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& PACIFIC  
**WEEKEND**  
EDITION



**MOVIES**  
'The Forty-Year-Old Version'  
introduces Radha Blank  
as an auteur to watch  
[Pages 20-21](#)

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# US military takes action

Stuttgart High School shut down as Germany reels under record number of new coronavirus cases

BY KARIN ZEITVOGEL, JOHN VANDIVER  
AND JENNIFER SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. military communities in Germany took quick action as the country's national public health agency said there had been more new infections in one day than at any time since the start of the pandemic.

Stuttgart shuttered its high school and tested hundreds of service members and their families. Soldiers were banned from barhopping in Baumholder, and officials at Grafenwoehr tightened restrictions on soldiers, civilians and family members after the nearby town of Weiden went on red alert against the coronavirus.

The Robert Koch Institute, Germany's public health agency, said 6,638 new cases of the virus had been reported from Wednesday to Thursday, the biggest daily increase since March 28, when case numbers rose by 6,294.

## SEE MILITARY ON PAGE 6

A woman wearing a face mask walks past a sign saying "Mask duty — Cover your mouth and nose!" in the city center of Munich, Germany, on Thursday.

PETER KNEFFEL, DPA/AP

■ **US layoffs remain elevated**  
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# Army to encourage urgency in searching for missing soldiers

BY ALEX HORTON  
*The Washington Post*

The Army is planning to introduce a policy that would provide more urgency in finding missing soldiers, top leaders said, following a row of high-profile disappearances at Fort Hood that left families frustrated over the depth and speed of search efforts.

Commanders have not prioritized searching for soldiers miss-

ing from the ranks, a duty status known as absent without leave, Army officials have previously said, and they currently do not proactively search for deserters.

Experts have said Army culture breeds belief that missing soldiers are malingerers or cowards, which makes finding them a low priority. But recent high-profile disappearances and deaths of soldiers at Fort Hood in Texas have led Army officials to reex-

amine how that process works.

In the forthcoming policy on AWOL soldiers, the Army "will consider them missing and take immediate action to find them," according to a memo signed Tuesday by Army Secretary Ryan Mc-

Carthy, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston.

The policy is meant to align with broader efforts by the Army to refocus care of soldiers follow-

ing years of emphasis on deployments and training, according to an Army official with knowledge of the changes. That in turn could help leaders detect problems within the ranks, the official said.

"We do not always know why people have not showed up to formation," the official said, declining to provide a name to discuss sensitive personnel issues.

"Until we know why, we have to

make sure it's something that is taken seriously."

Commanders have discretion over how fast and deep searches for missing soldiers can go, such as calling family members or interviewing fellow soldiers about potential problems, the official said. The changes are meant to encourage leaders to be more proactive.

SEE MISSING ON PAGE 4

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel	Azores	Change in price	Numbers not provided before press time
Germany	\$2.442	\$2.654	\$3.104	\$2.670	--	--	\$3.004
Change in price	-0.5 cents	-0.4 cents	-0.4 cents	+0.8 cents	--	--	-0.4 cents
Netherlands	--	\$3.374	\$3.593	\$3.182	--	--	--
Change in price	--	+4.2 cents	+4.2 cents	+8.2 cents	--	--	--
U.K.	--	\$2.753	\$3.003	\$2.569	--	--	\$2.889
Change in price	--	-0.4 cents	-0.4 cents	+0.8 cents	--	--	-0.4 cents

## PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel	South Korea	Change in price	Numbers not provided before press time
Japan	--	\$2.899	--	\$2.459	\$2.249	--	\$2.909
Change in price	--	No change	--	+1.0 cents	No change	--	No change
Okinawa	\$2.229	--	--	\$2.459	\$2.239**	--	\$2.909
Change in price	-1.0 cents	--	--	+1.0 cents	-1.0 cents	--	No change

\* Diesel EFF \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of Oct. 16-22

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9145
Euro costs (Oct. 16)	Thailand (Baht)	31.23
Dollar buys (Oct. 16)	Turkey (Lira)	7.9463
British pound (Oct. 16)		
Japanese yen (Oct. 16)		
South Korean won (Oct. 16)		
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771	
British pound	\$1.2945	
Canada (Dollar)	1.3322	
China (Yuan)	6.7251	
Denmark (Krone)	6.3625	
Egypt (Pound)	15.7004	
Euro	\$1.6980/8549	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7503	
Hungary (Forint)	31.13	
Israel (Shekel)	3.3997	
Japan (Yen)	105.28	
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3061	
Norway (Krone)	9.3727	
Philippines (Peso)	48.76	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.89	
Singapore (Dollar)	3.7511	
South Korea (Won)	1,148.11	

(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-pounds, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.10
30-year bond	1.50

## 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

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## PACIFIC

## Navy secretary stresses priorities in Yokosuka

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy's top civilian leader on Thursday toured a guided-missile destroyer undergoing maintenance during his first-ever visit to the service's largest overseas base.

Navy Secretary Kenneth Braithwaite met USS *Millius* sailors with a congenial, "Hi, I'm Ken," aboard the ship that has been in dry dock since early May.

As the Navy pushes to grow its fleet, maintaining existing warships and extending their service lives are a continuing priority. Braithwaite told *Millius* sailors that while he understood their desire to be at sea, spending time training ashore and working on the ship are crucial to success.

"I know you're in the 'yards now, but what you're doing here will make you better prepared," Braithwaite told crews in the destroyer's bridge during his tour.

Congress in 2018 made law the Navy's goal of a 355-ship fleet, now due by 2035. Last week, Defense Secretary Mark Esper announced a new modernization plan — dubbed "Battle Force 2044" — that boosted that goal to a mixture of 500 manned and unmanned ships within 25 years.

The Navy had 296 ships in service as of Oct. 6, according to the Naval Vessel Register.

While shipbuilding will be a top priority, Esper said during his speech Oct. 6, quick and efficient ship maintenance will also play a role.

"We cannot build and sustain our proposed fleet without the ability to service and repair a greater number of vessels in a more timely fashion," the defense secretary said, according to a transcript of his speech.

While new ships are under construction, the targeted fleet size "cannot be reached if existing ships are not maintained to their full service-lives," according to a Congressional Research Service report on Navy force structure



CAITLIN DOORNBOS/Stars and Stripes

**Navy Secretary Kenneth Braithwaite speaks with Petty Officer 3rd Class Justin Radai, a fire controlman, aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS *Millius* at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Thursday.**

and shipbuilding plans published Oct. 7.

In his speech, Esper called shipyard capacity and maintenance delays the Navy's Achilles' heel necessary to overcome to "maintain a high level of readiness."

"We will continue our efforts to revitalize and expand the Navy's four shipyards while promoting partnerships with private shipyards across the country without pulling from the shipbuilding account," he said, according to the transcript.

On Thursday, the *Millius's* commanding officer, Cmdr. Rob Niemeyer, said he spoke with Braithwaite about the "deep-dive on maintenance and preservation" on the 24-year-old destroyer at the U.S. Naval Ship Repair Facility in Yokosuka.

"We work our ships out here in 7th Fleet like nowhere else," Niemeyer said Thursday. "This maintenance period is a critical time for us to reset so that we are ready to get back in operation."

Niemeyer said the "vision of this deeper-level maintenance period" is to ensure the ship can remain in service for years to come.

"It's our job to make sure that the ship can exceed its expected service life, and it's our charge to make the ship younger," he said. "We are stewards of the American taxpayer and American people who have entrusted this ship to us."

The pressure to grow the Navy's fleet intensifies as China recently became the world's largest navy with more than 350 ships and

growing. The Pentagon's China report released Sept. 1 determined that Beijing aims to have a "world-class" military on par with the United States by 2049.

The Defense Department considers China a strategic competitor, leading Esper to call the Indo-Pacific the military's "priority theater." Tensions over Beijing's militarization of islands and reefs in the South China Sea have frayed relations between the two countries. The Navy regularly challenges Chinese claims through freedom-of-navigation exercises.

Braithwaite declined on Thursday to further address the Navy's expanded fleet goals, but in a statement after his tour emphasized the importance of "maintaining a competitive ad-

vantage in this complex global security environment."

"For more than 75 years, the United States has maintained a continuous forward presence throughout the Pacific," he said. "Today, we continue our efforts in this region as we work with our partners and allies to ensure peace and stability for a free and open Indo-Pacific."

Yokosuka was Braithwaite's first stop on his brief trip this week to the Indo-Pacific. After meeting with sailors Thursday morning, he said he planned to meet with Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi in Tokyo before visiting leaders in Singapore, Palau and Guam in the coming days.

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USS *Barry* sails through Taiwan Strait after McCain's China transit

By STETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

A Navy destroyer passed through the Taiwan Strait on Wednesday, nearly a week after the Chinese military challenged another U.S. destroyer's presence in the nearby South China Sea.

The USS *Barry* cruised through the strait in accordance with international law, according to a statement from U.S. Pacific Fleet. It was the 12th such transit by a U.S. warship this year. The last was made Aug. 30 by another guided-missile destroyer, the USS *Halsey*.

"The [*Barry's*] transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific," the statement said. "The U.S. Navy will

continue to fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows."

On Oct. 9, another destroyer, the USS *John S. McCain*, "asserted navigational rights and freedoms" in the South China Sea near the Parcel Islands, a 7th Fleet spokesman, Cmdr. Reann Mommensen, said in an email Thursday.

The *McCain* was warned by the Chinese military and told to leave, Col. Zhang Nandong, a spokesman for the People's Liberation Army Southern Theater Command, told the country's state-run Global Times the same day.

Such operations seriously infringe China's sovereignty and national interests, and damage regional peace and stability, he told the newspaper.

"China owns undeniable sovereignty of the islands in the South China Sea and nearby waters," the report said.

The destroyer USS *Mustin* steamed near the islands twice this year, on May 28 and again on Aug. 27.

China, Taiwan and Vietnam each claim sovereignty over the islands, and China has set up military airfields and outposts on them that have raised concerns among surrounding nations and in the United States.

The *McCain's* patrol "upheld the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea recognized in international law by challenging the unlawful restrictions on innocent passage imposed by China, Taiwan, and Vietnam," Mommensen said.

"Unlawful maritime claims in the South China Sea pose a serious threat to the freedom of the seas, including the freedoms of navigation and overflight, of unimpeded trade and commerce, and of economic opportunity for South China Sea littoral nations," she added.

The U.S. challenges excessive maritime claims around the world regardless of the identity of the claimant, Mommensen said. Under international law, all vessels, including warships, enjoy the right of innocent passage through territorial seas.

"By engaging in innocent passage without giving prior notification to or asking permission from any of the claimants, the United States challenged the unlawful restrictions imposed by

China, Taiwan and Vietnam" in waters near the Parcel Islands, Mommensen said.

International law does not permit continental states, like China, to establish baselines — coastal lines from which sea territory limits are measured — around entire dispersed island groups, she added.

"China has attempted to claim more internal waters, territorial sea, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf than it is entitled to under international law," Mommensen said. "By conducting this operation, the United States demonstrated that these waters are beyond what China can lawfully claim as its territorial sea."

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## MILITARY

# Army's best warrior winners announced

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON  
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — A sergeant based in Fort Jackson, S.C. and a sergeant 1st class out of Fort Carson, Colo. have been named the winners of two separate categories of the Army's best warrior competition, which was held remotely this year to protect contestants against the coronavirus.

Sgt. James Akinola, who represented the Moncrief Army Health Clinic, U.S. Army Medical Command at Fort Jackson was named best soldier after three weeks of competition that included knowledge and physical assessments. He "began the process as an E4 but unsurprisingly was promoted during the process," the Army said on Facebook.

Sgt. 1st Class Alexander Berger, of the 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, U.S. Army Special Operations Command out of Fort Carson, won best noncommissioned officer.

Physical strength was tested using the Army combat fitness test, a 12-mile march and a marksmanship

component. Intellectual skills were tested in part in a virtual interview with senior enlisted soldiers from across the Army.

"Even under this year's extraordinary circumstances, you've proven you have what it takes to compete and win," the Army cited Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston, who oversaw the remote competition, as telling the two winners at the awards ceremony in Arlington, Va., on Tuesday.

Taking the competition remote allowed it to adhere to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as Army guidelines to mitigate the virus, and showed that soldiers have "the resilience, the lethality, and the strategy that we have to deploy, fight, and win decisively against any adversary anytime, anywhere," Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Wood, the competition's NCO in charge, said in a statement.

Twenty-two soldiers from 11 Army commands took part in the competition, which is in its 18th year.

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Akinola



Berger



JACOB CONNOR/U.S. Army

Sgt. 1st Class Alexander Berger, assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), competes in the 2020 best warrior competition. Berger was named best NCO in the competition, which was held remotely this year because of the coronavirus.

## Army rotational brigade arriving in S. Korea despite virus

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Soldiers, tanks and other equipment from the new U.S. rotational brigade began arriving in South Korea on Thursday despite coronavirus concerns, with all arrivals required to undergo testing and a two-week quarantine.

The Fort Stewart, Ga.-based 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, is the ninth rotational brigade to serve with U.S. Forces Korea since the system began in 2015.

The Raider Brigade replaces the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division,

which began deploying to the divided peninsula shortly before the pandemic began to take hold.

Tracked armored vehicles rolled off ships in the southern port of Busan on Thursday and were to be carried to their final destination via the South Korean rail system.

Each unit brings its own equipment, including M1 Abrams tanks and M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles, which goes home with it at the end of the nine-month rotation.

"The logistical process allows for proper maintenance and service of the old equipment and aligns our deployed forces with current Army-wide moderniza-

tion and readiness efforts," the Eighth Army said in a press release.

It added that the introduction of units from off the peninsula allows more soldiers to get experience operating in South Korea and "expands and enhances" the "ironclad" U.S.-South Korean alliance, which was forged in the 1950-53 Korean War.

The transition began amid fears that tensions with North Korea may rise after the communist state showed off a huge new intercontinental ballistic weapon that appeared to be a warning to whoever wins the November U.S. election.

The North has expressed grow-

ing frustration over the deadlock in U.S.-led talks aimed at persuading it to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

South Korea has been lauded for its efforts to keep the overall number of coronavirus cases and deaths relatively low. However, USFK has seen a surge in confirmed cases among service members traveling to the South from the United States.

The command has implemented a strict testing and quarantine process for all arrivals similar to that of the South Korean government to prevent the virus from spreading locally.

All USFK personnel must be tested for the coronavirus upon

arrival, undergo a two-week quarantine, then pass a second test before being allowed to exit the quarantine.

The rotational system was introduced in 2015 when the Army deactivated the permanently stationed unit that had served near the border with North Korea for five decades.

Some 28,500 American service members are stationed in South Korea as protection against a possible invasion from the North. The rival nations remain technically at war since their Cold War-era conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

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## Missing: Policy changes meant to make leaders more proactive in cases

### FROM FRONT PAGE

One soldier missing from Fort Hood, Army Pvt. Gregory Wedel-Morales, was declared a deserter a month after he went missing in August 2019. His remains were found in a shallow grave outside the base months later, with investigators suspecting foul play.

His mother, Kimberly Wedel, blasted the Army for what she described as a callous indifference to finding her son. She said in an interview Wednesday that she welcomed the policy change.

"I'm glad they're taking it more seriously, and not writing off soldiers," Wedel said. "Mix that in with knowing their soldiers better. I can't begin to guess how many lives they may save."

A soldier who doesn't report for duty in 30 days is automatically designated a deserter, the Army said, even if commanders don't have evidence of where the soldier is, or if the soldier is experiencing physical or mental distress. Another soldier then takes their place in the unit.

Concerns similar to Wedel's were raised by the family of Sp. Vanessa Guillen, another soldier who went missing in April. Investigators found that another soldier killed her on Fort Hood property and disposed of her remains outside the installation with an alleged accomplice. The soldier who killed her took his own life as officers closed in.

The Guillen family said officials did not take her disappearance seriously amid

their allegations that she was sexually harassed.

Those cases follow a years-long effort by families to transform the way the Army looks for missing soldiers.

Army Pfc. Dakota Stump went missing from Fort Hood in October 2016, leading officials to declare him AWOL. Army officials suspected he shirked duty when his cellphone pinged in Indiana, but he was found dead in a car wreck at the installation three months later. His mother, Patricia Wise, advocated for laws to improve sharing information with families launch investigations before declaring soldiers AWOL.

Kayla Williams, a former Army non-commissioned officer, said leaders often

assume the worst of soldiers if they face challenges, including alcohol or mental health problems and even pregnancy, leading to many to wave off missing soldiers as problems they no longer need to handle.

But she was cautiously optimistic over the rule change.

"Shifting the focus to emphasize people as individuals are important, and the Army needs them to accomplish the mission, said Williams, now the director of the military, veterans and society program at the Center for a New American Security, a Washington think tank.

"Sometime it takes the embarrassment of being held up to a microscope in the public eye to drive necessary change," she said.



## MILITARY

## Ex-Fort Bliss nurse facing charges of sexual abuse

By ROSE L. THAYER  
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — A civilian nurse who used to work at Fort Bliss has been charged with abusive sexual contact for inappropriately touching someone at the base hospital, according to federal court documents.

Thomas Robert Williams, 43, was arrested by FBI on Friday in El Paso, according to court documents.

During a federal court hearing Wednesday in El Paso, Williams' bond was set at \$30,000. Should he be released, U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert F. Castañeda ordered he cannot work as a nurse during the pendency of the case.

While most documents in the case remain sealed, a criminal indictment stated Williams is charged with one count of abusive sexual contact from actions that occurred on or around Oct. 23, 2016, at Fort Bliss, an Army base in El Paso.

Williams worked as a nurse at William Beaumont Army Medical Center at the time of the incident, said Ambie Payen, spokeswoman



Thomas Robert Williams

for the base hospital. His employment ended in 2017.

"Immediately after the allegations were reported, Mr. Williams was removed from all patient care duties and proper procedures were followed to investigate and protect the victim," Payen said in a statement.

Williams is from El Paso and has been arrested by police three times between 2009 and 2019 for drunken driving, according to online jail records. He served three days in jail for his most recent charge in May 2019.

If anyone would like to provide information to the FBI, they are asked to call 800-225-5324.

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## Over 5,600 families displaced by fighting in southern Afghanistan

Associated Press

LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan — Renewed fighting between the Taliban and Afghan government forces in southern Helmand province has forced more than 5,600 families to flee their homes, officials said Thursday, the latest flareup that could undermine U.S. efforts to broker peace in the war-torn country.

The fighting comes as Afghan government representatives and the Taliban are holding peace talks in Qatar, where the Taliban have for years maintained a political office. The negotiations, envisaged under a U.S. deal signed with the insurgents in February, are meant to end Afghanistan's grueling 19-year war and are seen as the country's best chance at peace.

The Trump administration has pledged to pull out American forces from Afghanistan, but U.S. officials have stressed that the Taliban have still not met requirements to reduce violence against the Afghans, a key element of the U.S. withdrawal plan.

In Helmand, Omar Zwak, the provincial governor's spokesman, said Afghan security forces were

trying to regain areas lost to the Taliban over the weekend, while local officials were scrambling to provide food and shelter to the growing number of civilians fleeing from nearby districts to the provincial capital, Lashkar Gah. Ajab Gul, 25, and his family have been in the city for four days.

"The Taliban have taken over our village and both sides in the battle are using light and heavy weapons, so how could we stay there?" he said.

Afghanistan's refugee department estimates an average family has seven members, meaning nearly 40,000 people have likely been displaced, said Mohammad Ramen Ibrahim, the department's provincial director.

The Taliban control roughly 80% of Helmand province, and over the past year have waged several attacks on Lashkar Gah, only to be repulsed by Afghan security forces, whose control is largely restricted to district centers.

Last week, the Taliban launched coordinated attacks in different parts of Helmand province, Zwak said. He claimed that government forces had retaken much of the

territory lost over the weekend, but operations were still ongoing in other parts of the province.

Several internally displaced persons who had fled to Lashkar Gah, however, told The Associated Press that the Taliban were in control of most of their districts — Marjah, Nad Ali and Nawa. They said the fighting and airstrikes by Afghan forces had forced them to leave their homes and property.

Most internally displaced persons were staying with relatives in Lashkar Gah, said Ibrahim. His refugee department was providing food and shelter to those with nowhere to stay, but he said most people were coming to the city each day.

Zwak, the governor's spokesman, said discussions were underway between the central government, charity organizations and local businessmen to help those in need.

In Kabul, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and other government officials attended the funeral for nine Afghan service members who died Tuesday night when two Afghan army helicopters collided in Helmand.

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## MILITARY

# Military: Germany tightens limits as cases soar

## FROM FRONT PAGE

After a meeting with German state leaders that lasted until late Wednesday evening, Chancellor Angela Merkel warned that the caseload could increase even more rapidly if everyone did not do their part to bring the virus under control.

"We're in a serious phase of the pandemic," she told a news conference. "I'm convinced that what we do, and don't do, in the coming days and weeks will be decisive in how Germany pulls through."

The authorities face greater challenges than during the first wave of the pandemic in the spring because with the northern hemisphere winter looming, fewer events can be held outside, Merkel said, announcing a raft of measures to curb the spread of the virus.

Mask-wearing rules were tightened, bars were ordered to close early or, in some places, to shut altogether, and in places with high infection rates, limits were placed on the number of people who can gather together.

Restrictions were the toughest in cities and counties where there have been more than 50 new cases per 100,000 residents in the last seven days, including Stuttgart, the county that includes Spangdahlem Air Base, and Weiden, where the number of cases rose from 17 to 440 overnight, the onetz.de news website reported.

An order for visitors to the Bavarian town, which is popular with troops based at Grafenwoehr Training Area, to wear masks in the pedestrian zone was imposed immediately, onetz reported.

Military officials at Grafenwoehr said they were making sure that everyone in their community



RICK SCAVETTA/U.S. Army

**Pfc. Turner Donovan, of the 52nd Signal Battalion, tests customer forms from people waiting in line to be tested for the coronavirus in Stuttgart Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany, on Wednesday. Stuttgart High School closed Thursday after numerous students tested positive for the coronavirus.**

was aware that Weiden has been designated a risk area and were putting in place even tougher restrictions on socializing and going to bars, for instance, than those imposed by the Germans.

In Stuttgart, which is home to about 28,000 Americans with ties to the military, masks have to be worn outdoors in the city center, in some areas by children as young as 6, the sale and consumption

of alcohol has been banned at 19 places, and the number of people who can get together for a private gathering has been limited.

The Army's health clinic on Patch Barracks, home to U.S. European Command, saw a surge in people seeking coronavirus tests Thursday as part of a contact tracing effort connected to an outbreak at the military high school.

Stuttgart High School, which is attended by about 800 students, was shut down until the end of October after an unspecified number of students tested positive for the virus. Instruction will move online, principal Rick Renninger said in a message to parents.

In the quiet town of Baumholder, which is in a low-risk area for the virus, bars and pubs were made off-limits to service mem-

bers Thursday after an employee at a local watering hole that is popular with Americans went to work after testing positive for the virus.

Visits to all establishments in Baumholder "whose primary business is the sale and consumption of alcohol" were banned until further notice, an order signed by U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz commander Col. Vance Klosinski said.

Four of the taboo bars were named: the Ibiza, the Rockbar, the Mythos Pub and Blue.

It was an employee of the Rock Bar who went to work after contracting the virus, Wochenspiegel, a local newspaper, reported on its website Tuesday.

"Because the contact information gathering (at the bar) was full of holes and did not meet coronavirus mitigation regulations, all guests who have visited the bar since Oct. 2 are asked to urgently contact the Idar-Oberstein health department," the paper said.

Health Minister Jens Spahn said people's behavior now would be decisive in whether they have a traditional Christmas. Germany is renowned for its Christmas markets, where people sip mulled wine and eat traditional foods.

The moves by the U.S. military underscored a similar call from Merkel for young people especially to abstain from holding parties to prevent a further increase in cases.

"We must ... do without a few parties now in order to have a good life tomorrow or the day after," she said.

Stripes reporter Immanuel Johnson contributed to this report. news@stripes.com

## Navy to build \$450M museum to replace old facility in DC

By MICHAEL E. RUANE

The Washington Post

The Navy announced Tuesday that it plans to build a new \$450 million flagship museum, replacing the out-of-date facility that has been at the Washington Navy Yard for more than 50 years.

The new facility would replace the existing National Museum of the U.S. Navy, which has been in Building 76, a cavernous old former gun factory at the Navy Yard.

But because it is on an active installation with tight security, public access has been difficult.

It is currently closed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The ideal site for the new ... museum is in the vicinity of the ... Washington Navy Yard, but the final location is not yet finalized," the Navy said in a statement. "The new site ... will give the public unfettered access to U.S. Navy his-

tory and heritage."

"To raise funds for the new museum, the Navy plans to partner with a registered 501(c) (3) organization that seeks to preserve, commemorate, and share the history of the U.S. Navy," the service said.

The Naval History and Heritage Command at the Navy Yard will coordinate the building of the new museum. Groundbreaking is planned for 2023, with completion around 2025.

Once completed, the Navy's museum will join the new National Museum of the U.S. Army, in Fort Belvoir, Va., which just announced that it will open on Veterans Day, and the National Museum of the Marine Corps, in Triangle, Va., which opened in 2006.

In making its announcement, the Navy displayed renderings of a sleek new building that appeared to be on or adjacent to the

historic yard on M Street SE. The museum will be "an advanced, campus design," the Navy said.

The renderings show a design with a central, light-filled atrium.

"Naval History and Heritage Command's mission of preserving and presenting an accurate history of the U.S. Navy to the American public is essential to honoring those who have served and are serving the Navy today," said retired Rear Adm. Samuel Cox, director of the history command.

The current museum, which has a collection that dates back to 1800, was established in 1961 and opened to the public in 1963.

The yard itself dates back to 1799. The first artifact collected was a French gun, cast in 1793 at Lyon, and captured during the Quasi-War with France, from 1798-1801, the museum says on its website.

The museum also has a gun



Naval History and Heritage Command

**A rendering of the planned National Museum of the U.S. Navy.**

from Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes's conquest of Mexico and the sloop Kearsarge's sternpost with a shell embedded from its 1864 fight with the Confederate raider Alabama off the French coast.

The collection includes an array of exquisite ship models from different periods of naval history, as well as the deep-sea submersible Trieste and the khaki uniform of

the World War II hero Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz.

It also has a large Navy Corsair fighter suspended from the ceiling and a dented bell from the USS Merrimack — renamed the CSS Virginia by the Confederates — famous for its 1862 duel with the Monitor.

And it has an enlarged photo of the attack on Pearl Harbor taken from a Japanese plane.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Italy might face new lockdown if virus not curbed

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
AND NORMAN LLAMAS  
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Italy reported a record 7,332 new coronavirus cases Wednesday, as officials scrambled to contain the virus and scientists said a new lockdown might be needed.

The sharp increase in cases, up from 5,898 a day earlier, exceeded the nation's previously highest tally of 6,557 on March 21, during the first wave of the virus, which hit Italy particularly hard.

Some of that may be explained by testing surges, health officials said, but the percentage of positive tests also rose from 5.4% on Tuesday to 8.4%.

The country could face a second nationwide lockdown at Christmas to "lower the transmission of the virus and boost contact tracing," Andrea Crisanti, Padua University virologist and coronavirus expert, told Italy's Rai News 24 channel on Wednesday.

"I think a lockdown at Christmas is in the scheme of things," said Crisanti. "As cases increase, the capacity for contact tracing and taking swabs decreases and we enter a vicious cycle that increases the transmission of the virus."

"The virus must be stopped," he added. "In 15 days' time, I would not like to find myself discussing 10,000 to 12,000 cases a day."

Italy was the first country in Europe to be hit hard by the virus and began locking down in

**'The virus must be stopped. In 15 days' time, I would not like to find myself discussing 10,000 to 12,000 cases a day.'**

Andrea Crisanti  
Padua University virologist and coronavirus expert

February. The country began reopening in May.

There have been at least 372,700 confirmed cases of coronavirus in Italy, according to the Italian Department of Civil Protection. As of Thursday morning, 36,289 people had died.

American military officials have followed Italian measures or imposed stricter rules since the beginning of the pandemic.

As case numbers rose last week, Italy required masks to be worn outdoors as well as indoors across the nation. On Wednesday, a new decree extended measures aimed at stemming the spread of the virus.

School field trips and informal games of contact sports are banned under the new rules, Aviano Air Base officials said on the base's website. Baseball, football, rugby, numerous forms of martial arts and cheerleading are among the sports that are prohibited.



LUCA BRUNO/AP

**A boy winces Thursday as he has a nasal swab inserted to test for COVID-19 at a drive-thru at the San Paolo hospital, in Milan, Italy. Coronavirus infections are surging again in the region of northern Italy where the pandemic first took hold in Europe.**

"Contact sports are only allowable if played by a professional club or an amateur association or club recognized by the Italian Olympic Committee," according to the website.

Military ceremonies, such as for retirement and promotion, are still allowed, but receptions that follow them must be limited to 30 attendees, all of whom must wear masks and follow physical distancing rules, which in Italy means they have to stay at least one meter apart.

Indoor and outdoor public gatherings have been banned and the authorities have recommended that people don't have more than

six people from outside their immediate circle in their homes at any one time.

"A sense of great responsibility on the part of everyone, to avoid the increase of infections as much as possible, must continue to prevail," said Massimiliano Fedriga, president of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, which includes Aviano. "On the other hand, we obviously have to keep an economic working system in place. That cannot be discussed."

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## 2 new virus patients on US bases in Japan found

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The U.S. military in Japan reported two new coronavirus patients as of 6 p.m. Thursday, one for the Navy and another for the Marines.

Both individuals are new arrivals to Japan and are in quarantine, one at Yokosuka Naval Base south of Tokyo and the other at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in western Japan, according to posts on the installations' Facebook pages.

The U.S. military in Japan typically does not specify whether its coronavirus patients are service members, Defense Department civilian employees, contractors or family members.

All new arrivals and travelers returning from abroad must go immediately into 14 days' quarantine and test free of the virus before leaving isolation, according to regulations imposed by the Japanese government and U.S. Forces Japan.

The patient at MCAS Iwakuni tested positive sometime since Wednesday after arriving at the air station via a "military-coordinated" flight, according to the announcement.

"The likelihood of further spread of the virus remains low due to strict adherence to restriction of movement procedures," it said.

At Yokosuka, the new patient tested positive sometime since Oct. 9, according to the naval base. The individual remains in quarantine. Three other people were cleared to exit quarantine, bringing the total number of active cases on base to four.

news@stripes.com

## 2 service members test positive after arriving to S. Korea

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Two more American service members tested positive for the coronavirus after arriving in South Korea from the United States, the military said Thursday.

The announcement raised to 227 the total number of coronavirus cases affiliated with U.S.

Forces Korea, most among troops flying to the divided peninsula for new assignments or returning from trips abroad.

The two service members traveled on government-chartered flights that landed at Osan Air Base on Oct. 2 and Oct. 12, USFK said in a press release.

The command requires all

arrivals to undergo a strict containment process that begins as soon as they land. All must take a coronavirus test upon arrival, undergo a two-week quarantine, then pass another coronavirus test before being allowed to exit the quarantine.

One tested positive on the initial test; the other tested positive on

the exit test, USFK said, adding that both have been transferred to a specially outfitted barracks used for coronavirus patients at Camp Humphreys.

"Despite the recent confirmed cases, USFK remains at a high level of readiness with less than 1% of its active duty service members currently confirmed positive

with COVID-19," according to the press release.

About 28,500 U.S. service members are stationed in South Korea, which remains technically at war with the North after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

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# VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

## US layoffs remain elevated as 898K seek jobless aid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits rose last week to 898,000, a historically high number and evidence that layoffs remain a hindrance to the economy's recovery from the pandemic recession that erupted seven months ago.

Thursday's report from the Labor Department shows that the job market remains fragile, and it coincides with other recent data that have signaled a slowdown in hiring. The economy is still roughly 10.7 million jobs short of recovering all the 22 million jobs that were lost when the pandemic struck in early spring.

The job search website Indeed said its job postings were unchanged last week, remaining about 17% below last year's levels. Many employers still aren't confident enough in their businesses or in their view of the economy to ramp up hiring. Job postings had rebounded steadily over the summer, but the gains have slowed in the past two months.

The recession has disproportionately hurt in-person service industries, especially restaurants, hotels, travel companies and entertainment venues. The damage to those industries has left millions of people unemployed, likely for an extended period until they are either finally recalled to their previous jobs or switch to new careers.

The government's report Thursday said the number of people who are continuing to receive unemployment benefits dropped 1.2 million to 10 million. The decline signals that many of the unemployed are being recalled to their old jobs.

But it also reflects the fact that potentially even more people have used up their regular state benefits — which usually expire after six months — and have transitioned to extended benefit programs that last an additional three months. The extended aid programs were established by the federal aid package that Congress enacted in the spring.

### District of Columbia

WASHINGTON — Melania Trump said Wednesday that her and the president's teenage son, Barron, tested positive for the coronavirus not long after his parents, but had no symptoms. She made the revelation in a lengthy note chronicling her personal experience with COVID-19, including being hit with a "roller coaster" of symptoms that she treated naturally with vitamins and healthy food.

Mrs. Trump said she is now negative and hopes to resume her duties soon.

After she and President Donald Trump tested positive earlier this month, the White House said Barron, 14, had tested negative. Barron later tested positive for the virus but had no symptoms, she

said Wednesday, adding that he has since tested negative again.

The president, speaking at a campaign rally Wednesday night in Iowa, was cavalier about Barron's infection, saying, "He had it for such a short period of time, I don't even think he knew that he had it."

### Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois' public health director urged residents Wednesday to celebrate the holidays with limited activities and greater precautions because of the persistence of COVID-19.

Dr. Ngozi Ezike said people who are sick should not attend celebrations at all. Her cautionary note came as Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced that the percentage of COVID-19 tests coming back positive has risen all across the state. The statewide positivity rate is now 4.2%.

Officials announced 2,862 new cases of the highly contagious illness Wednesday and 49 additional deaths. COVID-19 has now claimed 9,074 lives among 327,605 confirmed cases in Illinois.

Ezike suggested that holiday celebrations be planned carefully, from modes of travel to dinner-table seating arrangements.

"COVID-19 has changed the way we work, live, and play, and will now change how we plan to celebrate the holidays," Ezike said. "While the safest way to celebrate is with members of your household and connecting with others virtually, we know, for many, the holidays are all about family and friends."

She said air travel could mean sitting close to others in airports while driving means stopping for gas and rest, so people should consider options carefully and wear masks.

### Missouri

JEFFERSON CITY — New numbers posted on the Missouri coronavirus dashboard Wednesday after a four-day shutdown show that the state has averaged 1,861 cases a day over the past week.

The total number of cases statewide jumped Wednesday to 148,679, up from 135,651 on Oct. 7. The number of deaths jumped over that span by 184 to 2,420, according to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

The dashboard has been shutdown since showing a massive spike in cases that officials blamed on a "database extract error." On Saturday, the dashboard showed a one-day increase of 5,066 new cases — nearly 3,000 more than the previous one-day high. A day later, the state announced that the new number was faulty and blamed the process of migrating data into the new system.

The agency said in a tweet that it had fixed the error and expressed thanks for the public being patient.



AL DIAZ, MIAMI HERALD/AP

Rachel Moore honors her mother, Patsy Gilreath Moore, by writing her name on a tombstone as Leroy Lee offers comfort at Simonhoff Park in Miami on Wednesday. Five hundred coroplast tombstones have been erected to represent people who have died from the coronavirus. The public has an opportunity to write the name of a lost loved one on them.

Meanwhile, 56 residents of Missouri veterans homes have died of COVID-19 since Sept. 1, including 25 at one facility in southeast Missouri.

A spokesman for the Missouri Veterans' Commission told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch Wednesday that the deadliest outbreak was in Cape Girardeau, where 20 residents died in September and five more have died in October, through Monday.

Another veterans home, in the southwestern Missouri town of Mt. Vernon, has been the site of 13 resident deaths, 12 others died in St. James and six more died in Warrensburg.

### Nevada

U.S. diplomats and security officials privately warned the state of Nevada not to use Chinese-made coronavirus test kits donated by the United Arab Emirates over concerns about patient privacy, test accuracy and Chinese government involvement, documents obtained by The Associated Press show.

The documents illustrate how the U.S. government actively — if quietly — tried to keep the state out of a project involving the Chinese firm BGI Group, which is the world's largest genetic sequencing company and which has expanded its reach during the coronavirus pandemic.

U.S. intelligence agencies have warned that foreign powers like China could exploit samples to discover the medical history, illnesses or genetic traits of test takers, though they have not offered any public evidence.

### New Mexico

SANTA FE — New Mexico health and school officials can continue to restrict in-person learning for the vast majority of young children based on countywide coronavirus outbreaks after

a federal judge denied a sweeping request for an injunction on behalf of school leaders and children from 10 New Mexico counties, mostly Republican strongholds.

In a 167-page decision, U.S. District Judge James Browning wrote that plaintiffs likely can't sue the governor and that the regulations ordered by the state are likely to be upheld.

On Sept. 8, the state gave most school districts the option to reopen, as long as they were located in counties with low rates of COVID-19 infections.

Parents in counties forced to remain closed were livid, including the mother of a 13-year-old girl with special needs in Hobbs.

### Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania is "at the start of the fall resurgence" of COVID-19, the state's health secretary said Wednesday, but does not plan to reimpose a stay-at-home order or shut down businesses again in response.

Wednesday marked the ninth consecutive day that Pennsylvania's daily case count surpassed 1,000, and the average daily number of new confirmed cases is up by more than 50% over the past two weeks, according to The COVID Tracking Project.

Though some of the increased caseload is due to expanded testing, the state's hospitalization and test positivity rates are also rising. That indicates increased viral spread, Dr. Rachel Levine said.

Pennsylvania is more prepared to handle the influx than it was in the spring — with a contact tracing program in place, increased supplies of personal protective equipment, and a sufficient number of hospital beds at the ready — and state officials do not intend to impose another statewide stay-at-home order or broad-based business shutdown "at this time," Levine said at a news conference

in Harrisburg.

Health officials reported 1,276 more people have tested positive for the virus, including 255 in Philadelphia, bringing the statewide total to nearly 176,000 since the beginning of the pandemic. The state reported 27 new deaths, raising the toll to 8,411. The average daily number of deaths has been relatively stable for months after peaking in May.

### Texas

AUSTIN — While bars in much of Texas were allowed to reopen Wednesday, county judges in most of the state's most populous counties are keeping taps closed.

Gov. Greg Abbott delegated to the county leaders the option of allowing taverns to reopen Wednesday with occupancy limited to 50% capacity.

Taverns in most of the counties in the eastern half of the state and some in the western half may reopen.

Nevertheless, with coronavirus case number escalating, county judges in most of the state's most populous counties — including Democrat-led Dallas, Harris, Bexar and El Paso, Nueces, Webb and the Lower Rio Grande counties — have joined the leaders of most West Texas counties in opting out of allowing drinking establishments to reopen, according to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission website.

Republican-led Tarrant County is the only major Texas population center to allow taps to flow. The county, with the state's third-biggest population, has the state's third-most coronavirus cases reported since the outbreak started in early March. It has reported more than 2,000 new cases this week, 454 of them Wednesday.

Texas health officials reported 4,564 new cases Wednesday, with 262 previously unreported cases bringing the daily increase to 4,826.

## NATION

## Senate panel sets date for Barrett vote

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate Judiciary Committee set Oct. 22 for its vote to advance Judge Amy Coney Barrett for the Supreme Court on Thursday as Democrats threw pointed objections but were unable to stop the Republicans' drive to confirm President Donald Trump's pick before the Nov. 3 election.

The panel's action clears a key hurdle to recommend Barrett's nomination to the full Senate for a final vote by month's end.

"Asham," said Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn. "Power grab," derided Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn. "Not normal," said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill.

"You don't convene a Supreme Court confirmation hearing, in the middle of a pandemic, when the Senate's on recess, when voting has already started in the presidential election in a majority of states," declared Sen. Chris Coon, D-Me.

But Republicans countered that Trump is well within bounds as president to fill the court vacancy, and the GOP-held Senate has the votes to confirm Trump's nominee to confirmation.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said he understands Democrats' "disappointment, but I think their loss is the American people's gain."

Barrett's confirmation to take the seat of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is on track to lock

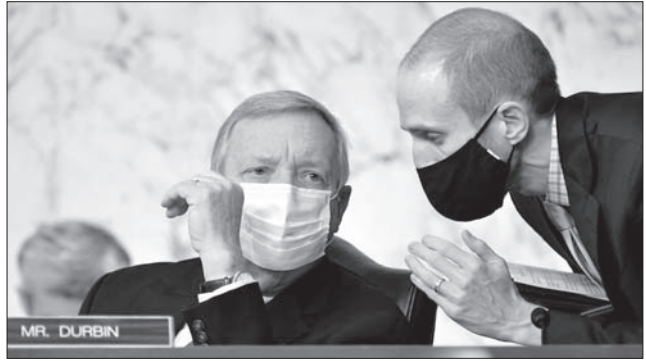
a conservative majority on the court for years to come. The shift would cement a 6-3 conservative majority on the court and would be the most pronounced ideological change in 30 years, from the liberal icon to the conservative appeals court judge.

The committee's session Thursday was without Barrett after two long days of public testimony in which she stressed that she would be her own judge and sought to create distance between herself and past positions critical of abortion, the Affordable Care Act and other issues.

Facing almost 20 hours of questions from senators, the 48-year-old judge was careful not to take on the president who nominated her. She skipped past Democrats' pressing questions about ensuring the date of next month's election or preventing voter intimidation, both set in federal law, and the peaceful transfer of presidential power.

She also refused to express her view on whether the president can pardon himself. "It's not one that I can offer a view," she said in response to a question Wednesday from Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont.

When it came to major issues that are likely to come before the court, including abortion and health care, Barrett repeatedly promised to keep an open mind and said neither Trump nor anyone else in the White House had tried to influence her views.



SHAWN THEW, POOL/AP

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., speaks during the confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett, before the Senate Judiciary Committee, on Thursday, at Capitol Hill in Washington.

"No one has elicited from me any commitment in a case," she said.

Nominees typically resist offering any more information than they have to, especially when the president's party controls the Senate, as it does now. But Barrett wouldn't engage on topics that seemed easy to swat away, including that only Congress can change the date that the election takes place.

One of the more dramatic moments came late Wednesday when Barrett told California Sen. Kamala Harris, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, that she wouldn't say whether racial discrimination in voting still exists nor express a view on climate change.

Harris asked if she agreed with Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote in a 2013 voting rights case that "voting discrimination still

exists; no one doubts that."

Barrett said she would "not comment on what any justice said in an opinion."

Asked whether "climate change is happening," Barrett said she wouldn't engage because it is "a very contentious matter of public debate." Barrett did, however, say she believes the novel coronavirus is infectious and that smoking causes cancer.

## Takeaways from last day of high court confirmation hearing

By MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Health care again played a starring role in Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett's confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee as Democrats sought to highlight an issue they want voters to consider on Election Day.

During Wednesday's hearing, Barrett maintained her view that it would be inappropriate to comment on the national health care law or other cases that may come before her as a justice. She also declined to say whether a president can pardon himself.

Republicans appeared under-terred and likely successful in their effort to have Barrett confirmed before the election, just three weeks away.

Takeaways from Day 3 of the hearing:

■ **Filling a seat in time for 'Obamacare' case**  
Democrats noted that Trump has made clear he wishes to undo the Affordable Care Act, saying Trump and Senate Republicans are rushing to confirm Barrett so she can be seated in time to hear a case next month challenging that 'Obamacare' law.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said there's an "orange cloud" hanging over Barrett's nomination — a

political jab at Trump's tan and a reference to the president's oft-stated wish to overturn the law.

Barrett told senators she is not "hostile" to the law and promised to consider all arguments.

#### ■ No one is above the law

On another issue where Trump's views and tweets are well-known, Barrett declined to say whether a president can pardon himself. But she said she agreed no one is above the law.

Under questioning from Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., Barrett said the question of a self-pardon has never come before the court. "That question may or may not arise, but it is one that calls for a legal analysis of what the scope of the pardon power is," Barrett said. She said offering an opinion now "would be opening on an open question... it's not one in which I can offer a view."

#### ■ No preview of judicial views

For the second straight day, Barrett repeatedly declined to give her personal views, or to preview how she might rule, on issues that could become before the court. Like other Supreme Court nominees, Barrett said she was prohibited from expressing those opinions by the "canons of judicial conduct."

Barrett said she could not give an opinion on whether she would withdraw from any election-related litigation involving Trump.

He said when he nominated her that he wanted the full nine justices in place before any possible election decisions.

Barrett also said she can't express a view on climate change because it is a "very contentious matter of public policy." Under questioning from Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., the party's vice presidential nominee, Barrett called climate change "politically controversial," adding that discussion of the issue is "inconsistent with the judicial role as I have explained."

#### ■ Breakthrough for conservative women

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., opened Wednesday's hearing by proclaiming Barrett's expected confirmation a historic victory for conservative women. Like "conservatives of color," conservative women, he said, are often "marginalized" in public life.

"This hearing, to me, is an opportunity to not punch through a glass ceiling but a reinforced concrete barrier around conservative women," Graham told Barrett. "You are going to shatter that barrier."

Graham said he has "never been more proud of a nominee" than he is of Barrett, a federal appeals court judge from Indiana. "This is the first time in American history that we've nominated a woman who is unashamedly

pro-life and embraces her faith without apology, and she is going to the court. This is history being made, folks."

Barrett has declined to say how she would rule on a challenge to the Roe v. Wade decision that established abortion rights, but she has made clear she opposes abortion rights and signed a 2006 letter objecting to "abortion on demand."

#### ■ Shifting the Supreme Court balance

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Dele., asked Barrett whether she would acknowledge that her confirmation would mean a shift to the right on the Supreme Court that would have "profound" implications.

Coons referred to an interview by Barrett gave where she spoke of a balance shift if Merrick Garland, a federal appeals court judge nominated in 2016 by President Barack Obama, were elevated to the high court. Obama picked Garland after Justice Antonin Scalia's death, but Republicans in the Senate refused to give Garland a hearing, citing the presidential election that was months away that year.

Barrett told Coons she was referring in the interview to Garland's judicial approach, not his more liberal views. Unlike the conservative Scalia, Garland was not an originalist, which refers to a way of interpreting the Consti-

tution that focuses on the text and Founding Fathers' intentions in resolving legal disputes.

"It would be away from one balance and toward another in terms of how judges think about the text," said Barrett, who like Scalia is an originalist.

Coons noted that Barrett, who claims Scalia as her mentor, would replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was not an originalist and was the court's liberal leader. Barrett's confirmation would shift the court's previous 5-4 conservative majority to 6-3.

#### ■ Sounds of silence

The hearing paused twice Wednesday because of audio problems in the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The sound in the hearing room cut out a little before 2 p.m. and was off for 40 minutes. It cut out again after the hearing resumed, this time for about 15 minutes.

The problem happened the first time just after Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., asked Barrett whether she had gotten some rest after a long day of questioning Tuesday. "I did have a glass of wine. I'll tell you, I needed that at the end of the day," she said.

On that point, "You have a right to remain silent," Blumenthal told Barrett.

## NATION



PROFILES IN HISTORY/AP

This image released by Profiles in History shows a Santa Claus and Rudolph reindeer puppet used in the filming of the 1964 Christmas special "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

## Rudolph, Santa stop-motion figures to be sold at auction

By Andrew Dalton  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Rudolph and his still-shiny nose are getting a new home, and it's bound to be a lot nicer than the Island of Misfit Toys.

The soaring reindeer and Santa Claus figures who starred in the perennially beloved stop-motion animation Christmas special "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" are going up for auction.

Auction house Profiles in History announced Thursday that a 6-inch-tall Rudolph and 11-inch-tall Santa used to animate the 1964 TV special are being sold together in the auction that starts Nov. 13, and are expected to fetch between \$150,000 and \$250,000.

Collector Peter Luttrario of Staten Island, N.Y., thought they might be the only items he would never sell, but when he recently turned 65, he thought about having something to leave for his

children and grandchildren.

"I always said I would die with the dolls," he told The Associated Press. "I'm just putting the family first."

The figures were made by Japanese puppet maker Ichiro Komuro and used for the filming of the show at Tadaito Mochinaga's MOM Productions in Tokyo.

They're made of wood, wire, cloth and leather. Rudolph's nose, after some minimal maintenance through the years, still lights up. The realistic bristles of Santa's beard are made from yak hair.

Luttrario, who bought them about 15 years ago after seeing them appraised on "Antiques Roadshow" on PBS, said that even after well over five decades, you can manipulate them as the original animators did.

"They're still malleable," he said, "and it's very detailed. Not only can you move the arms, the legs, the head, you can move the fingers, the thumbs."

The show, produced by the company that would become Rankin/Bass Animated Entertainment, first aired Dec. 6, 1964, on NBC in the United States. It's been a TV staple ever since with its tale, based on the 1939 song, of a year when Christmas was almost canceled, the misfit reindeer who saved it, an elf with dreams of being a dentist and an island full of cast-away toys.

The figures would make their way to the New York offices of Arthur Rankin Jr. and Jules Bass. Rankin later gave them to his secretary, who gave them to her nephew, who owned them until Luttrario bought them in 2005.

The figures, among several used to make the special, are the first encountered by the auctioneers at Profiles in History, which specializes in selling rare and coveted Hollywood memorabilia.

The company said in a statement that the "rarity of these puppets cannot be overstated."

flight crew member tested positive following a recent campaign trip.

Campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon said "neither of these individuals had any contact with Vice President Biden, with Sen. Harris or any other staff member since testing positive or in the 48-hour period prior to their positive test results."

## Dueling town halls for Trump, Biden after debate nixed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and challenger Joe Biden planned to compete for TV audiences in dueling town halls instead of meeting face-to-face for their second debate as originally planned.

The two were to take questions in different cities on different networks Thursday night: Trump on NBC from Miami, Biden on ABC from Philadelphia. Trump backed out of plans for the presidential faceoff originally scheduled for the evening after debate organizers shifted the format to a virtual event following Trump's coronavirus diagnosis.

As the pace of the campaign speeds up in its final weeks, the two candidates were first taking care of other electoral necessities Thursday: Trump had a midday rally in battleground North Carolina, and Biden was raising campaign cash at a virtual event.

Trump has also been trying to shore up support from constituencies that not so long ago he thought he had in the bag: big business and voters in the red state of Iowa.

In a Wednesday morning address to business leaders, he expressed puzzlement that they would even consider supporting Biden, arguing that his own leadership was a better bet for a strong economy. Later, the president held his third campaign rally in three nights, this time in Iowa, a state he won handily in 2016 but where Biden is making a late push.

Trump claimed to be leading in the most recent Iowa poll he saw. "For me to only be up six, I'm a little bit concerned," he asserted. Multiple polls have shown a much closer race.

Biden, for his part, held a virtual fundraiser from Wilmington, Del., and used his appearance to say that Trump was trying to rush through Amy Coney Barrett, his nominee for the Supreme Court, to help his efforts to repeal the Obama health care law, calling that "an abuse of power."

Trump used his economic address Wednesday to stress his administration's commitment to lowering taxes and deregulation of industry, and he didn't hide his frustration with signs that some in the business community are tilting to Biden.

"I know I'm speaking to some Democrats, and some of you are friends of mine," Trump said in a virtual address to the Economic Clubs of New York, Florida, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Pittsburgh and Sheboygan, Wis. Should Biden be elected, he continued, "you will see things happen that will not make you happy. I don't understand your thinking."

The former vice president has collected more than \$50 million in campaign contributions from donors in the securities and investment sectors, according to the private nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics. During his decades in the Senate representing Delaware, a center for the credit card and banking industries, Biden built relationships and a voting record in the business sector that has raised suspicion on the left but provides Wall Street with a measure of ease at the prospect of a Biden administration.

After being sidelined by the coronavirus, Trump resumed a breakneck schedule this week, with aides saying he is expected to travel and host campaign rallies every day through Nov. 3. Trump has appeared hale in his public appearances since reemerging from quarantine, though at moments during his economic address on Wednesday his voice was raspy.

While mostly laying low on Wednesday, Biden has stepped up campaign travel in the past week, with visits to Arizona, Nevada, Florida and Pennsylvania. The former vice president isn't introducing new names in his pitch that he's a steady alternative to Trump. Biden and his aides believe the president's scattershot campaign messaging since his COVID-19 diagnosis proves the core of Biden's case.

## Harris suspends travel after staffer tests positive for coronavirus

By Bill Barrow  
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — Joe Biden's presidential campaign said Thursday that vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris will suspend in-person events until Monday after two people associated with the campaign tested positive for coronavirus.

The campaign said Biden had no exposure, though he and Harris spent several hours campaigning together in Arizona on Oct. 8.

Harris had been scheduled to travel Thursday to North Carolina for events encouraging voters to cast early ballots.

The campaign told reporters Thursday morning that Harris' communications director and a

But O'Malley Dillon said Harris would suspend travel for several days "out of an abundance of caution."

Harris and Biden spent several hours together that day through multiple campaign stops, private meetings and a joint appearance in front of reporters at an airport. They were masked at all times in public, and aides said they were

masked in private as well. Biden and Harris have each had multiple negative tests since then. Harris has had two tests since Oct. 8, most recently Wednesday, O'Malley Dillon said. Biden's last announced negative test was Tuesday.

Biden was scheduled to attend an NBC News town hall Thursday night.



## NATION

# Postal Service to reverse service changes

Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. — The U.S. Postal Service agreed Wednesday to reverse changes that slowed mail service nationwide, settling a lawsuit filed by Montana Gov. Steve Bullock during a pandemic that is expected to force many more people to vote by mail.

The lawsuit filed against Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and the U.S. Postal Service on Sept. 9 argued changes implemented in June harmed access to mail services in Montana, resulting in delayed delivery of medical prescriptions, payments, and job applications, and impeding the ability of Montana residents to vote by mail.

The postal service agreed to reverse all

changes, which included reduced retail hours, removal of collection boxes and mail sorting machines, closure or consolidation of mail processing facilities, restriction of late or extra trips for timely mail delivery, and banning or restricting overtime.

The agreement also requires the Postal Service to prioritize election mail.

The settlement agreement was reached a day ahead of a hearing in the U.S. District Court in Great Falls. It applies to all states.

"Montanans never gave up this fight and as a result, we are ensuring stability through and beyond the election by immediately restoring the mail services folks rely on, whether it's receiving vital medi-

cation or ensuring they can pay their bills on time," Bullock said in a statement.

A spokesperson for the U.S. Postal Service did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Many more voters are expected to vote by mail this November to limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of Montana counties are holding elections by mail, after a directive by Bullock permitted them to do so to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Bullock is running for a seat in the U.S. Senate.

The agreement comes after a federal judge temporarily blocked the controversial Postal Service changes on Sept. 17, calling the changes "a politically moti-

vated attack on the efficiency of the Postal Service" before the November election.

Judge Stanley Bastian in Yakima, Wash., issued the nationwide preliminary injunction sought by 14 states that brought forward a separate suit against the Trump administration and the U.S. Postal Service. The 14 states, led by Democratic attorneys general, expressed concern that delays might result in voters not receiving ballots or registration forms in time.

Following a national uproar last month, DeJoy, a major donor to President Donald Trump and the GOP, announced he was suspending some of the changes, including the removal of mail collection boxes, but other changes remained in place.

## Cells at zoo lead to cloning of endangered horse

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Little Kurt looks like any other baby horse as he frolics playfully in his pen. He isn't afraid to kick or head-butt an intruder who gets in his way and, when he's hungry, dashes over to his mother for milk.

But 2-month-old Kurt differs from every other baby horse of his kind in one distinct way: He's a clone.

The rare, endangered Przewalski's horse was created from cells taken from a stallion that had sat frozen at the San Diego Zoo for 40 years before they were fused with an egg from a domestic horse.

With the egg's nucleus removed, ensuring Kurt would be basically all Przewalski's horse, they were implanted in the mare who would become his mom on Aug. 6.

The result, officials say, was the world's first cloned Przewalski's horse.

Scientists have cloned nearly two dozen kinds of mammals, including dogs, cats, pigs, cows and polo ponies. In 2018, researchers in China created monkeys for the first time using the cloning techniques that produced Dolly the sheep.

The zoo sees Kurt's birth as a milestone in efforts to restore the population of the horse also known as the Asiatic Wild Horse or Mongolian Wild Horse. The small, stocky animals (they stand only about 4 to 5 feet tall at the withers) are believed extinct in the wild and number only about 2,000 in zoos and wildlife habitats. Their limited gene pool puts them at a reproductive disadvantage.

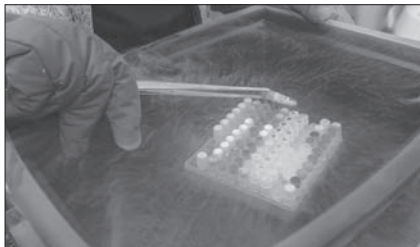
"This colt is expected to be one of the most genetically important individuals of his species," Bob Wiese, chief life sciences officer at San Diego Zoo Global, which operates the zoo, said in a statement. "We are hopeful that he will bring back genetic variation important for the future of the Przewalski's horse population."

Although only 2 months old, Kurt's birth was made possible in 1980 when cells were taken from a 5-year-old stallion and put in deep freeze at San Diego's Frozen Zoo facility. His father died in 1998.



CHRISTINE SIMMONS, SAN DIEGO ZOO GLOBAL/AP

Kurt, a tiny horse who is a clone, is seen in September.



KEN BOHN, SAN DIEGO ZOO GLOBAL/AP

Scientists inspect cell cultures at San Diego Zoo Global's Frozen Zoo facility.

Kurt was named for Kurt Benirschke, who played a key role in founding the Frozen Zoo with its extensive research program and cell cultures.

"A central tenet of the Frozen Zoo, when it was established by Dr. Benirschke, was that it would be used for purposes not possible at the time," said Oliver Ryder,

director of genetics at San Diego Zoo Global.

The zoo worked in collaboration with the California conservation group Revive & Restore and the Texas-based company ViaGen Equine in creating Kurt.

He was born at a veterinary facility in Texas where he'll continue to live with his mother for

most likely another year.

Eventually he'll be integrated into the zoo's Przewalski's horse population, where it's hoped someday he'll become a father himself.

Przewalski's horses take their official name from Russian explorer Nikolai Przewalski, who found a skull and hide of one and shared it with a Russian museum.

At one time they ranged throughout Europe and Asia, according to the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Biology Conservation Institute. Encroaching human population and livestock eventually pushed them out of Europe and east to parts of Asia like the Gobi Desert. Outside of zoos, they exist today only in reintroduction sites in Mongolia, China, and Kazakhstan.

According to the Smithsonian, they are the only true wild horses left in the world. The institute maintains wild horse herds in North America and Australia don't count because they are the ancestors of escaped domesticated horses.

## Earth sees record heat in month of September

Associated Press

Earth sweltered to a record hot September last month, with U.S. climate officials saying there's nearly a two-to-one chance that 2020 will end up as the globe's hottest year on record.

Boosted by human-caused climate change, global temperatures averaged 60.75 degrees last month, edging out 2015 and 2016 for the hottest September in 141 years of recordkeeping, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Wednesday. That's 1.75 degrees above the 20th century average.

This record was driven by high heat in Europe, Northern Asia, Russia and much of the Southern Hemisphere, said NOAA climatologist Ahira Sanchez-Lugo. California and Oregon had their hottest Septembers on record.

Earth has had 44 straight Septembers where it has been warmer than the 20th century average and 429 straight months without a cooler than normal month, according to NOAA. The hottest seven Septembers on record have been the last seven.

That means "that no millennial or even parts of Gen-X has lived through a cooler than normal September," said North Carolina state climatologist Kathie Dello, herself a millennial.

What's happening is a combination of global warming from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas and natural variability, Sanchez-Lugo said. But the biggest factor is the human-caused warming, she and Dello said.

The globe set this record despite a La Nina, which is a cooling of parts of the central Pacific that changes weather patterns and usually slightly lowers temperatures.

"A La Nina is no match for how much we're warming the planet," Dello said.

## WORLD

# To ease tension, Kyrgyzstan's president quits

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Kyrgyzstan President Sooronbai Jeenbekov announced his resignation Thursday in a bid to end the turmoil that has engulfed the Central Asian nation after a disputed parliamentary election.

Jeenbekov, who has faced calls to step down from protesters and political opponents, said in a statement released by his office that holding onto power wasn't "worth the integrity of our country and harmony in society."

"For me, peace in Kyrgyzstan, the country's integrity, the unity of our people and the calm in the society are above all else," Jeenbekov said.

Kyrgyzstan, a country of 6.5 million people located on the border with China, was plunged into chaos following an Oct. 4 vote that election officials say was swept by pro-government parties. The opposition said the election was tainted by vote-buying and other irregularities.

Protesters then took over government buildings, looting some offices, and the Central Election Commission nullified the election. Opposition then announced plans to oust Jeenbekov and form a new government.

Jeenbekov kept a low profile in the first few days after the vote, using the infighting among protest leaders to dig in. He introduced a state of emergency in the capital, Bishkek, which was endorsed Tuesday by parliament.

Authorities deployed troops to Bishkek over the weekend and introduced the curfew. The move eased tensions in the city, where residents feared looting that accompanied previous uprisings and began forming vigilante groups to protect property. Stores and banks that were closed last

week have reopened.

In an effort to stem the unrest, Jeenbekov on Wednesday endorsed the appointment of Sadyr Zhaparov, a former lawmaker who was freed from jail by demonstrators last week, as the country's new prime minister and Zhaparov's new Cabinet.

Zhaparov promised his supporters to push for Jeenbekov's resignation and held talks with



Jeenbekov

Kyrgyzstan stabilizes.

But hundreds of Zhaparov's supporters rallied in the capital Wednesday, demanding the president's resignation and threatening to storm his residence. Zhaparov promised on Wednesday he would meet with the president again on Thursday to convince him to step down.

Jeenbekov said in his statement that the situation in Bishkek "remains tense" despite the fact that the new Cabinet was appointed the day before, and that he doesn't want to escalate these tensions.

"On one side, there are the protesters, on the other — law enforcement. Military personnel and law enforcement services are obligated to use weapons to protect the State Residence. In this case, blood will be shed, it is inevitable," Jeenbekov's statement said. "I don't want to go down in history as a president who shot at his own citizens and shed blood."



WASON WANICHAKORN/AP

Police push back a pro-democracy protester as they gather in the business district in Bangkok, Thailand, on Thursday.

## Thailand declares emergency after unprecedented protest

Associated Press

BANGKOK — Thailand's government declared a strict new state of emergency for the capital on Thursday, a day after a student-led protest against the country's traditional establishment saw an extraordinary moment in which demonstrators heckled a royal motorcade.

After the pre-dawn declaration, riot police moved in to clear out demonstrators who after a day of rallies and confrontation had gathered outside Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's office to push their demands, which include the former general's stepping down, constitutional changes and reform of the monarchy.

Several top leaders of the protest movement were taken into custody, with one later declaring on his Facebook page that he had been denied access to a lawyer and was being forced onto a helicopter and taken to a city in the country's north. Police said they had made 22 arrests.

Despite a new ban against large public gatherings, as many as 1,000 people answered protest leaders' calls to rally again in another area of the city later Thursday.

The text of the emergency declaration said it was needed because "certain groups of perpetrators intended to instigate an untoward incident and movement in the Bangkok area by way of various methods and via different channels, including causing obstruction to the royal motorcade."

The protest Wednesday in Bangkok's historic district, not far from glittering temples and royal palaces, was the third major gathering by student-led activists who have been pushing the boundaries of what is considered acceptable — and legal — language by publicly questioning the role of Thailand's monarchy in the nation's power structure.

Thailand's royal family has long been considered sacrosanct

and a pillar of Thai identity. King Maha Vajiralongkorn and other key members of the royal family are protected by a lese majeste law that has regularly been used to silence critics who risk up to 15 years in prison if deemed to have insulted the institution.

The protest — held on the anniversary of a 1973 student-led uprising against a military dictatorship — was complicated by the presence of royalist counter protesters who had gathered both to show support for the government and to greet the royal family as they traveled to and from a religious ceremony in the area.

That led to a moment captured in photos and video that circulated widely on social media in which what appeared to be protesters gestured and shouted just feet from the royal motorcade. Such actions are unprecedented in Thailand, where those waiting for a royal motorcade regularly sit on the ground or prostrate themselves.

## Turkey says Greece failed to fulfill promises, vows response

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday accused Greece and Cyprus of failing to fulfill "promises" made during negotiations within the European Union and NATO and said his country would continue to give them "the response they deserve."

Erdogan's comments came days after Ankara redeployed its search vessel, Oruc Reis, for a new energy exploration mission in disputed waters in the eastern Mediterranean, reigniting tensions with Greece and Cyprus over sea boundaries and exploration rights. Turkish media reports said two navy frigates are shadowing the

search vessel.

Those tensions had flared up over the summer, prompting a military buildup, bellicose rhetoric and fears of a confrontation between the two NATO members and historic regional rivals.

"Our Oruc Reis has returned to its duty in the Mediterranean," Erdogan told legislators of his ruling party in a speech in parliament. "We will continue to give the response they deserve on the field, to Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration who have not kept their promises during talks within the EU and NATO platforms."

He didn't spell out what the promises were but Turkish officials have been accus-

ing Greek officials of engaging in a series of "provocations" despite efforts to revive the so-called exploratory talks between the neighbors that were aimed at resolving disputes and were last held in 2016.

Heiko Maas, the foreign minister of Germany, which has been mediating between Athens and Ankara in a bid to ease the tensions, criticized Turkey on Tuesday for taking "unilateral steps" in the eastern Mediterranean which he said were undercutting efforts to deescalate tensions. The U.S. State Department issued a statement deploring Turkey's move.

Ankara says the Oruc Reis was redeployed following provocative acts by Athens, including a decision to hold military

drills in the Aegean Sea on Turkey's main national holiday.

During his speech, Erdogan also rebuffed international criticism over Turkey's move to open the beachfront of Cyprus' fenced-off suburb of Varosha in divided Cyprus' breakaway Turkish Cypriot north.

"The fenced-off Varosha region belongs to the Turks of northern Cyprus. This should be known as such," he said.

Varosha remained off-limits and in Turkish military control after its Greek Cypriot residents fled before advancing troops in 1974 when Turkey invaded and sliced the island along ethnic lines after a coup by supporters of union with Greece.

## WORLD

# Deaths of Syrian mercenaries put light on conflict

By KAREEM FAHIM,  
ISABELLE KHUUSHDYAN  
AND ZAKARIA ZAKARIA  
The Washington Post

ISTANBUL — Families gathered around a refrigerated truck at a Syrian-Turkish border post, waiting earlier this month for the drivers to dispense their awful cargo: the bodies of 52 Syrian men, killed in a war 600 miles away.

The dead were mercenaries, recruited by Turkish-backed militias in Syria to fight on behalf of Azerbaijan against Armenia, relatives said. They were deployed as shock troops, to claw back scraps of territory in the contested Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.

"They went to break the borders," said a cousin of Mahmoud Najjar, 38, a Syrian fighter whose body in the cold truck was marked with the number 12.

The deaths of Syrian fighters have raised alarms about how this decades-old conflict could now rapidly worsen as it draws in outside powers like Turkey and its rival Russia and potentially destabilizes neighbors like Iran and Georgia.

Turkey has denied sending Syrian fighters to aid Azerbaijan, its longtime ally. But relatives of two fighters — Najjar and his nephew — said in interviews that monthly salaries were promised by the Turkish-supported militias and that the fighters flew to Azerbaijan from southern Turkey.

In recent months, Turkey has sought to project its military might across much of its neighborhood with new vigor. Turkey's enthusiastic backing of the Azerbaijani war effort — and provision of military assistance, including armed drones — has

emboldened Azerbaijan, situating Turkey at the center of the conflict and giving Ankara standing, it hopes, to weigh in on any peace settlement.

The civilian death toll has risen as cities and towns in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, an ethnic Armenian enclave in Azerbaijani territory, are pummeled with growing frequency by weapons acquired from a diverse cast of suppliers, including Turkey, Russia and Israel. U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, in a statement Friday, cited reports that at least 53 civilians had been killed since fighting erupted last month, including children.

Journalists in Azerbaijani territory on the edge of Nagorno-Karabakh have reported on rocket and artillery attacks on at least three towns. Azerbaijan's assault on Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, has included the use of cluster munitions manufactured by Israel, according to a report last week by researchers at Amnesty International, who examined footage of the munitions.

The group, responding to claims early in the fighting that Armenia had directed rocket fire at the Azerbaijani city of Ganja, said it had confirmed Armenia's use of a Russian rocket artillery system but was unable to determine what had been targeted. Azerbaijan said Sunday that a subsequent attack on Ganja had killed nine civilians. Armenia's Defense Ministry called the claim "absolutely false" and accused Azerbaijani forces of shelling Nagorno-Karabakh.

The United States, along with France and Russia, released an



ISMAIL COSKUN, IHA/AP

**Azerbaijani soldiers and firefighters search for survivors after rocket fire the night before by Armenian forces in a residential area in Ganja, Azerbaijan's second-largest city, near the border with Armenia.**

Oct. 5 statement saying that the "disproportionate nature of such attacks" constitutes an "unacceptable threat to the stability of the region."

On Friday, Russia's Foreign Ministry hosted cease-fire talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia, aimed at winning at least a brief respite from the fighting and allowing the warring parties to exchange prisoners and the bodies of the dead. A truce began on Saturday, but a day later, Armenia and Azerbaijan were accusing each other of violating it amid reports of fresh attacks.

Ibrahim Kalin, an adviser to Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, voiced doubts that a pause in the fighting would be a prelude to an armistice. "Yes to a cease-fire, but a cease-fire must be sustainable," he said in an interview with the Al Jazeera news channel. "The only way to make it sustainable is to talk about Armenia's occupation of [Azerbaijani] lands."

The conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh has smoldered since the late 1980s, when Armenia and Azerbaijan were both republics of the Soviet Union. The enclave's ethnic Armenian population sought to unite with Armenia and declared independence from Azerbaijan. War broke out after the Soviet Union collapsed, killing up to 30,000 people before a cease-fire was declared in 1994.

The conflict has erupted several times since, including in 2016 and in July. The latest fighting, which began Sept. 27, represents the worst flare-up in decades.

The deployment of Syrian mercenaries has repeated a pattern from Libya, where Turkey and Russia are fighting on opposite sides of the civil war. Most of the Syrian fighters in Libya have been hired by Turkey, which sponsors militias inside Syria opposed to the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad. A Kremlin-backed security firm operating in Libya, for its part,

has brought over Syrian fighters allied with Assad.

Turkish officials have portrayed their country's sprawling foreign engagements — in northern Iraq, Syria, Libya and Azerbaijan — as part of Turkey's zealous promotion of its security and energy interests. Erdogan's critics, however, say there is also an attempt to distract from his government's domestic vulnerabilities, including a plummeting economy, and shore up domestic support among his nationalist allies.

Russia has walked a fine diplomatic line between Azerbaijan and Armenia, selling arms to both for years. Armenia, which spends about a quarter as much as Azerbaijan on defense, also stands to benefit from Russia's protection under the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a Russian-led military alliance among six former Soviet states that does not include Azerbaijan.

President Vladimir Putin's government has given mixed signals about whether it will intervene, saying that Russia would fulfill its treaty obligations to defend Armenia proper but that its obligations did not extend to fighting in the Nagorno-Karabakh territory.

Moscow's strongest words so far have been to condemn Azerbaijan's use of Syrian mercenaries. Russia's foreign intelligence chief, Sergei Naryshkin, warned last week that the region could become a launchpad for Islamist militants to enter Russia.

A Turkish official denied that Syrian fighters had been recruited by Turkey or traveled from its territory.

The Syrian mercenaries, recruited from various Turkish-backed militias, have given detailed accounts from the front lines that portray a grinding battle.

Mahmoud Najjar's cousin said he and his family received updates on the fighting from

Syrians traveling with Najjar's company who had international phone lines. The cousin spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid angering the mercenaries' recruiters in Syria.

Najjar, who once worked in a textile factory in Aleppo, had more recently been employed as a security guard for the local court in Marea, in northern Syria. With two children and struggling to make ends meet, he noticed when other young Syrian men, recruited by Turkey to fight in Libya, came home flush with cash. When Najjar's 18-year-old nephew offered him the opportunity to fight in Azerbaijan for \$2,000 a month, he jumped at the chance, his cousin said.

"Money is the only reason," the cousin said. "Who wants to go to Azerbaijan? Who even knows where Azerbaijan is?"

Najjar, his nephew and dozens of their comrades seemed unprepared for what was to come.

They flew out of southern Turkey, the cousin said. On their first day in Azerbaijan, they were given uniforms with light green shades of camouflage.

The next day, they were sent to the front. "The area was heavily fortified by Armenians," the cousin said. The Syrian mercenaries were largely on their own in an unfamiliar place, surrounded by languages, history and grievances they did not understand. They were accompanied by three Azerbaijani guides.

They spent nine hours walking up a mountain, the cousin said. Najjar was sent to clear a building, but was killed by a sniper's bullet that tore off the top of his head, according to the cousin, who provided a picture of Najjar's body to The Washington Post on the condition that it not be published. Najjar's nephew was killed the same day.

The bodies sat overnight where they fell because it was too dangerous to retrieve them.



AZERBAIJAN'S DEFENSE MINISTRY/AP

**Azerbaijani soldiers walk in a formation on a road during a military conflict in the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh on Oct. 9.**



## WORLD

# 7 nations join US, ink pact on behavior norms in space

The Washington Post

NASA announced Tuesday that seven nations have joined the United States in signing the Artemis Accords, a series of bilateral agreements that would establish rules for the peaceful use of outer space and govern behavior on the surface of the moon.

The rules would allow private companies to extract lunar resources, create safety zones to prevent conflict and ensure that countries act transparently about their plans in space and share their scientific discoveries.

In an interview ahead of the announcement, NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine said the accords are "intended to create norms of behavior that all countries can agree to so that we can keep peace and prosperity moving forward in space and avoid any kind of confusion or ambiguity that can result in conflict."

He said the accords, first announced in May, would build on the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, which bans the use of nuclear weapons in space and prohibits nations from laying sovereign claim to the moon or other celestial bodies.

"There is nothing in the Artemis Accords that isn't enshrined in the Outer Space Treaty," Bridenstine said. "It's a forcing function to get nations to comply with the Outer Space Treaty."

The nations that signed are the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Japan, Luxembourg, the

## Probe makes 1st Venus fly-by on way to Mercury

Associated Press

BERLIN — A spacecraft bound for Mercury swung by Venus on Thursday, using Earth's neighbor to adjust its course on the way to the solar system's smallest and innermost planet.

Launched almost two years ago, the European-Japanese probe BepiColombo took a black-and-white snapshot of Venus from a distance of 10,560 miles, with some of its own instruments in the frame.

The fly-by is the second of nine so-called planetary gravity assists that the spacecraft needs for its seven-year trip to Mercury. The first, around Earth, took place in April.

The European Space Agency has described the (\$1.5 bil-

lion mission as one of its most challenging yet. Mercury's extreme temperatures, the intense gravity pull of the sun and blistering solar radiation make for hellish conditions.

BepiColombo will make one more fly-by of Venus and six of Mercury itself to slow down before its arrival in 2025. Once there, the spacecraft will split in two, releasing a European orbiter nicknamed Bepi that will swoop into Mercury's inner orbit while Mio, built by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, gathers data from a greater distance.

Both probes are designed to cope with temperatures varying from 806 degrees Fahrenheit on the side facing the sun, and -292 F in Mercury's shadow.

United Arab Emirates and Italy.

Signing the accords would also be a requirement for any nation wishing to partner with the U.S. in its Artemis program to return astronauts to the surface of the moon. But not all nations have reacted favorably to the agreements, or the lunar plan.

Dmitry Rogozin, the head of the Russian space agency Roscosmos, previously compared the accords to an invasion that would lead to another "Iraq or Afghanistan." He said Monday that Russia was not likely to participate in NASA's moon mission, which he said was "too U.S.-centric."

## Sweden seeks to up defense budget, cites Russia

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — Sweden's left-leaning government on Thursday proposed a 40% increase for its defense budget from 2021-2025 with the defense minister saying the move came because the region's security policy situation "has deteriorated over time" as "a consequence of Russia's actions."

"It is the largest increase in defense capability in 70 years," Defense Minister Peter Hultqvist told a news conference. "An armed attack on Sweden can't be ruled out."

The government's proposal said that if an attack happens, it

can start with assaults on important civilian and military targets, sabotage and "liquidation of key people." The whole territory "will be affected by intensive combat activities with major consequences locally and regionally," it said.

Sweden's Social Democrat-Green Party minority government said it has the backing of the two smaller opposition groups — the Center Party and the Liberals. The defense bill included increased expenditures of \$3.1 billion, or up to 40% compared to the previous deal.

The defense expenditures of Sweden, which isn't a NATO member, is currently 1.1% of

gross domestic product.

It wasn't clear when a vote on the plan could be held in the Swedish parliament.

Hultqvist said that if approved, Sweden will have a third army brigade, equipped with artillery and several local defense battalions. In addition, the number of conscripts will increase.

In December 2017, Sweden decided to establish the nation's first new military regiment since World War II — a unit of 350 soldiers based on the strategically important Baltic Sea island of Gotland. The permanent unit was deployed during 2018 to the island's main town, Visby.



ROS-COSMOS SPACE AGENCY/AP

The Soyuz-2.1a rocket booster with Soyuz MS-17 space ship carrying a new crew to the International Space Station blasts off at the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, on Wednesday. The trio of space travelers used a fast-track maneuver for the first time, reaching the orbiting outpost in just three hours.



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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Woman who lied about cancer must repay \$27K

**RI** PROVIDENCE — A Rhode Island woman who received nearly \$27,000 in donations to pay for medical treatment after falsely telling family and friends she had cancer has avoided prison but must repay the money, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Alicia Pierini, 39, of Woonsocket, went so far as to shave her head and eyebrows to make it appear as if she was sick, according to a statement from the office of state Attorney General Peter Neronha.

Pierini pleaded no contest last week to obtaining money under false pretenses. She received a 10-year suspended sentence and was ordered to pay restitution.

Almost \$11,000 came from family and friends in the form of direct contributions, and about \$16,000 came from an online crowdfunding campaign, authorities said.

## Bail doubled for woman in abandoned-baby case

**CT** NEW HAVEN — A Connecticut woman charged with abandoning an 8-month-old girl in a trash bin cried during a court hearing Tuesday, as authorities continued to investigate who was responsible for burns to the baby's hands.

The girl was found alive in a bin outside a New Haven apartment complex on Monday and taken to Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, where she was reported in stable condition.

Police arrested Andiana Velez, 24, of Hamden, and said they believed she was the girl's babysitter. Velez was charged with risk of injury to a child, second-degree assault and reckless endangerment. The assault charge, authorities said, was filed because Velez stabbed the baby's 21-year-old mother, whose condition was not disclosed.

Velez was detained on \$250,000 bail, which was increased to \$500,000 by a state judge during Tuesday's arraignment.

## Student elected mayor of town near college

**AL** CAMP HILL — The new mayor of an Alabama town faces a couple of unusual challenges: namely, going to class and doing his homework.

Auburn University student Messiah Williams-Cole defeated an incumbent to be elected mayor of Camp Hill, Ala., last week. Besides operating the town of about 950 people, he's getting ready to graduate next May with a degree in interdisciplinary studies.

The 21-year-old led Mayor Ezell Woodyard-Smith by a margin of 259-156 in last Tuesday's runoff election. The mayor-elect told news outlets he's excited more than anything and also a little overwhelmed to win the position.

Williams-Cole is a Camp Hill native, and he says he'll work out a detailed schedule to allow him to both complete his coursework and serve as mayor. The town



RICHARD TSONG-TATARU, (MINNEAPOLIS) STAR TRIBUNE/AP

## Not skipping the fun stuff

**At Hidden Falls Regional Park in St. Paul, Minn., Carrie Sorenson showed her son Will, 3, the joys of skipping stones or simply dropping them in the Mississippi River on Monday. With warm days vanishing, "you have to be outside as much as possible," Sorenson said.**

of Camp Hill is about 20 miles northwest of Auburn.

## Attempt to smoke out animal destroyed church

**IA** GREEN MOUNTAIN — A rural church in east-central Iowa has been destroyed in a fire sparked by an attempt to smoke out a wild animal that had gotten inside, firefighters said.

Fire crews were called to the Chapel United Methodist Church near Green Mountain around 3:30 p.m. Monday, Des Moines station WHO-TV reported. Investigators said someone tried to get rid of an animal that had gotten inside the church using a smoke bomb, which started the fire. Officials did not indicate what kind of animal had gotten inside.

It took seven fire crews and several hours to fully extinguish the blaze, fire officials said. The church was first established in 1867, the station reported.

## Smokies seeks public's help with congestion

**TN** GATLINBURG — The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is turning to the public for ideas on how to reduce congestion at some of its most popular spots.

The park on the Tennessee-North Carolina border saw a record 12.5 million visitors in 2019

## THE CENSUS

**\$9M**

The amount of money authorities say was lost in a fraud scheme in which retired Arizona Department of Public Safety trooper Frederick Arias, 54, is involved. FBI officials in Phoenix said Tuesday that a reward of up to \$25,000 is being offered for information leading to Arias' arrest. They said that between December 2015 and October of 2017, Arias allegedly told investors that The Joseph Project was a safe and secure investment with guaranteed profits. But Arias allegedly withdrew funds to pay personal expenses and wired funds overseas. Arias is said to have ties to Canada, Norway, Australia, the Czech Republic and the Dominican Republic.

and has set monthly visitation records in June, July and August of this year. The result has been congested roadways, overflowing parking lots, trampled vegetation, and long lines.

Those interested in helping can register for a workshop or find more information at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/grsmvcs-survey>.

## Police: Man posed as officer, attacked woman

**KY** COLUMBIA — A man impersonating an officer attempted to forcibly remove a woman from her car after signaling for her to pull over, Kentucky State Police said.

State police arrested George Barton, 47, on Sunday, more than a month after the incident near Columbia. He is charged with assault, impersonating an officer, terroristic threatening and other

offenses.

The woman told investigators she was driving around 10:30 p.m. on Sept. 3 when she saw blue lights flashing behind her and pulled over. She told police a male approached from an unmarked car and threw what is suspected to be ammonia in her face. The man tried to "forcibly remove" her from the car, but the woman fought back and the man went back to his car and left, the release said.

## Police: Man upset about game result pointed gun

**KS** KANSAS CITY — A Kansas City Chiefs fan who was upset about the team's loss to the Las Vegas Raiders pointed a gun at a victim in a neighborhood about 10 miles away from Arrowhead Stadium, authorities say.

Police in Kansas City, Kan.,

said in a tweet that officers responded to a disturbance call around 5 p.m. Sunday, after the game ended. A victim and witnesses told officers that a person, upset over the result of the Chiefs' 40-32 loss to the Raiders, pointed a gun.

"A physical fight then ensued as one of the witnesses attempted to disarm the suspect," police said. "The suspect then fled the scene."

Police recovered the gun on the scene and notified detectives.

## Historic hotel moved through streets of city

**FL** WEST PALM BEACH — A historic hotel and boarding house had to be parked overnight on a South Florida street during a move because of delays with its relocation.

Traffic had to be blocked off overnight Sunday on a street in West Palm Beach, and some light posts were temporarily removed to accommodate the relocation of the almost-century-old The Edgewater. The 4,900-square-foot hotel was moved about 1.5 miles to a historic district of West Palm Beach after a new owner of the property decided its former location would be the site of a new parking lot. The Edgewater will be used as a bed-and-breakfast inn in its new location.

From wire reports



# WEEKEND



The best of  
Eddie Van Halen  
Music, Page 32



## Passion project

Radha Blank boldly marks her late arrival as an auteur with her heavily autobiographical film debut, 'The Forty-Year-Old Version'

**Q&A, Page 20**

**Review, Page 21**

# WEEKEND: GADGETS & TECH



No Han GUAN/AP

Visitors walk past a 5G sign at the China Beijing International High Tech Expo Sept. 17 in Beijing, China. 5G is a network upgrade that promises faster speeds, less lag and more device connectivity.

## Wireless with speed, risk

Benefits, side effects of 5G network upgrade still uncertain

By MAE ANDERSON and TAL ARBEL  
Associated Press

A much-hyped network upgrade called "5G" means different things to different people.

To industry proponents, it's the next huge innovation in wireless internet. To the U.S. government, it's the backbone technology of a future that America will wrestle with China to control. To many average people, it's simply a mystery.

What, exactly, is 5G wireless — and will you even notice when it comes online?

### What is 5G?

5G is a new technical standard for wireless networks — the fifth, naturally — that promises faster speeds, less lag, or "latency," when connecting to the network, and the ability to connect many devices to the internet without bogging it down. 5G networks will ideally be better able to handle more users, lots of sensors and heavy traffic.

Before we can all use it, wireless companies and phone makers have to upgrade. Phones need new chips and radio antennas to work with the new network.

Wireless companies have been getting ready. They've been repaving their network equipment, buying up chunks of radio spectrum for carrying 5G signals, and installing new 5G antennas on cellphone towers, utility poles and streetlights. Wireless providers will invest \$275 billion in 5G-related networks in the U.S., according to CTIA, an industry trade group.

### When will it be available?

A true U.S. mobile rollout began in 2019, but significantly faster networks are still sparse. It will take a few years to go national, and even then more rural areas of the country will not be covered in the "millimeter wave" frequencies that promise the highest data speeds and capacities, said Michael Thelander, CEO of wireless consultancy Signals Research Group.

Beware of confusion, though. Wireless carriers have a history of rushing to slap the latest-and-

greatest label on their networks, and this time is no different. AT&T has already applied the name 5G on a service that's not really 5G.

Once the network is ready, you'll need a 5G-enabled phone to connect to it. Android versions have been out for a while, and on Tuesday Apple launched its first 5G iPhone. But you can keep using 4G phones. They just won't connect to 5G speeds where those are available.

### What can 5G do?

There's a considerable amount of hype over the promise of 5G. Industry groups say it will promote smart cities by connecting sensor networks that could manage traffic and quickly identify streetlight outages. 5G could connect self-driving cars and fuel new applications in virtual and augmented reality. Its high-speed connections could enable better remote surgery and other telemedicine, help companies automate their factories and help businesses dedicated high-speed internet lanes.

"5G speeds, and ever-faster home broadband, will mean that existing applications will get richer, and also that new applications will emerge — new Flikers, YouTube or Snapchats. We don't know what yet," Benedict Evans, a partner at Silicon Valley venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz, wrote in a 2019 blog post.

The most immediate impact on consumers is far smaller. There will be faster download speeds for movies and other video. Thelander says your phone's internet will work better in crowded locations such as stadiums.

### What are the security concerns?

The 5G network is one front in rising tensions between the U.S. and China. The U.S. government is rooting out Chinese telecom technology in communications networks due to security concerns, and has pressed other countries to ban Huawei, a Chinese telecom company, from 5G network buildouts.

U.S. officials have suspected for years that the Chinese government could use Huawei network equipment to help it spy. Huawei has rejected such accusations.

## GADGET WATCH

### One battery to power them all

By GREGG ELLMAN  
Tribune News Service

It's amazing how much portable power is needed today, and Mophie is an industry leader when it comes to putting more than enough into the Powerstation line of pocket-sized devices.

Inside the Mophie powerstation PD (\$59.95) is 6,700mAh of rechargeable power, for up to 23 hours of the extended life of a smartphone, tablet or any USB-A or USB-C device. The fast-charging Powerstation PD is built with an 18-watt USB-C PD fast charge. This produces a charge and re-charges up to 2.5 times faster.

Priority and charging are a great feature, permitting the powerstation PD portable battery to charge while a device is also connected for charging.

Focal/TNS

**Focal Sphair Wireless Earbuds**

Power. Power is sent first to the device and then the battery is recharged.

With dual USB ports, two devices can be charged simultaneously; the USB-C port provides up to 18 watts of power, while the USB-A outputs 12 watts.

Mophie's Powerstation Plus XL wireless (\$59.95) is built for more than a full day of charging. Inside is the 8,000mAh rechargeable battery, which according to Mophie produces up to 42 extra hours for iPhone Xs, up to 11 extra hours for iPad mini 5 and up to seven extra hours for iPad Pro.

There are several ways to get the power out of the battery, and the Powerstation Plus XL has three options for charging multiple devices at once. All this is built into a 2.83-by-5.89-by-0.75-inch, ½-pound battery with a high-gloss top surface and metallic perimeter.

More and more smartphones and earbuds are Qi-enabled, allowing wireless charging. With this battery, all that's needed for charging is to place the device on the battery's charging surface and push the start button.

An integrated fast charging Apple Lightning cable means you'll always have the cable with you, assuming you have the battery. The side of the battery has a thin magnetic compartment door, which snaps open to reveal the cable. When charging is complete, put the cable back in for safekeeping.

The third charging option is a built-in standard USB-A port. With your cable, virtually any portable gadget can be charged.

Both the Powerstation PD and Plus XL have four LEDs on the side to show the charging status and how much power is left in the battery before it needs an AC charge.

Last month, Mophie announced a global partnership with TUMI for a co-branded product lineup, featuring five premium technology products designed to keep travelers' devices powered throughout their journeys. Online: zagg.com

Focal Sphair Wireless earbuds are exactly as advertised with strong sound quality and comfort.

They are designed with a pair of equalizer modes: neutral, staying true to the original artistic work, and loudness for adapting to noisy environments or listening to low volumes.

The sound comes from an Electrodynamic sandwich diaphragm on the outside of the earbud. The earbuds themselves are small and include three pairs of ear-tip size options, each made of silicone and memory foam to ensure a perfect fit.

Comfort comes from the spherical lightweight design, which encourages long listening with no discomfort. A lightweight in-line three-button remote controls volume, modes and music selections along with an eight-hour rechargeable battery. An Omnidirectional microphone works great for hands-free calls.

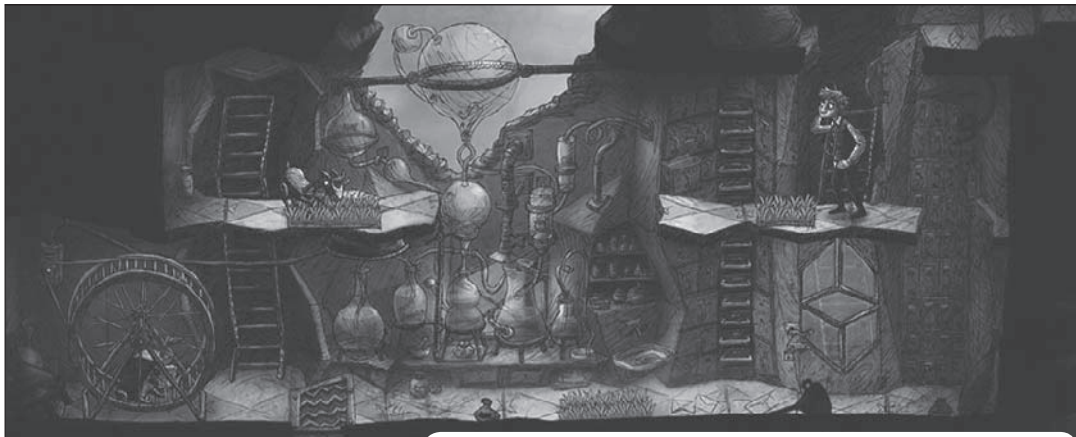
Online: focal.com, \$124.27, in black, blue, olive and purple



ZAGG/TNS

Mophie's Powerstation Plus XL wireless is built for more than a full day of charging. It can also charge multiple devices at once.

## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



Amanita Design photos

Equipped with nothing but wit and courage, players slowly descend into a world inhabited by avian folk and seemingly deadly furniture monsters in the puzzle-adventure game *Creaks*.

# Beautiful and whimsical

## Challenging puzzler *Creaks* will charm fantasy fans

By CHRISTOPHER BYRD

Special to The Washington Post

**T**here is a world behind your bedroom walls waiting to be discovered — a place of strange sights and dangers. That's the premise of *Creaks*, a lusciously animated game that takes one of the great primordial fears of childhood and runs with it.

Created by The Czech studio Amanita Design, who built their reputation on point-and-click games such as the beguiling *Samorost 3*, *Creaks* is a platformer filled to the brim with intricate puzzles.

It opens with a young man dressed in a collared shirt and sleeveless sweater seated at his desk and absorbed in reading. He is distracted from his studies when the overhead light in his studio begins to flicker. After adjusting it, the light burns out, the room briefly shakes and a window shade falls down. Then, on the far side of the room opposite the desk, a section of wallpaper unravels to reveal a small door low to the ground.

Understandably curious, the bookish gent opens the door and peers into the dark narrow space behind it before he stands back up, fetches a flashlight from his closet and crawls through the space. A short distance later, he sees a ladder that plunges down into the unknown. Before he can decide what to do, another tremor shakes the area. Losing his balance, the man falls forward and grabs the ladder. On his descent, he passes by stalactites before emerging into an enormously cavernous area in the center of which stands a byzantine structure that looks like a jumble of interconnected towers designed by a mad architect.

Hopping off the ladder onto the structure's upper floors, the man finds himself in an area that looks like a sprawling multi-level closet. Propped on or near the walls behind him are a variety of knickknacks: bicycle wheels, crockery, clothes hung up on lines, etc. Moving further down, he runs into the first of the game's many mechanical dogs that will chase and violently pounce on him if caught, resulting in a quick restart.

The first set of puzzles you'll encounter will have you manipulating overhead lights to move the canines around. The dogs will try to avoid having beams of light fall on them because it turns them into dressers, which the man can

vault over or push back and forth (as long as the dresser remains in the light). A number of puzzles throughout the game require you to figure out how to use a light to turn an adversary into a stationary object that can be jumped over or pushed onto panel switches.

After the introductory puzzles, things take a stranger turn when the man spies, through a hole in the floor, a rather regal-looking anthropomorphic bird lounging on a couch in a frock coat reading. As the fashionably dressed fowl luxuriates in his book, a gigantic paw with sharp claws reaches from outside the building and swipes away the wall behind the feathered creature, exposing the room to air. Although his couch is dangling over the newly formed precipice, the bird is blithe to the danger until a split second before it teeters over the edge, causing him to hop off. Pondering the situation with expressive gestures, the feathered creature strikes on an idea and disappears down a nearby ladder.

Eventually the young man comes to realize that the bird has decided to look for a book that can help bring the monster to heel. Thus, he comes to ally himself with others he meets in the world who band together to try to take on the monster. As the man journeys deeper into the structure, the puzzles grow more involved as he comes into contact with other kinds of adversaries, which include one-eyed purple creatures that walk on long, stalky legs and spiky-haired shadowy creatures that imitate the protagonist's movements. As with the mechanical dogs, he must figure out how to position them onto panel switches or otherwise get them out of his way.

Spinked between the puzzles are a number of interactive paintings that operate like old-fashioned, key-turned music boxes.

I didn't relish trying to speed through *Creaks* because I found a number of the puzzles fairly challenging. Trying to tackle one after another without a break made me feel like my brain was melting. By the second half of the game, I had consulted a fair amount of YouTube. Watching someone else speed through the solutions certainly did not dampen my appreciation, though. Oddly, it enhanced it as I was able to bask in *Creaks'* imaginative atmosphere without fretting over my slow progression.

*Creaks* is a charming game that should appeal to anyone who nurses an appreciation for animation and the fantastical.

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

**Online:** [amanita-design.net/games/creaks.html](http://amanita-design.net/games/creaks.html)



# WEEKEND: MOVIES

# YOU DON'T AGE OUT OF YOUR PASSION

Radha Blank wrote, directed and stars in 'The Forty-Year-Old Version,' about a down-on-her-luck Harlem playwright who finds inspiration by reinventing herself as a rapper at 40

BY JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

**I**f Radha Blank had a tagline for her film, "The Forty-Year-Old Version," it would be: "You don't age out of your passion."

Blank wrote, directed and stars in her debut film, a heavily autobiographical tale, shot in black-and-white and on 35mm, about a middle-aged playwright in Harlem struggling to fulfill her career's earlier promise. Faced with unappealing options, like a Harriet Tubman musical put on by white producers, she turns to an old passion, hip-hop, and begins performing as Radha-MUSPrime.

The film made its lauded premiere at the Sundance Film Festival where Blank won a directing prize and Netflix acquired it.

Blank, who has written for the Spike Lee series "She's Gotta Have It" and "Empire," first began the project as a web series that would have culminated in a mix tape. The death of her mother derailed the series, and Blank realized "The Forty-Year-Old Version" needed a bigger canvas. Lena Waithe ("Master of None," "Queen & Slim") came aboard as a producer.

In an interview, Blank — a proud New Yorker who, like her character, struggled to get her plays mounted before rapping under a pseudonym — talked about her delayed but inevitable arrival.

**Associated Press: What compelled you to start writing this?**

**Blank:** I was fired from a film job. This is, like, before I was writing for TV. I got a job. Someone had seen a play of mine and they hired me to adapt a book. And I got fired off the job. And I was kind of devastated and felt a little powerless and just decided, you know what? (Expletive) it. I'm going to make a web series so that I'm in charge. No one can fire me. About two weeks before we were going to shoot the first two episodes, my mom passed away and it pretty much devastated my life. Like, we were, like, Dorothy and Sophia domestically, as a viewer of "The Golden Girls." We shared the same birthday and she's the person who nurtured all these storytelling seeds in me. I was probably going to quit anything creative because my biggest champion and friend was now gone. I was going to go back to school and become a social worker. I'm glad I didn't. I probably saved children by not becoming a social worker.

**Is your protagonist you?**

It's me, but a heightened version. She is who I wish I could be all the time. She tells it like it is. What we have in common is how we use rejection to fuel an idea. My character, the idea of her becoming a rapper is a joke until she starts rhyming. And for me, when I first decided I wanted to shoot this in black and white. Every-one was like, why would you do that? It's a matter of trusting your impulses.

**How does it feel to be making your filmmaking debut at this stage in your life?**

"Auteurs" are reserved for older filmmakers. And groundbreaking, fresh films seems to be associated with young filmmakers. I'm somewhere in the middle. I've been telling and crafting stories for over 20 years. When it came time to make the film, I knew exactly what it is I wanted to say. For people who know me and know my work, it was just a matter of time before I got here. It's kind of this idea that we never stop learning about who you are. You can have revelations about yourself and what you should be doing at any age.

**And that includes rapping for you. But you bring a different perspective to hip-hop.**

It's all of the bravado of hip-hop, but it's from a person whose body is changing. There's some hot flashes in there. AARP is sending me (expletive) in the mail. I know a lot of people who feel that way. I just don't see it reflected in mainstream culture. Especially with hip-hop. I love this culture. I am the same age as hip-hop culture. Some of the culture is over-sexualized and over-saturated and so loud. That's part of why I wanted to film it in black and white. Black and white cools it down.

**How would you describe your film's connection with Judd Apatow's "The 40-Year-Old Virgin"?**

Honestly, I'm just, like, appropriating his (expletive). People appropriate Black culture all the time. I'm like, "Hey, Judd. I'm comin' for you!" I think he will have a great sense of humor about it, but I'm totally appropriating his (expletive). I love it when I say "Forty-Year-Old Version" and they go, "That movie came out

15 years ago." And I go, "Nope! V-E-R-S-I-O-N." But also trying to stay in the spirit of Judd Apatow, Black protagonists are quirky and awkward and can't figure things out and are having identity crises at 40. I would hope one day my films can be in the canon of his storytelling. I lived in L.A. for about three years, and even though I look like I might have blended into the cool arts scene, I always felt like Larry David. There are people who look like me who have those odd moments where there are clashes of culture right in front of them.



INVISION/AP

## WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS

## Blank's debut terrific in 'Forty-Year-Old Version'

By LINDSEY BAHR  
Associated Press

**P**recociousness can be a curse if adulthood successes don't live up to your assumed potential. And placement on one of those 30-Under-30 lists is just a cruel public reminder of what (probably) should've been — especially if you are nearing the end of your third decade without much to show for it. This is the situation in which a New York playwright finds herself in "The Forty-Year-Old Version," a quick-witted and lively debut from writer, director, producer and star Radha Blank. It won her a directing award at the Sundance Film Festival and is now streaming on Netflix.

Blank plays a semi-fictionalized version of herself in this beautifully, classically New York film, which is shot in crisp black and white. The 30-Under-30 playwright awards star in her small Harlem apartment taunting her as she goes through the motions of her life teaching drama to rowdy high schoolers and toiling away at projects that she knows won't get made. She's getting anxious and desperate to make a mark, and the somewhat recently deceased mother has made getting motivated even more difficult.

The play that she's working on is about a Black couple living in a gentrified Harlem. The local Black theater company won't



Netflix

**Desperate for a breakthrough as she nears the big 4-0, struggling New York City playwright Radha finds inspiration by reinventing herself as a rapper in "The Forty-Year-Old Version."**

make it, so she pressures her agent and friend Archie (Peter Y. Kim) to look for other options. It lands her an audience with respected producer J. Whitman (Reed Birney), who has the money and the connections but also only seems to produce Black "poverty porn" plays for white

audiences.

Her conflict over whether to make an inauthentic play the way Whitman would want (more white people, more about gentrification, more Black stereotypes) or to use her voice elsewhere (she tries rapping about her life) propels the film. The journey

is filled with funny and cringe moments as she attempts to find herself and her voice. Blank is an excellent, empathetic and hilarious lead, and she's surrounded herself with an ace supporting cast, including Kim, Birney and Oswin Benjamin as a big-hearted music producer.

At its heart, "The Forty-Year-Old Version" is a wry commentary about who gets to make art and which voices we celebrate, although you don't exactly need a study to tell you that Black women are some of the least represented voices in filmmaking. This is exactly why Blank chose the title she did. It's not an accident that "The Forty-Year-Old Version" sounds like another famous movie title. She meant to appropriate Judd Apatow's "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," made by a filmmaker who loves a long comedy about a protagonist (usually a white man) just "figuring it out." It's not meant to be mean to Apatow or his film and the specific connections end there, but the Apatowian genre is one that not many others get to make. She even decided that hers would be as long as his, which may have been her only mistake, but it's a funny gesture nonetheless.

We don't generally bring out any fanfare for artists who make their first film or play or album in their 40s or beyond, as though it's any less impressive. In some ways, it's probably harder. "The Forty-Year-Old Version" makes a compelling case for another set of lists: The 40-Over-40. If you desire it just as much, if not more.

"The Forty-Year-Old Version" is rated R for pervasive language, sexual content, some drug use and brief nudity. Running time: 129 minutes.

## 'Charm City Kings' an appealing drama about Baltimore's dirt-bike scene

By JUSTIN CHANG  
Los Angeles Times

Like any self-respecting teenager, Mouse (Jahi Di'Allo Winston), the protagonist of the West Baltimore-set indie drama "Charm City Kings," likes to express a healthy disdain for the popular culture of yesteryear. Not for something as relatively recent as "The Wire," one of the greatest shows ever made about his home city, which Mouse salutes by wearing a T-shirt covered with names like Avon and Stringer. He's less enthusiastic about Tupac, who grew up in Baltimore and "died like a million years ago," he scoffs, when pressed about why he's never been a fan.

At one point, his pal Lamont (Donielle Tremaine Hansley) makes scornful reference to "The Karate Kid," pointing out that his latest father figure — and he has more than one — is giving off serious Mr. Miyagi vibes. It's an amusing exchange, in part because the characters are knocking gently on the fourth wall, invoking an earlier movie in order to explain and rationalize their own narrative derivations. Recycling is fine so long as you acknowledge what you're doing, or so the logic goes.

And "Charm City Kings," directed by Puerto Rican-born filmmaker Angel Manuel Soto ("La Granja") from a script by Sherman Payne, is eager to signal its self-awareness, perhaps because it traffics fairly openly, though not always predictably, in cliché. The story, which was conceived by Chris Boyd, Kirk Sullivan and Barry Jenkins, is a slick, appealing blend of summer coming-of-age and cautionary crime thriller. Mouse, a smart,



HBO Max/AF

**Mouse (Jahi Di'Allo Winston) wants to join the Midnight Clique, an infamous group of Baltimore dirt-bike riders, in the coming-of-age drama "Charm City Kings."**

sensitive kid, loves animals and has a part-time job at a veterinary hospital. But he also looks longingly at the dirt-bike riders who tear up the streets every Sunday, their wild stunts and flashy armor drawing wary cops and adoring crowds alike.

Mouse, who hangs out with his buddies Lamont and Sweatagawd (Keziah Curtis), dreams of joining the riders' ranks. But his hard-working mom (Teyonah Parris) tries to dissuade him, lest he go the way of his older brother (a briefly seen Tyquan Ford), who rode with a dirt-bike gang and

died tragically sometime earlier. Really, the entire neighborhood seems to have a stake in Mouse's decision, whether it's a concerned cop (Will Catlett) who wants to keep him on the straight and narrow, or Blax (rapper Meek Mill), an ex-con mechanic whose garage becomes both a refuge from danger and a possible gateway into it.

Their general concern for Mouse's well-being, which he sometimes chafes against, feels genuine enough, which is largely a credit to the excellent actors. (The

ensemble cast won a prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival.) Your attention is more than engaged by Mill's watchful calm, Parris' moving angst and especially Winston's shrewd mix of vulnerability, pluck and charisma, even when the script shifts gears as loudly and subtly as the motorbikes. The riders' stunts, their cop-dodging sharp turns and ridiculously vertical wheelies, are the movie's raison d'être, shot with propulsive energy by Katerin Arizmendi and sharply edited together by Luis Carballar.

Those sequences, and Mouse's own story, were loosely inspired by "12 O'Clock Boys," Lotfy Nathan's 2013 documentary about Baltimore's dirt-bike scene. And "Charm City Kings" fittingly feels like an absorbing but muddled weave of authenticity and artifice. Its concern for the plight of young, susceptible Black men like Mouse is at first deftly understated, until the story begins to tilt into gang-warfare convolutions and some unsettling if strategically deployed violence.

You become aware that so many of the supporting characters — an Asian American couple who own a convenience store (Hyonkyung Kate O'Leary and Arnold Kim), a likable love interest (Chandler DuPont) and even Sweatagawd, who's basically comic relief until he isn't — seem to have little narrative function or inner life apart from Mouse. They're there to take him down, prop him up and teach him lessons about life. "Charm City Kings" clearly knows what it's doing; unfortunately, what it's doing is often just as obvious to us.

"Charm City Kings" is rated R for pervasive language, sexual references and some violence. Running time: 123 minutes.

## WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS



When Halloween turns truly spooky, it's up to good-hearted scarey cat Hubie (Adam Sandler) to save the night in "Hubie Halloween."

# A seasonal treat

## 'Hubie Halloween' not Sandler's best, but delivers laughs

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

The distance for Adam Sandler from last year's frantic, high-wire act "Uncut Gems" to his new Netflix comedy, "Hubie Halloween," is great, but maybe not as vast as it sounds.

Both feature Sandler playing someone who romanticizes something out of proportion (a high-priced gem in "Uncut Gems," Halloween in "Hubie Halloween"), an appearance by a former NBA star (Kevin Garnett in "Uncut Gems," Shaquille O'Neal in "Hubie Halloween") and June Squibb wearing a T-shirt that says "Boner Doner."

OK, that last one isn't in "Uncut Gems," but you wouldn't exactly put it past the Sandler brothers, either. Yes, Sandler's bouncing between movie realms has seemingly grown even more schizophrenic in recent years as his factory of Netflix releases chugs along with occasional departures like "The Meyerowitz Stories (New and Selected)" and "Uncut Gems." But here's the thing: "Hubie Halloween" is good.

Yeah, I'm kind of surprised by that, too. The latest Billy Madison production might not seem especially distinguishable from the rest of Sandler's recent Netflix output. In many ways, it's not. It's got most of his regular chums (Kevin James, Tim Meadows, Rob Schneider) and it's directed by Steven Brill, who helmed Sandler's "Sandy Wexler," "The Do-Over," "Mr. Deeds" and "Little Nicky." These are movies made with only a little more thought than another pick-up basketball game: "Let's run it back!"

And yet it feels like it's been a while since it was this much fun to watch Sandler, et al., goofing around. Sandler, already inextricably linked to Thanksgiving, has now left a mark on Halloween. Maybe it's because his movies can seem like (highly paid) extended vacations with friends, but holidays seem to work for him.

The destination this time is Salem, Mass., where Hubie Dubois (Sandler) is a thermos-carrying stunted man-child who's been the butt of jokes since high school, taunted for his unhappiness

and his good-hearted sincerity. He's an immediately familiar protagonist for Sandler — a cousin to Canteen Boy and a brother to Bobby Boucher of "The Water Boy." Hubie, a Halloween devotee who's nevertheless easily spooked by the season's decorations, has anointed himself the holiday's official "monitor" in Salem.

Living with his mom (Squibb, outfitted in a running gag of T-shirts), Hubie bikes around town with his monitor sash slung across his chest and a thermos full of soup always in hand. He's regularly mocked by just about everyone in the town, young and old, but his old high-school torch (Julie Bowen, comically out of his league) is one of the few who recognize and value Hubie's sweetness. When a genuine mystery develops and people start going missing, Hubie is the first to recognize the danger. Having made police reports a hobby, the local cops (Kenan Thompson, James) have long learned to ignore his concerns.

It's all just an excuse for Sandler to do a funny voice and a bunch of pratfalls, but the voice is pretty funny and so are the pratfalls. Even the production design is a cut above what you'd expect. But most of all, the ensemble of townspeople lend plenty of support. Is there anyone, really, who doesn't want to watch a movie with Steve Buscemi as a werewolf, Michael Chiklis as a cranky priest, Ray Liotta for whatever reason and Maya Rudolph dressed up as the Bride of Frankenstein playing the dissatisfied wife of Tim Meadows?

The jokes aren't often Sandler's best material, but "Hubie Halloween" is as sweet and easily digestible as a Milky Way. After this, "Uncut Gems" and his best, and most tender stand-up special ("100% Fresh," a title that references his normally low critical scores), the Sandler-verve is weirdly in a kind of perfect harmony. Maybe, too, we're more in need of some good, stupid fun right now, and "Hubie Halloween" is smart enough to do stupid just right. Steve Buscemi as a werewolf, at least, is an antidote to something.

"Hubie Halloween" is rated PG-13 for crude and suggestive content, language and brief partying. Running time: 104 minutes.



APPLE/AP

Sofia Coppola's "On the Rocks" follows a father and daughter (Bill Murray and Rashida Jones) as they tail her suspicious husband.

# Coppola's 'On the Rocks'

## modest but entertaining

By LINDSEY BAHR  
Associated Press

Few filmmakers can bring a rut to life like Sofia Coppola. When her characters are in a funk, whether it's a Hollywood actor in between jobs, a few lost souls in a foreign place or a Queen, it's never the stuff of melodrama. She has an eye for the comedic banalities of the everyday like the excruciating awkwardness of a stilted conversation or, as in her latest "On the Rocks," the image of an overwheeled mother trying to nap in the glaring sunlight while a Roomba bangs its way through the apartment.

She turns her camera this time to Laura (Rashida Jones), a well-off writer living in a SoHo loft with two young daughters and a husband, Dean (Marlon Wayans) who lately has been distant, physically and emotionally, while launching his new business.

Laura is getting by, dressing in a kind of uniform (Breton striped shirts, denim and a gold necklace) and trying her best to cling on to signifiers of a once simple and nice life. But her days are spent in a rush from morning to night getting her daughters to school, to naps, to ballet, to dinner, to the bath and to bed. Her Chanel purse is almost never carried without a stroller and a canvas Strand bookstore tote bag along with it, and her beautiful ceramic Dutch oven now makes just instant mac and cheese. She's also on deadline for a book that she has no time or will to write. Her few moments of quiet are spent rearranging her desk.

So it's almost a relief when she starts to suspect that Dean might be having an affair. He's on the road a lot, he has an attractive, well-meaning and seemingly caring free co-worker, Fiona (Jessica Henwick), and, oh, there's the female toiletries that show up in Dean's suitcase. Suddenly Laura has something else to focus on, and her man-about-town father, Felix (Bill Murray), is more than happy to help enable the obsession.

Murray's Felix, a cool and charming art dealer who knows everyone and flirts with everything, sweeps in like a cool spring breeze to jolt Laura out of her routine and introduce a little chaos and spontaneity into

her life with impromptu martini lunches ("Bombay for the kid"), birthday dinners at the 21 Club and SoHo House stakeouts in a smart red convertible with caviar (which they open) and champagne (which they don't). Felix's Manhattan is vibrant and exciting, and he glides through classic haunts and out of traffic lights with an ease that Laura has never known.

Like any good amateur sleuth pic, it gets a little out of control and takes them all the way to Mexico where they try to prove once and for all that Dean is being unfaithful.

The engine keeps going, but the film also allows Murray time and space to do his thing, and Jones is a perfect companion for the boozy father-daughter high jinks. Although she rolls her eyes at him and all the way to Mexico where they try to prove once and for all that Dean is being unfaithful, there is also an awe and obvious love there, too. Murray might not be a very pregnant passerby, there is also an awe and obvious love there, too. Murray might not be a very pregnant passerby, there is also an awe and obvious love there, too. Murray might not be a very pregnant passerby, there is also an awe and obvious love there, too.

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There's a sobering conclusion that there isn't really the possibility for satisfying compromise. Felix both knows his daughter deserves better and believes that men aren't capable of that. So what's the deal? Well, if we're going by the letter of "On the Rocks," always make an extra effort on birthdays. And a quiet restaurant and a stiff drink don't hurt, either.

"On the Rocks" is rated R for some language/sexual references. Running time: 96 minutes.



## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Adventure  
on every pageSales of guidebooks rise as Americans  
stay closer to home during pandemic

By REBECCA POWERS

Special to The Washington Post

American travelers aren't taking the pandemic sitting down.

They are showing an increased interest in hiking, bicycling and other outdoor getaways.

Even the esteemed 94-year-old wildlife filmmaker Sir David Attenborough has weighed in on visiting nature during the pandemic.

In a recent "60 Minutes" interview, Attenborough observes that "people who have never listened to a bird song, are suddenly thrilled, excited, supported, inspired by the natural world."

And outdoor escapes as basic as going for a long walk seem to be accompanied by another basic: the travel guidebook.

Sales of hiking and camping guides are up, consumer analysts say.

"It was a very, very good summer for road trips, camping, driving and closer-to-home travel," says Kristen McLean, primary industry analyst for NPД Books, which monitors retail trends.

Overall, travel-guide sales are down because European and global travel is essentially nonexistent for Americans, McLean says, speaking by phone from her office in Miami. However, she says, "maps and atlases sold well," as did guides on parks, campgrounds, hiking, ecotourism and family travel this year. Other retail trends offer a clue as to where those brand-new maps may be leading COVID-era travelers. Sales of hiking boots, for example, are up 10 percent, NPД data shows.

According to NPД BookScan's list, among top-selling travel titles through mid-September in the United States were "The Camping Logbook," and the "SAS Survival Handbook: The Ultimate Guide to Surviving Anywhere."

At Field Notes, the Chicago-based producer of notebooks and related stationery products, President Jim Coudal says the National Parks notebook three-packs "have been flying out of here since March."

"I think lots of people have been planning, talking or dreaming about road trips while stuck in their house. I know I have."

Veteran long-distance hiker Barney Scott Mann, whose "Journeys North: The Pacific Crest Trail" was just released by Mountaineers Books, says we were already in an emerging golden age of hiking when everything changed. "COVID-19 just

punched the afterburner on an already speeding jet" of popularity, he says.

Mann points to American Hiking Society numbers showing 34 million Americans hiked in 2013 and 9 million backpacked.

"Walking is the most natural thing we do," Mann says.

And right now, it may also be the safest. As Anthony Fauci, the country's leading expert on infectious diseases, suggested on CNN just before Labor Day weekend: "Go out on a trail; breathe the fresh air."

Many seem to be following Dr. Fauci's prescription.

Max Phelps, director of outdoor sales for the National Book Network, which distributes Falcon Guides, says U.S. guidebooks have been selling well in recent months.

Elaborating via email, Phelps writes, "Information on regional destinations that can be reached

by car and where social distancing is less of a concern (or not a concern at all) are of considerable interest right now."

Falcon Guides buyers, he says, showed particular interest in mountain towns in the Rockies, especially the northern Rockies, and in Maine.

At the Book Beat, an independent bookseller in suburban Detroit, co-owner Colleen Kammer says the staff has experienced a similar surge.

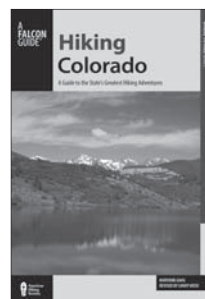
"At the end of August, before Labor Day, people wanted books on the Upper Peninsula," Kammer says, referring to Michigan's sparsely populated northern reaches, a place rich in natural beauty.

While not exactly Somerset Maugham, such guidebooks do stir longing for wide horizons and following in the footsteps of Henry David Thoreau, whose essay, "Walking," was published in 1862. Cheryl Strayed, whose memoir on hiking the Pacific Crest Trail was made into a hit movie; and Robert Taylor, the first African American to thru-hike both the Appalachian and Pacific Crest trails.

The urge to explore is age old. And rare and antique guidebooks have been enjoying a resurgence in popularity, says Lucinda Boyle, travel specialist and shop manager for Shapero Rare Books in London, speaking via email.

"I always take a couple of printed guidebooks with me when I travel, an old one for the history and new one for current cultural information," she says. "My personal favorite is the Baedeker series of handbooks."

Founded by Karl Baedeker in 1827 and published by four generations of his family, the famed



Falcon Guides

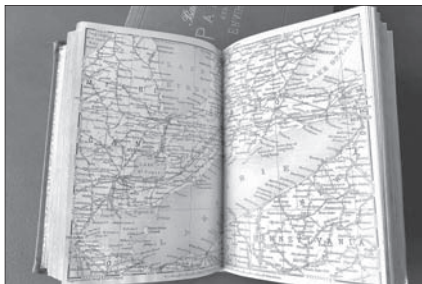
**Stateside travel guidebooks have seen a rise in popularity during the pandemic as Europe continues to be off-limits to travelers from America.**

Baedeker travel guides covered dozens of countries in three languages. Baedeker was acquired in 1951 by MairDumont, the German travel-publishing group, and is included among its several brands.

In many regards, old guidebooks stand the test of time — even this strange time.

A Baedeker guidebook on Canada, published in 1907, offers some inspiration for contemporary travelers seeking fresh air.

The travel guide's section on sports highlights Canadian towns' snowshoe clubs, each with its distinctive uniform of a bright-colored blanket-coat. Snowshoers, it says, "tramping across the snow on a clear, moonlit night ... is a most attractive sight."



REBECCA POWERS/The Washington Post

**A map inside Baedeker's circa-1907 Canada guidebook. In many regards, old guidebooks stand the test of time.**

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

## Financial crisis a benefit for visitors to Greece

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 scenario.

When political turmoil in Athens was all over the news, I kept getting asked if Greece was "safe" for travelers — a question that feels absurd the instant you arrive there. Ask anyone who's been to Greece recently, and you'll learn that safety concerns have been played up by both Greek and international media outlets.

Frankly, this is a great time to travel to Greece. The financial crisis of the past couple of years — while making life difficult for most Greeks — is a boon for budget travelers. Hotel prices are down, the normally warm Greek hospitality has ratcheted up a few notches, and roads outside of Athens are essentially traffic-free, as higher gas prices cause locals to cut down on inessential driving. The down-sides (shorter hours at sights, reduced long-distance bus service, occasional strikes) are noticeable, but not reason enough for you to postpone a trip. All the things you're longing for in a trip to Greece — mouthwatering food, deep-blue water, striking scenery, and the thrill of connecting with ancient history — are all here waiting for you ... at a cheaper price.

Greece is easy on travelers. Tourism makes up 15 percent of the gross domestic product. The Greeks pride themselves on the prestigious, When a property is recognized as such, travel and tourism content creators are generally quick to highlight its vaunted status as a landmark that a highly respected international body has deemed to be of outstanding value to humanity and worthy of preservation.

While the title might imply that the site will be one of great beauty, that's not necessarily the case. Sites nominated for inclusion on the list must be of "outstanding universal value" and meet one of 10 specific criteria pertaining to nature or culture. Among the most interesting sites are cultural landscapes, defined by the World Heritage Committee as cultural properties representing the combined work of man and nature. Here are good examples in Europe include Germany's Upper Middle Rhine Valley and Italy's Cinque Terre.

Today we take a look at four European landscapes that might not be as attractive in the traditional sense but which tell a compelling story.

**Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars:** The method of producing sparkling wines based on the principle of secondary fermentation in the bottle has been carried out in France's Champagne region since the 17th cen-

tury, a faux pas made by unwary foreigners are easily overlooked by Greeks, and many speak English.

Despite the headlines, the major sights of this ancient land are open and relatively crowd-free. Athens, while sprawling and congested, has a compact, pleasant tourist zone capped by the famous Acropolis — the world's top ancient site.



Rick Steves

With its central location, it's also the perfect launch pad for farther-flung destinations. You can commune with ancient spirits at the center of the world — the oracle near the picturesque mountain hamlet of Delphi. Or travel farther to the Peloponnese, the large peninsula that hangs from the rest of the Greek mainland, and experience a wild, mountainous landscape dotted with the ruins of Mycenaean palaces, ancient temples, frescoed churches and countless medieval hilltop castles. Most travelers like to take a vacation from their vacation on one of the famous Greek isles, such as traffic-free Hydra, whitewashed Mykonos or volcanic Santorini.

It all sounds idyllic — and for the most part, it is. On a trip here a few years ago, if it hadn't been for the blaring headlines and shrill news reports calling the demonstrations "riots," I probably wouldn't have been aware of them at all — I was too busy pondering the ancients at the Acropolis and nibbling olives at dinner. I found Greece to be the same wonderful place ... with a few more minor headaches.



CAMERON HEWITT/Ricksteves.com

Despite Greece's economic troubles, the grandeur of the Acropolis is eternal.

Political protests are indeed a common occurrence, and not just in Athens. Demonstrating is woven into European democracies. But most rallies involve zero violence. When violence has broken out in Athens, it's been between police and protesters, not bystanders ... and certainly not tourists out for a stroll.

It's pretty easy to steer clear of any unrest. Protest rallies are generally scheduled in advance. Your hotelier can tell you if anything's likely to be afoot in a main city square during your visit. Strikes are another nuisance, but generally not pro-

longed — just a day or two here and there. (Strikes have long been a way of life in Greece; most Greeks see a general strike as an excuse for an impromptu holiday.)

What's the biggest impact of the crisis on visitors? It's the satisfaction you'll get from contributing to the economy of a nation dealing with tough times — and the joy that comes from a tourist industry that really appreciates your presence.

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

## Cultural landscapes of UNESCO are products of man, nature

Of all the well-recognized labels a monument, city or landscape can bear, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site designation is among the most prestigious. When a property is recognized as such, travel and tourism content creators are generally quick to highlight its vaunted status as a landmark that a highly respected international body has deemed to be of outstanding value to humanity and worthy of preservation.

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**Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars:** The method of producing sparkling wines based on the principle of secondary fermentation in the bottle has been carried out in France's Champagne region since the 17th cen-

tury. The property is comprised of three distinct ensembles: the historic vineyards of Reims and its surrounding villages, along with the Avenue de Champagne and Fort Chabrol, both of which are in Epervy. These three components illustrate the breadth of the champagne production process.

The chalky land in which the grapevines thrive has everything to do with the establishment of the practices perfected here over centuries.

The production process specific to Champagne, based on secondary fermentation in the bottle, required a vast network of cellars. In Reims, medieval chalk quarries were repurposed for the task, whereas in other places, vast underground landscapes were carved out of the soft rock. The Avenue of Champagne is lined with grandiose and prestigious houses of major Champagne makers above ground, while below, nearly 200 million bottles age gracefully. Online: [maisons-champagne.com](http://maisons-champagne.com)

**Blaenavon Industrial Landscape:** In the 19th century, this area in South Wales was one of the world's major producers of iron and coal. The development of these two industries in parallel was one of the driving forces of the Industrial Revolution.



(iStock)

Salt deposits have been central to Austria's Hallstatt for millennia.

The Blaenavon Ironworks and Big Pit, other coal and ore mines, quarries and a landscape scarred by the exploitation of its mineral resources, a rudimentary railway system, canals, furnaces and workers' homes paint a picture of the workings and social infrastructure of the early industrial community. The remains of the ironworks include furnaces, casting houses and ruined kilns in which iron ore was roasted. The water balance tower, built in 1839, illustrates how lift technology using water to counter-balance loads was employed. The coal mining pit and its infrastructure including the winding gear remains frozen in time from the moment coal production ceased back in 1980.

In the town of Blaenavon itself, the circa-1816 St. Peter's School has been restored as the World

Heritage Interpretation Centre. Online: [visithlaenavon.co.uk](http://visithlaenavon.co.uk)

**Vegayon – The Vega Archipelago:** Just south of the Arctic Circle, Norway's Vegaayon, or Vega Archipelago, is a cluster of dozens of small islands bearing evidence of human settlement since the Stone Age. The islands bear testimony to a way of life based on fishing and the harvesting of the down of elder ducks carried out over the past 1,500 years. Fishing villages, quays, lighthouses, beacons, warehouses and elder houses built for nesting elder ducks attest to how humans have been able to sustain themselves in such an inhospitable environment.

For many of these fishermen-farmers, tending to elder ducks was central to their way of life. They built nests and shelters for the wild elder ducks that re-

turned to the islands each spring. When the birds left their nests with their chicks, the elder down could be collected. The down-gathering tradition remains alive today, albeit in a much curtailed form. The archipelago is also considered the most important wintering area for seabirds in the Nordic region. Online: [verdensarvvege.no](http://verdensarvvege.no)

**Hallstatt-Dachstein/Salz-kammergut:** Human activity in the mountainous and visually stunning landscape of Austria's Salzammergut region dates back thousands of years, when the area's salt deposits were already being exploited. Salt continued to form the basis of the area's prosperity until the mid-20th century. Hallstatt, whose name means "salt settlement," flourished in the 8th century B.C., when the highly organized Iron Age society enjoyed trade links across Europe. Following a devastating fire in 1750, Hallstatt was rebuilt in a late Baroque style. By the 19th century, the exceptional beauty of the alpine landscape had been discovered by artists and writers, and on their heels came tourists.

Visitors after a taste of the past can visit the Hallstatt Salt Mine, which traces the history of the mining of white gold in the area. Europe's oldest wooden staircase, an underground cinema and the free-floating skywalk, perched 1,000 feet above ground, are among the museum's offerings. Online: [salzweelten.at](http://salzweelten.at)

## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe



BRIAN FERGUSON/Stars and Stripes

The Rhodos plate at Asteria includes gyro meat, souzoukaki, lamb chops, soufliaki, tzatziki, fries and a salad.

# Don't forget about Greek

Asteria Bistro in Kaiserslautern answers 'where to eat'

By BRIAN FERGUSON  
Stars and Stripes

Where do you want to eat? It's the question that has started countless family arguments and proved to me that when people say, "I don't care," they are lying. Chinese, Italian, German — the decision can take hours, or worse, never materialize.

There is, however, one type of food that never seems to come up when I have these "conversations," and it's not because I don't like the food. I just always forget about Greek.

An old favorite among some of my co-workers was Mythos von Delphi, tucked away near Sankt Martins Platz in Kaiserslautern's old town. It's since been reborn as the Asteria Bistro and my kids, who dislike everything, loved it.



**AFTER  
HOURS  
GERMANY**

The location has always been a good one for sitting outdoors, but the Pfalz has already made its transition to the gray and drizzly season, so inside it was.

We were concerned at first since our kids had never had Greek food. Fortunately, Asteria was prepared with their kids menu of schnitzel and chicken nuggets. So while they still haven't really had Greek food as a main dish, they've at least had a taste or two from my plate, which is progress.

I'm a big fan of tzatziki sauce, and Asteria does their rendition of the yogurt-based classic well. I ordered the Rhodos plate, one of several combination platters available. It included gyro meat and souzoukaki, which are baked meatballs. But why stop there? It also came with lamb chops and souvlaki, tzatziki, a salad and a side — I went with fries, but my colleagues told me to go with the orzo noodles next time if they've got them.

My wife had the gyros, which came with sliced potatoes and a salad. We also ordered pita bread and garlic cheese bread for the table.

What surprised me about our dinner

## ASTERIA BISTRO

Address: St.-Martins-Platz 1, 67657 Kaiserslautern

Hours: Monday, 5-11 p.m.; Wednesday-Saturday, noon-midnight; Sunday, noon-11 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Phone: +49 631 31187291

Cost: 11.50-23.50 for main dinner courses; a little less at lunch

Online: delphi67657.wixsite.com/delphi-kl

— Brian Ferguson



Asteria is located in Kaiserslautern's old town, around the corner from the fountain in Sankt Martins Platz.



Asteria isn't crowded on a rainy Wednesday evening.



The kids menu's schnitzel at Asteria is a large portion with a choice of a side dish.



Asteria's gyros come with tasty tzatziki sauce, a side dish and a salad.

was the tenderness of the meat. The kids might even order it themselves next time.

Asteria wasn't crowded on Wednesday night, although we did make a reservation, which is always advisable given the coronavirus limits on capacity everywhere.

The staff was friendly and attentive,

and the prices were appropriate for the portions and quality. There is a full bar, and the most expensive thing on the menu was a little over 23 euros — a heaping plate of meat.

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## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Europe

# Hike the high mountain trails

The Austrian Alps winter sports mecca of the Oetztaal has spectacular scenery

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

**T**he Oetztaal in the heart of the Austrian Alps is a winter sports mecca, but there's something to be said for getting there before the ski bums.

It was late summer when we arrived in Oetz, a small village in the middle of the valley that's surrounded by stunning mountain peaks — there are 250 10,000-footers in the area.

During our visit, the leaves were lush, but it made me wish for a fall visit when the foliage turns. If you enjoy high mountains with a river valley, sweeping views and a varied itinerary, Oetz is a great base from which to explore the valley on a long weekend. About an hour's drive south of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, it's also a good alternative for U.S. military personnel in the region looking to mix up their mountain adventures.

Oetz sits on the Ache river, where there's rafting and canoe-

ing in the summer. The town has lots of cafes, hotels and restaurants near the foot of the 9,900-foot Acherkogel mountain, which offers excellent hiking trails that are easy enough for school-aged kids.

A must-see — free of charge — is Stuiben Falls in nearby Umhausen. The largest waterfall in Tirol, it's 520 feet of falling water, with steep caged walking steps alongside it and a suspension bridge that provides a dramatic view. At one up-close observation point, the force of the water is so great, the spray comes in gusts that will soak you. It's refreshing on a hot summer day, but best to avoid at this chilly time of year.

Arguably the best view in the valley is a 30-minute drive south of Oetz in Sölden, where you can spend a day hiking to the top of the 10,000-foot Gaislachkogel mountain. We took the cable car up instead for the sweeping mountaintop view, which featured in the 2015 James Bond film "Spectre." There's a



JOHN VANDIVER/Stars and Stripes

The view is great from the top of the Gaislachkogel, one of 200 10,000-foot mountains in the Oetztaal.

museum there dedicated to 007, and an upscale restaurant with a panoramic view where we splurged on some apple strudel while taking in the scenery.

After that, we took a cable car halfway down the mountain, then hiked the rest of the way via the network of twisting, turning trails. Spending a couple of hours on a mountain trail can be a grind, especially with a couple of elementary school-aged kids, but the scenery was enough to keep everyone happily trudging along.

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

## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

The Austrian town of Oetz is about 50 miles southwest of Garmisch-Partenkirchen and 30 miles west of Innsbruck and is accessible by highway.

### COSTS

Accommodations range from upscale to budget hotels.

Many of the outdoor activities and trails are free.

### INFORMATION

The website oetz.com is a one-stop shop for tourist information, including things to do, good trail routes and hotel options.

— John Vandiver



A long suspension bridge leads the way to Stuiben Falls, which is the largest in the Oetztaal in Austria's Tirol region.



Hiking trails around the Austrian mountain town of Oetz offer impressive views that keep kids interested.



# Looking for a bite to eat?

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# WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Pacific



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Mount Tanigawa, known as the "Mountain of Death," is a 6,486-foot peak bordering Japan's Gunma and Niigata prefectures. Scaling the mountain can be a fun but challenging outing under proper conditions.

# Scaling the 'Mountain of Death'

Despite nickname, Mount Tanigawa near Yokota is suitable for all on warmer days

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

Scaling Mount Tanigawa, a 6,486-foot peak bordering Japan's Gunma and Niigata prefectures, is a risky adventure in winter. More than 800 people have died from exposure, avalanches and falls attempting to climb the "Mountain of Death" since the 1930s, about four times as many as have perished on Mount Everest, according to local news reports.

On warmer days, however, the climb is something that even some children can accomplish in relative safety, although their parents might have to put up with a few fears and complaints about sore feet along the way.

From Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, the quickest way up to the top of the mountain starts with a drive to Minakami, a resort area about 90 minutes away if there are no traffic snarls. The area has a number of hot springs, some nice-looking cafes and restaurants and quite a few advertisements for outdoor activities such as whitewater rafting, mountain biking and skiing.

Park at the bottom of the Tanigawadake Ropeway. There's a big indoor garage connected to the gondola that will whisk you up to the Tenjindaira ski area at an

altitude of 4,334 feet.

If you don't feel like climbing the mountain, you can ride a double chair lift for under \$8 to the top of the ski area and check out the view, which includes Tanigawa, nearby Mount Naeba and the Yuzawa resort area.

The climb to the summit, which runs to the right after you exit the ropeway, is about 2½ miles and should take about 2½ hours at a moderate pace.

Remember to put on sunscreen and to take enough to drink. On the day I hiked, the temperature was about 90 degrees in Tokyo but only about 75 degrees on the mountain, and I drank about a half-gallon of water along the way.

I was wearing shorts, a T-shirt, a sunhat and hiking boots, but saw a few hikers wearing sneakers. I also carried a wool base layer and a raincoat in case the weather turned bad.

The path up takes you along a ridgeline that's covered in trees for about the first mile. After that, the foliage is only about waist high and you can check out stunning mountain scenery that's on par with what you might find in Austria or Switzerland.

The track ranges from wooden walkways and steps to steep rocky slopes where somebody has installed ropes and chains that you can haul yourself up with. There are a few large rocky outcrops



Hikers descend Mount Tanigawa in Gunma prefecture, Japan.

that are good spots to stop for a rest.

Near the top there's a small hut and some outdoor toilets. The hut sells food, drinks and souvenirs.

The actual summit is about another five minutes' climb. On the day I was there it was shrouded in mist, and there were about a dozen other climbers up there taking photos and eating lunch.

The route down is slightly easier than

going up, but it takes a decent amount of energy to navigate the steeper slopes.

Back at the ski area, there's a much larger restaurant selling everything from ramen noodles to ice cream. While you replenish your energy, you can stare out some massive windows at another fantastic mountain view.

robson.seth@stripes.com  
Twitter: @SethRobson1

## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

Take the Kanetsu Expressway, exit at Minakami and follow the signs to the Tenjindaira ski area.

### TIMES

The ropeway operates 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays; 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays (April to November); 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (December to March).

### COSTS

The ropeway costs just under \$20 for a round trip.

### FOOD

Coffee at the top of the mountain costs under \$4, and lunch at the ski area restaurant is about \$10.

### INFORMATION

Online: visitgunma.jp/en/sightseeing/detail.php?sightseeing\_id=23

— Seth Robson

## EXPLORING THE BEAUTY OF THE PACIFIC

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STARS AND STRIPES



## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

Pacific



PHOTOS BY THERON GODBOLD/Stars and Stripes

This serving of tsukemen-style udon from 611 Ramen near Yokota Air Base, Japan, was packed with flavor.

# Noodles dripping with flavor

Experience tsukemen-style ramen at Ramen 611 near Yokota

BY THERON GODBOLD  
Stars and Stripes

Fifteen minutes north of the main gate at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo you'll find a tiny restaurant called Ramen 611 that packs a flavorful punch with every bowl it serves.

Located on Route 179, the shop has seating for 16 people at two tables with four chairs each. A counter can fit another eight. You may have to sign in at the entrance and wait until space opens.

As in many ramen shops, ordering is handled by a ticket vending machine at the front door. There is no English menu, so a smart device with a translator on it could come in handy.

Feeling adventurous, I decided to forgo the translation, looked at the prices and decided that for about 10 bucks I should end up



AFTER  
HOURS  
TOKYO

with a decent meal. I pressed the 1,050-yen choice and handed my ticket over to the server.

Not long afterward, out came my meal. Instead of traditional ramen, I ended up with two bowls. One was filled with thick udon noodles freshly cooked with a soft-boiled egg and a slice of lime. A creamy broth with a slice of pork, chives and bamboo shoots filled the other.

Not used to having my noodles and broth separated, I looked around and watched as others ate. I mimed dumping the broth

over the noodles to the server. He shook his head and mimed back dipping the noodles in the broth, so I did.

Turns out, this style is known as tsukemen and was developed in the 1960s. I used the thick and creamy broth almost like a dip, the large noodles soaking up the flavors.

The quarter-inch slice of pork belly was the thickest I have ever seen in a bowl of noodles and was seared to perfection, with a slight crisp.

No tea or flavored drink came with the meal, so I chose water.

I have spent more than an hour in line for ramen while in Shibuya. I have eaten a \$100 bowl of piranha ramen and have tried numerous chain ramen restaurants, but none have compared to the flavors that I found in this tiny shop off Route 179.

godbold.theron@stripes.com  
Twitter: @GodboldTheron



There's no English menu at Ramen 611, but food here is well worth crossing the language barrier.

## RAMEN 611

**Location:** 611-1 Miyadera, Iruma, Saitama 358-0014  
**Directions:** Turn right out of Yokota Air Base's main gate, follow Route 16 for about 10 minutes and then turn right onto Route 179 and travel for about five minutes. Ramen 611 will be on your left. The Google plus code is Q9VJ+22 Iruma, Saitama  
**Hours:** Open for lunch 11 a.m.-

3 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m. for dinner. Lunch only on Sunday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and closed on Mondays.  
**Prices:** Meals start at around \$8 and go up to about \$10.50.  
**Dress:** Casual  
**Information:** @611\_menya on Twitter; ramen611 on Instagram.

— Theron Godbold

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## WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE

# It's written all over your face

## Why you should smile even though you're wearing a mask

By Pam Moore

Special to The Washington Post

**B**efore the coronavirus pandemic, I always smiled at other runners as we crossed paths. Now that we're wearing masks, I rarely bother. And when I do, I have no idea whether the intended recipient even notices.

I never gave much thought to the momentary connections created by exchanging smiles with a stranger before the pandemic. Now I miss them, leading me to wonder: Does it matter whether I offer an unseen smile to someone I don't know?

The short answer: Yes, because it can affect your emotions as well as theirs. Here are the reasons you should continue smiling behind your mask.

### Social contact is important for humans

Bea de Gelder, professor of cognitive neuroscience at Maastricht University in the Netherlands, says that, as social creatures, humans weren't designed to obscure our facial expressions with cloth coverings. "Social contact," she says, "is as essential to survival as food and drink." It's more than the fact that we rely on others to meet our basic needs in both the early and late stages of life, she says. Research shows that social contact improves physical and mental health, increases immunity and reduces stress.

This sense of connection supports our well-being, whether we realize it or not. Michelle "Lani" Shiota, associate professor of psychology at Arizona State University, explains: "When we're smiling and engaging with other people, it's the engagement with other people that makes us feel better," adding, "it turns out that that's even the case if you're introverted." She was referring to the 2019 Journal of Experimental Psychology study and a 2017 Emotion study, which found that people—including introverts—tended to experience better moods when acting like extroverts.

### Facial expressions key to social contact

Shiota says smiling can convey much more than happiness or pleasure. She cites a 2018 PLOS study that found that living in a geographical area with a high level of ancestral diversity and a history of cultural heterogeneity was a predictor of smiling. According to Shiota, this data suggests we smile to signal that we're "safe." Smiles, she says, are "this big kind of obvious way that we say, 'Not a threat!'"

Research also shows that when you smile, you tend to view others' facial expressions as more positive. Alex Sel, psychology lecturer at the University of Essex, performed a study in which subjects were asked to adopt a smile or a neutral expression while rating the happiness level in pictures as electrodes measured their brain activity. Her team found that, based on activity in

the visual cortex, people were more likely to perceive neutral faces as positive when they themselves were smiling.

Sel says it's reasonable to extrapolate that if you stop smiling beneath your mask, you might "perceive other people as less cheerful or less happy."

### But don't fake it till you make it

Although smiling conveys important social cues, it may not affect our emotional state as strongly as the psychology community was led to believe by a widely cited 1988 study.

The two experiments were designed to test the facial feedback theory, which hypothesizes that the act of smiling, regardless of the feeling underneath it, influences our sense of well-being. Subjects were instructed to view cartoons while either holding a pen between their teeth

**'When we're smiling and engaging with other people, it's the engagement with other people that makes us better.'**

Michelle "Lani" Shiota  
Arizona State University

in a way that approximated a smile or with a pen between their teeth in a position that inhibited smiling. They perceived the cartoons as funnier when their mouths were arranged more like a smile, which seemed to prove the legitimacy of the facial feedback theory.

The findings, however, are now considered controversial within the psychology community, say both Sel and Shiota, because the results have not been widely replicated. Furthermore, a 2019 Psychological Bulletin meta-analysis found that the overall impact of facial feedback on mood, though significant, was small.

A 2019 study in the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology actually found a strong relationship between insincere smiling and heavy drinking. Researchers looked at workers whose jobs required significant emotional labor, which was defined as "effortfully amplifying, faking, and suppressing emotional expressions," or "surface acting." They were more likely to engage in heavy drinking and drinking after work.

### The eyes truly tell the window to the soul

If, like me, you've been reluctant to "waste" a masked smile, you should return to smiling as usual. It turns out, humans are really good at reading eyes. "When you encounter someone, if you're acknowledging them as a

human being," Shiota says, you tend to look them in the eyes and they "will see that smiling in the eyes."

According to research, we respond "instinctively" to eye contact, Shiota says. The results of an Evolution and Human Behavior study, in which analysis of people's gaze during a shared meal followed certain patterns, suggest that our eyes evolved to facilitate nonverbal communication. Another study found that oxytocin, also known as "the love hormone," increases the longer people gaze at the eye region of the face.

Still not convinced your "Before Times" smile speaks for itself behind a face covering? Try "smizing." This term, coined by Tyra Banks, refers to smiling with your eyes. Shiota says psychology researcher Paul Ekman originally theorized the Duchenne smile, which shows both in your mouth and eyes, was the only genuine type of smile. Though that theory has since been moderated—Shiota says milder smiles can also be genuine—the more intense your smile, the more likely your eyes are to crinkle at the corners. Enter the smize. To do it, gently squint your eyes while relaxing the rest of your face.

But if you've never been one to smile (or smize), there's no need to start now. Gillian Sandstrom, senior psychology lecturer at the University of Essex, says mere eye contact can enhance people's well-being. She cites a Psychological Science study that examined the effect of receiving eye contact from a stranger. In some cases, eye contact included a smile, while in others it did not. Regardless of whether a stranger smiled at them, people reported feeling less disconnected after engaging in eye contact.

### Body language matters

A smile can speak volumes—but so can body language. This is especially relevant for people with autism, for whom masks create a significant barrier to reading other people's expressions, and for people with hearing impairments who rely on lip-reading, Sel says.

A nod, a wave or a "hello" can also create connection, de Gelder says. But, she says it's harder to spontaneously engage in friendly gestures without a smile. She explains that the face, voice and body normally "hang together." In other words, you're naturally inclined to wave enthusiastically if you're already smiling. On the other hand, if your expression is neutral, it takes more conscious effort to ramp up your body language.

So smile behind your mask as you wave hello. Not only is your obscured smile still discernible, but it will also help you find the energy for the nod or the wave or the hello that will seal the sentiment.

Masks shouldn't keep us from doing "all of the things that you might normally do to acknowledge another person's humanity when you encounter them," Shiota says. In light of her advice, I've started nodding and smiling at fellow runners as we pass. It could be the endorphins, but I swear I feel better.

## WEEKEND: BOOKS

## Keeping the 'united' in USA

'Divided We Fall' says secession is a real, and dangerous, possibility

By TERRI BARNES

Special to Stars and Stripes

Are these the shadows of things that will be, or the shadows of things that may be only?

— Charles Dickens

A spate of recent book titles shout from shelves and online shopping carts, offering up the worst versions of people we already hate for thirty bucks or less. Legions of voices on traditional and social media will do the same, ostensibly for free. "Divided We Fall: America's Secession Threat and How to Restore Our Nation," by David French, makes no such offers. Instead, the author, a U.S. Army veteran and Constitutional attorney, warns that the price of hate and division is very high indeed.

"Divided We Fall" is part dystopian vision of America's future and part prescription for the ills of an ailing — even failing — body politic. Among those ills, French notes, is a lack of decency in political discourse, driven by negative polarization. In this zero-sum culture-war mentality, each side not only disagrees with but hates and mistrusts the other. Each believes that "we" must win, and "they" must lose, making compromise impossible, even undesirable — between partisans on Capitol Hill and family members around the Thanksgiving table.

In his first sentence, French warns that "the continued unity of the United States cannot be guaranteed." His premise is that polarization and the increasing geographic separation of ideological groups is creating extremism, heightened division and dangerous instability in the nation.

This instability, he says, may result in a disunited United States. French is not the only voice crying in this particular wilderness, but he stands apart by offering a remedy, telling Americans both red and blue they have the power to avoid disaster. To spur readers to meaningful action, he uses fiction to illustrate that secession is a very real possibility and why it's a bad one.

In three ominous chapters, French lays out a trio of dystopian versions of an America yet to come, reminiscent of cautionary staves by Dickens. The first two are alternate secession scenarios, one a blue-state withdrawal, the other red.

The details woven into these fictional accounts make them eerily believable in the context of daily news reports, which is of course the point. Some readers may shrug off or even cheer the idea of California or Texas breaking away — as in the first two scenarios — until they read the third. A corollary to either of the previous two, this one depicts the global implications of a no-longer-United States, with the U.S. military thrown into confusion and other world powers moving quickly to take advantage of economic and political chaos.

"Americans who had once decried globalism and scorned American alliances now saw and experienced the high cost of lost international institutions," goes the narrative.

For military families living in various parts of the real world, this presents frightening possibilities: hastily and violently established boundaries separating families and isolating deployed military members, possibly creating new combat zones. The pandemic has taught us not to take for granted our global village and the ability to traverse it, and the events of this

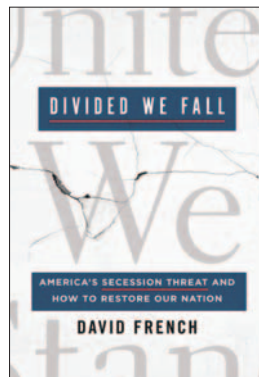
year lend weight to French's dark visions.

After revealing these dire outcomes, French outlines the ways America might change these shadows by an altered life, both political and personal. Some of his suggestions involve governmental and cultural shifts, for example a return to federalism that would accommodate state and regional pluralism. Emphasizing the importance of guaranteed, uniform civil liberties while giving states greater local control, French brings to bear his scholarship and considerable experience as an attorney defending civil liberties.

He also brings his own experience to his call for personal change, recognizing that government alone can't create a more civil society. He writes about his military experience, saying a yearlong military deployment proved transformative at a time when he was "deeply entrenched in partisanship." Seeing the cost of internal strife in Iraq changed the way he viewed cultural differences in the U.S. when he returned.

"My time in Iraq had changed me," he writes. "It changed my regard for my fellow citizens, especially my political opponents. If I had been willing to die for them while wearing the uniform of my country, why should I regard them as mortal enemies today?"

This regard is at the core of French's message. In "Divided We Fall," he encourages "true tolerance," which he defines as "respect and kindness for people who are out of your group." Tolerance for those you agree with, he points out, is not tolerance at all. He advocates patriotism that recognizes liberty for the good of others, not for self. He also appeals for a return to decency and character, in ourselves and in those we elect to represent us.



French is not looking for a kumbaya moment, though. He acknowledges the wide diversity that must exist in a free and pluralistic society. He also takes into account the overwhelming power of money and the role it plays in politics and winning the news cycle. He doesn't argue that change will be easy, only that the stakes are too high to remain silent or inactive. Continued hatred comes at far too high a price.

In a season of sharp contrasts between red and blue and with a major election looming, French's book is a timely and necessary read. Even those who don't quite believe in the imminent danger of secession will appreciate his call to renewed courage and character. He offers a timeless reminder of the importance of justice, mercy and humility toward one another — imperfect people in an imperfect world, still hoping for a more perfect union.

Terri Barnes is a book editor and the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life," based on her long-running column in Stars and Stripes. She's online at [terribarnesauthor.com](http://terribarnesauthor.com).

## Doctorow's 'Attack Surface' a riveting techno-thriller

By PAUL DI FILIPPO

Special to The Washington Post

Cory Doctorow is among the best of the current practitioners of near-future speculative fiction, standing shoulder to shoulder with such superlative peers as Bruce Sterling, Kim Stanley Robinson, Charles Stross and Jason Robson. As with these fellow writers, he takes the chance of having his day-after-tomorrow literary forecasts superseded by swiftly mutating reality. The fallout, when it happens, does not invalidate his tales any more than post-1968 history rendered Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey" less of an eternal masterpiece.

When he issued "Little Brother" in 2008, the events in the tale of adolescent monkey-wrenching and protest had a sense of plausible inevitability. Starting with an all-too-likely terrorist attack on San Francisco and segueing into an examination of the surveillance state, the book served as a vibrant model of what might soon be.

The 2013 sequel, "Homeland," hewed to the same imaginary timeline, venturing into the Edward Snowden/Julian Assange/Chelsea Manning whistleblowers scene, again deploying logical sequelae to present events. But already Doctorow's timeline had begun to deviate more radically from history.

Now comes "Attack Surface," the third book in the series, and it's plain that Doctorow's "future history," however many clever and insightful resonances it still maintains with current headlines, is no longer a plausible near-term guide for the world, but rather the events of a counterfactual "stubb" (to employ William Gibson's handy term for such deviant continuums). The coronavirus pandemic, not to mention the unpredictable and ever-delusional actions of President Trump and his opponents, have conspired to make Doctorow's scenario an alter-

nate history; his tale has escaped the framework of the near-future subgenre. What we enjoy instead is political cyberthriller, vigorous, bold and savvy about the limits of revolution and resistance, even if it's no longer precisely contoured to our actual dilemmas.

The first two books in this series centered on Marcus Yallow, a naive teenager, then a wisier young man, of

above-average intelligence, focused on social activism against a burgeoning police state. A peripheral but consequential figure in his circle was a woman not much older than he, named Masha Maximov. At first working for the establishment "bad guys," she eventually had a change of heart and facilitated Marcus' anti-authoritarian moves. Now she strides confidently onto center stage, and we plunge deeply into her life, both past and present. (Large chunks of the text involve her backstory since "Little Brother" in a kind of "Rashomon" retelling.)

Chapter 1 opens in real time and discloses Masha, our narrator, working for a Blackwater-style security firm named Xoth Intelligence. She's in an unnamed Eastern European county she dubs "Slovstakia," installing software for the dictator. But her sentiments are really with the rebels, and so she attempts a double game. (This thread captures real-world events in Hong Kong and Belarus with eerie fidelity.) When found out, she's fired from Xoth and flees the country, albeit well-supplied with cash.

She heads back to her native San Francisco, to crash on the couch of her childhood bestie, Tanisha, one of the main organizers in the Black-Brown Alliance, the street-fighting herd to the BLM movement. When Tanisha is arrested, Masha — now reunited with Marcus and his wife, Ange — must shift into high gear to free her friend and aid her cause. Beyond that goal, they have to work to take down Zyr, yet another Masha's ethically compromised ex-employees, with a lock on San Francisco's law-enforcement outsourcing. (Both Zyr and Xoth are run by ultracompetent women, giving the triangular conflict between the two corporations and Masha a matriarchal telenovela "Game of Thrones"/"Dynasty" vibe.)

Doctorow relentlessly builds Masha's character into a deep portrait of a damaged personality. Despite — or because of — all her gifts, she's borderline psychopathic, as her Xoth boss Ilse openly tells her, yet also on the verge of a nervous breakdown because of many unresolved issues. Her allegiances are shifting and often self-serving. As Doctorow says in his afterword, "This is a book about how people rationalize themselves into doing things they are ashamed of." Despite these traits, Masha becomes a protagonist worth rooting for, and one whose inner conflicts and cognitive dissonances propel her to surprising, even heroic actions. A first-class geek, Masha also offers copious and frequent jargon-filled info dumps. Your entertainment mileage may vary on these passages.

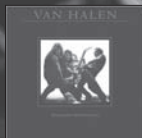
Doctorow's allegiances lie with the rebels and underdogs — he sketches the heroics of the protesters and the kinetic tumult of the riots with evident verve and sympathetic exegesis — but he also gives Masha good arguments for her complicity with the establishment.

Doctorow's world might no longer map our current events, but it still charts the universal currents of the human heart and soul with precision.





## WEEKEND: MUSIC



From top:  
"Van Halen,"  
"Van Halen II,"  
"Women and Children First,"  
"Fair Warning" and "1984."



Eddie Van Halen plays the final chord of "Jump" during a concert at the Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford, N.J., on June 22, 2004.

AP



From top:  
"1984," "OU812,"  
"For Unlawful Carnal Knowledge" and  
"A Different Kind of Truth."

# EDDIE VAN HALEN'S TOP 20

## PERFORMANCES

By AUGUST BROWN, SUZY EXPOSITO,  
RANDALL ROBERTS AND MIKAEL WOOD  
*Los Angeles Times*

A technical virtuoso with a rock star's natural flair, Eddie Van Halen played instantly identifiable electric guitar — so identifiable, in fact, that his namesake band spent decades cycling through styles and lead singers without ever sounding any less like itself.

Van Halen, who died Oct. 6 at 65, arguably made his instrument the most important voice in Van Halen, which he formed in Pasadena, Calif., with his older brother, drummer Alex, along with bassist Michael Anthony and frontman David Lee Roth. (Sammy Hagar and Gary Cherone later sang with the band.)

For all its instrumental dexterity, though, Van Halen behaved — and sold records — like a fun-loving pop group; it never showcased the often-shirtless guitarist's chops at the expense of providing a good time. Here, in chronological order, are 20 of Eddie's most memorable moments:



Rolling Stone ranked Eddie Van Halen No. 8 on its list of the 100 greatest guitarists of all time in 2011.

### 'You Really Got Me' (1978)

Van Halen's first chart hit wasn't a densely composed original but a cover of the Kinks' stupid-brilliant power-chord classic. Yet Eddie's squealing lead lines undeniably announced the arrival of a new kind of guitar hero. (Mikael Wood)

### 'Ain't Talkin' 'Bout Love' (1978)

Less a love song than a creep show scored by Eddie and his guitar, the hardest jam on Van Halen's self-titled debut focuses on a "semi-good lookin'" woman with a disease and a narrating dude who offers something he thinks she needs — and he ain't talkin' 'bout love. Centered, as usual, on Eddie's recurrent melodic licks, the song takes flight when the rhythm section joins in. The final third is a thrillingly repetitive chorus of "Hey! Hey! Hey!" (Randall Roberts)

### 'Eruption' (1978)

It's a rite of passage for aspiring teenage guitar gods: holing up in your bedroom and trying, failing and maybe someday nailing the solo to "Eruption." It's still one of the most shock-and-awe instrumental openers in all of rock music. It's completely showoff-y but remains a high-water mark for lead guitar spectacle that hasn't been surpassed in 40 years. Were that we were all 15 again, trying to get the finger-tapping runs and dive-bomb tremolo work just right. (August Brown)

### 'Jamie's Cryin' (1978)

Van Halen made its first pass at this track with Gene Simmons of KISS in the producer's chair, but the version that ended up on its 1978 debut is one of the hookiest singles in hard rock, about a young band getting a taste of road life and its peaks and perils. It helped set a new template for glossy, explosive and pop-friendly metal that would come to dominate the early days of MTV. (AB)

### 'Runnin' with the Devil' (1978)

Van Halen made its first pass at this track with Gene Simmons of KISS in the producer's chair, but the version that ended up on its 1978 debut is one of the hookiest singles in hard rock, about a young band getting a taste of road life and its peaks and perils. It helped set a new template for glossy, explosive and pop-friendly metal that would come to dominate the early days of MTV. (AB)

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# WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS

## Laura Jane Grace

Stay Alive (Polyvinyl Record Co.)

Between life and death in these strange days comes the welcome voice of Laura Jane Grace. The Against Me! singer and guitarist has taken a break from both her superb punk band and her side project, Laura Jane Grace & the Devouring Mothers. She's alone in a Chicago studio for the pandemic-inspired "Stay Alive," except for producer Steve Albini.

"This only feels like the death of everything," she sings in the first song. It concludes 13 songs later with the raw-sung plea: "Please stay alive / please survive!"

Recorded in just days in July, the album is somewhat of a mixed bag, but always fascinating, lifted by lyrics that are equal parts opaque, raw and funny. "I am a haunted swimming pool / I am emptied out and drained," she sings on the opener, "The Swimming Pool Shaming."

Some songs are reminiscent of the Ramones, and some are almost just fragments. Some tunes are insanely heavy for just an acoustic guitar and a voice (the way she snarls the word "croissant" in one song is pure punk). Many feel like diary entries, filled with regret.

Standouts include the Joan Jet-like "SuperNatural Possession" and the Celtic-flavored "The Magic Point." Of all the music inspired by COVID-19, "Stay Alive" is worthy of a listen. While wearing a mask, mind you.

—Mark Kennedy  
Associated Press



## Corey Taylor

CMFT (Roadrunner Records)

Corey Taylor had songs bursting out of him and nowhere to perform them.

The singer with the roaring-yet-melodic voice churned out heavy metal and hard rock hits for more than 20 years with Slipknot and Stone Sour.

The other tunes Taylor had spinning in his head were more eclectic, spanning multiple genres.

Armed with the confidence of singing for two highly-successful bands, Taylor decided it was time to share the style-twisting music with his first solo album.

"CMFT" is hard rock at its core, sprinkled with elements of classic, glam and blues rock, heavy metal, rap, rockability and a tinge of grunge.

Joined by musicians who shared his musical vision, Taylor's first solo project is filled with catchy hooks, memorable riffs and powerful choruses, the genre seemingly changing with each song.

The opening track, "HWY 666," sets the this-is-not-Slipknot tone with a fusion of outlaw country, hard rock and a touch of punk that Taylor calls a cross between Johnny Cash and Pantera.

The first single, the catchy "Black Eyes Blue," is an ode to The Clash and the first of two songs about his wife, Alicia Dove. Taylor spent more than two years learning the piano for "Home," a heartfelt song showing off his vocal range.

—John Marshall  
Associated Press



## Queen and Adam Lambert

Live Around the World (Hollywood)

Adam Lambert is not Freddie Mercury. Nor, to his credit, does he try to be. What he is, though, is the perfect successor to the iconic Queen vocalist, seemingly predestined to revive the supergroup with his own impossible vocals and over-the-top showmanship.

"Live Around the World," culled from every tour they've done over the past six years, shows the "American Idol" runner-up breathing new life into some of the greatest rock songs ever written, and putting them across just as boldly and fabulously as Mercury did.

Lambert is no human photocopy; he brings his own sensibility and finely-calibrated vocals, unlocking possibilities that had lain hidden for decades. "Who Wants to Live Forever" is the vocal and dramatic high point of a Queen show these days, and the version here is particularly emotional, dedicated to victims of the Orlando gay club mass shooting the night before.

Drummer Roger Taylor is exquisite in the David Bowie role on the "Under Pressure" duet, and guitarist Brian May provides the unmistakable Queen sound with every note and power chord.

They also do two Mercury solo tracks, "Love Kills" and "I Was Born to Love You," adding a new element to the show and keeping Mercury front and center.

—Wayne Parry  
Associated Press



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## 'Ice Cream Man' (1978)

Born of Roth's love of old-school blues, this take on John Brim's lewd come-on starts out as a sepiatoned acoustic throw-back but soon explodes into full power-boogie color at Eddie's hand. (MW)

## 'Spanish Fly' (1979)

It's just a minute-long instrumental, but "Spanish Fly" is the classic-rock equivalent of a career-ending diss track: a reminder to the legions of new Sunset Strip imitators that Eddie's musicianship went far beyond rock and into wickedly complicated classical runs as well. Stripped of anything other than a nylon-string guitar, it's the quietest track in Van Halen's catalog but maybe Eddie's loudest mic-drop moment. (AB)

## 'Dance the Night Away' (1979)

Eddie's penchant for ridiculous solo runs often eclipsed his skill at arranging a few choice riffs just so and harnessing them in service of Brill Building-structured pop songs. "Dance the Night Away" is like "Dancing in the Streets" or "The Loco-Motion" but driven by a yowler, two rhythm jocks and a guitarist good enough to hold back when he needed to. Specifically, Eddie's solo is little more than gentle harmonic string taps, backed by bells, wood-block percussion and open space. (RR)

## 'And the Cradle Will Rock' (1980)

Better known as the "Have you seen Junior's grades?" song, the first track on the band's "Women and Children First" album celebrates the young and disruptive. The cover of the album finds the handsome quartet posing like some eight-legged leoparded beast, with Eddie in the middle of the scene, his arm strangling the neck of his guitar. Designed for cruising and boozing in a just-waxed Trans Am, the song's main riff isn't actually an electric guitar. Rather, Eddie ran a Fender Rhodes electric piano through a flanger and fed it into a Marshall amp. (RR)

## 'Unchained II' (1981)

A typically Lee Roth-ian exploration of a woman he lyrically describes as a "blue-



Eddie Van Halen performs "Beat It" with Michael Jackson during Jackson's Victory Tour concert in Irving, Texas, on July 14, 1984. Van Halen's guest spot on the recording of "Beat It" paired arguably the '80s' greatest guitar hero and pop star.

eyed murder in a size 5 dress," the fourth song on "Fair Warning" finds Eddie pulling out his flanger again to make the central riff sound even trippier than it already is. "Unchained" also highlights his skill as a vocal harmonizer, no small feat given Roth's overwhelming chords. For the bridge, Eddie dots out distorted notes as if searching for the nastiest tone before launching into a song-concluding bit of tangled guitar wailing. (RR)

## 'Beat It' (1982)

Some rockers might've played it cool in a guest spot with the world's biggest pop star. Not Eddie: His solo in Michael Jackson's chart-topping "Beat It" — set to a memorable knife fight in the song's iconic music video — is among his most gloriously showy. (MW)

## 'Jump' (1983)

The robot-aerobics synth lick is what endures (and what instantly conjures

"Jump's" early-'80s era). But Eddie's meaty arpeggios in the song's prechorus provide a crucial counterweight to all the Space Age fillgree. (MW)

## 'Panama' (1984)

Eddie's trickster steez shines through in the labyrinthine guitar work of Van Halen's "1984" romp "Panama." His playful riffs dizzy themselves into a brooding lull, cut short by a crafty interjection from a hairdryer. (SE)

## 'Hot for Teacher' (1984)

If there was a land speed record for guitar solos, Eddie would have topped it with the frenetic blaze of "Hot for Teacher." Still, his madman licks were nearly lost amid the moral panic surrounding the music video, which showcased Miss Canada runner-up Donna Rupert and Playboy model Lillian Muller modeling skimpy bikinis in a classroom full of children. (SE)

## 'Why Can't This Be Love' (1986)

Van Halen's first single with Sammy Hagar as lead singer struck some hardcore fans as a sign of impending power-balanced doom. Nonsense: Eddie's crunchy synth riff rocks as hard as anything from the band's first decade. (MW)

## 'When It's Love' (1988)

The centerpiece of 1988's eclectic "OU812" leans hard into its synths and Hagar's earnest wails. But Eddie's solo three minutes in takes it up the mountain of '80s power-ballad triumph. From never the same afterward. (AB)

## 'Poundcake' (1991)

After two decades of cranking out legendary solos with his self-modified "Frankenstrat" guitar, Eddie tapped into his inner mad scientist while writing "Poundcake." He returned with two 12-string guitars and a Makita 6012HD power drill — and kicked off the track with a penetrating mechanical shriek, from his mangled fretboard to your ears. (SE)

## 'Right Now' (1991)

Nobody ever looked to Van Halen for deep social commentary, which didn't stop the band from recording this earnest state-of-the-world jam in the hopes of maintaining its fame into the alt-rock '90s. Fortunately, Eddie didn't downplay his old hot-dog tendencies for "Right Now's" nuclear-blues solo. (MW)

## 'Top of the World' (1991)

Despite its cringey title, "For Unlawful Carnal Knowledge" marked the band's reunion with producer Ted Templeman, who helmed its career-making early LPs, and "Top of the World" was indeed an ascendant return to pop-metal mastery. It's a midcareer Van Halen peak and remained a live favorite ever after. (AB)

## 'China Town' (2012)

Van Halen's long-hoped-for reunion with Roth was legendarily fraught, with a world tour the band bailed on only months after the release of 2012's "A Different Kind of Truth." Yet this hurtling double-time highlight showed Eddie could still bring it when he wanted to. (MW)

## WEEKEND: TELEVISION

## PBS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



Richard Termine

PBS aired the 50th anniversary special of “Sesame Street” in November 2019, days after it streamed on HBO, where the program now lives.

## In tribute, TV critic Robert Lloyd explores 13 of the network’s greatest shows

By ROBERT LLOYD  
Los Angeles Times

**P**Bs turns 50 this month, though it is older than that, having its roots in NET — National Educational Television, founded in 1954 — and the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, which, then-President Lyndon Johnson said, “rededicated a part of the airwaves, which belong to all the people... for the enlightenment of the people.”

Across half a century, PBS has known its more and less brilliant years, but it has remained the case that the network aspires to a higher cultural, informational, one might even say spiritual standard, even as it seeks — needs — to be entertaining. And indeed, its programming has been surprisingly influential. Before there were travel channels and cooking channels and science channels and animal channels, PBS did that work.

Here’s a look across those 50 years, with apologies to “This Old House,” “Antiques Roadshow,” Sister Wendy Beckett, “The Shock of the New,” “Nova,” “Nature,” “PBS NewsHour” and countless other hours of enlightenment and fun I will give their due when 60 rolls around.

### ‘Sesame Street’/ ‘Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood’

Perhaps the greatest contribution PBS has made to television and the world is children’s programming — “The Electric Company,” “Zoom,” “Arthur,” “Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?” “The Magic School Bus,” “Reading Rainbow.” But no series in 50 years has been more important to the culture — and perhaps to PBS itself — than “Sesame Street,” which premiered in 1969, not just as a show or an educational tool but also as an approach to life. It tells us that a place does not have to be sanitized to feel safe and that although life is not always perfect, it can always be celebrated. Fred Rogers performed a similar service, in a quieter way; his show felt pastoral in both senses of the word, not only on his own program but also on the spinoff “Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood.”

### ‘Masterpiece Theater’/ ‘Masterpiece Classic’

Originally hosted from an imaginary manor by British journalist Alistair Cooke, this series was ground zero for the network’s oft-noted Anglophilia. British imports are all over television nowadays, but for years they were the almost exclusive province of PBS. “Masterpiece Theater,” which premiered in 1971, was home to dozens of great, oft-discussed series. Myriad adaptations of Dickens, Eliot, Hardy and Austen gave credence to the “Masterpiece” moniker. It was the venue too for the original “House of Cards,” “Poldark” (Robin Ellis in the 20th century, Aidan Turner in the 21st), “The Durrells of Corfu,” “Wolf Hall” and “Upstairs, Downstairs,” the structural and spiritual ancestor to “Downton Abbey.”

### ‘Mystery!’/ ‘Masterpiece Mystery!’

With its Edward Gorey-designed title sequence, “Mystery!” is the impish cousin of “Masterpiece Theater,” a place where murders may pile up and lives go to ruin, but trouble evaporates on the tongue like cotton candy. Here we got to know David Suchet’s Agatha Christie’s Hercule Poirot,

Leo McKern’s John Mortimer’s Rumpole of the Bailey, Jeremy Brett’s Holmes and Benedict Cumberbatch’s Sherlock, Helen Mirren’s Jane Tennison, and three flavors of Miss Marple (Joan Hickson, Geraldine McEwan, Julia McKenzie). Just what the coroner ordered.

### ‘Monty Python’s Flying Circus’

Something completely different arrived in America in 1975 by way of the Dallas PBS affiliate KERA, not long after this convention-shattering series ended its U.K. run. It featured a Ministry of Silly Walks, a cheese-less cheese shop, a tennis-playing blanc-mange from space, a fish-slapping dance and a dead parrot — sketches without punchlines held together by surrealist animation.

### ‘The Civil War’

Not the first Ken Burns PBS documentary — that was “Brooklyn Bridge” in 1981 — but the cultural blockbuster that in 1990 set the template for more big things to come and sealed a partnership. With their ambitiously generic titles — see also “The War” (as in World War II) and “The Vietnam War” — Burns documentaries attempt to take a subject in whole and come back with something that embraces who we were, are and might become. His set style — the dynamic approach to archival still photographs, the measured narration knitting little stories into a big one, the charismatic talking heads sharing experience or expertise, the very long running time and elegiac tone — suit some subjects (“Baseball”) better than others (“Jazz”). But there are beautiful things in each of his films.

### Frederick Wiseman films

Burns may be America’s best known documentary filmmaker, but Frederick Wiseman, still working at age 90, is possibly its greatest, a chronicler of his times as seen through wildly different lives, institutions, jobs, places and practices. His titles are as generic as Burns’ (“High School,” “Welfare,” “Model,” “Belfast, Maine,” “Central Park,” “Public Housing,” “At Berkeley”), his ambitions as great, and his films also long, but

Wiseman looks deeply into the present. His films, which can be casually beautiful, have shape and drama, though no narrative or obvious agenda — we come for a while, and then we go, having really been somewhere.

### ‘Downton Abbey’

Presented under the aegis of “Masterpiece,” “Downton Abbey” seems to deserve a spot of its own on this list, as a bona fide phenomenon — a series that created excitement and conversation, as well as cookbooks, a branded tea and a special edition of Clue. The story of the Crawley family and the people who served them in the first decades of the 20th century is a posh melodrama, a stylish soap opera, a tale of love and money, sacrifice and skulduggery lifted by splendid settings and intelligent performances.

### ‘The French Chef’

Not American television’s first cooking show (that was James Beard’s “I Love to Eat” in 1946), but certainly its most important. Taped in real time, with mistakes left in, Julia Child’s landmark series ran on public television from 1963 to 1973, to the mutual benefit of host and network. Six-foot-two inches of wine-drinking Yankee joie de vivre, Child made sophistication accessible. (In 1971, “The French Chef” also became the first U.S. series to be captioned for the deaf.)

### ‘Frontline’/‘POV’

PBS’ home for investigative journalism, “Frontline” has aired more than 700 episodes since 1983; now in its 38th season, it keeps up astonishingly well with current events, wading fearlessly into the day’s darkest corners and most toxic swamps. Recent episodes have dug into police reform, conspiracy thinking, the NRA, the Taliban, China’s detention of Muslims, COVID-19 from many angles and the upcoming election. The documentary anthology “POV” takes a more personal look at the world, often focusing on, and through the eyes of, the poor or marginalized. There is no agenda: From week to week, it may be shocking, beautiful, hopeful or hilarious.

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## WEEKEND: TELEVISION &amp; DVD

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## 'American' shows

Perhaps as a counterweight to its obvious crush on Great Britain, PBS launched several series (and series within series) with the word "American" in the title — among them, "American Playhouse," "The American Short Story" and "American Masters" — focusing on homegrown arts and artists. All except for the great biographical anthology "American Masters" and the history series "American Experience" have gone dark. But they provided many eye-opening hours: I have vivid memories of Tia Tharr's company performing "Sue's Leg"; Joan Micklin Silver's adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "Bernice Bobs Her Hair"; Jonathan Demme's film of Kurt Vonnegut's "Who Am I This Time?"; taped-off the production of Stephen Sondheim's "Sunday in the Park with George"; and "Into the Woods"; Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun," starring Danny Glover and Esther Rolle; and the groundbreaking miniseries adaptation of Armistead Maupassant's "Tales of the City," whose first and best series appeared under the flag of "American Playhouse."

## 'Cosmos: A Personal Voyage'

"We're made of star stuff; we are a way for the cosmos to know itself." Produced by LA's own KCET, nerd-sexy astronomy professor Carl Sagan's 1980 13-part series through life, the universe and everything — macro and micro, terrestrial, extraterrestrial, past, present and future — mixed science and philosophy and poetry with a touch of sci-fi. (Sagan sets out into space and time in a "ship of the imagination.") It was the most-watched PBS series until "The Civil War."

## 'An American Family'

This 12-hour cinema verite documentary was like nothing anyone had ever seen before, an embedded look into the lives of ordinary people long before "reality" television was a gleam in an executive's eye. But "An American Family" was something else again, a 10-pound novel of a series in which for long tracts of time nothing much happened, some among the millions who watched, took that inaction as a sign of a decadence, all the more so because the Louds were financially well off, and especially in light of the marriage of Pat and Bill Loud coming apart in the course of the series.

## 'The Joy of Painting'

From 1983 to 1994, fantastically permed painter Bob Ross hosted a show in which he taught viewers how to paint like Bob Ross — a series that has improbably come back to fascinate modern audiences. Ross' gentle, hypnotic patter — in which he casually ascribes a capacity for happiness to trees and bushes, as he completes an imaginary landscape faster than you can cook dinner — has something of the quality of a magic act. Is it art? It's painting. "This is your world. You make it happen," Ross says.

## Ready or not, 'we're here'

Actress hopes 'Dancing' involvement increases visibility of Latinos in Hollywood

BY YVONNE VILLARREAL  
Los Angeles Times

Justina Machado has never felt this exhausted. It's late September, just a few hours before she heads off to another three-hour rehearsal for "Dancing with the Stars," and the actress is at her home in Silver Lake fueling up on lunch when she reveals the unusual piece of equipment that has been a lifesaver — or rather, a feet saver — since joining the current season of the prime-time dance boot camp.

"I literally have this big caldero that you make arroz con gandules in," she says, referring to the Puerto Rican rice dish. "I can't even make any arroz con gandules in there anymore because it has become the pot for my feet. Gross, right? Every day when I come home, my routine is dunking my feet in there with ice. The first week and a half of rehearsals, forget about it — I was crying. I was like, 'Oh, what did I do? Everything hurts me; why did I do this?'"

So, why did she do it?

For one, it was a much-needed quarantine distraction for the "One Day at a Time" star that required neither the patience of making sourdough bread nor the quirkiness common to viral sensations.

"It sounded exciting, the idea of learning things I've never done before," says Machado, 48. "Like a lot of people right now, I was feeling very depressed, and there's so many things happening in the world and so many things we wish we could do and can't — this couldn't have come at a better time. And I love old Hollywood — love, love, love old movies and old musicians. And I'm always like, 'Oh, I wish I was acting in that time.' But if I was, I'd be playing Lupe the house maid. I wouldn't be dancing with Fred Astaire."

That gets at the other reason: visibility.

"The thing about 'Dancing with the Stars' is it reaches so many more homes than my incredible show 'One Day at a Time', that should reach everybody's home. I know they've had Latinas on the show, but they need a whole lot more," she says. "And so I was like, 'I'm going to do that. I'm going to be that Puerto Rican woman that's on that show.'"

Make that two shows: On Oct. 12, the pandemic-halted fourth season of Machado's sitcom began a three-week run on CBS in the Monday time slot immediately following ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

For the actress, who plays single mom and military veteran Penelope Alvarez on "One Day at a Time," the broadcast spotlight is long overdue: Her career has never quite positioned her as a lead despite strong supporting turns on "Six Feet Under," "ER," "Queen of the South" and "Jane the Virgin." In a perfect storm

of exposure, her strong showing on "Dancing with the Stars" so far should help bring attention to the comedy's broad-based debut, which will likely play a role in the series' chances for a fifth season. Its survival has deep, personal resonance for Machado, who has long been vocal about Hollywood's shortcomings when it comes to Latino representation.

Originally set up at Netflix, the Latino-fronted reboot of Norman Lear's classic sitcom was canceled in 2019 after three seasons. Sony Pictures Television, the studio that produces the series, shopped the comedy to other networks, eventually landing the Cuban American family sitcom at Pop TV. It is the only series with a Latino family airing on broadcast television this season.

"I always believed that this show belongs on a network," Machado says. "I love streaming. People love to stream. I understand that's the thing, but in reality, network just reaches more households ... We only have three weeks, but that's OK. I just want people to watch it, because if they watch it, we'll get that fifth season."

And that means we'd get more Penelope

Alvarez. The role has provided Machado an opportunity to reveal dimensions atypical in a tradi-

tional sitcom. Penelope is a hard-working single mom dealing with the complexities of raising two teenage children, while also caring for her strong-willed mother, played by screen legend Rita Moreno.

Over the show's four seasons, viewers have watched Penelope, previously a medic in Afghanistan, struggle with depression and anxiety — addressing a subject that has often been taboo within the Latino community. They've watched her grapple with her Catholic upbringing as she processed her daughter's sexuality. They've watched her go back to school to become a nurse practitioner. And they've watched her try to fit romance into her jam-packed life.

"She's the best," says Machado. "This is why it's so important when women are in the writers room. So many times, you see these sitcoms, and the mom is just a throw-away character. ... It's like, all of a sudden you turn 40 and you can't be cute anymore? I don't get it. And that even if you're a mom, you're still a woman."

It's not lost on Machado that she's trying to prove that television viewers will watch a show that revolves around a Latino family roughly two decades after a network executive suggested they wouldn't. Machado was cast as the lead in the late '90s comedy pilot "I Love Lupe," which featured a Latino family. When the series

wasn't picked up, Machado, who was in her early 20s,

received a call from the executive to explain why: "He literally called my house, nice man ... and said, 'My God, your pilot is so great. Everybody loves you, everybody. But we don't think America is ready for a Latino family.'"

"That was acceptable for him to say — America's not ready for (a) Latino family. Like, what? And that was the '90s! And look at today. How many Latino families do you see on television? So America better get ready, because we're here. We're here."

Actress Justina Machado hopes her involvement in this season's "Dancing with the Stars" will help draw attention to her role in the sitcom "One Day at a Time."

ABC



## WEEKEND: HEALTH AND FITNESS

# When the camera is unkind

Online meetings, masks are boosting demand for 'Zoomoplasty,' other cosmetic procedures

By LISA GUTIERREZ  
The Kansas City Star

**L**ong before stay-at-home orders forced millions of us to talk to each other online, folks weren't all that keen on what they looked like on Zoom. Heather Schwedel was one of them.

At one of her Zoom meetings, "a gar-goyle" stared back at her from her laptop screen, Schwedel, who works for the online magazine Slate, wrote in December.

It was her face, which somehow looked a "dull shade of greige (you know, gray-beige)."

And, was one of her eyes "wonky"? "I don't think it's especially vain of me or anyone else to worry about my on-camera grotesquery; videoconferencing awakens the vanity in all of us," wrote Schwedel, who, it must be said, exaggerated with that unkind assessment of her face.

Seeing our faces in full Zoom, in fact, has been enough of a shock during the pandemic — when Americans are visiting with family, working, going to school, dating, getting married and even throwing a national political convention online — to send some of us to the plastic surgeon.

Members of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons across the country report increased demand for cosmetic enhancements, especially Botox injections and fillers that erase lines, wrinkles, crow's feet and all those telltale signs of aging on the face. Patients are also inquiring about more invasive surgical procedures, including tummy tucks, breast augmentations and liposuction.

As Dr. Michelle De Souza, a plastic surgeon for the University of Kansas Health System, and her colleagues cleared a backlog of procedures after COVID-19 stay-at-home orders were lifted, she also began fielding "all these cosmetic consults."

One possible reason?

"It is a Zoom thing," De Souza said. "They're commenting on their appearance on the webcam or the computer, that they look tired, they look mean."

"I just think the camera sometimes is not flattering."

Wearing masks also has people focusing more closely on their eyes and foreheads — the parts of their face not hidden.

"With a mask on it's harder to express your emotions," De Souza said. "So if all you're seeing is just your brow that may be furrowed or scowling, you probably don't look as happy as you feel."

Schwedel recalled seeing a meme a few months ago suggesting that Zoom's slogan should be something like "it's you, but ugly."



istock

**Videoconferencing is leading some to turn to cosmetic procedures to improve the facial features the camera doesn't flatter.**

"That kind of says it all to me: Everyone feels this way," she said. "When there's a thumbnail version of you on screen, it's really hard not to look at it and start critiquing your face."

"I'm a little skeptical about whether that alone drove anyone to plastic surgery, but for anyone who was already contemplating Zoomoplasty, it's not like the loneliness and anxiety of this crisis was going to improve anyone's self-esteem."

"It seems like having the time to recuperate while healing is just as or if not more important than the Zoom uglies as a motivating factor."

## It's all about the face

Before COVID-19, Botox and other minimally invasive cosmetic procedures were growing at a slightly higher rate than surgical procedures such as face-lifts, the plastic surgeons society says, up 2% from 2018 to 16.3 million performed last year.

The five most popular minimally invasive procedures: Botulinum toxin type A (Botox is one brand name), soft tissue fillers, chemical peels, laser hair removal and intense pulsed light treatment, a skin treatment that works similarly to laser therapy.

"It's been an increasing trend for years now," said Dr. Lynn Jeffers, a plastic surgeon in Ventura County, Calif., and president of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. "I think part of it is ... some people aren't quite ready to have a procedure like a face-lift, yet in the meantime they can use Botox and fillers and peels and lasers and all the things that are out there, minimally invasive procedures, as a bridge."

"Also, some people don't need surgery yet but they can still start to see the signs of aging, so they walk in and say, 'What can you do with this?'"

One California plastic surgeon, Dr. Scott Miller, who sent out a press release about this pandemic trend, reported that people are bringing him screenshots from their Zoom calls, anxious about how their necks and jaws look on small screens.

"Working from home, being seen a lot (and seeing themselves) via company video conferences, and having mask-wearing bring increased focus to certain facial features, I think a lot of people have had a tremendous amount of time to be super-critical of themselves," Miller said. "They pick up on things they want to improve about their appearance."

But do we really look that bad on Zoom (or Webex, Google Hangouts or whatever online mode our meetings take)?

"Zoom especially has shown many of us that it does matter, for example, the quality of your camera, the lighting, the position of your camera, which angle it's looking at you from," Jeffers said. "Of course, many YouTubeers could have told you that a long time ago, but most of us weren't recording ourselves or putting ourselves out there as much as we have during this entire crisis."

## Not covered by insurance

Cosmetic procedures are not covered by insurance. The national average physician fee alone for one Botox injection is \$408, and more than \$2,000 for a non-surgical skin-tightening procedure, according to the plastic surgeons' group.

Plastic surgeons who shut down their offices this year after COVID-19 hit

weren't sure what was going to happen when they reopened, Jeffers said.

A June survey of more than 350 members of the plastic surgeons' society predicted what the top plastic surgery procedures for 2020 will be, based on what they've heard from clients via telemedicine consultations, which have boomed during the pandemic as they have in other medical fields.

Botox injections so far have been this year's most-requested treatment, followed by breast augmentations, soft tissue fillers, liposuction and abdominoplasty, or a tummy tuck.

"Anecdotally, I would say across the country there seemed to have been a pent-up demand, more than we expected," Jeffers said. "Also many of us were working from home, people who were waiting until the holidays or later to do their surgery were like, 'This is a great time because now I can recover at home and still work and (no one has) to see me recovering,' whereas before, they might have tried to wait for a holiday or wait for some time off or some vacation time."

"I think no one knows for sure why the anecdotal reports are the way they are, and no one knows for sure if it's going to stay that way or whether that was just a pent-up demand and it will go back to normal or even dip."

Much of that, Jeffers said, will probably depend on the economy and what else happens over the coming months.

"I think people are still expecting there to be a time when we can go into offices again," Schwedel said. "Isn't the beauty of getting Botox to look better on Zoom, that it will probably also improve how you look in real life?"

## WEEKEND: FAMILY

# Locked down, BUT NO SAFER

COVID-19 restrictions could create life-threatening scenarios for victims of abuse

iStock



BY BETH WOOD

The San Diego Union-Tribune

**T**he restrictions the coronavirus pandemic have forced upon us have been difficult. But for some, those restrictions can prove to be life-threatening. The phrase “stay home, stay safe” can be tragically ironic for people living in abusive households.

Sheltering in place with a violent person can be like living in a pressure cooker. The survivor has no refuge or support from family and friends. The abuser can become more stressed and out of control.

Even before COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that about 1 in 4 women and nearly 1 in 10 men have experienced sexual violence with contact, other physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner.

In June, law enforcement agencies in San Diego County reported that the number of domestic-violence calls had remained steady compared with last year — a result counter to some expectations. In the same month, San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott said the severity of domestic abuse cases appeared to be worse in the first few months of the pandemic.

Taken together, this pair of statistics may not make sense. But consider, experts say, that unless a severe injury is involved, calling the police or sheriff may be much more noticeable — and dangerous — than reaching out to an emergency hotline.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline reported that from March 16 to May 16, the total number of contacts (calls, texts or chats) nationwide increased 9%, while 6,210 contacts mentioned COVID-19 as a factor in their situation.

The hotline's total contacts from March 16 to Aug. 30 increased 9% from the same time last year. During the pandemic, 12,409 contacts

mentioned COVID-19 as a factor. Not every person offered demographic information, but more than 2,000 of the contacts identified their state as California.

In San Diego, the group No Silence, No Violence is one of a number of nonprofits dedicated to providing education, training and resources to help eliminate relationship abuse and sexual assault. Co-founder Jessica Yaffa said the organization has had a 40% increase in calls since March. As CEO of her own separate coaching and advocacy firm, she personally has seen her clientele double from May to August.

“Before the pandemic, survivors could minimize interaction with the harm-doer,” said Yaffa, who prefers the terms “harm-doer” and “relationship abuse” instead of abuser and domestic violence. “In many situations, more tension is building, financial pressures increase, and the kids are in the house 24 hours a day. A person managing their safety doesn't have the kind of reprieve or support that allowed them to maneuver in such a relationship.”

“It's no longer a time in which someone has refuge in being able to work or knowing their kids are at school and safe.”

Even as California takes steps to loosen some restrictions, outside interactions with people are limited. For people in abusive households, that can mean fear, isolation and fewer escape valves.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline broke down the contacts it received between March and August this way: emotional and/or verbal abuse, 11,230; physical abuse, 7,861; financial abuse, 4,720; digital abuse, 2,237; sexual abuse, 1,284. (Some contacts fall into multiple categories.)

“We know that any external factors that add stress, isolation and financial strain can create circumstances where a survivor's safety

is further compromised,” said a spokesperson for the hotline. “This pandemic has elements of all three.”

Domestic violence is not a one-size-fits-all problem, although control and domination are common factors. In addition to physical harm, abusive tactics range from ridicule and insults to isolation and manipulation; from threats to hurt the children and hyper-control of finances to the destruction of possessions and harm to pets.

Perpetrators often use specific situations to increase their control. They may use the pandemic to their advantage by withholding sanitizer, threatening to give their partner or children the coronavirus, or providing medical misinformation to maximize fear.

Tiernan Seaver, programs director at South Bay nonprofit Casa Familiar, oversees the San Ysidro Domestic Violence Prevention Collaborative, which works to educate about domestic violence. She noted that many San Ysidro residents have lived on both sides of the border.

“An abuser can use immigration status as a threat if their partner doesn't have legal status,” Seaver said. “They can say, ‘I'm going to call customs.’ It can be a large contributing factor in controlling a relationship in a mixed-status situation.

In families who have moved from Mexico and do not have relatives or friends in the U.S., the abuser can exert more control over the victim.” In some other countries, domestic violence is not addressed as aggressively as in the United States, which is far from perfect in handling the issue.

“It's more common in Mexico to not deal with it,” Seaver said. “Machismo tends to make controlling relationships more accepted. Religion is another factor in staying in abusive relationships. If they got married in the church, they may feel they can't split up the marriage.”

## THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



## Tapping a canoeing memory for strength

Every once in a while, I think back to a day during my teens, when I went canoeing by myself. This wasn't an extraordinary accomplishment. It didn't earn me a spot on an Olympic team. I didn't receive any bravery commendations or citizenship awards. Nonetheless, the somewhat faded memory of this simple personal feat has helped me over the years.

As a military spouse, I sometimes felt completely overwhelmed. Whether my husband was home or away, I carried the mental weight of responsibility for managing the many details of our family life. In order to provide consistency to our three children in the midst of military deployments, travel, watch schedules and PCS moves, I was placed in charge. I rose to the occasion when it came to major crises, like when our son was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder at age 3. But when faced with the many minute demands of daily life — laundry, bills, band concerts, scout meetings, in-laws, yard work, snack duty, taxes — I was often overcome with stress.

In those moments, I felt weak, shamefully incapable of managing as a military spouse. In this insecure state, my mind attempted to prove a point, by replaying memories like that canoe outing in 1984.

It was a hot summer day, and I was just 18 years old. My best friend from high school had moved away, and everyone else I knew was either on vacation, or too cool to hang out with me. My choices were to stay home and do chores, or head out to find adventure.

Our forgotten 18-foot fiberglass Coleman canoe leaned forlornly against the side of our garage. I was a swimmer, but not exactly brawny at five feet, four inches. With considerable effort, I dragged the 70-pound canoe from its spot, across an acre of lawn to our 1977 Chevy Blazer.

Nowadays, Chevy Blazers are stylish four-door SUVs driven by soccer moms sipping Starbucks Caramel Macchiatos. But back then, these 4WD vehicles were behemoth two-door trucks used for hauling deer carcasses out of the woods. I don't recall how I did it, but somehow, I hoisted the canoe onto the roof of the vehicle by myself, nearly seven feet off the ground. Using rope I found in the garage, I tied the ends of the canoe tight to each bumper, fearful that, if it fell off the Blazer while I was driving, there would be hell to pay.

The details of getting to Yellow Creek State Park, launching the canoe and paddling around the lake alone that day are foggy. Knowing my active imagination, I likely painted a full affair for myself, complete with a packed picnic, a bit of tanning (it was the '80s, after all), and a nice long swim.

Although these recollections are faint, I have a crystal-clear vision of driving home after my solitary canoeing expedition. With wet hair and a sunburn on my shoulders, I barreled down Route 422 with the driver's-side window opened, one hand dangling casually in the wind. Peering out at the open road between the Blazer's black hood and the burnt-orange canoe tied overhead, I knew I could do anything I set my mind to.

That moment — that pure feeling of independence, confidence, strength and competence — became permanently etched in the recesses of my young mind. I wasn't conscious of this imprinting at the time, but over the decades, as I grew and faced life's inevitable challenges, that long-ago memory would occasionally surface to reassure me that, yes, it was true — I could do anything I set my mind to.

There are other memories I use to remind myself that I'm not as weak as I feel. Like the time I hung a ceiling fan over our kitchen table. The year I secured a grant to buy a new scoreboard for the football team. The day I published my first column.

The mind is a powerful thing. During times of stress, it floods us with emotion, apathy, anxiety, fear. Overwhelmed, we sometimes lose sight of our own strength. By tapping into our mind's memory bank, we remind ourselves that we won't sink, because we've always been able to swim.

Read more at theteamandpotatoesoflife.com, and in Lisa's book, *The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Life Lit Com*. Email: theteamandpotatoesoflife@gmail.com



# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

### YOU'RE TELLING ME! BY SAM EZERSKY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Sam Ezersky, 25, is an associate puzzle editor for The New York Times. He sold his first crossword to the paper when he was 17, just before starting his senior year at South Lakes High School in Reston, Va. Eight years and 30 Times crosswords later, Sam says his professional goal is to "never, ever create an 'ordinary' puzzle." His favorite clues/answers in this one are at 111A and 81D. —W.S.

- ACROSS**

1 Marvel at

7 L.G.B.T.-aligned advocacy group since 1987

12 Occasion to get all gussied up

19 Stroke of good fortune

21 Newsman Sawyer

22 "You ain't lyin'!"

23 What the Old English called "Winterfylleth"

24 To a cosmeticsian: "You're ..."

26 Home to Antilla, the world's most valuable private residence (27 floors, \$2.2 billion)

28 Is

29 Kind of cleft

30 To a produce vendor near closing time: "You're ..."

34 The "B" in GB

35 Fisherman's \_\_\_\_\_ (San Francisco attraction)

36 Utter nonsense

37 Eyes: Sp.

39 Feature of a batter that needs more whisking

40 Wong of stand-up comedy

41 Drive (away)

42 Laughing matter?

45 Palindromic rulers

47 To a bad free throw shooter: "You're ..."
- 52 All \_\_\_\_\_

54 Ruin, as plans

55 Crowd noise

56 Blubbers

60 The dove's-foot crane's bill, for instance

62 Big seller of animal supplies

63 To a temp worker: "You're ..."

65 To a rude driver: "You're ..."

68 Architect Frank \_\_\_\_\_ the Three Laws

71 Taylor Swift's first No. 1 country hit, 2007

72 Things stuck in clogs

73 Licking to eat and irritable about it, in slang

75 [Leave it]

76 With 98-Across, to an aspiring entrepreneur: "You're ..."

80 Friendship

85 Vim

86 Parts of Twitter clicking sound?

88 All over hell's half \_\_\_\_\_ (everywhere)

89 Item on a president's lapel

90 Placing a call

94 Fishing bucket

95 Apt anagram of MY CAR

98 See 76-Across

100 Native speakers of Chinese

101 Declined

103 Sips
- 104 To anyone who wasn't addressed above: "You're ..."

107 Vegan latte option

111 Kings and queens, maybe

112 Large chunk of one's final grade, often

113 Aspen or Alta

114 I's against the rule

115 Move like a peacock

116 Big name in nonprofit journalism
- DOWN**

1 Adele's "Million Years ..."

2 Medic

3 Spring hrs. in Colorado

4 Organ that structurally resembles another organism

5 Brush off

6 "Never interrupt your \_\_\_\_\_ when he's making a mistake" (old aphorism)

7 Four-star figures

8 Valerie Plame's org. in 2003's Plame affair

9 Go up against

10 Sui generis

11 Destitution

12 Code edited by a webmaster

13 Many end in "-ite"

14 Ice cream purchase

15 "Expect \_\_\_\_\_" (road sign)

16 Warranting an "X," say

17 Something to do with your buds?

18 Social climate
- 20 Physician who co-founded A.A., familiarly

25 Traipse (about)

27 How some like their café

30 Creatures that can have asymmetrical cars, which aid in hunting

31 "Nah"

32 Author Janowitz of literature's "brat pack"

33 Pinot \_\_\_\_\_

34 Cutesy sound accompanying a poke

37 Greeting when running into someone unexpectedly

38 Book before Amos

41 Texas county on the Mexican border

42 Italian painter known for his frescos

43 Pain-relief brand \_\_\_\_\_ when he's making a mistake (old aphorism)

44 How some like their coffee

46 Floor

47 One of two on the Titanic

48 "Who wants this?" response

49 Makeover result, maybe

50 Word stylized with extra R's on some cereal boxes

51 Some froyo bar toppings

53 \_\_\_\_\_ polloi

54 Circus venue

57 A ball and a strike, in a baseball context

58 Useful

59 Toy rocker, in tot-speak
- 60 Give up

61 What might be "love" or "lesbian" in a TV show title

62 Lead-in to potty

64 El \_\_\_\_\_ (weather phenomena)

66 It's not a lot to jot

67 Third of seven columns: Abbr.

70 \_\_\_\_\_ hair

73 Earliest-known Chinese dynasty (dating back to 2000 B.C.)

74 Eagerly excited
- 75 Villain in 1998's "Mulan"

77 With addressress, 78 División de la casa

79 Like 0.5-millimeter lead, among popular mechanical pencil options

81 Good-looking guy?

82 Cold treat

83 Diagram of relationships

84 App with a \_\_\_\_\_ feature

89 Newspaper articles and mentions on social media, in brief
- 90 Ducks

91 "My turn"

92 Electrically balanced, in chemistry

93 Sandwiches on pita bread

94 Pool-chalk target

95 \_\_\_\_\_ Brava, Spain

96 Georgia's capital, informally

97 Jason who played "Game of Thrones"
- 98 The Reds, on scoreboards

99 2020 U.S. Open tennis champ Naomi

101 \_\_\_\_\_ Tzu (dog breed)

102 Like sponge cakes

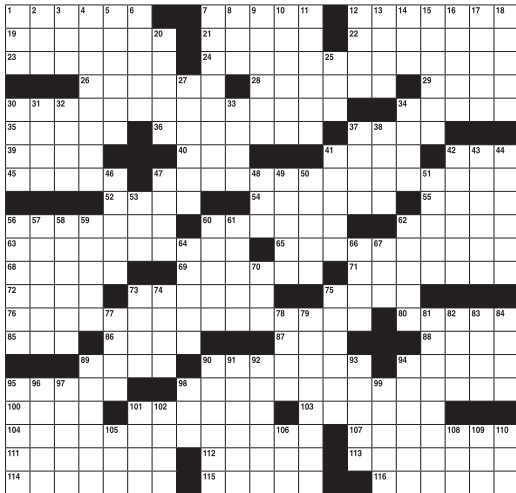
105 Middle of a certain three-ite-crow

106 Lone Star State sch.

108 Wrath

109 Man's nickname that omits the "is" at the end

110 \_\_\_\_\_ in kangaroo



- 60 Give up

61 What might be "love" or "lesbian" in a TV show title

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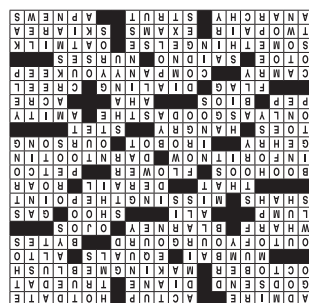
110 \_\_\_\_\_ in kangaroo

## GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at [gunstonstreet@yahoo.com](mailto:gunstonstreet@yahoo.com), and online at [gunstonstreet.com](http://gunstonstreet.com).

## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



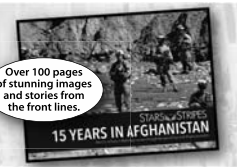
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## OPINION

## A hardheaded case for more COVID stimulus

By TYLER COWEN

Bloomberg Opinion

With on-again, off-again plans for a COVID relief bill currently in "off" mode, it's an opportune moment to step back and ask some basic questions about fiscal policy. Fiscal policy during a pandemic is fundamentally different from during a typical financial crisis, and that should shape the federal government's response. Short-term aid would be better before rather than after the U.S. election, but it needs to be targeted in the right way.

The first claim argument for fiscal stimulus, dating from Keynes, is to increase aggregate demand. That argument doesn't quite apply right now. Movie theaters, airlines and restaurants do face big demand problems, but government spending can't fix that. What these businesses need is for their customers to feel safe against the risk of infection.

A second rationale for fiscal policy is to address problems of supply. The U.S. still has an uneven capacity for rapid COVID-19 testing, and more money for testing would help carry it through what is likely to be a difficult winter. More testing also would help schools reopen, allowing more parents to get back to work and to higher levels of productivity.

In addition to immediate issues of humanitarian aid, and supporting essential services from state and local governments, the next question is what other problems possible legislation might beneficially address. The greatest potential problem facing the U.S. economic right now is a loss of organizational capital, most of all in small businesses. As they fold, jobs will be lost and the knowledge and efficiencies em-

bedded in those businesses will disappear. In many cases it will be difficult to reconstitute that knowledge quickly and in the markets for both labor and goods will be operating at less than full capacity.

Consider performing arts groups in New York City, many of which took a long time to assemble and train their talent. If they go under, many of these people will move away, if only because they can't find employers have run out of money. They will opt for alternate career paths, and the arts groups may never be reconstituted. Supply-side grants and loans, however, may help see them through until America approaches some semblance of normalcy again.

That argument makes good sense, but note its limitations. The government need not give further aid to relatively well-capitalized larger businesses. Nor should it subsidize businesses that are not coming back soon no matter what. If Americans are going to remain unwilling for the next several years to trap themselves on cruise ships, that sector should be allowed to shrink radically.

When targeting aid to small businesses, government officials should think about which ones have built up special or hard-to-replicate organizational capital. If most of the labor is relatively unskilled, it's an easier case to make to let those businesses go under — and then see new, reconstituted versions arise in six months or a year from now. Unlike in, say, the performing arts, in the service sector it is easy to find suitable new workers, and so the returns to government assistance are lower.

Most likely the hardest hit areas in the U.S., in economic terms, will be San Francisco and New York City. New York is characterized by extreme population density,

and the performing arts and tourism are major parts of the economy. San Francisco and the Bay Area rely on high-paying technology jobs, many of which have now turned into remote work. The case for aid to New York City is relatively strong, whereas the case for San Francisco depends on whether you think that remote work will last. If it will, and those tech jobs stay away from California forever, then the prospect for a permanently downsized San Francisco needs to be seriously considered, as well as which new sectors or industries may help it grow.

If you are very optimistic about vaccines and anti-COVID therapeutics, as I am, this strengthens the case for short-term aid. If you believe that more or less normal times for many small businesses will arrive by April or May, that argues for tiding them over in the meantime.

If you are more pessimistic, however, and expect a high level of COVID-19 cases for the next few years, then the argument for aid is weaker. Those endangered small businesses cannot be kept on "life support" for that long, better for them to realize that aid is not forthcoming. The economy would then continue to adjust into fewer restaurant jobs and more food-delivery jobs.

The two real arguments for fiscal policy in the U.S. right now are the need for more and better COVID-19 testing, and the gains from acting quickly to preserve America's organizational capital. The question remains to be seen whether our politics can quickly remedy these two problems. Nevertheless, any proposals should be judged on how close they come.

Tyler Cowen, a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, is a professor of economics at George Mason University.

## The way forward on US schooling during COVID

By JESSICA COHEN,  
SARA BLEICH, JOSEPH ALLEN  
and BENJAMIN SOMMERS  
Special to The Washington Post

As Election Day approaches, the electoral map isn't the only thing divided into red, blue and purple. Our schools have similarly fallen into partisan divisions, with Republican-leaning areas largely following in-person schooling models and Democratic-leaning areas mostly using remote or hybrid models. This highlights a sobering fact: School policy decisions across the ideological spectrum are being made largely devoid of data, threatening the well-being of our children, economy and society.

As public health professors, we have spent our careers researching and analyzing public health questions. Our country's current approach to schools is failing four basic principles of evidence-based policymaking.

First, policy should not be driven by emotion or anecdote. There are tragic stories about teachers who have died of COVID-19 and viral images on social media of teens ignoring safety guidelines. There are painful portraits of children in unsafe, unsupervised and isolated settings, because of remote learning. These stories might help build empathy, but as the cliché goes in medicine and public policy, the plural of anecdotes is not data.

Second, cases in school must be reported in context — both in terms of the population size in question (not just case counts) and whether infections were actually transmitted in schools rather than in the broader community. We've grown accustomed to population-level statistics at the city, state and national levels (e.g., 14-day cases per 100,000 people); we should insist on the same rigor for school-based mea-

sures. Data on COVID-19 clusters within schools, when they occur, should also be reported alongside information on which risk mitigation measures (e.g., masks, ventilation, etc.) were in place.

Third, any policy analysis must ask, "Compared with what?" While remote learning is often called the "safest option," that view assumes children are at home, safely distancing from others. But policymakers must consider that in many households, parents go to work, leaving children are often in teaching "pods," nanny shares or group hangouts at local playgrounds. This leads to a series of mixed interactions between children and adults.

Given this reality, it's possible that hybrid models and remote learning may not reduce infection risk relative to in-person schooling that requires masks and keeps kids in smaller, contained groups. But we need better data to make that determination. In addition to tracking cases in schools, as The New York Times is doing, districts should collect anonymous survey data from parents on how children are spending their time outside of school, what risk-mitigation strategies they use. Contact tracers should assess whether these informal arrangements are leading to outbreaks, and should share that information with schools so that we can understand the risks of alternatives.

Finally, policy choices should not focus on just one outcome. We need a richer accounting of the costs and benefits of schooling models beyond just virus transmission. Key metrics should include student learning, engagement and well-being. How many students are consistently attending school (either in person or remotely), completing assignments and meeting learning objectives? How many have a stable Internet connection and quiet place to work? How

many are missing meals or health care services they typically receive at school?

Many districts and state education departments are creating scorecards and benchmarks to assess transmission risk within schools. Similar benchmarks are needed for these other measures of well-being, with close attention paid to equity issues. We also must consider economic costs associated with school policy decisions. While many districts are weighing the costs of school policies with respect to building upgrades, new staff and new technology, policy decisions have much broader economic implications. School closures have led to billions of dollars in lost productivity, disproportionately affecting women. These are not decisions school leaders or teachers unions should be weighing directly; instead, city leaders, legislators and governors should be considering the broader impacts of school closures on their economies and working families.

Looking at the national pattern of school choices, it is clear that evidence-based policy is not driving these decisions. In states with high and increasing rates of community spread, many schools are open for full in-person learning — putting economic and political considerations before safety and health. In states with lower community spread, many schools are still remote, allowing a single factor — fear of COVID-19 — to drive decision-making, despite low absolute risks of school-based transmission and ignoring the real-world risks of hybrid or remote learning.

So far, our society's decision-making on schools doesn't deserve a passing grade. Let's start evaluating school policy related to the pandemic with the attention, balance and evidence it deserves.

Jessica Cohen, Sara Bleich, Joseph Allen and Benjamin Sommers are professors at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

## Partisan divides unabridged during Barrett hearings

The Senate confirmation hearings for Amy Coney Barrett may lack for political drama, but they are still instructive. They are revealing the deep fault lines over the Supreme Court, and how Democrats view it as a mini-legislature to achieve policy goals, rather than a real judicial body.

Democrats are doing very little about the actual law or Barrett's jurisprudential thinking. Instead, once after another, Democrats have used their time to focus on a parade of policy horrors if she is confirmed. And for emotional effect, they brought along photo displays of children and adults who were victims of abortion, gun violence and more.

All of this distorts the role of a judge, who has to rule based on what the law is, not on what she would want it to be. "Judges can't just wake up one day and say, 'I have an agenda. I like guns. I like guns. I like abortion, I hate abortion' and walk in like a royal queen and impose their will on the world," Barrett said Tuesday. But that is loss on Democrats, who are treating the hearings like a campaign rally.

Start with their focus on Barrett as a threat to the health-care system. Republican state attorneys general, who are part of the Trump administration, argue in a case that the court will hear on Nov. 10 that the Affordable Care Act should be struck down. Recall that Chief Justice John Roberts in 2012 upheld the individual mandate to carry health insurance as a tax. But the 2017 decision removed the financial penalty for not being insured. The AGs say that because there now is no tax, the entire law should be struck down.

As we've argued, the AG suit is political and legal malpractice because the lawsuit has almost no chance of success. Three conservative justices have suggested in opinions this year that they are wary of throwing out entire laws due to discrete constitutionally defective provisions, and with good reason. The vote could be 9-0.

Yet Democrats assert that Barrett's appointment to the court would threaten protection for fundamental rights, such as pre-existing conditions, insurance coverage for young adults, free mammograms and birth control as well as lead to higher prescription costs for seniors. "It's all at stake," Kamala Harris declared.

Imagine if GOP senators displayed photos of their own victims. A Democratic nominee who had overturned a conviction on appeal? They would be skewered as demagogues.

California Sen. Dianne Feinstein asked how Barrett would handle the ACA's lifetime coverage caps. Barrett duly noted she would consider this law as one that she would not want to undo. "People who are young or other statute should be determined by the law — by looking at the text of the statute, by looking at precedent." Good answer. Coverage caps are a policy issue for Congress.

Democrats also flagged Barrett for criticism of the chief justice's creative interpretation of the individual mandate as a tax. She joins a long queue there. But Barrett replied: "I am not hostile to the ACA. I am not hostile to any statute that you pass. ... I apply the law. I follow the law. You make the policy." She also said "reliance interdependence as we have seen in people who gained insurance under Obamacare, have



SUSAN WALSH/AP

At her Senate confirmation hearings this week, Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett said of the Affordable Care Act: "I am not hostile to the ACA. I am not hostile to any statute that you pass. ... I apply the law. I follow the law. You make the policy."

to be considered now that the law has been in place for six years.

The current "conservative" court has already shown it is more heterodox than one dominated by liberals. That's because originalists seek to interpret laws based on the text and the Constitution rather than merely find a way to arrive at a foregone policy result. Everything we know suggests Barrett will rule in the same originalist way, and this should reassure the public that the court will be properly modest in interpreting the law as it is.

Democrats are doing a great disservice to the law and judiciary by treating these hearings like an emotive political ad. They are telling voters that the courts are nothing more than another arena for political disputes. Keep doing that and soon the Supreme Court will be as unpopular as Congress — which may be their real goal as they prepare the ground to pack the court next year.

Self-defense laws at issue after police supporter killed  
The Denver Post

Lee Keltner — a Denver-area hat maker who created art with his custom-order products — was shot and killed in downtown Denver while attending a rally to support the police and after a physical altercation with Matthew Dolloff, an armed man providing security for a television producer. Keltner's death, like several others, has drawn attention to the use of force across the U.S. that have occurred during protests since the death of George Floyd, is a tragedy.

Americans must find ways to gather and express their views, to be vocal and passionate, and to also be peaceful and non-violent.

And we are sure all Americans can agree that no one deserves to die for getting in a verbal or physical fight, spraying mace, resisting arrest, grabbing a police officer's spent Taser, serving this country as a police officer, or exercising the right to peacefully assemble.

We don't pretend to know what transpired before or after Keltner was shot; we are waiting on additional information from the police investigation. An attorney representing Dolloff's family said that Dolloff was protecting a journalist and acted in self-defense.

From Denver Post photographer Helen Richardson's photos that Keltner slaps Dolloff. Dolloff appears in another photo to be reaching for his gun. Then another image shows Keltner spraying a cloud of pepper spray as Dolloff fires his gun (the photo captures a shell casing in the air). Keltner was killed and police arrested Dolloff.

Dolloff had been hired as a security guard to accompany a 9News producer who was covering the protests, police and a 9News source have said.

It doesn't matter what Keltner or Dolloff thought of Black Lives Matter or police. What matters is that one man was killed, and the Denver district attorney must determine if this was manslaughter, murder or self-defense.

We cannot help but note the reversal of roles in this situation, and it's possible that if Coloradans can step back from this tragedy dispassionately, they could find common ground. Many is dead who did not appear to use or threaten lethal force (we'll wait for the investigation to tell us whether he was unarmed or not and what words were exchanged), and the question is whether the shooting was in some way justified. It's a question that Americans have grappled with far too many times this year.

All of these deaths and shootings should lead us to question whether our self-defense laws are serving justice or permitting murder. Are we empowering people to protect themselves and others or are we making our public spaces unsafe with our laws?

Cutting the census short could have lasting impacts  
The Republican of Springfield, Mass.

When you don't truly believe that all the people count, it only makes sense not to count all the people.

How else can one explain the White House's efforts to screw up the decennial census, which received the blessing of the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday, when Justice Sotomayor's dissenting reports of what was ahead with its plan to halt the count early.

When the White House recently announced that this year's enumeration of the people was 99.9% complete, the figure seemed too good to be true. After all, the Commerce Department had tried to wrap up the census early, despite reports of widespread problems. In particular, it seemed that specific groups were routinely being undercounted — minorities, young people and the poor. Think it's a coincidence that folks in those groups aren't generally wild about President Donald Trump?

The first census in the newly established United States, mandated by the Constitution, was conducted in 1790. The idea, seemingly so simple, was actually quite radical: In a nation where the people are the ultimate authority, with the power of those in the federal bureaucracy obtained only by the consent of the governed, it is imperative to have an accurate count of the

people, and to know where they live. We've done this every 10 years since, trying all-ways to count everyone. Until now.

Because Trump felt that undocumented immigrants shouldn't be counted. And while that notion didn't initially pass muster in the federal courts, Tuesday's emergency ruling from the Supreme effectively hands Trump the win he wanted. Sadly.

This is no way to run our nation's 24th census, which should be as free from political interference as can be. And if we get it badly wrong this time around, there won't be an opportunity to fix it until 2030.

The census, of course, is used to determine the apportionment of the 435 representatives in the House. Each state gets one to start with, and then the rest are divided up by population, in an effort to see that congressional districts are more or less the same size. But that's only one aspect of the count. Vast amounts of federal funds are also handed out based on population figures. As a result, this sort of undercount will deprive already-under-served communities even further.

Showing that in the eyes of this administration, they simply don't count.

Facebook playing catch-up on campaign misinformation  
The Washington Post

Facebook last week unveiled an expansion of its previously announced policies to fight confusion, misinformation and general malfeasance as election results roll in next month. These steps include a much-doubted suspension of all social issue, electoral and political ads after polls close on Nov. 3, in addition to the already existing ban on new political ads in the previous week. The change is more distraction than solution; political ads are only the problem insofar as they were a loophole through which disinformation might be spread. Political claims are the real menace — which is why Facebook's other efforts are more important, and why on their own they're unlikely to be enough.

The debate over political ads started as a fight about fact-checking. A freeze on advertising election results might do some good by preventing President Donald Trump from misleading voters about the results, yet it will also prevent his opponents from correcting the record, should he continue to churn out the lies he is accustomed to sharing in his normal, unmonitored posts. And because election results have also relied around him a right-wing apparatus of fringe personalities ready to share his latest claim, he holds the advantage. Facebook's proposals on this front are promising, but their effects on democracy will be in the details.

Facebook already planned to append "informational" labels to premature declarations of victory, and to continue applying labels to content concerning the legitimacy of the election. Now it will extend its partnership with Reuters to post notifications of the latest results atop Facebook and Instagram — plus, after major media outlets have reported the results, Facebook will remove outright, such as posts calling for poll watchers that include militaristic or otherwise intimidating language. Where will the platform draw its lines?

This last update to Facebook's policies cuts to the core of the problem. The company is essentially playing catch-up to the president and his allies, who have been exhorting supporters to "defend" their ballots or join an "army." Facebook could and should fact-check more, or take down more, and it could even adjust its underlying algorithm that rewards sensationalism. But the platform cannot fix Donald Trump. It can only try to manage his deceptions.

## FACES

# Billboard finally takes the stage

## Post Malone takes 9 honors at delayed Music Awards event

BY MESFIN FEKAU  
Associated Press

**W**alking into the show with 16 nominations, Post Malone won nine honors at the 2020 Billboard Music Awards, where John Legend gave a heartfelt performance that was dedicated to his wife.

With his voice aching as he sang passionately from the piano, Legend told viewers "this is for Chrissy," which includes the lyrics "we will never break." The performance comes two weeks after Chrissy Teigen announced she had a miscarriage, explaining in a heart-wrenching social media post that she and Legend drove "home from the hospital with no baby."

"John, that was so beautiful," host Kelly Clarkson said following Legend's performance. "All my love to you and Chrissy."

It was one of several performances that were pre-taped for Wednesday's show. Other musicians attended and performed at the empty Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles during the three-hour show, which aired on NBC.

After announcing that Malone won the show's highest honor, top artist, Clarkson wheeled out eight more trophies for the hitmaker.

"I'm honestly blown away by the love everyone's shown to me," said Malone, who also won top rap artist, top male artist and top rap album. "It's kind of big deal to me and everybody involved because we work our (butts) off."

He beat out Eilish for the top prize, but she was still a winner, taking home top Billboard 200 album, top female artist and top new artist.

The 18-year-old, wearing a face mask, told viewers to "please vote, please wear a mask, please wash your hands."

Others had similar messages. Khalid, who won five honors, told fans "your voice matters now more than ever." And Lizzo wore a black dress with "vote" printed across it.

She also gave an encouraging speech, telling viewers to find their voices and don't change to meet society's standards.

"I just want to say I've been thinking a lot about suppression and the voices that refused to be suppressed. And I wonder, 'Would I be standing here right now if it weren't for the big Black women who refuse to have their voices be suppressed?' And I just want to say right now, if you're at home watching this and you were thinking about changing yourself to feel worthy, this is your sign to remain true to who you are," Lizzo said onstage after winning top songs sales artist.

"Let me tell you all something — when people try to suppress something, it's normally because that thing holds power. They're afraid of your power. There's power in who you are. There's power in your voice. So whether it's through music, protest or your right to vote, use your power, use your voice and refuse to be suppressed."

Other winners included Lil Nas



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

Post Malone appears Wednesday in Los Angeles with his nine Billboard Music awards, which included top male artist and top artist. Malone was nominated for 16 awards.

X, who took home four honors and was on hand to accept top Hot 100 song for "Old Town Road," which set the record for most weeks at No. 1. Kanye West, who released two gospel albums last year, also won four prizes: Top gospel artist, top gospel song, top gospel album and top Christian album.

Luke Combs followed with three wins, and after his performance he offered positive words to his fans and the crew working on the awards show.

"I know that everybody has been through so much this year. I wanna thank the crew that is working on this show tonight because they have gone through some insane stuff that make this happen for you guys. I hope everybody is staying safe there at home," he said.

Garth Brooks accepted the Icon Award from Cher, who called the country star "a true music legend and my friend Garth Brooks." Brooks, who is the only artist to have nine of his albums sell more than 10 million units each and reach diamond status, performed

### Billboard Music Awards top winners

**Top Hot 100 song:** "Old Town Road," Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus

**Top Billboard 200 album:** Billie Eilish, "When We Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?"

**Top artist:** Post Malone

**Top new artist:** Billie Eilish

**Top female artist:** Billie Eilish

**Top male artist:** Post Malone

**Top streaming songs artist:** Post Malone

**Top song sales artist:** Lizzo

**Top radio/songs artist:** Jonas Bros.

**Top duo/group:** Jonas Bros.

**Top R&B artist:** Khalid

**Top rap artist:** Post Malone

**Top country artist:** Luke Combs

**Top rock artist:** Panic at the Disco

**Top Latin artist:** Bad Bunny

**Top dance/electronic artist:** The Chainsmokers

**Top Christian artist:** Lauren Daigle

**Top gospel artist:** Kanye West

**Top social artist:** BTS

**Top touring artist:** Pink

**Chart achievement award:** Harry Styles

**Icon award:** Garth Brooks

From The Associated Press

a medley of his hits.

Other performers included BTS, Alicia Keys, Kane Brown, Khalid, Swae Lee, Sia, Brandy, Bad Bunny, Doja Cat, SAINT JHN, En Vogue and Demi Lovato, who sang her new song aimed at

President — Donald Trump called "Commander in Chief." Guitar rock legend Eddie Van

Halen, who died last week, was honored as the show aired a clip of his Billboard Awards performance from 2015. And rapper-activist Killer Mike received the Change Maker Award.

This year's Billboard Awards were originally supposed to take place in April but were postponed because of the pandemic.

## 'Jagged Little Pill' earns 15 Tony nominations in brief season

BY MARK KENNEDY  
Associated Press

The sobering musical "Jagged Little Pill," which plumbs Alanis Morissette's 1995 breakthrough album to tell a story of an American family spiraling out of control, earned a leading 15 Tony Award nominations Thursday, as the Broadway community took the first steps to celebrate a pandemic-shortened season that upended the theater world.

There are three best musical nominees: "Jagged Little Pill," "Moulin Rouge: The Musical" and "Tina — The Tina Turner Musical." And there are five best play nominees: "Grand Horizons," "The Inheritance," "Sea Wall/A Life," "Slave Play" and "The Sound Inside."

Tom Kitt, honored for orchestrations for "Jagged Little Pill," thanked Morissette and his collaborators, but also graciously nodded to the more than a dozen shows that were unable to open due to the pandemic.

"I also want to acknowledge all of the shows that were not able to open, so today I'm thinking of all of the great artists who were supposed to be a part of the '19-20 season, and I can't wait to see all of their beautiful work when Broadway returns," he said in a statement.

"The Inheritance" by Matthew Lopez nabbed 11 nominations. It's a two-part, seven-hour epic that uses "Howards End" as a starting point for a play that looks at gay life in the early 21st century.

Nipping on the heels of "Jagged Little Pill" for overall numbers of nominations is "Moulin Rouge!," a jukebox adaptation of Baz Luhrmann's hyperactive 2001 movie about the goings-on in a turn-of-the-century Parisian nightclub, that got 14 nods.

Two very different offerings are tied with 12: "Slave Play," Jeremy O. Harris' race, sex, taboo desires and class, exploring the legacy of slavery in interracial

sexual dynamics, and "Tina — The Tina Turner Musical," which tells the rock icon's life with songs that include "Let's Stay Together" and "Proud Mary."

The nominations were pulled from just 18 eligible plays and musicals, a fraction of the 34 shows the season before. During most years, there are 26 competitive categories; this year there are 25 with several depleted ones.

The category for best performance by an actor in a leading role in a musical had just one actor — Aaron Tveit from "Moulin Rouge!" One category — best musical revival — had no eligible shows at all and was cut.

In another sign of a strange season, the best score category — an honor for the music and lyrics that is usually dominated by musicals — is filled this year with five plays.

The 2020 Tony Awards ceremony will be broadcast digitally and take place later this year, at a date still to be announced.



VIVACITY MEDIA GROUP/AP

Elizabeth Stanley, left, and Celia Rose Gooding star in "Jagged Little Pill." The musical got 15 Tony Awards nominations.

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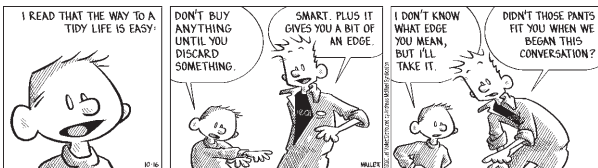
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Frazz



Dilbert



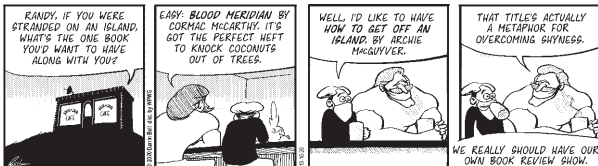
Pearls Before Swine



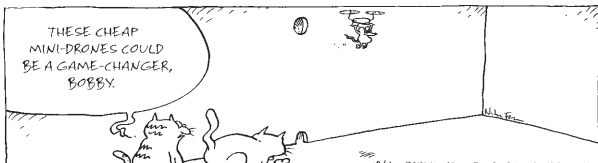
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Candorville



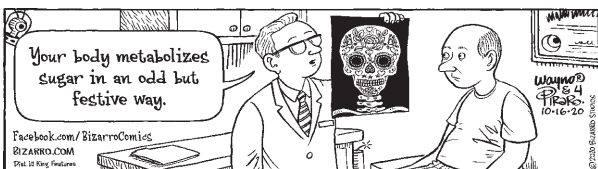
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Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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48	49	50	51								52	
53								54			55	
56								57			58	

### ACROSS

- 1 Menagerie
- 4 Scrap
- 7 Politico
- 12 Online chats, briefly
- 13 Church seat
- 14 Acropolis attractions
- 15 Varnish ingredient
- 16 Consider
- 18 When doubled, it's a dance
- 19 Tennis star
- 20 Injure
- 22 Hearty quaff
- 23 Border on
- 27 911 responder
- 29 Tinker
- 31 Mild cigar
- 34 Landscaping plant
- 35 Primitive urge
- 37 Abysmal
- 38 Coup d—
- 39 Jurist Fortas
- 41 Online auction site
- 45 Milky Way points
- 47 "Evil Woman" band
- 48 Analyze to death
- 52 Playingth
- 53 Book's page number
- 54 Roman 52

### DOWN

- 1 Nada
- 2 D-Day beach
- 3 Film trophy
- 4 Makes a choice
- 5 Warm up anew
- 6 Suit material
- 7 Places of refuge
- 8 Pair
- 9 Actress Tyler
- 10 Hydrocarbon suffix
- 11 Leb. neighbor
- 17 Must have
- 21 Deserve
- 23 Home
- 24 Small ammo
- 25 Last (Abbr.)
- 26 Chai, e.g.
- 28 Chic, to Austin Powers
- 30 "Caught ya!"
- 31 Browns, on scoreboards
- 32 Ignited
- 33 Lawyers' gp.
- 36 Vow
- 37 Vermont's Sen. Sanders
- 40 Empties the boat of water
- 42 "Heavens to —!"
- 43 Stag
- 44 Things with strings
- 45 Pack cargo
- 46 Revue segment
- 48 One — kind
- 49 Book-spine abbr.
- 50 Right angle
- 51 Brazilian city

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	R	F	E	P	O	S	O	R	E
L	Y	E	R	I	N	T	R	E	E
F	E	E	B	A	C	K	R	E	A
L	O	O	S	E	N	I	O	R	S
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U	N	D	E	R	S	A	M	T	A
P	A	R	B	O	I	L	C	R	Y
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### 10-16

### CRYPTOQUIP

K M Z W P M R F B X J W F T  
N R U D G W J T C W J B X T W N Q R C  
C D K F Z Y, K C G Q R J T D W S X  
N X X F W F W P C - C Q - W P C  
U Q F S X P Y W C K Q F.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: REMARKABLE HEAVY MILITARY VEHICLE THAT FIRES OUT ROLLS OF BATHROOM TISSUE: A CHARMIN TANK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals D

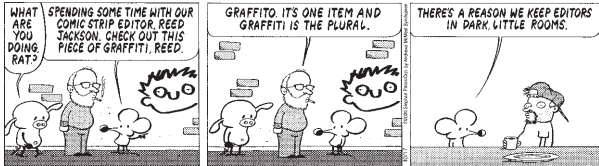
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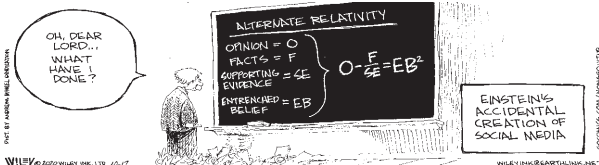
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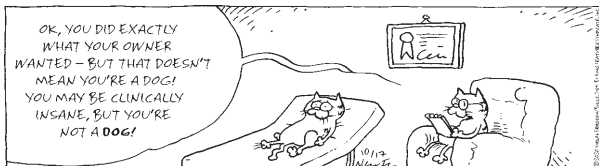
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Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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### ACROSS

- That woman
- Actress Kunis
- Con job
- Japanese pond fish
- Body sci.
- "— you an apology"
- Actor McKellen
- Roasting rod
- "A Room of — Own"
- Prize-seeking party games
- Allow
- Upper limit
- Burial chambers
- Secret agent
- Pants part
- mater
- Lustrous black
- Tragic
- Tiara jewel
- Sheep's cry
- Racket
- Pistol
- Deity
- Sports-recreation vessels
- Steer's place
- Cain's brother
- Memo letters
- Rights org.
- Get up
- Museum display

### DOWN

- Yonder item
- Belgian river
- Dorm VIPs
- Revue segment
- Frost
- Bonn article
- Church services
- Suggestions
- Hideaway
- Try
- Crazy Horse, for one
- Didi of "Grease"
- Mad as — hen
- Disarray
- Jessica of "Dark Angel"
- Horse chow
- Price point?
- Flamenco cry
- "Tasty!"
- Salty expanse
- Half of CIV
- Hosp. sections
- "Goshi!"
- James who played Betty on "Mad Men"
- Nitwit
- Greyhound vehicle
- More altruistic
- Entire range
- Gaggle members
- Excellent, in slang
- Nobelist Walesa
- Jazzy Fitzgerald
- Baseball stats
- Miles away
- Model Banks
- Poses

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

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	EMT	DABBLE	
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LIBIDO	BAD		
ETAT	ABE	EBAY	
	STARS	ELO	
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### 10-17

### CRYPTOQUIP

UGVD OVLVSZK TZOEWSO

YVVE BWS XJDDVS, UGZE

YJRGE NV EGVJS BZLWSJEV

XVOOVSE? TSVZFG FWNNKVS.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF GARGUNKEL AND BUCHWALD TALKED ABOUT THINGS, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AN ART-TO-ART CONVERSATION.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: S equals R

33. (41) Dawson Cram, Chevrolet.  
34. (17) Hailie Deegan, Ford.  
35. (75) Parker Kligerman, Chevrolet.  
36. (82) Ray Ciccarulli, Chevrolet.



# AUTO RACING/TENNIS



NELL REDMON/AP

Chase Elliott stands by his trophy in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series race Oct. 11 at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C.

## In the pits

# Time is now for Elliott to race into title round

By JENNA FRYER  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Chase Elliott again has a chance to take the next step in his young but quite celebrated career. He's back in the final four of eight for a fourth consecutive year, once again trying to drive through to his first championship finale.

Is he a true contender?

The time has come for him to prove it.

Kyle Busch is out of the way, eliminated Sunday after Elliott won on The Roval at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Busch won't race in the final four for the first time since 2014, and there will be a new Cup champion this year.

Kevin Harvick and Denny Hamlin, winners of a combined 16 of the 32 races so far this season, are heavily favored to advance to the Nov. 8 finale at Phoenix. That would leave just two remaining slots for the rest of the field, six drivers hoping to join Harvick and Hamlin in the winner-take-all desert showcase.

"We tend to see the same guys make the final four every year, the same group fighting for those spots," Elliott said. "We're very capable of asserting ourselves amongst them."

Busch has cleared out after five straight appearances — two were title-winning years — so there's room for a wild-card winner this November.

Elliott, who three times before has stalled his season in the round of eight, is a credible candidate. He's won three races for the third year in a row and is statistically on pace for the best season of his career.

The Hendrick Motorsports No. 9 team has been solid before but always stumbled in this critical three-race round. That's unacceptable for such a high-level team. Elliott is considered the centerpiece at Hendrick Motorsports, particularly with seven-time champion Jimmie Johnson's retirement just one month away, and he gives Chevrolet its best shot at ending a three-year title drought.

Chevy has not advanced a driver to the final four since Johnson won his last title in 2016. The bowtie brand watched as Ford and Toyota went head-to-head for the title the last three years. Chevrolet, and cornerstones Hendrick and Elliott, were shut out of the crowning race.

The burden falls to Elliott, NASCAR's

two-time defending most popular driver, to get Chevy a ticket to the final show. He's long been spotlighted as the future of NASCAR and the time has come for him to answer the expectations on the track.

Elliott at The Roval won his fourth straight road course race, proving he's the best active driver in the series at that discipline. There are no road courses in this next round that begins Sunday at Kansas Speedway.

Elliott is good enough at Kansas and even won there in 2018, but the No. 9 team struggled to a 12th-place finish there in July. He also finished 12th a week earlier at Texas Motor Speedway, the second stop in this round.

If this is the year Elliott is to race for a title, he'll need significant improvement at those two tracks the next two weeks.

"Both races were disappointing for us," acknowledged crew chief Alan Gustafson. "We've got to find a way to get through. Running at the sharp end of the spear is going to be what it takes. I think we can do it."

There's been attention on Elliott since before he reached the national level. His father is "Awesome Bill from Dawsonville," the Hall of Fame 1988 champion and record 16-time most popular driver. Chase has followed those footsteps the last 24 years.

When he was 13, Elliott was featured alongside golfer Jordan Spieth and tennis player Madison Keys in a 2009 Sports Illustrated "Where Will They Be" feature of 14 athletes. He signed a driver development deal with Hendrick Motorsports when he was 15 and was racing in the Truck Series two years later.

Elliott won the Xfinity Series championship as an 18-year-old rookie in 2014 and his career was fast-tracked for stardom.

Now in his fifth full Cup season, the nine-race winner needs to reach that next performance goal. Gustafson said his team was better the last few years than its final results showed and the No. 9 could have gone to the final four.

Elliott also believes he's been very close and through consistency and mistake-free races his team "can run with whoever when we're at our best. I really believe it."

He's got to first advance to the finale, then find a way to beat Harvick and Hamlin.

## Analysis

# Swiatek, younger players thriving on women's tour

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
Associated Press

Iga Swiatek took note when Naomi Osaka was accumulating three Grand Slam trophies by age 22.

Swiatek also was paying attention, of course, when Bianca Andreescu won her first major at 19. And when Sofia Kenin added her name to the list of Slam champions at 21.

"For sure, it's, like, inspiring. I know that there are no limits," Swiatek, still just 19 herself, said Saturday after winning the French Open for the first tour-level title of her nascent career. "Even though you're really young, and you're an underdog, you can do a lot in a sport like tennis."

The old guard of men's tennis has been holding off the kids for years and years, with Novak Djokovic vs. Rafael Nadal in the French Open final Sunday just the latest example of the Big Three's hold on that segment of the sport. For the women, there is a whole new wave of talent breaking through, time after time, and it augurs a fascinating future.

Swiatek is merely the latest example of a fresh face with the talent to make her a factor for years.

She beat Kenin 6-4, 6-1 at Roland Garros on Saturday to wrap up a remarkable run, never dropping a set, and losing just 28 games, en route to becoming a Grand Slam champion in only her seventh appearance at one of the sport's biggest events.

"Maybe it just had to be like that — that another underdog is going to win a Grand Slam in women's tennis," Swiatek said. "It's (happening) so often right now that it's crazy."

That's true. The younger set is thriving. And coming from new places, too.

Osaka was the first player from Japan — man or woman — to earn a Grand Slam singles title when she did it at the 2018 U.S. Open. Andreescu accomplished that milestone for Canada at last year's U.S. Open. And now Swiatek has done it for Poland.

Five of the last eight women's Grand Slam titles, and 12 of the past 20, were



PHOTOS BY MICHEL EULER/AP

Poland's Iga Swiatek celebrates winning the women's singles title at the French Open on Oct. 10 in Paris.

won by first-time major champs. Seven of the past eight were won by women 23 or younger. Compare that to the state of the men's game, where 27-year-old Dominic Thiem's triumph at the U.S. Open last month made him the first man to become a first-time Slam champion since 2014. He also was the first man born in the 1990s to collect a Grand Slam trophy.

Djokovic, Nadal and Roger Federer simply haven't been leaving room for others. After the French Open, the Big Three will have combined to win 14 of the past 15 Grand Slam titles and 57 of the last 69; this year's U.S. Open was the first Slam since 2004 without at least one of them in the semifinals.

The Swiatek vs. Kenin matchup made for the first French Open final between two women 21 or younger since Justine Henin beat Kim Clijsters in 2003.

"A new generation (is) coming up," Kenin said. "It's always good to see youngsters taking over and playing great tennis. It's always good to mix it up."

AP sports scribe Jerome Pugmire in Paris contributed.



Sofia Kenin of the U.S. screams after scoring against Swiatek during the final.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL



PHOTOS BY ROBERT WILLET, THE NEWS &amp; OBSERVER/AP

North Carolina quarterback Sam Howell, left, and the Tar Heels are ranked in the top 5 for the first time since 1997. Howell has six touchdown passes and is completing 68.7% of his passes.

# Brown, Heels seek to keep highest ranking in 23 years

By Aaron Beard  
Associated Press

**I**t took Mack Brown less than two years to lead a struggling North Carolina program to its highest ranking in more than two decades.

Now the fifth-ranked Tar Heels will try to maintain that perch alongside tradition-rich programs atop the AP Top 25 poll. And he knows that won't be easy for a program that hasn't shown much staying power since last cracking the top 5 during Brown's first stint in Chapel Hill.

"That's who you want to be," Brown said. "Right now, when people put up the top 5, and they see the other four, they say, 'Yeah, I got it.' And they see North Carolina and they say, 'What are they doing in there? Where'd that come from? Come on, man. They're not that good.'"

"We want it to be where when they put us in there, we'll be out fast."

To Brown's point, it's perennial heavyweights Clemson, Alabama, Georgia and Notre Dame atop this week's poll — though the Big Ten and Pac-12 have yet to play this year. And then there are the Tar Heels (3-0, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), who climbed three spots and jumped over No. 6 Ohio State to enter Saturday's trip to Florida State with their highest ranking since last cracking the top 5 in 1997 shortly before Brown left for Texas.

Before this season, North Carolina had cracked the top 10 once since Brown's departure: for two weeks late in 2015. Otherwise, the Heels had more seasons in which they never were ranked (14) than ones in which they were (eight).

"It's definitely cool to see that North Carolina is ranked No. 5 in the country and just seeing how far this program has come in just a couple years," quarterback Sam Howell said. "But, yeah, we definitely are aware that a lot of people probably don't think we should be that high in the rankings."

The Tar Heels had lost 21 of 27 when Brown took over after the 2018 season, but have won six straight. They have climbed from No. 18 in the preseason primarily on the strength of the Howell-led offense featuring big-play threats on the ground and downfield. That unit erupted for 56 points and 656 yards in last weekend's shootout win against No. 19 Virginia Tech.



It took Mack Brown, right, less than two years to guide North Carolina's rise from two-win program to its highest ranking in more than two decades.

Even the always-optimistic Brown said his team is "ahead of where I thought we would be."

"I've got a ton of respect for the man, the coach," first-year FSU coach Mike Norvell said. "You see what he's done in kind of reviving the North Carolina football program here in such a short period."

Brown, who won a national championship during his 16-year run at Texas, has said repeatedly that the Tar Heels must build more depth, saying coaches must "force ourselves" to get inexperienced players in earlier after losing valuable reps when the coronavirus pandemic led to the cancellation of spring practices and a game against Charlotte.

That's particularly true on defense after the Hokies had 45 points, 495 yards and three touchdowns of at least 26 yards. There have also been too many penalties (29) and too few takeaways (one).

"I don't think looking ahead will get us anywhere, and thinking we're better than we are won't do anything, either," linebacker Chazz Surratt said.

Coincidentally, UNC's last game as a top-5 team also came against FSU. Brown remembers seeing a packed Kenan Stadium crowd for a primetime-TV game in November and thinking the program had "finally arrived" — only to see Bobby Bowden's third-ranked Seminoles dominate in a 20-3 win as the Tar Heels sputtered to 73 total yards in their only loss that year.

## A case in points: Rebels' defense is a good offense

By JOHN ZENOR  
Associated Press

Lane Kiffin's first Mississippi team is many things, but boring is not among them.

Quarterback Matt Corral is deftly leading one of the nation's most prolific offenses. Receiver Elijah Moore and tight end Kenny Yeboah are putting up huge numbers on an offense that was virtually all about the running game last season.

A still-porous defense has led to the Rebels being involved in three consecutive shootouts to open the season while winning only one of them.

While the results have not been what Ole Miss fans would want, the games have been entertaining.

The Rebels (1-2) visit Arkansas (1-2) Saturday coming off a 63-48 loss to No. 2 Alabama that more closely resembled the score of some of their basketball games. It was the highest-scoring regulation SEC game in history.

"We had a chance to beat them in our first year here," Kiffin said. "Like I've said before, we're getting started. Got a lot of work to do. This is just the beginning. I said it the other day, this is the beginning of the future."

Ole Miss has many of the same defensive shortcomings that plagued it last season. The offense hardly resembles that run-oriented attack of a year ago.

The result: Rebels games have produced a whopping 93 combined points on average and few punts. They have punted 10 times, and opponents only five, meaning few defensive stops on either side.

There's seldom a shortage of action for the fans.

"Our offense is pretty entertaining," Ole Miss right tackle Royce Newman said. "We make pretty big plays. I figure it would just be really fun to watch."

The Rebels tallied 647 yards last weekend, the most ever produced against an Alabama defense. Of course, they also gave up a whopping 723 yards.

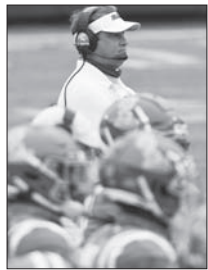
Kiffin's fast tempo is an adjustment for defenses, but also for his own players.

"Sometimes during this past weekend, I was like ... we need to slow down a little bit. Getting a little tired," Newman said. "It's a pretty fast offense."

And a productive one. Ole Miss ranks first nationally in passing yards per game, up from 102nd last season. The Rebels rank second in total yards per game and have scored 35-plus points in three straight SEC games for only the second time.

They have the nation's total offense leader in Corral and the leading receiver in Elijah Moore. Yeboah's 118.3 yards per game is tops among tight ends. Ole Miss has produced eight plays of 40-plus yards already, already halfway to last year's total.

Last year's team ranked ninth in rush offense but 82nd in scoring (compared to 11th in a smaller pool of active teams because of



THOMAS GRANING/AP

Mississippi head coach Lane Kiffin has had his team in three straight shootouts, a quarterback putting up huge numbers and the nation's worst defense statistically.

COVID-19).

Then there's the defense. The Rebels rank last among the 76 FBS teams currently playing in scoring, run and total defense.

One concern about the team's defensive players is their psyche after getting abused at times.

"Confidence is very fragile, no matter who you are," Kiffin said. "The best quarterbacks in the world get hit around in Super Bowls and we've seen them play bad. I've always said that. When you're in a run like this where we're struggling in that phase of the game, it's hard."

"We're playing some great players. A lot of first-round picks were trying to cover there. It usually takes a game or a part of a game to play well and get that back. Hopefully that happens this week."

### By the numbers

# 641.3

Yards per game allowed by Mississippi through three games, last among FBS teams.

# 8.79

Average yards allowed per play by Mississippi, last among FBS teams.

# 573

Yards per game on offense for Mississippi, No. 2 in the nation behind UCF.

SOURCE: NCAA.com

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields, after spearheading an online petition to urge the Big Ten to start back up, will finally get to play this season when the Buckeyes play host to Nebraska on Oct. 24.

## National title, Heisman all on check list for Buckeyes' Fields

By MITCH STACY  
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Not knowing when or if Ohio State was going to play in 2020, Justin Fields never stopped working toward another college football season. He stayed in Columbus, embraced a vegan diet and filled his days with physical conditioning and regular sessions of video study and field work under the tutelage of head coach Ryan Day.

As the Buckeyes prepare for their Oct. 24 opener against Nebraska, the 21-year-old quarterback's determination is palpable, even in his Zoom interviews with reporters.

"I know the time's ticking, so I'm just more anxious and anxious every day until game day comes," Fields said Tuesday. "I know I've said it 10 times, but y'all don't know how excited I am to play."

Fields transferred from Georgia last year, lured by Day to be the successor to star Dwayne Haskins Jr. He blossomed as expected, leading Ohio State to a national semifinal game and emerging as a Heisman Trophy finalist while battling through a late-season knee injury that made it difficult to even walk at times.

He finished third in the Heisman derby, which was a landslide for former Buckeyes quarterback Joe Burrow, who won the national title at LSU and now starts for the Cincinnati Bengals.

Fields likely will be playing in

**"I know I've said it 10 times, but y'all don't know how excited I am to play."**

**Justin Fields**  
Ohio State quarterback

the NFL next fall whether or not he plays another down of college football. He could have opted out of this pandemic-shortened season but wanted one more shot at the Heisman and a national title.

Fields patiently waited out the Big Ten as the conference shelved the season for about five weeks due to coronavirus concerns before reversing course. Instead of moving on, he spearheaded an online petition that was signed by hundreds of thousands of people urging the Big Ten to start back up.

Fields emerged from the pandemic break leaner and stronger. Coaches and teammates say he's also a more confident and demonstrative leader.

"I think when you have a year under your belt, you realize the consequence of every game, every snap, the preparation that comes into every play," Day said. "He asks the right questions going into practice if he's not sure. He makes sure he has it right. And he's also holding people accountable."

Quarterbacks coach Corey Dennis puts it this way: "He truly doesn't want to leave a stone unturned."

Fields put up gaudy num-

bers last season (3,273 yards, 41 touchdowns, three interceptions) in his first year working in Day's system, for which the creative, mobile quarterback is an ideal fit. But entering Year 2 there is a deeper understanding of the scheme and the goals.

"Last year I was kind of new to the playbook so (coaches) would give me the play and be like, 'Yo, it's most likely going to be this guy, this guy or this guy open in certain places,'" Fields said. This time around, "I happen to ask why we're calling a certain play, or what coach Day's goal is when it comes to calling that certain play."

The Ohio State offensive line is stocked with potential NFL talent. Acrobatic receivers Chris Olave and Garrett Wilson will be primary targets. A highly touted quartet of freshman receivers could make an impact, too, and there is depth at running back.

"I'll be shocked if he doesn't have a Heisman-winning type of year," ESPN college football analyst Kirk Herbstreit said. "And I hate to just put that on him, but I'm sure that's what his own expectations are, for himself and for his team."

## Dynamic duo

Clemson has 2 Heisman hopefuls in the backfield with QB Lawrence, RB Etienne

By PETE IACOBELLI  
Associated Press

Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence and tailback Travis Etienne are doing their best to complement each other as teammates as they trample opponents. They're also giving Heisman Trophy voters plenty to think about down the road.

"There's not two better football players in the country than T-squared," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said.

That could be evident whenever voters decide on college football's biggest individual award with how well Lawrence and Etienne have opened up this year.

They have led the top-ranked Tigers to their sixth-consecutive 4-0 start, leading a relentless offensive juggernaut that's outscored the opposition 168-53 so far.

Lawrence, the 6-foot-6 junior with the flowing hair and cannon arm, has completed 72% of his throws for 1,140 yards and 10 touchdowns. He has also gone 12 full games without throwing an interception, a streak of 355 passing attempts.

Etienne, the two-time defending Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year, has run for 392 yards and four TDs. He's also second on the Tigers with 17 receptions.

Etienne set a college football record with a touchdown in a 39th game, breaking a tie with two others including past Heisman winner Tim Tebow of Florida.

Lawrence and Etienne have an easy-going connection that comes from wanting to win as much as possible and improve each time out, offensive coordinator Tony Elliott said.

"They want to do what's required, they want the ball in their hands," Elliott said. "But they also want their teammates to be successful."

Etienne, a senior, arrived first as a goofy, gangly runner who got a scholarship offer late when another recruit went elsewhere. Eti-



RICHARD SHIRO/AP

**Clemson's Travis Etienne has run for 392 yards and four touchdowns this season for the 4-0 and top-ranked Tigers.**

enne also had breakaway speed, but it took him time to develop the power moves he uses.

Lawrence entered as a five-star heir apparent to Clemson's national championship QB Deshaun Watson. After four games as a backup his freshman year in 2018, Lawrence was elevated to starter and has gone 29-1 since winning the national title his first season. The lone loss was to LSU in last year's championship.

There are several instances of teammates vying with each other for the Heisman: on 14 occasions two players from the same school finished in the top five in voting. The last time was last year as Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields was third and Buckeyes defensive end Chase Young was fourth.

Southern Cal tailback Reggie Bush was the last to win a Heisman with a teammate near the top as quarterback Matt Leinart was third in 2005. Bush voluntarily gave up his award due to NCAA violations.

Lawrence, Etienne and the Tigers (3-0 ACC) continue their season at Georgia Tech on Saturday.



WALLY UNKS, THE WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL/AP

**Clemson's Trevor Lawrence has thrown for 1,140 yards and 10 touchdowns and has not had an interception in his past 12 games.**



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Chanticleers shock No. 21 Ragin' Cajuns

Late field goal lifts Coastal Carolina to 4-0

By Dan McDonald  
Associated Press

LAFAYETTE, La. — Massimo Biscardi made a 40-yard field goal with 4 seconds left to give Coastal Carolina a 30-27 victory over No. 21 Louisiana-Lafayette on Wednesday night in Sun Belt matchup of unbeaten teams.

Freshman Grayson McCall threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score to help the Chanticleers (4-0, 2-0) beat a ranked team for the first time. The 4-0 start is their first in FBS play.

"We've never been in this position before," second-year Coastal Carolina coach Jamey Chadwell said. "For us to be able to come out with a victory, in a Wednesday night game on national television, there's tons of excitement here."

Coastal drove 60 yards in the final 5:30 to set up Biscardi, a three-year starter who has hit 31 of 39 field goal attempts. McCall had two completions for first downs on the drive and finished 17 of 24 for 202 yards. He has 11 TD passes in four games.

"I trusted my preparation, and I had teammates that believed in me," Biscardi said. "I kind of blacked out, I didn't even think to be honest."

The Ragin' Cajuns (3-1, 2-1) rallied three times with tying touchdowns, two by Elijah Mitchell. His 1-yard burst with 12:44 left tied it at 27.

"Their quarterback played well, but we could have tackled better," said Louisiana-Lafayette coach Billy Napier, whose team rallied from behind in each of its first three wins — the last against Georgia Southern on a last-play

field goal. "They stress you on defense with everything they do, but we had our opportunities."

Both teams scored on their first and their last possessions of the first half, with Levi Lewis' 12-yard pass to Jalen Williams giving Louisiana a 7-0 lead before the Chanticleers matched that drive and CJ Marable scored from a yard out.

Coastal Carolina took a 13-7 lead with 1:03 left in the half when McCall capped an 84-yard march with a 13-yard scoring pass to Marable. The Cajuns drove 77 yards in 54 seconds, with Lewis scoring on a quarterback draw with 5 seconds left.

The second half started like the first, with both teams scoring on their first possession. McCall hit Jaivon Heiligh from 6 yards out to cap an eight-minute drive, and Louisiana countered in only seven plays on Mitchell's 9-yard run late in the third quarter. One drive later, though, Lewis' pass was picked off by Jordan Morris at the Louisiana 26, with the only turnover of the game setting up McCall's 3-yard scoring run.

## The takeaway

**Coastal Carolina:** The nation's fourth-highest scoring offense (44.7 points per game) didn't match its point average, but the Chanticleers were efficient with 38:11 in time of possession and a 9 of 15 success rate on third down.

**Louisiana-Lafayette:** The Cajuns' rushing attack accounted for 240 yards, but Lewis' interception on the next-to-last play of the third quarter set up a Coastal Carolina's go-ahead touchdown.



PAUL KUE/AP

Coastal Carolina players celebrate Wednesday night after kicker Massimo Biscardi hoisted a game-deciding 40-yard field goal in a 30-27 win over No. 21 Louisiana-Lafayette in Lafayette, La.



PHOTOS BY RICK BOWMER/AP

BYU quarterback Zach Wilson leads the nation in passing efficiency percentage at .812 and he is also fourth in the nation in passing yards with 1,241 for the 4-0 Cougars.

# Cougars' QB Wilson returning BYU to its pass-focused roots

Associated Press

A generation of college football fans grew up knowing BYU as 'QB U.'

Cougars quarterbacks consistently became first-round NFL draft picks and Heisman Trophy contenders in the 1970s, '80s and '90s. Under innovative coach LaVell Edwards, BYU offenses helped lay the foundation for today's pass-happy game.

For the first time in a long time, BYU has that kind of quarterback again. With the help of a former Cougars QB, Zach Wilson is conjuring up memories of Jim McMahon and Steve Young in Provo, Utah.

No. 14 BYU (4-0) takes its unbeaten record and sideline dance parties to Houston to face another group of Cougars on Friday. It will be the toughest test yet for BYU and Wilson, who grew up a short drive from the school but didn't get a scholarship offer from the Cougars until the 11th hour of his recruitment.

Being overlooked did nothing to break Wilson's confidence. It probably added to his swagger and self-assured style.

"I had a lot to prove and at the same time, no one expected anything of me. So when I came in it was easy to take a risk," Wilson said. "It was just an average Joe coming in."

It's not that Zach Wilson wasn't on the radar of coaches at Utah and BYU. It was just that neither school wanted him.

At least not until after the 2017 season. BYU coach Kalani Sitake overhauled his offensive staff, including letting go of offensive coordinator and BYU Heisman Trophy winner Ty Detmer.

The staff turnover left BYU without a quarterback committed to the 2018 class.

Scrambling, Sitake targeted Wilson, who had been verbally committed to Boise State.



Wilson was swayed by opportunity and history. BYU had not signed a quarterback in the 2017 class and had struggled at the position that season. The job was going to be wide open in 2018.

John Beck played for the Cougars post-Edwards and was taken in the second round of the 2007 NFL draft by the Miami Dolphins. He is now a quarterback trainer at 3DQB based in Southern California.

Wilson began working with Beck after his first spring practice with BYU in 2018. It was illuminating.

"It was a whole bunch of learning and tons of stuff I'd never done before as far as just like, footwork, how your body is supposed to have your weight distributed up," Wilson said.

Beck said it was easy to see Wilson was loaded with untapped potential.

"You could see this athleticism. You could see his arm strength. You could see this quick twitch ability. You could see these things, but they weren't totally synched up," Beck said.

Wilson has the tools to make what coaches call off-platform throws, to deliver a strong and accurate pass when circumstances

don't allow for textbook mechanics. It's one of the traits that makes NFL stars Aaron Rodgers, Pat Mahomes and Russell Wilson so great, and the reason why the 6-foot-3, 210-pound Zach Wilson is drawing increased interest from NFL scouts.

After starting as a freshman, Wilson missed much of last season with injuries.

Zach's father, Mike Wilson, said he began this season thinking about how fortunate it was that his son potentially had three years left at BYU, possibly taking advantage of the NCAA's decision to give all fall sport athletes an extra year to make up for this odd season in a pandemic.

Now, Mike is getting peppered with calls from agents. They see Zach Wilson as a potential first-round pick in a 2021 draft that seems to have a clear top three quarterback prospects in Clemson's Trevor Lawrence, Ohio State's Justin Fields and North Dakota State's Trey Lance.

Wilson has blended his swash-buckling style with surgical precision this season. He has completed 81% of his passes, thrown just one interception and accounted for 14 touchdowns.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL



ROGELIO V. SOULS/AP

Alabama running back Najee Harris carries for a 3-yard touchdown against Mississippi during the second half of last week's game in Oxford. Harris rushed for 206 yards and five touchdowns.

## Alabama's Harris braces for UGA's stingy defense

By JOHN ZENOR  
Associated Press

Najee Harris was front and center for Alabama leading up to the season.

The second-ranked Crimson Tide's standout tailback participated in college players' "We Want to Play" movement, spoke at a team march for social justice and was the subject of a YouTube series entitled "The Campaign."

Harris took center stage again with a big game in a 63-48 win over Mississippi, running for 206 yards and a school record-tying five touchdowns. That performance was just in time for Saturday's showdown with No. 3 Georgia's defense, which is allowing a nation's best 38.3 rushing yards a game and hasn't given up a touchdown on the ground through three games.

"They have an amazing defense, one of the best in the nation, and that motivates me more," Harris said Monday.

Alabama's passing game was the big star of the first two games, when Harris averaged a modest 4.9 yards on 29 carries. He scored five touchdowns but didn't have a run longer than 18 yards.

## DID YOU KNOW?

After serving as a backup running back his first two years at Alabama, senior Najee Harris broke through last season with 1,224 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns. He also caught seven TD passes.

SOURCE: Associated Press

The headlines focused on quarterback Mac Jones and receivers Jaylen Waddle and John Metchie III. Then it was Harris's turn.

He carried 23 times against a struggling Rebels defense and caught three passes for 42 yards. Held in check the first two games, Harris scored on runs of 33, 5, 3 and 16 yards before a game-sealing 39-yarder with just over a minute left.

His 10 rushing touchdowns through three games is the most in the SEC in at least 15 seasons, according to Alabama.

"They've got probably the best back in the country if not one of the best backs in the country," Bulldogs coach Kirby Smart said Monday.

Harris just happens to play on

one of the best passing offenses in the country.

He was likely to be one of the top running backs selected in the NFL Draft after last season but opted to return as a senior. After two seasons waiting his turn behind Damien Harris and eventual first-round NFL Draft pick Josh Jacobs, the once-prized recruit emerged as a star when he finally got his chance.

Harris ran for 1,224 yards and 13 touchdowns and also caught seven touchdown passes.

"He's a tremendous back," Georgia cornerback Eric Stokes said. "He's a hard runner and especially he's getting way better with his catching ability. That makes him a bigger threat, even outside of that."

If Harris does emerge as a legitimate candidate late in the season, the Ole Miss performance certainly won't hurt his case. The one blemish: His first career lost fumble after 466 previous touches without one.

The linebacker Christian Harris says after facing him in practice and seeing him in games Najee Harris "in my eyes is the best running back in college football, most definitely."

## Saban, Tide AD Byrne test positive for COVID-19

By JOHN ZENOR  
Associated Press

Alabama coach Nick Saban and athletic director Greg Byrne have tested positive for COVID-19, three days before the second-ranked Crimson Tide are set to face No. 3 Georgia in a clash of Southeastern Conference and national powers.

Both said their tests Wednesday morning came back positive, and Saban said in a statement that he "immediately left work and isolated at home."

Saban, who monitored practice Wednesday from home, said he didn't have any symptoms as of early evening. But the second-ranked Crimson Tide will almost certainly be without their iconic 68-year-old coach on the sideline when they play Georgia.

Saban said he informed the team via a Zoom call at 2 p.m. Wednesday, about an hour after he learned of the test results, and that offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian will oversee game preparations within the football building while he works from home.

Saban said Sarkisian, a former head coach at Washington and USC, will still call the offensive plays. Saban has led Alabama to five national titles since taking over the program in 2007, and also won one at LSU.

Saban wasn't sure how game day will go when it comes to communication with his staff, but is confident he can still lead



L.G. PATTERSON/AP

Alabama coach Nick Saban, above, and athletic director Greg Byrne tested positive Wednesday for COVID-19, four days before the Southeastern Conference's biggest regular-season showdown. The second-ranked Crimson Tide are set to face No. 3 Georgia on Saturday, and will likely be without their iconic 68-year-old coach.

practices and run meetings from home via Zoom calls. He communicated with a team manager when he saw a mistake in practice and wanted a play repeated.

He planned to go through his usual Thursday routine, which includes watching the offense and defense practice, work on two-point plays, and planned to preside over meetings all from home.

"I didn't leave the country or anything,"

Saban said. "I'm just right down the street. And we have this technology, so it's really unique.

"Now, I don't have experience at that. But we're going to do the best we can to keep everything as normal as possible."

The Tide played at Mississippi last weekend, and Rebels coach Lane Kiffin said Wednesday his team had some positive tests. Saban said Alabama hasn't "had

any indication" of an outbreak within the team.

Saban said he and staffers — from coaches to secretaries — had done a good job of wearing masks around each other while in the football building. Asked about his No. 1 concern, Saban mentioned getting his players ready for the game, not his health.

"It's a big game for them," he said. "Our goal as coaches is always to get them in the best position they can be in to be able to have success, and we need to try to continue to do that. That would be the greatest concern that I have."

"I haven't blocked anybody or tackled anybody, caught any passes, thrown any passes in a game in a long, long time, so it's still going to be up to how the players are able to execute and it's up to us to try to get them in the best position to do that."

The news out of Tuscaloosa was another body blow for the SEC, which had postponed two games this week already: No. 10 Florida against defending national champion LSU and Missouri-Vanderbilt.

Alabama's head trainer Jeff Allen and medical director Jimmy Robinson said in a joint statement that Saban and Byrne were the only initial positive tests.

"All individuals who are considered high-risk contacts have been notified and will follow quarantine guidelines," the statement said. "We will follow the SEC's Return to Activity and Medical Guidance Task Force Protocol for testing asymptomatic positives."

Byrne said he would "remain at home and follow all guidelines."

AP sports writer Teresa Walker contributed to this report.

## NFL

# Rams have knack for fast starts

By Dan Greenspan  
Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Fast starts are nothing new for the Los Angeles Rams, having scored four opening-drive touchdowns in five games this season.

They want to keep that momentum going in their NFC West opener at San Francisco on Sunday.

“Really, going into games we feel like everything’s going to work,” wide receiver Robert Woods said. “We are going out there, playing fast and executing. And I feel like once we get out there and we’re running our first few plays and starting off the game, we’re setting the tone for how we’re going to attack the rest of the game.”

Success on early drives has been a reliable trend for coach Sean McVay, especially in the division. The Rams (4-1) have turned their initial possession into points 12 times in 18 NFC West games under McVay, including three touchdowns and three field goals last season.

The offense got into the end zone to start two games against the 49ers in 2019, but the Rams lost both en route to a 3-3 record against San Francisco, Seattle and Arizona. It was the first time since McVay became head coach that Los Angeles did not have a winning record against the NFC West, coinciding with his



DANIEL KUCIN JR./AP

Los Angeles Rams quarterback Jared Goff throws against Washington, Sunday, in Landover, Md.

first team that failed to make the postseason.

The Rams won all six division games in 2018, and their 4-2 mark in 2017 included a Week 17 loss to San Francisco, where McVay sat numerous starters having already secured the NFC West title and a home playoff game in the wild-card round.

“If you win most of your division games, you’re probably going to be in the playoffs,” quarterback Jared Goff said. “And every game counts the same, but these ones always count a little bit more and you’re always looking forward to them a little bit more, so we’ll be ready to go.”

The notion of starting a game using scripted plays began with legendary San Francisco coach

Bill Walsh, but McVay does not treat them as being written in stone. Instead, he narrows down a set of plays to use based on how the offense has performed in practice.

“These are the plays you feel good about, we’ve executed at a pretty high level,” McVay said. “The players feel comfortable, and these are definitely those plays that you want to get off. But to say you do these openings and you go right down the list, that’s not how you call a game.”

To Goff, those plays go beyond the “priority” status McVay assigns to them.

“We run some of our best stuff on that first drive,” Goff said. “We obviously have some stuff that we want to get up through-

out the game and set things up certain ways, but a lot of times in that first drive is some of our best runs, our best play-actions, our best keepers, our best screens. It’s a mix and match of some of the stuff that we really have loved throughout the week. And it’s always good to start fast and something that we put an emphasis on.”

Goff and his teammates have mostly been up to the challenge this season, only failing to generate points when Samuel Sloan missed a 53-yard field goal to start Week 3 at Buffalo. That drive stalled when Goff was sacked on consecutive plays, a rare instance of the offense not being completely in sync on its first chance to move the ball.

# Despite lack of wins, Giants QB Jones making progress

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Every time New York Giants coach Joe Judge and his assistants talk about Daniel Jones, they relay a feeling the sixth pick overall in the 2019 draft is making progress.

The problem is neither Jones nor the Giants are winning.

Over the last two seasons, New York has won 3 of 18 games with Jones as the starting quarterback. The kid from Duke is 1-15 in his last 16 starts and 0-5 this season heading into Sunday’s game with Washington (1-4) at MetLife Stadium.

Jones has clearly made mistakes in running a bad team. The biggest is turning over the ball. He had 24 last season and he has eight in five games this year.

To blame the losses all on him would be wrong, of course. Every group on this team has struggled at some point, either under Pat Shurmur last year or Judge this year.

“We put a lot of work into it throughout the week,” Jones said Wednesday after practice. “To not get the results is disappointing at times. It’s frustrating. I think like anyone, I certainly am when we don’t get the results. I take it hard. But the thing about this game, the thing about any game, any sport or anything you’re doing is you have to be able to refocus and not let it discourage you, not let it distract

from the next one.”

Jones believes he has learned from his mistakes and reenergizes and focuses toward the next game.

Judge insists he is blunt talking to Jones about his play, and doesn’t sugarcoat anything.

“He’s a tough-minded dude,” Judge said. “He responds to a lot of criticism on the outside. But he blocks that out and he plays for his teammates internally. Those guys respect that about him.”

Jones has hit 111 of 182 passes this season for 1,111 yards and two touchdowns. His completion percentage is roughly the same (61%) but his touchdowns are down. He has two this season. He had 24 in 13 starts last season.

Quarterbacks coach Jerry Schuplini said Jones takes losses hard, but he continues to work diligently.

“He has made progress in areas in a lot of ways,” Schuplini said. “His ball is coming out pretty fast. He’s good at his communication up at the line of scrimmage with those guys and trying to get things organized. He’s done a good job of mixing up some snap counts and some cadences. I think the accuracy has been pretty good. He’s done better with decision-making.”

The next step would be winning, which is what the Giants really need.



BRANDON WADE/AP

New York Giants quarterback Daniel Jones is 1-15 in his last 16 starts and 0-5 this season heading into Sunday’s game with Washington (1-4) at MetLife Stadium.

# Pats rally around Belichick

By GETHIN COOLBAUGH  
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The New England Patriots activated quarterback Cam Newton from the NFL’s COVID-19 reserve list on Wednesday.

Newton is expected to practice with the team on Thursday, which likely would lead to his starting on Sunday against Denver.

New England was 2-1 with Newton as its starter, then lost at Kansas City when he was sidelined after testing positive for the coronavirus. Newton had tested positive for the coronavirus on Oct. 2.

Three Patriots remain on the COVID-19 reserve list: cornerback Stephon Gilmore, defensive tackle Byron Cowart and practice squad DT Bill Murray. Gilmore was the 2019 NFL Defensive Player of the Year.

New England players say they have found an ally in coach Bill Belichick amid growing local criticism of the NFL’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Belichick’s approach to the virus outbreak within the walls of Gillette Stadium has earned him praise from those in the Patriots’ locker room as they navigate the stops and restarts of this unusual NFL season.

“Bill has done a good job of (saying), ‘Hey, this is forever kind of changing, it’s very fluid,’” Patriots safety Devin McCourty said. “But once we get it, (he says) ‘This is what we’ve got, this is what we’re gonna do, and I think all of us have just kind of (fallen) in line.’”

New England players returned to the team’s facilities on Wednesday for the first time since participating in a walk-through Saturday to prepare for their now twice-postponed game against Denver. After a fourth positive COVID-19 test last Sunday, the NFL rescheduled the game with the Broncos — originally set for Sunday, but bumped to Monday after a handful of positive tests last week — to this coming Sunday.

Devin’s brother, Patriots cornerback Jason McCourty, was among those who voiced their pleasure with the league and its players’ union last week, claiming “they don’t care” about the well-being of players over profit.

“When he speaks, it’s from talking to a lot of different people — obviously with the (players association), but I would say most importantly the guys in our locker room,” Devin McCourty said.

He added, “I think the biggest thing he said was the guys in the locker room, the guys in the organization, coaches, players — that’s what it’s about. It’s us keeping each other safe. It’s hard to imagine people outside of our building are gonna care more about our safety. I think that’s just a common sense thought.”



## NFL

## Weekly statistics

## AFC individual leaders

Week 5				
Quarterbacks				
Att	Yds	TD	Int	
Allen, Buf	189	131	1589	14
Mahomes, KC	193	123	1474	13
Watson, Hou	163	109	1451	9
Carr, Las	175	102	1462	1
Minshew, Jac	196	137	1439	10
Fitzpatrick, Mia	170	120	1344	7
Burrow, Cin	207	135	1304	6
Rivers, Ind	154	109	1227	4
Herbert, LAC	141	97	1195	6
Roethlisberger, Pitt	143	100	1016	10

Receivers				
Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Jacobs, Las	106	37.7	36	16
Henry, Tex	101	37.6	34	16
Mixon, Cin	101	37.4	34	3
Chubb, Cle	97	35.0	33	2
Edwards-Helaire, KC	81	34.4	4.2	27
Chase, Cle	71	33.5	29	3
J.Robinson, Jac	73	33.3	4.6	3
Taylor, Ind	77	30.7	4.0	16
M.A.Johnson, Hou	68	29.3	4.3	29
Gordon, Den	65	28.1	4.3	43

Running backs				
Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Diggs, Buf	32	40.5	12.7	45
Kelce, KC	22	36.4	16.5	54
Hill, KC	32	36.2	11.3	25
Boyd, Cin	34	35.6	10.5	28
Allen, LAC	34	35.6	10.5	28
Crowell, NYJ	25	33.2	15.1	43
Fuller, Hou	26	33.2	15.1	43
Parker, Mia	26	33.2	15.1	43
M.Brown, Buf	24	31.3	13.0	29
Beasley, Buf	24	31.3	13.0	29

Punters				
Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Townsend, KC	18	90.2	67	50.1
Huber, Cin	23	111.7	70	48.6
Holmes, Ind	10	48.4	38	48.4
Haack, Mia	15	71.3	63	47.5
Long, LAC	21	99.3	63	47.3
Cooke, Jac	13	60.4	63	46.5
Anger, Hou	17	78.8	59	45.4
Kern, Tex	13	55.7	66	45.3
Marlin, Den	15	68.8	56	45.3
Koch, Bal	15	68.4	53	45.6

Punt returns				
Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Roberts, Buf	6	12.2	13.7	38
Spencer, Den	6	8.2	13.7	41
Holmes, Ind	10	10.1	10.1	21
Ericksen, Cin	7	7.0	10.0	22
Carter, Hou	10	6.8	9.7	19
Proche, Bal	10	8.8	8.8	17
Raymond, Ten	8	6.4	6.0	4
Kern, Tex	8	5.0	7.1	18
Grant, Mia	5	5.6	6.2	15

Kickoff returns				
Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Rodgers, Ind	7	23.8	34.3	10.1
Duvernay, Bal	7	19.2	27.4	49
McCloud, Pitt	3	24.2	26.9	39
Peoples-Jones, Cle	8	17.2	21.5	32
Carlier, Hou	9	19.1	21.2	29
Malone, NYJ	7	14.0	20.0	40

Scoring Touchdowns				
TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Hunt, Cle	6	3	0	36
Andrews, Bal	6	3	0	36
Claypool, Pitt	5	1	4	30
Hill, KC	5	1	4	30
Jacobs, Las	5	0	5	30
Smith, Ten	5	0	5	30
5 tied	3	1	3	24

Kicking				
PAT	FG	LG	Pts	
Blankenship, Ind	11	15	17	44
Sanders, Mia	10	10	14	52
Carlson, Las	16	17	12	54
Bullock, Cin	9	9	13	54
Tucker, Bal	17	17	10	47
Fairbairn, Hou	11	11	12	50
Gostkowski, Ten	11	13	9	52
Carlier, Hou	17	17	7	58
Butker, KC	13	6	9	58
Picken, NYJ	13	6	9	54



DON WHEAT/AP

**Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Chase Claypool scores his fourth touchdown of the day against Philadelphia on Oct. 11.**

## NFC individual leaders

Week 5				
Quarterbacks				
Att	Yds	TD	Int	
Prescott, Dal	222	151	1856	9
Wilson, Sea	169	123	1502	19
Ryan, Atl	204	129	1472	7
Bridgewater, Car	178	130	1460	6
Brady, Tex	186	126	1375	12
Goff, LAR	152	109	1372	8
Brees, NO	176	122	1311	9
K.Murray, Ari	181	126	1259	8
Rodgers, GB	139	98	1214	13
Wentz, Phi	195	117	1188	6

Receivers				
Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Cook, Min	39	48.9	5.3	39
Gurley, Atl	75	37.5	4.7	39
James, GB	65	37.4	5.8	75
Elliott, Dal	89	36.4	4.1	24
Jones, TB	74	35.9	4.3	37
Sanders, Phi	62	31.6	5.1	74
Drake, Ari	85	31.4	3.7	16
K.Murray, Ari	61	29.6	7.2	48
Carlson, Sea	61	28.7	4.7	29
Kamara, NO	61	28.1	4.6	49

Running backs				
Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Hopkins, Ari	45	52.8	11.7	45
McCutell, Sea	22	49.6	22.5	62
Anderson, Car	36	48.9	13.6	75
Ridley, Atl	29	48.5	16.7	63
Lamb, Dal	29	43.3	14.9	43
Cooper, Dal	39	42.4	10.9	58
Robinson, Chi	35	42.1	12.0	37
McLaurin, Was	29	41.3	14.2	39
Kamara, NO	38	39.5	10.4	52
Moore, Car	22	38.1	17.3	57

Punters				
Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Fox, Det	17	90.8	67	53.9
Johnston, Phi	21	108.0	62	51.4
Dickson, Sea	22	109.2	67	49.6
Way, Was	31	150.0	61	48.4
Hekker, LAR	20	93.4	59	46.7
Plinton, TB	16	74.1	62	45.8
Dixon, NYG	24	103.3	64	46.0
O'Donnell, Chi	15	68.7	59	45.8
Wishnowsky, SF	19	85.4	58	44.9

Punt returns				
Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Harris, NO	7	10.0	15.1	22
Lamb, Dal	9	8.4	9.3	27
Mickens, TB	10	6.8	6.8	14
Kupp, LAR	7	4.4	6.3	10
Sims, Was	10	5.6	5.6	10
Cooper, Car	8	4.9	4.9	10

Kickoff returns				
Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Patterson, Chi	15	46.8	31.2	47
Agnew, Det	19	19.2	27.4	35
Cooper, Car	10	25.0	25.0	38
Osborn, Min	7	17.0	24.3	38
Edmonds, SF	8	16.3	23.2	42
Homer, Sea	8	18.4	23.0	44
Powell, Atl	7	21.1	20.1	26

Scoring Touchdowns				
TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Cook, Min	7	7	0	42
Kamara, NO	6	3	3	42
Carlson, Sea	6	1	5	36
Elliott, Dal	6	5	1	36
Evans, Atl	6	0	6	36
James, GB	6	4	2	36
Thielen, Min	6	0	6	36

Kicking				
PAT	FG	LG	Pts	
Slye, Car	13	14	17	47
Lutz, NO	18	19	9	53
Gano, NYG	4	4	13	54
Succop, TB	14	15	9	41
Crosby, GB	16	17	8	42
Koo, Atl	14	11	12	54
Zuerlein, Dal	13	15	9	46
Gould, SF	16	13	7	52
Gonzalez, Ari	14	15	6	56
Sloman, LAR	14	16	6	56

# Vikings' Mattison ready to step in if Cook's out

BY BRIAN HALL

Associated Press

EAGAN, Minn. — When Dalvin Cook hurt his groin and left for the locker room Sunday night in Seattle, the Minnesota Vikings didn't alter their game plan.

Despite the absence of the NFL's leading rusher, Minnesota maintained its run-heavy approach with second-year back Alexander Mattison. In the Vikings' eyes, the strategy didn't need to change. After all, Mattison — nicknamed "Deuce" — is nearly a clone of Cook.

"He sees the field how I see the field, and it's crazy when we come off the field how we see things so similar," Cook said Wednesday. "He's just a bigger version. When he comes in, he's trying to break the home run, too. But he knows what's ahead of him. I do think Deuce is a similar version of me."

Cook hobbled off after catching a short pass on the first offensive play of the second half in the 27-26 loss to the Seahawks. Cook came back for one more play, before determining he couldn't go full speed and was done for the rest of the game.

Mattison had 12 carries for 80 yards in the fourth quarter alone. He finished with 112 yards rushing, the first 100-yard game of his career, on 20 attempts.

"We're both that two-headed monster," Mattison said. "Cook, who leads the NFL with 489 rushing yards and is tied with New Orleans' Alvin Kamara with a league-best seven touchdowns, didn't practice on Wednesday. His status is in question for Minnesota's game on Sunday."

"I feel better," Cook said. "Still taking this thing day by day. As



TED S. WARREN/AP

**The Vikings' Alexander Mattison ran for 112 yards against Seattle last week, most of it coming after starter Dalvin Cook was injured.**

far as my Atlanta status, we're going to take this thing day by day. Just see how it feels after treatment and everything."

Cook has dealt with injuries throughout his career, missing 21 games in his first three seasons. The Vikings have thus made it a priority to have a steady backup.

When Latavius Murray left in free agency following the 2018

season, Minnesota selected Mattison in the third round of the 2019 draft out of Boise State. The similarities to Cook weren't the reason Mattison was chosen. Call it a fortunate coincidence.

"Alexander is a good back, a really conscientious kid," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said. "He works real hard and tries to learn from Dalvin as much as we can."

# Steelers rookie Claypool draws raves

By WILL GRAVES

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Ben Roethlisberger predicted Chase Claypool's breakout. Claypool is gearing the rookie wide receiver for what comes next.

Score four touchdowns in a game, as Claypool did in a 38-29 win over Philadelphia last Sunday, and you're no longer a secret. Do it from four different positions in four different formations and you forfeit any notion of being overlooked by opponents.

So while Roethlisberger encouraged Claypool to drink in the moment after becoming just the third rookie in NFL history to score three touchdowns receiving and one rushing in the same game, Roethlisberger also made sure to remind Claypool the path to the end zone will get much tougher from here.

"The thing I told him after the game is he isn't going to be able to sneak up on any-

**'The thing I told him after the game is he isn't going to be able to sneak up on anybody.'**

**Ben Roethlisberger**  
Steelers QB on rookie WR Chase Claypool's four-TD game

performance."

So while his phone blew up with messages in the immediate aftermath, the 22-year-old's routine has not. He spent some

of the brief downtime the grind of the regular season provides playing video games with his friends.

"We don't talk football, which is nice," Claypool said. "Keeps me grounded."

Good thing, because if a 6-foot-4, 238-pounder from Abbottsford, British Columbia, keeps making it look so easy to score, stardom is coming.

The player his teammates have dubbed "Mapleton" — an ode to similarly built former Detroit Lions standout Calvin "Megatron" Johnson and Claypool's Canadian roots — won the Steelers over in the run-up to the draft with his physical gifts. Still, it might be his mental acuity that's helped him carve out a role so quickly.

In a way, the lack of a "normal" preseason because of the COVID-19 pandemic might have sped up Claypool's education. No need to waste time trying to grasp the basics of the playbook for meaningless preseason games. Instead, Claypool and the other rookies were able to dive right into the details.

NFL/NLCS

# Falcons shut down after positive tests

**By GEORGE HENRY**  
*Associated Press*

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Falcons shut their facility Thursday following one new positive test for COVID-19. The team remains scheduled to play at Minnesota on Sunday.

Defensive tackle Marlon Davidson was placed on the COVID-19/reserve list this week, and the addition of a second unidentified person caused the Falcons to act out of caution. All team activity will be done virtually.

A team spokesman said the second person was not a player. The spokesman added that, barring any changes, the Falcons are expected to be back at their facility on Friday.

The Falcons' decision to shut their facility follows outbreaks with the Tennessee Titans and New England Patriots.

"This decision was made in consultation with the NFL and medical officials," the team said in a statement. "The health and safety of our team is our highest priority."

The Falcons (0-5) fired coach Dan Quinn and general manager Thomas Dimitroff last Sunday night, and Raheem Morris was named interim coach.

"Right now, in this new COVID world, there is a lot of things that come up in that world every single day," Morris said Tuesday. "You just have to deal with that all the time."

Davidson was the second Atlanta player to be placed on the COVID-19/reserve list in-season. Rookie cornerback A.J. Terrell missed two games before returning for last week's home loss.

Protocols were increased at the Falcons' practice Wednesday.

# 49ers great Dean dies

**By JOSH DUBOW**  
*Associated Press*

SAN FRANCISCO — Fred Dean, the fearsome pass rusher who was a key part of the launch of the San Francisco 49ers' dynasty, has died. He was 68.

His death on Wednesday night was confirmed Thursday by the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. Dean was hospitalized last week with the coronavirus and was on a ventilator and in intensive care, according to former teammate Dwight Hicks.

Dean was an undersized pass rusher who began his career as a second-round pick with the San Diego Chargers in 1975 and ended it in the Hall of Fame after being named an All-Pro twice and making four Pro Bowls.

Dean was an All-Pro for the Chargers in 1980 but had his biggest impact after being traded to San Francisco during the 1981 season.

"We definitely had different meetings today, completely virtual," quarterback Matt Ryan said after practice. "We were all in separate rooms and in our own space. Even in practice, (shields) on our helmets. I think we are doing everything we can to keep it at bay and do the best we can under the guidelines we've been given."

The NFL is attempting to play a full schedule amid the pandemic without teams isolated in a bubble as other sports have done to protect players and staff from the virus. No games were affected during the first three weeks of the season, but the schedules of nine teams have since been disrupted.

Tennessee had the most serious outbreak with 24 positive tests, including 13 players.

The league said this week it will begin PCR testing for COVID-19 on game days beginning Sunday. The use of masks in walk-throughs is now mandatory, and only play-callers will be permitted to wear face shields in lieu of masks or gaiters on the sideline.

The updated protocols sent to teams Monday night also require anyone identified as a "high risk" close contact to be isolated and not permitted to return to the team's facility for at least five days.

Falcons safety Ricardo Allen said the team was watching closely to ensure players followed protocols Wednesday.

"I think everybody even has the new little mask thing on every helmet," he said. "They make sure that they have heightened everything. They make sure that they know everyone is aware even if they catch you with your mask down a little bit, they'll make sure you move it up."

"While it cannot be said that Fred Dean's greatness as an NFL player began when he came to the 49ers in 1981, I can say as the owner of the team that the greatness of the 49ers began with Fred Dean's arrival in San Francisco," former 49ers owner Eddie DeBartolo said when he introduced Haley at his Hall of Fame induction.

Dean's career in San Diego ended in a contract dispute in 1981 and he was traded to San Francisco in October.

He credited the trade for reviving his career.

"I actually stepped on the other side for a minute, breathed in the air, looked at it as a rainbow," he said before being inducted into the Hall of Fame. "I made it to the other side of the rainbow. For me, that was the pot of gold. It was a different lifestyle for me altogether. I felt free to perform once I got there."



Eric Gay/AP

The Los Angeles Dodgers' Joe Pederson celebrates his three-run home run Wednesday during the first inning of Game 3 of the National League Championship Series against the Atlanta Braves in Arlington, Texas. The Dodgers scored 11 first-inning runs en route to a 15-3 victory.

# Back: Dodgers blast Braves early

## FROM BACK PAGE

five innings. He walked the first two batters but no more. Manager Dave Roberts said Clayton Kershaw would start Game 4 for the Dodgers, two nights after the three-time NL Cy Young Award winner from Dallas was scratched because of back spasms. Bryse Wilson makes his postseason debut as the third rookie right-handed starter for Atlanta in this series in what will be his first appearance since the final day of the regular season on Sept. 27.

"We still are in a good spot with four games left," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "Like I say, for the whole team, you just turn the page and get ready to go tomorrow."

The Dodgers had left the tying run at third base in a four-run bottom of the ninth during an 8-7 loss on Tuesday night. They were the visiting team in Game 3 and sent 14 batters to the plate for seven hits, three walks and a hit batter over 32 minutes in the 29,786th half-inning in postseason history.

"It was a carryover," reigning NL MVP Cody Bellinger insisted.

"That was fun to be a part of," Pederson said. "I think some of the momentum from last night, the last inning definitely carried over and got us feeling a little bit more comfortable at the plate."

Those 15 runs over two times up came after the Braves had allowed only nine runs in their previous six games plus eight innings, a stretch that included four shutouts en route to a 7-0 postseason start.

Bellinger walked and scored in the first, led off the second with a homer and added an RBI single

## Scoreboard

NLCS	
(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)	
At Arlington, Texas	
Atlanta 5, L.A. Dodgers 1	
Atlanta 8, L.A. Dodgers 7	
Wednesday: L.A. Dodgers 15, Atlanta 3	
Thursday: Game 4	
Friday: Game 5 (AFN-Sports, 3:30 a.m. Saturday CET; 10:30 a.m. Saturday JKT)	
x-Saturday: Game 6	
x-Sunday: Game 7	

## Wednesday, Braves 3 Dodgers 15, Braves 3

Los Angeles		Atlanta	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
Betts rf	2 1 0	Acuna Jr. rf	1 0 0 0
Hrnanz 2b-ss	1 0 1 0	Cibson ph-rf	2 0 2 0
Saunders	3 3 3	Froesman lb	0 1 0 0
Beatty if	0 0 0 0	Sandoval lb	0 0 0 0
Turner	2 0 0	Ozuna dh	4 0 0 0
Barns ph-2b	0 0 0	d'Arnaud c	1 0 0 0
Muncy 1b	4 2 2 4	Flores ph-c	1 1 0 0
Smith c	1 1 2	Albies 2b	4 1 1 0
Bellinger cf	4 2 2	Swanson ss	4 0 0 0
Pederson rf	1 1 4	Riley if	4 0 0 1
Rios 3b	5 1 1	Camargo 3b	0 1 1 1
Taylor 2b	5 1 0	Pacheco cf	4 1 1 1
Totals	43 15 15	Totals	34 7 3

Los Angeles		Atlanta	
IP	H R ER BB SO	IP	H R ER BB SO
Urbina W-9	5 1 0 0 0 0	Urbina W-9	5 1 0 0 0 0
Jansen	1 0 0 0 0 0	Jansen	1 0 0 0 0 0
Rios	1 0 0 0 0 0	Rios	1 0 0 0 0 0
Wood	1 0 0 0 0 0	Wood	1 0 0 0 0 0
Kolarik	1 3 2 0 0 1	Kolarik	1 3 2 0 0 1
Wright		Wright	
Altoia L-0-1	3 5 7 2 0 0	Altoia L-0-1	3 5 7 2 0 0
Ynoa	2 8 8 8 1 2	Ynoa	2 8 8 8 1 2
Ynoa	4 1 0 0 0 4	Ynoa	4 1 0 0 0 4
Greene	1 0 0 0 0 4	Greene	1 0 0 0 0 4

Dayton pitched 7 batters in the 3rd, Ynoa pitched 4 batters in the 7th. Webb pitched 5 batters in the 8th. HBP—Dayton (Turner), 2 (Greene, Webb (Beatty)). T—415. A—10,664 (40,300).

in the third. His long ball came right after his running, leaving catch at the center field wall to rob Ozzie Albies with two on to end the Atlanta first.

"It's not ideal how we started

the series, but we feel good about ourselves," Bellinger said.

Wright gave up seven runs while facing only nine batters in the Game 3 NL Division Series clincher over Miami last Thursday.

Mookie Betts had an infield single on the first pitch of the game, though he was initially called out before a replay challenge overturned the call by umpire Dan Iassogna. Seager drove in Betts with a double on the next pitch before groundouts by Justin Turner and Muncy.

"To get that infield hit, and then the next pitch, you see two pitches and you've already got a run, that was quite the change," Roberts said.

Pederson said that overturn "got us going, and then from there you saw what happened."

**Jansen in relief:** Kenley Jansen, the Dodgers' primary closer since 2012 and career leader with 312 saves, pitched a 1-2-3 sixth. It was a week after he needed 30 pitches to get two outs and gave up two runs without being able to finish the 6-5 victory in Game 2 of the NLDS against the Padres.

Roberts, who bypassed Jansen when he went to the bullpen to start the ninth in a 1-1 tie in Game 1 of this series, has avoided being specific about the closer's role. The 33-year-old Jansen's velocity had been noticeably down and his control inconsistent.

Jansen threw seven of his 10 pitches for strikes, all but one of them between 88-92 mph. He was averaging 93-94 mph earlier this season.

"Kenley's still our guy," Seager said. "You trust him to go out there and get outs. We expect nothing different."

## ALCS

## Astros stave off Rays' celebration plans

By BERNIE WILSON  
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Jose Altuve and the Houston Astros are eager to match the 2004 Boston Red Sox in the history books.

Beating the Tampa Bay Rays three more times to reach the World Series won't be easy, but the Astros believe they can do it. George Springer broke a tie with a two-run homer, Altuve also went deep and hit an RBI double, and Zack Greinke escaped a bases-loaded jam as Houston stayed alive in the AL Championship Series with a 4-3 victory Wednesday night in Game 4.

"We are very motivated," Altuve said. "We know the team we have and, yes, we want to be the second team coming back from 0-3."

Teams leading 3-0 in a best-of-seven postseason series are 37-1. The only one to rally from an 0-3 deficit was the 2004 Red Sox, who beat the New York Yankees in the ALCS and went on to win their first World Series in 86 seasons.

Greinke pitched six effective innings for the Astros, who held a meeting before the game. Houston manager Dusty Baker said he had no idea what was brought up, but he also addressed the team.

"We've got some real leaders on this team, some dominant personalities who listen more than they talk," Baker said.

With Altuve atoning for his poor defense in this series, the Astros finally got their offense going after being pushed to the brink of a sweep. Seeking their third pennant in four seasons, they trail 3-1 going into Game 5 on Thursday afternoon.

"I'm just happy that we won the



Houston's George Springer hits a two-run home run during the fifth inning of his team's 4-3 defeat of Tampa Bay in Game 4 of the American League Championship Series on Wednesday in San Diego.

Jae C. Hong/AP

game and we're on to tomorrow," Springer said.

The Rays remain one win from advancing to the World Series for the second time in franchise history.

Greinke, bothered by a sore arm in the Division Series against Oakland, made only one big mistake when he allowed a two-run homer to Tampa Bay rookie Randy Arozarena that tied the game at 2 in the fourth.

Given a 4-2 lead by Springer's homer in the fifth, Greinke's big-

gest pitch came when he struck out Mike Brosseau on a 3-2 changeup to end the sixth with the bases loaded.

After Greinke allowed consecutive singles by Manuel Margot and Austin Meadows with one out, Baker came out for a chat and decided to let the veteran right-hander continue. Arozarena struck out on a check-swing and Ji-Man Choi singled to load the bases before Greinke fanned Brosseau.

On Friday night, Brosseau hit a

go-ahead homer in the eighth inning off Aroldis Chapman of the New York Yankees that carried the Rays to a 2-1 victory in the Game 5 clincher of the ALDS.

Greinke held Tampa Bay to two runs and five hits for his first postseason win since 2015. He struck out seven and walked one.

Houston rookie Cristian Javier pitched two innings of one-hit relief before walking Choi to open the ninth. Ryan Pressly came on and got an out before Willy Adames hit an RBI double off the

bottom of the left-center wall and advanced to third on a wild pitch.

Pressly got rookie Yoshi Tsutsugo on a liner to right for the save.

Rays towering right-hander Tyler Glasnow also went six innings, allowing four runs and eight hits while striking out five and walking two.

Altuve hit a homer in the first and an RBI double in the third for a 2-0 lead. And when he needed to make an accurate throw to second for a key out in the ninth, the star second baseman was right on target. His offense helped make up for his three errors that helped Tampa Bay win Games 2 and 3 to move to the cusp of their first World Series since 2008.

Altuve homered for the second straight game and third time this series, all in the first inning. He and Springer are tied for the most homers in Astros postseason history, 18.

Altuve drove a 1-0 pitch from Glasnow to left just after the Rays turned a 3-6-3 double play.

Altuve doubled into the right-field corner with two outs in the third to bring in Martin Maldonado, who drew a leadoff walk and advanced on Springer's grounder.

Arozarena homered onto the lower balcony of the Western Metal Supply Co. truck warehouse in the left-field corner with one out in the fourth to tie the game at 2. In an inning later, Springer one-upped him when he hit a two-run shot onto the upper balcony of Petco Park's main landmark to regain the lead for Houston.

"I knew this was a homer. I was able to hit a high fastball there. It's a tight line, so I'm happy that it stayed fair," Springer said.

## Thorny concern: Arozarena is Rays' lone hot bat

By GREG BEACHAM  
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Although Randy Arozarena is having an undeniably incredible postseason, he can't always carry the Tampa Bay Rays' offense all by himself.

In fact, it's a bit wild that the Rays have reached the brink of the World Series without the rookie who so much of their offense work.

When nobody stepped up to help Tampa Bay's surprising slugger until the ninth inning of Game 4 of the AL Championship Series on Wednesday night, the Rays were forced to extend their stay in San Diego by at least a day.

Arozarena hit a two-run shot in the fourth inning for his fifth homer of the postseason, but the team didn't score again until Willy Adames' two-out double in the ninth. Adames was stranded on third when Yoshi Tsutsugo's liner was caught in right field to end Tampa Bay's 4-3 loss.

"The team feels good," Arozarena said through a translator. "We're going to stay positive. We came in here knowing we were going to face a solid team."

The foundation of the Rays' success this fall is not offense. After batting .238 in the regular season to rank 21st in the majors, the team is hitting a meager .209 in the postseason with a .692 OPS — both the worst among the four



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

Tampa Bay's Randy Arozarena, right, celebrates his two-run homer with Willy Adames during the fourth inning of Game 4 of the ALCS on Wednesday in San Diego.

remaining teams — despite its 8-3 record.

"We've got to get the bats going, no doubt about it," Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash said. "We've been carried here by our pitching and defense, which is how we're built, but we sure would like to get some (hits). It's not coming easy for anybody now. We've got guys in our lineup that are scuffling a little bit."

Indeed, the Rays got to the brink of their franchise's second World Series appearance relying on that stellar pitching staff, superb

team defense and the hot bat of Arozarena, who's hitting .438 in the playoffs with a jaw-dropping 19 hits — one more than he managed in the entire regular season.

While nobody has matched Arozarena's production for Tampa Bay in October, several teammates have stepped up in different games to provide key hits and runs. It never happened in Game 4, and the Rays' four-game playoff winning streak ended with seven hits — just two for extra bases — in their first potential closest game of the ALCS.

"Obviously we hope that everybody could be hitting good," said Adames, who was 2-for-29 in the playoffs before his ninth-inning double. "I hope everybody is killing it, but that's not the way it goes. There's going to be guys that struggle, and there are going to be guys that are successful. That's why we're a team."

Arozarena has done it almost every day. His fifth homer of the postseason put him in elite company: He has hit more homers in a single postseason than any rookie in major league history except Evan Longoria, who hit six for Tampa Bay in 2008.

But Arozarena struck out in his other three at-bats in Game 4, including a whiff on a check swing with two runners on in the sixth. The Rays put together a rally in the sixth with three singles, but Greinke escaped the jam with a bases-loaded strikeout of Mike Brosseau.

## AL scoreboard

## ALCS

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)  
Tampa 3, Houston 1

At San Diego  
Tampa Bay 4, Houston 2  
Tampa Bay 5, Houston 2  
Wednesday: Houston 4, Tampa Bay 3  
Thursday: Game 5  
x-Friday: Game 6 (AFN-Sports, 12 a.m.  
Friday CET 7 a.m. Saturday JKT)  
x-Saturday: Game 7

Wednesday  
Astros 4, Rays 3

Tampa Bay					Houston				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Margot cf	4	0	1	0	Springer cf	4	1	3	2
Maddux rf	4	1	2	0	Branley lf	4	1	3	1
Arozarena lf	4	1	2	1	Straw cf	4	0	0	0
Choi lb	3	0	0	0	Adames ss	3	0	1	0
Brosseau 2b	3	0	0	0	Gurriel lb	3	0	0	0
Lowie ph	1	0	0	0	Futello 2b	2	0	0	0
Wendle 3b	3	0	0	0	Zunino c	3	0	0	0
Adames ss	3	0	1	1	Diaz ph-dh	1	0	0	0
Futello 2b	2	0	0	0	Maldonado c	3	0	0	0
Zunino c	3	0	0	0					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Tampa Bay</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Tampa Bay</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Houston</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Houston</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
DP—Tampa Bay, 4; Houston, 1. LOB—Tampa Bay 4, Houston 2, 2B—Adames (1), Altuve (1), HR—Arozarena (2), Altuve (3), Springer (1).									

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Tampa Bay						
Glasnow L-0.1	6	8	4	4	2	5
Altuve	4	4	2	2	1	3
Slegers	1	0	0	0	1	0
Houston						
Greinke W-1.0	6	5	2	2	1	7
Javier R	2	1	1	1	1	3
Pressly P-1.1	4	2	0	0	0	1
WP—Pressly, 1 batter in the 9th.						
WP—Pressly, 7-3.08.						



## SPORTS



## Red alert?

Crimson Tide coach, AD test positive for COVID-19 » **Page 51**

NLCS

# Feeling grand

## Dodgers use record-setting 11-run first inning to get back in series

By STEPHEN HAWKINS  
Associated Press

**T**he Los Angeles Dodgers were already having a grand time before Max Muncy's big slam capped the highest-scoring inning in a major league playoff game.

That new ballpark in his home state of Texas where the Dodgers hope to keep playing right through the World Series suddenly doesn't seem too big anymore, and they are right back in the National League Championship Series after a 15-3 rout of the Atlanta Braves on Wednesday night.

Muncy's slam off Grant Dayton capped an 11-run first inning when Los Angeles benefitted from a game-starting re-play challenge, hit three home runs and had nine consecutive batters reach base after two outs. The Dodgers set franchise postseason records for runs and home runs with five, cutting their NLCS deficit to 2 games to 1.

"It's pretty cool. Not too many things that are cooler than that," Muncy said. "But the biggest thing to me is our team got a 'W' and got us back on track."

Joc Pederson hit a three-run homer off starter Kyle Wright to start his four-hit night, and Edwin Rios went deep on the next pitch. Corey Seager had a pair of RBI hits in the opening burst, then added a solo homer in the third as the Dodgers built a 15-0 lead — the first team with that many runs in the first three innings of a playoff game.

Winner Julio Urias made his first postseason start and improved to 3-0 in these playoffs, striking out five while allowing one run and three hits over

### DID YOU KNOW?

Atlanta's miserable start was eerily similar to the Braves' flop in Game 5 of last year's Division Series against St. Louis, when they gave up a 10-run first inning at home in a season-ending start by Mike Folytyniewicz.

SOURCE: Associated Press

SEE BACK ON PAGE 54

The Dodgers' Max Muncy celebrates his grand slam during the first inning in Game 3 Wednesday against the Atlanta Braves.

Eric Gay/AP



Chanticleers 4-0 after win over previously unbeaten No. 21 Ragin' Cajuns » **Page 50**

49ers' Hall of Fame pass rusher Dean, 68, dies from coronavirus » **Page 54**

