas Tech coach Chris Beard said. "He has the courage to take those shots."

McClung finished with 22 points. Andrew Jones had 20 for the Longhorns, but scored just two points after halftime as the Red Raiders shut him down. Jericho Sims added 16 for Texas, but was just 6-for-14 on free throws, with two key misses late.

The Longhorns led 77-73 after

Courtney Ramey's three-pointer with 1:40 to play. McClung then made two free throws, Sims missed two free throws for Texas before Texas Tech tied it when Ramey got sloppy passing the ball in bounds, creating an easy tying lay-up for the Red Raiders' Terrence Shannon. McClung then buried his long shot from the right wing.

No. 16 Louisville 77, Wake Forest 65: Carlik Jones scored a season-high 23 points to help the visiting Cardinals beat the Demon Deacons and extend their best start in Atlantic Coast Conference play.

Samuell Williamson added 15 points and 11 rebounds for Louisville (9-1, 4-0 ACC), which blew nearly all of a 16-point second-half lead before finally putting this one away in the final 6 minutes as Wake Forest went cold.

The Cardinals shot 51% for the game to reach 4-0 in the league, marking the program's best start since joining the ACC before the 2014-15 season. It marked the best start in any league since for Louisville since winning its first eight Big East games during the 2008-09 season.

Daivien Williamson scored 19 points for the Demon Deacons (3-4, 0-4).

No. 18 Virginia 80, Notre Dame 68: Jay Huff scored 18 points and

Sam Hauser had 15 points and nine rebounds as the host Cavaliers beat the Fighting Irish for their fourth consecutive victory.

Huff, who is 7-foot-1, made a career-best four three-pointers in the first half as Virginia (8-2, 4-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) opened an 18-10 lead and built it to 37-25 by halftime. Cormac Ryan scored 16 and Trey Wertz 13 for Notre Dame (3-8, 0-5), which lost its fourth in a row and fell to 0-11 against the Cavs in conference games.

No. 21 Ohio State 81, Northwestern 71: Duane Washington Jr. scored a career-high 23 points to lead the host Buckeyes to a win over the Wildcats.

Ohio State (10-3, 4-3) avenged a one-point loss to Northwestern on Dec. 26.

Justin Ahrens added 12 points, hitting four three-pointers, including a timely one late in the second half to help preserve the Buckeyes' lead.

Chase Audige kept the Wildcats (6-5, 3-4) in the game, scoring 21 of his career-best 25 points in the first half. Audige, who was averaging 11.7 points per game, cooled off in the second half, just as Miller Kopp was heating up. He had 16 points in the second half to get Northwestern within one late in the second half.



ERIC GAY / AP

Texas Tech forward Marcus Santos-Silva, center, and Texas guard Andrew Jones struggle for a rebound during the first half of Wednesday's game in Austin, Texas.

NFL

For the ages

Brady vs. Brees matchup features the two oldest QBs in the league

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

The NFL has never seen a playoff matchup quite like the upcoming one between Tom Brady's Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Drew Brees' New Orleans Saints.

A pair of quarterbacks in their 40s still thriving on the playoff stage at an age when nearly every other great passer in NFL history was already enjoying retirement.

Brees will take the field for the Saints on Sunday two days after turning 42 as the young gun in this matchup against the 43-year-old Brady, who has shattered nearly every record for longevity in the NFL.

Brees has thrown for more yards than any QB in the regular season with 80,358 and ranks second in TD passes with 571. Brady holds the mark for touchdowns with 581 and trails only Brees in yardage with 79,204.

This marks just the second time since at least 1950 that the NFL's top two players in career yards passing will meet in the playoffs. Second-ranked John Elway's Denver Broncos beat then-leader Dan Marino and the Dolphins 38-3 in the divisional round following the 1998 season.

This will be the first time since at least 1950 that the two career leaders in TD passes will meet in the postseason.

The combined age of the starting quarterbacks will be an NFL-record 85, surpassing the 84 from

85

Combined age of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Tom Brady and the New Orleans Saints' Drew Brees, when they meet Sunday in the NFC playoffs.

80,358

Number of yards Brees has passed for during the regular season, which ranks first. Brady is second with 79,204.

581

Number of touchdown passes Brady has passed for during the regular season, which ranks first. Brees is second with 571.

SOURCE: Associated Press

their two starts in the regular season this season. The previous playoff record for combined age of starting QBs was 78 when 41-year-old Brady outdueled 37-year-old Philip Rivers two years ago in the divisional round.

Brady, who is seeking his record seventh Super Bowl title and 10th appearance, has already lapped the field when it comes to playoff wins. He won his 31st postseason start last week and can double second-place Joe Montana's career total of 16 this week. Brady's 75 TD passes in the playoffs are already 30 more than Montana had.



BUTCH DILL / AP

Saints quarterback Drew Brees, left, and Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady hug after their season-opening game in New Orleans on Sept. 13. The Saints won 34-23.

Third time's a charm: It turns out it's easier to beat the same team three times in a season than it is to win in the playoffs after getting swept in the regular season.

The Saints-Bucs game marks the 23rd postseason matchup in the Super Bowl era after one team swept the season series like New Orleans did against Tampa Bay.

The team that swept the regular-season series won 14 of the previous 22 matchups, which bodes well for the Saints this week.

The Saints were on the right side of one of these matchups the last time it happened, beating Carolina 31-26 in the wild-card round after sweeping the Panthers in the 2017 regular season.

The last time a team reversed a regular-season sweep in the play-

offs came in the 2007 playoffs when the Giants did it against Dallas in a postseason run all too familiar to Brady. Eli Manning and New York then won the NFC title game in Green Bay and beat Brady and the Patriots in the Super Bowl, spoiling New England's bid for a perfect 19-0 season.

Young guns: While the old guys are dominating the NFC playoffs, the AFC is highlighting the next generation of star quarterbacks.

When Buffalo hosts Baltimore on Saturday night it will be a matchup of a pair of 24-year-old quarterbacks in Josh Allen of the Bills and Lamar Jackson of the Ravens.

The quarterbacks taking the field the next day in Kansas City are each a year older with Patrick Mahomes of the Chiefs facing Cle-

veland's Baker Mayfield.

This will be the first time a conference will have four quarterbacks age 25 or younger start on same the weekend of the playoffs.

Streaking: The Ravens had one impressive streak extended last week while another was snapped. J.K. Dobbins ran for a TD in his seventh straight game in Baltimore's 20-13 win over Tennessee, tied for the second-longest streak ever for a rookie. Only Jacksonville's Maurice Jones-Drew has a longer one, having done it eight games in a row in 2006.

Ravens kicker Justin Tucker missed a 52-yard field goal in the fourth quarter of the win over the Titans, ending his streak of 48 consecutive made field goals in the fourth quarter and overtime in the regular season and playoffs.



JUSTIN BERL / AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield smiles as he runs off the field after defeating the Steelers 48-37 on Sunday in Pittsburgh.

Mayfield shows maturity for Browns

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Baker Mayfield answered every question with thoughtful responses, carefully choosing each word while knowing a wrong one could spark controversy.

Cleveland's quarterback has matured: buttoned-down Baker.

Days before the biggest game of his NFL career and another matchup against Patrick Mahomes and the reigning Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs, Mayfield showed during a Zoom call some of the same growth and leadership he's displayed on the field this season while leading the surprising Browns (12-5) to the second round of the playoffs.

After practice, Mayfield, never one to miss a chance to trash talk, downplayed a seemingly dismissive tweet from Chiefs wide receiver Sammy Watkins.

As Cleveland opened a 28-point lead in its 48-37 wild-card win over the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday, Watkins engaged with

one of his followers who said, "Looks like we got some comp (competition) next week."

Watkins responded: "I wouldn't go that far lol!"

While the comment could be viewed as disrespectful, Mayfield wasn't bothered by it.

At least that's what he said.

"I have no problem with it to be honest with you," Mayfield insisted. "Because if you don't have confidence you're not going to have success. And those guys have been doing it together for a few years now. They have a ton of confidence in each other, and so people get mad when you put it out there, you put it up for bulletin-board material, but I don't have a problem with it."

"It comes with the nature of this game that you've got to be confident and you've got to know and believe in yourself."

There was a time not long ago when Mayfield probably would have reacted differently, firing back at Watkins with a snarky comment or promising some kind

of retaliation.

Those days appear to be over for Mayfield, who almost from the time the Browns' 2019 season ended in huge disappointment has been determined to change the narrative about him. He's shaped up in more ways than one.

It doesn't mean he's not fiery or will hold back from an emotional outburst. He's still that guy. But it's just that Mayfield's not going to give others ammunition to take him down. He's removed the target.

In many ways, the Browns are a reflection of their quarterback — underdogs.

Mayfield was twice a college walk-on who proved he belonged, won a Heisman Trophy and became a No. 1 overall pick, the prototypical overachiever. The Browns are doing much better than expected, too.

"We believe in ourselves, and that is why we are here," Mayfield said. "We have a bunch of fighters who have scratched and clawed to get here. We are going to continue to do that week in and week out."

NFL

Terrific: Chiefs' turnaround a template for other teams

FROM PAGE 48

a chance as the Chiefs, Packers, Saints, Ravens or Rams of winning Super Bowl 55.

Brash Browns: In Cleveland, a strange season has turned surreal.

The Browns are playing football in January — not searching for a coach or general manager or trying to figure out what to do with one of their high draft picks.

After a nearly two-decade crawl, the Browns (12-5) are among the NFL's elite, one of eight teams remaining with a shot at winning it all. That's heady stuff for a franchise that has never made it to the Super Bowl.

Yet, under first-year coach Kevin Stefanski's steady hand, the Browns have steered around one obstacle after the next and have taken off on a run few imagined.

They won 11 games to make the playoffs for the first time since the 2002 season. Then, with Stefanski unable to make the trip after he tested positive for COVID-19 and missing two other key players and four assistant coaches, the Browns won their first playoff game in 26 years last Sunday by stunning the rival Pittsburgh Steelers at Heinz Field, where so many Cleveland seasons had died previously.

They did it with Stefanski in his basement back home, and they finished off their first playoff road win since 1969 with a left guard who introduced himself to quarterback Baker Mayfield in the locker room before kickoff.

Bullish Bills: Behind Josh Allen and Stefon Diggs, the Bills (15-3) erased plenty of franchise records established by Jim Kelly & Co. back when the Bills won a record four consecutive AFC titles in the 1990s.

"There has been so much stuff that we have said as former players, 'These guys got a damn good football team,' Hall of Fame running back Thurman Thomas said. 'Their defense probably won't

hold you to 3 points or whatever, but their offense? Their offense is a problem.'"

The Bills led the AFC with a 30.3-point scoring average during the season, and they haven't lost since Nov. 15, when DeAndre Hopkins hauled in Kyle Murray's 42-yard Hail Mary as time expired, giving Arizona a 32-30 win.

Allen's 69.2 completion percentage represents an NFL-record jump of 16.4% since his rookie season in 2018.

"But you give him Stefon Diggs and you see what he's made of and how he's gone about his business," Thomas said. "And he has been tremendous. I think Bills fans, including myself, didn't think he was going to be this good this good this early. And he has proved a lot of people wrong."

Bold Buccaneers: The Buccaneers ended the NFC's longest playoff drought with their first playoff berth since 2007 thanks to the arrival of six-time champion Tom Brady in the offseason.

The Buccaneers immediately went from a franchise that spent more than a decade trying to transform themselves into playoff contenders to a club with expectations of becoming the first team to appear in a Super Bowl in their home stadium.

Brady was attracted to a roster featuring a slew of offensive playmakers, including receivers Mike Evans, Chris Godwin and Scotty Miller, running back Ronald Jones and tight ends O.J. Howard and Cameron Brate.

The Bucs then lured Rob Gronkowski out of retirement, upgraded the offensive line by drafting tackle Tristan Wirfs, and signed veterans LeSean McCoy, Leonard Fournette and Antonio Brown to bolster the depth around their 43-year-old quarterback.

Coach Bruce Arians acknowledged before the start of the playoffs that the Bucs won't consider it a successful season unless they win it all.



JOHN MUNSON/AP

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson (8) paces the league's top rushing attack.

Bills brace for run-heavy, Lamar Jackson-led Ravens

BY JOHN WAWROW

Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Bills defensive end Jerry Hughes feels as if he's back at TCU, where the Horned Frogs would open training camp prepping for the read-option offense to squeeze in extra time for what had been their annual meeting against Air Force.

"Given all the misdirection, and the quarterback having the option to pull the ball and run, it feels a little like college," Hughes said Wednesday, referring to Buffalo preparing to host Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens in an AFC divisional playoff on Saturday. "I guess playing in the Mountain West for me has its upside."

There are, of course, a few big differences he readily acknowledged by noting the Bills (14-3) have less than a week to prepare for the NFL's top-ranked running attack, and Jackson is unlike any quarterback Hughes has seen at any level.

"Just his quickness, his agility, I think he's a little bit more agile than your Kyler Murray, and probably a little bit more speedy as well," Hughes said, comparing Jackson to Murray, the Arizona starter. "Whenever you've got somebody that dynamic, you need bodies, you need population just to keep him contained. He's like a bolt of electricity. You don't want to let that out."

Jackson, the NFL's MVP last season, has been on a tear since spending a week on the reserve-COVID-19 list in late November.

The fifth-seeded Ravens (12-5)

17th

The Bills' ranking in rushing defense. They play host to the Ravens, who lead the league with 3,071 rushing yards, averaging 5.5 yards per carry.

SOURCE: NFL.com

have since won six straight, the last a 20-13 wild-card playoff victory at Tennessee last weekend. It's a stretch Jackson has combined for 988 yards passing and 11 touchdowns and 566 yards rushing and five TDs.

Buffalo is on a seven-game roll after winning its first playoff game in 25 years following a 27-24 victory over Indianapolis on Saturday.

Keeping an immobile Colts quarterback Philip Rivers in check might be one thing. The concern is how the Bills' defense has struggled against the run, and particularly when facing opponents with dual-threat quarterbacks this season.

Buffalo gave up a season-worst 245 yards rushing in a 26-17 loss to Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs on Oct. 19, in a game rookie Clyde Edwards-Helaire finished with 161 yards rushing.

And the team's winning streak followed a 32-30 loss at Arizona on Nov. 15 in which Murray had 61 yards rushing and two scores on top of 245 yards passing and a decisive 43-yard touchdown to DeAndre Hopkins in the final seconds.

"Yeah, thanks for the reminder, I appreciate that," Bills coach Sean McDermott said sarcastical-

ly, when reminded of his defense's lapses. "Well, that's one thing that we're working on, so we're going to go practice in a few hours here and work on that."

If there's a bright side, Buffalo kept Jackson and the Ravens mostly in check in a 24-17 loss to Baltimore on Dec. 8, 2019. Jackson finished with a season-low 40 yards rushing on 11 carries, but burned the Bills with three touchdowns passing.

The downside for Buffalo is a defense which isn't as stout as it was last year following several off-season free-agent departures, and run-stuffing defensive tackle Star Lotulelei's decision to opt out from playing due to COVID-19 concerns last summer. In finishing 17th in the NFL against the run, the Bills have given up 150 yards rushing five times this season.

Defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier acknowledged he had to shift expectations this offseason, and adapt to the strengths of his roster which features more speed than bulk.

"You have to come to grips with that early on," Frazier said. "You have to adjust."

Buffalo has shown improvement over the final 10 games of the season in pressuring quarterbacks and forcing takeaways.

The test now becomes whether it can find ways to rattle Jackson.

"It's a different offense and we've got to be able to show that we can stop their main run plays and try to force this team to try to throw the football," safety Jordan Poyer said.



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen, right, celebrates a touchdown with Bills tight end Dawson Knox during a game against the Broncos, Dec. 19, in Denver.

NFL

Wolfe rediscovers love for game with winning Ravens

By DAVID GINSBURG
Associated Press

Derek Wolfe signed as a free agent with the Baltimore Ravens last March because he missed the joy of competing in the NFL playoffs.

Wolfe, an energetic and talented defensive end, lost his passion for the game during a miserable four-year stretch in Denver that featured three head coaches, 37 defeats and not a single trip to the postseason.

"I started playing this game when I was 7 years old because I liked to win," Wolfe said. "Unfortunately, I had the rough four years in Denver. It made me really not love the game anymore."

So he took a one-year deal with Baltimore, and now Wolfe and the Ravens are right where they want to be in the middle of January: still alive in the playoffs and very much in the running for a trip to the Super Bowl.

After defeating Tennessee last Sunday, Baltimore faces Buffalo on Saturday night with a berth in the AFC title game on the line.

The Ravens got the 30-year-old Wolfe because he's a run-stopper, can pressure the quarterback and provides leadership in the locker room and on the field. Before that dry spell in Denver, Wolfe was part of a team that reached the playoffs four years in a row. The Broncos compiled a 50-14 regular-season record during that span and reached the Super Bowl twice, winning one and losing one.

So, in spite of his troubling final four years in Denver, Wolfe knows what it takes to win.

"I really have so much experience that I know what a winning team looks like and the kinds of things you have to do," he said. "I really just try to lead by example, and I try to speak up when I feel like I need to say something."

Wolfe had 51 tackles, a sack, a

"I came here because I wanted to get back to winning football games."

Derek Wolfe
Ravens defensive end

fumble recovery and knocked away two passes this season. Then he helped the team limit NFL rushing leader Derrick Henry to 40 yards in a 20-13 victory at Tennessee.

Wolfe tied for the team lead with six tackles against the Titans and had Baltimore's lone sack. Just as important, he rallied his teammates after Tennessee bolted to a 10-0 lead.

"He's one of the best leaders I've ever seen," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "Guys like that, in a sideline situation like that when you go down 10, that's what holds a team together. That's what keeps guys fighting."

Harbaugh was hoping to get Wolfe on Baltimore after watching him star with the University of Cincinnati, but the Broncos snagged him in the second round of the 2012 draft. Still, Harbaugh never lost sight of the 6-foot-5, 285-pound lineman.

"I came here because I wanted to get back to winning football games. That's why you play the game," Wolfe said. "When that opportunity really isn't there, and you know you don't have the team that can really do it, it's heart-breaking. But when you're on a team that has the players, the coaching staff, an organization that's fully invested in winning a Super Bowl, it makes it fun. Every day has a meaning."



TERRANCE WILLIAMS / AP

Ravens DE Derek Wolfe was glad to get away from Denver, where the Broncos lost 37 times and didn't reach the playoffs the past 4 years.



TED S. WARREN / AP

Los Angeles Rams running back Cam Akers flips forward as Seattle Seahawks outside linebacker K.J. Wright defends during a wild-card playoff game Saturday in Seattle.

Rams' Akers heats up on way to chilly Green Bay

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Cam Akers grew up in Mississippi, and his football journey has taken him to Tallahassee and Los Angeles.

So the Rams' rookie running back hasn't spent a whole lot of time in the type of frigid weather he's about to experience in Green Bay, where it's expected to be below 25 degrees at kickoff Saturday before the sun goes down and it really gets cold.

Akers does have one prominent memory of freezing football, however: Florida State lost at Notre Dame two years ago on one of the coldest gamedays in South Bend in decades.

What does he remember about that chilling experience?

"I scored two touchdowns," Akers said Tuesday with a grin.

Akers has plenty of reasons to be confident heading to the frozen tundra, particularly after what's happened during the second half of his increasingly impressive NFL debut season.

After his breakout 171-yard game against New England last month, a high ankle sprain incredibly sidelined him for only one week. And in his first NFL playoff game last weekend, Akers racked up 131 yards rushing and 45 more receiving against Seattle in the Rams' 30-20 victory — played in the chilly 30s, no less.

"I'm still learning," Akers said. "I'm still taking everything day by day. Just putting them in my pocket and just trying to learn and

176

Cam Akers' combined receiving/rushing yardage last week against Seattle, the third-most by a Rams player in a postseason game. He rushed for 131 yards, the most by a Rams rookie in a postseason game.

SOURCE: Associated Press

grow. The biggest one is, don't get comfortable. Last week was a big game, but the next one is even bigger."

The top-seeded Packers (13-3) are the next big thing in Akers' way, but the rookie appears to be peaking at the ideal time for Los Angeles (11-6). Although his growth into a role as Todd Gurley's replacement began slowly, it's picking up speed like one of his downfield runs.

In Seattle, Akers became the first Rams rookie to rush for 100 yards in the postseason for a franchise born in 1936. His 176 combined rushing/receiving yards were the third-most by any player in a postseason game in team history, trailing only efforts by Eric Dickerson in 1986 and Lawrence McCutcheon in 1974 — and more than Hall of Famer Marshall Faulk ever managed in his famed tenure with the Greatest Show on Turf.

Left tackle Andrew Whitworth put it succinctly in Seattle: "He's made of the right junk. His heart, his passion for the game is special."

When Robert Woods made his

first career playoff touchdown catch to clinch Los Angeles' win in the fourth quarter, the veteran receiver thanked Akers for it: Woods got wide open on a play-action because the Seahawks were so concerned about the rookie's running ability.

"For him to bounce back how he did and take over that running back room and then lead it, really for a rookie to come in and make the right cuts and the right runs in critical situations, I think that's super huge," Woods said. "It really opens up this offense. But the biggest thing is just getting him in space, seeing him make moves and make guys fall and hit the ground."

Akers has come on quickly for a rookie who played sparingly — and didn't even touch the football in two games — over the first 12 weeks of the regular season, instead sharing carries with Darrell Henderson and Malcolm Brown.

When he got a prominent role in early December, Akers capitalized with 340 yards in the Rams' final four regular-season games before his stellar work in Seattle.

The Green Bay defense has noticed.

"He puts a foot in the ground and he cuts back and he's explosive," Packers defensive line coach Jerry Montgomery said. "He's got that twitch. He's a little bit of a jump-cutter at times, and then there's times when he puts one foot in the ground and hits it and gets it. Just explosive. Can take it to the house on any snap."

NHL



CHRIS O'MEARA / AP

Lightning center Steven Stamkos, right, tries to deflect the puck past Chicago goalie Malcolm Subban.

ROUNDUP

Stamkos' return sparks Lightning

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Steven Stamkos had a goal and two assists in his return to the Tampa Bay Lightning lineup, and the defending Stanley Cup champions opened the season with a 5-1 victory against the Chicago Blackhawks on Wednesday night.

Stamkos underwent surgery in early March that kept him out of all but one game in the playoffs before undergoing surgery again in October to repair the same core muscle. Wednesday's game was the first full game Stamkos played since Feb. 22.

"It's the best I've felt in a long time," Stamkos said. "It's tough sometimes in camp and those scrimmages; you only have 10 days to get ready. Then you get into real action the instincts take over and you want to be out there making plays. But I felt good, I feel like I'm just going to build off of that and continue to get stronger."

The Lightning captain has points in 17 consecutive games — including 14 goals.

Brayden Point, Anthony Cirelli, Ondrej Palat and Mathieu Joseph also scored to help Tampa Bay win its seventh consecutive season opener. Victor Hedman and Alex Killorn each finished with two assists. Andrei Vasilevskiy had 23 saves.

Dylan Strome scored for Chicago, and Malcolm Subban stopped 28 shots.

Maple Leafs 5, Canadiens 4 (OT): Morgan Rielly scored at 3:24 of overtime to lift host Toronto.

Rielly took a feed from Maple Leafs captain John Tavares on a 2-on-1 to beat Montreal goalie Carey Price and end a chaotic extra period where both teams had chances to get the victory.

William Nylander had two goals and an assist for Toronto, while Tavares added a goal and two assists. Jimmy Vesey chipped in with his first goal for the Maple Leafs, and Frederik Andersen had 28 saves.

Josh Anderson scored twice in his debut for the Canadiens, while Nick Suzuki had a goal and an assist, and Tomas Tatar also scored. Jonathan Drouin and Jeff Petry each added two assists. Price finished with 29 saves.

Blues 4, Avalanche 1: Oskar Sundqvist scored twice and blocked four shots, and Jordan Binnington made 26 saves to lead St. Louis to a win at Colorado.

Jordan Kyrou also found the net after being recalled from the taxi squad, and new addition Kyle Clifford added another goal as the Blues scored four unanswered.

Andre Burakovsky scored early in the first period for the Avalanche, whose streak of season-opening wins was halted at four.

Canucks 5, Oilers 3: Brock Boeser scored twice, including the winner, as Vancouver won at Edmonton.

Bo Horvat, Adam Gaudette, and rookie Nils Hoglander also scored for the Canucks in the first of two games in two nights between the teams. Braden Holtby made 28 saves for his first win for Vancouver.

Scoreboard

Central Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	0	2	5	1	
Chicago	1	0	1	0	0	1	5	
Dallas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Nashville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Columbus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Detroit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

East Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Philadelphia	1	1	0	0	2	6	3	
Pittsburgh	1	0	1	0	0	3	6	
Boston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Buffalo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
New Jersey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
N.Y. Islanders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
N.Y. Rangers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

North Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vancouver	1	1	0	0	2	5	3	
Toronto	1	1	0	0	2	5	4	
Montreal	1	0	0	1	1	4	5	
Edmonton	1	0	1	0	0	3	5	
Calgary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ottawa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Winnipeg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

West Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
St. Louis	1	1	0	0	2	4	1	
Colorado	1	0	1	0	0	1	4	
Vegas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Los Angeles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Arizona	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
San Jose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Anaheim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Wednesday's games

Philadelphia 6, Pittsburgh 3
Vancouver 5, Edmonton 3
St. Louis 4, Colorado 1
Toronto 5, Montreal 4, OT
Tampa Bay 5, Chicago 1

Thursday's games

Boston at New Jersey
Dallas at Florida, ppd
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers
Washington at Buffalo
Carolina at Detroit
Calgary at Winnipeg
Columbus at Nashville
San Jose at Arizona
Vancouver at Edmonton
Anaheim at Vegas
Minnesota at Los Angeles

Friday's games

Chicago at Tampa Bay
Dallas at Florida, ppd
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia
Toronto at Ottawa
Washington at Buffalo
St. Louis at Colorado

Flyers' Farabee has 4 points in win over Penguins

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Nolan Patrick missed last season with debilitating migraines and Oskar Lindblom had his shortened in his fight with a rare bone cancer. The only cheers they heard in their comeback games came in the locker room before faceoff in the form of rousing approval from the Philadelphia Flyers, grateful their teammates could play.

Flyers coach Alain Vigneault wished a packed arena — that last season had fans holding #OskarStrong signs — had a chance to show their appreciation.

"My one disappointment is that Oskar played his first game in Philadelphia since December 2019 and he didn't get a chance to play it in front of Flyers fans giving him the great cheer and love that he deserved from coming back and battling cancer," Vigneault said.

With Gritty thrusting his bulbous belly from his sofa, Philadelphia turned Patrick and Lindblom's homecoming into a meaningful victory.

Patrick and Lindblom both scored goals, Joel Farabee had a goal and three assists, and Michael Raffl and James van Riemsdyk also scored to lead the Flyers to a 6-3 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old Patrick, the No. 2 overall pick in the 2017 draft, scored in his first game since April 2, 2019. Lindblom, who returned to play in the NHL restart bubble, scored a goal on a true heads-up play — Travis Konecny's shot appeared to bounce off Lindblom's helmet for the goal.

"That is better than me getting one," Konecny said.

Lindblom also led Philadelphia with three blocked shots.

The unconventional opener was decided when Raffl scored from the slot and beat Tristan Jarry 5:37 into the third for a 4-3 lead and the only cheers for the go-ahead goal came from Flyers fans watching at home.

Philadelphia pounced from there — Lindblom and Kevin Hayes scored 20 seconds apart to turn this one into a rout.

Mark Jankowski, Brandon Tanev and Sidney Crosby scored for the Penguins.

Crosby's goal was about as expected against a team he has tortured like no other. He was greeted by strange silence in the empty arena — 20,000 Flyers fans generally lose their minds chanting "Crosby sucks!" — and he simply skated away without a boo to be heard after his tying goal.

Crosby's 44th goal against Philadelphia, more than any other team in the league, in 71 games was one of his best. Carter Hart tried to clear the puck from behind the net and his lazy pass was batted down by Crosby and poked in an empty net to make it 2-2.

Jankowski, who scored just five goals last season, scored the first one of this season 5:12 into the game. Tanev beat Hart, who had 31 saves, early in the third to make it 3-3.

"I think it's just how the puck goes and the bounces," Tanev said. "They weren't going our way. I thought we played a great game. I thought we had a lot of great chances."

Erik Gustafsson had to settle for assists on two shots that seemed destined to find the back of the net in the first period.



CHRIS SZAGOLA / AP

The Flyers' Joel Farabee, right, scores on Penguins goalie Tristan Jarry during the second period of the Flyers' 6-3 win Wednesday.

SPORTS



Red Raiders rally

No. 15 Texas Tech snatches win from No. 4 Texas » College hoops, Page 43



NFL PLAYOFFS

Terrific turnarounds

Bucs, Browns, Bills out to follow footsteps of defending champ Chiefs

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

Aside from winning the final Super Bowl before the merger in 1970, the Kansas City Chiefs' biggest claim to fame for over half a century was team founder Lamar Hunt coining the phrase Super Bowl.

Patrick Mahomes changed all of that a year ago when he led a furious fourth-quarter rally that sent the Chiefs to a 31-20 win over San Francisco in Super Bowl 54.

Now, there are Mahomes murals all over town, the city's famous

restaurants run specials in his honor and he even has a cereal named after him.

The Chiefs (14-2) are again a top seed and they're one win away from becoming the first team ever to host three consecutive AFC championships. The only NFC team to do that was the Philadelphia Eagles from 2002-04 when Andy Reid was their coach.

Even after an excruciatingly long wait, a franchise's fortunes can change quickly.

Three long-downtrodden teams — the Browns, Bills and Buccaneers — have made it to the divisional round this weekend and are certain they have as good

SEE TERRIFIC ON PAGE 45

Top: Behind quarterback Josh Allen, the Buffalo Bills led the AFC with a 30.3-point scoring average during the season, and they haven't lost since Nov. 15. **Left:** Cleveland Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield and the Tampa Bay Bucs' Tom Brady each helped their teams end long playoff droughts this season.

AP photos



Brady vs. Brees is matchup for the ages » NFL, Page 44

