

**GAMES:** Outriders is too good to play online only **Page 26**

**MLB:** Joey Gallo can do more than slug **Page 48**

**MUSIC:** Pearl Jam guitarist on 30 years of 'Ten' **Page 28**

# EUROPE & PACIFIC WEEKEND EDITION



**ACADEMY AWARDS**  
Previews, profiles and predictions  
**Pages 15-20; 29**

# STARS AND STRIPES®

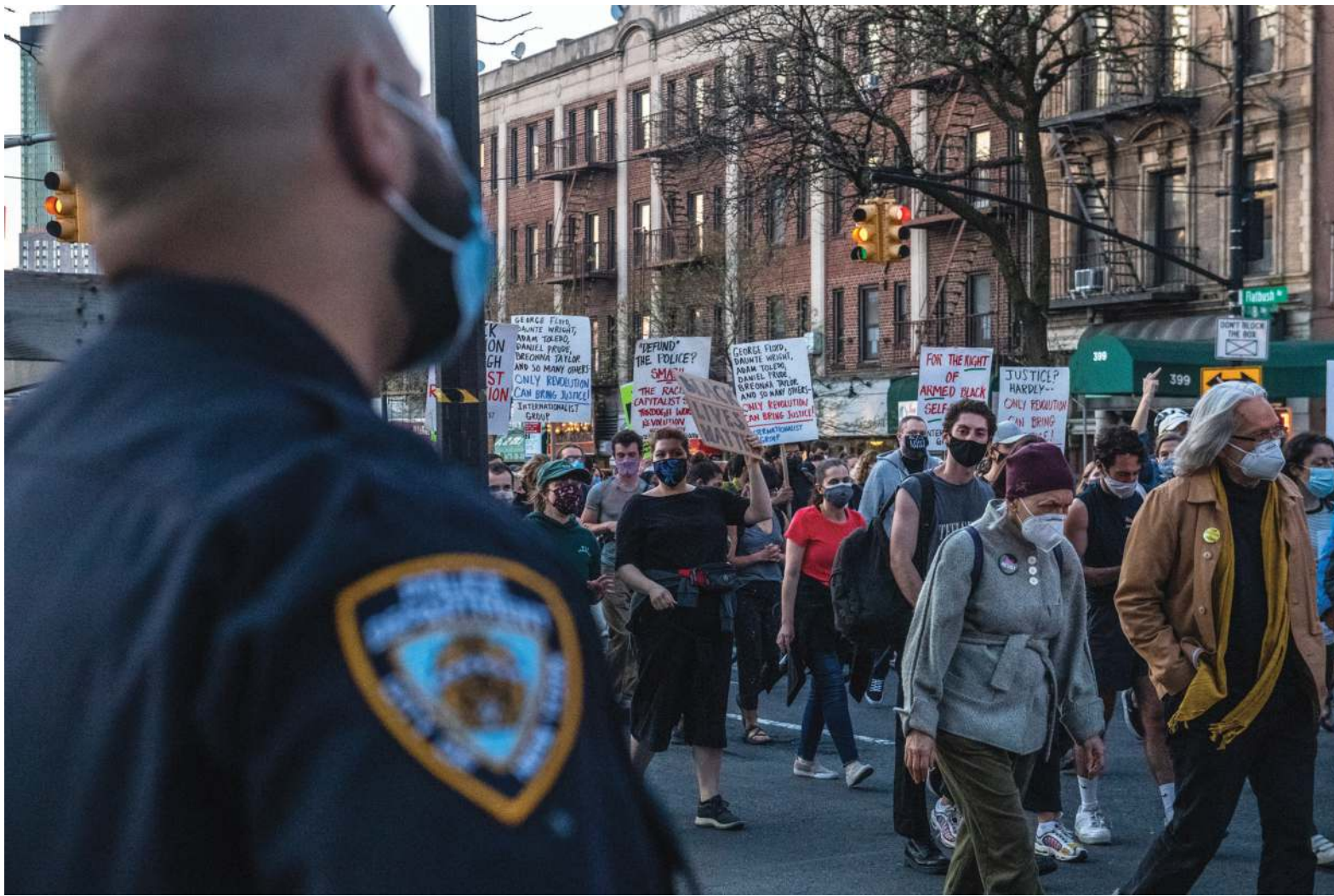
stripes.com

Volume 80 Edition 5 ©SS 2021

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021

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

\$1.00



BRITAINY NEWMAN/AP

**A New York City police officer watches as protesters march down Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn on Tuesday. Following the guilty verdict against former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin in the death of George Floyd, the White House is pushing for changes to U.S. policing laws.**

## Air Force to court-martial a general for the first time

BY CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

Former Air Force Research Laboratory commander Maj. Gen. William Cooley will face a court-martial on sexual assault charges, making him the first general officer to be prosecuted by the service.

Cooley is accused of making unwanted sexual advances by kissing and touching a civilian woman during an off-duty incident in Albuquerque, N.M., in August 2018. The woman is not a service member or Defense Department employee.



Cooley

Gen. Arnold W. Bunch Jr., head of the Air Force Materiel Command, referred one charge against Cooley under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, including three specifications of sexual assault under Article 120, the command said in a statement Wednesday.

"I can assure you this was not a decision made lightly, but I believe it was the right decision," Bunch said in the AFMC statement. Both the research laboratory and the materiel command are headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

The court-martial of an Air Force general is unprecedented in the service's 74-year history, Don Christensen, president of the organization Protect Our Defenders — which advocates for victims of sexual assault in the military — told the Dayton Daily News.

# Reform at the forefront

## Chauvin verdict injects a fresh jolt of momentum into police overhaul efforts

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — The guilty verdict in the murder of George Floyd has injected momentum into efforts by the White House and Congress to overhaul policing practices, with bipartisan talks picking up speed as President Joe Biden prepares to highlight the topic in his address to a joint session of Congress next week.

The chief GOP negotiator on the



Scott

issue, Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, said Wednesday that his discussions with Democrats could



Booker

wrap up in the "next week or two" as he sketched out potential areas of compromise, particularly on the sensitive matter of whether officers can be sued for misconduct. Democrats and civil rights activists, meanwhile, said they would push to pass legislation by the first anniversary of Floyd's death on May 25.

The flurry of talks came as the White House sought to seize a po-

tentially fleeting moment of opportunity on policing revisions, a priority that the president has embraced but that has often taken a back seat to others. The White House is strategizing with civil rights groups and police organizations, and Attorney General Merrick Garland on Wednesday announced the Justice Department

**SEE REFORM ON PAGE 9**

**SEE GENERAL ON PAGE 4**

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel					
Germany	\$3.130	\$3.542	\$3.792	\$3.399	Azores	..	..	\$3.692	..
Change in price	+0.6 cents	+0.8 cents	+0.7 cents	-0.5 cents	Change in price	..	..	+0.7 cents	..
Netherlands	..	\$4.053	\$4.354	\$3.985	Belgium	..	\$2.989	\$3.258	\$3.011
Change in price	..	+8.6 cents	+9.0 cents	+4.5 cents	Change in price	..	No change	No change	No change
U.K.	..	\$3.441	\$3.691	\$3.298	Turkey	..	..	\$3.577	\$4.026*
Change in price	..	+0.8 cents	+0.7 cents	-0.5 cents	Change in price	..	..	+0.7 cents	No change

## PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel					
Japan	..	\$3.579	..	\$3.189	South Korea	\$2.929	..	\$3.599	\$3.199
Change in price	..	No change	..	-1.0 cents	Change in price	No change	..	+1.0 cents	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	\$2.919	..	..	\$3.189	Guam	\$2.929	\$3.339	\$3.589	..
Change in price	No change	..	..	-1.0 cents	Change in price	No change	No change	No change	..

\*DieselEFD \*\*Midgrade  
For the week of April 23-29

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (April 23)	\$1.18	Bahrain(Dinar)	.3769
Dollar buys (April 23)	0.8082	Britain (Pound)	1.3848
British pound (April 23)	\$1.35	Canada (Dollar)	1.2512
Japanese yen (April 23)	105.00	China(Yuan)	6.4900
South Korean won (April 23)	1087.00	Denmark (Krone)	6.1814
		Egypt (Pound)	15.6992
		Euro	.8313
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7598
		Hungary (Forint)	302.57
		Israel (Shekel)	3.2586
		Japan (Yen)	108.50
		Kuwait(Dinar)	.3012
		Norway (Krone)	8.3490
		Philippines (Peso)	48.36
		Poland (Zloty)	3.79
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7503
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3288

South Korea (Won) 1118.57  
Switzerland (Franc) .9174  
Thailand (Baht) 31.36  
Turkey (NewLira) 8.3080

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

## INTEREST RATES

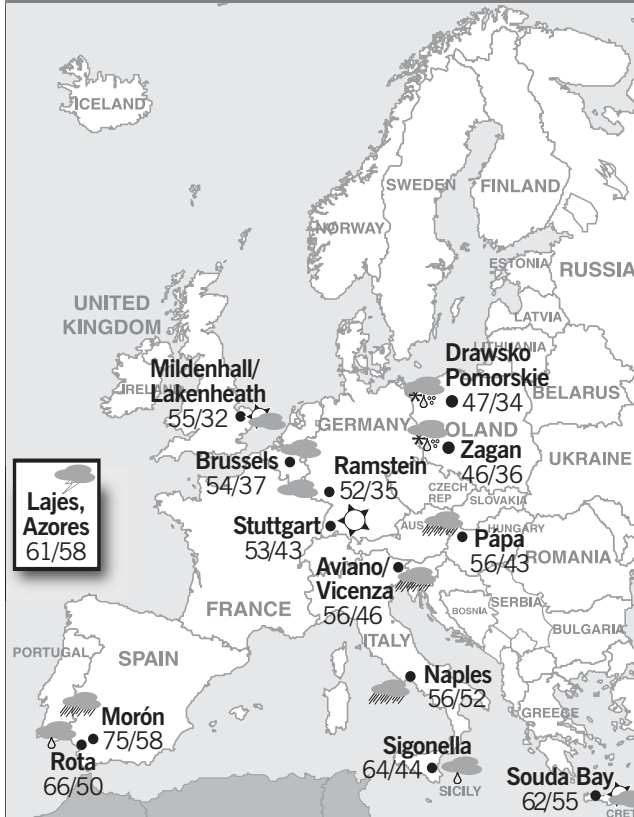
Prime rate	3.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.07
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	2.26

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### FRIDAY IN EUROPE



### SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

## TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup	36
Classified	11
Comics	38-39
Crossword	38-39
Faces	35
Opinion	40
Sports	41-48

## STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

### EUROPE

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### MIDDLE EAST

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### PACIFIC

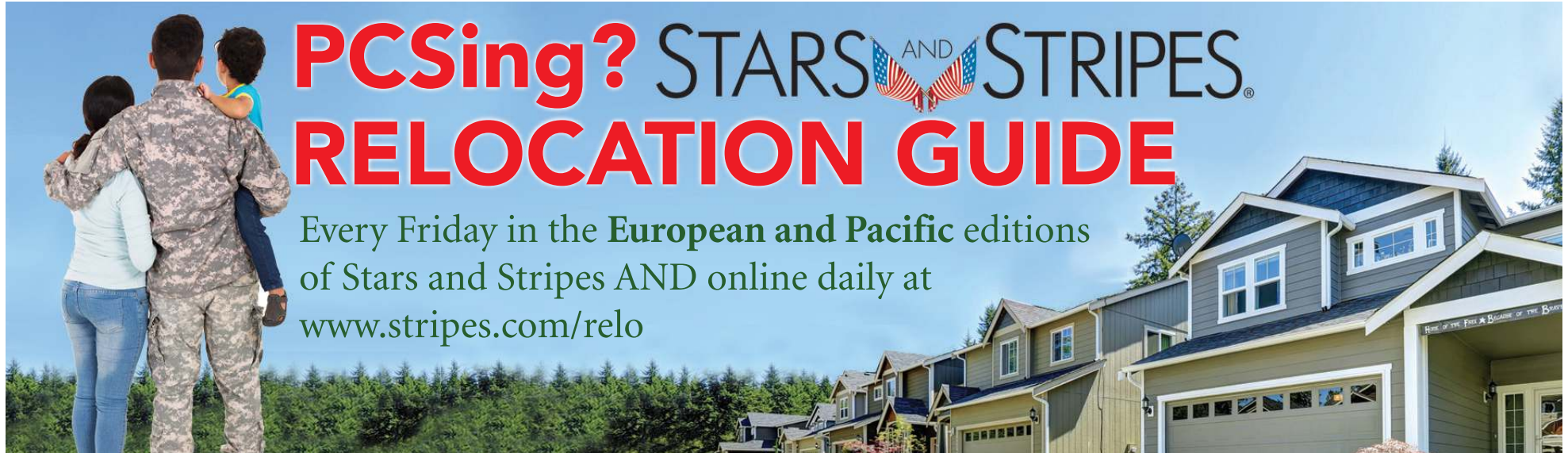
ICHIRO KATAYANAGI

PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

CML +81 (42) 552.2511 ext. 77313  
DSN: 227.7313

# PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at [www.stripes.com/relo](http://www.stripes.com/relo)



## MILITARY

## Senate confirms Indo-Pacific Command chief

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Adm. John Aquilino was confirmed by the Senate on Wednesday to be the next commander of Indo-Pacific Command, making him the top military officer in the strategically important region.

Aquilino, who is now the commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, was confirmed by unanimous consent for the role. Adm. Phil Davidson, who is now commander of INDO-PACOM, is expected to retire.

The Indo-Pacific Command covers 36 nations in a region that the Defense Department deemed its “priority theater” and “the single-most consequential region for America’s future” in a June

2019 Indo-Pacific strategy report issued amid simmering tensions with China.

“[China] seeks to reorder the region to its advantage by leveraging military modernization, influence operations, and predatory economics to coerce other nations,” then acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan wrote in the report. “We will not accept policies or actions that threaten or undermine the rules-based international order.”

The region is “a vital driver of the global economy and includes the world’s busiest international sea lanes and nine of the 10 largest ports,” according to the INDO-PACOM website. It also is home to seven of the world’s 10 largest



Aquilino

standing militaries and five nuclear-armed nations. During Aquilino’s confirmation hearing, he agreed the United States needed to bolster its funding for the region, including for the Pacific Deterrence Initiative, in order to challenge Chinese influence and increase cooperation with allies and partners.

The Pacific Deterrence Initiative is designed to enhance budget oversight and funnel resources to key military capabilities to deter China. Congress funded \$2.2 billion for the PDI in

fiscal year 2021, which ends Sept. 30. Aquilino supported additional funding for the initiative for 2022.

Aquilino also warned during the hearing that China’s nuclear stockpile is “increasing at a rate that is faster than anyone previously believed,” but he downplayed the concern over the number of warheads that the Chinese possess. The Defense Department has estimated the Chinese stockpile is “in the low-200s” compared to the U.S. inventory of nuclear warheads at 5,800.

Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, the ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, tweeted Wednesday that he was glad the Senate confirmed

Aquilino to lead INDOPACOM.

“He is the right leader to defend against China and implement our National Defense Strategy. I am grateful for his service,” he wrote.

Aquilino is a Naval Academy graduate and naval aviator who spent his early career flying the F-14 Tomcat and the F-18 Hornet, according to his Navy biography. His resume also includes time as the Pacific Fleet’s director of maritime operations, deputy chief of naval operations for operations, plans and strategy and 5th Fleet commander.

Stars and Stripes staff writer Caitlin Doornbos contributed to this story.  
kenney.caitlin@stripes.com  
Twitter: @caitlinmkenney

## Anthony’s ‘World’s Greatest Pizza’ to close last Europe location

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — A familiar, if not universally popular, fast-food staple at U.S. military bases worldwide is ending its long run in Europe and possibly worldwide.

Anthony’s Pizza at Ramstein will soon turn off its ovens after more than 30 years of dishing out thick-crust pizza for troops and their families.

The Exchange-brand pizzeria inside the base mall is scheduled to close May 1, said Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials.

It’s the last one remaining in Europe. Two locations at Spangdahlem Air Base and Kleber Kaserne closed last year as AAFES looks to phase out the product worldwide, said Loyd Brumfield, an AAFES spokesman in Dallas.

Anthony’s Pizza was the Exchange’s first signature brand

when it was developed in 1984, Brumfield said. At one point, there were about 40 Anthony’s Pizza shops in Europe and more than 185 worldwide.

The shop perhaps does some of its best business on open base days in places like Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan, where Japanese visitors have in some years lined up by the dozens for pizzas, which are normally much more expensive and smaller off base.

Thirteen Anthony’s remain in the Asia-Pacific region and seven are in operation stateside, Brumfield said.

“To better reflect customer preferences, the Exchange, where possible, intends to convert these locations to name-brand offerings,” Brumfield said in an email.

Customer demand for a slice of Anthony’s, whose AAFES slogan is “The World’s Greatest Pizza,”



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

A few customers wait in line for lunch at Anthony’s Pizza inside the food court at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Wednesday.

was lukewarm at lunchtime Wednesday. When a line formed, it was usually no more than three people long. But at the busy Ramstein food court, that was a draw for Marvin Mens, 51, an Air Force civilian.

He was at Anthony’s “because there’s no line,” he said, describing his sausage and pepperoni pizza as “edible.”

Staff Sgt. Kyla Blackshear was familiar with Anthony’s but not a fan. She tried it at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, where she works, but the pizza “was always cold and the wings were not that good,” she said, while passing through the food court Wednesday.

Some loyal customers, saddened to see it go, spoke up for their go-to pizza while they picked up slices for lunch.

“Ever since I got pregnant, I

come here at least four times a week,” said Kaitlyn Banque, 21, an Army spouse. “I like it better than Pizza Hut.”

Jamie Royalty, 37, also an Army spouse, said her family usually hits up Anthony’s when shopping at the base exchange. “We’re pizza people,” she said. “We’re not snobby pizza people. If it’s pizza, it works.”

The pizzeria sells an average of about 60 pies a day, most sold by the slice, said Willie Bristow, the Kaiserslautern Military Community Center food court manager. Pepperoni is the most popular topping, followed by cheese only.

Capt. Jesse Tyler, 34, a national guardsman from Illinois, said he’s eaten at Anthony’s at bases stateside but remembers it fondly in Japan, where he ate after spending several weeks in the field while training last summer. “I waited 20

minutes in line because I hadn’t had pizza in a month,” he said Wednesday, after arriving at Ramstein on temporary duty.

Spudz, a relative newcomer to the military food court scene with its lineup of loaded baked potatoes, tater tots and salads, will replace Anthony’s Pizza at Ramstein, said Jennifer Jordan, KMCC general manager. It’s slated to open in late May or early June, she said.

People are nostalgic for Anthony’s since it’s been around for so long, she said. But the trend “has gone more and more toward the name brand” and AAFES is committed to offering restaurant “brands that people recognize regardless of where they are,” she said.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com  
Twitter: @stripesktown



Tina Klassen, a worker at Anthony’s Pizza at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, prepares pizzas Wednesday.

## MILITARY

# Pastor aids homeless near Yokota base

By ERICA EARL  
Stars and Stripes

FUSSA, Japan — A small, church-run organization is trying to help a seemingly invisible population in the Little America neighborhood outside the gates of Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo.

Marcel Gadsden, pastor of the Japan Kingdom Builders Church in Fussa, said the local homeless population is often overlooked by programs founded by churches and community members at Yokota to assist service members and their families. He said he wants to change that.

A resident of Japan more than 20 years, Gadsden and Yokota community members founded the church and homeless program in 2018. He named the program Akiramenai, which translates to “don’t give up.”

The church is in a basement that was once a bar and club, then sat vacant for nearly a decade, Gadsden said.

A space inside, the Kingdom Garden Community Center, offers a place for homeless people to use the internet, shower, do laundry, eat and relax. Volunteers hand out clothing, canned goods, small gas cans for stoves and bottled water.

“When people think of Japan, especially Tokyo, they think of technology and big businesses and a thriving city,” Gadsden told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday at the church. “The reality, though, is that there are homeless people



Theron Godbold/Stars and Stripes

**Girl Scout Eleanor Pierson, 9, of Yokota Air Base, Japan, helps Marcel Gadsden, pastor of the Japan Kingdom Builders Church in Fussa, sort hundreds of nonperishable food items Tuesday for the homeless.**

who get into unfortunate situations, like losing their jobs after becoming older and no longer being seen as valuable to their companies.”

Japan has a homeless population of 3,992 people, according to a 2020 survey by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. The majority are men, and their highest numbers are in Osaka and Tokyo, according to the ministry website.

However, a homeless advocacy group found more than double that number during a nighttime count of the capital’s 23 wards in 2019, according to a February re-

port in the Mainichi newspaper. The Advocacy and Research Centre for Homelessness has been conducting its own surveys since 2016 to show the reality of Japan’s homeless plight, the report said.

Many homeless people are over age 60, Gadsden said. Once employed by Horizons magazine at the air base, Gadsden said he delivered care packages to the homeless around Tokyo and forged strong friendships with them. After hearing of homeless people committing suicide along the Tama River and seeing some of those friends die in unfit conditions, Gadsden said he decided to

do more.

The group has between 12 and 20 active members, mostly from Yokota, he said. Two of them, Danielle Pierson, a military spouse at Yokota, and her daughter Eleanor, 9, heard of Akiramenai through their Catholic community at the base chapel.

Eleanor has organized canned goods drives at her Girl Scout Troop, her church and at Yokota West Elementary, where she is a third-grader.

This month, Eleanor collected more than 500 bottles of water and over 400 cans of food, working on crutches after dropping two cans

of food and injuring her toe, she and her mother said.

Her mother wants Eleanor to feel empowered to do big things and recognize the effects they have.

“When she has an idea, it’s not a fleeting thought,” Danielle Pierson said in an email Wednesday to Stars and Stripes. “She gives it wings and allows it to grow.”

Gadsden said he has big goals Akiramenai.

“I want to permanently end the cycle of homelessness for our participants and friends, not just give them temporary fixes,” he said.

The church purchased an apartment in the nearby city of Ome for three people, providing them a permanent address for welfare screenings and potential job placement, Gadsden said.

He checks in on the occupants twice a month and helps them host game nights and social activities.

In the meantime, Gadsden said his wife, Chiaka, helps him run the program and navigate Japanese culture so they can best serve in a way that is sensitive to people who are at a low point in their lives.

“I want the outreach to have visibility, but I also want to be careful,” Gadsden said. “Also, even though I’m a Christian pastor, I don’t want to push it on others. Ultimately, it’s about love and helping other people and keeping your heart in the right place.”

earl.eric@stripes.com  
Twitter: @ThisEarlGirl

## Russia orders troops back after huge drills in Crimea

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia’s defense minister on Thursday ordered troops back to their permanent bases following massive drills in Crimea that involved dozens of navy ships, hundreds of warplanes and thousands of troops in a show of force amid tensions with Ukraine.

After watching the drills, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu declared the maneuvers over and ordered the military to pull the troops taking part in maneuvers in Crimea and western Russia back to their permanent bases.

“I consider the goals of the snap check of readiness fulfilled,” Shoigu said. “The troops have shown their defense capability and I decided to complete the drills in the South and Western military districts.”

Shoigu said the troops should return to their bases by May 1, but he also ordered the heavy weap-

ons deployed to western Russia to remain as part of the drills for another massive military exercise.

Shoigu said they should remain at the Pogonovo firing range in the southwestern Voronezh region. The sprawling range is located about 100 miles east of the border with Ukraine.

The Russian troop buildup near Ukraine that came amid increasing violations of a cease-fire in Ukraine’s east has raised concerns in the West, which urged the Kremlin to pull its forces back.

The Russian military hasn’t reported the number of additional troops that have been moved to Crimea and parts of southwestern Russia near Ukraine, and it wasn’t immediately clear from Shoigu’s statement if all of them will now be pulled back.

The Russian Defense Ministry said the maneuvers in Crimea involved more than 60 ships, over 10,000 troops, around 200 aircraft and about 1,200 military vehicles.

## General: Cooley fired from research lab last year after report of sexual misconduct

FROM PAGE 1

“I think the external pressure that has been put on the military to take sexual assault more seriously is one of the reasons, probably the sole reason, this case has gone to trial,” he said. “They knew they couldn’t just let another general walk.”

Bunch said he informed Cooley of his decision after a “comprehensive review of all the evidence” from an Air Force Office of Special Investigations inquiry completed last year and a preliminary hearing held in February.

The Feb. 8 hearing, similar to a civilian grand jury, was presided over by a senior military judge who weighed the charges and testimony to determine if there was probable cause for the case against Cooley.

The two-star general was fired from command of the research lab in January 2020 following the accusations of misconduct. In Octo-

ber, Bunch appointed Lt. Gen. Gene Kirkland to independently review the evidence. Kirkland recommended the evidentiary hearing on the charge with and specifications.

Cooley’s accuser has said that he kissed her without her consent “with an intent to gratify his sexual desire,” but the general’s attorney says the kiss was consensual and there was no unwanted touching. He told the Dayton Daily News in November that the evidence against his client was too weak for a trial.

It’s not easy for victims of sexual assault to come forward, Ryan Guilds, an attorney for Cooley’s accuser, said in a statement last year. But “she is strong, and in the end the truth will confirm her bravery and the righteousness of her actions.”

Cooley was commissioned in 1988 through the ROTC program. His assignments included a stint

in Germany from 2000 to 2002 and a 2005 deployment to Afghanistan. As head of the Air Force Research Laboratory, he oversaw a 6,000-person workforce and a multibillion-dollar budget focused on science, technology, research and development.

Since his dismissal from command, Cooley had been serving as a special assistant to Bunch.

The Air Force trial judiciary will identify a senior military judge and set a time and place for the court-martial, the base said. The jurors or court members must be senior to Cooley, either by rank or date of rank.

If convicted, Cooley could face penalties including confinement and dismissal, which is the equivalent of a dishonorable discharge for officers.

garland.chad@stripes.com  
Twitter: @chadgarland

## MILITARY

# Coast Guardsman is first to sail for Olympic team

BY SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

A member of the Coast Guard is chasing Olympic sailing glory in Japan, 230 years after the U.S. Revenue Marine began hunting smugglers in wind-powered, wooden cutters.

Lt. j.g. Nikki Barnes, 27, of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, became the first Coast Guardsman to make an Olympic team in any sport when she and crewmate Lara Dallman-Weiss, 32, of Shoreview, Minn., qualified last month at the 470 World Championship Regatta in Vilamoura, Portugal.

Today's steel-hulled, diesel-powered Coast Guard cutters carry out an array of missions, from drug interdiction to search and rescue. But the service, which began as the Revenue Marine in 1790, hasn't forgotten its sailing-era roots.

The Coast Guard cutter Eagle, a training vessel for future officers, is one of only two active commissioned sailing vessels in the U.S. military today, along with the world's oldest commissioned naval vessel, the frigate USS Constitution.

"Sailing has helped my Coast Guard career and serving in the

Coast Guard has helped my sailing," Barnes said during a telephone interview Monday that included Dallman-Weiss from Portugal, where they're preparing for the 470 Open European Championship, April 30-May 7.

Stationed in Miami, Barnes' job involves coordinating responses to oil spills, she said.

Coast Guard service and sailing require determination when the going gets tough, problem-solving skills and the ability to adjust to changing conditions, she said.

Dallman-Weiss also has a military connection. Her late grandfather, Col. Howard Dallman, flew B-17 bombers over Italy in World War II and survived being shot down and held as a prisoner of war. He flew a C-130 Hercules with the 345th Tactical Airlift Squadron in the Vietnam War and received the Air Force Cross for gallantry during the siege of Khe Sanh in February 1968.

Japan's Olympic sailing venue is at Enoshima, a small island linked by a bridge to the coast in Kana-



Barnes



CAROL BAREUTHER

Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Nikki Barnes, right, and teammate Lara Dallman-Weiss will sail for the United States at the Olympic Games in Tokyo this summer.

gawa prefecture, south of Tokyo. Races are scheduled in nearby Sagami Bay, where Mount Fuji can be spotted looming over the waves on clear days.

The area isn't far from Yokosuka Naval Base, home of the U.S. 7th Fleet, also in Kanagawa. Enoshima is only about an 80-minute drive from Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, which is home to U.S. Coast Guard Activities Far East. Its mission includes ship inspections, environmental stewardship and port security.

Barnes and Dallman-Weiss said they are eager to meet service members while they're in Japan.

Coast Guard members in Tokyo will be watching Barnes closely and "rooting for her all the way," said Lt. Cmdr. Brierley Ostrander, 43, an international port secu-

rity liaison officer based in the Japanese capital.

"The Coast Guard is a small service, so it's extremely special to see one of our own rise to this level of athletic accomplishment," she said.

The Olympics, which begin in late July, will be the second time Barnes and Dallman-Weiss have been in Japan. They spent 50 days sailing out of Enoshima in 2019 in preparation for last year's postponed games.

"Whenever a typhoon was coming, we had incredible wind and waves," Barnes said. "We only had a couple of days when we couldn't sail."

The two-person dingy that the pair races in is 15½ feet long. In 35-knot wind, they've gone as fast as 21 mph, Dallman-Weiss said.

"We are on the edge at that speed," she said.

At sea, Barnes steers and plots strategy while Dallman-Weiss trims the sail, watches for wind and uses her body weight to move the craft over waves.

"People say, 'Oh you are going sailing, where is the wine and cheese?'" Dallman-Weiss said.

But the sport is very physical; the pair have personal trainers and hit the gym to build muscle for competition, she said. They hope to race among a fleet of 21 boats for the gold medal on Aug. 4. Auspiciously, that's Coast Guard Day in the United States, which celebrates the founding of the Revenue Marine on that date in 1790.

robson.seth@stripes.com  
Twitter: @SethRobson1

## Third fast-response Coast Guard cutter heads to Guam

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Coast Guard's newest fast-response cutter sailed out of Key West, Fla., early Wednesday, beginning a roughly 70-day voyage to its future homeport on Guam.

The 154-foot Sentinel-class cutter Frederick Hatch is expected to arrive at the U.S. island territory in early July, according to a Coast Guard statement provided to Stars and Stripes. It will join two similar cutters — Myrtle Hazard and Oliver Henry — that arrived there in the latter half of 2020.

The Frederick Hatch will make port calls along the way for maintenance, refueling and resupplying, the Coast Guard said.

The trio of fast-response cutters replace the service's 110-foot patrol boats previously stationed on Guam and possess advanced technology in communications and surveillance systems, the Coast Guard said in a statement in February when it took delivery of the Frederick Hatch from the builder, Bollinger Shipyards.

The fast-response cutters are designed for missions beyond the traditional search-and-rescue work for which the Coast Guard is best known. They can reach speeds up to 28 knots, remain at sea for five days and cover over 2,500 nautical miles during that time, according to the Coast Guard.

Armed with four .50-caliber machine

guns and a remote-controlled 25 mm cannon, the cutters can be used for drug interdiction, defense operations, maritime law enforcement, search and rescue and environmental protection.

The Coast Guard's beefed-up fleet in the Pacific is aimed in part at countering China's growing sea power.

In December, the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard issued "Advantage at Sea," a tri-service naval strategy responding to China's "revisionist approach that aims at the heart of the United States' maritime power."

"Since the beginning of the 21st Century, our three services have watched with alarm the growing naval power of the Peo-

ple's Republic of China and the increasingly aggressive behavior of the Russian Federation," the report said.

China's strategy hinges on the use of a multipronged deployment of ships from its navy, coast guard and maritime militia "to subvert other nations' sovereignty and enforce unlawful claims."

The report suggested that a more robust Coast Guard presence in the Western Pacific could provide joint force commanders greater flexibility in responding to China's "gray zone" confrontations that remain below the threshold of armed conflict.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @WyattWolson

## HAVE YOU BEEN INJURED?

Defense Base Act Legal Representation

Including Non-US Citizens



If you work for a company under contract with the United States Government outside the U.S. and fall ill or are injured at work, you may have the right to pursue a claim in the U.S. for benefits under the Defense Base Act. This law protects and applies to all injured employees, regardless of their citizenship or nationality. Under the law, you may be entitled to select a doctor and to payment of wages if restricted from working.

Hire Us Online Now!  
www.barnettandlerner.com  
For a FREE consultation  
888.732.7425

Barnett, Lerner, Karsen,  
Frankel & Castro  
Professional Association  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

## MILITARY

## Records: Little done to find soldier for 48 hours

By ROSE L. THAYER

Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Within minutes of learning that Sgt. Elder Fernandes was missing from his unit at Fort Hood, Texas, Army investigators began making calls and identifying leads to locate the soldier. However, Fernandes had been missing for 48 hours before anyone contacted the Army Criminal Investigation Command, setting agents far behind in the race to find Fernandes, who had spent the previous week hospitalized for contemplating suicide.

Upon his release Aug. 17, the soldier's chain of command knew that he had been sleeping in his car, acting out of character and preparing to file for divorce and had recently reported he was the victim of unwanted sexual contact. Yet, he was dropped off at the home of a friend, without confirmation that he made it inside. When he missed a medical safety check the next day, no one alerted authorities, allowing precious time to slip by as his family called the unit for help and got none.

The 23-year-old Fernandes was found dead Aug. 25 in Temple, Texas, about 30 miles from the central Texas Army base where he served as a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist in the 1st Cavalry Division's sustainment brigade. An investigation by the Temple Police Department and autopsy results show he hung himself from a tree near the railroad tracks about three days after he left the hospital.

"It's appalling," said Lenny Kesten, an attorney working with Fernandes' family to gather information on the soldier's death. "He's a high-risk individual, they know it. He needs support and he's dropped off on the curb, and when he doesn't show up the next morning for work, his sergeant is not connected to any network to say, 'Red alert.'"

Fernandes had spent a week at Fort Hood's Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, where he checked himself in for suicidal ideations. He asked his leadership for permission to go home to his family in Brockton, Mass., to recover, but the request was denied, and he was told to return to his Army life, Kesten said.

"There's an absence of any evidence of coordination as they let him out," Kesten said. "He said he was living in a parking lot, so what did they think was going to happen?"

On the afternoon of his release, a staff sergeant from Fernandes' company drove him from the hospital to his car, which was parked at the motor pool. The BMW, a loaner from Fernandes' brother, wouldn't start, so the staff sergeant drove Fernandes, at his request, to a friend's home in Killeen.



U.S. Army

**Sgt. Elder Fernandes disappeared from Fort Hood, Texas, in August 2020.**

Fernandes never made it inside and was not heard from again.

**AWOL or missing**

The Fernandes family recently received the investigative file from Army Criminal Investigative Command, known as CID, which confirms what they previously said — from the time Fernandes was dropped off at 3 or 4 p.m. Aug. 17 until CID was notified of his absence around 4:45 p.m. Aug. 19, little was done to locate the soldier.

All names, except for the names of members of the Fernandes family, were redacted from the 166-page investigation file, which included interviews and summaries, results of vehicle and phone searches and a timeline of paths investigators followed to try and find Fernandes between Aug. 19 and when a railroad employee found him dead Aug. 25.

When Fernandes didn't show up for morning formation Aug. 18, the staff sergeant who had dropped him off said he called Fernandes' phone, which went to voicemail, and drove to the Killeen home several times. A sergeant first class who was acting as the company's first sergeant said he took the same measures. The CID documents do not state whether either noncommissioned officer knocked on the door or spoke to anyone in the area.

When Ailina Fernandes, the soldier's mother, called Aug. 18, the unit told her he was listed as AWOL and they wouldn't begin looking for him for 30 days, according to the documents and Kesten. Dissatisfied with the response, she flew to Texas next day to ask for help in person.

However, an Aug. 23 press release from the 1st Cavalry Division stated, "Within hours of Sgt. Fernandes' disappearance, soldiers from his unit on Fort Hood initiated a thorough search for him, both on and off post, which will continue until he is located."

"That's obviously not true," Kesten said. "What the family has said was always true, which is that when they got there that nothing had happened."

Lt. Col. Chris Brautigam, spokesman for the 1st Cavalry Division, disputes that claim. He

said the top priority was to find Fernandes from the first missed formation.

"In addition to the initial attempts to reach Sgt. Fernandes by phone and through visits to his home to attempt to locate him, the unit conducted exhaustive searches of the unit area and coordinated with local law enforcement," he said. "Additionally, the unit immediately attempted to reach out to his spouse, his brother-in-law/roommate, and his close friends to try to locate him."

When Ailina Fernandes arrived, she went first to the Fort Hood Military Police station, which sent her to the Killeen Police Department, Kesten said. Eventually, CID was notified.

Within 45 minutes, CID investigators called a company commander within the 553rd Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, who was preparing to deploy to Kuwait the next day. The captain had the wrong hospital release date for Fernandes and was "not sure" whether he had been assigned to rear detachment.

Efforts increased the next day with Fernandes' unit assisting CID with searching the base, calling local hotels, businesses and homeless shelters before expanding farther to Waco, Dallas and San Antonio, according to the CID report and the division.

After days without much progress, the soldier's father, Eugenio Fernandes, the national director of police in the country of Cape Verde, pleaded on a call for investigators to find his son.

"I ask with all of my heart that you take good care of this case because I want to know the truth about what happened to my son," he said through a Spanish translator. "I trust that you, [NAME] will do a good job so that I feel better. I am very ill with the news of my son. I'm not doing well."

**Changing policy**

In December, the Army announced changes to its policy and protocols for missing soldiers that focus on acting within the first 48 hours. The new directive included "clear expectations and responsibilities of unit commanders and Army law enforcement authorities," then-Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said.

The service created the designation of "absent-unknown" as a 48-hour transitory duty status. In that time, commanders must determine whether a soldier's absence is voluntary and therefore classify them as AWOL, or if the soldier is missing. If the latter, the Army will simultaneously initiate a "duty status whereabouts unknown," known as DUSTWUN. Opening a DUSTWUN casualty case provides the family with a liaison officer while attempting to locate the missing soldier.

These changes were announced

alongside the release of a report by the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee, a civilian-led review board that found at Fort Hood that "no one recognized the slippage in accountability procedures" and there was an "unwillingness or lack of ability of non-commissioned officers to keep track of their subordinates."

Without any formal protocols for soldiers who fail to report, leaders and military police at Fort Hood took "an ad hoc approach to effectively address instances of missing soldiers during the critical first 24 hours, again with adverse consequences."

McCarthy appointed the committee in July to review Fort Hood after the disappearance and death of Spc. Vanessa Guillen. The 20-year-old was killed by a fellow Fort Hood soldier on base. It took investigators more than two months to find her body buried along a river miles from the base.

The committee arrived at Fort Hood to begin its work five days after Fernandes was found dead.

The Fort Hood committee reviewed all case files of the 53 suicides recorded at Fort Hood between fiscal year 2018 and August 2020. Of those, 34 soldiers died off base and "these files were generally sparse," stated the report. Only one file for an on-post suicide death included a postmortem behavioral assessment.

"The case file review also revealed that off-post suicides and deaths were not fully investigated by CID to determine whether there were contributory causes such as lifestyle issues, locations or other influences that would inform the command about certain activities, people and places off-post that may be higher risk for their soldiers," the report stated.

The Army announced Friday that CID policy now requires "a full investigation of all suspected soldier suicides occurring on or off the installation." Before that, CID conducted joint investigations with local law enforcement or collected the information from civilian agencies for CID files.

The Fort Hood committee said it was not clear why CID didn't conduct these postmortem assessments.

"Failure to perform and refer to a postmortem behavioral assessment is a wasted opportunity to learn more about soldier suicides that can help lead to better prevention strategies," the report stated.

**Missed safety check**

Kesten said if the Army did a postmortem review of Fernandes' case, it would show that the medical system at Fort Hood also failed him and that someone should be held accountable.

As part of the routine to release soldiers from in-patient care, Fernandes' chain of command met

with the soldier and his medical providers during his hospitalization to develop a care plan, according to the CID documents. In that meeting, the unit informed Fernandes he was being involuntarily separated from the Army for a "pattern of misconduct."

"All service members are discharged with a plan articulating how the commander and unit leadership can support the soldier's treatment plan to maximize recovery and ensure soldier safety," officials said.

Someone "dropped the ball," Kesten said.

"Somebody was in charge of releasing him," he said. "I mean, you guys are getting together to make a plan for his care once he gets out, what happened?"

The day after his hospital release, Fernandes was supposed to have a safety-check appointment with his unit's embedded behavior health team, according to the CID documents. Investigators were first told that Fernandes checked in at 7:43 a.m., but upon following up, they learned Fernandes never checked in.

If a high-risk patient is a no-show for a scheduled appointment, clinic personnel "must attempt to contact the patient the same day," according to the statement from Fort Hood health officials. If they don't reach the soldier, they "should contact the unit commander to help arrange contact and create an appropriate follow-up plan."

For Fernandes, that didn't happen.

Two more investigations looking into the Fernandes case are pending. The House Committee on Oversight and Reform's subpanel on national security and the House Committee on Armed Services' subpanel on military personnel announced a joint investigation in September to review the policies and practices at Fort Hood with a focus on seven soldiers, including Fernandes and Guillen.

The oversight committee hopes to make its findings public by the end of the year, according to a congressional aide.

The Army also has an administrative investigation, which is standard process following any soldier's death, and those results also are pending release. Information gathered in that investigation will be provided to the Fernandes family through the casualty assistance process.

"You're not going to solve the problem without analyzing what went wrong and the effects of it," Kesten said. "That's important to our service men and women, so that something like this never happens again."

# VIRUS OUTBREAK



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Strip

The daughter of a service member stationed at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo receives the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Wednesday.

## USFJ leader touts vaccine as 17 cases pop up in Japan, S. Korea

By JOSEPH DITZLER  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — The U.S. military commands in Japan and South Korea reported that another 17 people had contracted the coronavirus as of 6 p.m. Thursday.

Meanwhile, the senior enlisted leader for U.S. Forces Japan urged troops to get the COVID-19 vaccine and travel to a shot clinic at a nearby base if they're unable to schedule a vaccination on their own installation.

Fourteen people affiliated with U.S. Forces Korea tested positive for the coronavirus after arriving on the peninsula between March 29 and April 19, the command announced Thursday. The same day, the Marine Corps on Okinawa had three people contract COVID-19, the coronavirus respiratory disease, according to an official Facebook post.

Eight of USFK's new coronavirus patients are service members who arrived at Osan Air Base on the Patriot Express, a government-contracted passenger service, on March 29-30 and April 12, 14 and 19, a command news release said.

A civilian Defense Department employee and two family members also tested positive from those flights.

The other new cases are a service member, a civilian employee and a contractor who flew into Incheon International Airport via

commercial flights on April 8 and 16, according to the release.

Nine of the new patients came up positive on a test required before entering quarantine, and five tested positive before ending their mandatory isolation period, the release said. All 14 have been isolated at either Osan, Kunsan Air Base or Camp Humphreys.

South Korea reported 735 new infections on Thursday, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency. The country's pandemic total sits at 116,661 cases with 1,808 deaths.

In Japan, the number of new cases remains at a pandemic high in the country's second-largest metro area, Osaka, and are growing steadily in Tokyo.

On Thursday, Osaka announced another 1,167 infections and eight deaths; Tokyo reported 861 new cases, according to NHK.

The Japanese government declared an emergency Thursday in both prefectures, along with Osaka's neighboring prefectures Hyogo and Kyoto, NHK reported.

Unlike emergencies declared January through March, this one is expected to bring tougher measures, Kyodo News reported Wednesday. Osaka Gov. Hirofumi Yoshimura may temporarily close department stores and amusement parks during the Golden Week holidays through early May. He may also call on restaurants and bars to

close on weekends and refrain from serving alcohol.

At Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Winegardner, speaking on American Forces Network Radio, encouraged eligible service members, family members and civilian employees to travel to military bases other than their own if the COVID-19 vaccine is available elsewhere.

Yokota, for example, postponed its plan to start inoculating all eligible adults due to a vaccine shortage caused when DOD ordered a pause in administering the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Yokota on its Facebook page this week encouraged is population to sign up for a shot clinic Friday at Yokosuka Naval Base.

The shot is voluntary, Winegardner said, but declining the inoculation prolongs the day when life returns to normal.

"When we start talking, 'How come we don't have the freedoms that we used to have?' talk to those people who are not getting their shots and look at them and say, 'Hey, you're part of the problem at this stage,'" he said. "We have shots ready to go at most of the installations, so I can't stress it enough, please get out there and get that shot in the arm."

ditzler.joseph@stripes.com  
Twitter: @JosephDitzler

## Overseas military medical recipients get more vaccine

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — By June 1, 80% of all U.S. military medical beneficiaries overseas who want a coronavirus vaccine will have received the shots, Army Lt. Gen. Ronald Place, the director of the Defense Health Agency, said Wednesday.

That rate was deemed achievable after the Pentagon announced Friday that the Defense Department would reallocate additional doses of the Moderna vaccine to overseas bases "for the next several weeks," after the DHA halted distribution of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in accordance with recommendations from Federal Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, he said.

"We're sensitive to the fact that military hospitals and clinics represent the only source of FDA-approved vaccine among our population outside the United States," Place told reporters at the Pentagon.

The FDA and CDC recommended the pause following concerns that the J&J vaccine, which the Defense Department intended to prioritize for use in its overseas populations, might be linked to a rare but severe form of blood clotting.

"Each service will now direct a total of approximately 30,000 additional doses of Moderna throughout the month of May," Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told reporters Monday. "That's around roughly 10,000 per week, beginning May 10, to overseas locations in European Command, Indo-Pacific Command and Central Command."

Still, Dr. Terry Adirim, the acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said Wednesday that the pause had

"We're committed and working diligently to ensure that they can get the vaccine if they choose it."

Dr. Terry Adirim

Acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs

"just a small impact" on the department's vaccination rate "because of the small number of J&J vaccine allocated to DOD."

The news comes after the Pentagon on Monday deemed all overseas military medical beneficiaries eligible for the coronavirus vaccine, canceling the prior phased approach to eligibility.

"We have great empathy to our service members and families deployed overseas because they do not have the same options as here in the United States to receive vaccines in our local communities," Adirim said. "So, we're committed and working diligently to ensure that they can get the vaccine if they choose it."

As of Tuesday, the Defense Department had administered about 2.6 million coronavirus vaccines to service members and other eligible beneficiaries, according to its website.

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos

## US jobless claims fall to 547,000, another pandemic low

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans applying for unemployment aid fell last week to 547,000, a new low since the pandemic struck and a further encouraging sign that layoffs are slowing on the strength of an improving job market.

The Labor Department said Thursday that applications declined 39,000 from a revised 586,000

a week earlier. Weekly jobless claims are down sharply from a peak of 900,000 in early January. At the same time, they're still far above the roughly 250,000 level that prevailed before the viral outbreak ripped through the economy in March of last year.

About 17.4 million people were continuing to collect unemployment benefits in the week that ended April 3, the latest period for

which data is available, up from 16.9 million in the previous week.

The overall job market is making steady gains. Last month, the nation's employers added 916,000 jobs, the most since August, in a sign that a sustained recovery is taking hold. The unemployment rate fell from 6.2% to 6%, well below the pandemic peak of nearly 15%.

Yet the still-high number of ongoing recipients shows that even as the

economy has strengthened in recent weeks, millions of people—disproportionately low-income workers and people of color—continue to endure a loss of a job or income and have struggled to pay bills or rent.

The weekly data on applications for unemployment benefits is generally seen as a rough measure of layoffs because only people who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own are eligible. But during

the pandemic, the numbers have become a less reliable barometer.

Many states have struggled to clear backlogs of unemployment applications, and suspected fraud has clouded the actual volume of job cuts. In addition, a supplemental \$300-a-week federal jobless payment, on top of regular state unemployment aid, might have encouraged more people to apply for benefits.

## NATION

# Summit draws climate vows from leaders

Xi, Putin tell Biden they'll cooperate, but don't offer specific emissions cuts

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER  
AND AAMER MADHANI  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden convened leaders of the world's most powerful countries on Thursday to try to spur global efforts against climate change, drawing commitments from Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin to cooperate on cutting emissions despite their own sharp rivalries with the United States.

"Meeting this moment is about more than preserving our planet," Biden declared, speaking from a TV-style set for a virtual summit of 40 world leaders. "It's about providing a better future for all of us," he said, calling it "a moment of peril but a moment of opportunity."

"The signs are unmistakable. The science is undeniable. The cost of inaction keeps mounting," he added.

Biden's own new commitment, timed to the summit, is to cut U.S. fossil fuel emissions up to 52% by 2030, marking a return by the U.S. to global climate efforts after four years of withdrawal under President Donald Trump. Biden's administration is sketching out a vision of a prosperous, clean-energy United States where factories churn out cutting-edge batteries for export, line workers re-lay an efficient national electrical grid and crews cap abandoned oil and gas rigs and coal mines.



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Joe Biden speaks to the virtual Leaders Summit on Climate from the White House on Thursday.

Japan announced its own new 46% emissions reduction target Thursday, and South Korea said it would stop public financing of new coal-fired power plants, as the U.S. and its allies sought to build momentum via the summit.

The coronavirus pandemic compelled the summit to play out as a climate telethon-style livestream, limiting opportunities for spontaneous interaction and negotiation. The opening was rife with technological glitches, including echoes, random beeps and off-screen voices.

But the U.S. summit also mar-

shaled an impressive display of the world's most powerful leaders speaking on the single cause of climate change.

China's Xi, whose country is the world's biggest emissions culprit, followed by the United States, spoke first among the other global figures. He made no reference to nonclimate disputes that had made it uncertain until Wednesday that he would even take part in the U.S. summit, and said China would work with America in cutting emissions.

"To protect the environment is to protect productivity, and to boost

the environment is to boost productivity. It's as simple as that," Xi said.

Putin, whose government has been publicly irate over Biden's characterization of him as a "killer" for Russia's aggressive moves against its opponents, made no mention of his feuding with Biden in his own climate remarks, a live presentation that also saw moments of dead air among production problems.

"Russia is genuinely interested in galvanizing international cooperation so as to look further for effective solutions to climate change as well as to all other vital challenges," Pu-

tin said. Russia by some measures is the world's fourth-biggest emitter of climate-damaging fossil fuel fumes.

However, Russia and China announced no specific new emissions cuts themselves.

The pandemic made gathering world leaders for the climate summit too risky. That didn't keep the White House from sparing no effort on production quality. The president's staff built a small set in the East Room that looked like it was ripped from a daytime talk show.

Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris addressed the summit from separate lecterns before joining Secretary of State Antony Blinken and White House climate envoy John Kerry at a horseshoe-shaped table set up around a giant potted plant to watch fellow leaders' live-streamed speeches.

The format meant a cavalcade of short speeches by world leaders, some scripted, some apparently impromptu. "This is not bunny-hugging," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said of the climate efforts. "This is about growth and jobs."

Biden, a Democrat, campaigned partly on a pledge to confront climate change. He has sketched out some elements of his \$2 trillion approach for transforming U.S. transportation systems and electrical grids in his campaign climate plan and in his infrastructure proposals for Congress. His administration insists the transformation will mean millions of well-paying jobs. Republicans say the effort will throw oil, gas and coal workers off the job. They call his infrastructure proposal too costly.

## DC statehood OK'd by House as Senate fight looms

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A decades-long movement to reshape the American political map took a further step Thursday as the House of Representatives approved a bill to make the nation's capital the 51st state.

Voting along party lines with minority Republicans in opposition, the House approved the bill 216-208. That's likely the easy part, though. The proposal faces a far tougher fight in the Senate, where simple Democratic control of the chamber won't be enough.

The legislation proposes creating a 51st state with one representative and two senators, while a tiny sliver of land including the White House, the U.S. Capitol and the National Mall would remain as a federal district. Instead of the District of Columbia, the new state would be known as Washington, Douglass Commonwealth — named after famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass, who lived in Washington from 1877 until his death in 1895.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Del. Eleanor Holmes-Norton, D-D.C., left — shown with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. — applauded the House for passing a bill Thursday that provides for statehood for Washington, D.C.

An identical statehood bill passed the House in 2020, but it quickly died in the then-Republican-controlled Senate. Now, with the 2020 elections leaving Democrats in control of both chambers and the White House, Republican senators may resort to a filibuster to stymie the statehood bill.

For lifelong statehood proponents like Eleanor Holmes Norton, D.C.'s long-serving and nonvoting delegate in the House, Thursday's vote

was a culmination of a life's work.

"My service in the Congress has been dedicated to achieving equality for the people I represent, which only statehood can provide," Norton said at a Wednesday news conference. "My life as a third-generation Washingtonian has marched toward this milestone."

The measure has received strong support from President Joe Biden's White House, which released a

statement Tuesday calling Washington's current status "an affront to the democratic values on which our Nation was founded."

The White House praised Washington as worthy of statehood, with "a robust economy, a rich culture, and a diverse population of Americans from all walks of life who are entitled to full and equal participation in our democracy."

The bill is certain to face GOP pushback, given that the proposed 51st state would be overwhelmingly Democratic. That opposition was on display during Thursday morning's floor debates in advance of the vote.

The country's Founding Fathers, "never wanted D.C. to be a state and then specifically framed the Constitution to say so," said Georgia Republican Rep. Jody Hice. "This is absolutely against what our founders intended and it ought to be soundly rejected."

But Virginia Democratic Rep. Gerald Connolly pointed out that Kentucky was once a part of Virginia, and was carved out as a state by a

simple act of Congress. He argued that the federal district was a theoretical concept when first conceived, not a community with a higher population than two U.S. states.

"When the Constitution was written, this place didn't exist," he said. "When people say this is not about race and partisanship, you can be sure it's about race and partisanship."

During a March hearing by the House oversight committee, GOP representatives claimed D.C. was unfit for statehood while calling the entire effort a cynical Democratic power play. Opponents proposed a variety of alternatives, from absolving Washingtonians of federal taxes to "retroceding" most of D.C. back into Maryland.

D.C. has long chafed under its relationship with Congress, which has the power to essentially veto or alter any local laws. Its estimated 712,000 residents pay federal taxes, vote for president and serve in the armed forces, but they have no voting representation in Congress.



## NATION

# Reform: Lawmakers sense urgency for revising policing practices

FROM PAGE 1

would launch an investigation into the practices of the Minneapolis Police Department.

Much of the activity is unfolding behind the scenes.

“There are times — and this is true in diplomacy, but also true in legislation — that ... the best strategy is to provide the space for those conversations to happen privately, and that’s part of our objective,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Wednesday.

The result is a sense of movement not seen since the immediate aftermath of Floyd’s murder last year by former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, a killing captured on video that spurred a nationwide reckoning on racial injustice against Black men and women.

“There’s an urgency in this country now. There’s an urgency last month. There’s been an urgency since I was a young Black man, in my teens getting pulled over by the police and scared for my life,” said Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., who was been working quietly with Scott and Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif., on a potential compromise bill. “So we definitely have to get something done.”

Still, similar efforts to revise policing practices last summer fell victim to election-year politics. And it is far from clear that the policy differences that have stymied lawmakers can be bridged, including how aggressively to restrict the type of chokehold used by Chauvin on Floyd and whether to revise the “qualified immunity” standard that broadly protects police from lawsuits.

And some activists worried that lawmakers would take the Chauvin verdict as evidence that the system works and no change is needed, rather than as a sign of broad problems with policing.

For all his emphatic rhetoric about the need to pass legislation on the use of force in policing, Bi-



GERRY BROOME / AP

**People speak with Elizabeth City, N.C., Police Chief Eddie M. Buffaloe Jr., outside the municipal building after at least one sheriff’s deputy shot and killed a Black man, Andrew Brown Jr., while executing a search warrant, the sheriff’s office said Wednesday.**

den has taken a different approach in this area than he has on coronavirus relief or infrastructure — where he has hosted bipartisan groups of lawmakers with much fanfare in an effort to tangibly portray efforts at a compromise.

The lower-profile strategy is deliberate, White House officials have said, as a way to give breathing room for sensitive negotiations to take place without the president appearing to apply undue pressure or take credit for any progress. Instead, Biden has discussed the issue in private with the Congressional Black Caucus, while his senior aides on the White House Domestic Policy Council and Office of Public Engagement have kept tabs on the legislative efforts.

In a meeting with Black lawmakers last week, Biden underscored that he supports the Democratic policing legislation named for Floyd, which passed the House in early March mostly along party lines. Reps. Jared Golden, D-Maine, and Ron Kind, D-Wis., opposed it, while one House Republican, Rep. Lance Gooden, Texas, backed it.

Rep. Brenda Lawrence, D-N.J., one of the attendees at last week’s meeting, paraphrased Biden’s message this way: “I came in [as president], I wanted to heal the country, that we have so many sides and divisions — and police reform is the bedrock of that.”

Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., another attendee, added: “I can tell you that it is high on the president’s agenda.”

White House officials have also been in frequent contact not only with civil rights organizations such as the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights — whose former leader, Vanita Gupta, was confirmed as the No. 3 Justice Department official on Wednesday — but also law enforcement groups.

Biden plans to use his address to a joint session to Congress next week, the rough equivalent of a State of the Union address that has been delayed because of the pandemic, as “an opportunity to elevate this issue and talk about the importance of putting police reform measures in place,” Psaki said.

The legislation named for Floyd that has been endorsed by the

White House would bar the use of chokeholds, ban most no-knock warrants and outlaw carotid holds — a policing tactic used to restrict blood flow to the brain — by federal law enforcement. It would also create a national database to track police misconduct while making it easier for officers to be held both criminally and civilly liable.

The Republican version, written by Scott, addresses the same issues in different ways.

For instance, it would withhold federal grants to state and local law enforcement agencies that do not proactively bar the practice of chokeholds, rather than banning them outright.

It also would withhold funding to local police agencies that don’t report their use of no-knock warrants to the Justice Department. Most Republicans have said they would support the legislation drafted by Scott, as well as the House version introduced by Rep. Pete Stauber, R-Minn., a former police officer.

Republicans have especially balked at dumping the “qualified immunity” standard, which they say allows police officers to do their job without the threat of potentially frivolous lawsuits.

Scott said Wednesday one potential compromise is holding police departments liable rather than individual officers.

“I think that is a way that we can make progress toward a bill that actually has the kind of impact that I think is helpful,” Scott said.

Democrats say immunity shields officers from accountability for potentially serious misconduct or brutality.

Booker declined to say whether Scott’s proposal would be acceptable to him. Bass, the chief House negotiator, said that while “there’s a lot of room for discussion around qualified immunity ... we need the individual officers and the agencies to be accountable.”

The White House declined to say whether Biden would support a bill that did not significantly re-

vises the qualified immunity standard. But influential civil rights leaders in close communication with the administration signaled that it could be a red line.

Derrick Johnson, the president of the NAACP, said provisions to change qualified immunity for officers was “nonnegotiable.”

Warnock — who, along with Scott and Booker, is one of the three current Black senators — said the disincentive of potential lawsuits is critical to sending a message about the limits of acceptable police conduct.

“I just think that it’s really important that police understand that they cannot kill, maim Black and brown bodies with impunity,” Warnock said.

Scott also said there are about four or five outstanding issues in the negotiations, such as how to address the chokehold issue and the practice of transferring military equipment to local police agencies, which Democrats want to limit.

Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., have given Scott and Booker broad latitude to negotiate, as the two Black senators are trusted figures within their parties on the politically fraught issues of race and police accountability.

Underscoring the sensitivity of the discussions, Booker on Wednesday repeatedly declined to weigh in on the specifics on his negotiations with Scott. Booker is close to a number of GOP senators through his past efforts on criminal justice legislation, and he called Scott an “honest broker.”

“I will do nothing to jeopardize the good faith, good energy, of all the conversations trying to get something done,” Booker said. He and Scott met with members of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus on the issue last week, according to people familiar with the gathering, one of the informal conversations that have been ongoing for months.

## Sheriff: Deputy fatally shot Black man while serving warrant

Associated Press

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. — A North Carolina deputy shot and killed a Black man while serving a search warrant Wednesday, authorities said, spurring an outcry from community members who demanded law enforcement accountability and the immediate release of body camera footage.

Authorities wouldn’t provide details of the shooting, but an eyewitness said that Andrew Brown Jr. was shot while trying to drive away, and that deputies fired at him multiple times. The car skidded out of Brown’s yard and eventually hit a tree, said Demetria Williams, who lives on the same street.

Williams said after hearing one gunshot, she ran outside, where she saw other shots being fired at the car.

“When they opened the door, he was already dead,” Williams told The Associated Press. “He was slumped over.” She said officers tried to perform chest compressions on him.

A car authorities removed from the scene appeared to have multiple bullet holes and a broken rear windshield.

The Pasquotank County Sheriff’s deputy was placed on leave pending a review by the State Bureau of Investigation, Sheriff Tommy Wooten II said at a news conference. Court records show

Brown was 42 years old and had a history of drug charges and a misdemeanor drug possession conviction.

Dozens of people gathered at the scene of the shooting in Elizabeth City, a municipality of about 18,000 people 170 miles northeast of Raleigh, where they expressed their anger and rallied around Brown’s family members. A large crowd later stood outside City Hall while the City Council held an emergency meeting, some holding signs proclaiming “Black Lives Matter” and “Stop killing unarmed Black Men.” As the evening wore on, a group gathered in the parking lot of the sheriff’s office and a crowd that grew to more

than 200 blocked traffic on a main thoroughfare of the city, forcing cars to turn around.

“The police didn’t have to shoot my baby,” said Martha McCullen, an aunt of Brown who said she raised him after his parents died. McCullen stood on the stoop of Brown’s rental home, her eyes moist with emotion.

“Andrew Brown was a good person,” she said. “He was about to get his kids back. He was a good father. Now his kids won’t never see him again.”

Wooten said the deputy shot Brown at about 8:30 a.m. The deputy was wearing an active body camera at the time of the shooting, said the sheriff, who declined to

identify the officer or say how many shots he fired, citing a pending review by the State Bureau of Investigation. Wooten also did not say what the warrant was for.

The State Bureau of Investigation will turn the findings of its review over to District Attorney Andrew Womble, who pledged a thorough and deliberate inquiry.

“What we are looking for at this time will be accurate answers and not fast answers,” Womble told a news conference. “We’re going to wait for the full and complete investigation ... and we’ll review that and make any determinations that we deem appropriate at that time. This will not be a rush to judgment.”

## WORLD



ANUPAM NATH/AP

A woman receives the COVAXIN vaccine for COVID-19 in Gauhati, India, on Thursday. India is experiencing the world's fastest pace of spreading infections and the highest daily increase in coronavirus cases.

## Low on beds and oxygen, India adds 314K virus cases

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India reported a global record of more than 314,000 new infections Thursday as a grim coronavirus surge in the world's second-most populous country sends more and more sick people into a fragile health care system critically short of hospital beds and oxygen.

The 314,835 infections added in the past 24 hours raise India's total past 15.9 million cases since the pandemic began. It's the second-highest total in the world next to the United States. India has nearly 1.4 billion people.

Fatalities rose by 2,104 in the past 24 hours, raising India's overall death toll to 184,657, the Health Ministry said.

A large number of hospitals are

reporting acute shortages of beds and medicine and are running on dangerously low levels of oxygen.

The New Delhi High Court on Wednesday ordered the government to divert oxygen from industrial use to hospitals to save people's lives. "You can't have people die because there is no oxygen. Beg, borrow or steal, it is a national emergency," the judges said, responding to a petition by a New Delhi hospital seeking the court's intervention.

The government is rushing oxygen tankers to replenish supplies to hospitals.

Indian Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Thursday that "demand and supply is being monitored round the clock." He said in a tweet that to address the exponential spike in demand, the govern-

ment has increased the quota of oxygen for the seven worst-hit states.

Lockdowns and strict curbs have brought pain, fear and agony to many people in New Delhi and other cities.

In scenes familiar across the country, ambulances are rushing from one hospital to another, trying to find an empty bed. Grieving relatives line up outside crematoriums where the number of dead bodies has jumped several times.

The Health Ministry said that of the country's total production of 8,300 tons of oxygen per day, 7,275 tons was being allocated for medical use. It also said that 75 railroad coaches in the Indian capital have been turned into hospitals providing an additional 1,200 beds for COVID-19 patients.

## US: Iran's return to nuke talks can ease sanctions

By MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A senior U.S. official said Wednesday that the Biden administration has laid out examples of the kinds of sanctions on Iran it's willing to lift in exchange for Iran's return to compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal.

The official said the U.S. through intermediaries has presented Iran with three baskets of sanctions: those it's prepared to lift, those it's not prepared to lift and those that will require further study to determine if they are in fact appropriate for relief under the nuclear deal. The official briefed reporters on condition of anonymity because of the confidential nature of the discussions.

The official declined to specify which sanctions fall into which baskets but said the third group is the most problematic. That's because it includes measures that current officials believe may have been imposed by the previous administration simply to complicate any potential return to the deal that former President Donald Trump withdrew from in 2018.

Any sanctions relief offered by the administration will be strongly opposed by Republicans in Congress, who on Wednesday unveiled draft legislation to codify the Trump-era sanctions in law. Relief will also likely be opposed by Israel, which regards Iran as an existential threat, as well as Gulf Arab states wary of Iran's increasing aggressiveness in the region.

The 2015 deal gave Iran billions

of dollars in sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program. But that relief largely evaporated after Trump pulled out of the deal and began a self-styled "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran by reimposing the earlier sanctions and adding new ones.

While the agreement allowed countries to continue to impose sanctions on Iran for non-nuclear reasons, such as support for terrorism and human rights abuses, some of the additional U.S. sanctions would have to be removed if Washington is to return to the deal, according to the official.

The official said the Trump administration had designated some nuclear sanctions as terrorism sanctions. That makes it more difficult for a future president to return to the deal.

Many of the sanctions that Trump imposed on Iran were clearly related to the nuclear program, including those that targeted companies and officials working on atomic matters, and would have to be removed if the U.S. returned to the deal. But others, ostensibly imposed on terrorism and human rights grounds, are less clear cut, including those on Iran's financial, shipping, manufacturing and energy sectors.

The official said there is not yet any sanctions relief agreement between Iran, the U.S. or other parties in the indirect negotiations taking place in Vienna on reviving the nuclear deal. Those talks are in recess but are expected to resume next week.

## Relics seized from smugglers are returning to Afghanistan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Precious relics of Afghanistan's ancient past are returning home as the nation confronts deepening uncertainty about its future.

A collection of 33 artifacts seized from a New York-based art dealer who authorities say was one of the world's most prolific smugglers of antiquities was turned over by the U.S. to the government of Afghanistan this week.

"The significance of the material is huge," Roya Rahmani, the country's ambassador to the U.S., said Wednesday. "Each one of these pieces are priceless depictions of our history."

Rahmani formally took control of the collection in a ceremony Monday in New York with the

Manhattan District Attorney's office and Homeland Security Investigations, which recovered the artifacts as part of a larger investigation into the trafficking of antiquities from a number of countries.

Now, after briefly being displayed at the embassy in Washington, the masks, sculptures and other items, some from the second and third centuries, are en route to Kabul, where they are expected to go on display at the National Museum.

It's the same museum where members of the Taliban destroyed artifacts in 2001 as part of a cultural rampage rooted in a fundamentalist version of Islam in which depictions of the human form are considered offensive.

The Taliban are now out of power. But they control much of the

country outside of Kabul amid stalled talks with the government and the looming withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces after two decades of war. Rahmani concedes it's a delicate time.

"However, what I know is that our security forces are determined to defend our people," she said in an interview with The Associated Press. "The government is committed to do its part for peace and stability in a way that would bring durable peace."

They may get a chance earlier than expected. Germany's Defense Ministry said Wednesday that discussions are underway among military planners with the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission in Kabul for a possible withdrawal of international troops



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

**Afghan Ambassador to the U.S. Roya Rahmani shows looted and stolen Afghan religious relics and antiquities recovered by U.S. government authorities.**

from Afghanistan as early as July 4.

President Joe Biden has already

said the U.S. would remove all its troops by Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of the attacks that prompted the American invasion to dislodge the Taliban in 2001 for allowing al-Qaida to operate from Afghanistan.

Before the Sept. 11 attacks, the Taliban had already become internationally notorious for enforcing a harsh form of Islamic law that kept women out of public view and for destroying — with rockets, shells and dynamite — the famed giant, sixth century sandstone Buddha statues built into a cliff in Bamiyan province.

In contrast, the items are "returning to a government and people who cherish their past" and will make sure they are preserved for future generations, Rahmani said.

WORLD

# Officials search for missing Indonesian sub

Associated Press

JAKARTA — Indonesia's navy ships on Thursday were intensely searching for a submarine that likely fell too deep to retrieve, making survival chances for the 53 people on board slim. Authorities said oxygen in the submarine would run out by early Saturday.

The diesel-powered KRI Nanggala 402 was participating in a training exercise Wednesday when it missed a scheduled reporting call. Officials reported an oil slick and the smell of diesel fuel near the starting position of its last dive, about 60 miles north of the resort island of Bali, though there has been no conclusive evidence that they are linked to the submarine.

"Hopefully we can rescue them before the oxygen has run out" at 3 a.m. on Saturday, Indonesia's navy chief of staff, Adm. Yudo Margono, told reporters.

He said rescuers found an unidentified object with high magne-

tism in the area, and that officials hope it's the submarine.

The navy believes the submarine sank to a depth of 2,000-2,300 feet — much deeper than its collapse depth estimated at 656 feet by a firm that refitted the vessel in 2009-12.

Ahn Guk-hyeon, an official from South Korea's Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering, said his company upgraded much of the Indonesian submarine's internal structures and systems, but it lacks the latest information about the vessel.

Indonesia's military said Thursday that more than 20 navy ships, two submarines and five aircraft were searching an area where the submarine was last detected. A hydro-oceanographic survey ship equipped with underwater detection capabilities was also en route.

Margono said the oil slick may have been caused by a crack in the submarine's tank after the vessel sank.

ADVERTISEMENT

## U.S. Military: How do tax payments work in Germany?

At the Ramstein site, there are more and more cases of the Kusel-Landstuhl tax office sending tax demands to members of the U.S. Army: both soldiers and civilian employees and their families have received notices by mail. In 1951, the NATO troop status had already stipulated that the remuneration of the U.S. armed forces is only taxable in the U.S.!

The shock at receiving such a notice in the mail often runs deep, because the recipients of such letters are threatened with fines of up to €10,000 – and even prison sentences. How such demands come about and what you can do about them is explained by Gernot Kramer, specialist lawyer for tax law and former presiding judge at the tax court.

### Mr. Kramer, what reasons could there be for this kind of double taxation?

The tax office looks very closely at German-U.S. marital unions: Is the German partner subject to taxation in Germany? Is the couple remaining in Germany not only because of the employment with the US Army? Does the couple have children who might also be taxable in Germany? Or do the husband and wife own a condominium in Germany? The tax office evaluates all of this as an indication of possible double taxation. The basis for these claims is an agreement that Germany concluded with the U.S. in 2006.

### What kind of sums are involved in these claims?

In some cases, the tax claims are calculated back up to 10 years – that quickly adds up to €300,000! So it's no wonder that legal disputes are piling up with such amount that threaten people's livelihoods. But even the imposed fines are quite extreme: sometimes up to €10,000 – or even prison sentences!

### How do these sums come about?

In a case that is currently pending

before the Federal Fiscal Court, it is regarding some perks for members of the U.S. Army: the cheap gasoline, for example, or the cigarettes. It is also about the free sports facilities, gyms or even golf courses that are available to these groups of people.

### But not every person even uses these perks ...

Yes, this is true. But the German tax office sees monetary benefits here, which it sets at a flat rate of €18,000 a year. The authority is not concerned whether the persons in question are at all unwilling to return to the U.S. – since that would also be a prerequisite for double taxation.

### So, what is the best thing for those impacted to do now?

The unjustified claim must be defended against quickly and, above all, effectively. Especially in case where someone has already been requested by the tax office to submit an income tax return for subsequent taxation. It is best for those affected to contact a law firm that specializes in German tax law. There you will receive competent support in the dispute with the tax office.

Helping you defending yourself quickly and effectively against tax demands:



**Gernot Kramer**  
Lawyer for tax law  
Former presiding judge at the tax court

Am I at risk of getting tax claims?

Check online now:



[blumlang.de/tax-daim-check](http://blumlang.de/tax-daim-check)



**BLUM LANG**  
RECHTSANWÄLTE  
-Partnerschaft mbB-

[kontakt@blumlang.de](mailto:kontakt@blumlang.de)  
[www.blumlang.de](http://www.blumlang.de)

# Stripes

# SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation

944

## VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Customs clearance
- Import & Export
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service

### For Further Information Please Contact

<p><b>Phone:</b> +49-(0)6134-2592730</p> <p><b>Toll-free:</b> 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)</p> <p><b>E-Mail:</b> <a href="mailto:info@transglobal-logistics.de">info@transglobal-logistics.de</a></p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.transglobal-logistics.de">www.transglobal-logistics.de</a></p>	<p><b>GERMANY</b></p> <p><b>UNITED KINGDOM</b></p> <p><b>U.S.A</b></p>	<p>+49-(0)6134-2592730</p> <p>+44-(0)1638-515714</p> <p>+1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701</p> <p>+1-800-264-8167 (US only)</p>
	<p><a href="mailto:enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk">enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.carshipuk.co.uk">www.carshipuk.co.uk</a></p>	<p><a href="mailto:info@tgal.us">info@tgal.us</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.tgal.us">www.tgal.us</a></p>

*For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations*

LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

## Are you in the picture?



Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.

*No one covers the bases the way we do.*

**STARS AND STRIPES**

Transportation

944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA



**OPENING HOURS:** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri  
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)

For a free rate request, please email: [info@worldwide-ship.de](mailto:info@worldwide-ship.de)  
Visit our Website: [www.worldwide-ship.de](http://www.worldwide-ship.de)

## Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!



Concert, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

**STARS AND STRIPES**



Delivering a little bit of **home** across the globe is our mission.

# easyTV GO



American TV wherever you are

*Get it now!* ↗

- ✔ stream live American TV everywhere\*
- ✔ watch on your phone, tablet, PC, and television set with live, recorded, or on demand viewing
- ✔ watch it free for 30 days
- ✔ easy online sign up: no contract, cancel anytime

\*Available anywhere OCONUS.



TKS services exclusively for U.S. service members.



WORLDWIDE STRATEGIC PARTNER



vodafone

# TKS

A VODAFONE COMPANY

www.tkscable.com

# WEEKEND



Outriders is worth owning, if only that were an option

Video games, Page 26



COVID (mostly) closed down the theaters and completely jumbled the movie business. Studio tentpoles were replaced by smaller, streaming films with lots of heart. And, in the best shuffle of them all, awards season looks a whole lot more diverse than ever.

- A capsule look at the best picture nominees, Page 15
- AP film critics predict the winners, Page 16
- The disabled want to tell their own stories, Page 18
- 'Chicago 7' became a film for these times, Page 19
- Soderbergh ready to shake up the telecast, Page 20
- Songsmith Diane Warren wants a special win, Page 29

STARS AND STRIPES ILLUSTRATION/AP photo

## WEEKEND: GADGETS &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# Surf's up

## High-tech robotic surfboards could change what we know about Gulf Stream's effects

By MATTHEW CAPPUCCI  
The Washington Post

The Gulf Stream, the warm water current that weaves a serpentine path from the west Atlantic to the United Kingdom, routinely brews some of the most extreme winter storms in the northern hemisphere, disrupting shipping and marine commerce while affecting weather throughout the globe.

The Gulf Stream is also an enormous absorber of carbon dioxide, trapping greenhouse gases and preventing the pace of climate change from accelerating further.

Scientists are now hoping to gain a better understanding of what makes the Gulf Stream tick by launching "saildrones" — or surfboard-like "uncrewed surface vehicles" — that will ride the waters and transmit observations for up to a year. Developed by the Saildrone company in Alameda, Calif., they are used to survey weather and ocean observations and can cover thousands of square miles with no carbon footprint.

"We had a competition where we asked what people would do if they had a Saildrone for a month," said Anne Miglarese, Saildrone's program executive officer for impact science. Jaime Palter, a professor of oceanography at the University of Rhode Island, said she would "stick it in the Gulf Stream," Miglarese recalled.

Saildrone was enthusiastic about the proposal. It loaned Palter a unit that was launched from Newport, R.I., on Jan. 30, 2019. Palter's aim was to better understand how currents like the Gulf Stream fit into the global carbon cycle and how much of a net carbon sink, or absorber, they are. Humans routinely emit more than 35 billion tons of carbon dioxide annually, about a third of which is believed to immediately end up in the oceans.

Recent Saildrone missions in the Antarctic have shown that the ocean's role in the carbon cycle may not be as well understood as once believed, which could result in significant changes in how scientists model and research the dynamics of climate change.

"We circumnavigated the Antarctic last year on another philanthropic mission focused on monitoring carbon," Miglarese explained. "The scientific consensus [at the time] was that the Antarctic was a sink for carbon. Our science showed it was a source part of the year."

According to the paper published with the data, "observing the Southern Ocean is challenging due to its size, remoteness, and harsh conditions," a problem that is also inveterate to the North Atlantic during winter.

The challenges of collecting data from the Gulf Stream



SAILDRONE INC./The Washington Post

Saildrones are being launched into the North Atlantic to study the effects of the Gulf Stream on climate and weather.

motivated Saildrone to work with partners to explore the current's role in the sequestration and release of CO<sub>2</sub>. They're partnering with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, along with Palter, to analyze the findings once obtained.

"We need a more accurate global carbon budget, and missions like this one will support that and help test our assumptions," Miglarese said.

With the help of a roughly \$1 million investment from Google, Saildrone will be launching a half dozen of its drones to roam the North Atlantic. The company has three sizes of drones and is choosing its 23-foot Explorer model for this mission.

The drones resemble enormous surfboards with fins and have a 16-foot sail on top that is used as a mast for weather instruments, solar panels and a camera. It can travel at speeds of three knots on missions lasting up to a year at a time.

The drones are powered by sunlight and wind and wirelessly transmit compressed data back to shore. Some Saildrones are equipped to monitor populations of sharks and other fish and algae.

The design builds upon the last iteration of the Saildrone Explorer, which was used in Palter's 2019 study. During that mission, a strong gust of wind tore the wing from the Saildrone — but that didn't halt the project.

"The wing ripped in half, but the drone continued to operate for about 10 days," said Miglarese. "They got more data than they've ever gotten before. After that mission, Richard [an engineer] redesigned the wing. Now they are meant specifically for this work."

The new "hurricane wings" will be added to Saildrones that NOAA will place in the tropics during hurricane season as part of a later project.

Saildrone's latest endeavor will investigate more than just dissolved carbon concentration. The drones will collect weather and water temperature data in a part of

the Atlantic largely bereft of weather buoys. That could prove enormously beneficial in improving the accuracy of weather forecasts.

The European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts, or ECMWF, hosts the most powerful weather model in the world and is often considered the most accurate. It hopes that data provided by the Saildrones will improve forecasts made for Europe.

"We will ingest some of the data from the Saildrones, but not all," Philip Browne, a data scientist at the ECMWF, wrote in an email. "In particular we will use the surface pressure data operationally, and that will go straight into the weather forecasts we produce."

That could bring model improvements as soon as the data starts flowing.

Ocean current data from the Gulf Stream will be vetted and used only internally at first because scientists at the ECMWF need to make sure the data is processed and handled by computers correctly.

"The many other sensors and observation types carried by the Saildrones have different routes into the system," Browne said. "For example, the sea surface temperature measurements will end up in our forecasts."

He explained that sea surface data is first taken in by the United Kingdom Met Office, which produces a global sea surface temperature analysis, which is fed into the ECMWF model.

"The data should be available for all weather centres to use if they can," Browne wrote.

In the meantime, Miglarese said she is excited for what's ahead for Saildrone and is looking to the rollout of its biggest model yet — the Saildrone Surveyor.

"We just launched a 72-foot drone that does bathymetric measurements," she said. Bathymetry describes the shape, depth and topographic features of the sea floor. "It's a big vessel. It's pushing a lot of power."

### GADGETS



SATECHI/TNS

The Satechi aluminum desktop stand is perfect for any tablet.

## Desktop stand elevates tablets for easier viewing

By GREGG ELLMAN  
Tribune News Service

The first thing you notice about the well-built and solid Satechi aluminum desktop stand for iPad is the weight. At 1 pound and 10 ounces, the bottom-heavy stand is perfect for keeping a tablet in place without worrying about it tipping over.

Most of the weight is in the base of the stand, which holds and elevates the iPad to a better viewing angle with the adjustable mount. Its protective padding prevents scratching or damage to the iPad, and it is collapsible for storage or portability.

The height cannot be modified, but the base hinge is adjustable up to 135 degrees and the mount is adjustable up to 180 degrees. Even with iPad in the name, you can

use it with any brand tablet with a maximum screen dimension of 13 inches.

And while the tablet is secured in the Satechi aluminum desktop stand, ports for charging are easily accessible through slots on the bottom of the mount.

Online: satechi.net; \$44.99

Invisible Shield, a Zagg Brands company and the industry leader in smartphone display protection, has announced that the GlassFusion VisionGuard+ with D30 and GlassFusion+ with D30 is now available for the iPhone 12 family.

The hybrid screen protectors have D30, described by the company as a non-Newtonian fluid. In its raw, flexible form, D30 is fluid, but when it experiences impact, the

molecules lock together to form a barrier that disperses the energy across the entire surface of the screen, protecting it from damage.

What it means to you is the crystal-clear protection with the D30 additive makes the screen protectors more than 20 percent stronger, with more impact and shatter protection compared to the original GlassFusion.

The GlassFusion+ with D30 (\$49.99) provides users with a complete edge-to-edge screen and contains anti-microbial properties.

With the GlassFusion VisionGuard+ with D30 (\$59.99), the screen protector is engineered to be unbreakable and features an eye-safe technology layer that blocks HEV blue light without distorting the screen color.

Online: zagg.com

## WEEKEND: ACADEMY AWARDS

## The nominees are ...

Snapshots of the 8 films nominated for best picture at the 2021 Oscars

By MOIRA MACDONALD  
The Seattle Times

It's Oscar season, and ... meh.

That's not a "meh" for the quality of the nominees this year; some terrific films are in the race, and the lack of big-studio tentpoles has given more visibility to smaller, interesting movies. But for those of us who fell in love with movies because of their immersive, larger-than-life-ness, the year's been a big cinematic sigh. With cinemas shuttered for much of 2020, and many potential moviegoers still waiting for vaccinations before venturing out, it's been a time of watching movies at home, wondering what the experience might feel like in their proper size. And Sunday's Oscars feel weirdly off-kilter; pushed out two months from their usual late-February slot, and decidedly un-festive this year (no Oscar parties, alas).

However, let us look on the bright side: This year's nominees are as accessible as they have ever been, with all of the best picture nominees currently available for streaming. And they're a fresh and compelling lot. Catching up with a few of them, I was struck anew by what it feels like to watch a crowd of people, or even a small maskless group. Movies are always time capsules — this year, more than ever.

So, as I anxiously await a return to movie theaters, let's take a look at this year's eight best picture candidates, viewed virtually.

### 'Nomadland'

Two of the front-runners are films I reviewed earlier this year. Chloe Zhao's "Nomadland," which won the Producers Guild Award on March 25 (often a harbinger of Oscar gold), showcases a brilliant Frances McDormand as a woman for whom home isn't a place, but something you carry. It's a quiet, meditative film of often stunning beauty (the gorgeous cinematography, by Joshua James Richards, is also nominated, as is Zhao herself for director, screenplay and editing) and while I watched it wishing I could have seen McDormand work her magic on a larger-than-life screen, it nonetheless has pleasantly haunted me thereafter. (Streaming on Hulu.)

### 'Minari'

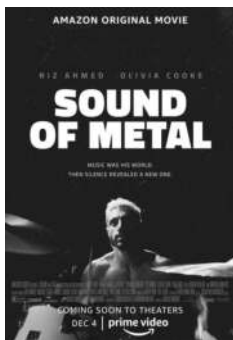
"Minari," a delicate drama from Lee Isaac Chung, follows a South Korean immigrant family in pursuit of their American dream; it's a deeply personal film for Chung, who drew on memories of his own '80s Arkansas childhood. In another year, a film this quiet might have easily been overlooked, but luckily we can call "Minari" a pandemic gift. The film received six nominations (including a best actor nod for Steven Yeun, the first Asian actor ever nominated in the category) and an ever-growing audience; it's a gentle love letter both to Chung's family, and to ours. (Available for rental on Apple TV, Amazon Prime Video, Google Play, Vudu.)

### 'The Father'

The British film "The Father," directed by Florian Zeller (based on his play), is a different kind of family drama — a devastating, artful portrait of a man slipping away. Anthony (a masterful Anthony Hopkins, nominated for best actor), struggling with early stages of dementia, has moved in with his daughter Anne (Olivia Colman, nominated for supporting actress) and we watch as he desperately tries to impose order and control on a life that increasingly seems unfamiliar. Zeller puts us directly inside Anthony's confusion: Familiar faces suddenly seem to be strangers (literally, due to clever casting changes that keep us confused as well) as his life becomes a frightening hall of mirrors. By its heartbreaking ending, "The Father" has taken us on a painful journey well worth taking, and reminded us that Hopkins — making his character vulnerable yet lionlike, fading away yet fighting to stay visible — is among the greatest of screen actors. (Available for rental on Amazon Prime Video.)

### 'Sound of Metal'

"Sound of Metal," from first-time feature filmmaker Darius Marder, likewise shows us a central character trying to find his way through a major life change. Ruben (best actor nominee Riz Ahmed) is a punk-metal drummer who is horrified one day to realize that he has experienced significant hearing loss. I loved how this movie uses sound, letting us hear things the way Ruben hears them: the eerily vibrating silence, the faraway quality of the voices, the way he flails away on his drums, desperately trying to make a noise he can hear. Unfolding slowly and deliberately, the film becomes a showcase for a beautifully nuanced performance by Ahmed, and a reminder of the importance of finding moments of stillness. This is another one I would have loved to have seen in a theater, letting that sound wrap around me, but I'm happy to have seen this film in any way — and that the Academy recognized its quiet power. (Available on Amazon Prime Video.)



### 'Mank'

It's been several months since I watched "Mank," David Fincher's black-and-white tale of Old Hollywood (its title character, Herman J. Mankiewicz, is the screenwriter of "Citizen Kane"), but I remember very clearly how I felt when I finished it: simultaneously impressed and disappointed. I wanted to love it; I didn't. The film is clearly a labor of love for Fincher, whose meticulous devotion to the period (World War II-era Hollywood) is evident in every soft-gray frame — and the more you know about old movies in general and "Citizen Kane" specifically, the more you'll enjoy spotting the many affectionate references Fincher throws in. But ultimately, for me, "Mank" felt like an overlong exercise in style, never quite making the case for its central character (played by a nominated Gary Oldman) being worthy of such a tribute. Maybe I need to watch it a few more times. The Academy disagrees with me; "Mank" received 10 nominations, more than any other movie. Not sure I'd put money on it winning any of them, but we'll see. (Streaming on Netflix.)

### 'Promising Young Woman'

The audacious, candy-bright and wicked-dark thriller "Promising Young Woman," written and directed by Emerald Fennell, is the sort of movie — unlike "Mank" — that the Academy usually would never honor. A metallic

### FRANCES McDORMAND NOMADLAND



A FILM BY CHLOÉ ZHAO

"Nomadland" has dominated the best-picture category thus far during awards season — earning best film at the BAFTA Awards, best picture drama at the Golden Globes, best picture at the Critics Choice Awards and best film at the Producers Guild Awards.

shriek of a film, it stars Carey Mulligan (nominated for best actress) as a woman determined to seek vengeance for an act that the movie takes its time revealing, putting herself in danger by pretending to be drunk in bars and going home with strange men. "Promising Young Woman" is fierce, feminist and not perfect; I struggled with its ending, and its playful tone occasionally slips off the precipice on which it dances. But I love that there was room in the Academy's list for this film, particularly for Mulligan's sly, heartbreaking performance. (Available to rent on Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, Google Play, Vudu.)

### 'The Trial of the Chicago 7'

Aaron Sorkin's "The Trial of the Chicago 7," like typical Sorkin fare, is a) crammed full of rapid-fire dialogue, to such an extent that watching it is occasionally exhausting, b) longer than it needs to be, and c) slyly entertaining. Some of it feels all too scripted (the rousing final speech by Eddie Redmayne's Tom Hayden is a Sorkin invention), but a lot of it is an accurate representation of a remarkably theatrical event: the aftermath of anti-war demonstrations during the 1968 Democratic National Convention, when eight defendants were put on trial. The cast, particularly Sacha Baron Cohen as Abbie Hoffman, is skilled, the subject matter feels timely and the movie works well on a small screen — the diminution calms things down a bit. (Available on Netflix.)



### 'Judas and the Black Messiah'

A.O. Scott of The New York Times called Shaka King's "Judas and the Black Messiah" a "tense, methodical historical drama," in which LaKeith Stanfield (nominated for supporting actor) plays real-life character Bill O'Neal, at once head of security for the Black Panther Party in Chicago and paid informant for the FBI. Stanfield will be up against castmate Daniel Kaluuya, who plays Illinois Black Panthers head Fred Hampton; the film is also nominated for best screenplay, cinematography and original song. (Available to rent on Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, Google Play, Vudu.)

## WEEKEND: ACADEMY AWARDS

## BEST PICKS

Ahead of Sunday's 93rd Academy Awards, Associated Press film writers share their predictions for a ceremony that is forging on in the midst of the pandemic

BY JAKE COYLE AND LINDSEY BAHR  
Associated Press

## Best actress

**THE NOMINEES:** Carey Mulligan, "Promising Young Woman"; Frances McDormand, "Nomadland"; Viola Davis, "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"; Vanessa Kirby, "Pieces of a Woman"; Andra Day, "The United States vs. Billie Holiday"

**BAHR:** The best actress race is perhaps the biggest wild card of the night. Viola Davis won the Screen Actors Guild Award, Andra Day won the Golden Globe and Frances McDormand won the BAFTA. It's chaos! Day still seems like a long shot, and McDormand's last win still seems fresh enough that it might push voters who would've otherwise went for her Fern elsewhere. This year I'm inclined to believe that Davis will walk away with the trophy for her raw portrayal of blues singer Ma Rainey, but I can't help but think that perhaps Mulligan should win for "Promising Young Woman." As for who should've been a contender, there are so many, but two of my favorites include Aubrey Plaza in the criminally underseen "Black Bear" and Han Ye-ri, who gave my favorite performance in "Minari" as the long-suffering, steadfast mother Monica.

**COYLE:** Chaos indeed! I think this is a toss up between Davis and Mulligan, with the edge going to Davis after her SAG win. Davis has won before, for her titanic performance in "Fences." But that came (somewhat debatably) as supporting actress. And there is justice in Davis — very possibly the greatest actor alive — taking the top award, especially when you factor in the category's history. Just once before has a Black woman (Halle Berry in 2002 for "Monster's Ball") won best actress. Still, the race would have been all the more interesting if it hadn't overlooked two of the year's best performances: Radha Blank ("The Forty-Year-Old Version") and Carrie Coon ("The Nest").



Searchlight Pictures

Frances McDormand stars in "Nomadland," which is expected to rise to the top of the pack of eight best picture nominees. Also shown: David Strathairn.

## Best picture

**THE NOMINEES:** "The Father," "Judas and the Black Messiah," "Mank," "Minari," "Nomadland," "Promising Young Woman," "Sound of Metal," "The Trial of the Chicago 7"

**COYLE:** A contemplative character study made for \$5 million and populated by non-professional actors, Chloé Zhao's "Nomadland" is not your typical Oscar heavyweight. And yet it's overwhelming the favorite, a roundly acclaimed movie from an exciting auteur that has already ruled at the Golden Globes, the BAFTAs and, most crucially, the producers and directors' guilds. The weirdness of this unending pandemic awards season adds a drop of uncertainty to everything. But as much as I'd like to see "Sound of Metal," "Promising Young Woman" or "Minari" sneak in for an upset, "Nomadland" is a near-lock, and an eminently worthy winner. But it's udder madness that Kelly Reichardt's lyrical "First Cow" never contended here. And how much better would the season have been if Steve McQueen's explosive "Small Axe" film anthology (which instead will vie at the Emmys) had somehow been in the mix? Old Oscar traditions are eroding, but not quickly enough.

**BAHR:** You had to bring up "Small Axe," didn't you? I would have liked to see "Never Rarely Sometimes Always" go the distance too, but I guess this year there was only room for one contemplative character study made for under \$5 million — and the one about the rural Pennsylvania teens on a bleak road trip wasn't it. But it would still be "Nomadland's" year, and that's only cause for celebration.

## Best supporting actress

**THE NOMINEES:** Maria Bakalova, "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm"; Glenn Close, "Hillbilly Elogy"; Olivia Colman, "The Father"; Amanda Seyfried, "Mank"; Yuh-Jung Youn, "Minari"

**BAHR:** In a category where Amanda Seyfried started out seeming like a lock, the tide has shifted toward Yuh-Jung Youn for her performance as the unconventional grandmother Soonja in "Minari." It's a difficult task to be both the comic relief and the heart of a film, but she pulls

it off effortlessly, which is why she probably will and should win (although Maria Bakalova could sweep in with a possible upset). Both women elevated their respective films and deserve all the attention



A24

Yuh-Jung Youn in "Minari"

they're getting. And Seyfried will absolutely get her Oscar sometime. I would have liked to see Talia Ryder recognized for "Never Rarely Sometimes Always."

**COYLE:** This has been a shape-shifting race, but Youn is definitely in the lead. I'd like to see more love all around for "Minari," but it's kind of fitting that Lee Isaac Chung's film be celebrated through the minari-growing matriarch of the movie. Two other names that I wish were here, both for disarmingly funny, natural performances: Cristin Milioti, MVP of "Palm Springs," and Dylan Gelula of the indie college romance "S---house."

SEE PICKS ON PAGE 17



Netflix

Viola Davis in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"



Netflix

Chadwick Boseman in his final film, "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"

## Best actor

**THE NOMINEES:** Riz Ahmed, "Sound of Metal"; Chadwick Boseman, "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"; Anthony Hopkins, "The Father"; Gary Oldman, "Mank"; Steven Yeun, "Minari"

**COYLE:** After some ho-hum years, the best actor category is really strong this time around. I loved all of these performances. Still, this award has — rightly — belonged to Boseman throughout an award season that has doubled as tribute and wake for the late "Ma Rainey" actor. His greatest performance was his last. Some see a chance of Hopkins (who won at the BAFTAs) pulling off an upset for his devastating portrait of a man stricken with dementia. But I don't. Expect Boseman to become the third actor to win an Oscar posthumously, following Heath Ledger ("The Dark Knight") and Peter Finch ("Network").

I wouldn't swap any of these nominees out, but Sacha Baron Cohen's high-wire guerrilla performance in "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm" is in a category by itself.

**BAHR:** Could you imagine if Boseman didn't win? The grit and commitment in all these performances are worth singing about, though.

There were so many others that could have fit in here too, like Delroy Lindo for "Da 5 Bloods," Mads Mikkelsen for "Another Round" or, while we're bending categories, even Hugh Jackman for "Bad Education."



## WEEKEND: ACADEMY AWARDS

## Picks: 'Nomadland' should take awards for film, filmmaker

FROM PAGE 16

## Best supporting actor

**THE NOMINEES:** Sacha Baron Cohen, "The Trial of the Chicago 7"; Daniel Kaluuya, "Judas and the Black Messiah"; Leslie Odom Jr., "One Night in Miami"; Paul Raci, "Sound of Metal"; LaKeith Stanfield, "Judas and the Black Messiah"

**COYLE:** This seems certain to go to Daniel Kaluuya. For his mighty performance as Black Panther leader Fred Hampton, Kaluuya (a nominee for "Get Out") has racked up wins at the SAGs, Globes and BAFTAs. A little wrinkle came when Stanfield was unexpectedly nominated here despite being campaigned for as a leading actor — and that could split some of the vote between the two "Judas and the Black Messiah" stars. Stanfield, for me, is the best actor in this bunch. But this is Kaluuya's year. Stanfield will be back, as will some of the performers who missed out, like Kingsley Ben-Adir, terrific as Malcolm X in "One Night in Miami."

**BAHR:** Oh, Kingsley Ben-Adir! If I'm being perfectly honest, I would have been happy if the supporting slate was simply the cast of "One Night in Miami," plus Kaluuya. I do think Paul Raci has a shot as the Cinderella story of awards season, but it's time to get Kaluuya up on that stage.

## Director

**THE NOMINEES:** Chloé Zhao, "Nomadland"; Lee Isaac Chung, "Minari"; David Fincher, "Mank"; Emerald Fennell, "Promising Young Woman"; Thomas Vinterberg, "Another Round"

**BAHR:** The directing category is Chloé Zhao's to lose, and I think she both will

win and should win for the transcendent "Nomadland," even if it's become a foregone conclusion at this point. In an awards season as endless as this one, it's hard not to be skeptical of any film and filmmaker



TAYLOR JEWELL, INVISION/AP  
Chloe Zhao is director of "Nomadland."

that has thus far swept most awards. But that this tiny movie has had such an ascent is something of a miracle and well deserved. The bonus is that (hopefully) we'll finally have more than one best director-winner who is a woman. That said, it would have been nice had Miranda July ("Kajillionaire") been among the contenders as well.

**COYLE:** I like imagining the Dynes of "Kajillionaire" getting all dressed up and taking multiple bus transfers to the Oscars. But Zhao will win, and it should be a great moment. Not just because she'll be only the second woman to win the award, but because she's an exceptional — and exceptionally humble — filmmaker with a lot of movies ahead of her. More often, this award goes to someone who's been around a while. Pretty soon, we'll be wondering how it's possible that David Fincher — maybe the very best Hollywood director of his era — hasn't ever won.



Warner Bros. Pictures

Daniel Kaluuya should get his due for his portrayal of Black Panther leader Fred Hampton in "Judas and the Black Messiah."

## Documentary

**THE NOMINEES:** "Collective," "Crip Camp," "The Mole Agent," "My Octopus Teacher," "Time"

**COYLE:** With increasing frequency, this is the best Oscar category, and it's the one with the most snubs. Some of the very best movies of the year — including "Dick Johnson Is Dead" and "The Truffle Hunters" — didn't make it through the crowded shortlist stage. And still the films that did get nominated are sensational. Probably the only one that I wouldn't pick — "My Octopus Teacher" — is going to win. Little noticed at its debut last fall, the film's audience swelled on Netflix, turning it into an out-of-the-blue Academy Awards contender. I would cheer loudest, though, if "Crip Camp" were to win. It would be a triumph for a warm-hearted film, and for the disability community.

**BAHR:** Even the shortlist itself was brutal, leaving out "The Dissident" and "Acasa, My Home," but the documentary category has long left out some of the medium's best work (hi "Hoop Dreams"). It is odd that a late-game Netflix sensation like "My Octopus Teacher" somehow became the frontrunner, but I'm trying not to judge what people connect to this year even if I would prefer an urgent piece like "Collective" take the prize.

## International feature

**THE NOMINEES:** "Quo Vadis, Aida?," Bosnia and Herzegovina; "Another Round," Denmark; "Better Days," Hong Kong; "Collective," Romania; "The Man Who Sold His Skin," Tunisia

**BAHR:** This category seems to be a race between Denmark's "Another Round" and Romania's "Collective," both of which were nominated in other prominent categories (director and documentary, respectively). I think this one will veer towards "Another Round" simply because its directing nod gave it a brighter spotlight and a bigger audience and voters have a chance to honor "Collective" in another category. Another film that would have been a worthy contender here is Italy's "Martin Eden."

**COYLE:** "Another Round" is a lock. But "Quo Vadis, Aida?" is really good, too. Jasmila Žbanić dramatizes the lead-up to the 1995 massacre of Bosnian Muslim men and boys by the Bosnian Serb army in Srebrenica. Following a fictional translator (Jasna Duricic) working for the United Nations, the film devastatingly probes a



StudioCanal

"Another Round," a Danish movie starring Mads Mikkelsen, is one of the international feature frontrunners. Director Thomas Vinterberg is also nominated for the film.



Netflix

The documentary nominee "My Octopus Teacher" got a big boost from its wide availability on Netflix.



DENISE SHERER JACOBS/Netflix

"Crip Camp" argues that a summer camp in the Catskills contributed to the disability rights movement of the 1970s.



Disney/Pixar

Jamie Foxx voices main character Joe Gardner in the animation front-runner "Soul."

## Animated feature

**THE NOMINEES:** "Onward," "Over the Moon," "A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon," "Soul," "Wolfwalkers"

**COYLE:** Pixar, like always, seems to have this in the bag. The studio's "Soul" is the clear favorite. There's so much that's wondrous in Pete Docter's film that its Oscar victory is hardly something to lament. But you couldn't find a better underdog than the plucky Irish animation studio Cartoon Saloon, which last year

released their most enchanting and ambitious film yet. Tomm Moore and Ross Stewart's "Wolfwalkers," the culmination of a triptych of Irish folklore, is impossibly stunning. Every hand-drawn frame is a work of art. It's the Kilkenny-based studio's fifth Oscar nomination, and it's time they won one.

**BAHR:** Disney and Pixar are hard to beat. Since 2010, they've won eight times, and the other two were not exactly indies ("Rango," "Spider-Verse"). I'm rooting for "Wolfwalkers," but betting on "Soul."

## WEEKEND: ACADEMY AWARDS



DOUG ROLAND FILMS/AP

Steven Prescod as Tereek, left, and Robert Tarango as Artie, appear in a scene from "Feeling Through." Tarango is the deaf-blind star of the nominated short.

# 'Not just the flavor of the year'

Actors, actresses with disabilities are finally getting a moment in the Oscar spotlight that they hope becomes a movement

BY ANDREW DALTON  
Associated Press

**R**ight down to its production design, the Oscars have not always felt like the most welcoming place for the disabled.

"I've always seen that stage with its stairs as a symbol that they don't expect people who had mobility issues to be nominated or to win an award," said Jim LeBrecht, the co-director and co-star of the Oscar-nominated documentary "Crip Camp." "It's always been this kind of negative tacit statement."

This year shows signs of change. LeBrecht, who has spina bifida and uses a wheelchair, will attend the April 25 ceremony. So will Robert Tarango, the deaf-blind star of the nominated short, "Feeling Through."

The victors' podium will be accessible for both. And LeBrecht hopes that will become a permanent change, both literally and figuratively.

The two films, along with "Sound of Metal," nominated for six awards including best picture, have the people behind them hoping their Oscar moment can become a catalyst for Hollywood to stop using the disabled as sources of inspiration, objects of pity, or twisted villains.

"I think that the goal is to alleviate the fear," Tarango said through a translator, "to open the doors so that executives don't look at our ability to hear or not to hear and to see that somebody who is blind, deaf-blind, who has any kind of disability, is just part of the world and can be part of these films."

The academy, under pressure, has



CHARLES SYKES, INVISION/AP

**Co-directors Jim LeBrecht, left, and Nicole Newnham, center, from the documentary "Crip Camp," pose with film subject Judith Heumann during the 2020 Sundance Film Festival in Utah. LeBrecht, who has spina bifida and uses a wheelchair, says a golden age for disabled films could come if Hollywood lets them tell their own stories.**

pushed for greater race and gender inclusion in recent years. The disabled can too often be forgotten in that discussion.

"It's time that people need to recognize that diversity should include the disabled, the deaf-blind and the deaf community," Marlee Matlin, an executive producer on "Feeling Through" and the only deaf actor to win an Oscar, said through a translator. "I hope that it's not just the flavor of the

year, that it goes beyond, and that this is a trend that will continue."

Traditionally in Academy Award-nominated movies, disabled people appear only when an actor seeking an Oscar-worthy role plays one on screen.

That has led some disabled people to feel like "they're stealing our stories," said LeBrecht, a sound designer whose friend, documentary director Nicole Newnham,

asked that he direct "Crip Camp" with her. She wanted a disability-led perspective after he suggested she make a documentary about his summer camp and its essential role in the birth of the disability rights movement.

"If we just realize that the stories around disabilities aren't just about overcoming adversity or tragedy," he said, "then I think we could see kind of the beginning of a golden age where finally people with disabilities show their true lives, their real life experiences."

The disabled have long been among the least represented groups in film and television. Last year, USC Annenberg's annual inequality report found that, only 2.3% of all speaking characters across the 100 top-grossing films of 2019 were even depicted with a disability, much less played by a disabled actor.

"Feeling Through" director Doug Roland called stats like that "abysmal," but said his determination to cast a deaf-blind actor in the film based on a real chance encounter he had on the street, was not made from any sense of inclusion.

"I wasn't even thinking from what I now know is the conversation around authentic representation, which I've had like a real master class in over the last three years," Roland said. "I was just thinking, you know, I think this would just be a lot more impactful if we have someone from the community be a part of this."

His search led him to the Helen Keller National Center, which helped him find

**SEE CATALYST ON PAGE 19**

## WEEKEND: ACADEMY AWARDS

# Catalyst: Inclusion on the way, actor says

FROM PAGE 18

Tarango, who was working in their kitchen. The center then helped him extensively through every step of the process.

"We bring a culture to this," Tarango said. "We bring our independence that people don't often see. I was excited, excited and grateful honestly to Doug for picking someone who was deaf-blind, because I think that has helped in the success of the film."

When Matlin won her 1987 Oscar for "Children of a Lesser God," it felt like a major breakthrough. But a flood of roles and nominations didn't follow for deaf or other disabled actors.

"I thought, 'OK, it will break barriers,'" Matlin said. "But then, the focus moved away."

She said the lack of social media at the time made it very difficult to apply pressure and build momentum for a cause the way the #OscarsSoWhite hashtag did for Black actors.

Now, she says disabled people and their advocates are "able to speak out from wherever they are. They are able to lend their voice, their opinions, their views, their visions, their imaginations."

"Sound of Metal" has been praised for its authentic examination of the world of the deaf, and its use of deaf actors in supporting roles. It has also received some deaf-community criticism for casting a hearing actor, Riz Ahmed, in the lead role of a drummer who must reckon with losing his hearing.

Paul Raci, a child of deaf parents who is nominated for best supporting actor for his role as a leader of a sober house for the deaf, understands the criticism, but said "for the most part, deaf people have accepted this movie with open arms."

"It shows a deaf sober house, deaf people as addicts, which is a totally new idea to show deaf people as people that have the same foibles you and I have, the same challenges, the same journeys," Raci said.

And he believes the larger conversation the movie has helped open will mean even more.

"You're going to see more inclusion in casting in this town, in Hollywood," he said. "You're going to see a lot more differently-abled people, people that use wheelchairs, blind, deaf, there's going to be a lot more of those kind of protagonists. And you're going to watch those journeys unfold on the screen."



Director and writer Aaron Sorkin speaks with members of the cast on "The Trial of the Chicago 7." The film, which follows the Vietnam War protesters accused of inciting riots at the 1968 Democratic Convention, has been nominated for six Academy Awards.

Netflix

## More relevant than ever

'Trial of the Chicago 7' director, writer Sorkin reflects on the film, which took 14 years to complete

BY KELLY GILBLOM  
AND LUCAS SHAW  
*Bloomberg*

**A**ron Sorkin has seen a lot over more than 30 years in Hollywood, but even he couldn't have predicted how neatly a Vietnam War-era film would fit the political climate of 2020.

"The Trial of the Chicago 7," the second movie directed by the famed screenwriter, follows the Vietnam War protesters who were accused of inciting riots at the 1968 Democratic Convention. The film has been nominated for six Academy Awards, including for Sorkin's screenplay, and represents Netflix Inc.'s latest shot at the industry's top prize.

Reflecting on the film, which took about 14 years to make from conception to completion, Sorkin marveled at how little things have changed in the 60 years since Tom Hayden, Abbie Hoffman, Bobby Seale and the others went on trial for their roles in the riots. The anti-racism movement of last summer helped audiences connect with its message about the importance of protest in a democracy, he said.

"We thought the movie was plenty relevant last winter when we were making it," Sorkin, 59, said in a phone interview from his home in Los Angeles. "We didn't need it to get more relevant, but it did, obviously. I've been asked a lot if I changed the script to reflect events in the world. And I didn't ever. The world changed to reflect the script."

The idea for the movie came from Oscar-winning director Steven Spielberg, who has made a few of his own historical pictures, including "Lincoln." He called Sorkin, the

creator of the TV series "The West Wing," over to his house on a Saturday morning in 2006 and said he wanted to make a movie about the Chicago Seven. Sorkin enthusiastically agreed to write it without admitting he didn't know what Spielberg was talking about.

"I left his house, called my father and asked who the Chicago Seven were," Sorkin recalled.

The Chicago Seven (there were initially eight) were from different factions of the antiwar movement that rallied thousands of young people to come to Chicago in the summer of 1968 to protest the Democratic Party's expected nomination of Vice President Hubert Humphrey to succeed President Lyndon Johnson. They were met by 12,000 Chicago policemen, 5,600 members of the Illinois National Guard and 5,000 U.S. Army soldiers.

The trial began more than a year later, pressed by President Richard Nixon's Justice Department. Sorkin did some firsthand research through conversations with Hayden, a leader of Students for a Democratic Society at the University of Michigan in the 1960s. Hayden, who's played by Eddie Redmayne, gave Sorkin a sense of the tension between himself and Hoffman, a prominent antiwar activist who is played in the film by Sacha Baron Cohen. Hoffman took his own life in 1989. Hayden, who later had a long career in California politics and was married for 17 years to actress Jane Fonda, died in 2016 after a lengthy illness.

The drama between the two became an important part of the script, along with the police confrontation early in the film and the courtroom fireworks, after Sorkin dropped the

notion of turning the story into a Broadway musical or play. He rewrote the screenplay dozens of times and the film went through numerous iterations, first with Spielberg set to direct, then with different actors including Seth Rogen and Dane Cook, before eventually going into production at ViacomCBS Inc.'s Paramount Pictures with the current cast and Sorkin as director.

Last spring, it was clear the coronavirus was going to disrupt Paramount's plans for a theatrical release. Market research indicated the first customers to come back to theaters would be people who thought COVID-19 was a hoax. And they might not have been sympathetic to the film's message, studio Chairman Jim Gianopulos and the filmmakers agreed.

"We didn't have much confidence the Idaho militia was going to show up opening weekend," said Sorkin, who won an Oscar in 2011 for adapting the Facebook story "The Social Network" to the big screen.

Tyler Thompson, a producer at Cross Creek Pictures who worked with Sorkin on the movie, said the transition to streaming went smoothly and may ultimately have been a good thing. The film cost about \$35 million to make and would have eaten up a similar amount in marketing. Netflix bought the picture for \$56 million and released it to home audiences on Oct. 16.

"It's interesting to watch the Netflix big machine," Thompson said. "They reach 600 million people. It's pretty fantastic, to say the least. It was definitely a lifeboat that was an unlikely possibility, but they saw what we saw."

## WEEKEND: ACADEMY AWARDS

## ‘It needs to evolve’

Oscars co-producer says the COVID pandemic provided an opportunity to tweak, rethink this year’s telecast

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

**N**inety seconds. That’s how quickly Steven Soderbergh believes the Academy Awards will convince viewers that this year’s telecast is different.

The concept for the show, which Soderbergh is producing with Stacey Sher and Jesse Collins, is to treat the telecast not like a TV show but a movie. And he’s convinced he’s got a doozy of an opening scene.

“We’re going to announce our intention immediately,” Soderbergh says. “Right out of the gate, people are going to know: ‘We’ve got to put our seatbelt on.’”

Changing the Academy Awards, a 93-year-old American institution, has typically proven an exercise in futility. Tweaks have been tried along the way, yet the basic format has been stubbornly immutable.



Soderbergh

But this year, the pandemic has shaken the Oscars like never before. When the broadcast begins April 25 on ABC, there won’t be an audience. The base of the show won’t be the Academy Awards’ usual home, the Dolby Theatre (though the Dolby is still a key location), but

Union Station, the airy, Art Deco-Mission Revival railway hub in downtown Los Angeles.

For the producers, the challenges of COVID are an opportunity to, finally, rethink the Oscars.

“At any step in the creative process of making a movie, when I ask a question about why something is being done a certain way and the answer is, ‘Because that’s the way it’s always been done’ — that’s a real red flag for me,” Soderbergh said in a recent Zoom interview with Collins and Sher. “All of us this year have taken advantage of the opportunity that’s been presented to us to really challenge all the assumptions that go into an award show.”

No matter how good a job they do, ratings are all but certain to fall from last year’s 23.6 million viewers. Award show viewership has cratered during the pandemic, and this year’s Oscar nominees — while widely streamed and more diverse than ever — lack the kind of buzz generated in a normal year. Soderbergh praises the best-picture nominees as “one of the most auteur-driven set of films.”

“If the teams in the Super Bowl are from small markets, it’s still a great game; people still care,” says Collins, who produced The Weeknd’s halftime show at this year’s Super Bowl.

Collins was also a producer of last month’s Grammy Awards, a telecast that drew praise for its personal, jam-session feel. That sense of community is something the Oscars want to exude, too.

“My big thing has always been: It’s not intimate. It doesn’t feel personal,” Soderbergh says. “We’re in a COVID world. It has to be that way. Nominees, guests, presenters. That’s it. Those are the only people in the room. That was just a weird alignment of catastrophe and my personal preoccupation.”

The Oscars, most assuredly, will differ greatly from February’s largely virtual Golden Globes. The producers have made a stand against both Zoom and casual wear. This is the Oscars, after all; there will be no acceptance speeches made in a hoodie. The producers pressed the nominees to attend in person, with appropriate safety precautions.

Some bristled at the academy’s stance — lockdown



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

When the Oscars broadcast begins April 25 on ABC, there won’t be an audience. The base of the show won’t take place in the Academy Awards’ usual home, but will be held at Union Station, pictured here March 23 — the airy, Art Deco-Mission Revival railway hub in downtown Los Angeles.

regulations are in effect in some countries and cases are persistently high in Europe and elsewhere — leading to compromise. There will be a hub for nominees in London, and, as of late last week, about a dozen remote satellite hook-ups. Some material will be pre-taped; every nominee has spent 45 minutes with the producers.

Soderbergh envisions the broadcast as a three-hour movie, not a webinar. But what does that mean, exactly? If the Oscars are a movie, what kind will it be? From the director of “Ocean’s 11” and “Logan Lucky,” should we expect a heist film?

“It’s going to feel like a movie in that there’s an overarching theme that’s articulated in different ways throughout the show. So the presenters are essentially the storytellers for each chapter,” Soderbergh says. “We want you to feel like it wasn’t a show made by an institution. We want you to feel like you’re watching a show that

**“The cliché when you ... pitch a movie is to say it’s about hope and scope. That is kind of what we want to do, to show what’s possible.”**

Steven Soderbergh

Filmmaker, Academy Awards co-producer

was made by a small group of people that really attacked everything that feels generic or unnecessary or insincere. That’s the kind of intention when I watch shows like this that is missing for me. A voice. It needs to have a specific voice.”

Technically, the broadcast will have a more widescreen look and a more cinematic approach to the music. (Questlove is music director.) Presenters are considered the ensemble cast. One thing you won’t see, says Collins, is standard banter before an award is handed out.

“When you see cast members go up to give awards, you’ll see a connection,” Collins says. “It won’t be two people walking up that just met in the greenroom who are struggling to stick with the teleprompter.”

It’s undeniably a lot to pull off, with ever-fluctuating COVID-19 conditions and restrictions. The logistics are

“mind-numbing,” Soderbergh says. The egos, a whole other fascinating component.

“Oh, it’s a chapter for the memoir, for sure,” he says. But the show is coming together. “I’m feeling pretty amped.”

The role of Academy Awards savior is an unlikely one for Soderbergh, who dramatically bid Hollywood goodbye eight years ago. His criticism then was that the studios weren’t innovating and that movies had drifted from the cultural center. But after returning to moviemaking in a restless sprint of adventurous, conceptually daring films (some shot on iPhones, one made on an ocean liner), Soderbergh helped lead the industry back to production during the pandemic, mapping out safety protocols — including the kinds of testing and quarantining that will be in effect for attending nominees next week.

The Oscars are an annual meeting, of sorts, for Hollywood — a moment of reflection, aspiration and backslapping for the industry. This year’s awards, postponed by two months, follow a punishing pandemic year for the industry that saw movie theaters shuttered and streaming services proliferate. Soderbergh hopes the Oscars will be cathartic, and a shot in the arm for Hollywood.

“The cliché when you ... pitch a movie is to say it’s about hope and scope,” he says. “That is kind of what we want to do, to show what’s possible.”

That includes an affectionate celebration of each category’s craft and nominees.

“Snark is something that we didn’t want,” says Sher, the veteran producer of “Get Shorty,” “Django Unchained” and Soderbergh films like “Out of Sight” and “Erin Brockovich.” “Instead of looking at it from the outside in with a high degree of cynicism and snark, we’re pulling the curtain back and letting them into our community. There are a lot of misperceptions about the business. It’s a predominantly blue-collar industry, with unions.”

On Oscar night, Soderbergh — who typically serves as his own cinematographer under the alias Peter Andrews — plans to be in the production truck alongside the show’s director, Glenn Weiss.

“There’s been so much resistance to make any big moves, but at least what we’ll have done, coming out the other end, is give the academy, the network and the viewers some real information about what they like and what they don’t like because we made some big moves,” Soderbergh says. “That means it will evolve, and it needs to evolve.”

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Dangling from some cliffs in Switzerland

Here's a reminder of the fun that awaits us in Europe at the other end of this crisis.

**D**angling from a sheer cliff a thousand feet above the Lauterbrunnen Valley floor, I pause and look down at my boots, each clinging to a rebar step — which, like giant staples, are tacked across the rock face. Between my legs, like little specks on the valley floor, I see tiny cows doing their part for the Swiss cheese industry. To my left, my mountain guide patiently waits, keeping a wary eye on me. To my right, my Swiss friend Simon laughs, saying, “Hand me your camera.”

I know I need a photo to capture this amazing scene. But I don't want to have anything to do with grabbing my camera or posing. I am terrified.

I'm back in my favorite corner of Switzerland: the Berner Oberland. When I arrived, it occurred to me that I'd already ridden the lifts and hiked all the trails in the area. But there was one experience that I had yet to do: traverse the cliffside cableway called the via ferrata. So Simon and I pulled on mountaineering harnesses and clipped our carabiners onto the first stretch of a nearly two-mile-long cable, setting off with a local guide on the “iron way” from Mürren to Gimmelwald.

The route takes us along the very side of

the cliff, like tiny window-washers on a geological skyscraper. As I make my way along the “trail,” I alternate my two carabiners from segment to segment along the sturdy steel cable. For me, physically, this is the max. I am almost numb with fear. After one particularly harrowing crossing — gingerly taking one rebar step after another — I say to the guide, “OK, now it gets easier?”



Rick Steves

“No,” he says. “Now comes die Hammer Ecke!”

Translated into English, this means “the hammer corner.” This name does not calm my fears.

For a couple hundred yards, we creep across a perfectly vertical cliff face — feet gingerly gripping rebar steps, hands tight on the cable. Miniature cows and a rushing river are far below me, and the cliff face rockets directly above me, and a follow-the-cable horizontal path bends out of sight in either direction.

As I inch along the cliff, my mind flashes back to some other adventures with Simon over the years. Living high on the peaks of Europe, the Swiss are experts at living with nature — and Simon is always eager to share with me the Alps in all their moods. On recent visits, a new theme has



Rick Steves

**Rick Steves clips in as he and his guide embark on the via ferrata in Switzerland.**

emerged: the clear impact of climate change on their world. To people like Simon, who live so close to nature, the physical changes resulting from strange and changing weather is an increasingly troubling reality. Glaciers are shrinking, ski lifts come with snow-making gear plumbed in, and freak rainstorms — like alpine monsoons — batter flower gardens.

On a hike during one of my visits, as we gazed up at the north face of the Eiger, Simon told me of speed climbers leaving Interlaken on the early train to the base, scaling this Everest of rock faces, and getting back to Interlaken in time for a late-afternoon business meeting. But as

the permafrost thaws, there are more falling rocks, and mountain guides are abandoning once-standard ascents that are no longer safe.

Back up on the via ferrata, I reach the end of my terrifying journey. Taking that last step, I triumphantly unclip my carabiner and hug our guide like a full-body high-five. Vivid experiences like this one are a hallmark of travel in the Swiss Alps. I only hope that future generations can enjoy this glorious landscape, too.

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

## Tourists flock to these towns that Shakespeare never saw

Happy birthday, Wills! William Shakespeare came into the world in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, in April 1564. Although his exact date of birth is disputed, April 23 is the day the world celebrates the gift of his words, which continue to inspire and delight.

The setting of Shakespearean plays against the most evocative of European backdrops could lead readers to believe he was a well-traveled gentleman; however, from

most accounts of the Bard's life, it is assumed he never left England. His use of foreign cities as locales appears as a literary device to inject exoticism and perhaps even to avoid appearances of critiquing politics and society close to home.



Karen Bradbury

With four centuries separating the works of Shakespeare from the present day, there's been plenty of time for associations of place to have taken on lives of their own.

In this time of no travel, we too can pay virtual visits to some of the places mentioned in his works and examine the intersections between culture, legend, fantasy, marketing and tourism.

## Verona, Italy

Romeo and Juliet opens with a prologue: “Two households, both alike in dignity, in fair Verona, where we lay our scene ...” With its pretty riverside setting and wealth of archaeological monuments including a colossal Roman amphitheater, fair the city was, and fair the city remains.

In 1846, Charles Dickens penned a travelogue titled “Pictures from Italy” in which he describes a visit to Verona's sights associated with the star-crossed lovers' tale. He termed the House of the Capulets, at that time a low-class hotel, “a most miserable little inn,” but delighted in the ancient convent garden in which Juliet's tomb languished, nearly forgotten.



iStock

**Visitors to Verona, Italy, grab the breast of this statue of Juliet, hoping it will bring them luck. Or at least a selfie.**

In 1905, the city of Verona purchased the house mentioned by Dickens, the former property of a family by the last name of Cappello. A local restorer recognized the property's value as a sort of Shakespearean museum, and he was granted permission to begin renovations. In the late 1930s, some marble remains from a local museum were repurposed to build a balcony onto the 14th-century Gothic mansion, and a bronze statue of Juliet was erected in the courtyard in 1972. The custom of touching her right breast for luck in finding true love caught on, Juliet's own tragic fate notwithstanding.

Tourists in Verona continue to drink up the city's association with the universally known tragedy through visits to Juliet's House, a museum displaying paintings, ceramics, period furniture and costumes; stops at Romeo's House, Juliet's Tomb and other alleged scenes of the famous drama.

Online: [verona.com/en/verona/casa-di-giulietta](http://verona.com/en/verona/casa-di-giulietta)

## Helsingør, Denmark

Shakespeare set his 1599 play Hamlet in Elsinore, the anglicized name of a port town on the northeastern coast of Denmark. On this strategic location overlooking a narrow straight vital to shipping, the business of collecting tolls proved lucrative. From 1574, King Frederick II of Denmark had a pre-existing fortress rebuilt into the magnificent Kronborg Castle. It's believed that three members of Shakespeare's acting company visited the castle to perform for the theater-loving Frederick; their firsthand knowledge would explain how Shakespeare was able to pepper his tale with such detail about the castle and its court life.

In 1816, to mark the 200th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, Hamlet was performed at Kronborg Castle for the first time. This marked the beginning of a Shakespeare theater tradition. Sir Laurence Olivier, Vivien Leigh, Richard Burton, Michael Caine, Christopher Plummer, Donald Sutherland, Judi Dench and Jude Law are just a few of the great actors to have performed at Kronborg Castle through the years.

The Danish Shakespeare tradition remains strong to date. HamletScenen, Scandinavia's largest Shakespeare theater company, actualizes and adapts Shakespeare's eternal dramas to bring them to a diverse audience, and The Shakespeare Festival at Hamlet's Castle Kronborg takes place under its aegis each year in August. International artists and audiences assemble in a purpose-built theater perched above the castle's moat. And at any time of the year, visitors to the castle can enjoy a 45-minute tour titled “In Hamlet's Footsteps.” Hamlet's friend Horatio retells the drama as it could have played out in the grand halls and corridors of the imposing Renaissance structure.

Online: [tinyurl.com/xnbvua9](http://tinyurl.com/xnbvua9)

# WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS



The moat in Salvi Gardens and a majestic weeping willow enhance the view of one of two buildings inside the park.



The Valmarana Loggia inside Salvi Gardens in downtown Vicenza is a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its Palladian architecture. It was built in the 16th century.

Salvi Gardens in downtown Vicenza dates to a wealthy local family's purchase in the 16th century. The city bought the gardens at the turn of the 20th century and they've been open to the public ever since.

## The pleasure of green space

Salvi Gardens in Vicenza has been welcoming the public for centuries

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY  
*Stars and Stripes*

Salvi Gardens packs a lot into a small space in the heart of Vicenza's old town.

A mansion with a moat is a UNESCO Heritage Site, but some of Salvi Gardens' less-heralded pleasures, including statuary, fountains, rose gardens and giant conifers, make it a place to return to often.

It's usually occupied in temperate weather by lovers, dog walkers, people having lunch and others. They sit on benches in the sun, lie on the grass or amble alongside the moat. A few read the signs with the names of the many tree and flower species. Once on a Sunday I caught a concert there.

In a city where yards are unknown, the garden provides a free green space. It has been especially welcome during the coronavirus pandemic, and along with other parks is among the few places open.

An hour or two at Salvi Gardens can also be an opportunity to reflect among nature on the passage of time and vicissitudes of fortune. The Valmaranas, one of the region's wealthiest families, bought the land and planned the gardens in the 16th century.

It was opened to the public in 1592 by order of the will of Leonardo Valmarana, the youngest of 10 sons who made his fortune by outliving the other nine. He sired 18 children, one of whom closed the gardens to the public for a couple of centuries.

By the 19th century, the property, now owned by the Salvi family, had been turned into an English garden. It was sold by the last Salvi descendant to a charitable organization and bought in 1907 by the city of Vicenza. It opened to the public once again two years later.

The mansion includes a loggia, or covered exterior gallery. Its Palladian architecture earned it the UNESCO designation in 1994. The Valmarana Loggia was probably built in 1591, supposedly as a meeting place for the local elite.

The main gate is also of architectural interest, attribut-



Women gather at Salvi Gardens in Vicenza on a sunny day. The park is a popular place to relax downtown.

### Salvi Gardens

**Address:** Corso SS. Felice and Fortunato, 3, 36100 Vicenza VI

**Hours:** Daily 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

**Food:** Plenty of to-go snack bars nearby

Nancy Montgomery

ed to Venetian architect Baldassare Longhena and erected in 1645.

The garden has been redeveloped many times over the centuries, including in 2008, when a path for people with disabilities was built and a rose garden was added.

But it's not necessary to know all that to enjoy strolling under the junipers, cypresses, cedars, magnolias and elms, or just to relax and watch the ducks.



Among the many entertaining sculptures at Salvi Gardens in downtown Vicenza is this horse fountain. The garden park gives city dwellers a place to relax.



Salvi Gardens in downtown Vicenza is a green, serene respite for people and dogs.

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com  
Twitter:@montgomerynancy

## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

# A journey for your taste buds

Casa Algarve in Griesheim delivers delicious Iberian cuisine for the homebound culinary traveler

By MICHAEL ABRAMS  
Stars and Stripes

**W**e recently took a journey to the Iberian Peninsula for some of its wonderful cuisine.

Well, to be accurate, Iberia came to us, courtesy of the Casa Algarve restaurant in Griesheim, Germany.

With the coronavirus keeping restaurants open only for takeout or delivery, it has been a while since we visited one of our favorite restaurants. So, at a small family gathering we had our meal delivered by the restaurant's friendly staff.

Casa Algarve is in the clubhouse of a local soccer team, a mile from the U.S. Army's Dagger Complex.

Over the years, restaurants offering various cuisines have come and gone there. The last one was a Spanish restaurant and when it changed hands, a Portuguese family took over. One of the former owners stuck around to help, so they now serve both Spanish and Portuguese specialties.

Being at a German soccer club, they also offer schnitzel, pizza and pasta. But we chose dishes from the Iberian Peninsula.

The food arrived still quite hot and smelled delicious. We ordered three tapas, those small Spanish dishes that you traditionally eat with sherry after work and before dinner. We tried the crabmeat croquettes, clams in white wine with garlic and fried anchovies.

We chose one starter, mainly because the ingredients piqued our curiosity: cogumelos casa, fried mushrooms served with slices of chicken and feta.

For the main course, we had bacalhau no forno, paella de conejo and grelhada de peixe.

Paella, the popular saffron rice specialty, is Spanish but often also found in southern France. This version was with rabbit, but Casa Algarve also offers it with seafood, as a mix of chicken and seafood, or for those who won't eat anything with a face, vegetarian.

Bacalhau is dried and salted cod. A specialty of Portugal and other seafaring nations (it is easy to transport and doesn't spoil), it is first rehydrated, then cooked. This version is baked with potatoes, tomatoes, onions and olives in a white wine sauce. Served at the restaurant, it comes on a clay plate in the shape of a rain gutter.

Grelhada de peixe is a grilled fish platter for two. It's a mix of white fish, including hake and



The Casa Algarve restaurant at the SV Sankt Stephan club grounds in Griesheim, Germany.

## Casa Algarve

**Location:** Suedring 2, 64347 Griesheim, about 1 mile northwest of the U.S. Army's Dagger Complex.

**Hours:** 4 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Closed Monday.

**Dress:** Casual

**English menu:** No

**Prices:** Tapas 4.50 euros to 14 euros, starters 9.50 euros to 26 euros, main courses 6 euros to 48 euros.

**Information:** In German online at casa-algarve.com; Phone: 06155-3262; WhatsApp: 0171-9971739.

Michael Abrams

monkfish, plus shrimp and squid. It comes with rice and salad.

Let it be said, all the dishes were delicious.

One of the diners was Spanish and he gave the paella a thumbs-up. But a rabbit is small, and there are a lot of bones to pick to enjoy the meat. Many people would probably feel more comfortable ordering one of the other versions.

The bacalhau is one of my favorites. The cod is meaty and the sauce with the potatoes is mouthwatering.

The fish platter was more than big enough for two and was very satisfying. Although the choice of fish might be a bit monotonous, the shrimp and squid made up for it.

We all enjoyed the tapas, especially the crabmeat croquettes and the mushrooms. They were not overcooked, the chicken wasn't dry and the feta was soft and tangy. It was a good mixture that will be ordered again.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Dinner delivered from the Casa Algarve in Griesheim, Germany, included three tapas, a starter and three main courses that featured a grilled fish platter for two with salad. Portions were more than adequate.



Cogumelos casa, fried mushrooms served with chicken and feta, is a starter from Casa Algarve in Griesheim, Germany.

If you can find a good vinho verde — Portugal's "green," or young, wine — it goes well with all the dishes. We were unsure of the quality at the supermarket, so we enjoyed a good Spanish white from the Rioja region instead. Although better known for its reds, the whites and roses from here are worth trying.

My only disappointment with Casa Algarve has nothing to do with quality or taste. It's that they don't have one of my Portuguese favorites on the menu: porco a alentejana, or pork with clams.

I've never tried the schnitzels, but they are popular, and all the portions here are more than adequate. After all, they normally have to feed hungry soccer players.

abrams.mike@stripes.com  
Twitter: @stripes\_photog



The three tapas we enjoyed from Casa Algarve in Griesheim were, clockwise from top, crabmeat croquettes, clams in white wine with garlic and fried anchovies. Rabbit paella is at top left.



Bacalhau no forno, baked cod, is a Portuguese specialty made from dried and salted cod that has been rehydrated and cooked.



Paella de conejo, rabbit paella as served by Casa Algarve. They also offer seafood, mix (chicken and seafood) and vegetarian.





# WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

## Delightful bites

### Eight offers 8 delicious varieties of takoyaki near Yokosuka Naval Base

BY DANIEL BETANCOURT  
*Stars and Stripes*

A 10-minute drive from Yokosuka Naval Base, south of Tokyo, will land you at an eatery serving up variations of takoyaki from a small and homey shop.

Eight is a humble eatery in the Yokosuka neighborhood with flavors packed in little bites. The name is a wonderful play off of an octopus having eight limbs, but it's also the number of takoyaki variations available on the menu.

Takoyaki, or grilled octopus balls, are a popular street food in Japan made of deep-fried batter filled with chopped octopus.

The space at Eight is small enough for one family to dine in. Takeout is also an option.

The owner is a friendly woman who manages it on her own. No English menu was available on my first visit, but the second time around, she handed me one completely translated.

Over both visits I sampled seven of the eight varieties: plain octopus, bacon and cabbage, ginger garlic poke, Chinese chive and dried shrimp, kimchi and cheese, corn and bacon, and lastly, tofu.

I highly recommend kimchi and cheese, corn and bacon, and ginger garlic poke as they were delightful bites. The tofu selec-



**AFTER HOURS**  
**JAPAN**

#### EIGHT

**Location:** 3-13 Uwamachi, Yokosuka, Kanagawa 238-0017

**Directions:** A 10-minute drive from Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

**Hours:** Open daily, except Mondays, from noon to 6 p.m.

**Prices:** 450 yen to 500 yen

**Dress:** Casual

**Information:** 046-823-7190

Daniel Betancourt

tion is not bad, but it can be a bit lumpy.

This shop was also my first experience with takoyaki in Japan, and I was not disappointed. The light crispy texture on the outside with the gooey center delighted all my taste buds. Depending on the type I was eating, I was getting added crunchy or creamy textures mixed in, so every bite was unique.

The octopus was just the right amount, and was chewy and fresh. The various sauces with a topping of either bonito flakes or sesame seeds further enhanced the basic flavors. Well-seasoned and ele-



PHOTOS BY DANIEL BETANCOURT/Stars and Stripes

**Takoyaki, or grilled octopus balls, are a popular street food in Japan made of deep-fried batter filled with chopped octopus. Every bite of the takoyaki at Eight is a unique blend of creamy and crunchy with just the right amount of octopus.**

gantly presented, there was no better option for my first introduction to takoyaki.

The takoyaki is served three pieces to a stick and each order comes with two or three sticks. Prices range from 450 to 500 yen (about \$4.15 to \$4.60). Tea and drinks are available as well.

The shop provides hand sanitizer at the entrance with outside seating for those who wish to wait patiently while enjoying the weather or keeping their distance.

betancourt.daniel@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Beta\_Stripes



Eight is a humble eatery near Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, with eight flavors of takoyaki on its menu.

## McDonald's, BTS pair up for S. Korean-inspired menu item

BY KARU F. DANIELS  
*New York Daily News*

McDonald's has something "Dynamite" lined up for the spring.

The fast-food giant has partnered with K-pop group BTS.

On Monday, McDonald's announced its latest celebrity meal, which is inspired by the seven-member, platinum-selling music act that has taken the world by storm with their slick fashion aesthetic, R&B-styled dance moves and positive messages.

Rolling out in the United States on May 26, the BTS meal will consist of a 10-piece order of chicken nuggets, medium fries, a medium Coke and new sweet chili and cajun dipping sauces inspired by recipes from McDonald's locations in South Korea.

The signature menu item will debut in the U.S. and 11 other countries, before rolling out in other places around the world.

With scheduled releases in 49 countries, this marks the first celebrity meal launch of such global scale for the Chicago-headquartered burger chain.

"BTS truly lights up the world

stage, uniting people across the globe through their music," McDonald's USA marketing chief Morgan Flatley said with the announcement.

"We're excited to bring customers even closer to their beloved band in a way only McDonald's can — through our delicious food — when we introduce the BTS signature order on our menu next month."

Also known as the Bangtan Boys, the Grammy nominated group's hit song "Dynamite" was recognized by Guinness World Records for staying at No. 1 on Digital Song Sales chart for the most weeks and spending maximum time on the Billboard Hot 100.

Like with previous celebrity-inspired meals, this one will only be available for a limited period, reportedly through June 20 in the U.S.

The company's celebrity meal program, which basically takes existing menu items and packages them as a star's signature order, has been a success for the company since it debuted last year.

STARS AND STRIPES.

# Month of the Military Child

Let's Celebrate by Sharing Your Story!

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

## What's Your Story?

Stories will be...

- Featured on our website, [militarychild.stripes.com](http://militarychild.stripes.com).
- Printed in Stars and Stripes and Pacific community papers.



LIVE MÁS



WingStreet



MILITARY COMMUNITY YOUTH MINISTRIES



## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

## COMMENTARY



Square Enix

**Outriders is probably the most smartly designed looter game at launch because it keeps the action simple, mimicking Gears of War and the Diablo games.**

## Outriders is too tasty, and too expensive, for makers to keep it online only

By GENE PARK

The Washington Post

**O**utriders is probably the most delicious looter game at launch to date.

There's a potato chip-like crunchiness to the audio design, from the click-clacking of your gun reloads to your boots sloshing through the mud. Gunfire crackles like popcorn, and enemies explode in a fizzy blue mist, leaving the arena stickier than the floor next to the McDonald's soda machines. Maybe I should eat before long sessions of Outriders, but why eat when this game offers so much tasty brain candy?

It's not all empty calories either. Far from it, this is probably the most smartly designed looter game at launch because it keeps it simple. It apes combat and movement mechanics from Gears of War, while cribbing the progression and game flow of the Diablo games. Basically, you move like a big beefy soldier, and throw yourself into hordes of enemies as your attacks heal you so you can keep attacking.

It's too bad, then, that People Can Fly and Square Enix insisted that Outriders be an online-only game, despite being a complete product from beginning to end with a rewarding and complex loot system, a full story and a variety of enemies and levels. The developers have stated that in these ways, Outriders isn't a live-service game. And yet, after its April 1 launch, the game was plagued with server problems so bad, the entire service had to be taken down for hours on April 2 just to roll people back online.

So yes, this is yet another article asking why this game needs to be online only. It's an important question, and we need to keep asking it, especially in light of recent discussion around Sony's decision to discontinue its stores for its older PlayStation platforms.

I've been playing by myself for most of

my run, because like most people, I've had trouble matchmaking with anyone, even when I removed the cross-play option. (The developer advised to turn that feature off for now.) But this only speaks to the precariousness of the game's online-only nature, especially when the game can be enjoyed completely and totally by yourself.

Franchises like Destiny seem to exist just fine in an online-only universe. But here's the rub: Destiny 2 is now a free-to-play game, so there's no cover charge for mere "access to software." A game like Fortnite can be online only because it's free, and it's a true live service with daily updates. It lives and



dies by these updates, so always being connected makes sense. A game like Fall Guys make sense for connectivity since it's primarily a multiplayer game, and it's also half the price of a standard AAA title.

As it stands, when you pay for Outriders, you are only paying for a license to access software. That's too bad, because even though I'm not quite done with its campaign, I can already tell that Outriders is a beefy experience worth owning outright. This isn't an argument to make the game free-to-play; the studio has mostly delivered on the promise of a complete AAA package.

Despite all the issues, Outriders has enjoyed a surprisingly healthy playerbase with more than 100,000 concurrents on Steam at most times. The selling point definitely hasn't been the game's sense of style. It's easy to dismiss Outriders as another generic, third-person cover shoo-

ter; nothing about its presentation will convince you otherwise. It's completely derivative.

But People Can Fly keeps its ambitions grounded, and the gameplay runs as smooth as butter. (Again with the food metaphors; it can't be helped. Every piece of this game goes down like a tasty morsel.) The prominence of chest-high wall covers belies the game's real ambition as a true successor to Diablo. Unlike other looter games, Outriders has an expressed focus on dealing damage by using your abilities to heal yourself. Each player chooses three abilities among several to use with freely — save for some cool-downs.

Outriders clicks when it pairs this with some stunning level and audio design that give the impression of huge battlefields. Dozens of enemies can be firing upon me, moving to my left and right to ensure that I never stay in cover for more than a few seconds. But as the Trickster class, I'm able to target an enemy in an encampment, teleport behind him and punch the back of his head so it explodes in a bloody mess.

Immediately after the punch, I activate a force field that slows time all around me, stopping all incoming bullets like I'm Neo. I swipe toward a huge group of soldiers with a telekinetic knife from my hands, aging them with my time-warping abilities so quickly that they turn into skeletons. Meanwhile, the brains of the guy I punched a few seconds ago are only beginning to settle on the ground as my slow-motion force field wanes. What a dynamic and beautiful experience, all packed into 15 seconds or less.

Each class comes with multiple skill trees, all of which can be reassigned at any time. It's paired with a generous modding system that meaningfully boosts your abilities, enhancing your playstyle in power and sometimes even visual panache. These mods can later be reassigned to

more powerful gear.

Looter games always struggle when it comes to story, and Outriders might appear to be a mixed bag. It has a strong, clear premise: Earth is destroyed, so humans run off to another faraway planet called Enoch, only to find that it's ravaged by a reality-bending storm called the Anomaly. This Anomaly creates superpowered beings such as yourself, while also destroying the precious few resources rescued from Earth. This sparks — of course — a civil war on another planet. After 30 years, you are tasked with finding the source of a mysterious radio signal that was received when the humans first reached Enoch.

The tale unfolds like a buddy road trip across an alien world, complete with quirky memorable characters with distinctive personality traits like "young" and "old." With inexplicable character motivations and sudden fades to black, the story presentation and writing can feel a bit like James Cameron's "Avatar" adapted by Tommy Wiseau. Characters say non sequitur lines to each other, and we're supposed to pretend it all makes sense.

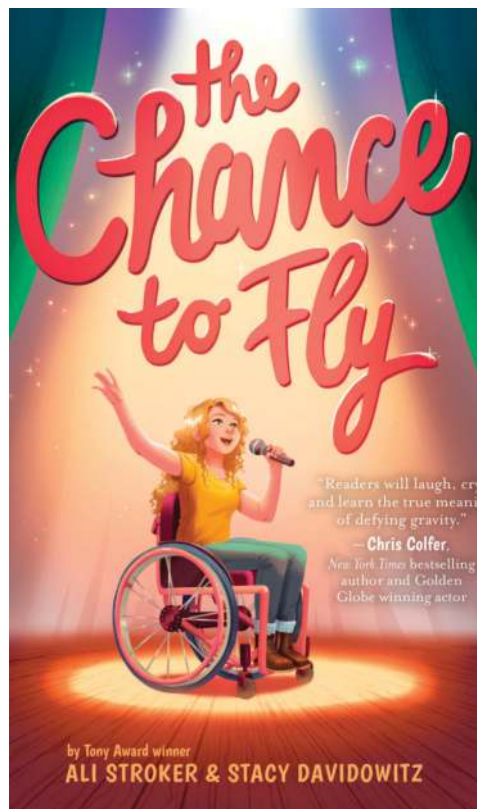
It almost does. The game's environmental storytelling does most of the heavy lifting. You'll be taken on a kaleidoscopic journey through wide-open arenas, castles and mud huts. Unlike Square Enix's other looter attempt in Avengers, Outriders comes packed at launch with more than a dozen beautiful and different levels to stomp through. Even if the story left me dumbfounded in its writing, I never shook the feeling that I was actually on a journey with a clear goal in mind.

People Can Fly made something special here.

**Platforms:** PC, PlayStation 4, PlayStation 5, Xbox Series One, Xbox Series X/S, Stadia

**Online:** [outriders.square-enix-games.com](https://outriders.square-enix-games.com)

## WEEKEND: BOOKS



# Not alone

Broadway star publishes book to empower children with disabilities like her own

BY BROOKE LEFFERTS  
*Associated Press*

**B**roadway star Ali Stroker says she always felt like her “most powerful self” when onstage, and now as the co-author of a new book for kids, she’s trying to empower others.

Stroker teamed up with her friend and middle grade author Stacy Davidowitz and set out to create a familiar character: a young girl in a wheelchair named Nat who wants to perform in a local musical.

“The Chance to Fly” — published this month — was a way for the actor to share her own experiences as a person with a disability and big dreams. Stroker, who has used a wheelchair since a car accident paralyzed her when she was 2, says she wanted to help kids with disabilities recognize themselves in the book.

Even before winning a Tony in 2019 for her role in the Broadway revival of “Oklahoma!”, Stroker served as an example of a person who doesn’t let limitations prevent her from achieving her goals. She made history as the first actor in a wheelchair to win the award and dedicated it to all kids with disabilities waiting to be represented in theater.

Stroker said she was driven to write “The Chance to Fly” because she didn’t have any stories like it to read when she was in middle school. In a recent inter-



CHARLES SYKES, INVISION/AP

**Ali Stroker accepts an award for her performance in “Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Oklahoma!” at the 2019 Tony Awards in New York. Stroker teamed up with middle grade author Stacy Davidowitz for a new children’s book, “The Chance to Fly,” released this month.**

view with The Associated Press, Stroker talked about the challenges of writing a story similar to her own, representing people with disabilities, and naming her wheelchair.

**Associated Press: Nat loves musicals and performing. How did performing make you feel at her age?**

**Stroker:** On stage, I felt like I was my most powerful self because people were looking at me and staring at me. But it wasn’t just because of my wheelchair, and it was a safe place to be different kinds of people. For a long time, I felt like I had to be, you know, like happy and OK and inspirational for other people. And when I was on stage and I was playing a character who was going through something, I got to express all those other things that were living inside of me. Writing this book as well and going back to those really vulnerable, scary, first-time moments was so healing. And I think teenage Ali was just really brave and really tough. And I feel so proud of where I am now.

**Nat sometimes feels embarrassed about her wheelchair. Was it hard to write about that?**

It was a challenge for me to go back to those moments. One of the ways I describe it is just like you feel like you’re like so hot and you feel like people are looking at you for the thing that you are most self-conscious of, and maybe the thing that you have the most shame about. And it’s just

overwhelming. But I wanted to write it because whether you have a disability or you’re in a wheelchair or not, you have those self-conscious and really difficult moments in your life, especially as a teenager, when you just want to be like everybody else, but you’re not like everybody else. And the reason it needed to exist in this book is because I want young people to know that they’re not alone in feeling like that.

**The adult directors of the show cast Nat but tell her she doesn’t have to dance, which upsets her because she doesn’t want special treatment. Why was that important to include?**

What’s so beautiful about living with a disability is that your creativity to solve problems is so accessible. It’s so heightened because this is a part of your everyday life. Nat is really disappointed, but then she goes away and she shares with her friends, her peers, what’s going on, and then they offer to help her and they are going to not wait for the adults to solve the problem, but they are going to come up with the answer. That’s an ideal situation when you can ask your home team, the people that you trust the most for help, and then you can come up with a creative solution.

**There are more opportunities recently for stories about people with disabilities. Is that encouraging?**

I really believe that one of the shifts that

needs to happen is that actors with disabilities are cast in roles where the storyline is not about disability and that we are able to just exist in stories and have disabilities and have that not be the storyline. Because that’s one of the ways in which I believe some of the change can happen. I think that we are in a diversity movement, but oftentimes disability is not included in that movement because there is an opinion that in order for disability to be included, it has to be addressed. And I am here to say that you can cast somebody — like what happened with “Oklahoma!” I can play Ado Annie — my wheelchair is never addressed in the entire show. And yet we get to live this experience with a character who has a disability and we get to watch it and we are there with it, but we don’t have to talk about it.

**Nat names her wheelchair Peaches. Have you named your chairs?**

It’s just this really beautiful way to personalize this thing. You know, my wheelchair is a part of my every moment; every day my wheelchair sits right next to my bed when I sleep. My wheelchair is my access to the world. And I like to have a good relationship with my chairs. And so a really fun way of doing that is for me to name them. And sometimes there are days that you just want to use those names instead of talking about your equipment. My last chair was Twilight Flake — that was her racing name. She had sparkles!

## WEEKEND: MUSIC



Danny Clinch

Mike McCready and the rest of Pearl Jam hope to be back on the road in 2022.

# Grunge greatness

Pearl Jam guitarist McCready proud of 30 years of 'Ten'

BY DAN GELSTON  
Associated Press

**T**he Pearl Jam songs that would end up as tracks on the “Ten” album were played live at clubs along the West Coast for months leading into the band’s first recording session. The potential was there for Pearl Jam to serve as more than an opening act for bigger bands at the time — like Alice in Chains — and it needed an album to support the songs that defined the grunge scene. “Ten” would soon be born.

“This is my first real recording session with a budget of a record company, and the pressures, all that stuff,” guitarist Mike McCready said. “I didn’t really know about it. I was just stoked to be doing this. I thought our band was great.”

Pearl Jam started recording sessions in late March 1991 and the album that launched the band’s meteoric rise was released five months later. For McCready, 30 years of “Ten” has gone by as quick as a lightning bolt.

“That was the first time I went, all of us were all firing on all cylinders here,” he said. “These are cool songs; we have a great singer. I feel confident in playing with these guys that we could go out and do really well. I didn’t know what that meant. We were just starting. I’m seeing old pictures of us from when we first started around that time. We looked very disjointed on stage. What are we doing? We hadn’t coalesced yet. But I knew the energy was there.”

McCready, bassist Jeff Ament, guitarist Stone Gossard and singer Eddie Vedder (and drummer Dave Krusen in his lone Pearl Jam album) spent two months recording the album that sold more than 13 million copies in the U.S. alone.

“I remember we recorded ‘Even Flow’ like 50 times, or 40, something crazy like that,” McCready said. “We could never get the groove right. It

was driving everybody crazy. Jeff ran out and got mad and shot baskets. We finally ended up getting the take. I’m not sure if Stone even loves the take that we got.”

Pearl Jam fans loved the take — and the album, and most everything else the band has produced over three decades. They hoped to celebrate 30 years of “Ten” with a tour.

McCready played on Pearl Jam’s biggest hits with a Stratocaster he splurged on as his first vintage guitar purchase. He recently teamed with Fender and master builder Vincent Van Trigt to re-create the 1960 Stratocaster for sale to collectors down to the last scratch. McCready was startled to learn during the process that his beloved Strat was from 1960 — not 1959. McCready owned the Stratocaster since 1991 and it was part of his collection of vintage 1959 guitars. He loved the era of guitars so much, that

he even has a “59” tattoo on his left wrist.

Not so fast.

“It was a psychological rug being pulled out from under my feet,” McCready said on a Zoom with The Associated Press. “I still love the guitar. It doesn’t matter. But it was a crazy surprise.”

McCready played his Strat on almost 800 shows and just about every record — including Temple of the Dog’s hit “Hunger Strike” — and said he accidentally picked up the replica three times to play before he realized it wasn’t the real deal. He’s getting Fender to make him a 1959 model.

He might even get to play it live next year.

On a break because of the pandemic, Pearl Jam’s postponed European tour was rescheduled for June and July 2022. The delay not only put any plans to celebrate “Ten” on hold, Pearl Jam has still yet to tour in support of last year’s release, “Gigaton.”

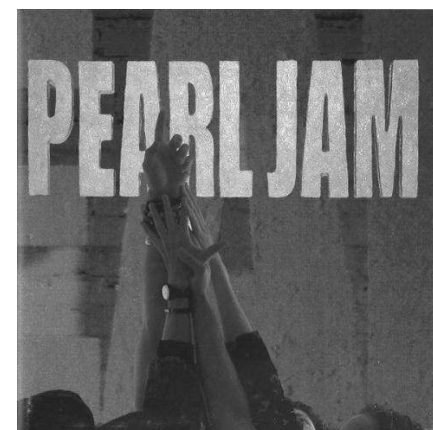
“We’ll get out there again. We’ll play,” McCready said. “I want to see what songs work on the ‘Gigaton’ record. That’s the thing about playing live. We were just rehearsing, all of it, four days before we canceled the tour.”

McCready and Ament only recently saw each other in person for the first time in more than a year. And Pearl Jam spent its downtime working on its voting campaign, releasing streams of classic performances, and plugging up-and-coming bands that need support (McCready named the Black Tones) more than a veteran, financially-set band like themselves.

McCready, 55, credited 18 years of sobriety to keeping him energized about Pearl Jam and whatever lies ahead.

“I don’t why I’m still here, I’m just happy I am,” he said. “We still need to work on our communication. But we’re aware of all that, so I think we try to do that to the best of our ability. We’ve been through a lot of different highs and lows. But we’ve been through it together.”

**“I remember we recorded ‘Even Flow’ like 50 times, or 40, something crazy like that. We could never get the groove right. It was driving everybody crazy. Jeff ran out and got mad and shot baskets. We finally ended up getting the take. I’m not sure if Stone even loves the take that we got.”**



Mike McCready Pearl Jam’s debut album, “Ten.”

## WEEKEND: MUSIC/ACADEMY AWARDS

## REVIEW



## Greta Van Fleet

The Battle at Garden's Gate (Lava/Republic)

Greta Van Fleet are back and they're doubling down. The young Michigan rockers whose sound and classic look is reminiscent of Led Zeppelin have returned with "The Battle at Garden's Gate," an album not just rooted in classic 1970s rock but gloriously pounded into it.

This sophomore full-length effort from the Grammy winners marks an evolution to a more expansive approach, with progressive, mystical and psychedelic elements. Many songs roar past the three-minute mark, as the band jams and doodles unrushed. There's a bit more Rush this time mixed in with the Zeppelin.

The band has teamed up with super-producer Greg Kurstin and under his guidance this collection has more elaborate arrangements, layers and chord progressions, lots of instrumental sections and strings. It goes right to the edge of bombastic without falling over, with lyrics about nature, armies massing and weird medieval imagery.

The Kiszka brothers — singer Josh, guitarist Jake, bassist Sam — and drummer Danny Wagner sound strong this time around, their musicianship deeper, their confidence high. This is music that will inspire you to put on some bell bottoms, grow your hair long and go barefoot into the forest at twilight.

"Built By Nations" uses a Zeppelin "Black Dog"-like riff as a spine but then opens into something else entirely. "Broken Bells" allows the band to breathe, jamming for more than three glorious minutes in a "Stairway to Heaven" way that seems more like respect than theft.

The ballad "Tears of Rain" allows Josh Kiszka the chance to turn his voice into a hurricane, and "Stardust Chords" is more than a little Jethro Tull-ish. The album's second half drags a bit, especially with the messy, indulgent "The Barbarians." But it shows a new path forward for the band, less and less aping their musical heroes.

The album ends with "The Weight of Dreams," which is Greta Van Fleet at its most prog-rock, a gut-busting eight-minute rollercoaster of ambition that's near operatic. "We stole from her a cloak of studded majesty / The queen is dead we robbed her grave," go the lyrics.

Perhaps that's a nod to the band generating criticism for sonic robbery, but that sniping is more than a little snobby and misguided. "The Battle at Garden's Gate" might not change anyone's mind, and Greta Van Fleet will remain polarizing. But dismissing them has never made much sense. You love the sound of classic '70s rock? Then why hate a band steeped in it and celebrating it? Give the album a spin and try not to rock out.

— Mark Kennedy  
Associated Press

# Seeking a sweet victory

## 12-time Oscar nominee Diane Warren hopes for 'awesome' win

BY LYNN ELBER  
Associated Press

**F**or a dozen and more reasons, Diane Warren would be overjoyed to win a best original song Oscar for her work in "The Life Ahead" starring Sophia Loren.

A trophy for the Italian-language film's song, "Io Si (Seen)," would be Warren's first after 11 previous Academy Award nominations came up short.

"Yeah, it would be great to win. It would be (expletive) awesome," Warren said. "I feel like a team that's gone to the World Series for decades and decades, and never wins."

A triumph would be especially sweet for the veteran songwriter whose first Oscar bid was in 1988 (for the rom-com "Mannequin"). The Academy Awards ceremony, originally set for February and delayed by the pandemic, airs April 25, the birthday of her late father, David Warren, and a coincidence that she calls "so cool."

"He believed in me so much he would take me to music publishers when I was 14 or 15," Warren said. "My mom would be saying, 'Why are you doing it? Why are you encouraging her? She can't make a living off that.'"

Warren, who grew up in Los Angeles, recounted her dad's reply: "She has talent. She really, really wants this."

Her gifts and drive led to success in a range of pop music genres and in film, with her past Oscar contenders including "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing," by Aerosmith and featured in 1998's "Armageddon." It was a hit tune, one of Warren's many that include "If I Could Turn Back Time" by Cher. Toss out a big name — Beyoncé, Justin Bieber, Adele — and Warren has likely worked with them.

She's a confessed workaholic who typically writes solo but joined with Common on the 2019 Oscar-nominated "Stand Up for Something" for "Marshall," a biopic about the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

"The Life Ahead" brought a new form of collaboration. Warren had written the music and words for the song when director Edoardo Ponti — Loren's son — realized the Italian-language film needed lyrics to match. Italian pop star-songwriter Laura Pausini was brought in for the task and shares the Oscar nomination.

Warren's music and lyrics are "amazing," said Pausini, who recorded "Io Si" for the film. The song and the movie carry the same message, "and that's the goal."

In "The Life Ahead," Loren plays the aged Madame Rosa, a former prostitute and Holocaust survivor who helps sex workers by taking in their children. She reluctantly adds an orphaned, street-tough Senegalese youngster known as Momo to her small brood, and the pair move gradually from distrust to love. Impressive newcomer Ibrahim Gueye, himself an immigrant to Italy from Senegal, plays the boy.

The third movie adaptation of the 1975 Romain Gary novel "The Life Before Us" is a wrenchingly tender story of those who live on the margins of — and largely are invisible to — society, which prompted Warren's approach to the song.

"The first thing I came up with, sitting at my piano, was, 'I want you to know that you're

seen,' she said, breaking briefly into an a cappella performance. "It's so simple but it's so profound, because we all want to be seen."

The song became an integral part of the movie, heard in its translated version over the closing scene. Filmmaker Ponti gladly gives credit to Warren, who approached him in 2019 before "The Life Ahead" went into production with Ponti's legendary mother.

"I hadn't even considered having a song in the movie," he said. "She had gotten ahold of the script and something clicked for her. So when something clicks for Diane Warren, you just say, 'Absolutely, I would love a song in my movie because Diane Warren is a great artist.'"

When Warren came to his Los Angeles-area home early last year to introduce her creation, she was wearing a cast from a household accident, recalled Ponti, a writer as well as stage and screen director.

"With her broken hand and her guitar, she sang the song in my living room," he said, recalling it as a "a very bright day" in the up-and-down experience of bringing a movie to fruition.

It's a cliché, but Warren says being nominated truly is an honor. Of the many songs introduced in movies each year, she said, a mere five are singled out by the academy's music branch with "the best composers on the planet, the best songwriters, the best of the best of the best."

The other contenders include "Speak Now" from "One Night in Miami..." written by Leslie Odom Jr., a supporting actor nominee for the film, and Sam Ashworth.

Whatever happens on Oscars night, Warren believes "Io Si (Seen)" is destined to become an evergreen covered by other artists. She's seen it happen often enough, but remains far from jaded by her work's influence.

"I sit in my little room all by myself (writing), and somehow the song touches people and makes them cry and makes them feel something," she said. "It's always amazing."

**Diane Warren is nominated for an Oscar for best original song for her work in "The Life Ahead," starring Sophia Loren. The ceremony falls on the birthday of her late father, who helped the veteran songwriter break into the music business as a teen.**

CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP



## WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS

# Partners in silence

‘We Broke Up’ is a rom-com light on romance and comedy

BY KATIE WALSH  
Tribune News Service

He proposes. She upchucks. Not a very auspicious start to a beautiful engagement. Indeed, the vomit is the beginning of the end for Doug (William Jackson Harper) and Lori (Aya Cash), but it's only just the beginning of “We Broke Up,” a sweet, sad little story of love lost, and transformed. One would be tempted to call it a “rom-com,” but the film is light on the romance, more poignant than funny. Unfortunately, we haven't yet come up with a pithy title for the subgenre of moving and melancholy movies about adults and their emotional baggage.

While rom-coms tend to be wordy, “We Broke Up” is more about the silence between these soon-to-be exes. Director Jeff Rosenberg, who co-wrote the script with Laura Jacqmin, makes good use of visual storytelling to highlight the irony afoot, which is that 12 hours after their 10-year relationship implodes in a parking lot, Doug and Lori have to hit the road for her sister's wedding. Doug, as the “king of the ushers,” insists on accompanying her, and somewhere along the way, they decide to hide the split. But the little white lie worms its way into every dark emotional crevice, threatening to upend every interperso-



VERTICAL ENTERTAINMENT/TNS

Lori (Aya Cash) and Doug (William Jackson Harper) are exes headed to a relative's wedding in “We Broke Up.”

nal relationship under the roof at Camp Arrowhead. It's a low-stakes conflict, but deeply felt.

Lori and Doug's awkward energy is instantly thrown into sharp relief by the bubbly bride, Bea (Sarah Bolger), and groom, Jayson (Tony Cavalero), who are like two human golden retrievers in love. Having met a month ago, their enthusiasm and fearlessness only highlights Lori's reservations and Doug's frustrations with said reservations.

Rosenberg fills out the rest of “We Broke Up” with your standard-issue whimsical indie comedy score and wacky supporting characters. The secret weapon, however, is Cavalero as Jayson. With an outsize presence that is a combination of Adam Devine and Seann William Scott, Cavalero steals the show. Jayson's the only character with any passion, and a clear, strong desire to achieve his goal of marrying Bea. He evolves from the weird future brother-in-law to become, honestly, inspiring.

Taking on a leading man role, Harper is tasked with carrying the heavier emotional weight, but he more than proves his charm and chops, even though he's left spinning his wheels a bit without enough material to work with. Though, as he enters a rustic cabin in this mostly white enclave, you may fight the urge to shout “get out!” as visions of his turn in 2019's folk horror flick “Mid-sommar” dance in your head.

Some of the zanier comedy moments don't quite match the energy and pacing of this film, which is far darker than it is funny, despite some of the scripted jokes. While “We Broke Up” is focused, lean and heartfelt, it does feel at times a bit insubstantial. It's missing the “why” at the center of this conflict, particularly with Lori, who remains an opaque character. But perhaps, in breakups, sometimes it's better if the “whys” are left unsaid.

“We Broke Up” is unrated. Running time: 80 minutes. Playing in theaters and available on demand.

## Steamy weekend romance starts hot, fizzles by ‘Monday’

BY JOCELYN NOVECK  
Associated Press

Monday. Ugh. The very word emits a chill. Monday means back to school, or work. Nose to the grindstone. Party's over.

Friday, meanwhile, is the opposite vibe. What's great about Friday is that, unlike Saturday and certainly Sunday, it signals the beginning of fun. Friday means you have lots of time — Monday's a mere twinkle in the distance.

Now there's an entire movie, “Monday,” by writer-director Argyris Papadimitropoulos, based on this concept. The story of an intoxicating love affair slowly inching toward some sort of reckoning with reality, “Monday” should really be called “Mostly Friday,” because most of what we see transpires in that phase: the beginning of a relationship, when we willfully ignore any warning signals.

“Monday” takes some patience. It's arresting at times, and beautiful, even seductive, mainly due to the chemistry between its leads, Sebastian Stan and Denise Gough, who spend a lot of time, well, having sex. (Stan recently promoted the movie by teasing a shot of his nude backside on Instagram. This will not hurt the film's chances.)

But Papadimitropoulos doesn't say a whole lot here or offer much of a lesson. This may not be a fatal problem, but it can feel trying; better to watch this film on a Friday, when you have no reason to rush through life.

Speaking of intoxicating, our setting is Greece. In the summer. This is where we meet thirtysomething American immigration lawyer Chloe (Gough, an Irish actress



IFC FILMS/AP

Sebastian Stan and Denise Gough are sudden and passionate lovers in “Monday.”

better known for her accomplished stage work), who's spending one last night on the Athens club scene before returning stateside. Chloe is nursing a bad breakup; it's time to go home and start a new job.

But then she meets Mickey, also American, a DJ and jingle writer who's been living in Athens for years. Mickey is charismatic and charming — a man-boy who's clearly gotten by on these assets for a long time. They meet on the dance floor and are kissing within seconds.

The next morning, they wake up naked on the beach. The cops take them down to the station. In handcuffs, they introduce themselves to each other by name for the first time. Ah, young(ish) love.

The cops let them go, and Mickey gives Chloe a lift home. It would all end here, except she lost her bag, with her keys. She ends up traveling to a dreamy island with him for a party. And soon, they're hooked. Chloe gets as far as the security line at the airport, but he races there and pulls her back at the last moment.

If it's a bit hard to believe a woman like Chloe — smart, with a meaningful career — would drop everything (and halfway through security!), well, we're willing to suspend disbelief. After all, it IS Friday. In fact, that first chapter is called “Friday,” as is the next, and the next, and the next.

And these two can't keep their hands off each other. They have sex everywhere,

including in a flatbed truck on a side street in daylight. But fissures slowly appear. An old friend of Mickey's comes to visit and tells him, “You're only happy when you're failing.” Mickey's ex, meeting Chloe, calls him “a baby.” This concerns her, but the magnetic field of their attraction is apparently too intense to escape.

At the same time, there's a worrying undercurrent that maybe it's not all about chemistry — maybe these two are using each other for reasons they'd prefer not to acknowledge. One of them actually verbalizes this, but it's pretty far into the game.

“Monday” has an artsy, improvised feel, but also falls prey to some pretty standard rom-com tropes. Running to the airport to catch someone just before they board a plane, for example, seems right out of a Richard Curtis film. The same goes for someone grabbing the mic at a random wedding to make a clumsy, drunken pronouncement of love.

What saves scenes like this is the fact that Gough is so genuine a performer, you really want to see how her Chloe will handle things. As for Stan, he has enough raw appeal to make you empathize with, if not totally buy, Chloe's willingness to hang around.

As the relationship goes, so goes the film. The beginning is fun — for the characters, and for us.

By the time we see the word “Monday” appear onscreen, we've already felt the oncoming chill. As Dorothy might say: “Toto, I've a feeling it's not Friday anymore.”

“Monday” is rated R for sexual content, nudity/graphic nudity, drug use and pervasive language. Running time: 116 minutes.

## WEEKEND: MOVIES

# New fans welcome

'Mortal Kombat' reboot introduces a new lead character but stays true to franchise campiness



Warner Bros. Pictures photos

The character of Kano, played by Josh Lawson, has until now been portrayed as a minor villain and rival for Sonya Blade, played in this "Mortal Kombat" movie by Jessica McNamee.

By GENE PARK

The Washington Post

**T**he new "Mortal Kombat" is exciting. It's bloody, epic in scope, and all the costuming is on point.

The only question mark is, "I'm sorry, who is Cole Young?" Cole Young, played by the talented Lewis Tan, is the protagonist of this movie, a hard reboot of the cinematic universe for the 29-year-old fighting game franchise. Mortal Kombat lore is packed to the gills with charismatic, likable and iconic characters; it seemed like a questionable choice to crowd the story with a new face.

"On the creative side of it, everyone wanted to bring something new to the story," film screenwriter Greg Russo told The Washington Post. "At no point in time did we want to remake the older films or to retell a story that has been told a bunch before. Part of that was giving us the freedom to bring in a new perspective and angle to the story that hasn't been done before."

Russo said as a writer, he felt like that was one of his biggest responsibilities. He also saw it as his duty to not fundamentally change the backstories of known characters.

"I needed a new character to help bring that in, because all of the preexisting characters have all these loaded backstories where it would make it much more difficult for me to bring in anything new unless I changed those characters, which I didn't want to do," Russo said. "I didn't want to alter anyone to fit my view, which



Cole Young, played by Lewis Tan, is the franchise's newest character.

I've seen happen with other adaptations."

Russo said his other challenge was to make sure this new character, Cole, a struggling mixed martial arts competitor, fits neatly into the wacky, dimension- and time-spanning lore of the original fighting games. True to his word, the film does wrap a neat, narrative question mark around Cole's existence that may be enough of a carrot to lead "Kombat" fans to the end of the story.

But there's really one actor and character that very nearly becomes the beating, bloody heart of the movie: Australian actor Josh Lawson's Kano. Of the large cast, Lawson has the most extensive background in comedy, known for his appearances on the Australian improvised comedy show "Thank God You're Here." His acting chops were put to full use as Kano.

In the games and the original movies, Kano has always been portrayed as a thieving, conniving villain, and little else (besides a mortal rival for Kombatant

Sonya Blade). In this film, he is the engine that keeps the story moving, as he steals every scene he's in and gets the biggest laughs. And like Cole, he is the audience's other surrogate in understanding "Mortal Kombat's" bizarre, violent, supernatural world, and the beings that live in it, including the thunder god Raiden.

"The point of view Kano brings to the story is probably [that of] a lot of the audience," Russo said. "He consistently, as the British would say, takes the piss out of it all. He brings attention to the self-awareness that 'Mortal Kombat' as a series is so lovingly famous for. So whenever things are ridiculous, like Liu Kang showing up to throw fireballs, Kano harps on the fact, and then immediately wonders, 'Wait, do I get superpowers too?'"

The video game franchise has always poked fun at itself and the many storytelling genres it lampoons. It's a series that created the "Friendship" and "Babality" finishing moves, cheeky features that ensure the games never take themselves too seriously, and a reminder that these fighters are all cartoon caricatures.

Kano wasn't always Australian. But the original 1995 movie starred the late Trevor Goddard, who chewed the scenery with his vulgar Australian portrayal, and the games retconned the character to be Australian. So the character and Lawson needed to contend with that legacy.

Russo said the hardest character to write was the main antagonist of the movie and the series, the evil sorcerer Shang Tsung. Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa had the other standout, role-defining performance

of the original movie. His sneering portrayal of Shang Tsung was so memorable, the games once again retrofitted his reptilian sliminess to match that performance.

"The way that he talks and emotes can so easily fall into too much camp," Russo said. "He's a very over-the-top character, so when you write him, you always put restraint into your voice so he doesn't come across as too operatic and mustache twirling."

The film is pretty heavy on the fan service. In the trailer, Kano holds a beating heart of a beast and cackles to himself "Kano wins!" like he's the announcer for the video game. Russo said his original script actually packed in more references for the fans.

"There's probably at least 25% more fan service in the original script," Russo said. "I tried to put in a lot of stuff that people loved, but we also want to bring in new fans too. That's the purpose of these movies, right? To introduce these characters and stories to a different audience. ... We wanted to make sure we were extending that invitation."

The film's one liners and cheesy action movie tropes are all in service of the spirit of the original games, which modeled its characters off of Bruce Lee and the Jean-Claude Van Damme films.

"The worst thing you could do to Mortal Kombat is overwrite it," Russo said. "It revels in its campiness. It's a great and important part of the Mortal Kombat DNA."

"Mortal Kombat" is now playing in select theaters and streaming on HBO Max.

## WEEKEND: HEALTH &amp; FITNESS

BY LINDSEY TANNER  
AND MARTHA IRVINE

Associated Press

**T**he stranger's call came when Dianne Green needed it most. Alone in the home where she'd raised four kids, grieving recently deceased relatives, too fearful of COVID-19 to see her grandkids and great-grandbabies, she had never felt lonelier.

Then, one day last spring, her cellphone lit up.

The cheerful voice on the line was Janine Blezien, a nurse from a Chicago hospital's "friendly caller" program, created during the pandemic to help lonely seniors cope with isolation. Blezien, 57, lives with her rescue dogs, Gordy and Kasey, in a suburban brick bungalow, just six miles from Green's two-flat apartment in the city.

"She wasn't scripted. She seemed like she was genuinely caring," said Green, 68, a retired dispatcher for the city's water department. The two women started talking often and became friends without ever setting eyes on each other.

"I called her my angel," she said.

Rampant loneliness existed long before COVID-19, and experts believe it's now worse. Evidence suggests it can damage health and shorten lives as much as obesity and smoking. In addition to psychological distress, some studies suggest loneliness may cause physical changes including inflammation and elevated stress hormones that may tighten blood vessels and increase blood pressure.

Yet loneliness as a public health issue "has kind of been swept under the rug," said Dr. Ada Stewart, president of the American Association of Family Physicians. There's no formal medical diagnosis and no mandate to screen for it.

"Now the pandemic has unveiled it," Stewart said. "This is real."

Just a month before the global pandemic was declared, a National Academies report showed that one-third of U.S. adults aged 45 and up were lonely. Surveys have surprisingly found higher rates in younger adults.

A British online survey in 2018 of more than 55,000 people in 237 countries found that loneliness affected 40% of young adults, compared with 27% of those older than 75. Rates were highest in countries including the United States that prize individual success over collectivism.

The true impact from the pandemic is yet to be seen.

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, who has called loneliness a public health crisis, points out that much of the world including the U.S. "was struggling with remarkably high levels of loneliness before COVID-19."

"The pandemic has shed new light on this struggle and reminded us of an unmistakable truth: we need each other," he said in an emailed statement.

Facing troubling loneliness statistics, the United Kingdom in 2018 created a parliament position called the minister of loneliness, believed to be the world's first. In February, after a rash of suicides, Japan appointed the second.

The UK's current minister, Baroness Diana Barran, says the pandemic has kept her busier than ever.

"I have quite a wide portfolio of responsibilities, but I think I get probably 8 or 10 times as much correspondence on loneliness as I get on anything else," she said.

Some of the solutions they're trying:



MARTHA IRVINE/AP

Janine Blezien, left, and Dianne Green walk arm-in-arm at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago on March 17 during their first in-person meeting. The women met last year through the hospital's "friendly caller" program for which Blezien volunteers.

# 'We need each other'

US surgeon general: The pandemic has 'shed new light' on loneliness, long a public health concern

Mental health support via texting for young people, "garden gate" visits by volunteers offering socially distanced conversation outside older folks' homes, and a campaign encouraging people to wear yellow socks to highlight loneliness in teens and young adults.

Claire Muhlawako Madzura, a 16-year-old from Manchester, helped design the socks program. Madzura is Black and an only child; her family is originally from Zimbabwe. She said growing up in mostly white areas has made it hard for her to embrace her heritage and contributed to her loneliness.

Lockdowns made her realize how much she relied on school for socializing. Using video calls to maintain friendships has been tough.

"Whenever I wear yellow socks now, I wear them proudly, because I know I'm not just representing me, I'm representing a massive group of people who've experienced loneliness," Madzura said.

Some doctors have gone as far as writing prescriptions for loneliness. There's no recommended medicine, so they've gotten creative.

Evelyn Shaw's physician knew the widowed grandmother had been holed up in her New York City apartment, too frightened to venture out. She hadn't seen her

close-knit family in person for months.

So the doctor wrote her patient a prescription that said simply: "You are allowed to hug your granddaughter."

The hug "was magical. It was surreal. We just held onto each other and we cried," Shaw said. Her daughter filmed the moment in a video that was posted on Twitter last month and went viral.

"We don't want to live lonely and alone and terrified and afraid," said Shaw, who along with her granddaughter has gotten a COVID-19 vaccine. "We all want to be able to gather with the people we love and our friends. We want to go back to normalcy."

Stewart, of the American Academy of Family Physicians, said loneliness came up recently with a patient during a check-up at her Columbia, S.C., office.

"While I was talking to her I saw something move in her purse," Stewart said. It was a tiny dog and the patient told her "this new baby has really helped me get through my loneliness right now. He has been a comfort to me."

Stewart offered to buy her a carrier more suitable for pets than a handbag, and to help her get approval to use her dog as a therapy animal.

Loneliness won't vanish even when the pandemic ends, said psychologist Benjamin Miller, a health policy analyst with Well Being Trust. Some people may still fear interaction, and Miller said programs to help will be needed more than ever.

In Chicago, the friendly caller program initially targeted seniors but will expand to primary care and pediatric practices, and will continue even when the pandemic subsides, said social worker Eve Escalante, manager of program innovation at Rush University Medical Center.

University of Texas researchers tested a similar friendly caller program with adults involved in a Meals on Wheels program. They found meaningful improvements in loneliness, anxiety and depression after four weeks. Several health centers have contacted the researchers to learn how to launch similar programs.

Even health insurers are paying attention.

Last fall, Humana Inc. posted an online loneliness screening tool for doctors and included links for referrals to programs to help affected patients, some free and others covered by its health plans.

The insurer also created a "Far From Alone" campaign for older adults, with online links to free virtual programs, including exercise classes, cooking lessons and how-to courses on gardening and journaling.

In Chicago, vaccination allowed Dianne Green and Janine Blezien to meet briefly in person recently for the first time.

Amid hugs, tears and laughter, they seemed like old friends.

They plan to shop and spend time together as soon as it feels safer. Meantime, they talk by phone about everything — cooking, family, personal stuff. Green, a Black woman, remembers one call starting with her crying over the footage of George Floyd's death in Minneapolis. Conversation always seems to come easy with Blezien, who is white.

"Dianne helps me as much as I help her," Blezien said.

Now Green is considering becoming a volunteer for the friendly caller program, an idea that thrills Blezien.

"Dianne," she said, "has so much to offer the world."

## Stats on loneliness

■ 1/3 of U.S. adults aged 45 and up are lonely

Feb. 2020 National Academies report

■ 40% of young adults, 27% of those older than 75 are affected by loneliness

Rates are highest in countries, including the United States, that prize individual success over collectivism

2018 British online survey of more than 55,000 people in 237 countries



## WEEKEND: FAMILY



CHRIS SWEDA, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

Speech language pathologist Jess Dieter works with Jameson Kays, 4, April 13 at CST Academy in Chicago.

# When seeing mouths matters

Parents, speech therapists wonder how masks impact speech development

By ALISON BOWEN  
*Chicago Tribune*

**B**rittany Manning is a Ph.D. student studying how children learn to speak. She is also a mother, wondering how masks might affect her infant daughter's ability to learn language.

"I've been having a lot of these conversations with a lot of moms," said the Northwestern grad student. "A lot of moms are concerned."

Manning and other parents are not alone. Speech therapists and those who work with children have been closely monitoring throughout the past year the effect of children learning to form words while living in a world where most adults near them have their mouths covered by masks.

"We know that kids pay attention to the mouth of the person talking with them," said Elizabeth Norton, an assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders at Northwestern University.

First, the good news. There are many pre-pandemic examples of children who cannot see faces who learn to speak just fine. For example, in a home where a mother might often wear a face covering, or for children who are blind.

"Kids are crazy resilient, and the brain is really built to learn language," Norton said. "Most kids will probably be pretty OK, but we're not going to know for a while."

Norton and her colleagues have been studying how the pandemic generally is affecting kids' language development, and if that changes for children already struggling with learning to talk or who come from families who have to manage COVID-19 more, like essential workers or those supervising remote learning.

So far Norton suspects children who may be most affected are those learning two languages — which adds an additional layer to learning — or with parents who are essential workers. For other children, the last year might have meant more time at home with their parents and more opportunities to converse with their family.

Another issue with masks is acoustics, Norton said. "It's a little bit harder to hear speech through a mask," she said. So in general, people should remember to speak a little clearer, and a little louder.

Seeing mouths make words is part of how children learn to speak, but it isn't the only way; they also take

in language through sound and listening to conversations. Infants are naturally inclined to imitate other people, for example sticking their tongue out if an adult sticks their tongue out.

"Babies come prewired, very ready to start imitating their caregiver," Norton said. "It's adorable. So babies are very good at recognizing facial expression."

For learning language, "sometimes the shape of your mouth can help you tell apart two sounds that sound similar," Norton added. For children with hearing loss, for example, this can help. "They're just working a touch harder to figure out exactly what sounds are coming out. The shape of the mouth can be an extra clue."

Manning thinks many parents might feel like they are in an experiment nobody signed up for, looking at "how do children develop language with masks?" she said.

As the mom of an 8-month-old, Manning is both monitoring her own baby's milestones and in conversations with other parents concerned about what masks might mean. Although she occasionally hears something from a stranger on the sidewalk about how sad it must be for babies to see people wearing masks, she is herself not overly concerned.

"She's never known anything different," she said. Her daughter is babbling and loves clapping and waving, all normal signs, she said. She is reassured by knowing that children are hard-wired to learn language.

"There's been moments that, even for myself, I've just had to stop and think about how this could be potentially impacting my daughter and other children," she said. "If I'm having that concern, I can imagine parents that know less about language development than I do, this is amplified for them."

To help children learn despite masks, some use clear masks that show mouths. Others might opt to use face shields.

For parents, it might be good to ensure some one-on-one time, paying attention (in other words, put down the smartphone). If children are in day care or with a masked caregiver throughout the day, that time with a parent who can speak with them becomes more important. Emphasize that quality time.

"As long as they're getting other interactions with somebody who's not wearing a mask, like at home, by and large they're probably going to be fine," Norton said.

## THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



# My kids are brats, and I couldn't be prouder

From the time I toddled around in droopy diapers, to the day I drove off to college in my Volkswagen Beetle, I lived in one small Pennsylvania town. The kids who picked their noses next to me in Mrs. Rowley's kindergarten class were the same ones who walked across the stage with me at our high school graduation. I had one hometown, one high school, one brick house, one yellow bedroom, and one best friend who I gabbed with each night on one rotary phone while draped across one mock brass twin bed.

By contrast, as a military child, our oldest went to three high schools. He grew up in 10 homes, in four states and two foreign countries. He said goodbye to seven best friends, six piano teachers and four Boy Scout troops. He played on three varsity football teams, and his academic transcripts are almost as complicated as the U.S. Tax Code.

Essentially, my son, and his two younger sisters for that matter, are total brats. No, not that kind of brat. Although our kids have definitely displayed their fair share of unruly behavior, infuriating teen arrogance and near-juvenile delinquency, I'm calling my kids "military brats," which has an entirely different connotation.

The colloquial term "military brat" has been used for many years in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Pakistan and India to refer to the children of active-duty service personnel, and similar phrases have been used in other countries around the world. However, because "brat" is commonly known as a pejorative word to describe spoiled or unruly children, there is often confusion as to whether "military brat" has negative undertones.

Although researchers have been unable to pinpoint the exact origin of the term, credible sources indicate that it may be a centuries-old acronym for "British Regiment Attached Traveler," used to describe dependents accompanying British Army members being stationed abroad, or perhaps a contraction for "barracks rats."

Over the years, the term expanded and evolved to become a universal descriptor for kids who move with their military parents and thereby develop unique personality characteristics and cultural identity. Regardless of the hazy historical origins, the theories, research and usage of "military brat" in literature, films, documentaries, songs and on the internet, indicate that it is certainly a compliment, not an insult. In fact, less than 6% of ex-military children object to the term.

I must admit, there were moments during my husband's 28 years of active-duty service when the acronym might as well have stood for our constant worries that our three kids would be Bullied, Ridiculed, Abused and Taunted after each of their multiple moves to new schools. Wracked with guilt, we felt Blameworthy, Remorseful, Apologetic and downright Terrible. We had to remind ourselves that our children were Brave, Resourceful, Amicable and Tolerant. Eventually, they made new Buddies, formed new Routines, found Acceptance and felt Triumphant.

But kids will be kids, even the military ones, and ours milked our parental guilt for all it was worth. They Belly-ached, Refuted, Accused and shed Tears. They said their new schools were full of Buffoons, Rednecks, Airheads and Tramps; and claimed they needed Bonuses, Riches, Allowance and Toys to cope. The stress threatened to cause us Balding, Reflux, Anxiety and Tension, requiring Botox, Rogaine, Antacids and Tequila, but somehow, we all survived.

No matter what the term "military brat" conjures in one's mind, I think we can all agree that military children are worthy of recognition.

So on April 30th, National Military Brats Day, I'll be beaming with pride that I'm the mother of three children that are admittedly, completely and unapologetically, military brats.

Read more at [themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com), and in Lisa's book, *The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com*. Email: [meatandpotatoesoflife@gmail.com](mailto:meatandpotatoesoflife@gmail.com)

# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

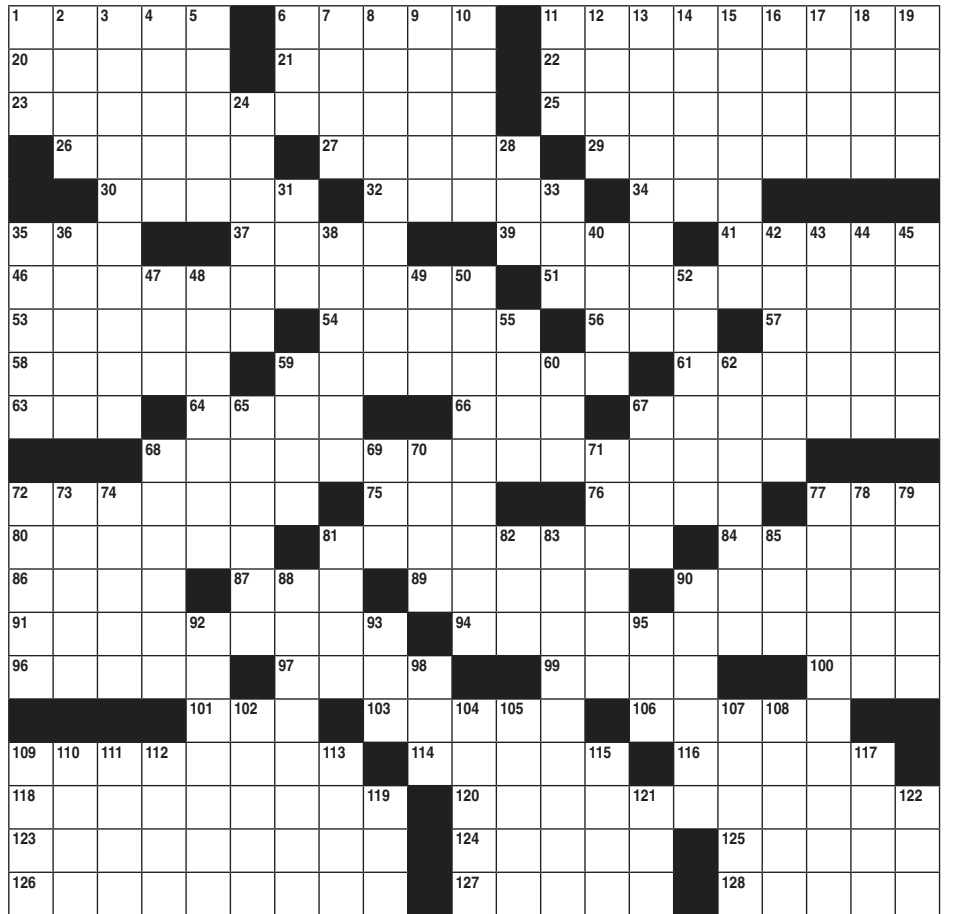
### MERGER MANIA

BY DICK SHLAKMAN AND WILL NEDIGER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Dick Shlakman, who turns 82 next Sunday, is a retired lawyer and corporate executive from Plano, Texas. Will Nediger, 31, is a professional crossword constructor from London, Ontario. Dick saw Will's offer of crossword mentorship on Facebook and reached out for his help. They've now made several puzzles together. "I come up with a theme idea that I think is absolutely perfect," Dick says, "and Will shows me the error of my ways — then suggests how to take that idea and make it ideal." This is Dick's third crossword for The Times and Will's 37th. — W. S.

#### ACROSS

- 1 Men are pigs (after she's through with them, anyway!)
- 6 The "A" of James A. Garfield
- 11 Naysayers
- 20 Lower-cost option on a popular rideshare app
- 21 Egg: Sp.
- 22 Frontiersman's headgear
- 23 Result of a merger between Quaker Oats and Greyhound?
- 25 Maintaining equilibrium
- 26 Discourage
- 27 Soft drink concentrate, e.g.
- 29 "Night on Bald Mountain" or "Finlandia"
- 30 With 18-Down, what has four legs and sprints?
- 32 Musician who was booed in 1965 for playing electric guitar
- 34 Letters before Gerald R. Ford and Ronald Reagan
- 35 Luau instrument, for short
- 37 Zoom
- 39 Corner
- 41 Second-longest human bone, after the femur
- 46 Result of a merger between Kraft and Hershey's?
- 51 Result of a merger between Google and Planters?
- 53 Like the wights on "Game of Thrones"
- 54 Best of the best
- 56 Spelling \_\_\_\_
- 57 What Santa checks twice
- 58 R-rated
- 59 Rulers' staffs
- 61 Fire man?
- 63 On the \_\_\_\_
- 64 Poet Lazarus
- 66 Prefix with thermal
- 67 Bad sound for an engine
- 68 Result of a merger between Hasbro and Nikon?
- 72 Bird like the Canada goose or arctic tern
- 75 LummoX
- 76 Cheese offered tableside at Italian restaurants, informally
- 77 Recipe amt.
- 80 Eagle constellation
- 81 Passive acquiescence
- 84 Voice a view
- 86 Firm decision maker?
- 87 Revolutionary Guevara
- 89 Klum of "Project Runway"
- 90 "My love," in Madrid
- 91 Result of a merger between Procter & Gamble and Jacuzzi?
- 94 Result of a merger between Hormel and Instagram?
- 96 Warehouse
- 97 10 to 10, say
- 99 \_\_\_\_ reform, cause for the Marshall Project
- 100 Middling grade
- 101 Pub choice
- 103 Shot across the bow?
- 106 \_\_\_\_ Waldorf, the so-called "Queen B" on "Gossip Girl"
- 109 Leaves nothing to the imagination
- 114 Measured
- 116 "Been there, done that" feeling
- 118 Disney's world
- 120 Result of a merger between Ralph Lauren and Starbucks?
- 123 "Stop your foolishness outside!"
- 124 Not on
- 125 Chops up finely
- 126 Was uncomfortably hot
- 127 Basil-based sauce
- 128 \_\_\_\_ Allen, one of the founders of Vermont
- 10 Iraqi city on the Tigris
- 11 Kimono accessory
- 12 Natural talent
- 13 \_\_\_\_ Young-White, comedian/correspondent for "The Daily Show"
- 14 Lead-in to an Indiana "-ville"
- 15 \_\_\_\_ Ng, author of the 2017 best seller "Little Fires Everywhere"
- 16 Piehole
- 17 "Oops!"
- 18 See 30-Across
- 19 Part of a musical note
- 24 Held forth
- 28 "Two thumbs down" review
- 31 Answer to "Are you asleep?" that can't be true
- 33 Drift off to sleep
- 35 Ordinary
- 36 "Eh, not really"
- 38 1981 hit Genesis album whose name resembles a rhyme scheme
- 40 Balls in the sky
- 42 Little sounds
- 43 Muscular
- 44 "Who's there?" response
- 45 Nancy who served as the first female member of the British Parliament
- 47 Come together
- 48 Like some thinking
- 49 A.O.C., e.g.
- 50 Meets
- 52 Evening prayer
- 55 Come together
- 59 Raw material?
- 60 Quintana \_\_\_\_ (Mexican state that's home to Cancún)
- 62 Mayhem
- 65 Land governed by the House of Grimaldi
- 67 Obedience school command
- 68 More hackneyed
- 69 A head
- 70 A head
- 71 Best-case scenarios
- 72 Clipper parts
- 73 "You can't fire me!"
- 74 Italian poet Cavalcanti who influenced Dante
- 77 Procrastinator's problem
- 78 [Bo-o-o-oring!]
- 79 In essence
- 81 Where heroes are made
- 82 Sass
- 83 Co-founder of the N.A.A.C.P.
- 85 Word that, when spelled backward, becomes its own synonym
- 88 Member of the inn crowd?
- 90 One of the Canterbury pilgrims
- 92 One doing the lord's work
- 93 In which you might do a deep dive
- 95 Mistruth
- 98 JAMA contributors
- 102 Tool in a wood shop
- 104 Shred
- 105 \_\_\_\_ hole
- 107 Battery part
- 108 Language group related to Yupik
- 109 Birkin stock?
- 110 From scratch
- 111 Quinceañera, e.g.
- 112 Man's name that spells a fruit backward
- 113 Passed-down stories
- 115 "Stop stalling!"
- 117 "The slightest" or "the foggiest" thing
- 119 Oscar-winning lyricist Washington
- 121 Classic Pontiac
- 122 Phishing target, for short



#### DOWN

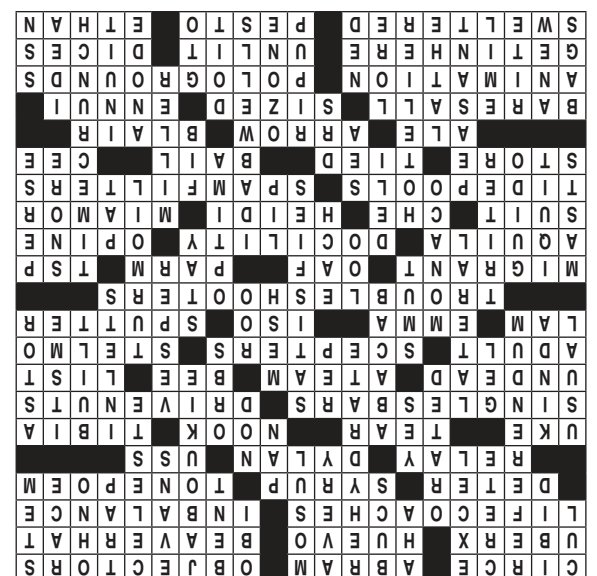
- 1 \_\_\_\_-de-sac
- 2 Ditto, in scholarly journals
- 3 Brexit vote, e.g.
- 4 Home to the Minoan civilization
- 5 Shine
- 6 "Now I get it!"
- 7 2021 Super Bowl champs
- 8 Drink up during a timeout, say
- 9 Tex who directed the first Bugs Bunny cartoon

## GUNSTON STREET

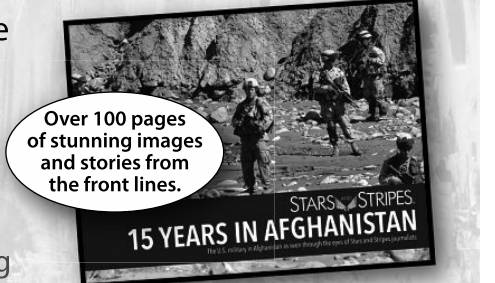


"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and online at gunstonstreet.com.

## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



The story of the U.S. military's role in Afghanistan, as seen through the eyes of Stars and Stripes journalists covering America's longest war.



Only \$14.99 with Free Shipping

ORDER NOW at [www.stripesstore.com](http://www.stripesstore.com)

## FACES

# The world is a stage

## 'Romeo and Juliet' movie keeps its theatrical roots

BY MARK KENNEDY  
Associated Press

The cast appears at first chatting amiably as they enter a theater. They're in street clothes — hoodies, sneakers and backpacks. They seem blissfully unaware that not all will survive the next hour or so.

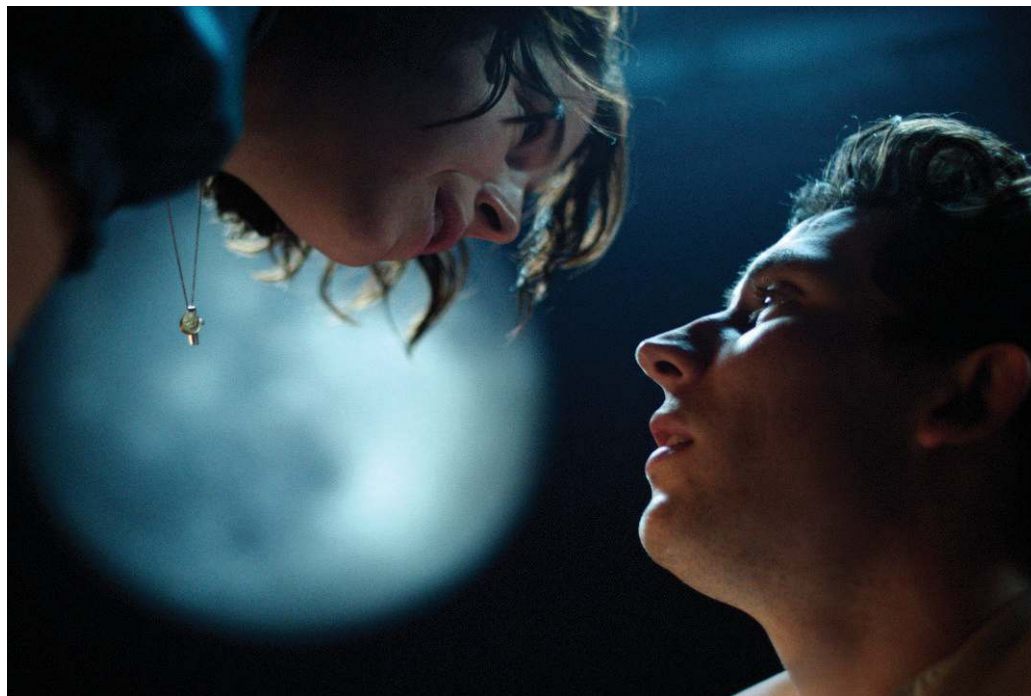
So begins the National Theatre's latest take on "Romeo and Juliet," a filmed production that adds cinematic touches to the tragic 16th century Italian love story.

Starring Josh O'Connor and Jessie Buckley as the star-crossed lovers, the play was originally intended for a stage run in 2020 before being adapted for the screen because of the pandemic. Yet it keeps its theatrical roots.

The play opens backstage with the lovers flirting beside a prop cage and the knives are wooden — until they become steel. As the play continues, it opens up with costumes and set designs appearing effortlessly.

"It was going to be impossible and maybe not that interesting to try and create cinematic realism because we can't shoot outdoors and we only have one location really and it's a stage," said O'Connor. "So initially it was like, 'Well, let's not shy away from the fact that we are on a stage. Let's celebrate that.'"

The retelling is directed by Simon Godwin and reconceived by writer Emily Burns for the screen. It was shot over 17 days in December at the National's Lyttelton theater. It premieres Friday and can be streamed on the PBS Video app.



NATIONAL THEATRE/AP

Jessie Buckley, left, and Josh O'Connor play star-crossed lovers in "Romeo & Juliet," premiering Friday online on PBS' Great Performances.

To get into character during the start-and-stop nature of filmmaking, O'Connor and Buckley created a secret playlist and shared AirPods. Before the famous balcony scene, the pair listened to Sigur Rós' "Hoppipolla."

"The staccato nature of filmmaking means that we had to find different ways of finding the swell, finding the rhythm. And so I think music was quite helpful," says O'Connor, who recently won a Golden Globe for playing Prince Charles in "The Crown."

The paths O'Connor and Buckley took to the play were quite different. He grew up going to the Royal Shakespeare Festival and did a few Shakespeare scenes in drama school, but had never tackled an entire play before.

She was more attracted to musicals until taking a four-week Shakespeare course that she says changed her career. She has since done a few of The Bard's plays, including "The Tempest."

"It's the most muscular work out in the world," the Irish actor says. "You just feel com-

pletely charged every time you go into it and you always feel like you don't know anything as well, which is always a good place to go into something."

One thing the pair noticed was that not having to project the lines made them somehow more direct and personal. Onscreen, Shakespeare's words are often whispered by the pair.

"There were moments where Jessie and I were able to be totally intimate with the words. And they take a whole new life," said O'Connor.

"Josh is one of my best mates and I love him with all my heart, and the reason that I wanted to do this is because he's the only person I would want to do this with, because I know we can jump off the edge of the cliff," says Buckley. "We couldn't replicate what's come before us, but when you have somebody who you utterly trust, it's very easy to just be there with them and let the language and let the relationship of Romeo and Juliet and our friendship do the work."

## Arkansas sets aside day to honor Johnny Cash

The Man in Black is about to get his own day in Arkansas.

The Arkansas House on Tuesday gave final approval to a bill that would make Feb. 26 "Johnny Cash Day," voting 92-0 to send the measure to Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who will sign it, according to his office. The state Senate approved the bill earlier this month.

The day won't be a legal holiday but instead will be a memorial day marked by an annual proclamation from the governor.

It is the state's latest effort to honor Cash, who was born in Kingsland, a tiny town about 60 miles south of Little Rock. The Legislature in 2019 voted to replace its two statues at the U.S. Capitol with ones of the country music legend and of civil rights leader Daisy Bates.

## Keaton to return as Batman in 'The Flash'

The man who played the legendary caped crusader more than 30 years ago is returning to form.

Michael Keaton, 69, is set to reprise his Batman role in the upcoming "The Flash" movie, due out in November 2022.

The Academy Award-nominated actor will join Ben Affleck to respectively portray two different universe versions of Bruce Wayne/Batman in the upcoming Andres Muschietti-helmed film.

Ezra Miller was previously announced to reprise his role as Barry Allen/The Flash from 2017's "Justice League."

Keaton played the Dark Knight in Tim Burton's trailblazing "Batman" (1989) and in "Batman Returns" (1992), which spawned a new generation of big screen superhero films based on DC Comics.

## LeVar Burton will guest host 'Jeopardy!'

LeVar Burton's fans are finally getting their wish as the actor has been tapped to guest host "Jeopardy!" before the game show ends its current season.

Sony Pictures Television, which produces the quiz show, announced Wednesday that Burton will be among the hosts filling in at the program's lectern before the end of the TV season.

Other upcoming guest hosts named include Fox sportscaster Joe Buck, CNBC host David Faber and "Good Morning America" co-anchors George Stephanopoulos and Robin Roberts.

Burton, 64, had been touted on social media as potential successor to the late Alex Trebek, who died last year. The TV show has been using guest hosts since the final Trebek episodes aired in December and has not publicly set a timetable for naming a permanent replacement.

# Agreement gives Disney access to Sony movie vault

BY MEG JAMES  
Los Angeles Times

Walt Disney Co. and Sony Pictures Entertainment have announced an expansive content licensing agreement that will bring hundreds of Sony movies, including "Jumanji" and "Spider-Man," to multiple Disney platforms, including Disney+ and Hulu.

The deal, announced Wednesday, underscores the voracious appetite for content by streaming services.

Disney, which spent \$71.3 billion to acquire the 20th Century Fox film and television studio two years ago for its stockpile of programming, has concluded that it will need even more movies and TV shows to be victorious in the streaming wars. The Sony deal also will help bolster Hulu's slate of movies.

Under the deal, Disney will license Sony movies that are released theatrically beginning next year through 2026 — after those films finish their runs during their



SONY PICTURES/TNS

Zendaya as MJ and Tom Holland as Peter Parker (aka Spider-Man) in Marvel's "Spider-Man: No Way Home." Disney and Sony reached an agreement granting Disney access to Sony's catalog of movies.

initial pay-TV window. In addition, Disney will get rights to Sony's vast library of films. Disney will have the rights to play the Sony product on its various platforms, including traditional networks ABC, Freeform, National Geographic and the FX Networks, as well as its streaming services.

"This landmark multi-year,

platform agnostic agreement guarantees the team at Disney Media and Entertainment Distribution a tremendous amount of flexibility and breadth of programming possibilities to leverage Sony's rich slate of award-winning action and family films across our direct-to-consumer services and linear channels,"

Chuck Saftler, head of business operations for ABC, Freeform, FX Networks and other Disney networks, said in a statement.

"This is a win for fans, who will benefit from the ability to access the very best content from two of Hollywood's most prolific studios across a multitude of viewing platforms and experiences," Saftler added.

Output deals have long generated hundreds of millions of dollars a year in revenue for film studios. Premium cable channels have relied on a steady stream of blockbuster Hollywood movies to keep subscribers engaged.

"This groundbreaking agreement reconfirms the unique and enduring value of our movies to film lovers and the platforms and networks that serve them," Keith Le Goy, Sony's president of worldwide distribution and networks, said in the statement.

"We are thrilled to team up with Disney on delivering our titles to their viewers and subscribers."

From wire reports

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man bitten while trying to remove rattlesnake

**CA** CORONA — A Southern California man is recovering after he was bitten by a rattlesnake when he tried to pick up the poisonous reptile using barbecue tongs, authorities said.

The man spotted the snake Saturday evening near his home in the Sycamore Creek community of Corona and was worried about it coming into contact with children, according to a statement from Riverside County Animal Services.

When he tried to remove the rattler using the tongs, the snake struck and bit him on the hand, Animal Services spokesman John Welsh said. The man was treated at a hospital and later released.

Rattlesnake bites are painful and in rare cases can be fatal.

Animal Services Officer Mike McGee removed the snake, which was later euthanized.

## Rancher gets prison term for fraud schemes

**AZ** TUCSON — An Arizona rancher has been sentenced to nearly 3½ years in federal prison for his role in embezzlement and wire fraud schemes.

Prosecutors said Donald Hugh Nichols, 62, of Coolidge, received a 41-month prison term after he pleaded guilty to wire fraud in U.S. District Court in Tucson. Between 2013 and 2017, prosecutors said, Nichols engaged in a scheme to steal cattle from the Marana Stockyards and Livestock Market, which hosts weekly livestock auctions for Arizona ranchers.

As a cattle broker for third-party buyers, Nichols also illegally bid on his own cattle without the buyers' knowledge or consent.

As a result of these fraud schemes, Marana Stockyards lost more than \$1 million.

## Police ticket man who accidentally shot himself

**NE** LINCOLN — A Lincoln man who accidentally shot himself in the foot with a rifle last week saw metaphorical salt rubbed into the wound when police ticketed him for the incident.

The shooting happened last Friday night, when a 27-year-old man went to a Lincoln hospital after shooting himself in the foot with a .22 caliber rifle, the Lincoln Journal Star reported. By Saturday night, police had cited the man for discharging a firearm and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person, both misdemeanors.

## Conveyor belt spreads fire at sugar plant

**MD** BALTIMORE — A fire at the Domino Sugar plant sent white smoke billowing over the Inner Harbor in Baltimore on Tuesday, but no injuries were immediately reported, a fire department spokeswoman



KRISTOPHER RADDER, BRATTLEBORO (Vt.) REFORMER/AP

## Good with the greens

Elizabeth Wood, owner of New leaf CSA, in Dummerston, Vt., plants leafy greens on Tuesday.

said.

A conveyor belt apparently carried a burning substance from a silo to other parts of the facility, said Baltimore City Fire Department spokeswoman Blair Adams. Fire and smoke was coming through the roof when firefighters arrived, and the silo collapsed after they entered the building, according to the department.

All of the employees safely escaped from the building, and no injuries to firefighters were immediately reported, Adams said.

The 99-year-old refinery, which employs 510 full-time workers and is in the midst of replacing its massive, beloved neon rooftop "Domino Sugars" sign with an LED replica, processes about 6.5 million pounds of raw cane sugar a day, The Baltimore Sun reported.

## Sheriff: Woman purposely drove into teens in yard

**NC** GREENVILLE — A North Carolina woman was charged with driving her car into a yard where three teenagers were playing basketball, injuring one of them.

A Pitt County Sheriff's Office news release said deputies responded Sunday to a report of a child intentionally hit by a car in Greenville.

The news release said that Daina Renee Forrest, 35, of Greenville, had been driving around and threatening the three teens by waving a knife and cursing. The

## THE CENSUS

**60K** The approximate number of fragments of nursery-raised coral federal officials and environmental groups have begun to plant at reefs located off the Florida Keys. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced Tuesday that workers have started the three-year outplanting project at Eastern Dry Rocks Sanctuary Preservation Area near Key West. Distinct genetic strains of elkhorn and staghorn corals are being transplanted across more than 9 acres. The corals were grown in their respective nurseries over six to eight months.

release said Forrest "intentionally veered her car off the roadway and partially into the yard to strike the children."

One teen was taken to the hospital for treatment and Forrest's car had damage to the front that was consistent with hitting a person, according to the release. Sgt. Lee Darnell, a sheriff's spokesman, said the injuries appeared to be minor.

Deputies said when they searched her car, they found marijuana, crack cocaine and a knife.

Forrest was charged with three counts of assault with a deadly weapon and a count of felony cocaine possession.

## Creamery area evacuated amid fire, ammonia in air

**OR** MCMINNVILLE — A fire and related ammonia in the air at the Organic Valley Creamery in McMinnville on Tuesday prompted an evacuation order for everyone within a half mile of the business.

McMinnville Police announced the evacuation at about 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday because of "anhydrous ammonia" being released as the fire burned, KATU-TV reported. Anhydrous ammonia is a colorless gas with a pungent, suffocating odor, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

No injuries were reported.

## Neighbor charged with hate crime after threats

**WA** PORT ORCHARD — A Port Orchard woman has been charged with a hate crime after she allegedly harassed her neighbors and threatened to "kill everyone," according to court documents.

Kitsap County Superior Court documents say Cassandra Jameson yelled at her neighbors last Friday while they were setting up for a baby shower in their apartment complex parking lot, The News Tribune reported.

Court documents say the victims are Black and Pacific Islander, but Jameson yelled that "they needed to go 'back over the fence.'"

She also accused the family of

being the "cause of the flu" and threatened "at least four times" to shoot the family, court documents said.

"Along with making vague threats about owning firearms and shooting the family, the suspect stated she had a bow and arrow and would kill everyone," documents said. Officers arrested Jameson for malicious harassment.

She has been charged with one count of a hate crime.

## US sets aside habitat for survival of rare songbird

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — U.S. wildlife managers have set aside vast areas across several states as habitat critical to the survival of a rare songbird that migrates each year from Central and South America to breeding grounds in Mexico and the United States.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the final habitat designation for the western yellow-billed cuckoo Tuesday.

It covers 467 square miles along hundreds of miles of rivers and streams in the western states.

Most breeding in the U.S. occurs in Arizona and New Mexico, but the habitat designation also includes areas in California, Colorado, Utah, Texas and Idaho.

From wire reports

APRIL IS THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

# WE SALUTE OUR YOUNGEST WARRIORS

April is the **Month of the Military Child**: dedicated to celebrating our youngest Heroes – Our dandelions whose service and sacrifices make the Warfighter's mission and focus possible. Just like dandelions, military children blossom wherever they land. We salute their fearless spirit.

The Exchange is celebrating the 2021 **Month of the Military Child** with virtual events, activities, games and giveaways throughout April.

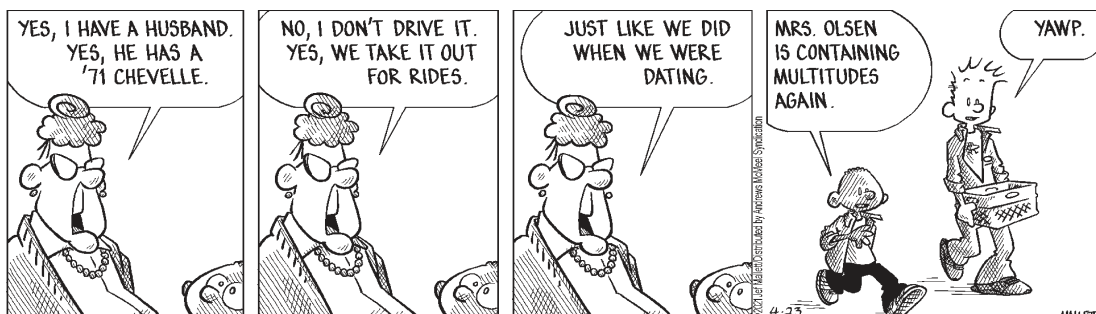
Military families can find details on all **Month of the Military Child** events—as well as coloring pages, themed recipes, video drawing lessons from Disney pros and more—by visiting the Exchange's Community Hub.

**X**<sup>TM</sup>  
**EXCHANGE**

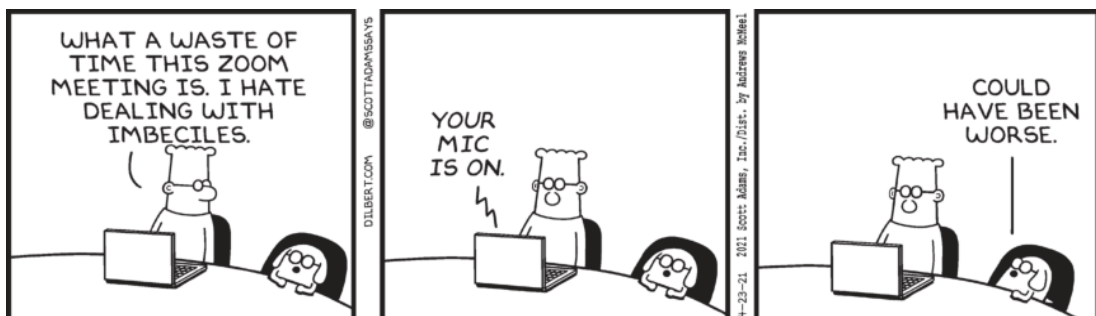


VISIT [SHOPMYEXCHANGE.COM/MOMC](https://shopmyexchange.com/momc) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

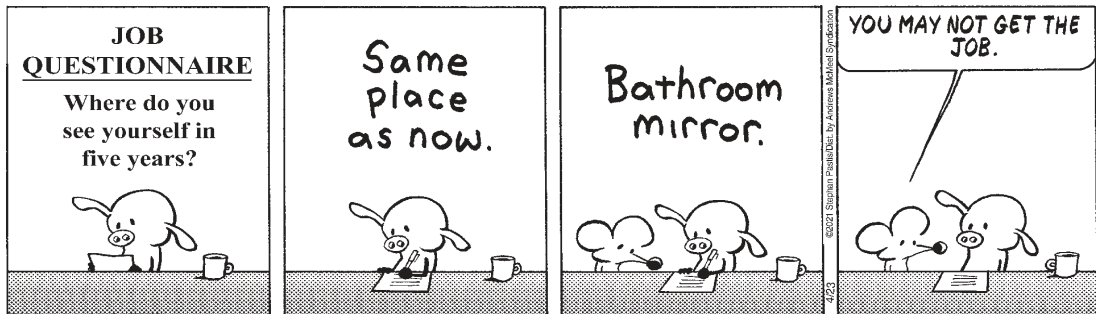
Frazz



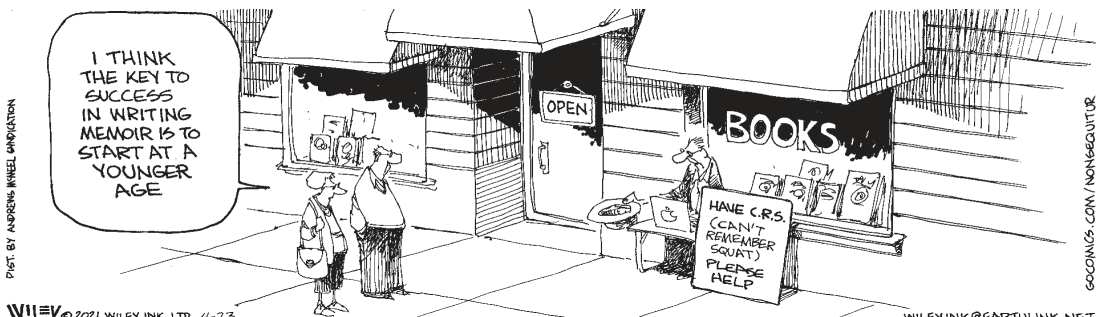
Dilbert



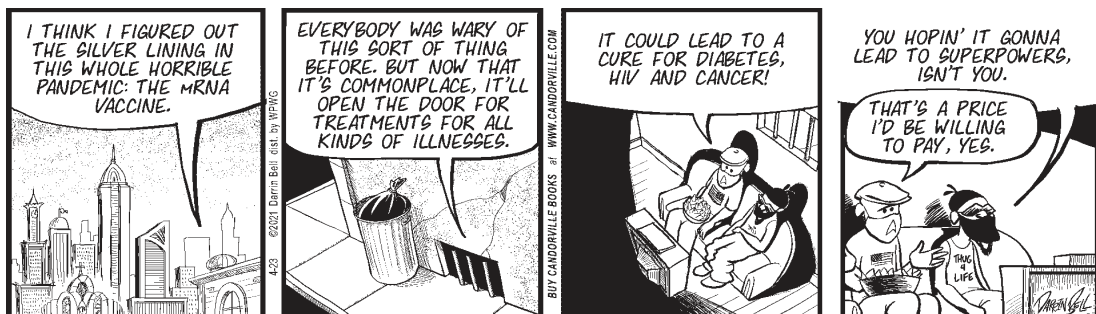
Pearls Before Swine



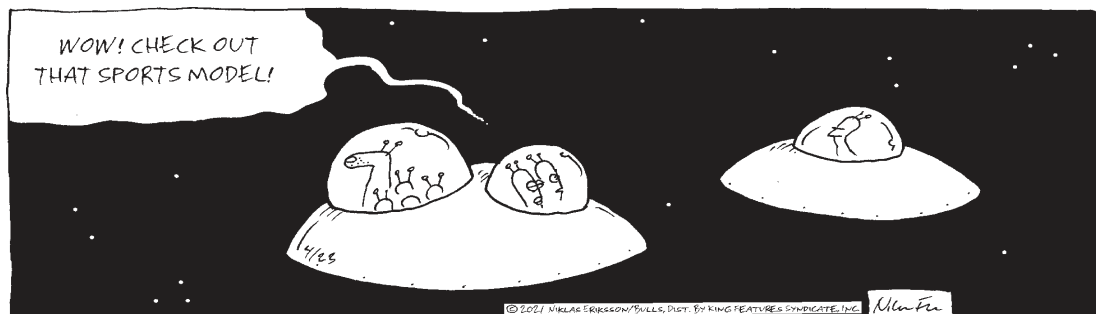
Non Sequitur



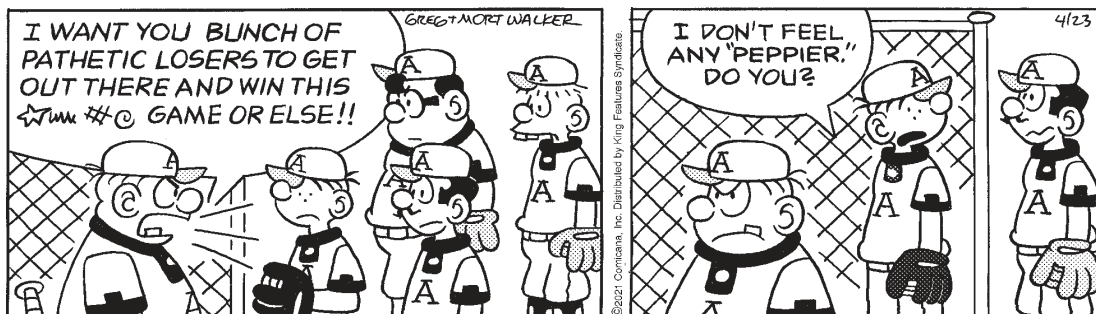
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18							19			
20	21					22	23					
24					25					26	27	28
29				30						31		
32			33							34		
			35						36			
37	38	39					40					
41					42	43					44	45
46					47						48	
49					50						51	

ACROSS

- 1 Witch
- 4 Mark Harmon TV series
- 8 Flair
- 12 — Claire, WI replacement
- 13 Franc
- 14 Protuberance
- 15 Anchor
- 17 Leak slowly
- 18 See socially
- 19 Prepped for playing, as a violin
- 20 Shower bars?
- 22 Unforeseen problem
- 24 Forearm bone
- 25 Skip a night out
- 29 Buddy
- 30 Strainer
- 31 Camp bed
- 32 Linger too long
- 34 Highlander
- 35 Detail
- 36 Roulette bet
- 37 Aspic shapers
- 40 Reindeer herder
- 41 Awestruck
- 42 "Take care of yourself"
- 46 Russo of "The Intern"
- 47 Not pizzicato
- 48 Opposite of paleo-

- 21 Norwegian saint
- 22 Mirror fogger
- 23 Dark blue
- 25 Locale
- 26 Resident
- 27 Synthesizer pioneer
- 28 Diminutive suffix
- 30 Bygone jets
- 33 Corduroy features
- 34 Bribes
- 36 Synthetic fabric
- 37 Red planet
- 38 Curved molding
- 39 Unrivaled
- 40 Chantilly, e.g.
- 42 Feeling down
- 43 Three, in Rome
- 44 Service charge
- 45 Very long time

DOWN

- 1 Height of fashion?
- 2 Motorist's org.
- 3 Advice
- 4 Egg holders
- 5 Adorable
- 6 Lyricist Gershwin
- 7 Tofu source
- 8 "Stop already!"
- 9 Lake bird
- 10 Wood-shaping tool
- 11 Must have
- 16 Wine valley
- 19 Diggs of "Private Practice"
- 20 Wrestling style

Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	I	C	A		G	I	F		S	T	E	M		
A	S	O	F		R	O	E		H	A	L	O		
R	E	A	R		U	N	E		E	N	I	D		
R	E	L	I	E	F		D	E	E	D				
					C	O	F	F	E	E	T	O	G	O
A	R	E	A	S		I	R	K		O	R	B		
M	A	N	N		E	R	S		T	R	I	O		
E	M	T		I	N	S		S	H	I	N	E		
R	A	R	I	N	G	T	O	G	O					
					U	R	D		I	T	U	N	E	S
E	L	S	A		L	I	L		G	E	L	S		
K	E	T			F	I	E		H	Y	M	N		
E	A	S	E		S	I	R		T	O	S	S		

4-23

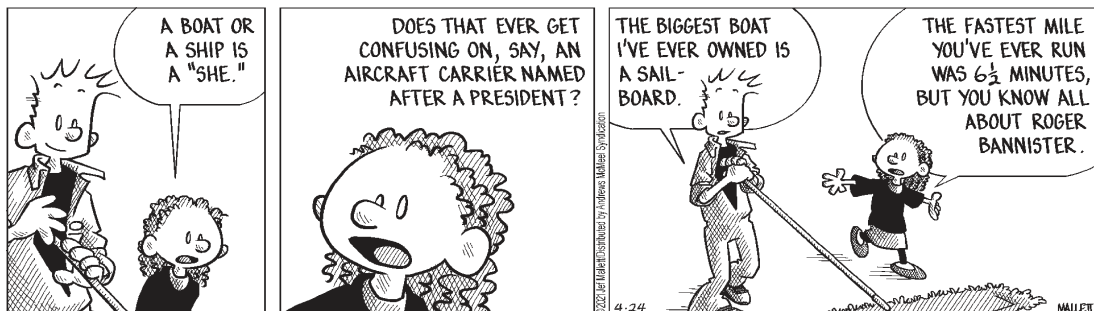
CRYPTOQUIP

MRCTPNP LWRTS NPNIPT UGW  
 WUOM YO JOLTPVJIBP MCY  
 UJSG NYOF VTF, GWS-YJT  
 IYSGM: MYROY MWSWNYFWT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD YOU CALL SHELLAC OR MYRRH OUTSIDE ON A STEAMY, CLOUDLESS DAY? A RESIN IN THE SUN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals M

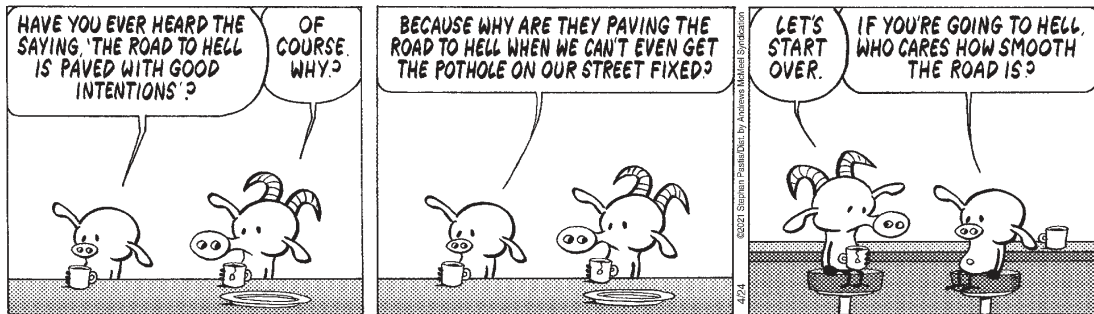
Frazz



Dilbert



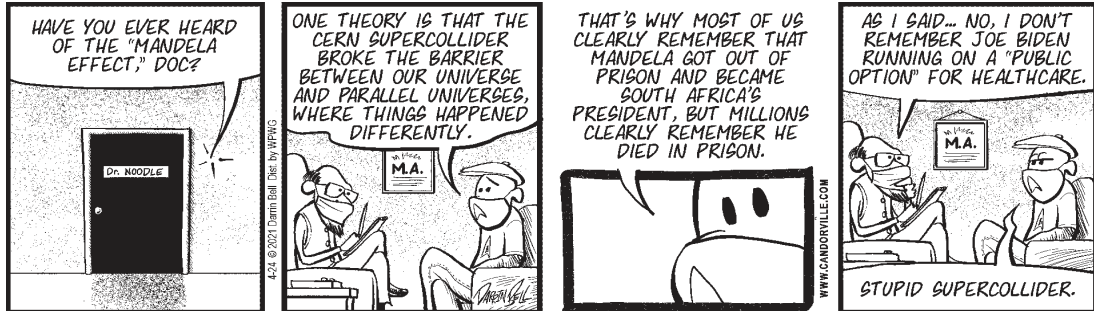
Pearls Before Swine



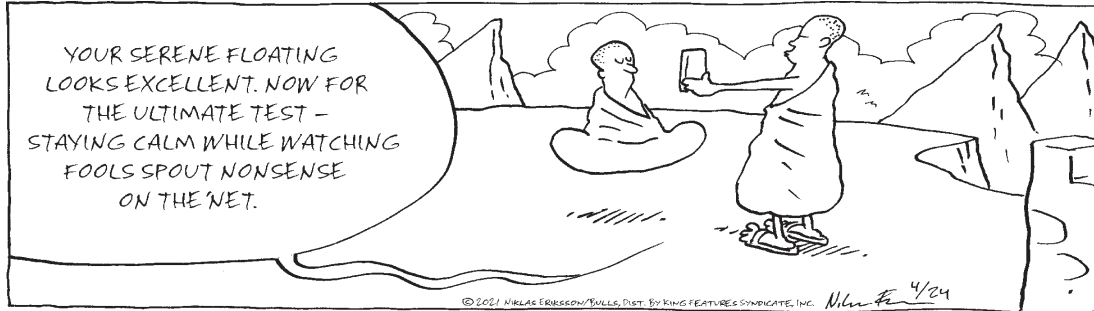
Non Sequitur



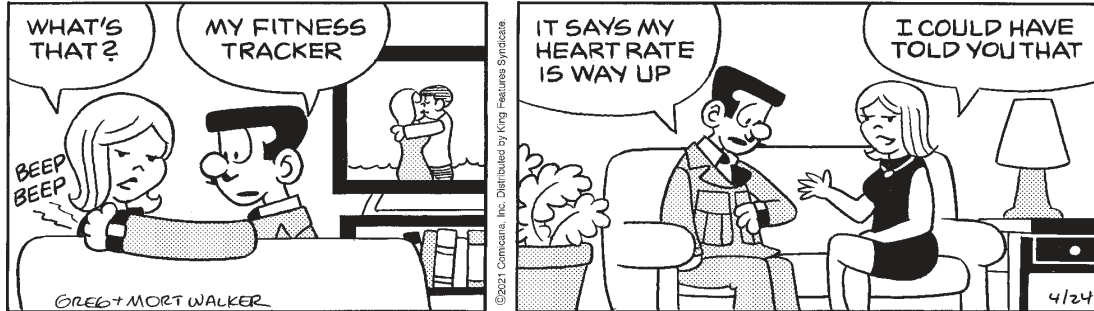
Candorville



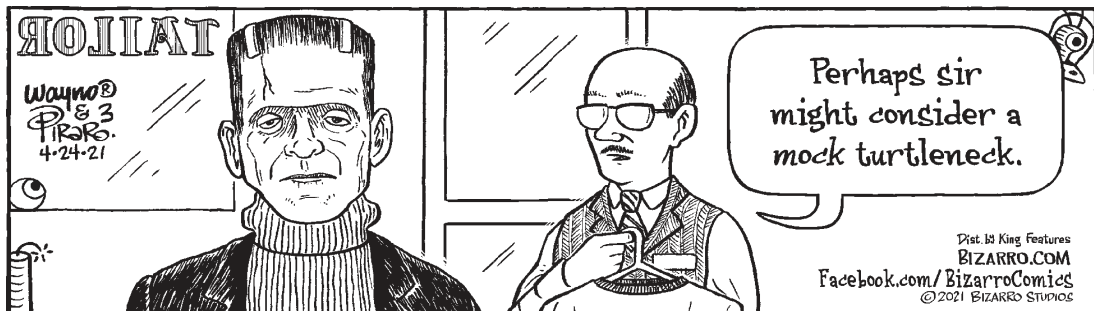
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
18					19				20			
			21	22			23	24				
25	26	27					28			29	30	31
32									33			
34					35		36					
			37				38					
39	40	41			42	43			44	45	46	47
48					49				50			
51					52				53			
54					55				56			

ACROSS

- 1 Goblet feature
- 5 Scrooge's cries
- 9 Zing
- 12 Not difficult
- 13 Seth's son
- 14 Egg (Pref.)
- 15 Airline to Tel Aviv
- 16 Pismires
- 17 Stock holder
- 18 Pivot
- 19 Ode title starter
- 20 Repair
- 21 Blubber
- 23 Glacial
- 25 Sensual
- 28 Traveled the rapids
- 32 Musical staff symbols
- 33 "Alfie" star
- 34 "Nothing for me, thanks"
- 36 Khaki pants
- 37 Lennon's lady
- 38 — Lingus
- 39 Shock
- 42 Leg, in slang
- 44 Unhurried gait
- 48 Lawyers' org.
- 49 Loyal
- 50 "Roots" author
- 51 Badly lit
- 52 Future tulip
- 53 Profound

- 54 Shoe width
- 55 "Ocean's Eleven" actor Garcia
- 56 Present-day "carpe diem"

- 22 Incendiary crime
- 24 Secret store
- 25 High school subj.
- 26 Einstein's birthplace
- 27 Race segment
- 29 Can metal
- 30 Rock's Brian
- 31 — Moines
- 35 Pooch's exercise area in a park
- 36 Acquired
- 39 Green gem
- 40 Theater award
- 41 Unconvincing
- 43 "— Lang Syne"
- 45 Bread spread
- 46 Rind
- 47 Big fair, for short
- 49 TV schedule abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Beholds
- 2 Towering
- 3 Jacob's twin
- 4 1989 Daniel Day-Lewis film
- 5 Actor Warren
- 6 Part of A.D.
- 7 Empty talk
- 8 Snake's sound
- 9 Vatican VIP
- 10 Squared
- 11 Frogs' hangout
- 20 1964 Audrey Hepburn film

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	A	G		N	C	I	S		E	L	A	N
E	A	U		E	U	R	O		N	O	D	E
M	A	I	N	S	T	A	Y		O	O	Z	E
				D	A	T	E		T	U	N	E
S	O	A	P	S		S	N	A	G			
U	L	N	A		S	T	A	Y	H	O	M	E
M	A	C		S	I	E	V	E		C	O	T
O	V	E	R	S	T	A	Y		S	C	O	T
				I	T	E	M		R	O	U	G
M	O	L	D	S				L	A	P	P	
A	G	O	G		S	T	A	Y	S	A	F	E
R	E	N	E		A	R	C	O		N	E	O
S	E	E	S		D	E	E	N		T	E	N

4-24

CRYPTOQUIP

ZVKL MVK AMGNP MINLKO  
 GIM MG YK PIHV PTWOKN  
 MVCL VCO YKKL XNKOTHMKO,  
 TM ZCA CLMT-HWTPCMTH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPREME COURT MEMBER WHO OWNS AN INCREDIBLE SPA WITH MANY DRY, HOT-AIR BATHS: SAUNA SOTOMAYOR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals M

## STARS AND STRIPES.

## OPINION

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander  
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander

## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
leonard.terry@stripes.com

Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
reid.robert@stripes.com

Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content  
croley.tina@stripes.com

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
moores.sean@stripes.com

Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

## BUREAU STAFF

## Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
slavin.erik@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

## Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
kidd.aaron@stripes.com  
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

## Washington

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com  
(+1)(202)886-0033  
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
bowers.brian@stripes.com

## CIRCULATION

## Mideast

Robert Reismann, Mideast Circulation Manager  
robert.w.reismann.naf@mail.mil  
xsscirculation@stripes.com  
DSN (314)583-9111

## Europe

Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager  
lewis.karen@stripes.com  
memberservices@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9090; DSN (314)583.9090

## Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com  
+81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

## CONTACT US

## Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003  
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

## Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

## Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

## OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at [ombudsman@stripes.com](mailto:ombudsman@stripes.com), or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2021

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

## Community responders can lighten officers' load

BY DEBBIE RAMSEY

Special to The Washington Post

When I served the Baltimore Police Department, I performed a lot of unexpected jobs. A parent once called emergency services because the school crossing guard did not show up to work, so I filled in for the morning. Another time I was an animal control officer, because a squirrel had found its way into a man's basement. I also once acted as a utility company representative when a woman was alarmed about her power being turned off. And I can't count the times I was sent to manage people living on the street and was expected to fill the role of social worker.

I managed to perform most of these jobs reasonably well, and the residents of my city were grateful. But none of these situations required a police response. Every time I took one of these calls, I was "out of service," meaning that the department could not send me to investigate serious, violent crimes.

What's more, police are not better situated than anyone else to handle these calls. In fact, we're often worse. Having an armed officer show up to nonviolent, non-urgent situations is bad practice because an officer's presence alone may be enough to escalate a problem unnecessarily. And the burden of this risk falls on some of our most vulnerable neighbors and loved ones: People with untreated mental illnesses are 16 times more likely to be killed during a police encounter than the average civilian.

What we really need to respond effectively to each call are community responders.

Under the community responder (CR) model, 911 operators direct behavioral health calls to a team of unarmed profes-

sionals such as social workers, mental health professionals, mediators and "credible messengers" — people with strong local ties, usually those who have overcome the same issues facing their clients.

A recent report titled "The Community Responder Model: How Cities Can Send the Right Responder to Every 911 Call," co-authored by the Law Enforcement Action Partnership and the Center for American Progress, makes the case for this new approach.

Researchers analyzed 911 call data from eight large cities, finding that the majority of emergency calls were low- or medium-priority safety issues — those related to low-risk mental health, drugs and homelessness, and other quality-of-life and administrative complaints, such as neighbor disputes and minor traffic accidents. Researchers concluded that many of these calls could be safely diverted from police to people who were better suited to both prevent and respond to crime.

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership and the Center for American Progress estimate that community responders could address 21% to 38% of police calls for service, while an additional 13% to 33% could be handled behind the scenes and with proper call screening. The CR model has great potential to ease tensions between police and civilians, particularly in low-income communities and communities of color that are over-policed for minor issues and under-policed for serious crimes.

With more police resources available, officers could focus on building trust with community members. And without the distraction of every noncriminal nuisance and quality-of-life issue in our precincts, we would have the capacity to more thoroughly investigate violence and make arrests

that take predators off the street.

The CR model would be perfect in my home city of Baltimore. There's a perception that Baltimore's violence is beyond fixing and that not enough people are doing anything about it, but our residents care deeply. They do not trust police to create safer streets, and public resources are scant.

I'm the founder and executive director of Unified Efforts, a community nonprofit that provides children with peaceable solutions to local problems. We train the next generation to handle serious neighborhood issues like gang disputes, as well as everyday matters like squirrels in basements and missing crossing guards at schools. If Baltimore had a CR program, the young people served by Unified Efforts could go to school for social work, train as community responders and get meaningful employment. They could work in the neighborhoods where they live and respond swiftly to those calls that do not require armed police.

There is no single magic solution that will repair police relationships in our communities, and no single solution for reducing crime. But I am confident in the community responder model because the evidence shows that the appropriate responders for low-level crimes and noncriminal problems are not, in fact, police. The CR model creates a comprehensive health and safety service network that police, public health experts and community members can all get behind.

Debbie Ramsey served for 12 years with the Baltimore Police Department, retiring as a detective. She is the founder and executive director of Unified Efforts, an organization that engages youth in conflict resolution, and a representative of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership, a nonprofit group of police, prosecutors, judges and other law-enforcement officials working to improve the criminal justice system.

## Putin's strategy is all about himself, woefully lacking

BY CLARA FERREIRA MARQUES

Bloomberg Opinion

"If we want things to stay as they are, things will have to change." That's the opportunistic Tancredi's advice on how to manage political turbulence in Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa's 1958 classic "The Leopard."

Vladimir Putin is trying to hang on by doing the exact opposite.

The president's state-of-the-nation speech on Wednesday was much anticipated. Rumors swirled he would make dramatic moves like a ratcheting up of confrontation in Ukraine, an indication of feverish times.

Instead, what Russians got was an underwhelming pitch ahead of September's parliamentary elections, with a Brezhnev-esque hour-plus of populist tropes, a litany of handouts and vague policy pronouncements that said far more about the state of Putin's Russia than any foreign-policy hectoring. This is a regime well aware of the pain of falling living standards and flatlining growth, but it has no real plan to resolve either.

There should be relief, of course, that there were no fireworks on Ukraine or Belarus. Putin limited himself to some fist-shaking directed at countries he said were gangling up on Russia, implausible talk of foreign interference in Minsk and a warning to enemies considering crossing Moscow's "red

line." Not surprisingly, there was no mention of the domestic adversaries, even as almost 1,800 people were arrested at demonstrations across Russia in support of jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

The significance of Putin's address lies in just how little substance there was. Valentina Matviyenko, pro-Kremlin stalwart and speaker of the Federation Council, had promised a message of the "new age." It was nothing of the sort.

Putin often projects the image of a benign patriarch, and this would have been a good time for some elder-statesman vision. While Russia's economy weathered the pandemic better than some, growth ahead looks anemic, especially compared to developed rivals. Prices are rising and real incomes have shrunk. Fresh sanctions will bring more pain. The popularity of the main United Russia party has been fading.

It's a bleak landscape ahead of legislative elections in which the Kremlin needs a strong majority to lay the foundations for the 2024 presidential vote.

And yet, there was little evidence of a grand spending strategy to get the economy moving again. There was help for indebted regions and cash thrown at some pressing issues, particularly the country's shrinking population: promises of benefits for single parents, an average monthly subsidy for needy mothers-to-be, free hot meals for primary children and even full paid leave for

parents caring for a young child who's sick. Plus a one-off payment for families with school-age children.

However the pledges were all so modest that they can be covered by funds already available.

A litany of figures (5,000 new ambulances, 16,000 new school buses), exhortations that decisions "must be made" and Putin's dramatic shows of frustration with slow-moving officials couldn't cover up a missed opportunity to lay out a comprehensive economic vision. Perhaps because there is none. Hinted-at tax changes, for example, won't come close to fixing what is holding companies back from investing more heavily. As Vladimir Gelman, professor at the European University at St. Petersburg, told me, Russia is falling into a repression trap. A focus on cracking down, without working to appease people's demands, becomes a vicious circle, requiring more repression. It's a strategy of sticks without carrots, he says, that's unlikely to yield good results with an urbanized and educated population.

By jailing Navalny, arresting his supporters and preparing to ban his movement, Putin silences irritants. What he hasn't dealt with is the underlying popular discontent Navalny so ably taps. That requires real change.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Clara Ferreira Marques covers commodities and environmental, social and governance issues.



# SCOREBOARD/AUTO RACING

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

### Saturday's games

#### SOUTH

Prairie View (2-1) at Jackson St. (3-3)  
Alabama A&M (3-0) at MVSU (0-3)

#### SOUTHWEST

Texas Southern (0-2) at Ark.-Pine Bluff (4-0)

### NCAA FCS Playoffs

#### First Round

##### Saturday, April 24

Holy Cross (3-0) at South Dakota St. (5-1)  
S. Illinois (5-3) at Weber St. (5-0)  
Sacred Heart (3-1) at Delaware (5-0)  
Davidson (4-2) at Jacksonville St. (9-2)  
VMI (6-1) at James Madison (5-0)  
Missouri St. (5-4) at North Dakota (4-1)  
E. Washington (5-1) at North Dakota St. (6-2)

#### Quarterfinals

##### May 1 and 2

South Dakota St.-Holy Cross winner vs. Weber St.-S. Illinois winner  
Delaware-Sacred Heart winner vs. Jacksonville St.-Davidson winner  
James Madison-VMI winner vs. North Dakota-Missouri St. winner  
North Dakota St.-E. Washington winner vs. Sam Houston-Monmouth winner

#### Semifinals

##### Saturday, May 8

TBD

#### Championship

##### Sunday, May 16

##### At Frisco, Texas

Semifinal winners

## PRO SOCCER

### MLS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	1	0	0	3	4	2
D.C. United	1	0	0	3	2	1
Chicago	0	0	1	1	2	2
New England	0	0	1	1	2	2
Cincinnati	0	0	1	1	2	2
Nashville	0	0	1	1	2	2
Columbus	0	0	1	1	0	0
Philadelphia	0	0	1	1	0	0
Orlando City	0	0	1	1	0	0
Atlanta	0	0	1	1	0	0
Inter Miami CF	0	1	0	0	2	3
New York	0	1	0	0	1	2
NYCFC	0	1	0	0	1	2
Toronto FC	0	1	0	0	2	4

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	1	0	0	3	4	0
LAFC	1	0	0	3	2	0
LA Galaxy	1	0	0	3	3	2
Sporting KC	1	0	0	3	2	1
Houston	1	0	0	3	2	1
Vancouver	1	0	0	3	1	0
FC Dallas	0	0	1	1	0	0
Colorado	0	0	1	1	0	0
Real Salt Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Jose	0	1	0	0	1	2
Portland	0	1	0	0	0	1
Austin FC	0	1	0	0	0	2
Minnesota	0	1	0	0	0	4

**Note:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.

#### Friday's game

Orlando City at Sporting Kansas City

#### Saturday's games

Cincinnati at New York City FC  
Montreal at Nashville  
Vancouver at Toronto FC  
FC Dallas at San Jose  
Seattle at Los Angeles FC  
Real Salt Lake at Minnesota  
Miami at Philadelphia  
D.C. United at New England  
Chicago at Atlanta  
Austin FC at Colorado  
Houston at Portland

#### Sunday's game

New York at LA Galaxy

#### Saturday, May 1

Chicago at New York  
Sporting Kansas City at Real Salt Lake  
Columbus at Montreal  
Los Angeles FC at Houston  
Atlanta at New England  
Cincinnati at Orlando City  
New York City FC at Philadelphia  
Austin FC at Minnesota  
Portland at FC Dallas  
D.C. United at San Jose

## TENNIS

### Barcelona Open

Wednesday  
At Real Club de Tennis Barcelona  
Barcelona, Spain  
Purse: Euro 1,565,480  
Surface: Red clay  
Men's Singles  
Round of 32

Albert Ramos-Vinolas, Spain, def. Adrian Mannarino, France, 6-4, 6-4.  
Andrey Rublev (3), Russia, def. Federico Gaio, Italy, 6-4, 6-3.  
Felix Auger-Aliassime (10), Canada, def. Lorenzo Musetti, Italy, 4-6, 6-3, 6-0.  
Stefanos Tsitsipas (2), Greece, def. Jaume Munar, Spain, 6-0, 6-2.  
Alex de Minaur (14), Australia, def. Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 7-6 (3), 6-2.  
Pablo Carreno Busta (6), Spain, def. Jordan Thompson, Australia, 6-4, 6-0.  
Bernabe Zapata Miralles, Spain, def. Fabio Fognini (9), Italy, 6-0, 4-4.  
Corentin Moutet, France, def. Daniel Evans (16), Britain, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.  
Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Ilya Ivashka, Belarus, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.  
Kei Nishikori, Japan, def. Cristian Garin (13), Chile, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-1.  
Diego Schwartzman (4), Argentina, def. Frances Tiafoe, United States, 3-6, 7-5, 6-1.

#### Men's Doubles

##### Round of 16

Fabrice Martin and Jeremy Chardy, France, def. Adrian Mannarino and Benoit Paire, France, 7-6 (1), 6-7 (4), 10-8.  
Robert Farah and Juan Sebastian Cabal (1), Colombia, def. Nicolas Mahut and Pierre-Hugues Herbert, France, 6-2, 6-4.  
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Jamie Murray, Britain, def. Feliciano Lopez and Marc Lopez, Spain, 6-3, 6-1.

### Istanbul Cup

Wednesday  
At Garanti Koza Arena  
Istanbul  
Purse: \$235,238  
Surface: Red clay  
Women's Singles  
Round of 32

Kaia Kanepi, Estonia, def. Zarina Diyas, Kazakhstan, 6-4, 6-4.  
Round of 16  
Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, def. Daria Kasatkina (4), Russia, 6-3, 7-5.  
Ana Konjuh, Croatia, def. Wang Qiang, China, 6-1, 6-4.  
Sorana Cirstea, Romania, def. Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 7-6 (6), 6-4.  
Katerina Siniakova, Czech Republic, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

#### Women's Doubles

##### Round of 16

Paula Kania-Chodun, Poland, and Julia Wachaczyk, Germany, def. Renata Voracova, Czech Republic, and Lara Arruabarrena (3), Spain, 6-2, 6-2.  
Vera Zvonareva and Elena Vesnina, Russia, def. Zheng Saisai, China, and En Shuo Liang, Taiwan, 6-2, 5-7, 10-8.  
Veronika Kudermetova, Russia, and Elise Mertens (1), Belgium, def. Pemra Ozgen and Cagla Buyukakcay, Turkey, 6-2, 6-2.  
Makoto Ninomiya and Nao Hibino (2), Japan, def. Jessy Rompies and Beatrice Gumulya, Indonesia, 6-2, 6-2.  
Dalila Jakupovic, Slovenia, and Yana Sizikova, Russia, def. Anna Danilina, Kazakhstan, and Kamilla Rakhimova, Russia, 6-3, 3-6, 10-6.

### Porsche Grand Prix

Wednesday  
At Porsche Arena  
Stuttgart, Germany  
Purse: Euro 456,073  
Surface: Red clay  
Women's Singles  
Round of 32

Karolina Pliskova (6), Czech Republic, def. Tamara Korpatzsch, Germany, 7-5, 3-6, 6-3.  
Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, def. Stefanie Voegele, Switzerland, 6-4, 7-5.  
Angelique Kerber, Germany, def. Ekaterine Gorgodze, Georgia, 6-2, 6-2.  
Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, def. Marie Bouzkova, Czech Republic, 6-1, 7-6 (6).

#### Round of 16

Anett Kontaveit, Estonia, def. Sofia Kenin (3), United States, 7-5, 6-4.  
Ashleigh Barty (1), Australia, def. Laura Siegemund, Germany, 6-0, 7-5.  
Petra Kvitova (7), Czech Republic, def. Maria Sakkari, Greece, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.  
Women's Doubles  
Round of 16  
Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Desirae Krawczyk (1), United States, def. Laura-Ioana Paar, Romania, and Varvara Gracheva, Russia, 7-6 (1), 6-3.  
Zhang Shuai and Xu Yifan (2), China, def. Julia Middendorf and Noma Noha Akugue, Germany, 7-6 (5), 6-4.  
Raluca-Ioana Olaru, Romania, and Nadia Kichenok, Ukraine, def. Hayley Carter, United States, and Luisa Stefani (3), Brazil, 7-6 (6), 6-4.

## DEALS

### Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL  
Major League Baseball  
American League

**BALTIMORE ORIOLES** — Placed OF Anthony Santander on the 10-day IL. Recalled OF Ryan McKenna from alternate training site at Bowie (Double-A Northeast).  
**DETROIT TIGERS** — Designated INF Renato Nunez for assignment. Optioned RHP Joe Jimenez to alternate training site. Recalled INF Zach Short from alternate training site and RHP Spencer Turnbull from the IL. Named OF Derek Hill (27th man).  
**HOUSTON ASTROS** — Agreed to terms with C Martin Maldonado on a one-year contract for 2022.

**MINNESOTA TWINS** — Placed INF J.T. Riddle on the COVID-19 IL. Selected the contract of C Tomas Telis from taxi squad. Optioned LHP Lewis Thorpe to alternate training site.

**OAKLAND ATHLETICS** — Optioned RHP Jordan Weems to alternate training site.  
National League

**ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS** — Recalled RHP Humberto Castellanos from alternate training site.

**CINCINNATI REDS** — Recalled RHP Art Warren from alternate training site.

**MIAMI MARLINS** — Placed C Jorge Alfaro on the 10-day IL. Selected the contract of C Sandy Leon from alternate training site. Optioned RHP Nick Neidert to alternate training site.

**MILWAUKEE BREWERS** — Signed INF/OF Dee Strange-Gordon to a minor league contract and assigned him to alternate training site.

**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES** — Optioned RHP Ramon Rosso to alternate training site. Placed INF Jean Segura on the 10-day IL. Recalled INF Scott Kingery and RHP Spencer Howard from alternate training site.

**PITTSBURGH PIRATES** — Claimed OF Ka'ai Tom off waivers from Oakland. Recalled INF Rodolfo Castro from alternate training site. Designated OF Anthony Alford for assignment. Recalled RHP Miguel Yajure from alternate training site.

**SAN DIEGO PADRES** — Recalled RHP Dineson Lamet from the 10-day IL. Optioned LHP Nick Ramirez to alternate training site.

### BASKETBALL

#### National Basketball Association

**NBA** — Suspended Indiana's F JaKarr Sampson one game without pay for head-butting an opponent during an April 19 game against San Antonio. Fined San Antonio G Patty Mills \$25,000 and F Rudy Gay \$20,000 for their actions in an on-court altercation during an April 19 game at Indiana.

**CLEVELAND CAVALIERS** — Signed F Mfiondu Kabengele to a 10-day contract.

**INDIANA PACERS** — Signed F Oshae Brissett to a rest-of-season contract.

**MILWAUKEE BUCKS** — Signed F Mamadi Diakite to a multi-year contract. Signed F Justin Jackson to a two-way contract.

### Women's National Basketball Association

**SEATTLE STORM** — Signed F N'dea Jones to a rookie scale contract.

**NEW YORK LIBERTY** — Signed G Jasmine Bailey to a training camp contract.

### FOOTBALL

#### National Football League

**LOS ANGELES RAMS** — Re-signed CB Darious Williams.

**SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** — Signed RB Wayne Gallman to a one-year contract. Signed DE Arden Key.

**SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** — Agreed to terms with CB Pierre Desir on a one-year contract.

### HOCKEY

#### National Hockey League

**COLORADO AVALANCHE** — Reassigned RW Martin Kaut, D Keaton Middleton, G Adam Werner and LW Miikka Salomaki from Colorado (AHL) to taxi squad and G Jayson Megna from taxi squad to Colorado (AHL).

**DETROIT RED WINGS** — Reassigned G Kevin Boyle from Grand Rapids (AHL) loan to taxi squad. Reassigned G Kaden Fulcher to Grand Rapids (AHL) from taxi squad.

**FLORIDA PANTHERS** — Reassigned D Alec Rauhauser from Syracuse (AHL) to Greenville (ECHL) and C Brad Morrison from Indy (ECHL) to Syracuse (AHL).

**MONTREAL CANADIENS** — Recalled G Charlie Lindgren from Laval (AHL) loan to taxi squad.

**NEW JERSEY DEVILS** — Assigned Cs Nate Schnarr and Brett Seney on loan to Birmingham (AHL) from taxi squad.

**NEW YORK RANGERS** — Agreed to terms with F Karl Henriksson on an entry-level contract.

**SAN JOSE SHARKS** — Recalled D Jacob Middleton from loan to San Jose (AHL). Designated LW Jayden Halbgewachs for assignment taxi squad.

### SOCCER

#### Major League Soccer

**SPORTING KC** — Acquired \$200,000 in general allocation money from Philadelphia in exchange for a 2021 international roster slot.



R BRENT SMITH / AP

The Indianapolis 500 will allow 135,000 spectators, or 40% of capacity, to attend "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" next month.

# Indy 500 allowing 135,000 spectators

By JENNA FRYER

Associated Press

The Indianapolis 500 is set to be the largest sporting event in the world since the start of the pandemic with 135,000 spectators permitted to attend "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" next month.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway said Wednesday it worked with the Marion County Public Health Department to determine that 40% of venue capacity can attend the May 30 race on Memorial Day weekend. The speedway is the largest sporting facility in the world with more than 250,000 grandstand seats and the ability to host close to 400,000 on race day throughout the entire property.

The attendance figure was determined after Indianapolis hosted the NCAA men's basketball tournament through March and into April with limited attendance. The NCAA allowed 8,000 fans at Lucas Oil Stadium for the April 5 men's championship game.

The Alabama spring football game last weekend hosted 47,218 fans, nearly 10,000 more than a recent Texas Rangers baseball game; an Australian Rules cricket match in Melbourne drew 51,723 in March.

Roger Penske, in his second year as owner of Indianapolis Motor Speedway, had hoped for full attendance, but IndyCar and speedway officials are taking pride in the upcoming milestone.

"This event and this place means so much to everybody we see every day and we hear from every day, whether they are Hoosiers or race fans from around the world," Mark Miles, president and CEO of Penske Entertainment Corp., told The Associated Press.

"We feel a real responsibility to protect that legacy and to grow it and to have the race," Miles said.

"We're ready to take the next step in bringing back the economy and a lot of that in this city and state is driven by sports events which has been shut down for so many months. March Madness was incredibly successful, this is the next step and it just so happens this will probably be the biggest sporting event of the year."

The speedway will be open to spectators every day cars are on the track beginning with the May 15 road course event. The viewing mounds in the infield will be closed, and general admission infield tickets will not be made available.

The infield's raucous "Snake Pit" will be closed and all the traditional concerts will not be held, including on Carb Day and Legends Day. There will be suite seating and the Pagoda will be open to those with tickets, but the midway will be closed.

Grandstand seating will be socially distanced; fans will have an option to return their tickets for an account credit.

Face coverings will be required on track property and temperature checks will be given at the entrances. IMS will also extend its vaccination clinics through the end of May with the ability for spectators to receive a vaccination on speedway grounds throughout the month.

Miles anticipated about 60% of those in attendance will have been vaccinated. IMS has vaccinated approximately 100,000 people since it began operating as a site.

"Roger Penske and everyone associated with Penske Entertainment and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway have been incredible partners with us throughout the pandemic," said Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb. "It is high time for fans to return to the greatest motor speedway in the world with this safety plan in place."

## GOLF

### LA Open

LPGA Tour  
Wednesday  
At Wilshire Country Club  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
Purse: \$1.5 million  
Yardage: 6,450; Par: 71  
First Round

Jessica Korda	31-33-64	-7
Tiffany Chan	31-34-65	-6
Moriya Jutanugarn	29-36-65	-6

Dana Finkelstein	32-34-66	-5
Su Oh	33-33-66	-5
Carlota Ciganda	32-34-66	-5
Austin Ernst	34-32-66	-5
Nelly Korda	33-33-66	-5
Alison Lee	35-32-67	-4
Nanna Koerstz Madsen	33-34-67	-4
Sophia Popov	33-34-67	-4
Muni He	33-34-67	-4
A Lim Kim	35-32-67	-4
Sei Young Kim	31-36-67	-4

Jin Young Ko	31-36-67	-4
Ally Ewing	36-31-67	-4
Jennifer Kupcho	32-36-68	-3
Angela Stanford	33-35-68	-3
Hannah Green	33-35-68	-3
Jeongeun Lee6	34-34-68	-3
Maria Fassi	35-33-68	-3
Marina Alex	35-33-68	-3
Jodi Ewart Shadoff	34-34-68	-3
So Yeon Ryu	32-36-68	-3
Sung Hyun Park	34-34-68	-3

## SOCCER/NHL

# Discontent lingers over Super League

By STEVE DOUGLAS  
Associated Press

A pronouncement from Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola that the abandoned Super League was a “closed chapter” is proving way wide of the mark.

The ripples of discontent from the failed power-grab by England’s so-called “Big Six” were continuing to be felt on Thursday, when a group of Manchester United fans unhappy at the club’s involvement in the scheme gained access to its training ground.

The protesters, reportedly numbering about 20, carried banners with messages including “Glazers out” — a reference to the Glazer family that owns United — and “We decide when you play.”

Eventually, they got to speak to United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and members of his backroom staff.

“Buildings were secure and the group has now left the site,” United said in a statement about an incident that took place at 9 a.m. local time at the Carrington practice complex, before the team trained.

There were fan protests this week outside soccer grounds for matches featuring Liverpool, Chelsea, and Tottenham, three of the other English teams who signed up to join a breakaway Super League also involving three clubs from Spain and another three from Italy.

The English teams all withdrew late Tuesday — less than 48 hours after the proposals were announced — following heavy pressure from the British government and supporters.

Players and coaches haven’t hid their contempt for the Super League, details of which were kept quiet by the clubs’ owners, and the manager of Arsenal — the sixth English team involved — said on Thursday disgruntled fans “sent probably the strongest message that has ever been sent in the football world.”

“This has given big lessons and it shows the importance of football in the world,” Arteta said.

“And it shows that the soul of this sport belongs to the fans — and that’s it. During this pandemic, for a year, we have been trying to sustain this industry with no fans in the stadium. But when the fans have to come out and talk, they’ve done it really loud and clear.”

Arteta received a personal apology from the club’s American ownership for the club’s part in the plan to form a largely closed European competition.

“They have the maximum responsibility to run the football club and what they said was, ‘Apologies for disturbing the team, we did it without the capac-

## Barcelona still supports idea

BARCELONA, Spain — Barcelona president Joan Laporta maintained his support for the Super League on Thursday despite the quick exit of 10 of the 12 founding clubs in the breakaway competition.

The Super League, which provoked a backlash by other clubs, fans and authorities around Europe, was announced by a dozen top clubs in England, Spain and Italy on Sunday, but it quickly collapsed and is now officially backed only by Barcelona and Real Madrid.

“It is absolutely necessary,” Laporta said on Catalan public television in his first public comments on the project. “The biggest clubs create the most financial resources and we must have our say in deciding how the earnings are shared.”

The six English clubs involved in the competition pulled out Tuesday amid escalating backlash from their supporters and warnings from the British government. A day later, Spanish club Atlético Madrid and the three Italian teams in the project — Juventus, AC Milan and Inter Milan — also opted out.

Despite being left nearly alone, Real Madrid president Florentino Pérez — the competition’s supposed first chairman — said late Wednesday that the idea was not dead, but rather on standby.

The 12 elite clubs wanted to boost their revenues by cutting UEFA out of the equation and replacing the Champions League with the new tournament of 20 teams.

— Associated Press

ity to communicate in a different way earlier, and pass on my message to the players,” Arteta said.

“That is all you can ask for.”

United co-owner Joel Glazer and Liverpool owner John Henry issued apologies on Wednesday, when Man City chief executive Ferran Soriano also sent a letter of apology to the club’s fans.

Guardiola said he didn’t need to speak directly to the City hierarchy even though he and his players went through a distracting week of uncomfortable questions.

“As a club, we accept and learn and focus on the reason why we’re here,” Guardiola said after City beat Aston Villa 2-1 on Wednesday.

“It’s a chapter which is over, a closed chapter. They don’t need to apologize, I know them.”



DARREN CALABRESE / AP

The Rouyn-Noranda Huskies’ William Cyr, center, celebrates with teammates after a win over the Halifax Mooseheads to win the Memorial Cup hockey championship on May 26, 2019 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Memorial Cup championship for the Canadian Hockey League was canceled for a second consecutive year because of the pandemic. The Ontario Hockey League on Tuesday abandoned its plans to hold a season, a move that complicates the evaluation of many players eligible for the 2021 NHL Draft.

### AROUND THE NHL

# Dent in the pipeline

## Draft-eligible players don’t get to show talent

By STEPHEN WHYNO  
Associated Press

A few years from now, Brandt Clarke might be able to brag he took the Auston Matthews path to the NHL by playing in Europe during his draft year.

“He kind of went over voluntarily,” Clarke said. “I went over out of desperation.”

Clarke and other 2021 draft-eligible prospects were forced to different paths this season when their leagues couldn’t stage a season because of the pandemic. Clarke was supposed to play for Barrie in the Ontario Hockey League, which on Tuesday abandoned plans to play this season, a move that plunged countless young players into uncertainty during a year that has put a dent in hockey’s developmental pipeline.

“There’s a lot of my friends in my age group that didn’t play this season, and, yeah, that sucks,” said Clarke, who is 18. “Some of them have grown a lot as players and could have taken huge steps in their draft years and whatnot. It’s hard to base your draft off a 16-year-old’s season, and now that’s what a lot of them are getting based off of.”

Players in the U.S. college system and Europe got through most-

ly full seasons and the Western Hockey League and Quebec Major Junior Hockey League got back on the ice. In Ontario, where OHL Commissioner David Branch believes his league is the best in the world at producing professional players, Canadian provincial restrictions forced many to go in another direction.

Clarke, a 6-foot-1 defenseman expected to go in the top five in the July draft, played 26 games in Slovakia. Francesco Pinelli joined the Alps Hockey League in Central Europe. They and fellow projected first-round pick Corson Ceulemans will get to play in front of scouts at the under-18 world championships this month in Texas, but that showcase won’t include many draft-eligible players.

“That’s just the cream of the crop,” Columbus general manager Jarmo Kekalainen said. “There’s going to be some players that, had they had the chance to show us this year what their development might be, they probably could have gotten into the top and now people are going to be relying on their underage reports and knowledge that you had before.”

Players know that. GMs and scouting directors know it, too. And the U18s are just one chance to see (some) players before a draft

in which more than 200 will be selected.

“You’re going to have a year of missed opportunity to view, to see where they’re at and how they’ve progressed, and you’re going to make your evaluations based on a year earlier,” Washington Capitals GM Brian MacLellan said. “We’ve been trying to do as many things as we can video-wise, so there’s probably a sense of frustration — probably a sense of frustration on the players that they don’t get to show where they’re at.”

### Price is out

Goaltender Carey Price is probably the Canadiens’ best bet to carry them far in the playoffs. He is out for at least the next week because of concussion protocols after a collision with Edmonton’s Alex Chiasson on Monday night. Montreal will lean on Jake Allen between the pipes to try to hold on to fourth place in the North Division.

### Game of the week

First place in the East Division will be at stake when the Washington Capitals visit the New York Islanders for games Thursday and Saturday on Long Island. They meet again in the District of Columbia on Tuesday.

# NHL

## League keeping protocols in place

BY STEPHEN WHYNO  
Associated Press

The NHL on Wednesday confirmed it has not guaranteed loosened virus protocols for players who are vaccinated after Vegas goaltender Robin Lehner ripped the league for what he said were unkept promises.

“Nobody from the league has communicated to any player or club that any of our COVID protocols would be ‘relaxed’ for any player once he is vaccinated,” a league spokesman said.

The NFL, NBA and Major League Baseball have set vaccination thresholds to relax some protocols, such as mask-wearing and prohibition of outdoor dining, when a certain percentage of team personnel are fully inoculated against COVID-19. Those leagues have all teams currently playing in the U.S., where everyone 16 and older can get a vaccine. The NHL has seven teams in Canada, where eligibility — the nation only recently moved to 40 and older in some jurisdictions — and availability is not nearly as robust.

The NHL has only one player, Toronto’s Joe Thornton, over age 40 and playing in Canada, where 25% of people have received one dose and 2.5% are fully vaccinated, according to the Global Change Data Lab. In the U.S., roughly 40% have had one dose and 25% are fully vaccinated.

Lehner said the league showed players the NBA’s protocol plan and told them “(when) X amount of players leaders in this team or leaders around the league takes this vaccine, a new set of rules are going to come out.” He said he had calls with the league and NHL Players’ Association on Tuesday and found out nothing was changing.

“They told me yesterday they’re surveying all the teams to see who has taken the vaccine and who has not taken the vaccines and they’re not going to change the rules for us as players until all the teams have a fair, have the vaccines at the same time, so it’s not a competitive edge,” Lehner said during 10 minutes of unprompted comments on the subject. “They’re talking about competitive edge instead of human lives. Competitive edge, human lives. We’re humans, too.”

The league has not publicly announced any changes to its pandemic protocols, which limit where players, coaches and staff can go. Lehner’s comments concerned the mental health of himself and fellow players, a topic he has talked about often in recent years.

## Scoreboard

East Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Washington	46	29	13	4	62	163 141
N.Y. Islanders	46	29	13	4	62	133 106
Pittsburgh	46	29	14	3	61	159 132
Boston	44	26	12	6	58	127 110
N.Y. Rangers	46	23	17	6	52	152 124
Philadelphia	45	20	18	7	47	128 162
New Jersey	45	14	25	6	34	115 157
Buffalo	46	12	27	7	31	111 156

Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Carolina	45	30	10	5	65	146 108
Florida	47	30	12	5	65	152 126
Tampa Bay	46	30	14	2	62	153 121
Nashville	48	25	21	2	52	130 137
Dallas	45	19	14	12	50	130 113
Chicago	47	22	20	5	49	134 148
Detroit	48	16	25	7	39	107 153
Columbus	48	15	24	9	39	117 163

West Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
x-Vegas	46	33	11	2	68	155 102
Colorado	43	30	9	4	64	154 101
Minnesota	45	29	13	3	61	141 118
Arizona	47	20	22	5	45	124 150
St. Louis	43	19	18	6	44	124 135
San Jose	46	18	23	5	41	122 157
Los Angeles	43	17	20	6	40	118 128
Anaheim	47	14	26	7	35	104 151

North Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Toronto	46	28	13	5	61	150 126
Winnipeg	45	27	15	3	57	144 120
Edmonton	45	27	16	2	56	144 125
Montreal	44	20	15	9	49	130 126
Calgary	45	19	23	3	41	118 133
Vancouver	39	18	18	3	39	109 125
Ottawa	46	16	26	4	36	126 166

**Tuesday’s games**  
N.Y. Islanders 6, N.Y. Rangers 1  
Dallas 5, Detroit 2  
Vancouver 6, Toronto 3  
Los Angeles 4, Anaheim 1  
Boston 2, Buffalo 0  
Florida 5, Columbus 1  
Carolina 4, Tampa Bay 1  
Pittsburgh 7, New Jersey 6  
Colorado at St. Louis, ppd

**Wednesday’s games**  
Chicago 5, Nashville 4, OT  
Minnesota 4, Arizona 1  
Vegas 5, San Jose 2  
Montreal 4, Edmonton 3

**Thursday’s games**  
Boston at Buffalo  
Carolina at Florida  
Columbus at Tampa Bay  
New Jersey at Pittsburgh  
Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers  
Toronto at Winnipeg  
Washington at N.Y. Islanders  
Dallas at Detroit  
Colorado at St. Louis  
Ottawa at Vancouver

**Friday’s games**  
Boston at Buffalo  
Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers  
Nashville at Chicago  
Montreal at Calgary  
Minnesota at Los Angeles

**Saturday’s games**  
New Jersey at Pittsburgh  
Colorado at St. Louis  
Carolina at Florida  
Dallas at Detroit  
Montreal at Calgary  
Toronto at Winnipeg  
Washington at N.Y. Islanders  
Minnesota at San Jose  
Vegas at Anaheim  
Arizona at Los Angeles  
Ottawa at Vancouver

**Sunday’s games**  
Boston at Pittsburgh  
New Jersey at Philadelphia  
Buffalo at N.Y. Rangers  
Columbus at Tampa Bay

### Scoring leaders

Through Wednesday				
	GP	G	A	PTS
Connor McDavid, EDM	44	24	50	74
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	44	22	41	63
Patrick Kane, CHI	46	15	42	57
Mitchell Marner, TOR	46	14	41	55
Brad Marchand, BOS	42	24	31	55
Auston Matthews, TOR	42	33	22	55
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	39	17	36	53
Artemi Panarin, NYR	35	16	36	52
Mark Stone, LV	44	17	35	52
Mark Scheifele, WPG	45	17	35	52
Sidney Crosby, PIT	45	18	34	52
Mikko Rantanen, COL	43	26	26	52



SAM HODDE/AP

After winning four in a row at home to get within two points of the final playoff spot in the Central Division, the Stars will end the regular season playing nine of their last 11 games on the road. They will travel to five cities in that 20-day stretch. “We’ve known all along it was coming,” said coach Rick Bowness, above.

# Cup runner-up Stars have long road back to playoffs

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS  
Associated Press

DALLAS — The defending Western Conference champion Dallas Stars have quite a road to get back in the postseason.

After winning four in a row at home and now within two points of the final playoff spot in the Central Division, the Stars will end the regular season playing nine of their last 11 games on the road. They will travel to five different cities in a 20-day stretch.

“We’ve known all along it was coming,” coach Rick Bowness said. “The most important thing is step by step get back in the hunt. We’re back in the hunt, and now we’ve got to manage it the best that we can.”

Joe Pavelski, the 36-year-old center and leading scorer with 19 goals and 42 points, said the Stars just have to keep playing good hockey and know that they aren’t going to have to play all of those games at once.

“We’ve got to stay focused on what we’re doing,” Pavelski said.

The Stars have earned points in a season-best eight games in a row (6-0-2). At 50 points, they are two points behind fourth-place Nashville and one ahead of Chicago after the Blackhawks won 5-4 in overtime Wednesday night in the second of three consecutive games between those teams. Dallas has three games in hand over the Predators, and two over Chicago.

“We’re a team that likes to play meaningful hockey, so all these

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Stars’ 61 minutes of overtime is the most in the NHL this season, as are their 12 overtime losses. A 3-2 shootout victory over Detroit on Monday was only the third time all season, and first in more than a month, where Dallas got a second point after finishing regulation tied.

SOURCE: Associated Press

games mean a lot for us,” forward Jason Dickinson said. “I expect us to keep rising and keep pushing.”

The Stars likely wouldn’t be scrambling for a playoff spot if they had taken advantage of all the extra time they have had on the ice. Their 61 minutes of overtime is the most in the NHL, as are their 12 overtime losses. A 3-2 shootout victory over Detroit on Monday was only the third time all season, and first in more than a month, where Dallas got a second point after finishing regulation tied.

Dallas is in the middle of playing the same team four times in a row during a regular season for the first time in team history. The Stars beat the Red Wings on back-to-back nights at home Monday and Tuesday, and play in Detroit on Thursday and Saturday.

That unprecedented four-game span was part of the Stars’ initial 56-game schedule, reduced again from the usual 82 games because of the pandemic while playing only division opponents. But they were supposed to start the season with four consecutive road games, and finish it the same way.

Those first four scheduled road games were instead postponed after 17 Dallas players tested positive in January for COVID-19, even though most were asymptomatic, and the Stars opened at home a week after every other team had already started the season. Then four consecutive home games in mid-February got put off because of extreme winter weather in North Texas that made their arena unavailable because of a power emergency.

With all the schedule reshuffling, the Stars will play their last seven games on the road after hosting division-leading Carolina next Monday and Tuesday, when there is a chance six-time All-Star forward Tyler Seguin could play for the first time since offseason hip surgery.

Dallas has one game left against the Predators, on May 1 in Nashville, and ends the regular season with two games at Chicago. There are three games remaining at Tampa Bay, which beat the Stars in a six-game Stanley Cup Final in the NHL’s bubble in Canada last summer before they became division foes in the pandemic-altered NHL setup. Dallas is 1-3-1 against the Lightning this season.

“Away games are always tougher. We’ve just got to bring the grind mentality,” defenseman Andrej Sekera said. “Our strengths, forecheck, play good defense and a patient game. ... We’ll try to focus on that and bring our ‘A game’ every night.”

## OLYMPICS

## Tokyo Games delay decision on fans until June

By **STEPHEN WADE**  
Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese residents with tickets to the Tokyo Olympics may not know until weeks before the games open if they'll be allowed to attend.

Fans from abroad have already been barred, and on Wednesday, organizing committee president Seiko Hashimoto said a decision on venue capacity — or if there will be any fans at all, or just empty venues — may not be made until June. She had previously promised that decision for this month.

"We are still studying the timing," Hashimoto said at a news conference in Tokyo after she and CEO Toshiro Muto finished an online, closed-door briefing with the IOC executive board in Switzerland.

She confirmed that June "was an option. I guess we need a little more time to make a proper judgment."

Government minister Taro Kano, who is in charge of the vaccine rollout in Japan, hinted last week that empty venues seemed likely as COVID-19 surges across Japan.

Hashimoto's backpedaling is typical of the ever-changing planning as virus cases rise in Japan with Tokyo's postponed Olympics set to open in three months in the midst of a pandemic.

Hashimoto acknowledged the low public support in Japan for going ahead with the Olympics, particularly since less than 1% of the population has been vaccinated. Polls repeatedly show 70-80% are opposed to going ahead with the games.

"In local municipalities the situations are rather dire," Hashimoto



PHILIP FONG / AP

**Seiko Hashimoto, president of Tokyo 2020, said on Wednesday that a decision on venue capacity or if any fans will be allowed at all, may not be made until June.**

to said. "And in this context, Japanese citizens and residents have worries and concerns. I know that. ... For the safety and security of the games, we must contain the spread of the virus as soon as possible."

Many of the worries now center around the torch relay.

A leg of the relay on Wednesday was moved off the public streets in Matsuyama City in the prefecture of Ehime. It was to take place in a city park with "no spectators or stage performances," an organizing committee statement said.

This followed the torch being de-toured last week in Osaka — Japan's second largest metropolitan area — and run only in a city park.

Some legs of the relay will also

be taken off the public streets on May 1-2 on Japan's southern island of Okinawa.

The torch relay will feature a total of 10,000 runners crisscrossing Japan until it arrives on July 23 at the opening ceremony in Tokyo. The relay began on March 25 in northeastern Japan and, though it has run with few incidents, organizers have cautioned that it may need to be rerouted as conditions change.

Osaka and Tokyo were expected to come under new emergency orders this week. Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike has said measures needed to be taken "as soon as possible" to stem the spread. And Hashimoto acknowledged they

were likely to come quickly into force.

Japan has attributed more than 9,600 deaths to COVID-19, good by global standards but poor by standards in Asia.

"If the coronavirus infection keeps getting worse, it's no time to be holding the Olympics," Kotaro Nagasaki, the governor of Yamaguchi prefecture, said this week.

Yamanashi is located southwest of Tokyo and is the home of the famous Mount Fuji.

Some Tokyo test events are also being postponed or rescheduled. Many that are going forward are being held without athletes — so-called operational events — or with only Japanese athletes.

A qualifying event from artistic swimming in Tokyo that was first scheduled for earlier in the year, and then pushed back to early May, will now be held outside of Japan in June, swimming governing body FINA said in a statement.

It had to be moved partially because a FINA diving event is to take place in Tokyo on May 1-6 at the new Olympic swimming venue. It is to be held without fans, and will feature divers from abroad.

Olympic Minister Tamayo Marukawa last week said that all athletes might need to be tested daily during the Olympics. Japan's Kyodo news agency on Tuesday reported that daily saliva tests for Olympic and Paralympic athletes are being planned, quoting "officials with knowledge of the planning."

Hashimoto confirmed that "in principle, testing will be daily." Early plans had called for tests every four days.

This change is likely to appear in the second edition of the "Playbook," which is to be published by the end of the month. These guides are put out by the IOC and so far have set out vague rules for 15,400 Olympic and Paralympic athletes and tens of thousands of others — judges, officials, media and broadcasters — when they enter Japan.

A final edition of Playbook is to be published in June.

So far, Japanese athletes have not been vaccinated and officials repeatedly say there is no plan to do so. There is sure to be strong public opposition to any plan to push young athletes ahead of the elderly, medical workers and other vulnerable communities.

## Athletes promised legal support if they protest

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**  
Associated Press

GENEVA — Athletes who make political or social justice protests at the Tokyo Olympics were promised legal support Thursday by a global union and an activist group in Germany.

The pledges came one day after the International Olympic Committee confirmed its long-standing ban on "demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda" on the field of play, medal podiums or official ceremonies.

Raising a fist or kneeling for a national anthem could lead to punishment from the IOC. The Olympic body's legal commission should clarify what kind of punishment before this year's games, which open on July 23.

The IOC's athletes' commission cited support to uphold Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter from more than two-thirds of about 3,500 replies from consulting athlete groups.

"This is precisely the outcome we expected," said Brendan Schwab, executive director of the World Players Association union. "The Olympic movement doesn't



File/AP

**U.S. athletes Tommie Smith, center, and John Carlos raise their gloved fists at the 1968 Summer Olympic Games in Mexico City. Athletes who make political or social justice protests at the Tokyo Olympics were promised legal support by groups.**

understand its own history better than the athletes."

While the IOC said cases would each be judged on merits, athletes who follow the

iconic salutes by American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics still could be sent home.

"Any athlete sanctioned at the Tokyo Olympics will have the full backing of the World Players," Schwab told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Australia.

The independent group representing German athletes pledged legal backing for its national team.

"Should German athletes decide to peacefully stand up for fundamental values such as fighting racism during the Olympic Games, they can rely on the legal support of Athleten Deutschland," Johannes Herber, the group's chief executive, said in a statement.

Both Schwab and Herber said minorities would be protected from discrimination if the IOC recognized the human rights of athletes to express themselves.

The IOC erred by trying to regulate the place where a protest might take place instead of the statement's content, Schwab said, adding athletes' freedom of expression in Olympic venues "should be respect-

ed, protected and indeed promoted."

There are three levels of disciplinary action for athletes breaching Rule 50: from the IOC, their sport's governing body, and their national Olympic committee.

However, the leaders of two of the biggest Olympic bodies — World Athletics president Sebastian Coe and FIFA president Gianni Infantino — have publicly opposed punishing their athletes for social justice statements. Coe gave his annual award last December to Smith, Carlos and the other sprinter on the 200-meter podium in Mexico City, Peter Norman of Australia.

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee inducted Smith and Carlos into its Hall of Fame in 2019. It pledged in December not to take action against athletes protesting at their Olympic trials for Tokyo.

"There is enormous confusion over responsibility to sanction," Schwab said.

Slogans such as "Black Lives Matter" will not be allowed on athlete apparel at Olympic venues, though the IOC on Wednesday approved using the words peace, respect, solidarity, inclusion and equality on T-shirts.

# NBA

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	39	19	.672	—
Brooklyn	39	20	.661	½
New York	33	27	.550	7
Boston	31	27	.534	8
Toronto	25	34	.424	14½

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	32	27	.542	—
Miami	31	28	.525	1
Charlotte	28	29	.491	3
Washington	25	33	.431	6½
Orlando	18	40	.310	13½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	35	22	.614	—
Indiana	27	31	.466	8½
Chicago	24	34	.414	11½
Cleveland	21	37	.362	14½
Detroit	18	41	.305	18

### Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	31	26	.544	—
Memphis	29	28	.509	2
San Antonio	28	29	.491	3
New Orleans	25	33	.431	6½
Houston	15	44	.254	17

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	44	15	.746	—
Denver	38	20	.655	5½
Portland	32	26	.552	11½
Oklahoma City	20	39	.339	24
Minnesota	16	44	.267	28½

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	42	16	.724	—
L.A. Clippers	42	19	.689	1½
L.A. Lakers	35	23	.603	7
Golden State	29	30	.492	13½
Sacramento	24	35	.407	18½

#### Wednesday's games

Toronto 114, Brooklyn 103  
 Cleveland 121, Chicago 105  
 Indiana 122, Oklahoma City 116  
 Phoenix 116, Philadelphia 113  
 Washington 118, Golden State 114  
 Utah 112, Houston 89  
 New York 137, Atlanta 127, OT  
 Miami 107, San Antonio 87  
 Dallas 127, Detroit 117  
 Denver 106, Portland 105  
 L.A. Clippers 117, Memphis 105  
 Sacramento 128, Minnesota 125

#### Thursday's games

New Orleans at Orlando  
 Philadelphia at Milwaukee  
 Phoenix at Boston  
 Detroit at San Antonio  
 Charlotte at Chicago  
 L.A. Lakers at Dallas

#### Friday's games

Boston at Brooklyn  
 Miami at Atlanta  
 Cleveland at Charlotte  
 L.A. Clippers at Houston  
 Washington at Oklahoma City  
 Denver at Golden State  
 Memphis at Portland

#### Saturday's games

Toronto at New York  
 Philadelphia at Milwaukee  
 Detroit at Indiana  
 Chicago at Miami  
 San Antonio at New Orleans  
 L.A. Lakers at Dallas  
 Minnesota at Utah  
 Houston at Denver

#### Sunday's games

Boston at Charlotte  
 Phoenix at Brooklyn  
 Memphis at Portland  
 Cleveland at Washington  
 Milwaukee at Atlanta  
 Indiana at Orlando  
 Sacramento at Golden State

#### Calendar

**May 16** — End of regular season  
**May 18-21** — Play-In Tournament  
**May 22 — July 22**: 2021 NBA Playoffs  
**May 30** — Deadline for an early entry player to apply for this year's Draft (11:59 p.m. ET)  
**June 21-27** — NBA Draft Combine  
**June 22** — NBA Draft Lottery  
**July 19** — Deadline for an early entry player to withdraw from the NBA Draft (5 p.m. ET)  
**July 29** — 2021 NBA Draft



MIKE CARLSON/AP

The Raptors' Pascal Siakam, left, is defended by the Brooklyn Nets' Joe Harris during Toronto's 114-103 victory on Wednesday in Tampa, Fla.

# Play-in tourney keeping hope alive

League has opened floodgates in terms of what it means to be in postseason race

BY TIM REYNOLDS  
 Associated Press

If this season was like most others, Washington, Chicago and Toronto would be pretty much out of the race by now.

The Wizards were 17-32 not that long ago and have not spent one single day over .500 in the last three seasons. The Bulls just had a stretch where they lost 11 out of 14 games. The Raptors started 2-8 and recently had a nine-game losing streak, their worst run in a decade.

And yet, they're all absolutely in the postseason mix.

The NBA's play-in tournament is coming, meaning the races toward the bottom of the Eastern and Western Conferences over the final four weeks might be just as compelling as the ones at the top of the standings down the stretch.

Adding four more teams to the postseason equation, as one would expect, opens the have-a-chance floodgates considerably. Again, in normal times, there would be nine teams right now with a realistic chance at securing one of the eight playoff spots in the East, and 10 teams for the eight slots out West. With the play-in, as many as a half-dozen more teams can still say they've got a shot.

Some people love the idea.

"We're trying to get in," New Orleans coach Stan Van Gundy said.

Others don't.

"I don't see the point," Dallas' Luka Doncic said last week.

But if the Mavericks are one of the play-in teams — a very real possibility — then Doncic would need to see the point right away. Whether someone likes the idea or not, the notion of needing to go through the play-in round to make the playoffs certainly beats the alternative of not making the playoffs at all.

The premise couldn't be simpler. The top six

teams in each conference are assured spots in the playoffs — and their biggest reward might be that they'll all get at least five days to rest before having to play Game 1 of Round 1, which will be a most welcome break after this jam-packed regular season.

For the eight play-in clubs, things stay hectic.

The season ends Sunday, May 16. On May 18, the play-ins begin — six games in all, every one of them either sending the winner to the playoffs, the loser home for the summer, or both. The No. 7 and No. 8 seeds will get two chances to win one game; the No. 9 and No. 10 seeds must go 2-0 or they won't make the playoffs.

It has already given teams like the Wizards — a team that was wracked with virus-related issues earlier this season and didn't play for two weeks while the roster was decimated — plenty of newfound hope.

"I think if we can put a nice little run together, I think we can give ourselves a nice little chance," Wizards guard Bradley Beal said.

And he freely admits that he's already scoreboard watching, just to see where the Wizards are in the standings on a moment-to-moment basis: "One-hundred percent," Beal said.

Added Wizards coach Scott Brooks, referring to the platform where just about every NBA game gets shown: "League Pass is the greatest invention ever."

At this time of year, he might be right.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver had been thinking about something like a play-in round for a while, and a version of it came into play last season when Portland faced Memphis for the No. 8 spot in the West playoffs. The Blazers had to win one game, the Grizzlies would have had to win two, and Portland took care of matters by winning the opening matchup to earn a first-round date with the Los Angeles Lakers.

It didn't take long for the league to put into



NICK WASS/AP

Center Daniel Gafford dunks against the Golden State Warriors during the Wizards' 118-114 win on Wednesday in Washington.

place the plan for a bigger play-in this season, officially on a one-year basis though nobody will be surprised when it doesn't go away next season. Even teams that aren't going to be in the play-in round — but might be awaiting the winners from it — seem intrigued by what will happen with those games.

"I love the excitement for the league," Milwaukee general manager Jon Horst said. "I love that Adam Silver and the league and the ownership groups that are in place now are progressive and they are willing to try different things to generate revenue and generate interest for our game. I think it does just that. I think they're really exciting, compelling games, compelling matchups."

MLB

# Late errors help Oakland extend streak

BY RICK EYMER  
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Ramón Laureano thought there was something in the air. He smelled victory.

“It’s like the Bay Area wind. It just smells like you’re going to win,” Laureano said Wednesday after the Oakland Athletics extended their winning streak to 11 with a 10th-inning rally fueled by two errors for a 13-12 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

Luis Arraez threw away Laureano’s grounder for Minnesota’s second error in the 10th inning as two runs scored.

“It’s just baseball and it’s hard to understand,” Laureano said. “We were still loose and having fun, so we knew we would win.”

Nelson Cruz had two home runs and four RBIs for the Twins, and Byron Buxton hit a two-run homer against Lou Trivino for a 12-10 lead in the 10th.

Alex Colomé (1-2) got the first two outs in the bottom half with the automatic runner on second, then walked Seth Brown and Elvis Andrus, loading the bases.

Mark Canha hit what should have been a game-ending grounder to second baseman Travis Blankenhorn, who entered as a pinch runner for Josh Donaldson in the 10th, but Blankenhorn allowed the ball to bounce off his glove for a run-scoring error.

Laureano hit a one-hopper to Arraez for what again should have been the final out. Ar-



TONY AVELAR/AP

Minnesota Twins third baseman Luis Arraez (2) runs off the field after a throwing error as A’s players celebrate after two runs scored during the 10th inning Wednesday in Oakland, Calif.

raez, who had moved to third from second base for the 10th, sailed his throw over first baseman Willians Astudillo as the tying and winning runs scored.

“Talk about a complete flip of the script,” A’s manager Bob Melvin said. “It felt like the game would end in some unorthodox way, like it was the whole game.”

Oakland started the season 0-6, split its next two games, then went on the 11-game winning streak, the longest in the major leagues since the A’s won 11 in a row from May 16-27, 2019. No other team had lost its first six games and had an 11-game winning streak later that season, STATS said.

Deolis Guerra (1-0) got the final out of the 10th.

Minnesota was swept in the three-game series, the first time the Twins were swept this season.

“I wish we could be talking about game-saving plays,” Twins manager Rocco Baldelli said. “And Taylor Rogers really stepped up for us. He was impressive.”

Donaldson had four hits, including a home run, and is hitting .556 (10-for-18) since coming off the injured list. He’s reached in 18 of his last 31 plate appearances against his former club.

Matt Chapman tied the score 10-10 with a sacrifice fly in the ninth off Colomé, who blew a save for the third time.

Matt Olson homered twice and had three RBIs for the A’s, who allowed more runs than they had in seven previous games combined.

## Scoreboard

### American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	12	7	.632	—
Tampa Bay	10	9	.526	2
Baltimore	8	10	.444	3½
Toronto	8	10	.444	3½
New York	6	11	.353	5

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	10	7	.588	—
Chicago	9	9	.500	1½
Cleveland	8	8	.500	1½
Detroit	7	11	.389	3½
Minnesota	6	11	.353	4

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	12	7	.632	—
Seattle	11	7	.611	½
Los Angeles	9	7	.563	1½
Texas	9	10	.474	3
Houston	7	10	.412	4

### National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	7	6	.538	—
Philadelphia	9	9	.500	½
Miami	8	9	.471	1
Atlanta	8	10	.444	1½
Washington	7	9	.438	1½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	11	7	.611	—
Cincinnati	9	8	.529	1½
Chicago	8	9	.471	2½
Pittsburgh	8	10	.444	3
St. Louis	8	10	.444	3

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	14	4	.778	—
San Francisco	11	7	.611	3
San Diego	10	10	.500	5
Arizona	8	10	.444	6
Colorado	6	12	.333	8

### Wednesday’s games

Miami 3, Baltimore 0  
Pittsburgh 3, Detroit 2, 1st game; Detroit 5, Pittsburgh 2, 2nd game  
Colorado 6, Houston 3  
Texas 7, L.A. Angels 4  
Oakland 13, Minnesota 12, 10 innings  
Atlanta 4, N.Y. Yankees 1  
Kansas City 9, Tampa Bay 8  
Toronto 6, Boston 3  
Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, ppd.  
Philadelphia 6, San Francisco 5  
Washington 1, St. Louis 0  
Milwaukee 4, San Diego 2  
Arizona 5, Cincinnati 4, 1st game; Arizona 8, Cincinnati 5, 10 innings, 2nd game  
Chicago Cubs 16, N.Y. Mets 4

### Thursday’s games

Pittsburgh at Detroit  
N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland  
Seattle at Boston  
L.A. Angels at Houston  
Arizona at Cincinnati  
N.Y. Mets at Chicago Cubs  
Miami at San Francisco  
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers

### Friday’s games

Oakland (Irvin 1-2) at Baltimore (López 1-2)  
Kansas City (Minor 1-1) at Detroit (Mize 1-1)  
N.Y. Yankees (Montgomery 1-1) at Cleveland (Allen 1-2)  
Seattle (Kikuchi 0-0) at Boston (Pérez 0-1)  
Toronto (Matz 3-0) at Tampa Bay (Glasnow 2-0)  
L.A. Angels (Heaney 1-1) at Houston (Greinke 2-1)  
Pittsburgh (Brubaker 2-0) at Minnesota (Happ 0-0)  
Texas (Dunning 1-0) at Chicago White Sox (TBD)  
Milwaukee (Anderson 2-1) at Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 0-2)  
Washington (Fedde 1-1) at N.Y. Mets (deGrom 1-1)  
Arizona (Weaver 1-1) at Atlanta (Ynoa 0-1)  
Cincinnati (Gray 0-0) at St. Louis (Kim 0-0)  
Philadelphia (Velasquez 0-0) at Colorado (Márquez 1-1)  
Miami (Alcantara 0-1) at San Francisco (Wood 1-0)  
San Diego (Darvish 1-1) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 3-1)

### Calendar

July 11-13 — Amateur draft, Denver.  
July 13 — All-Star Game, Denver.  
July 25 — Hall of Fame induction, Cooperstown, N.Y.  
Aug. 12 — New York Yankees vs. Chicago White Sox at Dyersville, Iowa.

# Gallo: Rangers outfielder has league-high 20 walks

FROM PAGE 48

overall, with 127 of his 197 hits being for extra bases.

His .455 on-base percentage this season is sixth in the majors going into Friday’s game at the Chicago White Sox, even while hitting .222 (108th out of 178 qualified batters) with a .278 slugging percentage (146th).

“If he’s still able to get on base at almost a 50% clip, that speaks volumes of what this guy is as a hitter right now,” Rangers manager Chris Woodward said. “He’s not even hitting homers and they’re still walking him.”

Opposing teams also employ drastic defensive shifts against the left-handed slugger, who has gotten used to “people running around crazy” when he’s at the plate. Tampa Bay used an alignment with five defenders in the outfield, and Gallo beat that with a bloop single up the middle.

“You kind of have to come up with a counter approach for it. I wasn’t going to be able to hit a double or a ball in the gap,” he said. “So I had to hit the ball on the ground. I had to hit bloopers, I had to work the count and try to walk, or hit it over the fence. ... It was ei-



ROGER STEINMAN/AP

The Texas Rangers’ Joey Gallo watches a fly ball during the ninth inning of a game against the Baltimore Orioles in Arlington, Texas, on April 16. Gallo has just one home run this season after homering in five of his first 14 at-bats this spring.

ther kind of a singles, a walk or a home run approach.”

Woodward knows Gallo will eventually have to hit more homers, and the manager has full faith

“he will because he has a ton of power.” Gallo homered in five of his first 14 at-bats this spring.

But Woodward doesn’t want Gallo stressing out about trying to

go deep to the point that he starts pulling off pitches or chasing them.

“Which is going to lead to less on base at the end, and maybe hit a few more homers. But saying that, like, that’s not going to help us,” Woodward said. “When Joey gets hot, they tend to come in bunches. Obviously, he hits the ball in the air, and off his barrel it doesn’t usually come back. So right now he’s staying patient.”

When Gallo hit his 100th career homer in his 377th game on May 8, 2019, he was the first MLB player ever to reach that mark with fewer than 100 singles. That was in his injury-shortened All-Star season, when he hit .253 with 22 homers in 70 games.

During the pandemic-altered season last year, Gallo’s .181 batting average was the second-lowest among 142 qualifiers. The right fielder hit 10 homers in 57 games and won a Gold Glove for the first time.

“I know I’m more than a home run hitter,” he said. “I can hit singles, I can get on base. I can still do other things on the field besides hit home runs and still help the team win. At the end of the day, that’s really what matters.”

## NFL



LYNNE SLADKY / AP

Virginia Tech defensive back Caleb Farley, right, was the first top prospect to opt out of the 2020 season because of the pandemic, adding a new layer of uncertainty to the annual crapshoot that is the NFL Draft.

# Opt-out decisions throw wrench into draft options

Some analysts think that taking a year off hurt top prospects' draft potential

By JOSH DUBOW  
Associated Press

Caleb Farley was the first top prospect to make the decision that has added a whole new layer of uncertainty to the annual crapshoot that is the NFL draft.

The talented Virginia Tech cornerback decided back in July to skip the 2020 season because of the coronavirus. Having lost his mother to cancer in 2018, Farley was unwilling to put another loved one at risk and felt it would be safer to skip the season no matter the impact on his draft status.

Farley had plenty of players follow his lead, including several others set to be high draft picks next week such as LSU receiver Ja'Marr Chase, Oregon tackle Penei Sewell, Northwestern tackle Rashawn Slater and Penn State linebacker Micah Parsons.

Now it's up to NFL teams to figure out how much to weigh those decisions in their draft evaluations and how to project what kind of prospects they will be.

"We're talking about top 10, top 15 players that you haven't seen in over a year," ESPN draft analyst Todd McShay said. "It's challenging. It really is because you don't know where they are physically. There's a difference between working out and being in good shape and then football shape. I think it's going to play a big part into this year's draft in terms of teams just wanting to know what they see."

McShay said he believes some

teams will opt to take players who played in 2020 over those who sat out if the grades are similar but most of those top players are still expected to go off the board in the top half of the first round.

Farley has another factor complicating his situation after undergoing back surgery in March. He is expected to be ready for the start of training camp and has no regrets on his decision, even after being forced to skip his pro day workouts because of the injury.

Longtime draft analyst Gil Brandt, who spent nearly three decades with the Dallas Cowboys, likened the players sitting out 2020 to those who missed seasons in the military during the Vietnam War.

Brandt said those players rarely came back at the same level, but the situation with Farley and the others is far different since they were able to work out and spend extra time studying film and working on technique that they believe will help them in the NFL.

"That's all I've been doing is breaking down offensive coordinators and learning from some of my mentors and guys in the NFL who have been playing the position for a long time," Farley said.

"Learning new techniques. I've truly grown and got better in my fundamentals. I'm just excited to get around a staff, a new defensive backs coach, a new defensive coordinator so I know I can just be a sponge and soak up everything they have to offer."

While players such as Sewell and Chase are still expected to be top 10 picks, others such as Miami defensive end Gregory Rousseau, Washington pass rusher Joe Tryon, Memphis running back Kenneth Gainwell and Central Florida cornerback Tay Gowan might have missed out on opportunities to build on promising 2019 seasons that would have improved their draft stock.

Even several of the top prospects who didn't opt out of the entire 2020 season have limited film with some such as Alabama receiver Jaylen Waddle missing significant time with injuries, South Carolina cornerback Jaycee Horn shutting his season down early after coach Will Muschamp was fired and North Dakota State QB Trey Lance playing just one showcase game in the fall before the Bisons had their full spring season in FCS.

That lack of game film could lead to some difficult choices for decision-makers such as Cincinnati's Duke Tobin, who could be contemplating taking a player such as Chase or Sewell with the fifth pick despite not getting to see them play in 2020.

"You're projecting, it's probably a bigger projection than when you studied a guy that's played three years of college football," Tobin said. "That's our job, to project them into our league into our system and scheme and into our division and what we do. It's a year like no other."

## Memphis RB set for draft after hard call to miss 2020

By TERESA M. WALKER  
Associated Press

Kenneth Gainwell had every intention of playing football with the Memphis Tigers, working throughout fall practice. Six days before the season opener, the running back changed his mind.

The funeral for an uncle, the fourth member of his family to die of COVID-19, made opting out of the 2020 season not just the best but the only decision for Gainwell. Not to protect his hopes of a professional future, but to keep his family safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Just getting the chance to talk to my family ... about COVID," Gainwell said. "You know my family passing away, so it was a tough, tough decision. I love football. So it was really a tough decision to do, so I just had to do what was best for the fam."

After spending the past few months studying and training for his future, the running back from Yazoo City, Miss., said he hopes to be selected in the upcoming NFL draft despite a track record of only 18 games at Memphis.

"That moment will be very, very special because it will show the young guys back in the county it's possible," Gainwell said. "You can do it. You can do as much as you can, but you know that you can make it, you know so. It would be very important for me for the guys that's back there."

After deciding to opt out, Gainwell went to work. He started training in Memphis, then went to Orlando in November. He worked out and studied until just before coming back to Memphis with pro days replacing the NFL combine.

"It was kind of a difficult decision, you know, leaving the team that I loved dearly and just getting myself prepared and just being as safe and doing what I got to do to prepare for myself," Gainwell said.

Gainwell played only four games in his first season on cam-

**"It was really a tough decision to do, so I just had to do what was best for the fam."**

Kenneth Gainwell

Memphis RB, on sitting out in 2020

pus in 2018 and wound up redshirting after four carries for 91 yards. The reason? He was behind Darrell Henderson and Tony Pollard, both now in the NFL.

NFL teams and scouts have his pro-day performance and the 2019 season to evaluate Gainwell. The 5-foot-11, 201-pound Gainwell ran a 4.42 40-yard dash back at his old school.

Gainwell put on a show in 2019 with six straight 100-yard rushing games. Against Tulane, he ran for 104 yards and a touchdown while adding 203 yards and two more TDs through the air for the first such performance by a player in the Football Bowl Subdivision since 1997. He finished with 1,419 yards and 13 touchdowns in 14 games, helping Memphis to a 12-2 record and the Cotton Bowl.

He also had 610 yards and three TDs receiving to lead all FBS freshmen with 2,069 all-purpose yards. He joined former NFL running back DeAngelo Williams and Henderson as the only players in school history to top 2,000 all-purpose yards in a season.

Gainwell won the second Shaun Alexander Freshman of the Year from the Football Writers Association of America. Trevor Lawrence won the inaugural award.

The pandemic prevented Alexander from giving Gainwell the award until March before Memphis' pro day.



ROGER STEINMAN / AP

Memphis running back Kenneth Gainwell opted out last season after piling up 2,069 all-purpose yards with 16 touchdowns in 2019.

# SPORTS



## Play-in push

Tournament keeps hope alive for fringe postseason teams » Page 45



MLB

# Go-go Gallo

Rangers slugger getting on base without all of the extras

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS  
*Associated Press*

ARLINGTON, Texas — Joey Gallo is getting on base a lot for the Texas Rangers without going out of the park.

That is quite a shift for the 6-foot-5 slugger who homered in the only pitch he's faced in an MLB All-Star Game and got to 100 career homers quicker than any player in American League history, at a time when he had only 93 singles.

Gallo reached base in each of his first 18 games this season, his only homer being an impressive 450-foot drive to center in the opening series at Kansas City. His other 12 hits were all singles and he had an MLB-high 20 walks. He got on three other times when hit by a pitch and was the only Texas base runner

**"I think it's cool that I'm kind of doing the complete opposite of what I'm known for."**

Joey Gallo

Rangers slugger, who has reached base in every game for Texas this season despite only hitting one home run

in the game where Joe Musgrove plunked him while throwing the first no-hitter in San Diego Padres history.

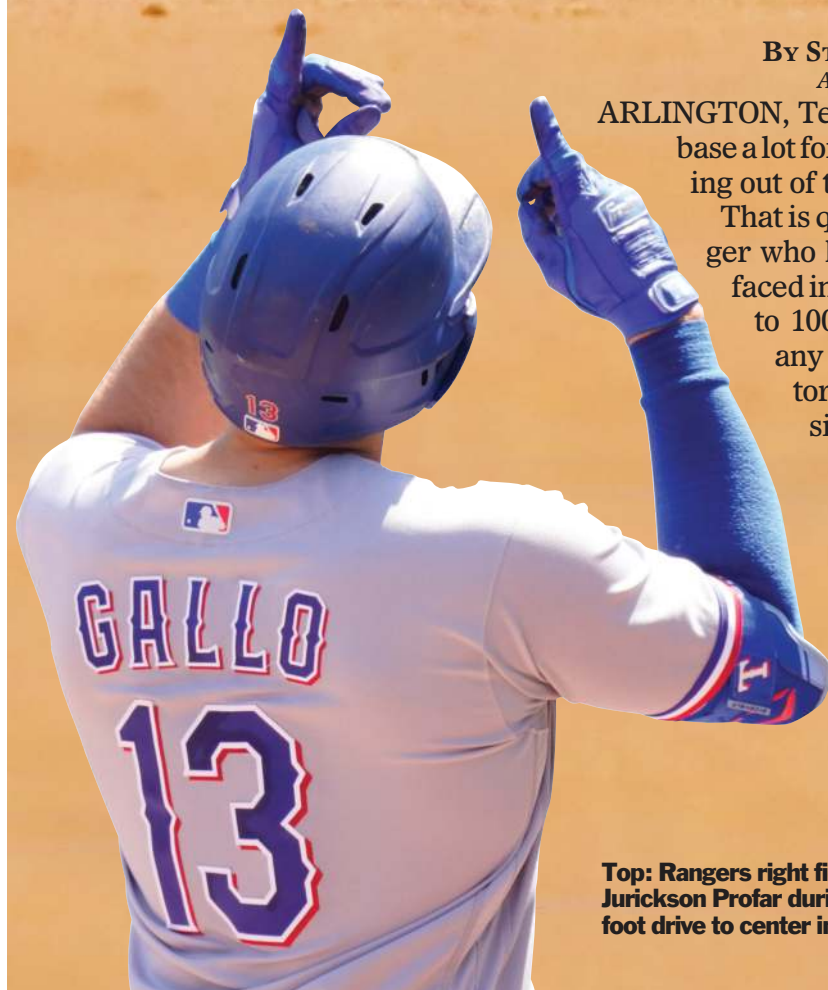
"When I was younger, I thought it was really cool to hit 40 home runs. And then I remember everyone's just kind of like bashing me, saying I'm the worst 40 home run hitter," said Gallo, 27. "And I was like, all right, I guess it's not that cool to hit 40 home runs. It's something that I don't really focus on anymore. But I think it's cool that I'm kind of doing the complete opposite of what I'm known for."

Gallo had 40 homers in each of his first two full big league seasons (2017-18), but he hit only .208

SEE GALLO ON PAGE 46

Top: Rangers right fielder Joey Gallo is safe with a stolen base ahead of the throw to San Diego Padres second baseman Jurickson Profar during a game earlier this month. Left: Gallo celebrates following his lone home run this season, a 450-foot drive to center in Texas' opening series at Kansas City.

PHOTOS BY SMILEY N. POOL/TNS, top, AND ORLIN WAGNER/AP, left



# 135,000 spectators set for Indianapolis 500 » Page 41

